

# *Sandstone & Tile*

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*A History of Roble Halls*   ■   *Stanford's Red Hot Profs*

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**Above:** Residents of Roble Hall assemble in one of the dorm’s reception parlors in 1898. With its plentiful socializing space, Roble housed most of Stanford’s student functions and get-togethers in the early years.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

**Cover:** The original Roble Hall, shown here in 1895, was completed in time for the university’s opening in 1891. Stanford’s first dorms—Encina, to the east of the Main Quad, and Roble, equidistant to the west—were built along Serra Mall, consciously enforcing a common, if casual, segregation of the sexes.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

# “If These Walls Could Talk”

## A History of Roble Halls

JANE LILLY

*Jane Lilly, '05, a Stanford urban studies major, won the society's 2004 undergraduate essay prize for this paper. The judges of the competition were Peter Stansky, Paul Turner, Roxanne Nilan, Karen Bartholomew, Margaret McKinnon, and Bob Hamrdla. Maggie Kimball, university archivist, presented the prize, which was supported by the Robert and Charlotte Beyers Fund.*

In their 1929 book *College Architecture in America*, Charles Z. Klauder and Herbert C. Wise observed that “a dormitory of the simplest type for women must have features peculiarly its own [including]... several important rooms for purposes other than lodgment, for it is more nearly a home than is a men's dormitory.”<sup>1</sup> The original Roble Hall, the first women's dorm on the Stanford campus, was constructed in 1891 in accordance with such gendered design notions.<sup>2</sup> Nearly three decades later, the designs for a second Roble Hall, which replaced the original in 1918, reflected similar but changing conceptions of female students and their housing needs.

In 1889, two years before the University's first class was to be admitted, Leland and Jane Stanford

STANFORD UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



Roble residents—members of Stanford University's first class—relax in the dorm's lobby during the 1891–92 school year.

commissioned the building of Roble Hall for women and Encina Hall for men. Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge were the architects. These two sandstone dormitories, located on Serra Mall, were designed to house nearly 500 students.<sup>3</sup> Construction on Encina Hall began immediately and progressed smoothly. Unfortunately—because of poor planning, overextended resources, and the fast approach of the university's scheduled opening in the fall of 1891—Roble was far from ready for arriving students. By winter 1890, only its foundation had been laid, and the architects deemed it impossible to complete the project by the fall deadline.

Many college officials from older schools had advised the Stanfords to postpone admitting female students until after the university had been established for a few years. A number of planners and architects working on the Stanford project had offered similar advice. Although many of Roble's sandstone blocks were ready for the masons, the dormitory, they maintained, could not be completed before the beginning of the university's second year.<sup>4</sup> Jane Stanford, however, rejected any delay in admitting women, desiring instead that males and females enter the university at the same time

and on equal ground. It was essential, she argued, that female students attend from the beginning; otherwise, she feared, "the young ladies might be considered as interlopers."<sup>5</sup> Many professionals working with the Stanfords had already learned that when Jane Stanford wanted something, she got it. And so, in April 1891, just six months before Stanford University opened its doors, the architects abandoned the original foundation of the women's dorm and immediately began building a smaller, somewhat modified design, about a third the size of the original plan.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



Roble's dining staff were known as "biscuit shooters." Unlike Encina and later male dormitories at Stanford, the women's residence featured a dining hall. Male students relied, instead, on separate eating clubs away from the "domestic confines" of their residences.

The hall, now a three-story building, would house 80 women, Stanford's anticipated female enrollment for the first year. It would have been impossible, just a few years earlier, to build a structure of that size in the time frame proposed by the Stanfords. Luckily, the firm of Percy and Hamilton—already at work building the Leland Stanford Junior Museum—was experimenting with Ernest Ransome's reinforced-concrete system, the newest engineering innovation. The museum's construction had been hailed as a great success, given that "the building contained over 1.1 million cubic feet of space, required about 260,000 cubic feet of concrete, was erected in seven months, and cost about eighteen cents per cubic foot of space...a very low figure for a thoroughly substantial and fireproof building."<sup>6</sup> Reinforced-concrete construction, a quick method, offered a perfect solution to the Roble problem. With its low cost, it was also likely a comfort to the Stanfords, whose resources were growing increasingly overextended. Ransome himself adapted Roble's original designs by Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge to accommodate the concrete work, and Percy and Hamilton's firm executed the new plans. Amazingly enough, when pigment was added, the concrete—which was poured into molds around the clock—could take on the appearance of the Quad sandstone without the costly labor of quarrying, cutting, or setting sandstone blocks.<sup>7</sup> And so, in a flurry of events, builders completed the construction of Roble Hall in only 97 days, and it opened just in time to welcome the women of Stanford's first class to campus.<sup>8</sup>

Both Encina and Roble were operated by an outside entity, the Stanford Estate, which provided residents with "board, lodging, heating and lighting for twenty-three dollars a month."<sup>9</sup> While such an economical arrangement might have seemed a bit steep for the period, the dorms were reported to be "fitted out with

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### Surviving the Earthquake

The original Roble, hastily built of reinforced concrete, proved remarkably strong during the devastating earthquake of 1906. While Encina Hall, Memorial Church, and many of the sandstone buildings of the Main Quad sustained costly damages, Roble and the central section of the Leland Stanford Junior Museum—the only part of the museum built with Ernest Ransome's new reinforced-concrete system—survived with only minor damage. As an observer recorded in a 1907 report on the earthquake, "The chimneys on [Roble Hall] collapsed, but no other damage was done, the walls being left intact, without any cracks."<sup>45</sup> This evidence inspired the claim that "when sandstone was crumbling, Ransome concrete would still be standing," contributing to a surge in business for Ransome's young company.<sup>46</sup>

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the most modern conveniences, including electricity, steam heat, a dining hall, and a lounge," amenities for which students were willing to pay.<sup>10</sup>

Although Roble Hall was smaller than Encina, the two dorms were physically similar—reflecting, perhaps, the equal social footing of men and women on the Stanford campus.<sup>11</sup> One could also infer the opposite, however. Just as reinforced concrete was an imitation of sandstone—similar only from afar—male and female students shared only a surface-level equality; women at Stanford had a limited choice of

study, as well as restrictions on their personal and social freedoms.<sup>12</sup> Despite this discrepancy, Stanford still employed a number of progressive policies that granted freedoms to female students. As one freshman noted in a February 1892 letter home, “There are no rules over us yet, but there are a few things we are expected to do, like coming in at nine o’clock, be on time at meals and some other things that most of us would do anyway.”<sup>13</sup>

Likewise, the interiors of Roble and Encina differed significantly, despite their similar façades. This divergence was no doubt due in part to Roble’s reduced size. Letters from Leland Stanford to his wife, however, suggest that he had always intended the floor plans of the two buildings to be different: “The side and exterior of [Roble] will be like [Encina Hall] but the interior will be changed some—of course there will be more parlor and reception room [sic] needed and a little more accommodations for teachers.”<sup>14</sup>

The primary differences between the two halls, in fact, lay in the variety, quantity, and arrangement of their common spaces, with many more in Roble than Encina. Roble’s common rooms, according to Klauder and Wise, reflected “the perceived needs of the female residents” and reinforced the homelike character of the women’s dorm.<sup>15</sup>

Roble’s upper floors, like Encina’s, were aligned along both sides of one hall. Roble’s ground and upper floors, however, offered a range of social spaces—including a large central living area and a

dining room—that Encina lacked. With its plentiful reception and socializing space, Roble housed most of the university’s student functions and get-togethers. In a letter home dated November 15, 1891, one young man detailed his experience at a Roble party:

*My dear Mother:*

*Friday evening the young ladies of Roble Hall gave a reception to the students of Encina and the Faculty. I thought that if my set were going I would put on my best “bib and tucker” and go... Well, I had a very nice time but there was just standing room and there were four or five fellows to every girl, and if she was very attractive perhaps more. The boys received a paper on which was a part of a verse, and the girls had the other part, and each boy would try to find the other part of his verse.... I succeeded in getting an introduction to three girls which is better than most of the fellows did...*

*Your loving and devoted son,*

*H.M. Boutelle<sup>16</sup>*

As Boutelle’s letter and others attest, Roble was home to much early social activity on campus. Filled to capacity during Stanford’s opening year, however, Roble quickly became too small to satisfy the needs of Stanford’s burgeoning female population. Given male housing shortages as well, a number of fraternities and sororities and a string of residences on Alvarado Row and Mayfield emerged by the mid-1890s to provide additional housing for up to two-thirds of the students.<sup>17</sup> These houses were popular not only for their more intimate size, but also for the minimal rules and restrictions they placed on students, although there were reports of unsatisfactory living conditions in some of these residences.<sup>18</sup> Roble, moreover, began to fall into disrepair, recognizably inadequate for meeting the needs of female students. Finally, construction began on a new Roble, which



To meet the expanding needs of female students, a new Roble Hall was completed in 1918. Its innovative H-plan design permitted more intimacy and amenities than simpler block-style dormitories, such as Encina and the original Roble.

opened in 1918, and the women turned the old Roble, renamed Sequoia Hall, over to the men.<sup>19</sup>

### ROBLE PLANTS NEW ROOTS

The new Roble Hall, on Santa Teresa Street, was part of a greater architectural expansion of the campus. New academic buildings, as well as student and faculty housing, were constructed, including, in 1923, both Toyon and Branner Halls. The new Roble's interior and exterior design diverged completely from common women's dormitory construction at American colleges of previous decades and moved toward a more intimate organization that was increasingly popular. Its architect, George Kelham—designer of San Francisco's Public Library and the Palace Hotel—creatively blended Renaissance and Spanish styles in the hall's design.<sup>20</sup> He originally envisioned Roble as “two H-plans side by side,” a

configuration that maximized the window-to-room ratio and courtyard space.<sup>21</sup> In the end, however, the university built only one of the H-plans, with the dorm's dining room, main parlor, and lobby spaces connecting it to an additional wing. The plan also included a library and numerous seminar, study, and tutoring rooms. Students occupied one-room singles and three-room doubles; every floor was outfitted with a kitchenette, and many also had additional common rooms. When the new Roble opened, it housed 154 female students, each with her own bedroom.<sup>22</sup> Today, by contrast, more than 325 students live in Roble Hall, and, to accommodate them, the dormitory has lost much of its original common space, general roominess, and social intimacy.<sup>23</sup>

The new Roble provided its residents with all the necessary amenities listed by Klauder and Wise for “a dormitory of the simplest type for women.”<sup>24</sup> These features included:

- a vehicle approach to within a few feet of the entrance
- a suitable alcove or similar space for an attendant immediately inside the main entrance
- an attractive common room of generous dimensions for social functions or small dances
- one suite for the “house mother” or other appointed chaperone
- a small reception room or parlor near the main entrance
- a kitchenette near the center of the building, accessible to the greatest number of student occupants
- a small laundry in the basement for student use
- a trunk lift and outside basement entrance.

A study of plans for Toyon Hall, a men’s dormitory constructed five years later, offers a fine local comparison between male and female dormitory designs in the first quarter of the twentieth century. Toyon, whose main common room is a large assembly hall directly behind the entrance lobby, lacks many of the other common areas Roble provided. These living areas, seen as so necessary to women’s residences, were considered of such little import to men’s dormitories that

Klauder and Wise did not provide a percentage of floor space dedicated to shared living spaces in male residences as they did for Roble.<sup>25</sup> Moreover, Toyon was originally organized with two-room singles, comprising a study and bedroom—demonstrating the reduced focus on socialization among residents. In Roble, by contrast, residents shared study rooms, which became additional spaces for socializing among roommates and housemates and for hosting guests. Although Toyon does borrow Roble’s wing structure, breaking down the large hall into smaller, more intimate sections, its organization allows for more solitude than social interaction.

Klauder and Wise cite the new Roble as one of the most innovative women’s dormitories, comparing its H-plan design to the simpler block designs of most dormitories of the time, including both the old Roble and Encina. A comparison of the plans for the new Roble Hall and Cornelia Connolly Hall at Rosemont College, Pennsylvania, highlights the peculiarities of Roble’s design. Both residences devoted almost the same percentage of square-footage to common spaces. While Connolly Hall offered only one large living room for its 70 inhabitants, however, Roble contained music, reception, and living rooms, a parlor, and libraries for 154 residents. The variety

1920 STANFORD QUAD



The new Roble’s reception room, shown here in the 1919–20 school year, was one of many spaces designed for social events. Special-interest rooms included a sewing room, a music room, and kitchenettes.

of common spaces in Roble allowed students to host multiple social functions at once and provided exceptional versatility in activities and physical organization compared to most other women's dormitories of the time. Although this variety was due, in part, to the great number of students the dorm could accommodate (significantly more than most dormitories, according to Klauder and Wise), the clever arrangement of the wings afforded intimacy—with floors of only 16 to 20 residents—along with extra amenities only available in larger halls.<sup>26</sup> In the new Roble, architects provided social spaces along the central axis

of the H-shaped building, as well as an immense living room adjacent to the main entrance.<sup>27</sup> Special-interest rooms in Roble included a sewing room, a music room, and

several kitchenettes. With such a spectrum of social spaces contained within one dorm, Roble equipped residents for any potential social event, from tea parties to formal dances, and offered common space within which its residents could share regular and more intimate interactions.

Unlike Encina and later male residence halls, the new Roble, like the old one, also contained a dining hall.<sup>28</sup> Male students, instead, relied on separate eating clubs, where they would collect their meals free from the “domestic confines” of their residence.<sup>29</sup> Female residents had different needs, according to Klauder and Wise, who wrote that:

*Girls especially like to carry on all the activities of home life under their own roof, and hence the eating of meals on the first floor of the house in which*

*they live is a practice that they will not willingly abandon. It is, in a word, more homelike. Moreover the inconvenience, loss of time and exposure of making an outdoor journey for her meals is more keenly felt by the girl student. Dining-rooms and kitchens are invariably found within or immediately adjoining dormitories for women.<sup>30</sup>*

This conscious differentiation between male and female residences reflected popular gender notions of the period and highlighted inequalities that persisted between males and females, even on Stanford's progressive campus.

While the new Roble adopted many of the features of its predecessor, particularly lounges and common areas, it marked the beginning of a shift in Stanford's residential architecture from large dormitories to more intimate, house-like settings. The new Roble can be seen, in many ways, as a transitional dorm between two extremes, exemplified by the old Roble Hall (1891) and the houses of Lagunita Court (1934). Students and faculty perceived the new Roble—organized into smaller units such as separate wings or floors, each with an accompanying study and library or recreational room—as a clear improvement. According to University Registrar and Chemistry Professor J. Pearce Mitchell, “these smaller units are more desirable in every way, and all the modern dormitory construction on the campus follows this general plan with suitable variation.”<sup>31</sup>

The new Roble's design was also an architectural innovation for Stanford residences. Unlike any other dorm before or after, the building's façade was ornamented with *sgraffito*—intricate, scratched-on designs—by Paul E. Denivelle.<sup>32</sup> Structurally, Roble also differed significantly from its residential generation. Campus planner Eldridge T. Spencer, in his 1949 architectural and historical survey of Stanford's buildings, classed Roble's style as “transitional” and grouped it with a number of



Male and female Roble residents gather in 1977 for a group photo, nine years after the dormitory went coed and women become the minority population in the hall.

contemporary campus buildings, including the School of Education, the University (Green) Library, and Toyon Hall.<sup>33</sup> Spencer also incorrectly identified the new Roble's building material as reinforced concrete when its walls were actually composed of hollow, unreinforced ceramic tiles.<sup>34</sup> Because George W. Kelham's style was similar to that of Bakewell and Brown (B&B)—correlations have been made between his San Francisco Public Library and B&B's University Library—Spencer might have mistaken Roble's ceramic wall structure for the reinforced concrete that B&B often used in its Stanford designs. Forty years after the survey, however, this oversight nearly caused Roble's downfall.<sup>35</sup>

### RESIDENTIAL REVOLUTIONS

Most Stanford women resided at Roble, the only campus women's residence, for at least a year.<sup>36</sup> The dormitory served as a networking hub for its residents, who hosted events enabling them to

meet influential figures. Similarly, at a time when women had few career options beyond nursing and teaching, Stanford offered ambitious women like housing director Anastasia Doyle the opportunity to achieve more. As *Stanford University News* reported on October 18, 1954, "Miss Anastasia Doyle came to Stanford in 1930 as director of Roble Hall, at that time the only University-operated residence for women on campus. She soon acquired an interest in solving student housing problems...[and] since 1950 has held her present post as director of all University campus residences for both men and women students."<sup>37</sup> During her 25-year tenure, Doyle transformed Roble, altering and updating the organization and orientation of the dorm without disturbing the original floor plans. Doyle also saw the number of women housed on campus increase from 200 to more than 1,450 once the enrollment cap of 500 female students—instituted in 1899 by Jane Stanford—was lifted in 1933.

Doyle's vision of female residential education profoundly influenced student life. While a lecturer in the School of Education, she developed the residential assistant (RA) system still in place today. This program, which first began with graduate students serving as RAs and later included upperclass undergraduates, was first introduced in Roble and later in all campus dorms.<sup>38</sup> It established a new system of governance that empowered residents and enabled them to serve in leadership capacities within their dormitories, becoming an integral element of residential life at Stanford and giving rise to a stronger student voice in residential organizing.

In the 1960s, a new residential revolution reached Roble in the form of coeducational housing. While Roble was not one of the dorms involved in the first phase of integrated male and female housing in the mid-1960s, it finally opened its doors to male residents in the fall of 1968. According to the Stanford University Steering Committee, the administration during this time came to believe that

*coeducational residences and the inclusion of members of various classes, including freshmen, in the same residence are highly desirable policies, and that a component of academic programs in the residences helps to create an environment in which living, learning, and social activity form a unity of experience.*<sup>39</sup>

When this policy was applied to Roble, the administration distributed the genders by floors, with males on the first and third floors and females on the second. The number of freshmen at Roble dropped to about 95—roughly a third of the dorm's population—with only 30 females, and women became the minority population in the hall for the first time in its history.

A second, cultural, revolution also touched Roble. In a call for institutional recognition in the

late 1960s and early 1970s, minority ethnic groups across campus demanded a greater level of support from the university. The administration responded by providing residential space where African American, Latino, and Native American students could be housed together in greater numbers.

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Commonly known as ethnic theme dorms, these houses were controversial when first established, but they became important features of Stanford's residential landscape. In the 1970–71 academic year, administrators designated Roble as one of two homes for the Latino community

on campus, with Chicano students comprising half of all residents of the hall's A-wing.<sup>40</sup>

This era at Stanford was characterized, moreover, by a significant housing crunch on campus. As a result, Roble soon had twice its previous population, and its spacious three-room doubles quickly became triples and quads. While the administration preserved many of the dormitory's common spaces, they were soon inadequate for the fast-growing number of residents.<sup>41</sup>

## AVERTING DISASTER

December 1987 brought the first real threat to the new Roble since its opening almost 70 years earlier. When an outside architectural firm studied floor

plans and early records of the campus dorms to determine which, if any, were at great earthquake risk, it discovered notations indicating that Roble's walls were not composed of reinforced concrete, as previously thought and as Eldridge T. Spencer had mistakenly asserted.<sup>42</sup> Instead, its walls were made of hollow, brittle ceramic tile, a material that would surely crumble if a significant earthquake hit the area. When the firm presented its findings at a regular meeting of the University Administrative Council on December 16, the evidence was compelling enough to mandate the immediate relocation of students upon their return to the campus in January.

Some students, stunned and frustrated by their hurried displacement, scrawled messages as they left the house, such as "Roble=Rubble" and "2B or not 2B," while others took bits of the dorm to keep as memorabilia.<sup>43</sup> Many residents were defiant and fought for Roble to remain open for the remainder of the school year. Ultimately, however, 300 "Roble Refugees" squeezed into temporary quarters in Branner Hall, Manzanita Park, and various other residences while the retrofitting work commenced. The university, fortunately, did not demolish Roble and replace it with "FloMo II," as some had feared. The seismic strengthening, moreover, saved the dorm from sure destruction when the Loma Prieta earthquake, registering 7.1 on the Richter scale, struck the Bay Area on October 17, 1989, less than two years after Roble's emergency evacuation and just weeks after the dorm finally reopened on September 21.

Since then, Roble has continued to serve as a residence for freshmen and upperclassmen, housing students from around the world with a full spectrum of backgrounds and interests. The oldest continuous dormitory on campus, Roble has been home to a significant number of Stanford students, past and present, and remains one of the university's largest dorms, with more than double the residents of any other individual campus house. Famous for

its annual resident-written, produced, directed, and acted musicals and infamous for its freshman quads—three-room suites shared by four cramped, first-year students—Roble is still a hotbed of student activity.<sup>44</sup> Its H-shaped wing and innovative design has enabled the dorm to adapt to changing residential needs and remain one of the most successful residences on the Stanford campus.

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#### ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> Charles Z. Klauder and Herbert C. Wise, *College Architecture in America* (New York: C. Scribner's Sons, 1929), 137.
- <sup>2</sup> Paul V. Turner, *Campus: An American Planning Tradition* (Cambridge, Mass: The MIT Press, 1984), 133.
- <sup>3</sup> Richard Joncas, David J. Neuman, and Paul V. Turner, *Stanford University* (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999), 42. The authors do not provide source citations, but I have assumed that they collected their information from primary sources in the Stanford University Archives and elsewhere.
- <sup>4</sup> Orrin Leslie Elliott, *Stanford University: The First Twenty-Five Years* (Stanford University Press, 1937), 441.
- <sup>5</sup> Paul Yee, *On the Origin of Spaces: The Evolution of Stanford Dormitories, 1891–1992* (Stanford University Archives, 1994), 9.
- <sup>6</sup> Paul V. Turner, "The Architectural Significance of the Stanford Museum," *Museum Builders in the West: The Stanfords as Collectors and Patrons of Art, 1870–1906* (Stanford University, Stanford Museum of Art, 1986), 103.
- <sup>7</sup> Ransome patented various techniques of handling concrete surfaces in 1889, specifying "ways in which the form-boards could be constructed so that the resulting concrete wall would have the appearance of masonry blocks, which workmen could then chisel or 'bush-hammer' in order to create various textures, similar to those of dressed or rusticated stone...a pigment [was also] added in order to match the sandstone used in the other university buildings." (Turner, "Stanford Museum," 104).
- <sup>8</sup> Joncas, et al., 44–45.
- <sup>9</sup> Architectural Resources Group, Information brief.
- <sup>10</sup> Joncas, et al., 44.
- <sup>11</sup> Yee, 8.

- <sup>12</sup> Female students at Stanford were limited primarily to studies in the humanities and social sciences. Given this, an early planner suggested that the Main Quad should be organized with the women's departments on the west side of the Quad nearest the women's dormitories (letter from Francis A. Walker of Olmsted's office to Leland Stanford, dated November 30, 1886, Stanford University Archives, SC125, Box 1, Folder 1). Ironically, the opposite organization has developed over time, with most of the humanities buildings on the Quad's east side.
- <sup>13</sup> Elliott, 177–178.
- <sup>14</sup> Leland Stanford: Letter to Jane Stanford, 1 Sept. 1890 (Stanford Archives, SC022a, Box 2, Folder 10). Experts have debated whether or not Leland Stanford originally planned the university to be coeducational. After his death, Mrs. Stanford claimed that she had persuaded him to accept women, but this letter and others suggest that he had planned to accept female students from the beginning.
- <sup>15</sup> Yee, 8.
- <sup>16</sup> Linda Winthrop Peterson, *The Stanford Century* (Stanford Alumni Association, 1991), 24.
- <sup>17</sup> Joncas, et al., 42.
- <sup>18</sup> Elliott, 441.
- <sup>19</sup> J. Pearce Mitchell, *Stanford University, 1916–1941* (Stanford University Press, 1958) 3. In 1918, the original Roble Hall was renamed Sequoia Hall and converted into a men's dormitory. Members of the U.S. Navy used the dorm during training on the Stanford campus during World War II. After that period, the hall was deemed unsafe, and the second and third floors were demolished. Following those changes, the one-story building was home to the Applied Mathematics Department until it was demolished in 1996 for the construction of the Science and Engineering Quad.
- <sup>20</sup> Alejandro Huerta, *The Architecture of George W. Kelham* (The University of Virginia, December 2004), 8.
- <sup>21</sup> Joncas et al., 71.
- <sup>22</sup> Klauder and Wise, 160.
- <sup>23</sup> Current Stanford President John Hennessy has proposed to relocate all freshmen students into dorms on the east side of the Stanford campus. As part of this proposal, he has recommended that the quads in Roble be restored to their original state as three-room doubles when it becomes an upperclass house so it will remain a popular residence among upperclassmen.
- <sup>24</sup> Klauder and Wise, 137.
- <sup>25</sup> Common rooms comprised 8.32 percent of the area in Roble. These included music, reception, living rooms, libraries, and a parlor (Klauder and Wise, 158).
- <sup>26</sup> Klauder and Wise, 160.
- <sup>27</sup> Yee, 10.
- <sup>28</sup> Toyon Hall, the first men's dormitory built after Encina Hall, also had eating clubs. These still furnish all meals today for Toyon residents.
- <sup>29</sup> Yee, 11.
- <sup>30</sup> Klauder and Wise, 148.
- <sup>31</sup> Mitchell, 13.
- <sup>32</sup> Huerta, 8.
- <sup>33</sup> Eldridge T. Spencer, *An Architectural and Historical Survey of Stanford University Buildings*, February 1949, Stanford University Archives.
- <sup>34</sup> In their 1929 book, written only 12 years after the new Roble was constructed, Klauder and Wise also recorded that “the building is of strongly reinforced concrete” (158). This also could also have contributed to the mistake and certainly demonstrates the early and widespread confusion over the dorm's construction, although the architect's plans clearly denote the use of tile and not a concrete system.
- <sup>35</sup> Joncas et al., 71.
- <sup>36</sup> Yee, 12.
- <sup>37</sup> *Stanford University News* (18 October 1954); Anastasia Doyle, Correspondence, 1935–1961, Stanford University Archives, SCM 084.
- <sup>38</sup> *Stanford University News* (18 October 1954).
- <sup>39</sup> Stanford University, Steering Committee of the Study of Education at Stanford, University Residences and Campus Life. Stanford University Archives, 1968, 7.
- <sup>40</sup> Robert E. Freelen, Director of Student Affairs, letter to Larry Horton, Director of Summer Housing, 29 June 1970, Student Affairs Archives; William Leland, Associate Dean of Students: letter to all residents participating in the draw, 11 May 1970, Student Affairs Archives. Muir House in Stern Hall, now known as Casa Zapata, was the second Latino residence and later became the sole Chicano theme dorm.
- <sup>41</sup> Many residences forfeited common space to accommodate the growing student population. Toyon, for example, converted a number of its study rooms, located at the end of each wing, into triples, quads, and even quints. It also converted all of its original two-room singles into triples to make room for the ever-growing student body.
- <sup>42</sup> Nick Anderson, “University closes Roble Hall.” *The Stanford Daily* (8 January 1988).
- <sup>43</sup> Nick Anderson, “Roble's Last Moments.” *The Stanford Daily* (8 January 1988). 2B is the second floor of Roble Hall's central wing.
- <sup>44</sup> To address the housing shortage, the rooms, originally designed as three-room doubles (two bedrooms joined by a central common room), were converted into three-room quads, with two residents sharing each bedroom. Since upperclassmen were generally reluctant to reside in such cramped quarters, incoming freshmen inevitably inherited the honor of calling a Roble quad home.
- <sup>45</sup> *The San Francisco Earthquake and Fire of April 18, 1906* (1907), 23.
- <sup>46</sup> Stanford University Planning Office, “Sequoia Hall Historic Values Information Brief (August 1996),” Architectural Resources Group. “Roble Hall (Sequoia Hall) Stanford University,” Stanford University Archives, 1996, SCM 167.



# Stanford's Red Hot Profs

## Leading the Field

DAVE DALY

On October 31, 1959, at the Stanford football game against San Jose State, James T. Watkins IV, Stanford professor of political science, delivered not a lecture but a roisterous “Yell of the Century” for Stanford rooters. His yell—“top secret” before the game—was devised, he hinted, with “much research” and had “a historical basis.” The rooting section, he predicted, would respond with “tremendous force,” and it did, cheering Stanford on to a 54–38 victory against the Spartans.<sup>1</sup>

Watkins (later founding president of the Stanford Historical Society) was the first “Red Hot Prof” elected by students—as part of a charity fundraiser—to lead cheers for Stanford rooters at football games. Students paid 25 cents to nominate professors for the title and a penny a vote during a week-long contest. Victorious Red Hot Profs have included the dean of the Graduate School of Business and a former secretary of defense; runners-up have ranged from the developer of the laser to a former president of Russia. The races were often suspenseful, exciting, and unpredictable. “During most elections on campus,” *The Stanford Daily* observed, “stuffing the ballot box, buying votes, bribing voters, campaigning at the polling place, and destroying other candidates’ votes have been frowned upon. In the Red Hot Prof Contest, however, chicanery is the guiding principle

In 1967, Red Hot Prof Ernest C. Arbuckle, dean of the Graduate School of Business, led rooters in the Axe Yell at the Stanford vs. Oregon football game.

of the day.”<sup>2</sup> Following are the winners and stories of Stanford’s Red Hot Prof elections.

**1959** JAMES T. WATKINS IV, POLITICAL SCIENCE

**KURT SERVOS, GEOLOGY, AND JULIUS SHUCHAT,** LSJUMB

On Tuesday, October 20, *The Stanford Daily* announced the first Red Hot Prof contest on campus.<sup>3</sup> Balloting began that day with donations benefiting the World University Service (WUS), a group dedicated to social justice and the right to education for all students.<sup>4</sup> The winner would lead a yell at the following Saturday’s football game against San Jose State. After a day of polling, Professor Kurt Servos of Mineralogy held the lead ahead of Julius Shuchat, director of the Stanford Band, and James T. Watkins IV.<sup>5</sup>

The *Daily*, perhaps unsure what to make of the production, offered no further information until Friday, when it reported the triumph of Dr. Watkins. What was described as a “last-minute flurry” of voting not only gave Watkins the victory with over 14,000 votes, it also set the precedent for the method of deciding many future elections—with lots of money in the waning moments. Organizers decided that all three of the top vote-getters should appear on the field at the game, a move that the *Daily* attributed to the closeness of the race.<sup>6</sup> They led a cheer honoring popular yell leader Bill Kartoizian, ’59, who wore his trademark overcoat, fedora, and aviator sunglasses for the occasion.<sup>7</sup>

# 1960

No contest was held, since the WUS fund drive occurred after the end of football season.

Political Science Professor James T. Watkins IV, Stanford's first Red Hot Prof, led a cheer honoring yell leader Bill Kartoizian, '59 (left, in fedora and sunglasses) at the 1959 Stanford vs. San Jose State game.



COURTESY OF STEVE PLAYER AND ELEANOR WATKINS LANEY

# 1961 J.E. MOFFAT HANCOCK, LAW

This second contest was held separately from the WUS fund-raising drive, although money raised continued to benefit WUS. The leader after the first day of polling was Yung-Ki Kao, well-respected instructor of Chinese. Behind him were John Myhill from Philosophy and Edwin Doyle of Classics.

Meanwhile, first-year law student Michael Ledgerwood, '61, JD '64, thought it would be a "great joke" to nominate J.E. Moffat Hancock, a colorful, dramatic professor of law.<sup>8</sup> Hancock, a Canadian scholar, was known among law students for his congenitally limited vision and love of poetry and photography. Members of the Law School Students Association voted vigorously, and Hancock won, although he had been "almost oblivious" to the balloting. When a group of students took him aside and explained the job of the Red Hot Prof, however, he promptly fell in love with the idea and prepared in earnest.<sup>9</sup>

The victorious Hancock arrived at the stadium for the Washington State game in a chariot pulled by

students, wearing a tam o'shanter and a sweater emblazoned with "LEX," and led a cheer he had penned specially for the occasion:

*Taxes, tenders, torts all day  
Stanford Law School leads the way  
Arson, robbery, theft all night  
Stanford Law School fight, fight, fight!<sup>10</sup>*

## 1962 DONALD STILWELL, ANATOMY

This year, for the first time, candidates were permitted to cast negative votes to remove themselves from competition. To do so, they had to pay to match all the votes that had already been cast in their favor. After the first day of voting on November 5, Victor Burns of Biophysics held the lead, with Donald Stilwell from Anatomy in second place and Allard Lowenstein, former Assistant Dean of Men, in third. On the second day, the new front-runner was Mrs. Irmgard Flügge-Lotz, professor of aeronautical engineering. The next day, the race changed again—Stilwell led Flügge-Lotz by fewer than 1,000 votes.

The *Daily* interviewed the front-runners, and both were equally dumbfounded to find themselves atop the race. Stilwell called his front-runner status "a somewhat ambivalent honor," but declared that

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*Law Professor J.E. Moffat Hancock arrived at the stadium for the Washington State game wearing a tam o'shanter, in a chariot pulled by students*

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he would, "not entirely willingly, respond in the same spirit as the challenge which is presented."<sup>11</sup> The final day carried Stilwell to an easy victory, with more than 56,000 votes to Flügge-Lotz's 11,650. At the Stanford-USC game, the *Quad* reported, Stilwell performed a cheer of D-R-O-F-N-A-T-S and, in another backwards display, inadvertently led a cheer for the USC kicker as he successfully scored a field goal against Stanford.<sup>12</sup>

## 1963 CHARLES MEYERS, LAW

Dwight Clark, Dean of Freshmen and Wilbur faculty resident, took an early lead on the first day of voting. Also in contention were Herbert Merritt of English and Ronald Hilton, Director for the Institute of Hispanic American Studies. Clark attributed his position atop the leader board to "a dastardly plot by unprincipled freshmen."<sup>13</sup> At the end of the second day, however, Law School Professor Charles Meyers passed Clark with a razor-thin 40-vote lead; Physics Professor Arthur Schawlow, developer of the laser, held third place.

The last day of voting was frenzied. In the final 15 minutes, students poured roughly \$400 into the contest to back Clark or Meyers. The race was decided by an envelope that arrived in the final 30 seconds, containing \$75 to support Meyers—enough to boost him over the top, 39,295 to 34,187.

## 1964 DOUG WILDE, ENGINEERING

The balloting for the 1964 contest opened the Monday before Homecoming. Listed among the Red Hot Prof's duties for the first time was the presentation of Homecoming decoration trophies.<sup>14</sup>

After two days of polling, John Grey Gurley of Economics led the race, and Donald C. Steward of

Mathematics stood in second. Also in the running were William C. Hammill of Military Science and Sandor Salgo of Music.

By Thursday, a three-man race had developed among Steward, Gurley, and the Law School's Marc Franklin. In the closing minutes, however, the race was blown wide open. Unbeknownst to most voters, Holladay and Fremont houses (now Twain) had been running a stealth campaign, collecting money to support their faculty resident, Doug Wilde of Chemical Engineering. The conspirators waited until the last moment to turn in nearly 19,000 votes, topping Steward's total by more than 1,500.

At that Saturday's game, the victorious Wilde arrived, accompanied by "bride, beard, baby, and slide rule."<sup>15</sup> The slide rule was a 10-foot demonstration model, which Wilde had borrowed from the Stanford Bookstore. His cheer—borrowed from his undergraduate years at Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon)—began:

*e to the x/ dydx*  
*e to the ydy*  
*Cosine, secant, tangent, sine*  
*3.14159*  
*Square root, cube root, log of e*

Instead of the original final line "Water-cooled slipstick, CIT!" Wilde improvised, "Stanford, give 'em the digit!"<sup>16</sup> On this cue, his assistants extended the slide rule's center piece, and the rooting section responded by flipping the bird *en masse* to Oregon State. The *Daily* reported that "Dr. Wilde's enthusiasm reached such a peak in the second half that he completely shed his robes of academic propriety and treated the Indian rooters to a couple of cartwheels." In the third quarter, as Stanford made a valiant goal-line stand, Wilde led a cheer of "Dam(n) the Beavers!" Stanford held the line and won the game.<sup>17</sup>

## 1965 DWIGHT CLARK, DEAN OF FRESHMEN

On the first day of voting, Leonard Schiff of Physics led the pack, followed by Edwin Doyle of Classics and Alexander Kerensky, former head of the Russian provisional government and Hoover Institution fellow.

On the third day, the Beta Chi fraternity donated \$55 for Arthur Schawlow of Physics with the words: "Humility and Service doth mark the noble man'—Celerior."<sup>18</sup> Schawlow took the lead, followed by Kerensky, Schiff, and Dwight Clark.

The race, however, was far from over. By 4:15 pm on the final day of voting, Kerensky grabbed the lead from Schawlow. A staffer from the *Daily* interviewed

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*Alexander Kerensky, former head of the Russian provisional government, promised to have a cheer or two ready if elected*

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the Russian leader, who reportedly said, "I am very honored" and promised to have a cheer or two ready if elected. However, there was one final twist in store. In the last 45 seconds, student body vice president Clark Brown, '66, handed victory to Clark with a \$55

donation "from wide student support throughout the university" as "a tribute to...the work he has done for the students of Stanford."<sup>19</sup>

That Saturday, as the Stanford Band marched onto the field at half-time, a lone tuba player broke ranks and headed for the student cheering section, discarding his tuba and peeling off his uniform on the way. Before the student section stood Dwight Clark, dressed in striped pajamas. While no record



Candidates' names crowd a chalkboard at a Red Hot Prof polling place in 1962. In the end, Donald Stilwell, associate professor of anatomy, beat Mrs. Irmgard-Flügge-Lotz, professor of aeronautical engineering, by more than 44,000 votes.

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*In 1966, fictitious Wendy Wonka won Stanford's first and only Homecoming Queen election*

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exists of the content of Clark's cheer, it is clear that bongo drums were involved and that he made a speedy getaway afterwards.<sup>20</sup>

## 1966 CHARLES R. BEYE, CLASSICS

Homecoming Week 1966 featured two elections: in addition to the Red Hot Prof, students also voted for Stanford's first and only Homecoming Queen. After the first day, Dean of the Chapel B. Davie Napier held the lead for Red Hot Prof, followed by Verdel Kolve of English, Albert Hastorf of Psychology, and Arthur Schawlow. By Wednesday, Charles Beye of Classics was in second place. When polls closed on Thursday evening, the winner was Charles Beye, by then Professor of Classics at Boston University, who had been a popular junior faculty member at Stanford before he moved to Massachusetts.<sup>21</sup>

Beye was not the only candidate to win *in absentia*. Many students saw the elections for Homecoming Queen as a capitulation to the demands of television networks, so they nominated a protest candidate. Wendy Wonka—the fictitious sister of fictitious Stanford legend Warren G. Wonka—won the balloting on the strength of write-in votes. Unlike Wonka, Beye was able to attend the football game. He recalled,

*I loathe...organized athletics, particularly football, the game of gorillas. It was maybe the third football game I had ever attended. It was a fun event, however... leading these crazy cheers for Stanford that I had made up all against the war in Vietnam. Then when the Air Force Academy started doing their half-time formations or whatever involving their pet eagles who zoomed around overhead, some Stanford peace activists released some doves, which were promptly attacked and chewed up high over all our heads, and the feathers fell down like snow.<sup>22</sup>*

The popular conception of the staid, dignified college professor is discarded each year at Stanford's homecoming. A

## RED HOT PROF

is elected from among the many red hots on Stanford's faculty. This election gives some fortunate instructor the opportunity to subjugate his inhibitions and enjoy himself. This year the title fell to Dr. Donald Stillwell, Associate Professor of Anatomy, and with it the duty of leading the student body in a cheer at the game. Dr. Stillwell is a faculty resident in Trancos House, and was elected by a Medical School-Wilbur coalition which solicited 56,464 penny-votes. The money this year went to the World University Service's tuberculosis sanitarium in Japan.



Anatomy's Donald Stilwell (misspelled above) led rooters in a cheer of D-R-O-F-N-A-T-S at the 1962 Stanford vs. USC game.

## 1967 ERNEST C. ARBUCKLE, BUSINESS

The *Daily* of November 6, 1967, featured a front-page article with the headline "Red Hot Contest Promises Chaos at Polling Place." Tuesday's *Daily* proved that prediction to be prescient. In the lead with over 1,000 votes was "Fabulous Adele, Stanford's own topless dancer." Other contenders included B. Davie Napier and "Arlo Guthrie's restaurant proprietress 'Alice.'" Wednesday's balloting put Alice in the lead.

As usual, the excitement was still to come. Three candidates distanced themselves from the less-than-serious field on the final day of voting—Napier; Ronald Hamowy, faculty resident in Arroyo; and Chemistry Professor Henry Taube, whose supporters wore t-shirts emblazoned with his image. In the final minutes, though, students from the Graduate School of Business bought the election. Delivering \$109, they put their outgoing Dean Ernest Arbuckle over the top with over 20,000 votes.<sup>23</sup> At the Oregon game, the *Daily* reported,

*Ernest Arbuckle, the usually staid Dean of the Business School and future head of the Board of Trustees of Wells Fargo, freaked out Saturday in front of several thousand Stanford students. The "Red Hot Prof" electrified the football fans in a "Give 'em the AXE, the AXE, the AXE" cheer. First Arbuckle raised his arms calling for volume as the chant began. Then his motions became a violent frenzy as he swung his arms back and forth chaotically lifting them up and down while thumping wildly on the cheerleader platform. Stanford's rooting section reacted as never before: almost as one, it leaped up at the conclusion, its roar dwarfing even the noise of the cannon shot off earlier. Arbuckle finished the chant in complete physical and spiritual exhaustion.<sup>24</sup>*

## 1968 DALE HARRIS, ENGLISH

Amid the turmoil of the late 1960s, there was less student interest and participation in the Red Hot Prof election. *Daily*

articles about the race were short and usually off the newspaper's front page, and both voters and votes were far fewer than in the previous year. The English Department's Dale Harris emerged victorious with only 6,331 votes. The *Daily* noted that "Father John Duryea of the University

Christian Ministry pressed Harris hard (though non-violently)" and finished in second place with 3,300.<sup>25</sup>

The seriousness of the Vietnam War took its toll on campus traditions. The bonfire was suspended. Neither 1972 nor 1973 saw publication of the *Quad*, and the Red Hot Prof contest—a lighthearted activity that seemed out of place during contentious times—disappeared for the next 35 years.

## 2003 WILLIAM PERRY, MANAGEMENT SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

In 2003, the Stanford Axe Committee resurrected the Red Hot Prof election.<sup>26</sup> The contest differed from the original in several ways. This time, organizers coordinated the contest with Big Game Week. Its

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*"Ernest Arbuckle, the usually staid Dean of the Business School and future head of the Board of Trustees of Wells Fargo, freaked out Saturday in front of several thousand Stanford students"*

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proceeds were donated to the Amy Biehl Foundation, formed in memory of Amy Biehl,'89, to promote social justice and reconciliation in South Africa. Candidates could be nominated the traditional way—by 25-cent donations—or by sounding the Axe Committee's train whistle in White Plaza during the week leading up to the Big Game.<sup>27</sup>

Candidates for Red Hot Prof included a wide range of professors and administrators. Mary Morrison from the Office of Financial Aid—who knew she would not be able to attend the game—paid for enough negative votes to take her name out of contention. University President John Hennessy took part in the democratic process, buying votes for members of his administration when he came to sound the whistle. Former Secretary of Defense William Perry, professor of Management Science and Engineering, was returning from negotiations in North Korea and arranged his schedule to ensure he had time to travel from the airport to sound the train whistle. True to tradition, the race was decided in the waning moments. Late Friday morning, an unidentified donor contributed \$20 for Professor Perry, putting him over the top by more than 1,000 votes.

At the Big Game the next day, Perry led chants of "De-Fense", and the Cardinal forced five turnovers in the first half. Perry also led the Axe Yell and later recalled,

*This inspired yell was so effective that when Stanford returned to the field, they immediately gave up a touchdown to Cal and went on to lose the game. The moral: "preventive defense" may be effective in the international policy field, but apparently not so effective on the football field.*<sup>28</sup>



In 2003, Axe Committee Chairman Dave Daly, '05 (far left), resurrected the Red Hot Prof tradition. The winner that year was former defense secretary William Perry, professor of Management Science and Engineering (center).

## 2004 CLIFFORD NASS, COMMUNICATION

In the first few days of voting, the field of candidates grew; by Thursday, two candidates began to pull away from the pack. The bidding war centered on John Rick of Anthropology and Clifford Nass of Communication. As the clock tower chimed noon on Friday, Nass edged Rick by less than 100 votes and was declared the victor.

Surprised and excited by his unexpected victory, Nass arranged a visit to the Bookstore to expand his wardrobe. The following day, clad from head to toe in Cardinal paraphernalia and accompanied by his son, Matthew, he made the trip to Berkeley on the Axe Committee bus and led the Axe Yell for Stanford.

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*In 2003, candidates for Red Hot Prof included former Secretary of Defense William Perry*

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## EPILOGUE

Each Red Hot Prof contest had opportunities for students to game the system, and they did so—acting alone or as part of a shady cabal, residential voting bloc, or popular groundswell. Winning candidates have never disappointed; they always rose to the occasion and cleared their schedules to take part with a sense of adventure, a sense of humor, and a commitment to student and university life at Stanford. Although no Red Hot Prof contest was held in 2005, the evolution of Big Game Week continues and may yet include revivals of the Red Hot Prof.

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*Dave Daly, '05, works in Stanford's Office of Government and Community Relations. In 2003, he was chairman of the Stanford Axe Committee. That year, based on recollections of his parents, Ellen Boozer, '69, and Mike Daly, '69, as well as those of former Alumni Association President Bill Stone, Daly resurrected the Red Hot Prof tradition. In 2004, he became the first student member of the SHS board, and he was reelected to a three-year term in 2006.*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*Thanks to Beth and Keith Boyle; Margi Gould, '59, AM '60; Bob Hamrdla, '59, AM '64; Larry Horton, '62, AM '66; Bill Kartoizian, '60; Eleanor Watkins Laney, '69; Michael Ledgerwood, '62, JD '64; Skip Martin, '65; Steve Player, '63; Armin Rosencranz, LLB '61, AM '63, PhD '70; and Paul Van Buren, JD '64, for their recollections; to University Archivist Maggie Kimball, '80, for her research; to Susan Wels, '78, for her editing; and to Jon Erickson, '65, and Bill Stone, '67, MBA '69, for their help in 2003 and in 2006. Special thanks go to the Red Hot Profs who contributed their own recollections to this article—Charles Beye, Dwight Clark, Clifford Nass, William Perry, '49, MS '50, Kurt Servos, Donald Stilwell, and Doug Wilde. And thanks above all to Ellen Boozer, '69, and Mike Daly, '69.*

## ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> *The Stanford Daily* (28 October 1959).
- <sup>2</sup> *The Stanford Daily* (6 November 1967).
- <sup>3</sup> *The Stanford Daily* (20 October 1959).
- <sup>4</sup> The group that began as European Student Relief after World War I became the World University Service in 1950 to address social justice and the right to an education for all sides of a conflict. The group is now Education Action International. See "About Education Action International" Online resource: [http://www.educationaction.org/about.asp\\_ai=history.htm](http://www.educationaction.org/about.asp_ai=history.htm)
- <sup>5</sup> Unbeknownst to the voters, Servos had been a yell leader as an undergraduate at Rutgers, "where yell-leading and intercollegiate football began, in 1869." Personal communication: Kurt Servos, 30 December 2005.
- <sup>6</sup> *The Stanford Daily* (28 October 1959).
- <sup>7</sup> Personal communication: Kurt Servos, 1 June 2006. Personal communication: Bill Kartoizian, 1 June 2006.
- <sup>8</sup> Personal communication: Michael Ledgerwood, 30 November 2005.
- <sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>10</sup> Personal communication: Paul Van Buren, 30 November 2005.
- <sup>11</sup> *The Stanford Daily* (8 November 1962).
- <sup>12</sup> *The Stanford Quad*, 1963, p. 109. Personal communication: Donald Stilwell, 6 November 2005.
- <sup>13</sup> *The Stanford Daily* (12 November 1963).
- <sup>14</sup> *The Stanford Daily* (2 November 1964).
- <sup>15</sup> *The Stanford Daily* (16 November 1964).
- <sup>16</sup> Personal communication: Doug Wilde, 4 November 2005.
- <sup>17</sup> *The Stanford Daily* (16 November 1964).
- <sup>18</sup> *The Stanford Daily* (11 November 1965).
- <sup>19</sup> *The Stanford Daily* (12 November 1965).
- <sup>20</sup> Personal communication: Dwight Clark, 1 April 2006.
- <sup>21</sup> Personal communication: Charles Beye, 27 October 2005.
- <sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>23</sup> *The Stanford Daily* (10 November 1967).
- <sup>24</sup> *The Stanford Daily* (13 November 1967).
- <sup>25</sup> *The Stanford Daily* (8 November 1968).
- <sup>26</sup> Like the Axe Commission that existed in the era of the original Red Hot Prof, the modern Axe Committee ensures the safety of the Axe while it is in Stanford's possession in addition to its athletic activities. Unlike its predecessor, which coordinated card stunts at home football games, the current committee staffs Flicks, sponsors a Frisbee golf tournament, and serves as flag bearers for Founders' Day.
- <sup>27</sup> The Axe Committee sounds a train whistle and a helium-driven boom cannon when the football team scores, brings the train whistle to occasional baseball, soccer, or water polo games, and invites faculty, staff, and administrators involved with student life to sound the whistle during their round-the-clock countdown in the week leading up to the Big Game.
- <sup>28</sup> Personal communication: William Perry, 5 May 2006.

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# Stanford through the Century 1906–2006

100 YEARS AGO  
(1906)

With the school year cut short by the **April 18 earthquake**, many students left for home while others stayed behind to work with faculty and Palo Alto community members on relief efforts in San Francisco. In early May, the Palo Alto-Stanford Relief Committee turned over operation of its three relief stations to officials in San Francisco, having gathered and distributed 75,000 loaves of bread,

10,000 gallons of milk, 1 ton of baked beans, 400 gallons of soup, 300 pounds of dried fruit, and 1,200 sacks of clothing. That done, some students worked on campus as hired hands during the summer to help clear debris from damaged and destroyed buildings.

In June, President David Starr Jordan appointed engineering professors Charles Wing, Charles Marx, and William Durand to **supervise reconstruction**. With fall

semester set to start in late August, top priority was given to buildings needed for the academic program. Despite a two-week labor strike, enough repairs were done for classes to begin on schedule. Encina and Roble halls were patched up, parts of the Chemistry Building were restored, and repairs were made to most outer quadrangle buildings. Exaggerated estimates initially put Stanford's financial loss at \$2.8 million to \$4 million, but in the end the cost of restoring the buildings, except for Memorial Church, was about \$650,000.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



Crews work on repairs to the Physics Building after the April 1906 earthquake.

The Social Service Club and a group of faculty spouses, chaired by Jessie Knight Jordan (wife of the president), set out to raise \$1,500 for Gertrude Gerdes, whose son, boiler operator **Otto Gerdes**, died in the collapse of the smokestack at the power house. He had rushed back inside and shut off electricity and steam to campus buildings, saving the university from fire. His death left his mother without any means of

support, and she was in danger of losing their College Terrace house. The group collected \$1,611 for the Gerdes Fund and \$350 to cover burial expenses for Junius R. Hanna, the student killed by a chimney collapse in Encina Hall.

75 YEARS AGO  
(1931)

A quarter century after the **university entry gates** were destroyed in the 1906 earthquake, a new set was installed. The state paid most of the cost, as compensation for damages caused by widening El Camino Real to four lanes; the Alumni Association also contributed. The widened road was further improved when workers planted 500 roses along the fence from San Francisquito Creek to Mayfield.

**Roble Gymnasium** for women was dedicated, ending nearly 40 years at the original “temporary” gym. Women students raised money for their new facility; the all-male Board of Athletic Control also contributed.

The 85-bed **Palo Alto Hospital**, built with funds raised by the city, opened in the Arboretum, not far from El Camino. It was closed in 1959 when the university built Stanford Hospital nearby. Following renovation, it reopened in 1965 as Hoover Pavilion.



From 1956 to 1961, Alexander Kerensky (right), former premier of Russia, was a research associate at the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace.

50 YEARS AGO  
(1956)

**Alexander Kerensky**, briefly premier of Russia before his government was overthrown by the Bolsheviks in 1917, joined the Hoover Institution as a research associate. For the next five years, he used Hoover’s wealth of information on Russia to study, write, lecture, and teach.

During a meeting at Professor Wolfgang Panofsky’s home, Professor Robert Hofstadter suggested building a **linear accelerator** 10 to 20 times more powerful than the university’s first full-scale accelerator, the Mark III. It was nicknamed “The Monster” because it would be 2 miles in length; the name later was changed to “Project M” (and

ultimately the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center).

More than 200 freshmen moved out of **Encina Hall**, home to Stanford men for nearly 65 years. After a brief stint the following year housing 100 women, it was remodeled for administrative offices.

25 YEARS AGO  
(1981)

At the Medical Center, doctors performed the first combined **heart-lung transplant** in nearly 10 years, using a new antirejection drug, cyclosporin A, which had not been available earlier when operations brought only limited success. The patient recovered.

— KAREN BARTHOLOMEW

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## Members Attend SHS Annual Meeting

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On May 10, more than 100 SHS members attended the society's thirtieth annual meeting in Bishop Auditorium at the Graduate School of Business. The event honored more than 170 SHS volunteers who contributed their time over the past year, acknowledging them with gift copies of the book *Museum Builders in the West: The Stanfords as Collectors and Patrons of Art, 1870–1906* by Carol M. Osborne.

The board of directors also honored volunteer extraordinaire Marian Adams with the 2006 Karen Bartholomew Award for exceptional service to the society. The citation recognized Adams for volunteer efforts including “her breathtaking commitment to chronicling and celebrating the heritage homes in the Stanford community, and the colorful sagas of their successive inhabitants.”

### NEW BOARD MEMBERS

In addition, four new members were elected to the SHS board of directors:

- **Sanford M. (Sandy) Dornbusch**, Reed-Hodgson Professor of Human Biology and Professor of Sociology and Education, emeritus, who founded Stanford's Sociology Department, its Program in Human Biology, and its Curriculum on Children and Society and is currently advisory board chair of the Stanford Center on Adolescence
- **Bob Freelen**, '57, MBA '59, who formerly served in Stanford student affairs, the Alumni Association, and development and as vice president of public affairs during Donald Kennedy's presidency

(continued on page 30)

MIRIAM PALM



Marian Adams (left) received an award for exceptional service to SHS named for Karen Bartholomew (right), its first recipient.

### 2006 Karen Bartholomew Award

For her breathtaking commitment to chronicling and celebrating the heritage homes in the Stanford community, and the colorful sagas of their successive inhabitants;

for her pace-car stamina, effervescence, and exemplary full-immersion participation as the Society's go to recruiter, planner and team player without peer;

for her proactive engagement of faculty members and their spouses in the storied history of the campus, and for the broad scope and value of her work to future generations; and

with great respect for her uncanny talents in motivating, cajoling, linking, enjoying, and respecting the unique tapestry that is the many-dimensional Stanford family

#### MARIAN LEIB ADAMS

is hereby named 2006 recipient of the

#### KAREN BARTHOLOMEW AWARD

for exceptional service to the Stanford Historical Society

presented by the Board of Directors

May 2006

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# From the President, 2005–06

*Following are excerpts from the report of President Susan Ward Schofield at the society's 30th annual meeting on May 10, 2006, in Bishop Auditorium at the Stanford Graduate School of Business*

On behalf of our energetic board of directors, I want to offer a few reflections on the society reaching the mature age of 30 and a brief “annual report” on our many activities over the past year.

Our mission is to *foster and support the documentation, study, publication, and preservation of the history of the Leland Stanford Junior University*. Thirty years ago in 1976, the society's founders, led by James T. Watkins IV, set forth their aspirations for the society. I am pleased to report that all of their ambitions for a “useful” society have been realized:

- revitalization of Founders' Day
- publication of an attractive history of the university
- work on oral histories
- close ties with the Archives
- and active programs of publications and lectures.

Another early goal—“to remedy oversights and omissions”—led the society to efforts such as adding the Korean and Vietnam war dead to the plaques in Memorial Auditorium, championing such initiatives

as repair of the clock works and the Red Barn, achieving historic landmark status for the Lou Henry Hoover House, and preservation of

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*The active participation of our members...will be the key to the society's usefulness and success over the next 30 years as it has been during the first 30*

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David Starr Jordan's Serra House, which was very recently moved to its third campus location.

With the board's approval last year of an ambitious strategic plan, the society is poised to continue this trajectory and accomplish much in the coming years. One thing I am sure of: the active participation of our

members—as volunteers and as financial supporters—will be the key to the society's usefulness and success over the next 30 years as it has been during the first 30.

Now for a few highlights of the 2005–06 year, just ending:

- On the hiring front, we welcomed both Susan Wels, '78, as the new editor of our journal, *Sandstone & Tile*, and our new office manager, Charlotte Glasser, who joined us from the Admissions Office. Our thanks go to Carol Miller, who managed the SHS office for 12 years and retired in February.
- In the fall we conducted our first-ever member survey, and over 82 percent of our members responded!
- We have four SHS books on the Stanford Bookstore's shelves: three published last year (*Streets, Trees, & Historic Houses Vol. 3*) plus a recent, interim reissue of our flagship publication, *A Chronology of Stanford University and Its Founders*.
- The Programs Committee, chaired by David Voss, planned and coordinated six

excellent campus lectures this year, each attracting from 50 to 100 people. The committee's tour impresario, Gene Kershner, also ran a great trip to the renovated Stanford Mansion and Old Sacramento. And we are honored to have David Kennedy end the program year on an exceptionally high note.

- The members of our Historic Houses Committee orchestrated another very successful tour of four pre-1930 faculty homes and gardens, attended by over 400 people. Special thanks go to the dynamic duo of Susan Sweeney and Marian Adams and to their legion of docents and other volunteers.
- The society's operating income and expenses were in balance (hurrah!) at about \$120,000 for the 2004/05 year. However, as our projected expenses grow to cover our expanding range of activities, the board, led by the Membership & Development Committee, must make sure that our revenues grow as well. We plan to enlarge our membership (currently at 640 memberships or 905 individuals), increase the income from membership dues, and attract some special-focus gifts.
- Our ties to the university remain strong, though we receive no direct financial support from Stanford. Our

most important programmatic connection is with the University Archives, and we are pleased to be funding a student assistant for the Archives this year. We are immeasurably in debt to University Archivist Maggie Kimball for her tireless support of the society—as a member of our board, the supervisor of our office manager, a program speaker, an encyclopedic resource concerning even the most obscure Stanford facts, and a friend to us all.

I hope you can tell that the society is alive with activity and good ideas. Our expanding ambitions are, as I mentioned, putting a strain on our revenues, the majority of which come from annual dues. When current members receive their renewal letters (now being sent quarterly), I hope you will renew faithfully. That letter will encourage you to stretch to a higher membership level if you can and to recruit one friend to join the society. I also hope that a great many of you will do both!

I want to express heartfelt thanks to the 21 hard-working members of the SHS board of



SHS members (from left) Frank and Lois Fariello, Gene Kershner, and Kent Peterson attend a reception following the society's annual meeting in May.

directors, especially our stalwart treasurer, secretary and vice president. Our eight committee chairs and co-chairs deserve special praise—they are the engines pulling the train of our accomplishments (or pushing from behind). In addition, we deeply appreciate the long-time service of the three board members whose terms are now expiring: past president Bob Hamrdla, finance chair Kent Peterson, and History Department faculty member Carolyn Lougee Chappell.

And finally, the society owes its vitality and successes to an astonishing army of volunteers, numbering over 170 this year. You are the heart and soul of SHS. Please accept the board's immense thanks and appreciation for the individual and collective difference you make to the society and to Stanford.

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## Hundreds Tour Historic Homes

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On April 30, nearly 500 people toured four faculty homes and gardens in the historic San Juan Neighborhood on campus. Featured houses included those designed by prominent early 20th-century Bay Area architects A.W. Smith, Walter Ratcliff, Jr., and Charles K. Sumner.

The Stanford Historical Society wishes to thank the nearly 100 volunteers who made the tour a success, particularly event chair Susan Sweeney, the organizing committee, and the owners who generously opened their homes. Special thanks, also, to tour sponsors Jim Byrne, Alain Pinel Realtors; Shari Ornstein, Alain Pinel Realtors; Elizabeth Everitt, Princeton Capital; and *The Palo Alto Weekly*, whose generosity underwrote many of the tour expenses. ❁



**Above:** SHS incoming president Bill Stone pitches in at the Historic Houses Tour with the society's new office manager, Charlotte Kwok Glasser.



**Left:** Homeowner Nancy Creger, wife of emeritus Professor of Medicine William Creger, welcomes visitors to their historic residence at 622 Cabrillo.

**Right:** Tour volunteers (clockwise from lower left) Myung Sook McIntyre, Bob McIntyre, Gail Woolley, Gil Woolley, Margaret Ann Fidler and Don Fidler enjoy a dinner for the Historic Houses Tour Committee, sponsors and house owners at the home of tour chair Susan Sweeney.



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## Stanford Associates Honors Four SHS Board Members

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On April 8, 2006, Stanford Associates—an organization of leading alumni volunteers—presented a Governor’s Award to nine-year SHS board member Robert Augsburger. A former university vice president for business and finance, Augsburger was honored for his volunteer service to the Stanford Historical Society:

- improving the society’s financial position
- reinvigorating its volunteer board
- driving a strategic planning process
- and challenging the society to aim higher and achieve more.

Stanford Associates also inducted as members Karen Bartholomew and Bob Hamrdla, both long-time members of the SHS board of directors. In addition, the Associates honored society board member Anne Dauer for the second consecutive year, this time for her work on the Class of ’60 Reunion Campaign Leadership Team. ♣

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(SHS Annual Meeting, continued from page 26)

- **Charlie Junkerman**, who served on Stanford’s Western Culture faculty in the mid-1980s, later held staff positions as assistant dean of undergraduate studies and associate director of the Humanities Center, and currently serves as dean and associate provost of continuing studies
- **Stephen Peeps**, ’74, who served as president and CEO of the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children’s Health from its inception in 1997 until March 2006 and, prior to that, as associate vice president in Stanford’s development office.

The meeting concluded with a reception and an insightful address on “Stanford and the West” by David M. Kennedy, Donald J. McLachlan Professor of History. The talk wove together Robert Louis Stevenson’s description of his train journey to California with Kennedy’s own eloquent oratory to paint a tapestry of the West’s evolution from frontier wilderness to a bustling center of commerce, industry and technology, with Stanford University playing a major role. ♣

### SHS Programs Now on iTunes!

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If you missed an SHS program, you may soon be able to download the audio version on iTunes U. A number of the society’s programs are already available on-line, including talks by Marvin Herrington, James W. Lyons, Mark Mancall, Norman Tutorow and John

Chowning and other Stanford inventors. If you have iTunes on your computer, you can access them easily by going to <http://itunes.stanford.edu>. Click on “Open Stanford on iTunes U.” When iTunes opens, click on “Heard on Campus,” then click on “Visiting Lectures and

Speeches” to see a list of free downloads of SHS talks and other university programs. If you do not have iTunes, you can download the free software, for both Mac and PC, from Apple Computer at <http://www.apple.com/itunes/download>.

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## Must Reads for Stanford History Buffs

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These books, published by the Stanford Historical Society, are available at the Stanford Bookstore ([www.stanford.bkstr.com](http://www.stanford.bkstr.com)) for direct purchase or by mail order. Prices do not include sales tax and shipping costs.

***A Chronology of Stanford University and its Founders***, by Karen Bartholomew, Claude Brinegar, and Roxanne Nilan (reprint); \$12.95. Spanning the early years of Stanford's founding to the year 2000, this volume traces the events and people that have shaped the university. An essential for your Stanford library.

***Historic Houses III: San Juan Neighborhood***; \$19.95. Third in a series of books tracing the architectural development of historic faculty homes on campus and the stories of their owners. Houses in this volume include ones owned by Frederick Emmons Terman, Ray Lyman Wilbur, and Richard Lyman, as well as many of Stanford's founding faculty.

***The Last of Your Springs***, by Donald Kennedy; \$29.95. This collection of farewell talks given at commencements from 1981 to 1992 offers an annualized history of Stanford life in the 12 years that Donald Kennedy was president, capturing his unique wit and perspective on a formative period in the life of the university.

***Stanford Street Names***, by Richard Cottle; \$5.95. This 80-page pocket guide tells the histories of streets—present and past—on the Stanford campus, how the names were chosen, and whom or what they honor. Indispensable for self-guided tours of the campus.

***Trees of Stanford and Environs***, by Ronald Bracewell; \$21.95. With a foreword by Donald Kennedy, listings of trees in alphabetical order, maps showing tree locations, and 80 beautifully rendered leaf silhouettes, this book is a treasure for arborists and tree lovers alike.

Other books on the “Stanford Shelf” (on the first floor of the Stanford Bookstore, behind the stairs) of special interest to our members:

***Fred Terman at Stanford: Building a Discipline, a University, and Silicon Valley***, by Stuart Gillmor; \$75.

***Frank Lloyd Wright's Hanna House Preserved***, by Paul V. Turner; \$10.

***The Governor: The Life and Legacy of Leland Stanford, A California Colossus***, by Norman Tutorow; \$125.

***Stanford: Portrait of a University***, by Susan Wels; \$35.95.

# Sandstone & Tile

SPRING/SUMMER 2006  
VOLUME 30, NUMBER 2

Susan Wels, *Editor*  
Annabelle Ison, *Designer*

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<http://histsoc.stanford.edu>

## STANFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all who are interested in Stanford history and includes the following benefits:

- annual subscription to the society's journal, *Sandstone & Tile*, mailed to members three times a year
- invitations to free on-campus programs on aspects of Stanford history
- member discounts on society (and some other) publications

### Membership Categories

- Current Stanford Student \$10
- Society Member \$50
- Contributing Member \$150
- Supporting Member \$250
- Sustaining Member \$500
- Benefactor Circle \$1,000
- Historian Circle \$5,000

Membership is for one year and is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Membership dues are payable by credit card or by check.

To join or renew by credit card, visit our web site at <http://histsoc.stanford.edu>. Click on the Membership link at the left and then click on the "Make a gift now" link to the Development Office web site. You may also make out a check to the Stanford Historical Society and mail it to the society office (*see lower left on this page for address*).

## UPCOMING SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

PARTIAL LIST FOR 2006-07

*Confirmation of date and notification of time and location will be sent to members shortly before each event.*

**September 29, 2006** The Knoll: History, Renovation and Tour

**November 6** Stanford Stadium: Lecture and Tour

**October 4** Henry Lowood on how Stanford spawned Silicon Valley

**April 2007** Historic Campus Houses Tour

**May 9** Annual Meeting and talk by Gerhard Casper



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