

The Japanese Language School Archival Project

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, correspondence, photographs, and records of graduates of the US Navy Japanese Language School, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1942-1946. We assemble these papers in recognition of the contributions made by JLS graduates to the War effort in the Pacific, the successful occupation of Japan, the creation of Japanese language programs across the country, and the development of cultural reconciliation programs after World War II.

SPECIAL REUNION ISSUE # 2

Reunion Reviews

[Ed. Note: Really, I am not intending to thump my chest here, for I had too much help. Nope, these reviews are for those who could not come. DMH]

David, I just wanted to offer my congratulations on the splendid Navy Language School Reunion. As many testified during the events, you truly are a "wizard of the Archives" and an inspiration to us all [*shucks*]. Thanks to your efforts, an important part of Colorado and U.S. history is being "rescued" and important materials made available for student, faculty, and community study. It's particularly important that we've been able to involve those who were personally engaged in the events of WW II and to learn from their experiences, not only in learning and teaching Japanese language and culture, but also, as several

testified, in learning "humanity" through the language-and-culture-learning process.

Thank you for including me and other CU faculty and students in your work on this project!

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Dear David:

The 60th was a great show. Glad to have been included. Now I need a list of attendees/addresses. Thanks. Sles seemed to enjoy it also. I got a bang out of being introduced to the bus drivers as we entered as one of the "war heroes." My first sergeant on Guam, a Dusseldorf-born German out of Milwaukee, would have been surprised.

The passerby at Japango even thanked us for our WW11 participation. Again, my first sergeant might have an opinion as to the nature of our contribution. Good meeting you. My flight back to Fruita Sunday evening gave me a great view of the 30,000-plus feet high smoke of the Hayman Fire. Bad scene!

*Best, Cal Dunbar
USMC
Enlisted Japanese Linguist*

Dave:

My wife and I wanted to compliment you again on the fantastic job you did hosting the Japanese Language School (JLS) reunion last week. This event was a credit not only to the JLS and all the veterans you got together to attend, but to the history and heritage of CU, as well. My wife and I are both Colorado natives, both graduated from CU (she with bachelors and masters degrees, me with those two plus PhD), and we were really proud of the job you did

on behalf of the University and the state of Colorado.

Recall that we both work at NCAR here in Boulder in atmospheric science-related research, and that I and coauthor Rex Alan Smith have been involved in writing a book on the Pacific war as a hobby for a number of years. The book, *Pacific Legacy*, should be published this fall by Abbeville Press. In the book we have a section on the Japanese interpreters with a few anecdotes from my long-time friend and JLS graduate Bob Sheeks. He performed heroic service in getting Japanese military and civilians to surrender on Saipan and Tinian, all the while under enemy fire. Bob was able to attend the reunion, returning to the CU campus for the first time since 1943. He and the other JLS graduates came away from the reunion with a renewed bond to CU and Boulder, as well as a shared sense of community with their fellow JLS graduates and sensei instructors. Without your hard work and the support of the University, this would never have happened. You have provided the infrastructure to bring them together.

Additionally, your service of collecting material from the veterans, their papers, photos, and recollections, is also a very crucial task. I congratulate you and the University for realizing the importance of this work not only to the overall history of WWII, but also to the history of the state and the University. We hope the University continues supporting these important activities.

Once again, congratulations on organizing a great event (and thanks also to Luann Personen for the logistical help). It was a fantastic experience for everyone involved, and we look forward to interacting more with you and the JLS graduates in the future.

*Best regards,
Jerry Meehl (BA, MA and PhD,
University of Colorado
Senior Scientist,*

*National Center for
Atmospheric Research)*

*Marla Meehl (BS, MS,
University of Colorado
University Head
Networking and Technology
Section
National Center for
Atmospheric Research)*

Dear David:

Thanks again for a really great JLS 60th Anniversary reunion. You and your staff obviously put in a tremendous amount of effort into the preparations and everyone concerned, including especially Luann and the Marine contingent, came through beautifully.

We're greatly in your debt for another set of wonderful Boulder Memories and send you our warm best wishes for future success and happiness.

*Most gratefully,
Muriel and Al Weissberg
JLS 1943*

[Ed. Note: I was told by a wise old Puerto Rican Sergeant First Class that "Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance." This reunion was the best example of this slogan. Everyone should be pleased to find out that I tend to thank people for superior work by informing their superiors. So the Navy Commander and his Marines were commended through their USMC Colonel; Luann and Cynthia through the President of CU Foundation, who happens to be an Annapolis graduate; and the Air Force ROTC cadets from CSU through their Colonel. I will write to Jessica Arntson's advisor and to the UMC Director for the offer of 'night rides' after the dinner.]

Dear David:

Congratulations on the success of the 60th Reunion. You "herded" the aged "cats" better than I thought possible.

*Irwin Slesnick
USMCR
Enlisted Linguist*

Regrets

Dear Mr. Shaver:

I [was] sorry not to attend the reunion in June, but it would be a

difficult reunion to attend without Gene. There would be so many bittersweet memories of a very defining and happy segment of our lives. My best wishes to all who attend, and to you and your project.

Betty L. Gregg

[Ed. Note: See issue # 54 for the rest of her letter, "Reprise of Stories". As unlikely as it sounds, I understand the unwillingness to return in the face of such memories. DMH]

Dear David: May 20, 2002

I had hoped very much to be one of the many who would be attending the Reunion of JLS Graduates in June. However, my beloved wife, Kathleen, has been hospitalized on life support for the past 50 days and her future is quite uncertain. I have driven the nearly 50-mile round trip to be with her daily. Apart from this, I shoulder many other responsibilities tying me to our local area.

I know it will be a wonderful reunion of men and women that all will remember throughout their years to come. Rekindling old friendships and recalling many experiences from those early years so many decades ago will doubtless bring both tears and joy to those attending.

My very best wishes to you and the many who are deeply thankful to you for all your efforts in putting out *The Interpreter* and in guiding the linkage among many of us who share the JLS bond. I will look forward to reading your report on the eventful Reunion.

Sincerely,
R. Stuart Hummel
JLS 1942

[Ed. Note: Harris Martin told me as we were waiting for his airport bus that this reunion had somehow brought the disparate groups of JLS graduate attendees closer together than they had ever been before. I am not certain how I went about doing this but I am happy it happened.]

Dear David:

I am writing to let you know how sorry I am that I [was] unable to attend the Reunion. I attended the one at Pomona College a couple of years ago which brought back so many memories. I am one of those who finished the course at Oklahoma

A&M at Stillwater in May of 1946.

My Japanese language study prepared me for a life I never could have had without it: teaching high school in postwar Japan; organizing the first international work camps there following the war; directing huge inter-faith (Protestant-Catholic-Quaker) relief/rehabilitation programs in Japan and Korea (where I had special permission to speak Japanese in the Korean Office); Asia Desk, Service to Refugees of the World Council of Churches, Geneva; working closely with various Japanese Government Ministries; helping to negotiate the first UC study abroad program in Japan (and Asia); teaching Japanese language, history and culture at UC Santa Barbara; vice president and dean at International Christian University, Tokyo; and now member of Board, Japan ICU Foundation, New York.

My late wife, Helen, shared all these experiences with me and became a Japanophile. Now my three sons are very much involved in Japan-related matters (business and writing).

Thank you Boulder and Stillwater. And thank you, David, for providing such excellent leadership for the Japanese Language School Project. Please give my best to Bruns, Dingman, Hackett and Ostensoe.

Hallam C. Shorrock, Jr.
JLS 1946

[Ed. Note: What a remarkable demonstration of the influence of the JLS. As for Mr. Shorrock's last comment - We just did.]

Dear Mr. Hays:

I regret that I will not be able to attend the June reunion at Boulder because of previous commitments. I have been in constant touch with Bill Hudson and Ted Adelson in Florida and I trust they can go (they are both good friends of mine) Enjoy, and good luck at the reunion!!

Sanford L. Schulteiss
JLS 1944

Story Lag

The Interpreter is suffering from an embarrassment of riches. We have more stories than we can print right away. That is, your

letters and comments have to appear months after they arrived. I hope no one minds. We have finally reached the point when almost all the articles in every issue comes from Sensei, Graduates, or kin. I just want everyone to know that we will print everything we get. There might be a time lag before you can read them, but it will be printed. For example, I am writing issue #55, October 15 right now. So keep those stories coming. By the way. If I get enough reunion material, I'll do a Special Reunion Issue #3.

'Momo' Revisited

I have some misc. information which will update some articles in the April 15 and May 1 issues of *The Interpreter* regarding a certain WAVE who was mentioned.

The WAVE in question was Margarite Dagmar Kennedy (formerly Margarite Dagmar Hofstra). I dated her quite frequently from September of 1943 to my graduation in February of 1944. Her nickname was 'Momo' - but at the time had nothing to do "with her complexion, as stated in the article.

The British Officers who were there while I was still there (more of them came later) were extremely good students. Lt. Edward Kennedy met "Momo" shortly after I left for Pearl Harbor and were subsequently married. After the War, they moved to Cambridge, England, 52 De Freville Ave., where she had a daughter (in 1947), named Gina. Edward finished his last year at Cambridge University that year and was contemplating coming to the States, possibly working at the UN in New York. However, it seems they moved to Belfast, Ireland, where they reside, at present.

The Boulder WAVES were quartered for the most part at 1111 College Ave. (phone 606). Momo's mother lived in New Orleans (7110 Pitt St.), and Momo lived in Norway and Berlin before the War as far as I know.

Sanford L. Schulteiss
JLS 1944

Japanese POW Treatment

[Dear David Hays, Larry Vincent, Robert Sheeks, and Cal Dunbar:

Pursuant to the discussion (in *Old Main* after the Panel Discussion) that followed Larry's question about the assassination of Japanese POWs, Carole suggests that I send you the enclosed piece from her draft chapter, The Military Intelligence Service at War. Captain John Burden was born of missionary parents in Tokyo in 1900. As a 41 year-old physician on Maui he witnessed the circling of Japanese Planes heading for Pearl Harbor, joined the Army and graduated from (the Army Japanese School) the Presidio. When the Army took over on Guadalcanal, he was in charge of POW interrogation and translation.

Irwin L. Slesnick
Semper Fi

On the lack of prisoners being turned in, Burden said the officers were 75% of the problem. He wrote of the potential POWs mysteriously "dying" on their way to the rear, "There is no question but what the attitude of the men is guided by the attitude of their officers, and if the officers maintain an attitude antagonistic to taking prisoners, none will be taken." To change attitudes and behaviors, Burden successfully worked with troops and the leadership and got documents flowing, but it took more than talk to get prisoners. "... It took the promise of three days leave and some ice cream to bring in the first prisoner."

Carole Slesnick

Plaque Ceremony

Not being able to completely say goodbye to the special Reunion spirit. I plan to take advantage of the need to hang the plaque by enlisting the Navy ROTC once again, this time with a make shift/plaque hanging team, made up of Navy cadets: two with rifles to carrying the plaque. I will round up the usual suspects from nearby to observe: Muheim, Willis, Miye Sano and Bruns, and maybe Bill Weil and Frank Tucker. I'll invite a local paper, or two, to observe. And I'll do it on Veterans Day to provide the appropriate timing.

David M. Hays