

Sandstone & Tile

Spring/Summer 2001 Stanford Historical Society Volume 25, No. 2



Founders' Day Procession

INSIDE:

*The Historical Society
Celebrates 25th Anniversary*

Flowers at the Stanford Family Mausoleum, decorate Mrs. Stanford's sphinxes at Founders' Day 2001.



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Sandstone & Tile

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Membership is open to all who are interested in Stanford history. Annual dues are: Currently registered students, \$10; full, \$40; heritage, \$100; distinguished heritage, \$500; patron, \$1,000; life, \$5,000. Make checks payable to Stanford Historical Society and mail to P.O. Box 20028, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94309.

For further information, contact the society at the above address, or call Carol Miller, office administrator, at 650-725-3332.

Cover: *Mike Kass, one of the senior class presidents, led the procession with the American flag at the Founders' Day celebration on Sunday, April 22, 2001; junior Hiro Iwanaga carried the banner of the School of Humanities and Sciences. The Historical Society revived Founders' Day in 1976. (See story on the history of the society, opposite; the text of Professor Peter Stansky's 2001 Founders' Day speech is on page 24.)*

the society comes of age

25 Years

of the



Stanford Historical Society

1976



2001

“It can be argued that a university does not come of age until it has a society for the study and care of its history,” historian and University President Richard W. Lyman told the first formal gathering of members of the Stanford Historical Society on May 4, 1976. As we celebrate 25 years of service to the Stanford community, the society can look back proudly at the early dreams and many accomplishments of its founders and their successors. Clearly, we, too, have come of age.

Stanford’s pioneers were precocious in many ways, and enthusiasm for the history of the university and its founders, along with a good bit of nostalgia, emerged almost as soon as they arrived.¹ The idea of a historical society began to percolate some two decades later when Harry C. Peterson, curator of the Stanford Museum, organized the first, although short-lived, historical society for Stanford in 1915.² Prompted by the university’s 25th anniversary in 1916, articles about the history and ideals of the university and its founders appeared in alumni publications and local magazines and newspapers. During the Great Depression, the University Press, like many small publishing houses, stayed solvent by publishing books on local history—a sure niche market—and printed not only the first comprehensive Stanford University history and first major biography of Leland Stanford, but also memoirs and autobiographies of major university figures.³ Students and visitors could see Stanford family memorabilia (complete with a fraudulent Little Leland’s last breakfast) in the Stanford Museum. Documentation of Stanford’s history,

however, was left to the small, but well tended “Stanford Collection” of reference documents and photographs in the Main Library.

The post-World War II years brought numerous changes to Stanford. Many time-honored campus traditions gradually disappeared, some from simple neglect, some from “lack of relevance.” While many faculty, staff, and volunteers had longstanding associations with Stanford, many among the increasingly diverse faculty and student body were engaged in social and political questions of authority, equality, and rights, and felt little connection with the university’s legacy.

Ironically, it was this sense of disconnection that prompted renewed interest in Stanford’s history. To preserve the university’s historical records and promote scholarly study of the university’s history, the trustees in 1965 formally created the University Archives. Still, some alumni and faculty kept thinking “wouldn’t it be nice if...” some sort of society could be organized, as Pete Allen later wrote. But “all were busy and nothing was done.” The time was ripe for a historical society, but a catalyst was needed.

Stanford Historical Society

Facts

1976-2001

Purpose: To collect and preserve the history of Stanford University, and to encourage knowledge and understanding of that history and of the ideals of its Founders.

Founded: January 1976 (first board meeting, February 6, 1976)

Past Presidents (terms begin in May):

- 1976-1978 **James T. Watkins IV** - Professor emeritus
1978-1980 **Harvey Hall** - Registrar emeritus
1980-1982 **H. Donald Winbigler** - Professor emeritus and academic secretary emeritus
1982-1984 **Ray Lyman Wilbur Jr.** - Retired businessman
1984-1986 **Bruce Wiggins** - Assistant director, Operations & Maintenance
1986-1987 **H. Donald Winbigler**
1987-1989 **Rixford Snyder** - Professor emeritus and dean of admissions emeritus
1989-1991 **Rosemary Hornby** - Retired administrator, Medical School
1991-1993 **Alf Brandin** - Retired vice president for business
1993-1995 **Alberta Siegel** - Professor of psychology, Department of Psychiatry
1995-1997 **Rosemary McAndrews** - Retired director, Stanford Shopping Center
1997-1999 **Margaret Kimball** - University Archivist
1999-2001 **John Harbaugh** - Professor, School of Earth Sciences
2001- **G. Robert Hamrdla** - Assistant to the president, emeritus

Dues:

- 1976 \$10
2001 Student \$10; Full \$40; Heritage \$100;
Distinguished Heritage \$500; Patron \$1,000; Life \$5,000

Membership:

- 1977 — 365 memberships, 481 individual members
2001 — 620 memberships, 793 individual members

Members of the Preparatory Group, 1975-76:

- Peter C. Allen**, '36, University editor
Rosamond C. Bacon, '30, former Union residence director (and wife of Prof. Harold Bacon)
Eleanor Bark, '35 (wife of Prof. William Bark)
Richard Blois, '50, General Secretary's Office
Susan Blois, '51 (wife of Richard Blois)
Donald T. Carlson, '47, Director of University Relations
Frederic O. Glover, '33, Secretary of the University
Harvey Hall, Registrar emeritus
Marion Hall, '22 (wife of Harvey Hall)
Ralph W. Hansen, University Archivist
Rev. Robert M. Minto, University Chaplain emeritus
Thomas M. Newell, '40, Director, Alumni Association
Walter C. Peterson, '38, Director, Publications Service
Dorothy F. Regnery, local historian and preservationist (and wife of Prof. David Regnery)
Susan R. Rosenberg, '68, Assistant University Archivist
James T. Watkins IV, '29, Ph.D. '41, Professor emeritus of political science
Margaret Weigle (wife of Prof. Clifford Weigle)

That catalyst turned out to be Rosamond Clarke Bacon, Stanford '30, former director of the Union residence and wife of popular mathematics Professor Harold Bacon. At a university reception in 1974, Ros cornered two friends. "But *when* are we going to have that historical society we keep talking about? There is no reason to wait any longer." Her companions, the Rev. Robert M. ("Rabb") Minto, university chaplain emeritus, and James T. Watkins IV, professor of political science emeritus, agreed.



BACON FAMILY

Ros Bacon saw "no reason to wait any longer." She helped mobilize the society's creation and energized its early efforts.

With the help of Thomas N. Newell, '40, then director of the Alumni Association, and Richard M. Blois, '50, of the General Secretary's Office, they brought together a preparatory group of 17 interested alumni, faculty, and staff in the late summer of 1975. Chaired and inspired by Jim Watkins, the group planned—and even dreamed a bit—and in January 1976, the Stanford Historical Society was born.⁴

The society's organization and its relationship to the university were carefully thought out, and its goals clearly stated: to collect and preserve the history of Stanford University, and to encourage knowledge and understanding of that history and of the ideals of its founders. If its first "place to hang its hat" was modest—a table, typewriter, and bookcase in the Political Science Department's emeriti room—the list of potential projects was long and ambitious. "The fields were ripe for the harvest," newly elected society President Jim Watkins observed. All that was needed were "laborers for the field."⁵

Pete Allen's one-man publicity campaign, and a membership drive by Walt Peterson, soon attracted hundreds of "founding" members (359 by August 1976) and gained the society attention on campus. "What many of us of faint heart expected to be something of a campus literary circle of 50 or so members," Watkins proudly reported at the society's second annual meeting in 1977, "boasts today of some 500 members spread across the continent and occupied with a great variety of projects, literary and non-literary."

If Ros Bacon was the catalyst and an ongoing presence in the society, Jim Watkins was its engine. As head of the preparatory group and the society's first

president (1976-78), he pressed for a sound and permanent organization. Until his death in 1982, he remained one of its most active members, continually asking society members to dream. He was fond of using a quote made popular by President Wallace Sterling during the university's recent fundraising campaign: "Make not little plans; they have no power to stir men's blood." Yet Watkins also knew that the society's projected tasks remained merely topics on paper until taken up by members. "The society exists above all for doing things," he admonished, "for that 'direct usefulness' the founders of Stanford looked for in their countrymen and particularly in Stanford graduates." Among his favorite projects were some of the society's most successful endeavors—revitalization of Founders' Day, publication of an attractive history of the university, work on an oral history project, close ties with the University Archives, and many society publications and programs to encourage understanding of Stanford's history and heritage.

In his second annual report, President Watkins in 1977 thanked some 22 men and women "and the so-

STANFORD NEWS SERVICE



The elegant and popular political scientist Jim Watkins, seen here giving his presidential address at the Historical Society's 1977 annual meeting, was devoted to the university and the society. Years earlier, he led football cheers when students voted him "Red Hot Professor."

ciety members they have co-opted to help them," along with the invaluable aid of eight campus offices, for putting in motion several public programs, a newsletter, four "literary" and seven "non-literary" projects. "But with all that," Watkins concluded, "we have only scratched the surface—satisfied though I think we can be with the year behind us. The done is not much more than petty. The undone is vast." After 25 years, the undone is not quite so daunting, the done worthy of praise. Here are some highlights:

To collect and preserve history

The society's first goal—to collect and preserve the history of the university—made the strong ties between the society and the **UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES** a natural one. The society's Board of Directors' first formal resolution gave firm support to the Archives, and since 1976 the society has drawn public attention to the Archives through research projects, programs, and publications. Volunteers have spent countless hours on the more mundane tasks of transcribing interviews, identifying historical photographs, and cataloging artifacts in the University Archives. Programs and publications have highlighted not only University Archives resources but those of other relevant campus collections, including the Archive of Recorded Sound, the archives of the Medical School, the Hoover Institution Archives, and the Stanford Museum.

STANFORD NEWS SERVICE



Fred Glover brought humor and insight to the society's oral history program.

One of the society's most significant efforts to fill in historical blanks has been the **STANFORD ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**, begun in 1978 by Fred Glover and Roxanne Nilan. Originally aimed at tackling a long list of "elder statesmen" among faculty and administrators, the list soon grew to include other areas of interest, such as growth and change in university life and administration since the 1950s; student life; science and technology; town and gown relations; and the experiences of staff, faculty spouses, and other voices less well documented in the written record.

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Historical Society recruited thousands to sign names for posterity

STANFORD NEWS SERVICE

The Historical Society played a key role in Stanford's centennial celebrations, especially the May 14, 1987, commemoration of the laying of the cornerstone.

One of the society's ideas was to install a time capsule and plaque akin to the traditional senior class capsule and plates installed the Inner Quad. The capsule and plaque were placed beneath the cornerstone, which is located next to Memorial Church on Building 60.

As part of the May 14 program, Historical Society President H. Donald Winbigler presented the two-foot-by-two-foot plaque of cast bronze and antimony to Trustee President Warren Christopher, who accepted it on behalf of the university. Winbigler also represented the society as a program speaker, talking about the 1887 cornerstone ceremony.

The plaque, inscribed "Stanford University Cornerstone Centennial, 1887-1987," was designed by society member Bob McCann, '49, associate director of publications for the university.



With temperatures nearing 100 degrees, University Provost Jim Rosse signs one of the 150 sheets later bound together and buried in a time capsule near the university's cornerstone. More than 7,000 who attended the 1987 cornerstone centennial ceremonies recorded their names for posterity.

The society also organized a signing ceremony in which more than 7,000 stood in long lines to record their names for posterity. Ray Lyman Wilbur Jr., former society president and youngest son of Stanford's third president, organized society volunteers who helped with the massive job.

Following the cornerstone program, the 150 signature pages were bound with a decorative cover sheet that was calligraphed by Professor Emeritus Eric Hutchinson.

On May 31, 1987, President Winbigler presented to the university the sealed time capsule containing the signature book and other articles. It was placed under the sidewalk and covered with the centennial plaque at a ceremony following the society's annual meeting that day. University President Donald Kennedy told the 125 who gathered for the ceremony that he hoped the Historical Society would "continue to remind us that our origins are important, not because we are old but because we are young."

Society members expressed hope that the plaque will be lifted and time capsule opened on the cornerstone's bicentennial, May 14, 2087.



Society President Don Winbigler (second from right) and Stephen Peeps (right), co-chair of the university's centennial committee, start placing items in the cornerstone centennial time capsule. Looking on are Lillian and Eric Hutchinson—his calligraphy is included—with Bill Cleveland, director of technical services, in the background.



Bob McCann practices setting the cornerstone centennial time capsule in its resting place near the university cornerstone on Building 60. The society gathered objects for the capsule and also paid for the centennial plate, designed by McCann, that later is moved into place.

In other centennial activities, Winbigler—a former professor of speech and drama, former registrar, former dean of students, and academic secretary emeritus—was a featured speaker at the October 1, 1991, centennial of Stanford’s opening day, describing the events of 100 years before. Margaret Kimball, university archivist (and future society president), also was on the dais that day. She described the contents of the time capsule the university was installing to commemorate the centennial of opening day.

For several years the society also linked its Founders’ Day activities to the university’s six-year-long centennial celebration. And, in an effort to draw the community into the centennial celebrations, society volunteers, led by Fred Glover, talked about Stanford history to local schoolchildren. ☞

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Some 50 oral history interviews have been completed and are available in the University Archives. Most have been transcribed and edited, and bound with photographs and biographies. Many society volunteers contributed to the project over the years as interviewers, transcribers, and editors, while others have contributed to its funding.

In addition to encouraging gifts of papers, photographs, and other materials to the Archives, the society has helped with more pragmatic problems of preserving important pieces of university history. In 1992, for example, the society paid a significant portion of shipping costs when three rare watercolor paintings, part of an original commission by Jane Stanford, were given to the university by descendants of Maurizio Camerino of the Venetian mosaic firm of Salviati & Co.

In the mid-1990s, a team of volunteers inspired by David Weber, director of university libraries emeritus, started the **HISTORIC HOUSES PROJECT**, an intensive effort to better document the architectural heritage of campus faculty housing. Their work, organized by Elsbeth Newfield, Betty Kaplan, and later John Harbaugh, included the examination of university records, collecting photographs and drawings, and interviewing house owners and architects. The project evolved into two very popular walking tours and two special publications.

Remedies and oversights

The society’s founding board wanted to do more than just encourage the preservation of documents and artifacts. In Jim Watkins’ bold terms, the society would serve as the conscience of the university—more temperate members called it a desire “to remedy oversights and omissions.”

On March 9, 1976, barely a month after the society’s inception, its first “remedy” began with a short ceremony, in cooperation with the Alumni Association, aimed at reviving **FOUNDERS’ DAY**. The event included the laying of flowers at the Stanford family mausoleum. The revival took hold, and eventually spread from a small society event to today’s university-wide ceremony involving Memorial Church staff, the President’s Office, senior class presidents, as well as the Alumni Association and the Historical Society.

Over the years, Founders’ Day has provided an opportunity for special celebrations. In 1984, those who gathered at the mausoleum also recognized the



Names of Stanford's Korean and Vietnam war dead were carefully calligraphed by the Rev. Robert M. "Rabb" Minto (left) shortly before his death in 1983 and placed in the Memorial Hall lobby. Despite his committee's years of searching, an additional name surfaced in the late 1990s, after the university finally carved the names in stone.



100th anniversary of Leland Jr.'s death. In 1985, the centennial celebration was launched on March 9 with a joint Historical Society/Centennial Committee program marking the 100th anniversary of the California legislature's Enabling Act, which provided the legal basis for the university's founding. The next day drew a larger-than-usual crowd to Founders' Day, where University President Donald Kennedy discussed the skepticism and ridicule the Stanfords faced in 1885. The largest commemoration was held in 1991, when a capacity audience of 1,700 gathered in Memorial Auditorium to hear Wallace Stegner talk at a special centennial celebration of Founders' Day. (Memorial Church was closed due to damage caused by the 1989 earthquake.) Historical Society President Donald Winbigler joined University President Emeritus Richard Lyman, President Kennedy, and Senior Class President Jacqueline Yau as centennial speakers.

Other "remedies" involved more persistence. As society volunteers threw themselves into helping the Archives and arranging programs and publications, a committee made up of Rabb Minto, Fred Glover, Don Carlson, and Herb Dengler set about updating Stanford's MEMORIAL LIST of war dead in Memorial Auditorium to include the names of students and alumni who gave their lives in the Korean and Vietnam wars. The list took years to research and compile. In 1983, the names—initially calligraphed on parchment by Rabb Minto—were placed alongside earlier memori-

als in a November 11 ceremony featuring Admiral James B. Stockdale, a senior research fellow at the Hoover Institution and the ranking naval POW in the Vietnam War.

Some "remedies and oversights" involved drawing attention to the historic fabric of the university. Memorial Church's original CLOCK WORKS AND CHIMES, which survived the collapse of the church tower in the 1906 earthquake and continued to operate for decades in a wooden tower at Duena and



Leland Stanford Jr.'s thumb shows the effect of 1978 vandalism to Larkin Mead's bronze statue of the Stanford family. The society in 1983 paid for Mountain View sculptor Mircea Paul Gorentuc to fashion a new thumb with matching patina.



Two griffin statues, rescued from the weeds at the old Stanford residence site, now sit in front of Encina Gym. The society paid for the move during a time when some students hoped to elect the griffin (or gryphon) as Stanford's mascot.

Panama streets, had been put into storage in 1967. When the works were restored to operating condition by David Beach and Henry Fuchs of the Mechanical Engineering Department, the society pressed for a new home. The works and chimes are now displayed near old Engineering Corner in their own clock tower, donated by William Kimball, former president of the board of trustees.

Despite differences of opinion regarding aesthetic values, the society rescued the controversial bronze 1899 **STANFORD FAMILY STATUE** by Larkin Mead, when it was vandalized in 1978. Moved into storage from its spot on the Art Gallery porch, the society paid for the statue to be repaired by an artisan in 1982. It then sat in storage while university officials, faculty members of the university's outdoor art committee, and the society's own directors disagreed about its ultimate relocation. Various sites in Inner Quad, Memorial Court, and the Oval each had as many detractors as supporters. In 1998, the statue finally was placed near the Stanford mausoleum.

At times, an object of scrutiny was one of little overall importance to the university's academic programmers, but one with significant Stanford family associations. The society has continued to take up the cause of restoration and better maintenance of neglected campus sites, among them the Stanford mausoleum and the Angel of Grief. It has also paid to have two griffin statues that once adorned the Stanford family residence moved from the weeds near San Francisco Creek to the front of Encina Gym.

The Palo Alto Stock Farm had been the subject of the society's first annual meeting in 1976, at which University Archivist Ralph Hansen described Sen. Leland Stanford's extensive property and horse breeding and training operation. By 1982, the **RED BARN** (one of the few remaining stock farm buildings) was in such a precarious state that university officials were considering demolishing it. Society member L. W. (Bill) Lane Jr. spearheaded a fundraising effort to save the structure, aided by Karen Bartholomew's research of history of the barn and stock farm. *Stan-*



Leland Stanford's historic training stable—the Red Barn—was rescued in 1984, following a six-week fundraising campaign by Sunset magazine publisher L. W. (Bill) Lane Jr.

ford's Red Barn first appeared in *Campus Report* and subsequently was issued by the society as an occasional publication. (It was later reworked into an information kiosk now at the site.) The barn's reopening was celebrated with a society-sponsored barbecue attended by 300.

Few members could match founding director Dorothy Regnery's devotion to **HISTORIC PRESERVATION**. Her persistence in promoting historic values, compiling complete documentation, and informing officials and public alike, was infectious. Her efforts led to California (1978) and national (1985) historic landmark status for the Lou Henry Hoover House. Similarly, she worked for nearly two decades to promote preservation of the Stanford home in Sacramento, which became a national landmark in 1987. In addition to paying a significant portion of the cost of a 12-week project to make measured drawings of the house—the first step in its planned restoration—the society in 1987 published Regnery's definitive text, *An American Treasure: The Stanford House in Sacramento*.

The society has often walked a fine line between serving as a conscience and appearing "obstructive," at least in the eyes of university officials. "Remedies and oversights" have taken on a larger importance when historic values have crossed paths with the university's building program. Successful at getting President Jordan's Serra house preserved (it was moved to a new site in 1983), the society was unsuccessful at saving the Dunn-Bacon house as a residence in the 1990s. In 1985, the university's Board of Trustees had already approved plans for a new Graduate School of Business building to straddle Lasuen and block a portion of the original Olmsted vista, when the society's board went on record in opposition. Already committed, the trustees nevertheless acknowledged the need to pay more attention to future encroach-

ments into the arboretum.

When university plans tentatively called for destruction of the Hacienda (an adobe apartment complex nestled behind Bing Nursery) to make way for new housing, the board expressed concern regarding the Buttery, a still-sound structure built by Peter Coutts in the 1870s. The subsequent architectural plan saved the Buttery, incorporating it into the new complex as a special lounge. When the university wanted to demolish old Sequoia Hall, the society's board agreed with university planners that the hall (formerly old Roble dormitory, then Sequoia dormitory, before becoming home to the Statistics Department) had been renovated so dramatically over the decades that little of the historic nature of the building remained to save. It was removed to make way for the Science and Engineering Quad redevelopment.

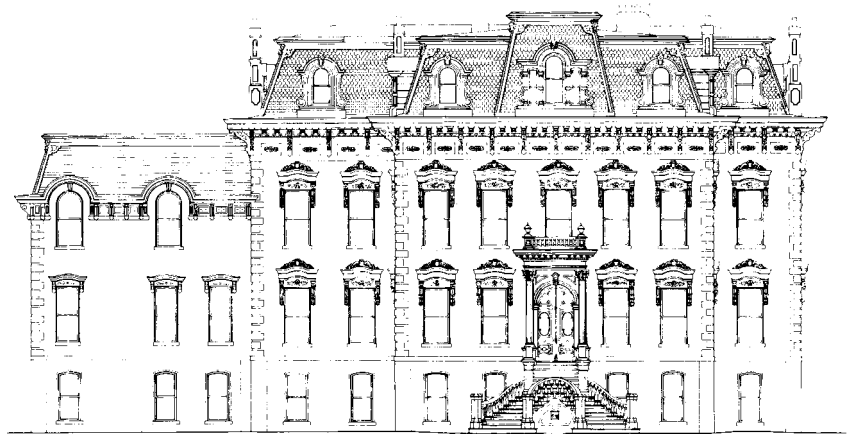
The society has been represented on the Hanna House Board of Governors and has been consulted on such projects as the expansion of the Stanford Museum, the Inner Quad Courtyard renovation, and the naming of various campus spaces.

Both the society's board and, it is hoped, university officers, have learned the lesson of early involvement and dialogue. As President Kennedy reminded non-members at the laying of the centennial plaque in 1987, "Let's listen to them often and let's try to make our history live and breathe as they urge us to do so often and so persuasively." Campus planners and university architects Harry Sanders, Phil Williams, and David Neuman have long been welcome speakers at society

LINDA LONG



Dorothy Regnery, preservationist extraordinaire.



Façade of the Stanford Sacramento house, drawn by Karen Cormier, is one of many detailed architectural drawings by the Historic American Buildings Survey, paid for by the Historical Society.

programs, and society members worked with a presidential advisory group set up by President Kennedy to develop the Historic Values Inventory/Index.

To promote better understanding

The society's second goal, to promote better understanding of Stanford's history and of the ideals of its founders, has prompted the most tangible membership benefits: programs and publications. Its annual meeting, along with Founders' Day, was the entirety of its first year of public programs. The society now has an average of seven **PUBLIC PROGRAMS** a year that cover a range of subjects befitting an active academic community, including the prehistory of the area, the development of academic programs, faculty accomplishments, student life, campus demographics, and athletics.

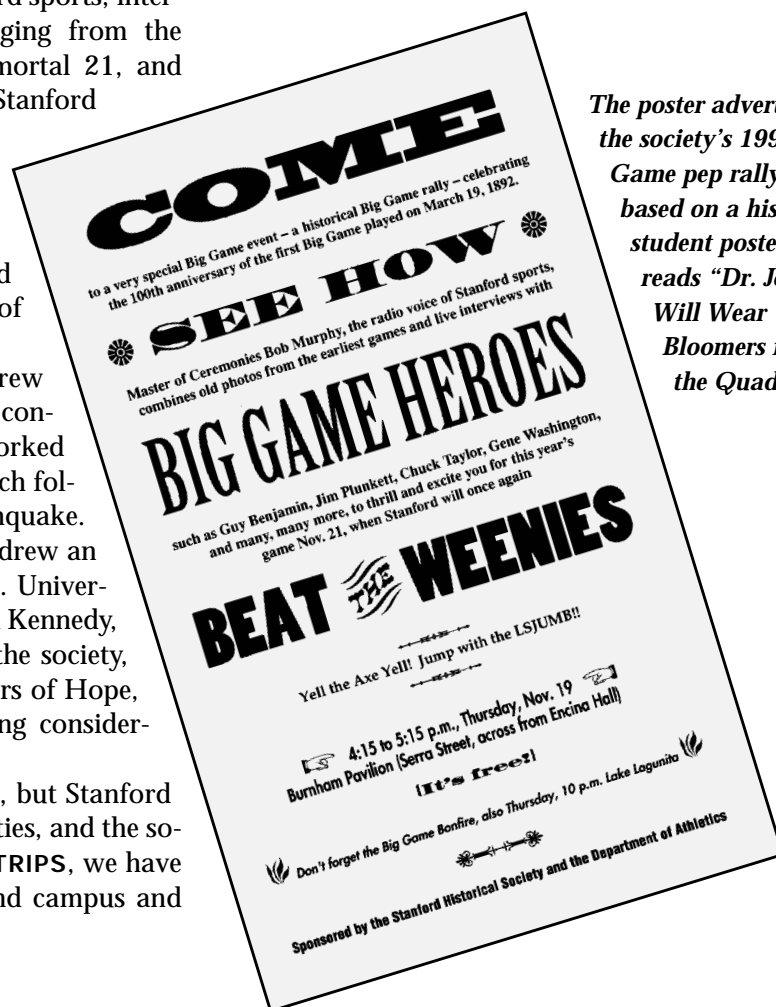
The biggest production in the society's 25 years of staging programs probably was the 1992 Big Game Heroes pep rally celebrating the 100th anniversary of Big Game (co-sponsored with the Athletics Department). Approximately 700 cheered from the bleachers of the Old Basketball Pavilion as master of ceremonies Bob Murphy, the radio voice of Stanford sports, interviewed Stanford football greats ranging from the 1930s to 1990, members of the Immortal 21, and cheerleaders from the 1930s. The Stanford Band provided entertainment. It was a once-in-a-lifetime gathering of those associated with Big Game, and in one of the society's great misfortunes, efforts to both audiotape and videotape the program failed because of machine malfunctions.

Another popular program drew about 300 to hear from the contractor, conservator, and head fundraiser who worked so hard to reconstruct Memorial Church following the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. Also, a talk by former news directors drew an overflow audience to Tresidder Union. University Presidents Richard Lyman, Donald Kennedy, and Gerhard Casper have spoken to the society, with Lyman's talk on "Stanford's 'Years of Hope, Days of Rage,' 1968-1970" generating considerable news coverage.

Its heart may be the Quadrangle, but Stanford University has far-ranging geographic ties, and the society has sought them out. On **FIELD TRIPS**, we have visited Jasper Ridge in the hills behind campus and

Stanford's Hopkins Marine Station in Pacific Grove, and toured other off-campus places where Stanford personalities played a vital role in their development—Yosemite, Ashland's Shakespeare Festival, Theodore Hoover's Waddell Creek, Steinbeck's house in Salinas, and Sam McDonald Park. Other visits have been made to locations associated with the Stanford family, including the Sacramento mansion and old Sacramento, and former family wineries at Vina and Warm Springs (Weibel). In the late 1990s, members visited the Getty Museum in Los Angeles shortly after it opened.

PUBLICATIONS are an essential means of documenting historical research. They draw attention to historical issues and resources on campus, record experiences and recollections, and make accessible little-known historical documents. They also provide a bond between society members, and are especially important to those who live some distance from campus or who otherwise are unable to come to society programs and events. The society began with a modest eight-page newsletter aimed largely at attracting new members and informing current ones. An annual feature issue, first introduced in 1978 to provide more in-



The poster advertising the society's 1992 Big Game pep rally was based on a historic student poster that reads "Dr. Jordan Will Wear Bloomers in the Quad."

Twenty-five years of Historical Society publications

NEWSLETTER

Sandstone & Tile (continuation of *Stanford Historical Society Newsletter*) vol. 1–, 1976–; current vol. 25, 2001

OCCASIONAL PUBLICATIONS SERIES

- #1 Alexander Findlay, *A Stanford Diary, 1924-25* (1982)
- #2 Philip Leighton, *A Solstician Adventure, December 21, 1978* (1982)
- #3 Karen Bartholomew and Peter C. Allen, *Stanford's Red Barn* (1984)
- #4 George H. Knoles, *The Borel Collection in California History at Stanford University* (1984)
- #5 George E. Crothers, *Founding the Leland Stanford Junior University* (1985)
- #6 Templeton Peck, *When We Were Fifty: The Story of Stanford's Golden Jubilee* (1985)
- #7 Dorothy F. Regnery, *An American Treasure: the Stanford House in Sacramento* (1987)
- #8 Susan Wolfe, "And Don't Forget When You Leave Why You Came": *A Look at the Inaugural Goals of Stanford's Eighth President* (1992)
- #9 Susan Wolfe, ed. *Historic Houses of San Juan Hill: Walking Tour and Reception* (Historic Houses Committee Project, 1995)
- #10 Karen Bartholomew, ed. *Historic Houses of Lower San Juan District: Walking Tour* (Historic Houses Committee Project, 1998)

BOOKS

- Peter C. Allen, *Stanford: From the Foothills to the Bay* (co-published by Stanford Historical Society and Stanford Alumni Association, 1980, 1986)
- Dorothy F. Regnery, *The History of Jasper Ridge: From Searsville Pioneers to Stanford Scientists*, ed. by Deane Haskin (Stanford Historical Society and Stanford University Centennial Operating Committee, 1991)
- Edwin Kiester Jr., *Donald B. Tresidder: Stanford's Overlooked Treasure* (Stanford Historical Society, 1992)
- Donald Kennedy, *The Last of Your Springs* (Stanford Historical Society, 1998)
- Karen Bartholomew, Claude Brinegar, and Roxanne Nilan, *A Chronology of Stanford University and its Founders, 1824-2000* (Stanford Historical Society, 2001)

depth research articles, has grown into today's *Sandstone & Tile*. Campus journalists and writers have actively participated in the society's publications program, beginning with Pete Allen, and including newsletter editors Jeff Littleboy, Karen Bartholomew, Roxanne Nilan, Harry Press, Shannon Moffat, Ronnie Welch, Susan Wolfe, Randy Bean, and Pat White. They have been helped by many guest editors and contributors from across campus.

Like many of the society's projects, the idea for

an occasional publications ("OP") series began with a volunteer's special effort: In 1982, Professor Eric Hutchinson designed and printed the first two titles on his own press. Pete Allen, who originated the society's newsletter and came up with the name, "Sandstone & Tile," saw that the society's publications might not only feature historical research but could offer an opportunity to highlight special preservation concerns, and undertook to edit "OPs" on the Stanford home in Sacramento and the Red Barn. Other

works provided historical background during the centennial celebration years (1985-1991) by exploring founding ideals and describing earlier efforts.

Our founders' 1976 dream list included even bigger "literary" projects. Along with pamphlets, a chronology, reminiscences, and oral histories, Jim Watkins argued for "a full-length history of the university." Pete Allen took on what was then called "Stanford Panorama" as author and editor-in-chief. Winning university support and the interest of the Alumni Association, Pete and his committee worked with the editorial staff of the association. His *Stanford: From the Foothills to the Bay*, the university's first illustrated popular history, was published jointly with the Alumni Association in 1980 and set a new standard for historical accuracy and beauty. *Foothills* made new use of archival documents, photographs, and memorabilia, and prompted beautiful new color photographic images of the campus. Invested royalties

"We may,
an often do,
argue with one another
about what Stanford means,
what it ought to mean, where it is
headed. But it is useful to be reminded,
now and then, that we are bound together
be our shared involvement in
a great institution"

— Univ. President Emeritus
Richard W. Lyman,
Founders' Day,
1991

and accumulated interest continue to provide substantial financial support to the Historical Society.

Another book project, a biography of Donald Tresidder, required a different approach. Ed Kiester's *Donald B. Tresidder: Stanford's Overlooked Treasure* was the culmination of a special documentation effort funded by Bill Janss, '40. In order to produce this first biography of the university's fourth president, existing archival records had to be filled out by the recollections of students, faculty, and staff of wartime and immediate post-war Stanford. Fred Glover, Harry Press, and Roxanne Nilan set out to record oral history interviews, and locate photographs and personal papers to provide a more balanced look at significant changes in faculty, administrative and student affairs, the introduction of veterans and married students to campus, and the impact of federal funding.

In 1980, Catherine Peck, '35, began the newspaper column, "The Way We Were," for the *Stanford Observer*. It now appears (written since 2000 by Karen Bartholomew, '71) as "Stanford Through the Century" in *Sandstone & Tile*, and an abbreviated version appears in *Stanford* magazine. The society's most recent publication, *A Chronology of Stanford University and its Founders, 1824-2000*, had its birth in a 1976 project idea: to compile a chronology expanding the one-page listing in the 1955 *Alumni Directory*.

"We can afford to be happy and proud that Stanford's history has been invigorated and supported by the society," but without its members, "the society would be nothing," President Robert Hamrda noted at our 25th anniversary celebration. During the past quarter century, members have accomplished much,

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The "Stanford Panorama" committee, charged with publishing a history of Stanford, celebrates the culmination of its project, *Stanford: From the Foothills to the Bay*. From left, author Pete Allen, society financial officer Ken Christensen, and former society presidents Jim Watkins (seated) and Harvey Hall.

if not all, of the original dream list. Many of the original tasks have long since turned into ongoing commitments—publications, programs, research projects, oral histories. While some projects have fallen by the wayside, new ideas have been added to the list as events, opportunities, and crises arose.

The preservation and study of Stanford's history, however, remains a difficult thing to do simply, quietly, or individually. Little has changed since society President Harvey Hall pointed out in 1978 that the society is "just old enough to be firmly established yet young enough not to be complacent." The society has always relied on the support, spiritual and temporal, of university offices—especially University Archives, Public Affairs, News & Publications Service, Planning Office, and Alumni Association—and their support is important to our future success.

On reflection, it is increasingly clear that the society's most ambitious goal is also its most difficult—to serve as a catalyst, a conscience, a reminder to

others throughout the university community that Stanford has a heritage worth preserving, studying, and contemplating. But as our past accomplishments show, it is a goal well worth the effort. "We may, and often do, argue with one another about what Stanford means, what it ought to mean, where it is headed," University President Emeritus Richard Lyman reminded us on Founders Day, 1991. "But it is useful to be reminded, now and then," he added, "that we are bound together by our shared involvement in a great institution." ☞

"Let's listen
to them often
and let's try to make
our history live and breathe
as they urge us to do so often
and so persuasively."

— University President
Donald Kennedy,
1987

Memories to Share?

Do you have a special memory of society events or accomplishments? Write to us at
P.O. Box 20028
Stanford, CA 94309
or email
at NilanAxline@aol.com

ENDNOTES

¹ Early accounts often included more myth than history (particularly among President Jordan's whimsical stories) but excellent first-hand accounts include articles by Ellen Coit Elliott, Frank Batchelder, Roy Ballard, and others, compiled into *The First Year at Stanford* (1905), and volume 10 of *The Quad* (1904). Ballard interviewed local residents, who also told their share of good—and at times misremembered—stories, for a history class. His papers, along with other early accounts, are preserved in the University Archives.

² Peterson tried to document his understanding of the founding of the university in a series of articles published in the *San Francisco Call*. Although filled with errors, his articles revitalized interest in

better documenting Stanford's history before memories were lost.

³ Orrin Leslie Elliott, *Stanford University: The First Twenty-Five Years* (1937); George T. Clark, *Leland Stanford: War Governor of California, Railroad Builder, and Founder of Stanford University* (1931); Bertha Berner, *Mrs. Leland Stanford: An Intimate Account* (1934); Ellen Coit Elliott, *It Happened This Way: American Scene* (1940).

⁴ "There was nothing systematic about making up the list, which because of the summer holidays or alumni tours was to lack some obvious choices. But all who were included were known for their interest in Stanford history and many had worked on historical projects on campus

or in the area." *Stanford Historical Society Newsletter*, April 1976.

⁵ The society's desk and typewriter soon after moved to the Public Affairs Office, under the wing of Don Carlson, director of university relations, and of his secretary, Mary Ahlgren, with the volunteer help of society secretary Claire Still. Beth Ziegler was hired as secretary during the 1980s, serving until 1993. Because of university-wide budget cuts, the Public Affairs Office stopped funding the society's secretarial position in August 1991, forcing the society thereafter to pick up the cost. In 1993, the Historical Society moved to office space near the University Archives, provided by the University Libraries. Carol Miller has served as the society's office assistant since 1993.

Society publication fulfills early dream

Celebrating its first quarter century, the Stanford Historical Society has published *A Chronology of Stanford University and its Founders, 1824-2000*, a 169-page volume with 469 black-and-white photographs.

In 1976, Prof. James T. Watkins IV, founding president of the Stanford Historical Society, set as a major goal publication of a "substantial" chronology of the university's history to replace a two-page listing in the *Alumni Directory*. Now, 25 years later, the society has distributed the book as a gift to members during its May 8 anniversary celebration. The *Chronology* is dedicated to early society stalwarts Peter C. Allen, Rosamond C. Bacon, Donald T. Carlson, Frederic O. Glover, Robert M. Minto, Dorothy F. Regnery, James T. Watkins IV, and H. Donald Winbigler.

The *Chronology* was researched and written by Karen Bartholomew, Claude Brinegar, and Roxanne Nilan. It started out as a modest revision of a chronology that Bartholomew and Nilan produced in newspaper format in the 1980s, when Bartholomew was editor of the *Stanford Observer* and Nilan served as university archivist. But keeping it simple proved impossible. In the end, the authors greatly expanded the project, going back to archival documents and early publications to check facts. They incorporated more detail in most entries and added many new ones, especially about the lives of Leland and Jane Stanford, the early years of the university, and the turmoil of the Vietnam War era. The book also includes decade-by-decade statistics on Stanford undergraduate and graduate enrollment, faculty size, tuition, and endowment.

The book "endeavors to put these events in the right order, with the right dates, and with enough history to make them understandable," write the authors. "We hope the outcome is interesting to the casual reader and useful to the researcher."

The book had numerous collaborators. Countless old friends and colleagues from across the campus responded to requests for information, checked facts, and helped with editing.

Near the end of the project, Bartholomew and Nilan spent more than a week creating a 10-page index that they hope will make the volume useful as a basic reference tool, especially for their former colleagues at the Stanford News Service and the University Archives.

The index indirectly serves another early dream of Jim Watkins: to create an encyclopedia of Stanford history. "At last people would know the difference between the Wow Boys and

the Wow Boys, and perhaps the geniuses who put the huge footprints up and down Hoover Tower would come forward so we could record their names for posterity," he said. For explanations of these, and other phenomena from Academic Council to Zoology, or from Albert, Frankie, to Wonka, Warren, check your copy.

While the authors, known for their obsession with historical detail, relied on original sources as much as possible, readers who spot errors are invited to contact them through the Historical Society ("Chronology Editor," P.O. Box 20028, Stanford, CA 94309; email: stanhist@sulmail.stanford.edu).

Becky Fischbach, who designed and produced *Sandstone & Tile* for many years, provided design advice. Bartholomew then laid out the book using her laptop computer. Joanna McClean, current designer for *Sandstone & Tile*, designed the four-color cover. Consolidated Publications of Sunnyvale printed 1,100 copies, of which nearly 700 were distributed to members. The society is selling the extra copies.



Have you received your copy?

Copies of *A Chronology of Stanford University and its Founders* were handed out as gifts at the Historical Society's 25th anniversary party on May 8. A free copy was later mailed to each member family that did not attend. Members who failed to receive a copy should contact Carol Miller at the Historical Society office, (650) 725-3332. Extra copies at \$19.95 each are available from the Stanford Bookstore, the Cantor Arts Center, and the Historical Society.

We're 25 years old!

On May 8, 2001, members of the Stanford Historical Society marked the organization's 25th year with an anniversary celebration at the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts (the Stanford Museum). The society was established in 1976 by a charter group of 17, headed by Professor Emeritus James T. Watkins IV, the society's first president.

The event featured a keynote address by Isaac Stein, chair of the Stanford Board of Trustees. His talk, "What is Past is Prologue: the First 25 years of the Board of Trustees," focused on two important issues—the Ross affair and acquisition of a medical school—that defined the board's approach to its duties and relationship to university presidents and faculty (see text, page 18).

Society President G. Robert Hamrdla welcomed 200 members and guests. He thanked members of the original "preparatory group" that met in 1975 to organize the society (see names, page 4). Many of the 17 are now deceased, but two of the survivors—Richard and Sue Blois—attended the celebration. Blois, senior development counsel emeritus at Stanford, talked of how the founding members might view the society today.

"We can afford to be happy and proud that Stanford's history has been invigorated and supported by the society," Hamrdla concluded, "and for that my last thanks of the evening go to all of you, the members, without whom the society would be nothing." Hamrdla encouraged members to consider ways they might get involved in society activities.

Talks were followed by wine and hors d'oeuvres. In addition to Stein, University President John Hennessy and his predecessor Gerhard Casper also attended the anniversary celebration. ☞



University President Emeritus Gerhard Casper and his wife, Dr. Regina Casper, professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, stand in front of the recently restored painting of Mrs. Stanford's jewels at the museum.



Former U.S. Ambassador L. W. (Bill) Lane Jr. visits with Hoover Institution Deputy Director Charles Palm and Campus Archaeologist Laura Jones at the May 8 reception at the Cantor Arts Center.



Former society President Rosemary McAndrews (left) visits with Barbara Thomas (middle) and an unidentified guest during the society's celebration of its first quarter century.



Dick Blois, a founding member of the Historical Society, shares his thoughts on the expectations of the original preparatory group.

The Envelope Please!

As part of its 25th anniversary celebration, the Historical Society asked members for nominations of “the most unforgettable characters” at Stanford in the past approximately 25 years. Dozens of names were submitted. The result was a medley of nostalgia, respect, and good fun. An impartial committee evaluated submissions and selected the following, listed in alphabetical order:

Ros Bacon: “Mrs. Bacon was a familiar sight on campus for many years before her death, either tending roses on her circular driveway or making her daily rounds.”

Art Barnes: For his “sheer courage and grit” in dealing with the Stanford Band. And for his sense of humor and band arrangements, including his famous national anthem.

Bob Beyers: “Anyone at Stanford during the traumatic times of the 60s and 70s will support this nomination. His integrity and approach to ‘getting the bad news out’ right away was a tremendous asset to Stanford. Bob has not been honored as he should have been by Stanford.”

Ron Bracewell: A true Renaissance man with an Aussie accent. “Erudite on almost any subject, he can discuss SETI, eucalyptus trees, and complex computer algorithms.”

Alf Brandin: “An outstanding football player, business manager, and former president of the Stanford Historical Society. A great ‘people person’ to whom Stanford owes a huge debt of gratitude.”

Bob Butler: “Always friendly, widowed too young by the loss of a fine lady. He held interesting positions at Stanford—Controller’s Office, Medical School, the Athletics Office. He made a host of friends and contacts and held Historical Society committee meetings in his backyard.”

Don Carlson: Famous for his direct, creative, and telling responses to letters from angry alumni and others during some of the university’s most difficult times. Staunch defender of the institution with a marvelous writing touch.

Frances Conley: “Risked her career to expose sexual harassment within the faculty, went on to become president of the Faculty Senate. An exemplary teacher

and clinician and surrogate for women and minority faculty members.”

Jack Dempsey: “Driver to all Stanford Presidents from Wallace Sterling to Don Kennedy, Jack was equally well known for his extended birthday lunches with his many female admirers.”

Andy Doty: Long-time director of community relations, “who did a wonderful job of smoothing relations between town and gown. Respected for his ability to explain Stanford’s plans and adept at handling complaints and thorny questions.”

Jim Gibbons: “An inspiration to observe and work with... a superb teacher, an honored researcher, and an outstanding dean of engineering. His extra-curricular contributions to at-risk youth are without parallel.”

Frank Hack: Long-time Inner Quad gardener from England. A most engaging fellow, he was invited to meet Queen Elizabeth when she visited Stanford.

Dick Jahns: The late dean of the School of Earth Sciences, who was loved by all for his splendid character, store of good jokes, and fine sense of humor.

Alphonse Juillard: “A beloved teacher of French, a fine person, and a tribute to the French culture.... Always friendly and personable.”

Donald Kennedy: Former president, gifted teacher, spinner of tales and aphorisms, distinguished public servant.

John Kaplan: The late professor of law, noted for his superb sense of humor. “His memorial service was the single most hilarious event of any kind I’ve attended because the speakers just told Kaplan stories.”

Maggie Kimball: “For intelligence, initiative, imagination, availability, approachability, and accessibility—a terrific asset for Stanford.”

Jing Lyman: “Memorable for her warmth, nonstop knitting, kindness, enthusiasm for her university and support for a president who saved Stanford from chaos without resorting to repression.”

Rosemary McAndrews: “She led the Stanford Shopping Center to its position of great success for many years and has been one of Stanford’s unsung heroes.”

Tony Raubitschek: Chair of the Classics

Department in the 70s and 80s. “A lively, passionate, inspirational instructor; ubiquitous bicyclist; everybody’s favorite grandfather figure.”

Frank Riddle: “Probably the top controller of any American university. He played a key role in the financing of research at Stanford—I don’t think he ever overlooked a Stanford penny.”

Harold Schmidt: “The most memorable person from my Stanford days. As choir and chorus director he was a thorough musician and a very warm person who will always live in my memory.”

Rix Snyder: “Everyone loved him as a professor. Knowing him made him your good friend. He is the ‘father’ of the Stanford Travel/Study Program.”

Bill Stone: The casual and humorous assistant to the president, and later head of the Alumni Association. Enlivened every talk with his light touch.

Mary Sunseri: “Mary taught calculus to generations of Stanford students and taught very well. She always amazed students with her ability to draw a perfect freehand circle on the chalkboard.”

Two objects: “The *Albers Wall* and George Segal’s *Gay Liberation* statues. Both suffered indignities: the wall became controversial and was removed to an obscure location; the statues suffered hammer attacks and paint assaults over the years, only to be repaired and returned to their site—a symbol of Stanford’s commitment to diversity.”

Tara Vanderveer and Mike Montgomery: “Their teams’ records speak for themselves. They build strong bodies, minds, and spirits—and do not sink to histrionics, blaming, or other negative techniques.”

James T. Watkins IV: “Qualifies as the most memorable character in the context of the Historical Society. Deeply involved in the founding, care, and feeding of the society.”

Don Winbigler: “The name ‘Winbigler’ first came to my attention as Dean Winbigler, when, as a freshman, I all-too-frequently missed lock-out. More recently, I was fortunate to serve with him on the Stanford Historical Society Board. His half-century of affiliation with Stanford makes the late Don Winbigler unforgettable, for me and for many others.” 🍷

What is Past is PROLOGUE:

The First Twenty-Five Years of the Board of Trustees

by Isaac Stein
Chair, Stanford Board of Trustees

This is the text of Isaac Stein's keynote address at the Historical Society's 25th anniversary celebration, May 8, 2001. Introducing Mr. Stein, society President Robert Hamrdla noted: There is an old adage that has stood well the test of its age, the one that admonishes us to ask a busy person if we want something done well. In keeping with its historical orientation, I am happy to report to you that your society has heeded this advice in inviting Isaac Stein to be our featured speaker. Mr. Stein took his bachelor's degree at Colgate University in 1968 and received both MBA and JD degrees from Stanford in 1972. He is now the chair of Stanford's Board of Trustees and also has a most distinguished record of community and public service. In addition to being founder of Waverley Associates in Palo Alto in 1982 and now its president, Mr. Stein has served on many corporate and other boards outside of Stanford. Here in our university he has been active in volunteer leadership of the Hospital and Medical Center, the Law School, and the Haas Center for Public Service. He and his wife, Madeline, are members of our society.

LINDA CICERO/STANFORD NEWS SERVICE

Since we are celebrating the first 25 years of the Stanford Historical Society, it seemed only fitting for me to speak on a similar topic—the first 25 years of the Stanford University Board of Trustees. Many of the issues facing today's trustees have their roots in Stanford's past and, like many historians, I have learned that Shakespeare was indeed right when he said that “what is past is prologue.”

Now, it may seem presumptuous to talk about 25 years in less than 25 minutes—a bit like the “60 second Shakespeare” series—but I plan to get there with a number of shortcuts.



Isaac Stein, chairman of the Stanford Board of Trustees.

I will begin by largely ignoring the first 18 years of the 25-year time period. Under the Founding Grant, all powers and duties of the trustees remained with the founders during their lifetimes. While several trustees played important roles as individuals, usually as advisors to Jane Stanford and David Starr Jordan, their roles as board members were largely ceremonial. In fact, Horace Stebbins, one of the original trustees, confessed to Jordan in an 1895 letter that: “One of the embarrassments of the trustees is that they know so little.” I hope that is no longer true!

My second shortcut is that I



Forced resignation of Prof. Edward A. Ross (below) in 1900 drew attention to faculty governance and presidential authority of David Starr Jordan (at left).

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am only going to address two of the issues that were considered by the board during this period. The first issue is the role of the trustees in the delineation of presidential power, especially with respect to faculty dismissal and the so-called “Ross Affair.” The other is the beginnings of what has become the Stanford Medical Center. Although these were apparently unrelated issues, both were controversies involving significant action by the Board of Trustees.

At every university, there is tension between the open and collegial style of the academy and the inherent management issues of any large and complex enterprise. My thesis is that the Board of Trustees plays a critical role in mediating this tension between academic traditions and organizational structures, on the one hand, and the financial and managerial demands of large enterprises, on the other. As I hope you will see, these two incidents that occurred almost 100 years ago are quite similar to situations facing Stanford University and its Board of Trustees today.

I said that I planned on talking about only two issues, but I can’t resist a brief mention of a third issue. Since we all are experiencing “rolling blackouts”—indeed it is possible that the lights may be going out any minute now—I do want to mention that electricity and energy conservation on campus have long been topics of interest to the Board of Trustees. After Jane Stanford stepped down as the surviving founder on June 1, 1903, the Board of Trustees began systematically reviewing many aspects of the university. In a

world before fundraising campaigns, government support, or even tuition, even small expenses were subjected to intense scrutiny, and the cost of electricity seems to have been a regular preoccupation. The board adopted a variety of detailed rules on this subject and I thought you might enjoy the following resolution adopted in January 1904.

Whereas, The students of Encina Hall having requested that the current for lights be kept on in the Hall until 12 o'clock A.M., promising that in consideration of this the students in the Hall would see that every unused light was promptly turned off, that all waste of light would be avoided and the cost of lighting the Hall would not be increased; the Manager be authorized to make the change requested in both Halls subject to above conditions and to place a meter in each Hall to ascertain whether the cost of lighting is increased.

If the summer blackouts continue, perhaps we will need to adopt similar resolutions in the not-too-distant future!

Presidential Powers and the Ross Affair

Now, let’s look at the role of the trustees in defining presidential power, especially in light of the so-called “Ross Affair.” Since a number of books and scholarly articles have been written on Stanford’s firing of Professor Edward Ross in 1900, I will address the facts only briefly. My concern tonight is with the governance issues involved rather than in the merits of the actual firing.

Ross was a politically active Democrat who was fired by President Jordan at the express instruction of Jane Stanford. Mrs. Stanford objected to a variety of views ostensibly expressed by the professor, including his support of a limitation on Japanese immigration and his failure to oppose firmly municipal ownership of public utilities. This second point makes me wonder what Mrs. Stanford would think of Gray Davis’ proposed purchase of the electrical transmission network by the state of California, especially since he is a Stanford alumnus!

The firing, or actually forced resignation, of Ross was both public and messy. With national press coverage and condemnation from most quarters, Stanford University was accused of a complete breach of academic freedom—the very *lehrfreiheit* on which our university motto is based. Within several months, seven professors had voluntarily resigned in protest.

However, as I said earlier, my interest is more with the role of the Board of Trustees in dealing with the complex issue of presidential power for the removal of professors. To understand this issue, we must begin with Leland Stanford and his intentions as embodied in the Founding Grant. There is little question that Senator Stanford meant to provide for strong presidential power. As he told Charles Eliot, the president of Harvard, he wanted a Stanford University president who could manage things like the president of a railroad. This was not surprising, of course, coming from the president of a railroad.

The Founding Grant explicitly provided that the president would have the power to remove professors and teachers at will while reserving to the trustees the power to appoint and remove the president and to “employ the professors and teachers.” While other universities of the time also gave significant power to the president, they almost always qualified the exercise of this power. For example, they required Board of Trustees’ approval for the removal of a faculty member.

From the beginning of the university, the Stanford president’s right to fire faculty drew negative comment in academic circles. As Harvard’s President Eliot again described it: “What an extremely disagreeable and inexpedient power of dismissal the Stanfords forced on the president of their university! For all I know, it may work well in a railroad; but it will certainly be extremely inconvenient and injurious in a university.”

Throughout the 1890s, Mrs. Stanford, as surviving founder, continued to explicitly support the unlimited power of the president with respect to faculty appointments. In 1897 she amended the Founding Grant and explicitly directed “that the selection and

removal of the professors and teachers, and all questions relating thereto, shall be determined by the president and by him alone.”

But the controversy that followed the Ross affair caused the trustees to renew their interest in this issue. In particular, Horace Davis, one of the original trustees and a former president of the University of California, felt that it would limit the growth of the university and its reputation. As he described it: “good men do not like to come out to Stanford where they [feel] that they [are] entirely at the mercy of one man.” Davis, incidentally, appears to have served simultaneously as both president of the University of California and a trustee of Stanford—imagine how much fun he must have had at Big Game. Even more interesting, he resigned as president of UC when he refused to move to the East Bay as the job required. A thoroughly admirable man!

After Mrs. Stanford had surrendered her powers as surviving founder to the Board of Trustees in 1903, the trustees began to deal more openly with the organization of the university’s internal governance. Working together, Horace Davis and the board’s first alumni trustee, George Crothers (a young but talented lawyer), used this opportunity to craft a compromise position on presidential power. The challenge was to find a mechanism that both limited the president’s authority to dismiss faculty while remaining in compliance with the provisions of the Founding Grant. This was no easy task.

What they did, in effect, was to get all parties to agree that the trustees would not initiate hirings, in exchange for the right to approve any dismissals initiated by the president. The trustees would, as Crothers put it, “surrender the power to initiate appointments of members of the faculty, a power they scrupulously

had refrained from exercising, upon condition that the president surrender the power of dismissal without the consent of the trustees.” They further provided for the creation of an advisory board, made up of distinguished members of the faculty, that would review and advise both the president and the trustees on any proposed faculty dismissal. This basic methodology aligned Stanford more closely with other leading academic insti-

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Early trustees Horace Davis (left) and George E. Crothers (right) played important roles in reorganizing Stanford’s academic affairs.

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tutions of the time and is, in large part, the process still in use today. It is ironic that, in this instance, it was the trustees who represented the unique interests of the academy and the president who stood for the corporate model of chief executive power. But their key role then, just as today, was to balance the tension between these two aspects of university governance.

Medical School: The Risky Business of Acquisitions and Mergers

Perhaps nowhere has this tension been more evident than in the operation of academic medical centers. Stanford Medical Center is one of the crown jewels of Stanford University today. One of the most research-intensive medical institutions in the country, it has pioneered such important innovations as the heart transplant and the technology for genetic engineering. But, in recent years, it also has struggled with a drastically declining reimbursement market for academic medical centers and with the challenges of balancing academic priorities against economic limitations. Although these issues are endemic to all academic medical centers today, they still represent a major challenge for the university and the Board of Trustees. Any president or board chair can be assured that they will spend a great deal of their time on medical affairs and, in studying the origins of the Stanford Medical Center, I have learned that these issues are not just products of the contemporary environment.

From the outset, the Stanfords had an interest in providing medical training. It was one of the curriculum areas specifically identified in the Founding Grant. Moreover, as early as 1890, there were rumors of a possible union between Stanford and the Cooper Medical College. Founded by Dr. Samuel Cooper in 1858, the original Cooper Medical College was absorbed into the newly created Toland Medical College in 1864. Toland affiliated with the University of California in 1874 and is today better known as UCSF. Along the way, however, two of the Toland faculty members, Dr. Levi Cooper Lane and Dr. Henry Gibbons Jr. resigned and founded a new Cooper Medical College, again using the name of Dr. Lane's uncle, Samuel Cooper. Through the 1890s, Dr. Lane poured his personal resources into the expansion of the medical college, its laboratories and Lane Hospital. But the continuing advance of medical science and the growing demand for facilities and staff made it clear that it would be difficult to maintain Cooper as an independent institution. Beginning in about 1902, periodic discussions ensued between officials of Stanford



Dr. Levi Cooper Lane, in Cooper Medical College's operating amphitheater.

and Cooper as to the possibility of an affiliation or merger.

There was great concern, however, on the part of the Stanford trustees and faculty over the financial risks associated with the medical school and hospital. In particular, they were concerned that potential losses from clinical activities might drain resources from the other parts of the university. As Dr. Jordan wrote to Dr. William Ophüls, a faculty member at Cooper:

The great difficulty with us—and it tends to grow larger as we get nearer to it—is the question as to whether the University will be able to maintain the medical school as it ought to be maintained without cramping the engineering school and the library and the other departments already established.

On January 31, 1908, after more than two years of committee reports, debates and discussions, the board voted 9–2, to approve the acquisition of Cooper Medical College. But to ensure that medical school losses would not endanger the rest of the university, a special proviso was added to the resolution as follows:

That in case the needs of the proposed medical department, over and above its own separate income from medical students and other sources, should exceed \$25,000 per annum, the wants of other now existing departments shall have preference over such needs.

But even with this resolution, the controversy over the new “Medical Department” (the department became a “school” in 1913) continued. Many faculty on the Palo Alto campus were convinced that the \$25,000 in losses would grow. By the way, that \$25,000 loss limit would be about \$500,000 in today’s inflated dollars.

In 1910, Dr. Abraham Flexner issued his famous report on medical education in the United States. This report was a landmark study in medical education. It proposed a form of curricular organization that is still the basis on which most medical schools are organized, and called for the merger or elimination of many inadequate medical schools. In some detail, Dr. Flexner directly attacked Stanford’s decision to acquire a medical school, arguing that the state of California would never support two medical schools. He urged Stanford and the University of California separately to provide the first two years of medical education and then to combine their resources with respect to clinical activities in a joint San Francisco facility.

Although various national academic leaders coaxed Dr. Jordan and President Wheeler of the University of California into discussions, there was an immediate staking out of territories by the two institutions. In an attempt to advance the dialogue, committees of trustees and regents were appointed to meet. These discussions occupied much of 1911, but were not successful. Over the next several years, the requirements of the medical school—now comprised of related activities in Palo Alto and San Francisco—quickly surpassed the \$25,000 loss cap set in the original acquisition resolution. Dr. Jordan, however, remained committed to the medical school, as did many of the trustees—most of whom lived in San Francisco where the hospital facilities were located.

It was at this point, in 1913, that David Starr Jordan stepped down as Stanford’s first president and was succeeded by John Casper Branner. Unlike Jordan, President Branner was no friend of the medical school. Given the constraints on resources, Branner wanted to divest the medical school so that its resources could be redirected to the rest of the university. This put him squarely at odds with both Jordan and many of the trustees, who believed that the medical school had the potential to be an extraordinarily strong part of the university. This difference of opinion grew increasingly fractious. Compare, for example, the following letter from Branner to Jordan with a contemporaneous “policy statement” announced by the trustees. First, here is Branner to Jordan:

I know from what you wrote me awhile ago that you think the medical school a great acquisition; and so it is. But just the same it has the University around the neck and we are all on the way to the bottom together.”

And now here is the board’s policy statement:

In recognition of the leading position and progress of the Medical Department, and in order to at least partially provide for the increased expansion to the teaching side as well as to the hospital facilities, it is intended to entirely renovate the present large hospital building, to add a substantial wing for private patients, and to start the erection of a new woman’s hospital.

There was no easy way to reconcile these views.

Of course, President Branner’s vastly different attitude breathed new life into the merger negotiations. In December 1913, Branner formally advised the trustees that he proposed to eliminate all financial support to the medical school beginning in July 1914. He further proposed that all of its assets be turned over to the University of California on such terms as the trustees and regents might agree. And what if such negotiations were unsuccessful? Well, Branner went on, “Or, if for any reason, such a disposal is impossible that some such disposition be made of the school and its appurtenances as will entirely relieve Stanford University from all expenses in connection with it.”

The Advisory Board of the Academic Council immediately adopted a resolution approving without reservation the recommendation of President Branner for, as they delicately put it, “the readjustment of the Medical School.”

President Branner, meanwhile, continued to press for divestiture. As he implored the president of the Carnegie Foundation:

Can you not give me some encouragement to abandon this medical school? How can it be done. I am ready enough to do anything that human effort can do. It will make an awful row, I know, but if I can save the University I don’t mind either the row or the personal roasting I will meet. Some of the Trustees will stand by me, others will fight me to a finish, as will all the members of the medical faculty and their friends... Dr. Jordan looks on the medical school as the child of his old age and the finest one in the family, but I am at liberty to disregard his personal views.



Stanford President John Casper Branner (right) and Benjamin Ide Wheeler, president of the University of California, on the Quad, circa 1914.

Although these various actions did result in further extended discussions during 1914 between the University of California and Stanford, the trustees and regents were unable to agree on a merger plan. There were irreconcilable differences on the allocation of control, the size of the financial commitments, and the university cultures. In the end, the medical schools were to remain independent. Stanford remained the owner of a medical school and a hospital, and Branner gave up his fight. As he put it: “the medical skeleton is now put away in its closet, and in my day it is not likely to be seen again.”

Branner’s struggle over the medical school, however, did lead to some unexpected results. The Board of Trustees proceeded with a reassessment of the broader needs of the whole university. It also led to a review of Stanford’s financial resources. Under the leadership of Herbert Hoover, its newest trustee, the board increased substantially the resources available for all academic programs and began to pursue a more

aggressive policy in regard to investments. Although Branner did not succeed in winning his battle over the medical school, he did succeed in gaining the resources necessary for the other departments. This, of course, was his object all along.

In accordance with his agreement when he originally took office, Branner stepped down as president in 1916 at age 65, having served less than three years. His successor was Ray Lyman Wilbur, the dean of the medical school. Discussion over the divestiture of the medical school finally came to an end.

Although the Board of Trustees spent much of its first 25 years as “a shadowy body without powers or duties”—in the words of Orrin Elliott—it ended the period as a strong force, with a major role in shaping the Stanford University we know today. In every sense, the trustees served as fiduciaries and as long-term protectors of the vision of the founders. As I hope you can see from these two incidents, the trustees had learned to balance the academic mission against the practical limitations imposed by their role as trustees. The principles they established are still followed by the Board of Trustees today. As an alumnus and a successor trustee, I thank them for their diligence and for the well-documented history they left behind. And, I congratulate the Stanford Historical Society for making so many of us more aware of Stanford’s past, which indeed has served as our prologue. 🍷

Sources and additional reading:

- Orrin Leslie Elliott, *Stanford University: The First Twenty-Five Years* (Stanford, 1937) includes informative chapters on the Ross Affair, and on the trustees and academic affairs (including the medical department).
- Board of Trustees records, including minutes and resolutions, and the papers of presidents David Starr Jordan and John Casper Branner are in the Stanford University Archives. Early records of Cooper Medical College and the Stanford School of Medicine are preserved in the Lane Library Archives, Stanford Medical Center.
- On Ross*, see also James Mohr, “Academic Turmoil and Public Opinion: The Ross Case at Stanford,” *Pacific Historical Review* 39:1 (Feb. 1970) 39-61; and Laurence R. Veysey, *The Emergence of the American University* (Chicago, 1966) 397-418.
- On acquisition of the medical school*, see also John L. Wilson, *Stanford University School of Medicine and the Predecessor Schools: An Historical Perspective* (Stanford Medical School, 1999); George Nash, *Hoover and Stanford University* (Hoover Institution Press, 1988); and Ray Lyman Wilbur, *Memoirs of Ray Lyman Wilbur* (Stanford, 1960).

two cheers for Stanford University

by PETER STANSKY

Frances and Charles Field Professor of History

In his address at the Stanford Family Mausoleum on April 22, 2001, Professor Peter Stansky told Founders' Day observers that while we should applaud the founders' path-breaking philanthropy, it is also appropriate to criticize the university's neglect of the humanities.

Almost four years ago I was asked to comment on a Stanford happening for National Public Radio. It was a topic on which I had no particular expertise and when I asked the person who had suggested me for the task why she had done so, she replied, "Oh, because you have been here so long." Now I've been here almost four more years—I arrived at Stanford in September 1968—and so I should be even more qualified to speak to you today.

Increasing age and comparative longevity have their ultimate culmination, of course, in death. One is vividly conscious of that today as we are here to lay a wreath on the tomb of our founders and of their son in whose memory the grieving parents established this university. In a sense we are also commemorating the many who have gone before. If you are an older member of the faculty you are, I think, more intensely aware of those colleagues not so very much older than oneself—or indeed just recently those who are younger, such as my esteemed colleague Jeffrey Mass—who have died.

We are also celebrating continuities and that is one of the wonderful aspects of an educational institution. Here one has an intense sense, more than in practically any other setting, of

the movement from generation to generation, of the continuities and of the changes, the similarities and the differences. Also I suspect one attraction of a college or university for those of us who have remained at them is that they convey a totally false impression of eternal youth. When we look around we fortunately do not see ourselves, but rather the youth who are all about us. And this ceremony of course also has its paradoxical nature. We have profited from the Stanfords' tragedy. Without the death of their son at such a young age it is highly unlikely that this university would have been founded.

Continuing this rather lugubrious theme, I would like to draw your attention to the Angel of Grief, which has just recently been magnificently restored. In the other direction is the Arizona Cactus Garden, which was designed in the early 1880s. It is now being restored by volunteers, and contributions sent to Herbert Fong at Stanford University will be gratefully received. The Angel of Grief is a 1901 copy of an 1894 statute by the prominent American sculptor, William Wetmore Story. The mausoleum was completed in 1893. We also have here the Stanford family statue, having just ar-

rived at this location in the summer of 1998. It has had a rather peripatetic existence at the university—this being its sixth and we hope final location about a hundred years after its creation by Larkin Mead.

Like the original university itself, both as architecture and as concept, the statues and the mausoleum are products of the Gilded Age, so sumptuously celebrated at an exhibition currently at the Art Museum. They, as well as the exhibition, lack the vulgarity of which the age was capable. This is a Gilded Age for modern tastes.

Are we in a new Gilded Age? Is Stanford spending too much money on bricks and mortar—are we in a new Stone Age? (On the other hand, under David Neuman's aegis, Stanford has become a more interesting place architecturally, although the concentration of new buildings in the science area makes that area feel a bit as if one were visiting a different university.) Perhaps we are also spending too much money on luring academic stars—that short cut to prestige—and not enough on junior faculty or on staff. That expenditure might help keep staff members from heeding the siren calls of Silicon Valley, although those calls may have diminished somewhat lately.

Being a historian, speaking in front of the mausoleum, inevitably leads me to think about the origins of the university. And it is probably about time that I explain my title, “Two Cheers for Stanford University.” I wouldn’t want anyone to think that I am being invidious, that I would give more than two cheers for any other university.

The title is a reference to one of my objects of scholarly interest, the novelist E.M. Forster. At the time of the Second World War, he wrote a characteristically muted essay called “What I Believe” in which he gave two cheers for democracy. What he called a democracy could also be, I believe, a description of the university. As he wrote, democracy does not “divide its citizens into the bossers and the bossed—as an efficiency-regime tends to do. The people I admire most are those who are sensitive and want to create something or discover something, and do not see life in terms of power.” He went on to praise the British Parliament, and the MP who chooses to make difficulty for the government, “who is told he is cranky and ill-informed, but he does expose abuses which would otherwise never have been mentioned, and very often an abuse gets put right just by being mentioned. Occasionally, too, a well-meaning public official starts losing his head in the cause of efficiency, and thinks himself God Almighty.”

Forster then concluded with his famous lines: “So Two Cheers for Democracy: one because it admits variety and two because it permits criticism. Two cheers are quite enough: there is no occasion to give three. Only Love the Beloved Republic deserves that.”

It was also in this essay that he wrote the notorious words that came to be seen by some as the credo of the so-called Cambridge spies, those who

betrayed their country to Russia. Presumably he was thinking, when he wrote the lines, of the Republic of Love. “I hate the idea of causes, and if I had to choose between betraying my country and betraying my friend, I hope I should have the guts to betray my country.”

I think that these are interesting, persuasive but also debatable words. What do they have to do with Stanford? They remind us that frequently it is too easy to think in terms of the good of an institution—as its administrators should

and their power to shape their populations.

For good or ill, I believe, we are profoundly influenced by the vision of our founders. In a wonderful talk at the time of Stanford’s centenary, appropriately called “A Legacy from the Gilded Age,” my late colleague Don Fehrenbacher pointed out how path-breaking was the Stanfords’ great act of philanthropy in founding this university. Contributions on such a large scale had not yet become the pattern for the multi-millionaires of the day.

The Stanfords emphasized the practicality of the education that the students at their university were to receive. There was less emphasis on the more arcane areas of scholarship and knowledge than might have been true of the older eastern universities.

One does not wish to romanticize the ivory tower—alas, I suspect there is little danger of doing that here. I personally feel that we should emphasize the ivory tower a little bit more. Scholarship for its own sake has a lot to be said for it. Frequently it ultimately has greater real impact than apparently more practical research. But even if it

doesn’t, it has the possibility of greatly enriching our lives—enabling us to better understand a poem, a historical event. I do what I do because I love discovering something—and sharing it—that I didn’t know before—whether or not it improves our human lot.

I don’t believe that there is or was a greater percentage of intellectuals among the students at the older schools. But up until the Second World War and sometime beyond, the assumption there was that the path to success was made smoother if one had the education of a so-called cultivated person. That assumption, I believe, was probably less strong at this univer-

LINDA CICERO/STANFORD NEWS SERVICE



Prof. Peter Stansky speaking at Founders’ Day, 2001.

do—and perhaps not worry sufficiently about the ultimate price that may be paid by individuals and the possible unforeseen and unfortunate intellectual consequences. Draconian decisions can be made too quickly without enough consultation with faculty and staff.

As a historian, I am fascinated by the power of the history of an institution. The faculty at the elite universities of this country is, I suspect, pretty interchangeable. To a somewhat lesser degree, that is also true of the student bodies. Yet the style in which the various universities function differs, I believe, quite a bit and that can be ascribed to the different histories of the institutions

sity, which was always more committed to the business and practicalities of life, reflecting the somewhat divided thinking of its founders.

As Kevin Starr has pointed out in *Californians and the American Dream 1850-1915*, Stanford originally wanted a university where, as a newspaper commented at the time, a “practical education will be afforded in order to fit pupils for the scramble of life.” But he wanted to do this in a way that reflected, according to Starr, “the nation’s prestigious, aristocratic universities,” in a “first-class” way. There in a nutshell, I think, you have the sort of possible schizophrenia present to a degree at any university, but perhaps more so here.

Perhaps that is also one reason that Stanford has been so successful since the Second World War. As all major universities, it has profited greatly from the millions that the government has given for research. One should not hide that the price has been considerable with the growth of bureaucracy, but also in the growing corporatism of the university. There seems to be an increased use of the “empty calorie” language of the business world. For various reasons, of which I think the spirit of its founding was an extremely important one, Stanford’s commitment to the humanities seems to some of us not

as strong as it might be. (Perhaps all humanities faculties at all universities think that.)

It is true that the humanities departments at Stanford are among the finest in the country. Yet might not the perception that some of us have of the position of the humanities here be to an extent a legacy from the Stanfords? As a historian, I am in some sense pleased to discover how powerful a shaping force history is. I am deeply grateful that President Hennessy reflected this concern—what he sees as disparity of emphasis between the sciences and the humanities—when he remarked in his inaugural last October: “We are not doing enough for the arts and humanities at Stanford.”

By coincidence, I have been privileged this year to have a rare glimpse not only of the vitality of the humanities at Stanford but also nationally. As usual, Stanford has led the way. Twenty years ago it founded its Humanities Center. I have had a crash course in how to run a humanities center for just this one year of being its director, and I’ve had a wonderful time. Thanks to its superb staff, there have been very few problems. The Fellows of the center, as some of you may know, consist of Stanford faculty, visiting faculty, and graduate students. They lunch together daily during the week and have a weekly talk by one of the fellows. Such intellectual community is rarer than one might expect and it is exhilarating. I am deeply impressed by the imaginativeness and variety of the projects of the present Fellows. There are calls all about us for interdisciplinary work. The center is probably the best location on campus for such an effort in the humanities. That will be true as well next year.

We have just gone through the annual process of selecting future Fellows. I read approximately half of the 200 applications for the six external fellowships and again I was overwhelmed by the extraordinarily high quality of what is happening in the humanities. That is true nationally and internationally, but it is also true at Stanford as found in the applications for in-

ternal faculty fellowships and the more than 80 applications from our own graduate students for the approximately 14 fellowships administered by the center. Virtually all of them are deserving of fellowships, which makes it very hard to choose. Although the Stanford Humanities Center is comparatively unusual in having external fellowships, the establishment of humanities centers has become the thing at many universities across the land. I see the innumerable mailings announcing conferences, lectures, events. It is all very exciting, and would seem to suggest a great strength in the humanities.

Much money is being spent at this university and others on humanities centers. But even though the centers are flourishing, and universities are flourishing, the success of these centers may help obscure the continuing and potentially devastating problems that we have had in the humanities for quite a few years now. We are wasting far too many of our best and our brightest who are working in dead-end jobs as lecturers. Despite their manifest strengths, many are not always able to secure the long-term positions they have been trained for. There are job shortages in other academic areas as well, but Ph.D.s in non-humanities fields can more easily use their skills outside the world of education.

Over the past 20 years or more there has been an appalling growth in so-called para-faculty or gypsy scholars. They receive a salary and hence are able to survive for a few more years doing what they love and were trained to do. It serves the universities’ purposes to exploit their labor, and students are well-taught. But I do not understand why at the same time universities are doing so well, there continues to be such an intense job crisis. For the sake of economic efficiency are we jeopardizing our intellectual future? There are various band-aid programs designed to keep those with their Ph.D.s in the profession for a few more years in the hope that they may find proper jobs. The solution is obvious but difficult to implement. Stanford needs to lead the way in expanding the number of tenure-track

AUTHOR’S NOTE:

Peter Stansky, Field Professor of History, is a member of the Board of Directors of the Stanford Historical Society. A scholar of modern British society, culture and politics, he has taught at Stanford since 1968. During the 2000-2001 academic year, he served as interim director of Stanford’s Humanities Center (and Anthony P. Peier Family Professor of the Humanities), managing the center’s move to new quarters in the former Bowman Alumni House. He was recently re-elected to the council of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Stanford Through the Century

1901

2001

100 YEARS AGO
(1901)

Faculty members won their third straight victory, 11 to 6, in the annual **faculty-senior baseball game**. To the crowd's delight, President David Starr Jordan caught a high foul fly that appeared out of reach. Other top faculty players included psychology Prof. Frank Angell and political science Prof. Burt Estes Howard.

The Faculty Committee on Student Affairs forced **Daily business manager** A.J. Copp Jr. to resign because he had accepted saloon and cafe advertisements. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Greek in 1902.

President Jordan spent the summer heading a scientific expedition to study **fish of the Hawaiian islands**. He and his colleagues collected 700 species, about



President David Starr Jordan (center of front row) and his faculty team at a faculty-senior baseball game. One of his top players was Prof. Burt Estes Howard, in dark shirt (second from left).

70 of them not previously known.

Jane Stanford returned to campus in October following a 15-month international tour that included visits to England, France, Switzerland, Italy, Egypt, and Palestine. She appeared much improved in health. The faculty held a reception in her honor.

The **Memorial Church organ**, built for \$15,500 by the Murray M. Harris Organ Co. of Los Angeles, was installed in the choir loft of the unfinished church. It contained 46 stops and 2,905 pipes, ranging in length from one-half inch to 16 feet.

continued on page 28

positions in the humanities. The ups and downs of our neighbor, Silicon Valley, should alert us even more to the need to ensure the long-term future of the humanities as essential partners in the roller coaster ride of the technological age: security of the apparently non-technological disciplines is vital. Paradoxically, that is exactly what has happened at times of intense technological innovation, such as during the Victorian age in Britain—the great age of expansion of universities.

But it is easy for me to say that there is a problem and much harder to solve it. By their great act of generosity in creating a university, the Stanfords also have provided the means by which we can move toward improving the situation. So I say two heartfelt cheers for Stanford University. Only Love the Beloved Republic deserves three. 🍷

+ + +

EDITORS' NOTE:

On May 2, 10 days after Prof. Stansky's talk, the Hewlett Foundation announced a gift to Stanford of \$400 million in unrestricted endowment funds, including \$300 for the School of Humanities and Science and \$100 million toward the Campaign for Undergraduate Education. University officials plan to leverage the gift to raise \$1 billion for the school. Recruitment and retention of faculty are a high priority.

Stanford Through the Century

75 YEARS AGO (1926)

Three hundred guests watched a demonstration of six 2.1-million-volt flashovers between electrodes 20 feet apart at the September dedication of the **Harris J. Ryan High-Voltage Laboratory**. The university had set aside 200 acres for an experimental high-voltage transmission line, as well as a building that many compared to a dirigible hangar. Using these facilities, Professor Ryan and his associates later solved many problems of long-distance power transmission in the West, including how to deliver power to Los Angeles from Hoover Dam on the Colorado River.

The student newspaper, the *Daily Palo Alto*, was reborn as the *Stanford Daily*. The move, long debated and finally approved in a campus election, was designed to avoid confusion with Palo Alto's daily newspaper, the *Palo Alto Times*. The paper also changed from afternoon to morning distribution, allowing student journalists to attend morning classes.

The university expanded its work in aeronautics, using a major grant from the Guggenheim Fund to establish the **Daniel Guggenheim Experimental Laboratory of Aerodynamic and Aeronautic Engineering**. Since 1916, Professors William F. Durand and Everett P. Lesley had conducted airplane propeller research in campus wind tunnels. The new resources would allow them to test propellers and other parts of airplanes in a new brick and concrete structure behind the Quad.

The Alumni Association surveyed members on the question of whether the university should **eliminate the**

Lower Division—the first two years of study. Citing the limited ability of Stanford and the University of California to meet growing demand for college education, President Ray Lyman Wilbur strongly favored turning Stanford into an upperclass and graduate institution. Students would spend their first two years in the junior college system, he suggested. More than 90 percent of alumni who responded opposed the change. The Alumni Association Executive Committee also was opposed, but said it would reluctantly go along if the University of California and elite institutions in the East adopted the plan.

Trustee Timothy Hopkins donated a **bronze horse sculpture** from his Menlo Park estate to mark the horse cemetery at the trotting department of Leland Stanford's stock farm. It replaced a time-worn wooden shaft at the site near the Red Barn where 15 of the senator's most famous horses were buried.

50 YEARS AGO (1951)

More than 300 students from 59 colleges and universities convened in Memorial Auditorium in late April for the first **Model United Nations** conference in the western United States. Dr. Ralph Bunche, a UN official and the 1950 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, presided at mock General Assembly meetings. Stanford students served as the Soviet delegation. The event was sponsored by Stanford's Institute of International Relations, the most active student-run and student-financed program in international relations in the United States.

Dean of Students H. Donald Winbigler and the Committee on Student Affairs suspended indefinitely the humor magazine *Chaparral* on the grounds that its recent "Crash Comics" issue was below the line of good taste. Several previous issues had been consid-

STANFORD NEWS SERVICE



Ralph Bunche (right), winner of the 1950 Nobel Peace Prize, with Stanford President J.E. Wallace Sterling. Bunche was keynote speaker at Stanford's first Model United Nations conference in 1951.

Stanford Through the Century

STANFORD NEWS SERVICE

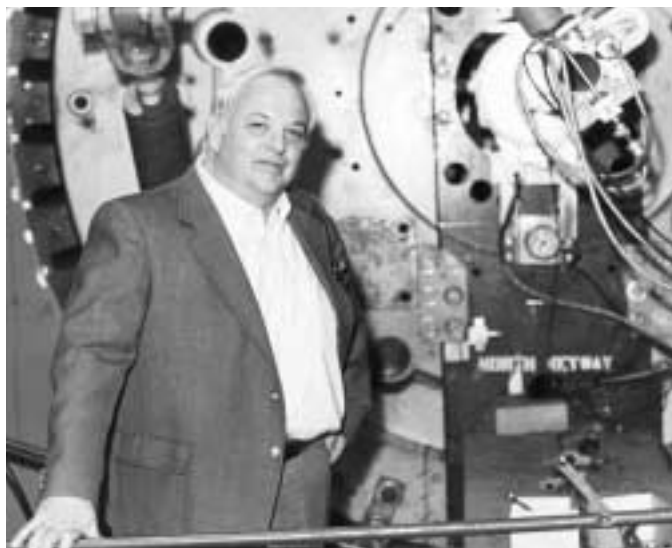
ered “borderline.”

Construction was under way on two new **electronics laboratories**, made possible by a gift from Hewlett-Packard Co. Founders William Hewlett and David Packard were both class of 1934. Located west of the Main Quad, the buildings included a laboratory for applied electronics research and a wing for student electrical engineering activities. With a middle wing added in 1952 to connect the two, the combined building became ERL, the Electronics Research Laboratories. (The buildings were removed in the 1990s as part of the redevelopment of the Science and Engineering Quad.)

University officials in October took the first step in opening portions of Stanford land to industrial users when they signed a lease with Varian Associates for a 10-acre tract along El Camino Real, adjacent to Barron Park. The San Carlos electronics company, formed by Russell H. Varian, AB '25, AM '27, and his brother, Sigurd, as a spin-off of research they conducted in the Stanford Physics Department, would build a \$1 million research and development laboratory during the next year. Varian Associates was the first tenant in what became the **Stanford Industrial Park** (renamed Stanford Research Park in 1974). Other early leaseholders included Eastman Kodak (1953), General Electric (1954), Hewlett-Packard (1956), and Beckman Instruments (1956).

Sequoia Hall's top two floors were cut down and the building remodeled into a one-story headquarters for the Statistics Department. Constructed as the original Roble dormitory for women in 1891, the building had been turned over to men and rechristened Sequoia Hall when “new” Roble for women was completed in 1918. In 1996, the worn-

Burton Richter and part of the Stanford Positron Electron Accelerating Ring (SPEAR) at SLAC.



out Sequoia Hall was replaced with a new Statistics Department building of the same name.

25 YEARS AGO (1976)

Stanford's first **overseas campus**, located near Beutelsbach, Germany, closed in June, a victim of university-wide budget cutting. Approximately 2,400 students had studied there since it opened in 1958.

University officials transferred the **Dudley Herbarium** to the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. The collection started when a friend of the Stanfords donated to the university 70,000 plant specimens he had obtained from the estate of an Irish botanist. President David Starr Jordan used the gift to recruit botanist William Russell Dudley to the faculty in 1892. Since then, Stanford botanists expanded the collection to 850,000 specimens. The collection fell on hard times in the 1960s, when Provost Frederick E. Terman eliminated support for the Division of Systematic Biology.

Professor Burton Richter was named co-winner of the **Nobel Prize** in Physics for directing a team of Stanford and Lawrence Berkeley Lab physicists that two years earlier discovered the previously unknown elementary “psi” particle. They used the colliding beams generated by the Stanford Positron Electron Accelerating Ring (SPEAR) at SLAC.

Stanford University Press closed its printing division, eliminating composition, printing, binding, and related operations that dated to the university's early days. Editorial and scholarly publication functions were not affected.

In a cost-cutting move, the **Stanford Fire Department** merged with the Palo Alto Fire Department. University equipment and professional firefighters became part of the Palo Alto system, ending a long tradition of employing students to help fight fires. For decades, students earned free housing at the firehouse and a monthly food stipend in exchange for hours dedicated to training and being on call.

—Compiled by
Karen Bartholomew

Officers, directors elected at society's annual meeting

G Robert Hamrdla, assistant to the Stanford president, emeritus, was elected president of the Historical Society at the society's annual meeting on May 26, 2001. He succeeds John Harbaugh, professor emeritus of geology.

Hamrdla, BS '60, AM '64, served for two years as co-chair of the program committee, and has been a member of the Board of Directors since 1998. Between 1960 and 1966, he was assistant to the director and director of administration at Stanford's Beutelsbach, Germany, campus, after which he served as assistant director of Overseas Campuses until 1970. He later was short-term director of the programs at Berlin and Krakow, while serving as assistant dean of undergraduate studies (1970-77), secretary of the Board of Trustees (1977-92), and assistant to the president (1977-92).

Andy Doty, the university's director emeritus of community relations, will serve as vice-president and Don Price was elected treasurer. Betty Kaplan, former administrator of the Communication Department and former director of the campus leaseholders association, and Kent Peterson, former associate vice president for business and finance, joined the board for two-year terms. Bob Beyers, former director of News and Publications Service, Hamrdla, and Paul Turner, professor of art history, were re-elected to the board.

Continuing their terms as board members are Prof. Peter Stansky, Bob Augsberger, Doty, University Archivist Margaret Kimball, Prof. Emerita Alberta Siegel, John Bunnell, Lois Fariello, Bill Kaufmann, Carne Linder, and Rosemary McAndrews. (Prof. Siegel died on Nov. 3. Her obituary will appear in the next issue.)

In his final report as president, Harbaugh noted that the society continued on course during the past two years, offering 14 programs to its members, printing several major research articles in *Sandstone & Tile*, and publishing the 169-page *Chronology of Stanford University and its Founders*.

Harbaugh pointed out that members can bring new energy to ongoing projects. The society would like to conduct more oral history interviews and encourage histories of individual academic departments. "We need a serendipitous outlook," Harbaugh concluded, "that will permit us to seize opportunities that may arise without advance planning." He also emphasized the need to better document the 1960s and 1970s at Stanford.



*Incoming society
President Bob Hamrdla*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

December 2001

To All Members of the Stanford
Historical Society:

Now that our twenty-sixth year is well underway, as we reflect on our wonderful celebration at the Cantor Arts Center last May, I write to greet you and commend to your attention "The Society Comes of Age" in this issue. What a splendid contribution it is toward preserving the history of the society!

I and the entire Board of Directors thank you for the confidence and support demonstrated by your membership. Moreover, I want to carry our request for support to another plane. As with every volunteer organization, the society's ambitions and accomplishments are limited only by the degree to which individuals contribute their time and effort to fulfilling the society's goals. To be specific, we need more volunteers to help bring the society's goals to reality, especially members who are interested in serving as chairs of *ad hoc* groups or of more formal committees so that broader efforts can proceed. Finally, we want to widen the circle of members who are willing to have their names go forward to the Nominating Committee for consideration as members of the Board of Directors.

It can safely be said that none of these commitments need be a consuming one, but each is significant in maintaining the society's momentum. I invite your interest: consider working with the Stanford Historical Society! Please contact me at 650-854-1027, by letter at the address below, or by email at hamrdla@stanford.edu.

Cordially,

G. ROBERT HAMRDLA
President 2001-2002
P.O. Box 20028
Stanford, CA 94309

Time capsule contest:

What's in it, or
What should be?
What was Jane thinking?



Here's your chance to speculate about what Jane Stanford placed—or should have placed—into a time capsule buried in Building 160 in November 1898. The building, the first of the Outer Quadrangle buildings completed, originally housed the Thomas Welton Stanford Library.

The time capsule, a copper box 6 inches high and 12 inches long, was unexpectedly uncovered last June during reconstruction of the building, which will house the Wallenberg Global Learning Center. President John Hennessy will open the capsule, which will have remained sealed for nearly 104 years, during a Founders' Day ceremony at the Mausoleum on April 7.

Until then, the public is invited to submit their best guesses as to what's inside.

A "Jane Stanford Time Capsule Contest," sponsored by University Communications, will award prizes in two categories: accuracy and originality. Winners in the first category will be those who come closest to describing the actual contents of the capsule. The second contest category will award prizes to the most original submissions suggesting items that Jane Stanford could or should have put inside the capsule.

The only person on the planet ineligible to enter the contest is University Archivist Maggie Kimball, said Ryan Foley, communications specialist at University Communications. Not coincidentally, Kimball, who will be a contest judge, is the only person who knows what is sealed inside the box. Kimball found documentation in Jane Stanford's papers in the Archives describing the capsule and its contents soon after the box was discovered—and she's not telling. The capsule's contents are "truly representative of the time—and of Jane's feeling for the university," Kimball said. She offers the following hints:

- 1) There are up to 14 different types of items.
- 2) The items are vegetable or mineral, but not animal in nature.
- 3) Most of the items are representative of the university or of the dedication held on Nov. 2, 1898.
- 4) Not all of the items are unique.
- 5) Two of the items were included in all three time capsules placed by Jane Stanford.

The capsule is currently on display in the lobby of the Cantor Arts Center. Contest participants, who can submit as many guesses as they'd like, can enter submissions at the Cantor Center or on a time capsule website (all guesses must be submitted by Wednesday, April 3, 2002).

Hints, contest rules, and historical background, including values set out in the university's founding grant, can be found at the contest website: <http://timecapsule.stanford.edu>.

—BARBARA PALMER
Stanford News Service

Letter to the Editor

I have just read the article by Bob Moulton on the congressional history of the approval of SLAC. I would like to give a few notes for the record where my recollection differs slightly from that given by Bob.

The Gaither Committee had a broader mandate than simply making recommendations on backyard bomb shelters. It was a commission charged with giving general recommendations on strategic nuclear weapons policy.

It is stated that competition for federal funding was fierce and also that support from fellow scientists remained firm from the beginning. Actually the situation was somewhat more benign. The support from fellow scientists was acquiescence rather than active support. On the other hand, federal funding for science at the time was growing at about the rate of 15 percent per year so that competition was actually not terribly severe. However, [prominent physicist] Eugene Wigner opposed SLAC, saying that it would draw too much manpower for its construction from the scientific community, which should instead be working on national defense.

One other detail where my recollection differs: When Congress approved SLAC it also approved an installation at Hanford, which would also produce electric power from its then production-only reactor for plutonium. Both large projects were approved simultaneously (Hanford and Stanford rhymes), but the Hanford installation was later cancelled as being uneconomical.

The article is indeed an extremely useful contribution to the early history, and a very illuminating and humorous document to read.

Cheers,

Wolfgang K. H. Panofsky
SLAC director emeritus

Upcoming Programs

Here is the schedule of upcoming society activities. Notification of time and location will be sent to members shortly before each event.

• **January 15, 2002 Organs of Memorial Church**—University Organist Robert Hew Morgan will give a lecture/demonstration on the church's four organs.

• **February 4 John Steinbeck**—To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Nobel Prize winning author John Steinbeck, University Archivist and former Historical Society President Maggie Kimball will talk on "Steinbeck at Stanford." Steinbeck entered Stanford in 1919 because of its then-free tuition, and received a "C" in freshman English. Although he dropped out twice—first as an English major in 1921, and later as a journalism major (1923-25)—he felt encouraged by English Professors Edith Mirrielees and

Margery Bailey. The University Libraries preserves a major collection of Steinbeck manuscripts, letters, photographs, and books.

• **March 12 Knight Professional Journalism Fellowship Program**—Former Director James V. Risser's talk, "From Stanford to the Pulitzers: Success Stories of the Knight Fellows," will cover the history and legacy of the fellowship program, which provides promising mid-career journalists with a nine-month break to study at Stanford. The program began in 1966. Risser, who followed Lyle Nelson in 1985 as director, first came to Stanford from the *Des Moines Register* Washington Bureau as a fellow in 1973-74. He later became bureau

chief, and won two Pulitzer prizes in the five years after his fellowship.

• **April 7 Founders' Day**—The annual event will be part of the university's Community Day, with the traditional church service in the morning and society program at the Stanford Family Mausoleum in the afternoon. The ceremony will include comments by the society's president, student speakers, and others. University President John Hennessy will unveil the contents of the time capsule Jane Stanford installed in Building 160 in 1898.

• **May 14 Annual Meeting**—The annual meeting will end with a walking tour exploring new architecture on the east side of campus led by David Neuman, university architect and director of planning. The new Arrillaga Alumni Building also will be on the tour.



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