Knecht Recollects

...The school is starting to crack down on all of us in an effort to pull up our grades. Anything below 80 is now unsatisfactory and they have inaugurated a probation list for those whose average isn’t as good as they think it should be. The students on probation have a month to improve their grades and if they don’t, they are out.

...Annette (Duhamel), instead of going to her home on leave, stayed here in Boulder and took flying lessons. She had never been in a plane until she flew with us over the Divide to Grand Lake in a small five-seat plane. Dorothy and I stayed at Grand Lake but Annette flew back and started flying lessons. Before leaving for Northampton she had about four or five hours of solo flying.

Betty Knecht to her Mother,
Fall-Winter, 1943
JLS 1944

WAVE 50th Reunion Entry, 1993

The US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School Archival Project

The Interpreter
Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries
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Professor, First Amendment Law Activist Dies


Throughout his career, Wechsler has represented many interests: NAACP; Welfare Rights Organization; citizens charged with contempt of Congress by the House Un-American Activities Committee; anti-Vietnam War protesters seeking to demonstrate in public parks; peace activists challenging anti-leafleting ordinances; anti-nuclear demonstrators; *Playboy* magazine.

He held degrees from the University of Michigan, Harvard Law School and began his teaching career at Valparaiso Law School in 1957. He also participated in many progressive causes in Lake County, Ind., which included the Wallace for President campaign in 1948. Wechsler was a catalyst in the movement to dismantle segregation in Gary, Ind., and helped to plan the first African-American mayor of a major United States city as well as the Civil Rights struggle in Mississippi.

He moved to Washington in 1973 and began teaching at Antioch Law School where he started and ran the school's Women's Law Clinic.

In the fall of 1979, Wechsler became a full-time faculty member at WCL until his retirement in May 1998, teaching Constitutional Law, Federal Courts and First Amendment Law.

A recipient of the Alumni Distinguished Teacher Award, Wechsler was also given the Outstanding Teacher Award of American University.

Washington College of Law in 1979, 1980, 1984, 1988, 1989 and 1992. He was the Third-Year Class Outstanding Teacher Award in 1994 and 1996, and in 1995 he won the Outstanding Faculty Award for Outstanding Teaching. He also founded the Burton Wechsler Moot Court Competition in 1993.

"Accordingly, substantial portions of my courses include the ongoing struggles - in and out of the law - of working people, ethnic and religious minorities, women, creative artists, political dissidents, the poor, and other groups who do not occupy the seats of power, private or public, and whom much of our law throughout our history has slighted or disfavored," said Wechsler.

Robert Dinerstein, associate Burton dean for faculty and academic affairs, remembers Wechsler as a progressive teacher who supported clinical and experimental education.

"Beloved professor' gets overused a lot but it really did apply to him," Dinerstein said.

"He was a passionate believer in legal justice and fairness."

He also recalls that Wechsler always had candy and nuts in his filing cabinet and good conversation. If a student was walking in the hall, he would say something like "How are you doing, sister?"

"Countless generations of alumni of our institution were inspired by his passion for freedom and justice," WCL Dean Claudio Grossman said in an announcement. "All of us in this community knew of his generosity without limits and his affection and love for his students, his colleagues, and all those in the WCL community."

Wechsler leaves behind his wife, Fredi; and two daughters, Shonna and Maia; and grandchildren.

Stokely Baksh,
American University The Eagle
January 26, 2004

Archives Phone (303) 492-7242

The 4th Regiment, USMC & the “China Marines”

In past issues of CU Archives JLS/OLS *The Interpreter*, mention has been made by a few JLS participants in the 1945 Okinawa battle, of being with the 4th Regiment USMC during that invasion. That historic unit, for more than a decade from early 1927 to late 1941, was located in Shanghai and was the most illustrious regiment in the US Marine Corps. Orders to serve with it were reputed to be the most requested and coveted, a choice possibly influenced by the uniquely pleasurable lifestyle and amenities available at astonishingly low costs in the “Paris of the Orient”, during those years. During their significant stay in Shanghai, for four years confronting Japanese forces there, the Regiment always exhibited the highest degree of professional military conduct and diplomacy, performed a timely “showing of the flag”, and elicited the admiration of all Americans in Shanghai, including those who went on to the JLS/OLS during the War [all those Shanghai American School graduates].

Shanghai, possibly always the world’s most unusual city, for several decades prior to World War II, was China’s most populous city. The world’s third largest seaport, most of its international business activity and expatriate residency was contained in two foreign enclaves, each several square miles in size. The French Concession was converted as a colony of France and was usually garrisoned by two reinforced regiments of the French Army. The International Settlement was governed by a Municipal Council which included an English plurality, as well as American and other nationalities in its membership. Military protection was provided by two British Army Regiments, occasional US Navy landing
Tokyo had emailed me about it. His daughter in Tokyo had emailed me about it.

When it was announced that a Regiment of US Marines would arrive in early 1927 for permanent assignment to Shanghai. (to be cont’d)

*Dan S. Williams*  
*JLS 1943*

[Ed. Note: I remember a fine film, I do not know how accurate, The Sand Pebbles with Steve McQueen, that related events along the China coast in the late 1920s. Another graduate, Earl Swisher, was in Canton in the 1920s. We have his correspondence from that time period. I wish we had more of his collection. I think the bulk of his papers disappeared.]*

**Recent Recruits**

Jeanne M. Smith, kin  
Thomas S. Deering, OLS 1945 (R)  
Francis S. Ronails, OLS 1945 (R)  
Lennox Tierney, OLS 1945  
John W. Spiegel, kin  
William Clark, OLS 1946 (C)  
Charles Brink, OLS 1945 (R)  
Nancy Pierce Helmbold, JLS 1944  
Robert E. Graalman, OLS OklaA&M  
Bart Sherman, JLS 1943  
Wayne Gruner, OLS 1945, (J)  
John P. Wamser, OLS 1945, (J)  
Ms. Donald K. Robertson, kin  
Veikko Jokela, OLS 1945 (J)  
Ms. Milvirde Franks, kin  
John Moore, kin  
John R. Behrman, OLS 1945 (R)  
Ms. M. H. Landrump, kin

**Zenji Abe**  
Pilot  
Imperial Japanese Navy

My acquaintance, Zenji Abe of Tokyo, the famous dive bomber pilot of Pearl Harbor, reports that his memoir is being written here in English. It will be something. He originally flew off the CV *Akagi* at Pearl Harbor, was later transferred to the CV *Junyo*. Made the Dutch Harbor, Alaska attack instead of the Midway attack, where the *Akagi* attack, where the *Akagi*...
was sunk [My Grandfather, then COL S.D. Hays, USA, was at Dutch Harbor. Maybe he dodged those bombs]. He landed at Rota, in the Marianas, during the “Marianas Turkey Shoot” and later surrendered the Rota Imperial Japanese Navy troops to us in September 1945. I was a Japanese Linguist at the shipboard surrender conference. He became a good friend of Pineau’s, participated in one of Pineau’s symposiums at the Texas Nimitz Museum. Abe retired a colonel in the postwar JADF. He was in the press