

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

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★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

arv@colorado.edu

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Our Mission

In the Spring of 2000, the Archives continued the original efforts of Captain Roger Pineau and William Hudson, and the Archives first attempts in 1992, to gather the papers, letters, photographs, and records of graduates of the US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1942-1946. We assemble these papers in recognition of the contributions made by JLS/OLS instructors and graduates to the War effort in the Pacific and the Cold War, to the creation of East Asian language programs across the country, and to the development of Japanese-American cultural reconciliation programs after World War II.

Sergei Elisseeff

Sinologist & Japanologist



Société des Amis du Musée
Cernuschi

The other professor who taught Don Shiveley and I was Sergei Grigorievich Elisseeff, an extraordinary scholar and eminent Sinologist and Japanologist with a remarkable background, who lectured to us in English on Japanese historiography. He could read, write and speak fluently in half a dozen languages. Don and I once had a chance to look at his accumulated lecture notes, written variously in Russian, French, German, Chinese, Japanese, and English. Which language it was made no difference to him. He could refer to notes in any of those languages, and at the same time be lecturing in any of the other languages. Don Shively and I both studied under Elisseeff, who was such a wonderful professor, and had lived such a fascinating life that I cannot resist fuller description. He was born in 1889; and raised in the culturally Franco-Russian environment of St. Petersburg.

In his teens, he began study of Japanese at the University of Berlin; then transferred to the Tokyo Imperial University in 1912, making him the first Westerner to study and earn a degree at that preeminent institution.

In 1916 he became a docent at the Petrograd Imperial University; in 1917 he began teaching History in Paris at the Sorbonne Institute of Foreign Affairs. After WWI, from 1921 to 1929, he served as the interpreter at the Japanese Imperial Embassy in Paris. During most of those years, from 1917 to 1930, he served concurrently as a Professor of Japanese language at the Sorbonne.

Elisseeff first went to Harvard in 1932 as a lecturer on Chinese and Japanese history and languages, but the following year, returned to Paris to serve as interim Director of Studies in the *Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes* for the 1933-1934 academic year, before returning to Harvard in 1934.

It was then that Harvard offered him a professorship in Far Eastern Languages, the field in which I graduated from college.

During World War II when the internment of Japanese and Americans of Japanese ancestry precipitated need for American interpreter personnel, Professor Elisseeff importantly helped to establish at Harvard an accelerated training program in Japanese language. Long after World War II, in 1957, he returned to Paris and rejoined the faculty of the Sorbonne. He died in Paris on April 13, 1975, at the age of 86.

By some, Elisseeff is also credited with helping during the war to rescue from bombing the city of Kyoto, which had been on the list of nuclear targets. According to Ambassador Edwin Reischauer, however, quoting Otis Cary of Doshisha University, "the only person deserving credit for preserving

Kyoto from destruction is Henry L. Stimson, the Secretary of War at the time, who had known and admired Kyoto ever since his honeymoon there several decades earlier". One wonders how much of the credit might also be due to President Harry Truman and before him to President Roosevelt.

Robert Sheeks
JLS 1943

[Ed. Note: Thanks to Bob Sheeks for allowing us to print this memoir episode. This was taken from "Close Friends", as it was a bit of a digression and could stand alone.]

Harvey Frans Nelson, Jr.

OLS 1945 (Russian)

Harvey Frans Nelson Jr. (born January 6, 1924) was United States Ambassador to Swaziland from 1985 to 1988.

Nelson was born in 1924 in Long Beach, California, grandson of Nebraska Senator George William Norris. He served on active duty in the military from 1943 to 1946. He was then appointed the position of Ambassador to Swaziland on August 1, 1985.

July 11, 1985 President Ronald Reagan announced his intention to nominate Harvey Frans Nelson, Jr., a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Swaziland. He would succeed Robert H. Phinny.

Prior to entering government service, Mr. Nelson was a political science instructor at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, ME, in 1950-1951. Mr. Nelson entered the Foreign Service in 1951. In 1952-1953 he served as consular officer at the U.S. Embassy in Copenhagen, Denmark, to be followed as political officer in 1953-1955. He returned to the Department as a political analyst in the Office of Intelligence Research in 1955-1957 and then took Finnish language training at the Foreign Service Institute. Mr. Nelson

studied East European studies at the Indiana University in 1957-1958. He became desk officer in the Office of Scandinavian Affairs in the Department in 1958-1960. He then went to the U.S. Embassy in Helsinki as political officer, where he served until 1965. This was followed by French language training at the Foreign Service Institute. From there he became political officer at the U.S. Embassy in Kinshasa, Zaire. In 1967-1969 he was deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Libreville, Gabon. Returning to the Department in 1969, he became deputy chief in the Office of Southern African Affairs. In 1971 he attended the senior seminar in foreign policy at the Foreign Service Institute. In 1972-1975 he was deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Lusaka, Zambia. In 1975 he was an adviser on Africa at the United States Mission to the United Nations in New York. In 1976 he served as a legislative management officer in the Office of Congressional Relations.

From there, in 1976 he became deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria, South Africa. In 1979-1980 he was a diplomat-in-residence at Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ, and in 1980-1984 he was deputy commandant for international affairs at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, PA.

He graduated from Occidental College (B.A., 1947) and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (M.A., 1950). He served in the U.S. Navy in 1942-1946. His foreign languages are French, Swedish, and Danish. Mr. Nelson has four children. He was born January 6, 1924, in Long Beach, CA.

Citation: John T. Woolley and Gerhard Peters, The American Presidency Project. Santa Barbara, CA: University of California, Gerhard Peters.

Available from World Wide Web:
<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=38863>.

Henry Cooper Nields

1924-1913, OLS 5/3/45-

Henry Cooper Nields age 88 of Concord passed away on

Tuesday, May 28, 2013. He was the husband of the late Olivia (Marshall) Nields.

Born in New York, New York, on September 27, 1924; he was the son of the late Benjamin and Hazel (Whitelaw) Nields. Raised and educated in Rye, New York and Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. Nields graduated from Yale University B.A. and Yale Law School M.A.

Mr. Nields enlisted in the U.S. Navy during WWII and was honorably discharged in 1946. He married Olivia and they soon settled in Cambridge, Ma. In 1955 they relocated to Concord. Mr. Nields worked for High Voltage Engineering Co. and then as a Patent Attorney at Nields, Lemack & Dingman Law Office. He was active in both the Concord Orchestra and Concord Chorus.

He is survived by his children Nancy N. Gordon and her husband Michael of Groton and Henry M. Nields and his wife Liz of Carlisle and his grandsons Peter M. Nields and his wife Emily of Manlius NY and David C. Nields of Carlisle.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/wickedlocal-concord/obituary.aspx?pid=165143331#sthash.7leRoukh.dpuf>

WILLIAM NEWMAN 1918-2011, JLS 1944

William (born Wolf Neuman) died peacefully at his home in Beverly Hills at age ninety-three.

He was born January 26, 1918 in Saskatchewan, Canada. He was predeceased by his parents Manase and Laura (Schwartz) Newman, and brother Alec Newman. He moved to Los Angeles in 1921.

He is survived by his wife of forty-seven years, Rozann, son Philip, and daughter Laura.

Bill graduated from UCLA in 1939 with Phi Beta Kappa Junior year honors. He served in WWII as a Japanese Language Officer for the U.S. Navy.

He was President of Newman Importing Company, an outstanding tennis player, and past president of Beverly Hills Tennis Club.

Los Angeles Times
November 16, 2011

ROBERT L. NUGENT Ph.D., JLS 1943

ROBERT L. NUGENT, Ph.D., 91, of Painesville, died Wednesday at his residence.

Soldier, teacher, linguist, gentleman, and friend to Ross and Marianne Hawson, Virginia Kushen, Valerie Curtin, and Laura Miller; Uncle of Richard and Edward Harker. Professor Emeritus of foreign languages and head librarian of Lake Erie College and founding member of II Convivio, the Italian Culture Club of Lake Erie College. Lt. USMC, WWII. Fought in three campaigns in the Pacific; Cape Gloucester, Peleliu, and Okinawa. He was the Translator of captured Japanese documents. We miss you already Roberto. At his request, there will be no calling hours or services observed.

The Plain Dealer
August 31, 2012

Henry Joseph Nicholes 1913-2003, OLS 11/6/44- (Chinese-Mandarin)

Henry Joseph Nicholes 3/24/1913 ~ 2/19/2003 ST. GEORGE - On Wednesday, February 19, 2003, Henry Joseph Nicholes passed away peacefully in his sleep at the age of 89.

He was born March 24, 1913 in St. George, UT to Joseph Kelly and Olive Maiben Nicholes. Henry attended Woodward School in St. George and graduated from Dixie High School with high honors, 1930, and received an Associate's Degree in Science from Dixie Junior College, 1932, again with high honors. In 1935, Henry obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in chemistry from Brigham Young University. That summer he worked on the farm of Carl Crawford, North Orem.

In 1935, Henry went back to school, beginning work toward a Master's Degree in chemistry. At the close of the quarter, he was hired by the Provo Foundry and Machine Company to work as a draftsman and engineer. He continued that job, saving money for graduate school in the East.

In 1941, Henry received his Ph.D. Degree from the University of Wisconsin in

biological chemistry and medical physiology.

It was in Wisconsin that he met Hildegard Polster from Vienna, Austria. They married in Salt Lake City June 21, 1939. The following 10 children were born to them, Michael, Lorie, Joan, Dorothy, Walter, Richard, Edward, Kathleen, James and Phillip.

Henry joined the United States Navy and served as a Lieutenant J. G. during World War II. He was training in Mandarin Chinese when the war ended.

After the war, Henry taught at Gila Junior College until 1946 and at B.Y. High School, 1946-1947 before beginning his professional career at Brigham Young University in June, 1947. In 1971, Henry had the opportunity to teach for one year at the Church College of Hawaii.

On April 7, 1973, Hildegard, his wife of 33 years, passed away. He met Maïke Hannemann from Hamburg, Germany in September 1973 and they were married April 12, 1974. Henry's marriage to Hildegard and to Maïke are both eternal.

In 1975, Henry and Maïke moved to Hawaii where Henry finished his teaching career at the Brigham Young University Hawaii Campus. He was regarded as an inspiring, considerate and capable teacher. Henry and Maïke are the parents of Brenda, Leslie and Tracy. In 1980, they returned to Henry's hometown where they raised their children.

He leaves behind his wife, Maïke, of 28 years; 13 children; 51 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; one brother, Kelly, CA; and four sisters, Ruth, Virginia, Elizabeth, Joyce.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Hildegard; sisters, Margaret, Eleanor; and brother, Max.

Throughout his life, Henry was an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He has served as a Sunday School teacher of various age groups, two stake missions, in a bishopric, and on two high councils. He greatly loved working with the youth, especially the Boy Scouts. He

also was busy doing a great deal of genealogy and temple work.

Deseret News
Feb. 23, 2003

Ernest B. O'Byrne JLS 4/26/43-

Ernest Barbour O'Byrne, a native of Santa Fe, NM, was born May 18, 1920. He was educated in Colorado public schools, graduating from Greeley High in 1938.

He received his AB in English from Colorado State College of Education in December 1941, and taught in the Crook and Boulder Public Schools until 1944, when he entered the U.S. Army Infantry as a Combat Medic, serving in Italy, where he sustained wounds that eventually cost him his leg.

He was discharged in 1947, whereupon he pursued a master's degree in Secondary Education at Colorado State. After receiving this degree in 1948 he entered Stanford University, emerging three years later with a Ph.D. in Higher Education. During this period he was elected to membership in Blue Key, Kappa Delta Phi (Education), Pi Kappa Delta (Education), and Phi Delta Kappa (Speech.)

In 1954 he joined the San Diego State administration as Dean of Educational Services and Summer Sessions, replacing Dr. Charles Lambden, who had been appointed Chairman of Business Administration.

Dr. O'Byrne remained as dean of Educational Services until 1957, when he became vice-president of administration, a position he held until 1975. He helped establish KPBS, and supervised the operation of the Education Opportunity Program.

Guide to the Ernest B. O'Byrne
Papers

San Diego State University
Special Collections and University
Archives

<http://findaid.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt700035gi/admin/>

[Ed. Note: While this archival entry does not list JLS attendance, I think this is the right O'Byrne, since he entered the school from Boulder, Colorado, and we have no information that he graduated. Presumably, leaving the JLS would

result in availability for Army service.]

Peter Panyon Sr. Age: 88, OLS 1945 (Russian)

Peter Paul Panyon Sr., 88, Nashwauk, died Tuesday, November 28, 2006, in the Minnesota Veterans Home of Silver Bay.

He was born in Stevenson Location near Hibbing on August. 5, 1918 to John and Anna (Mihelic) Panyon. He graduated from Robert Downing High School in Keewatin in 1936, and from Hibbing Junior College in 1938. He enlisted in the U.S. Naval School of Music in 1939 and graduated a year later. He was ordered to serve on the USS Battleship California, stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. He was topside with the ship's band the morning of December 7, 1941, when the Japanese attacked. He and his shipmates were forced to abandon ship and jump into the oil and fire in the harbor water. He lost many close friends that day.

He remained at Pearl Harbor working in combat intelligence until 1944, when he was transferred to Washington DC. He later graduated from the University of Colorado's US Navy language school in 1945, the same year he married Margaret Gutman. He and Margaret were married for 43 years and had 3 children. He served two tours during the Korean War aboard the New Jersey and USS Wisconsin. He later spent two years in Japan and then joined Admiral Byrd's 2nd expedition to Antarctica to set up the main operations base for future groups. He remained in the Navy until 1959, retiring as a Lieutenant. He then went to work for the National Security Agency, retiring in 1973. He was recognized for 50 years of continuous membership of the Fleet Reserve Association in Annapolis, Md.

He is survived by a daughter, Mary C. Panyon of Easton, Md.; two sons, John Panyon of Lancaster, Calif., and Peter Panyon Jr. of Owings, Md.; twin

grandchildren, Rani and Noah Ewing, both of Easton, Md.; a nephew, Mike (Mary Ann) Panyon of Nashwauk; nieces Ann (Jerald) Wright of Nashwauk, Fran Pratt of Colorado, and Donna Jaskuloski of Alaska; several great nieces and nephews, and several great-great-nieces and nephews; and Margaret Garrison of Nashwauk, a very close friend for 15 years.

Hibbing Daily Tribune
Posted Dec 3, 2006

[Ed. Note: A very interesting and coincidental connection exists between Mr. Panyon and Dana Graham's story, "Music & the JLS/OLS" in Issue # 205, p.3, in which he described how Joe Rochefort used men from the USS California Band to help in Station Hypo. Panyon appears to have been one of them.]

William Dudley Perry 10/7/1918 - 2/1/2013 OLS 1945



William "Bill" D. Perry passed away of natural causes at the age of 94 on February 1, 2013 at Auburn Oaks Care Center in Auburn, Calif.

Born October 7, 1918 in Salt Lake City, Utah, to William and Florence Perry. They moved to Lincoln, Nebr., in his teens. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry, University of Nebraska, 1940. Upon graduation, he worked in the petroleum industry in Tulsa, Okla., where he met his future wife, Lorraine Ferguson, ice skating. They were married February 19, 1943. He received an occupational deferment during World War II, but joined the U.S. Navy anyway, receiving a commission as an officer. Trained in the Japanese language in Boulder, Colo., he was stationed at Department of the

Navy Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

After the war, he resumed working in the petroleum industry with Chevron (Standard Oil of California), first at their refinery in Richmond, Calif., and then as a manager/executive at the San Francisco home office. While working at Chevron, he lived in Richmond, El Cerrito and San Anselmo, Calif.

Upon retirement in the mid-1980's, Bill and Lorraine moved to Lake of the Pines near Auburn, Calif., where they lived until about two weeks before his death, at which time he was moved to a nursing home (Our thanks to the staff at Auburn Oaks Care Center for making his final days dignified and comfortable.)

Bill was a champion tennis player in his youth and avidly pursued both tennis and golf well into old age. He and Lorraine were also frequent travelers, having visited every continent except Antarctica. Bill was known as a generous man with an easy disposition and a droll sense of humor, well-liked by all.

Bill is survived by his beloved wife Lorraine; by his three children, William, Nancy (both of Auburn, Calif.) and John (of Novato, Calif.); and by his beloved sister, Elleadeane Brockmeier (of Lincoln, Nebr.) There will be no funeral, by his request. His ashes will be interred at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, Calif.

The family requests that any donations be sent to Sammie's Friends Animal Shelter in Grass Valley.

Loomis News
Feb. 17, 2013

Curtis Prendergast Journalist, OLS 1945

Curtis Prendergast, 98, a retired *Time-Life* News Service correspondent and bureau chief in Tokyo, Paris, Johannesburg and London and a "founding father" of the European edition of *Time* in 1973, died July 17 at his home in Bethesda, Md. The cause was complications from pneumonia, said a daughter, Sarah Serino.

Mr. Prendergast, a native of Stockton, Calif., was in the Foreign Service for three years before joining *Time* in 1950 as a Korean War correspondent in Seoul. He later covered conflicts in Algeria, South Africa and Northern Ireland as well as a nine-year stint in Paris coinciding with the presidency of Charles de Gaulle in the 1960s.

He officially retired from *Time* in 1973 but continued working as its United Nations correspondent from 1974 to 1980.

Washington Post
July 22, 2014

[Ed Note: Curtis Prendergast was a long-time supporter of the USN JLS/OLS Archival Project. Stories by him or which mentioned him were featured in Issue #76a, #77, #91a, #119, and #123. We will miss him.]

Stuart Holmes Prestrud

JLS 3/10/43-

Stuart H. PRESTRUD Stuart was born in Seattle on April 18th 1919, the only child of Norwegian immigrants. He grew up in Seattle and graduated from Queen Anne High School in 1937. During WWII he attended the US Navy language school in Boulder Colorado and served in the US Merchant Marine.

Following the war he joined the Naval Reserve and returned to the U.W. graduating with a degree in history. He then resumed a banking career that led to a sixty year association with Pacific National Bank and its successors including Wells Fargo. His banking career had begun as a messenger boy riding in armored cars. He rose through the ranks to become Vice President and Senior Trust Officer, serving as a Director of the Pacific Coast Banking School along the way.

Throughout his long career he strove to protect the interests of his clients. Stuart was a generous man, giving his time and support to non-profit organizations including serving on the boards of Seattle Opera, the Museum of Flight, the Museum of History and Industry, the Norman Archibald Foundation, the Ryan Hill Foundation, and the Phi Beta Kappa Association.

The Stuart H. Prestrud meeting room at the Queen Anne

library is named in his honor. He was also a founder of the Harbor Grove Association on Whidbey Island where he maintained a summer home. He was an avid stamp collector, bird-watcher, and lover of classical music. His humor, intelligence and congenial nature were treasured by his many friends.

Stuart passed away peacefully December 28th. He is survived by sons Doug, Jack and Charles, grandson Sam, and former wives Victoria Prestrud and Barbara Bye.

The Seattle Times
January 6, 2012

[Ed Note: Mr. Prestrud came to the 60th Anniversary Reunion of the USN JLS/OLS at the University of Colorado in 2002. We met and had a number of interesting conversations at the reunion. Stories about him and by him were placed in Issues # 28, #30, and #67. He was a strong supporter of the USN JLS/OLS Archival Project and kept in touch with us. We will miss him.]

Orrington R. Ramsay

JLS 1944, 1920-2013

Ramsay, Orrington Cozzens: Orrington passed away on April 18, 2013, following complications from a stroke. He was born August 1, 1920, to Allan P. and Klea C. Ramsay in Chicago, Illinois. He was preceded in death by his parents and his siblings: David C. Ramsay, MD, John "Jack" C. Ramsay (twin), and Jeanne R. Remaley. In addition, he was predeceased by grandchildren Steven R. Oclaray and Rebecca Lee. He is survived by his children Linda R. Oclaray (Gaynon), Allan M. Ramsay (Pat) and Joanne M. Ramsay, as well as grandchildren Jason R. Oclaray, Brian K. Ramsay, Kevin R. Oclaray (Mary Kate) and Andrew K. Ramsay, and great-grandchildren Kate and Jack Oclaray. He is also survived by stepchildren Bill Bush (Dottie) and Pat Fiala (Art) and their families, as well as numerous loving nieces and nephews.

Orrington was a Naval Intelligence Officer during World War II who learned Japanese and was deployed onto the islands of the South Pacific to interview prisoners. After the

war, he returned to receive his PhD in English from the University of Wisconsin. He taught English for Fullerton Junior College and was one of the charter English Professors for Orange County State College, now California State University, Fullerton. A published author, Orrington retired from teaching in 1980, got his contractor's license, and built three homes in Cambria, CA. He and Aurelia and their children and grandchildren enjoyed Cambria and had many adventures there over the years.

He was married in March, 1943, to his first wife, Aurelia Motta Ramsay, who preceded him in death in 1994. He married his second wife, Barbara Ann (Bush) Ramsay in 1995; she preceded him in death in 2011.

His great loves were his family and his faith. He frequently travelled to visit his immediate and extended family in Modesto, Sacramento, and Seattle. He took his family on wonderful trips to Hawaii, Europe, and several other places.

He spent many hours with his grandsons, joining them in their interests and teaching them about family, nature and having fun. Orrington was a charter member of Morningside Presbyterian Church, serving the congregation for many years in many different capacities. In recent years, he joined the First Methodist Church of Fullerton, and again was an active participant and contributor. As recently as April 7th, he taught an Adult Bible Study class. In addition, Orrington loved reading, camping, contract bridge, tool-working, creating stained glass windows, and lively discussions.

Orrington will be remembered as generous, hard-working, full of adventure, nature-loving, and committed to his faith, family and friends.

Orange County Register
April 28, 2013

Donald Frey Ressler OLS 1945 (Russian)

Donald Frey Ressler was
Physics Teacher at
Lehigh, Lafayette

Donald Frey Ressler, 71, of Annapolis, Md., died Monday in

Anne Arundel General Hospital, Annapolis. He was the husband of Melva (Hontz) Ressler.

Before retiring in 1979, he was head of the Science and Technology Department for the National Cryptologic School in the Department of Defense. He previously was a member of the Department of Physics at the U.S. Naval Academy, and taught physics at Lehigh University and Lafayette College.

He graduated from Lehigh with a bachelor's degree in physics and received a master's in chemistry from Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

Born in Allentown, he was a son of the late Raymond and Francis (Folsam) Ressler.

A Navy veteran of World War II, he was a lieutenant with the 7th Fleet in the naval reserves in the Pacific during the Korean War.

He was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church, Annapolis.

Surviving with his widow are a daughter, Dawn Sutton of Baltimore; a son Ronald of Annapolis; a sister, Georgianna Kichline of Royersford; three brothers, Robert of Kent Island, Md., and Frederick and Rodney, both of Allentown, and three grandchildren.

The Morning Call
December 02, 1987

Frank Robert Rinaldi

OLS 1946, 1927-2011

RINALDI--Frank R., of Manhattan, died at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, January 9, 2011, age 83. He was born in Mt. Vernon, New York, May 19, 1927, son of the late Frank and Fulvia Rinaldi of Mt. Vernon, New York. He was predeceased by his wife, Jean; son, Stephen; brothers, Dick and Joseph. He is survived by his son, Kirk (Mandi) of Londonderry, New Hampshire, and long-time companion, Marilyn Wragg. He graduated from Harvard University in 1947, Harvard Law School, 1950 and was an active alumnus. Retiring from a longtime legal practice at the BNY Financial Corp., Bank of New York in 2000, he pursued his love of the cultural life of Manhattan and the Philharmonic, tutoring

foreign students in English and
traveling with Mrs. Wragg.

The New York Times
January 12, 2011
