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.

Reprise on Nisei Officers & Douglas Wada
Two thoughts on Allen Meyer's letter to you of May 27, a copy of which he sent me.

Re commissioning army Nisei: I think that one reason Nisei weren't commissioned initially was simply a lack of trust in them and perhaps an unwillingness to grant them the necessary security clearances. Nevertheless, there were a number of Nisei officers in the 100th Bn/442d RCT and about 100 Nisei linguists in the Pacific were commissioned in the Philippines in the spring of 1945. Phil Ishio was promoted to Warrant Officer, probably in late 1944, and then subsequently to 2d lieutenant. There were Nisei officers at Fort Snelling when I was there in spring 1946.

Navel officer Douglas Wada is mentioned three times in Jim McNaughton's official army history (Nisei Linguists) and once in the Slesnick's overall study (Kanji & Codes).

Professor Roger Dingman's Book
The Dingman book — what a joy! It easily qualifies as a "book you can't put down." I savored every word — at least twice. And the images are still in my mind of all those islands, and foxholes, and voices, and explosions, and... Yet he kept it all within the reader's grasp, not boring, just the right balance.

I found only a few typos, rare among books. And the sources he used are simply exhaustive. I'm already ordering two other books: Tokyo Memoirs by Prendergast and Tokyo Central: a Memoir by Seidensticker, both on the strength of frequent references. And surprise of surprises! My old dear friend of many years, Spencer Kimball, who was among your flock, a fact that I didn't know when we were together for 15 years. He was on the faculty of the annual seminar I created and conducted for the National Association of Insurance Commissioners in New York from 1966 to 1984.

I'm sharing my copy of Dingman with Arthur Hall, my former UT student (1955-1958) in an insurance class I taught there. [I wonder if he ever ran into Professor Braisted there or knew he was at Boulder in the USN JLS during WWII?] He's a captain in Naval Reserve Intelligence.

Robert W. Strain
Dean Emeritus
College of Insurance in New York

John Burrell Oliver
Historian, JLS 1944

Cpl. Cal Dunbar, Lt., jg. John B. Oliver. USN Captain and others in wardroom of destroyer off Truk, in the Carolines, August 1945. (planning the surrender of Truk). Pineau, 11_02_00_36 [Dunbar Photo], Archives, UCBL.

Dr. John Burrell Oliver, son of Inez Webb and Elery Watson Oliver, was born in College Park, Georgia in 1919, and died in Atlanta in late June 2009. He attended Russell High School.

Originally a scholar of Latin and Classical Studies, John Oliver earned his A.B. and M.A. degrees in Latin at the University of North Carolina in 1939 and 1941, respectively, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in 1938. From 1941 to 1943, Oliver taught Latin at North Fulton High School.

Then, from 1943 to 1946, he served in the U.S. Navy, stationed in the Pacific including Japan. He attended the US Navy Japanese Language School at the University of Colorado, 1943-44; and was assigned to the Joint Intelligence Center Pacific Ocean Area at Pearl Harbor, Island Command G-2, on Guam; the Naval Technical Mission to Japan, in Tokyo; and the US Strategic Bombing Survey, in Tokyo and Gravelly Point, Virginia. He was released from Active Duty in 1946.

Back in Georgia, from 1946 to 1948 he taught at West Georgia College as an Assistant Professor of Social Science. In 1950-51, Oliver was back in Tokyo employed at the U.S. Embassy as a special assistant to the Ambassador [where he would have found more than five or six fellow JLS/OLSers who were assigned to the embassy in various capacities]. He returned to the U.S. in 1951 to enter the Ph.D. program in History at Duke University. Oliver's doctoral dissertation, completed in 1954, was titled "Japan's Role in the Origins of the London Naval Treaty of 1930: A Study in Diplomatic History."

Dr. John Oliver came to Georgia State College as Associate Professor of History, 1955-61. From 1961 to 1966, he relocated to the University of Georgia as an Associate Professor of History. From 1966 to 1978, he returned to the History Department of Georgia State University. Upon retiring in 1978, Oliver donated his large personal collection of Japanese-language works of literature and history to the GSU Library. (To this day, these are the only Japanese-language works in the Georgia State Library collection.)

During his time in Japan, Dr. Oliver developed an interest in Japanese painting and decorative arts, which expanded into other areas upon his return to America.

An accomplished pianist, Oliver was also an avid collector of American paintings, Asian carpets and prints, ceramics, and other fine arts.

He is survived by his cousin Ruth Webb Smith, sister-in-law Julia Durham Oliver, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Georgia State University
History Department
http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwhis/8173.html

Atlanta Journal-Citizen
June 28, 2009, B 11;
James L. Webb
Executor

Recent Losses:
**USMCEL Conversation**

(To: Cal Dunbar) To hear (via David Hays) from you about your C.O. during WW II, Colonel Howard Stent, was truly a surprise. This is the reason - Col. & Mrs. Stent, whose son, Jack, was in the same boot camp platoon as I, were the parents of my best friend in our platoon in USMC boot camp in San Diego December 8, 1942. Their ranch in Warner Springs was truly my home-away-from-home. To be sure, the colonel was usually not there; he was a busy officer, and there was a war on, so he was usually elsewhere. But Mrs. Stent was kindness personified. A tough lady, she’d shoot a rattler if was kindness personified. A usually elsewhere. But Mrs. Stent was kindness personified. A tough lady, she’d shoot a rattler if it strayed onto her patio, cook up a mean stew, or take care of a neighbor at the drop of a hat. And her son, Jack? He was truly my buddy, in the way that one bonds with someone who goes through the rigors with you imposed by those SOB PIs whom the Marine Corps selected to make Marines of us. We’d wander the area around Warner Springs, not caring too much if we were trespassing onto the reservation of the local Indians, because they were the Stent’s friends. Jack was an excellent shot, as indeed was I, having grown up in farm country in Iowa, bringing home local game. We both easily won sharpshooter medals in boot camp.

What is astonishing is that you (and Dave Hays) should have brought this to my attention in 2010! Jack Stent and I went our separate ways at the end of boot camp in February 1943. Dear friends that we were, we, too, had a war to fight, so we went our ways, I to the Nihongo Gakkō at Camp Elliott and he to ???. Do you have any idea of what happened to your C.O.’s son?

After the war I went to university on the GI Bill, like so many Americans, became a professor of psychiatry, and the student affairs and admissions dean in two different medical schools in California and New York. Your warm memories of a racist and often brutal Marine Corps had another side than that of my former C.O., Col. Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller. I will carry to my death the memory of my sympathy for the 2nd Lieutenant of H & S Co., 1st Marines, and for the innocent prisoner whom he ordered him to execute.

Jerry Green  
USMCEL 1942

Hello Professor Green,

We received your interesting reminiscences regarding Camp Elliott. I printed your e-mail and read it to Irwin, who has had several health challenges since his stroke. He said he wishes we could have interviewed you to get your insights about the school and your personal experiences. He also said to tell you that he holds you in high esteem, being among the first enlisted Marines to make it through the school.

Irwin’s school experience was similar to yours, but several months later. His favorite teacher was Bob Kinsman. By the time he was out on the islands, at least some Marines saw the value of keeping prisoners alive. What a chilling memory you have of Puller.

If you have our book, you will find Goettge and Cory on pg. 158 and a chapter about the enlisted Marines at school, with a picture of the graduating class of July 1942.

Again, it was a great pleasure to read your note.

Sincerely,

Carole Stenswick

Gerald Green just sent me his mailing address in L. A. so I will send him my vignettes. Remarkably he was a great friend of Jack Stent, the Colonel’s son, who was in his boot camp platoon, and Green spent time at the Colonel’s house in Warner Springs where he got to know Mrs. Stent. When Roger Pineau and I were researching for the Japanese Language School information, he tried to locate Jack Stent who was with the CIA in the 60’s and disappeared into India. Roger could not locate him. This was in the 1980’s.

[I sent Cal the comment below and further information and he wrote back the following] This information about Jack Stent and the CIA is the first hard information I have ever really had on him since our days in San Francisco in 1961. We left Orinda, CA in 1961. Jack’s first wife whom we knew in San Francisco was nicknamed "Sam." Her name was Florence Williamson and she was from Woodville, VA. At least now we know he is buried with the Marines at Quantico. Thank you very much for sending me this information.

Cal Dunbar  
USMCEL 1944

[Ed. Note: I found some information on the web. John N. Stent appears to have been a USC graduate in 1947. He was in the CIA in Vietnam, 1965-1968. A John Neville Stent is buried at Quantico National Cemetery. Stent, Howard Neville, COLONEL USMC was born in 01/29/1896, and died 05/14/1956, at 60. If COL Stent entered the Corps in 1917 at 21 with WWI, he would have been a 24 year veteran by Pearl Harbor. COL Stent was in the 1st Marine Division in 1928 and was the Battalion Commander of the 1st Bn, 4th Marines in Shanghai in 1939.]

**June T. Kirsch**

91, Taught Japanese

June Tomita Kirsch, of Ridgefield, Connecticut, died on Thursday, April 14, at Danbury Hospital. She was 91 and the mother of Jeanne Allen and her husband, Lee, of South Salem.

She was born on Aug. 19, 1919 in San Francisco to the late Shinnji and Kichiyo (Doi) Tomita. From 1931 to 1941, Ms. Kirsch lived in Japan, graduating from Tokyo Women’s College in 1941. Just before the outbreak in hostilities between Japan and the United States, she returned to her family in California. Shortly thereafter, her family relocated to Colorado during the Japanese internment. During the war years, she taught Japanese to naval and military personnel at the University of Colorado and the University of Michigan. Prior to moving to Cincinnati in 1973, Ms. Kirsch lived in Boston, Los Angeles and Philadelphia.

In addition to her daughter and son-in-law, Ms. Kirsch is survived by her son John Kirsch and his wife, Patricia, of Boston; sister Helen Tomita of San Mateo, Calif.; brother Arthur Tomita and his wife, Toni, of San Francisco; and granddaughters Christine and Lauren Allen.

Ms. Kirsch was the widow of Alphonse A. Kirsch. According to family members, she will be remembered for her love of bridge, and her lifelong interest in reading and Japanese culture.

Lewisboro Ledger  
20 April 2011 
& David M. Hays  
Editor & Archivist

**Longtime Capitol Hill Counsel Oversaw Drafting of Legislation**

Ward M. Hussey, 89, [JLS 1943] a powerful yet purposefully anonymous fixture on Capitol Hill who spent 17 years as the chief legislative draftsman in the U.S. House of Representatives, died Nov. 16, 2009 at Inova Fairfax Hospital. He had complications from a fall days earlier. He lived in Alexandria.

Mr. Hussey spent 43 years in the House’s Office of Legislative Counsel until retiring in 1979. For the last 17 years of his tenure, he was the legislative counsel overseeing a staff of a few dozen other lawyers who drafted bills for congressmen and committees.

The job, a combination of legal adviser and wordsmith, requires the holder to maintain absolute confidentiality about the work and to never take political sides. Draftsmen translate lawmakers’ ideas into proper statutory language that does not conflict with existing law.

In other words, he told the New York Times, “in a jam, if we have to put something together quickly, how would we go about it?”

Mr. Hussey’s specialty was tax legislation, and he had a major hand in crafting every major tax bill of his time. The Wall Street Journal described him as an “elfish” man who nonetheless cut an authoritative swath through the House corridors.

Carrying a 1,358-page tax bill from the House and a 1,580-page version from the Senate, he once walked up to Rep. Dan Rostenkowski (D-Ill.), then chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and asked...
whether Rostenkowski expected him to draft a bill that reconciled the two volumes over a Labor Day weekend.

"Ward, are you using props on me now?" Rostenkowski was quoted by the Journal. He later told the reporter, "Without Ward Hussey we might as well all go home."

Ward MacLean Hussey was born in Providence, R.I. He graduated from Harvard College in 1940. He later received a master's degree in political science from Columbia University and graduated from Harvard Law School.

During World War II, he served in the Navy and as a Japanese interpreter during the invasion of Okinawa. After his service, he joined the Office of Legislative Counsel in 1946 and had a hand in drafting the Marshall Plan programs that brought economic development to Europe after World War II.

He participated in a massive rewrite of U.S. income tax law in 1954 and legislation that created Medicare. He co-wrote the book "Basic World Tax Code and Commentary."

He was a member of Alcoholics Anonymous.

His marriage to Anne Hutchinson Hussey ended in divorce.

Survivors include three children, Thomas W. Hussey of Alexandria and Carolyn A. Bourdow and Wendy E. Addison, both of Richmond; a sister; seven grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Adam Bernstein
Washington Post
Monday, November 30, 2009

The Army JLS Recruiting Method

Repeated references to the recruitment efforts of Commander Hindmarsh, as reported in The Interpreter, evoke memories of my own recruitment into the Army Intensive Japanese Language School. It may not be remembered that the seeming counterpart of Commander Hindmarsh was one Lt. Col. Stuart who had returned to the United States via the exchange ship Gripsholm by which Japanese and American diplomatic personnel were exchanged at Laurencio Marques in Portuguese East Africa. Stuart had been a language officer at the US Embassy in Tokyo at the outbreak of war. When he got back to the States, he was assigned to tour as a recruiter for the nascent AJILS which was to be located at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. A notice of his coming to Philadelphia for the purpose of interviewing potential language students was posted on the bulletin board at Princeton University where I was about to begin my second semester of my freshman year. The interviews were to be held in late March, I believe, and five of us students were interested in applying to be selected. However, at that time Princeton did not offer any Japanese language course, so we went to see the Professor of Arabic Professor Philip Hitti who was the "closest" possible faculty member we could think of. We asked Prof. Hitti whether he could assist us in getting someone to teach us basic Japanese very quickly in preparation for the upcoming interviews with Col. Stuart. He was remarkably cooperative and arranged for Mr. Shirato Ichiro to come down to Princeton from Columbia University three times a week to meet with the five of us who immediately dropped our normal course load and spent the remaining time until the interviews with Col Stuart studying intensive Japanese.

The interviews with Col. Stuart took place in his hotel room in the Bellevue Stratford Hotel in Philadelphia, and all five of us Princetonians were interviewed together at one time. I remember to this day sitting on the bed in that very small hotel room. Of course, Col. Stuart asked us the "famous" or "infamous" question, "Does this street car stop at Hibiya?" The result of that interview was that three of us were chosen, John Christensen, Frank Ellis and myself, and received orders to enlist in the US Army and to report to Ann Arbor to begin our studies the next month.

Your most recent issue, #155, refers to Col. Sidney Mashbir, MacArthur's Japan specialist. I worked under Col. Mashbir at the Santa Anna racetrack grandstand in Manila. He had a reputation as an absolute tyrant although, despite my being under him, I never actually saw him. His office was separate from mine and was adjacent to that of Gen. MacArthur. Stories abound about his exploits as a spy who had been observing the Japanese for decades. One story had him sliding around in the desert in Mexico where he believed the Japanese were intending to build a naval base on the Pacific coast.

All good wishes,
Grant K. Goodman
US Army JLS
Professor Emeritus, History
University of Kansas

Harold Samuel (Mac) McGinnis, Sr.

Hal (Mac) McGinnis, Sr., 94, passed away Thursday, April 22, 2010 at the Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina.

Born in Barberton, Ohio on July 9, 1915, he graduated from Wadsworth High School and attended Ohio State University where he was a member of the Concert and Marching Bands. Mac received a Chemistry degree from Oberlin College in 1942. Enlisting in the US Navy after Pearl Harbor as a yeoman and pharmacist mate, he was stationed in Auckland New Zealand where he met and married his wife of 59 years, Lindesay (née Perry). Proficient at piano, alto sax and clarinet, he led a small USO band. As a Naval Officer, he later enrolled in the US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School to learn Japanese.

Attending night school while employed by PPG, Mac earned his Juris Doctor of Law from the University of Akron in 1955. Later, as an employee of Goodyear, he lived with his family on the Wingfoot Rubber Plantation in Sumatra, Indonesia, eventually returning to PPG residing in Havana, Cuba; San Juan, Puerto Rico and Pittsburgh, Pa. In retirement, he and his wife traveled extensively doing consulting work in Australia, Italy and Brazil. Mac was proficient in many languages through his work and travels. His leisure retirement years were spent with family in Annandale, VA and Cocoa, Fl where he professionally played his beloved clarinet and sax.

Mac was a 58 year member of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio.


He was preceded in death by his parents, Samuel and Ruth McGinnis, twin sister Helen in 1915 and wife Lindesay in 2003.

Gang-written by his children
April 27, 2010

My father was most proud of his Language Study finished during the latter stages of World War II. He always used his Japanese Language skills to further his business dealings while Manager of Chemical Sales, PPG International from 1960-1970. He was always doing his best to advance trade and business relationships with Japanese peers, and would have guests to our house in San Juan, Puerto Rico or Pittsburgh, PA for a meal with our family of six, travel-experienced members. He recently passed away, at age 94, after living independently for over twelve years, after surviving surgical removal of his thyroid and larynx.

While Mac missed the ability to play his jazz clarinet and alto sax, he remained active by acquiring piano skills and wrote his life memories to me, son Bill McGinnis.
McGinnis, is a series of letters that he later edited into his SAGAS. He purchased a Dell desktop in 2005, and maintained correspondence with family and friends around the world with nightly emails, letting his fingers do the talking, instead of impossible voice communication. The computer proved to be his life line to his world of friends and work associates until he outlived most of his peers.

My Dad, LtJG Harold S. McGinnis, (Hal, Mac), was known for his band name from earlier times: Halmac@verizon.net and since Mac was forced to move to Full Skilled Nursing Units at the Western Reserve Masonic Community, 4931 Nettleton Road, Room 2224, Medina, Ohio 44256 until his death, on 22 April 2010. I will attach Mac’s Obituary, gang-written by his children, and will attach it to this message. My Dad wished to share his final correspondence with his fellow faculty and students of the U.S. Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School. If you need any factual corroborations, please feel free to contact me, Bill McGinnis, youngest son: at 3569 Hunting Run Road, Medina, OH 44256 phone 330-723-1738. I have enjoyed reading The Interpreter, and following my Dad’s journey as he maintained pretty effective contact for a man “without voice” for the past 12 years! You are to be commended without voice” for the past 12 years as a Japanese translator in the U.S. Naval Reserve. A researcher of the upper atmosphere and geomagnetosphere, Bob joined the Physics Department at U.C. Berkeley in 1957. During the 1963/64 academic year, he was on sabbatical at the Kiruna Geofysiska Institutet in Kiruna, Sweden. Later on at Berkeley he served as interim dean of the Graduate School. In the early 1980s Bob and his second wife Mary Lou Norrie Brown, also a professor at U.C. Berkeley, retired and moved to Guemes Island in Anacortes, WA. Bob enjoyed a life-long interest in amateur radio and propagation. Bob (known by the call letters NM7M) worked mainly on the top band of 160 meters. His ham-radio friends were saddened to learn that he had become a “silent key.” Another interest, which he pursued along with his son Bruce, was building and playing early keyboard instruments. Bob and his wife Mary Lou also enjoyed listening to classical music, and in his later years he became a lifetime member of the Society for Eighteenth-Century Music.

Bob is survived by three children from his first marriage and their families: Janet Brown Becker, her husband (Alfred) Ralph Becker and their two children Charlotte and (Alfred) Jacob Becker of Long Beach, CA; Bruce Alan Brown and his husband Scott Bowdan of West Hollywood, CA; and Jennifer Brown Modestou, her husband Modestos Andrea Modestou and their two children Monica C. and Alexander V. Modestou of North Liberty, IA.

Bob was preceded in death by his loving wife Mary Lou and their two precious dogs, Fred and Sadie.

Provided by Bruce A. Brown
Son

Frank A. Ecker
CIA employee and former Rockville mayor, dies at 89

Frank A. Ecker, 89, a former Central Intelligence Agency budget examiner who was mayor of Rockville from 1962 to 1968, died Sept. 18 at Asbury Methodist Village in Gaithersburg of respiratory failure. Dr. Ecker worked for the CIA from 1964 to 1974 and retired as head of the budget office. In 1956, he began his career in local politics as a Rockville City Council member. While he was mayor, Dr. Ecker oversaw the city’s revitalization efforts and helped lead an early urban renewal plan that redeveloped what is now the Rockville Town Center. He also helped establish the Rockville-Montgomery Swim Club and Civic Center Park. He was the Montgomery County public advocate for assessments and taxation from 1974 to 1984. Francis Adolph Ecker was born in Brillion, Wis., and received a bachelor’s degree in 1942 and a master’s degree in 1947, both in political science from the University of Wisconsin. He received a doctorate in political science from the University of Michigan in 1954. During World War II, he served in the Navy as a Japanese language officer. He later worked for the State Department and what is now the Office of Management and Budget before joining the CIA. He moved to Rockville in 1954 and had been a Gaithersburg resident since 2001. Survivors include his wife of 63 years, the former Florence “Flossie” Kent, of Gaithersburg; three children, Kathleen M. Ecker of Santa Rosa, Calif., Christopher J. Ecker of Gaithersburg and Joseph G. Ecker of Middleburg; a brother; and five grandchildren.

Lauren Wiseman
The Washington Post
September 28, 2010

Dear Dave:
Sorry to send you some more sad news – another JLS student gone. I believe Frank was JLS ’44. When I left JICPOA in July ’45, Frank replaced me as head of the Japanese ordnance section. Years later, when I moved to Maryland, I learned that he was mayor of Rockville, the county seat.

Paul E. Hauck
JLS 1943

SDonations Accepted

If you wish to support the JLS/OLS Archival Project, you may contribute donations to our US Navy JLS/OLS Fund. We hire work-study students on this fund, tripling its value. Make your check out to the University of Colorado, writing US Navy JLS/OLS Fund on the memo line to the bottom left of your check, and mail it to our contact address. It will go straight to our project.

David Hays
Archives
University of Colorado at Boulder
184 UCB
Boulder, Colorado 80309-0184