

# Sandstone & Tile

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*A History of Stanford Field Stations:  
Hopkins Marine Station  
Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve*

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**Left:** Despite rumors of gold and silver in the area of Jasper Ridge, explorations such as this one revealed few minerals of commercial value.

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**Cover:** Students and faculty at Stanford's Hopkins Seaside Laboratory posed for a group photo in the summer of 1894.

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# Hopkins Marine Station: A Century of Research and Environmental Change

STEPHEN R. PALUMBI

*Stephen Palumbi, director of Stanford's Hopkins Marine Station and Jane and Marshall Steel Jr. Professor in Marine Sciences, received his Ph.D. from the University of Washington in marine ecology. In 2002, he moved his laboratory from Harvard University to Hopkins, where his research group studies the genetics, evolution, conservation, population biology, and systematics of marine organisms. A Pew Fellow in Marine Conservation and senior fellow at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, he is the author or co-author of The Evolution Explosion: How Humans Cause Rapid Evolutionary Change (2001), The Extreme Life of the Sea (2014), and The Death and Life of Monterey Bay: A Story of Revival (2010).*

*At the society's 39th annual meeting in May 2015, Palumbi and Philippe Cohen, director of the Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, discussed the history of Stanford's two biological field stations. The following two articles have been adapted from their remarks.*

In 2002, when I joined the Stanford faculty, I was spending a lot of time going around the country and the world talking about threats that the ocean faces everywhere, from overfishing to climate change, pollution, and the constant pressure on the ocean from human activities. Then I would fly back home to Monterey Bay, which is an astonishingly wonderful marine environment. But the fact is, Monterey was not always the beautiful place it is now. Eighty years ago, it was more or less an industrial disaster. The canneries had shut down, the economy was devastated, and many people had fled the area. But, amazingly, Monterey got better and became the extraordinary environment it is today.

## CENTURIES OF DECLINE

Before the first Europeans settled in California, Monterey Bay was biologically rich and full of wildlife, including sea otters. Local Native Americans used the otters for fur and food, but the animals were targeted by Russian and American maritime



In 1892, the university established the original Hopkins Seaside Laboratory on Monterey Bay. It was named for Timothy Hopkins, an early president of the Board of Trustees, who helped fund the project.

fur traders because of their enormous value. The pelt of the sea otter is the most luxurious fur in the world. Its 800,000 hairs per square inch keep the small animals warm in very cold water. The hair is so thick, in fact, that water doesn't even touch a sea otter's skin when it's diving. The hair holds onto the air, and the otter essentially dives in a bubble held by the fur. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries,



The field station was first located on Lovers Point, a popular tourist spot in the nineteenth century.

those qualities made otter fur incredibly valuable. As a result, by about 1811, otter populations all along the central coast of California were decimated. By the 1840s, they were virtually wiped out.

The collapse of the otter population had a cascading effect on Monterey Bay and the whole coastline, because otters have voracious appetites. They eat more than just about any little mammal their size. A 60-pound otter has to eat 15 pounds of food a day to keep warm. Otters eat marine invertebrates, including abalone and sea urchins. Those animals, in turn, eat giant kelp. So when the bay had a healthy population of sea otters, the otters ate the sea urchins and kept the kelp from being consumed. The system was in balance. But when you took away the otters, sea urchins and abalone expanded in abundance, and the kelp forests declined. So by 1820 or 1830, the basic marine ecosystem of the entire coast of California was fundamentally altered by eliminating the sea otter and wiping out the native kelp forests.

In this period of time, the business model for using the sea was “find something of value, catch it, sell it, repeat” until it was gone. Then you moved on to the next thing. That was the model all over the world. And so, eventually, the otters were gone, the whales were gone, the seals were gone, and the abalone were gone. Even the sea birds were gone, because sea bird eggs were harvested and

sold to miners up in the mountains. There was a tremendous amount of exploitation from about 1769 to the 1860s that changed Monterey’s environment.

Then, in 1891, Stanford opened its doors. The next year, it also opened another set of doors—the Hopkins Seaside Laboratory on Monterey Bay, the first marine station on the West Coast and the second in the country, after Woods Hole. Conceptualized by David Starr Jordan, it was situated by Stanford’s first biology professors, Charles Gilbert and Oliver Jenkins, on land provided by the Pacific Improvement Company. To fund construction of the buildings, Timothy Hopkins—an important member of the university’s early Board of Trustees, a close friend of the Stanford family, and a founder of Palo Alto—made a gift of \$1,000, and the city of Pacific Grove donated \$300. When the laboratory got started, it was located on a place called Lovers Point. It was a main tourist attraction in the late 1800s, right next to a summertime church camp called Pacific Grove. Courses at Hopkins were taught in the summer, and about half the students were women. Marine stations in general were very welcoming to women students at the time.

In 1917, Hopkins moved from Lovers Point to a new location at China Point. In the nineteenth century, China Point had been one of the first Chinese settlements on the West Coast. In the 1850s, many of the Chinese settlers there were abalone fishermen, and they soon brought squid fishing to Monterey, working at night on lighted boats. After the Chinese settlement burned down in 1906, Stanford University secured 11 acres of the headland and, in 1917, constructed Agassiz Hall, the first building of the new laboratory, now called Hopkins Marine Station. The Monterey Boat Works was also constructed on China Point, along with the Hovden Cannery, the very first of the main canneries along Cannery Row.

As a result, our small marine station was located right next to one of the biggest ocean industries on the West Coast. The sardine industry was booming

in 1917. At that point, sardine canning was limited by the number of cans of sardines that people wanted to eat. But the people who built the canneries were clever. They realized that California's fast-growing agricultural industry would be an inexhaustible market for fertilizer made from fish meal. At the beginning of the twentieth century, it was illegal to make fertilizer out of what could be human food, but the state legislature changed that law. As a result, Monterey's canning industry and fishing fleet grew enormously.

The canneries were built out over the water with half-inch gaps between all the floor boards, so that all the fish tails, heads, scales, and guts would just fall into the water underneath. A modern cannery loses about 10 percent of what it cans. In the 1930s, the quantity of sardines processed by the canneries in Monterey was so great—a million pounds a day—that the pollution of the water was intense. About a hundred thousand pounds of fish guts were dumped into the water every day along this part of the shoreline.

Ralph Bolin, who was a professor at Hopkins from the early 1900s until the 1950s, wrote about the water quality in the bay right next to the Hopkins Marine Station, where the canneries stood. He said it was

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*By 1820 or 1830, the basic marine ecosystem of the entire coast of California was fundamentally altered by the destruction of the sea otter population and the native kelp forests*

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foul. "The fumes from the scum floating on the water were so bad," he wrote, "that they made lead-based paints turn black." The air was foul, too, because of the ovens used to make the fish meal. As a result, the tourism industry and other kinds of businesses fled the area, and the quality of life deteriorated.

Those conditions, fortunately, began changing in the 1930s—thanks largely to a woman named Julia Platt. Born in San Francisco, Platt had earned her zoology Ph.D. in 1890 in Germany, because women at the time could not get that degree in the United States. In 1899, she moved to Pacific Grove, next to the Hopkins Marine Laboratory, in hopes of pursuing her studies of shark development. Although she was not able to get a faculty appointment at Hopkins, she settled in Pacific Grove and became a civic activist.

Platt was a rabble rouser who spoke her mind and had very good ideas about organizing everything. In fact, she changed much of the way the town of Pacific Grove functioned. Platt wrote the first town charter, hired the first city manager, and was a huge advocate for coastal access. She believed that everybody should have access to the shoreline and was very upset by the deterioration of Monterey Bay. She knew that the pollution came from the canneries, but there was nothing she could do to stop it. She tried everything and won every court battle, but nothing changed because the canneries had so much political clout.

Finally, Platt was elected mayor of Pacific Grove and did something no one else had ever done. She

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Students at Hopkins—like those shown here in 1906— included about equal numbers of men and women.

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became a gardener of the ocean. In 1931, she started the Hopkins Marine Life Refuge and extended it to 60-foot depths. It was the first time any community anywhere in the United States, led by a mayor, had established a protected marine area. The Hopkins Marine Life Refuge would be a stunning success in ways that Platt could not have anticipated. She died three years after creating it, at age 74.

The sardine industry died soon after, for a couple of reasons. One of them was fishing excess. During World War II the sardine population was hugely overfished. At about the same time, it also suffered from a kind of recurring climate change called the Pacific Decadal Oscillation. Ocean temperatures switched from very warm water, which favored sardines, to cold water, which favored anchovies. The sardine collapse was noted by Ed Ricketts, an esteemed marine biologist and zoologist whose *Between Pacific Tides* (1939) was a landmark study of the ecology of Monterey Bay. Ricketts was immortalized as “Doc” by his friend John Steinbeck in the novels *Cannery Row* (1945) and *Sweet Thursday* (1954). By the 1940s, Monterey was in deep trouble. The sardines were gone, along with most of its wildlife, and the economy was gone because the canneries had closed.

### REBIRTH OF MONTEREY BAY

But there was a little glimmer of hope that started just south of Monterey, along the Big Sur Coast. In 1936, a raft of sea otters was discovered, animals that had not been seen for almost a century. Soon they were protected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the otter population began to expand. In 1963, they finally made it into Monterey Bay. They went right to the Hopkins Marine Reserve, because it was the only place where they could find an abundance of abalone. Everywhere else, abalone had been fished out, but at Hopkins, the abalone were so common that graduate students had to walk on them to get to their study sites. So the otters went straight to Hopkins, ate all the abalone, and then stayed and ate



In 1917, Stanford moved the Hopkins Marine Station to China Point and the new Agassiz Laboratory, located next to a major sardine cannery on Monterey Bay. Pollution from the booming sardine industry increased steadily until the 1930s.

the sea urchins. As a result, the kelp forest started blooming. And by 1972, nine years after the otters came back, the first kelp forest ecology class in the country was started in the Hopkins kelp forest. We recently established the Marine Life Observatory, which is dedicated to making this the best-studied and best-known underwater forest in the world.

The sea otters brought back the kelp, which brought back other sea life that lives in kelp forests, including seals, sea birds, and many kinds of fish. So things were turning around in Monterey Bay. Usually, however, when an ecosystem begins to recover, we start exploiting it again. Then things deteriorate. But we didn't fall into that pattern this time—thanks to the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

In 1967, Stanford purchased the Hovden Cannery, and in 1982 the university sold it to the Monterey Bay Aquarium Foundation. The aquarium, built on the site of the cannery, changed the entire business model of Monterey Bay from “find it, sell it, repeat” to one in which the health of the ecosystem was tied to the health of the economy. When you do that, the health of the ecosystem becomes stable, because it is part of everybody's legacy and everybody's business. That's where Monterey is now. It has an amazing tourist industry, focused on wildlife viewing instead of wildlife hunting.

It also has a local fishing industry dedicated to sustainability, as well as a civic society dedicated to the health of the bay. Hopkins and four other marine research institutes remain a key feature of the economy and the region's future.

## ENVIRONMENT AND ACADEMICS

Today, the reach of the marine research at the Hopkins Marine Station has expanded significantly. For example, Barbara Block—the Charles and Elizabeth Prothro Professor in Marine Sciences in the Department of Biology at Hopkins—is using remote telemetry to track large pelagic predators that use and inhabit the open ocean. She tracks great white sharks, which spend a great deal of time eating elephant seals on the California coast. They then move into the central Pacific, to a place that Block's research air unit calls the "White Shark Café." No one knows exactly what the sharks do there, but we've learned that when the ocean becomes warmer, they leave. Great whites are very sensitive to the ocean climate. So Block's project essentially converts white sharks into ocean-going research vessels that bring climate data back to Hopkins. She then uses those data to try to understand local and worldwide changes in the ocean.

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In 1931, State Fish Commission boats cooperated with the Hopkins Marine Station on a biological survey. That same year, Pacific Grove Mayor Julia Platt created the Hopkins Marine Life Refuge—the first protected marine area established by a community in the United States.

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## *Hopkins' new Marine Life Observatory is dedicated to making this the best-studied and best-known underwater forest in the world*

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Hopkins' newest, tiniest marine research station is on an island in American Samoa called Ofu. I've been working there for the last eight years, for several reasons. One, of course, is its enormous beauty. Another is that Ofu is the only U.S. National Park south of the equator, in American Samoa. The water in its lagoons can reach about 95 degrees during the day, which is usually much too hot to support corals. Since corals typically die in warm temperatures, people worry about their future as ocean temperatures increase. But corals don't die on Ofu—the lagoons are full of them. As a result, we've spent the last eight years trying to find out why these corals survive and thrive as ocean temperatures rise, and what that might mean for other corals around the world. We've learned that every coral has the ability to toughen itself up and become more heat tolerant, by acclimation, if you bring the temperature up slowly. We've also sequenced the genomes of the corals that live in these very warm waters. We've found about 100 genes that give them a little extra ability to thrive. Other corals in cooler parts of the reefs have different versions of these same genes. So Ofu's corals survive partly due to genetics and partly to acclimation. Evolution over millions of years has given them the genetic diversity and the acclimation mechanisms to survive. We're hopeful that our research may help other corals find a way to do that as ocean environments continue to warm worldwide.

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*For further reading, see David Epel, "Stanford by the Sea: A Brief History of Hopkins Marine Station," Sandstone & Tile 16:4 (Fall 1992) 3-9.*



In Stanford's early years, students doing research on Jasper Ridge enjoyed the hospitality of Domingo Grosso, known as "The Hermit," who lived and had a mining claim on the ridge.



# A History of Stanford's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve

PHILIPPE S. COHEN

*Stanford's 1,189-acre Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve is widely recognized as the site of many fundamental scientific discoveries. Dr. Philippe S. Cohen, its director, is responsible for the preserve's continuing ecological health and its support of research and education. Before coming to Stanford in 1993, he served as the first resident director of the University of California Sweeney Granite Mountains Desert Research Center, a biological field station in the eastern Mojave Desert.*

The mission of the Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve is to understand the earth's natural systems, for the purposes of research, education and long-term resource protection. Like many biological field stations, it serves research scientists, graduate students, and undergraduates. It also makes major contributions to elementary and high school education. Like other field stations, it should be somewhat invisible. If a field station is doing its job well, the stars are the researchers and the students. Field stations don't draw much attention to themselves, but they play a critical role in the nation's environmental information infrastructure. Our lives, in fact, have been altered in many ways because of work that has been done at field stations in the last century and a half.

For example, Rothamsted Research Station in England, created in 1848, is the oldest field station that I've identified. Established before Darwin left on his voyage aboard the *Beagle*, its purpose, at the time, was to get a better experimental understanding of the relationship between plants and soil. At Rothamsted, scientists collected information on experiments and recorded them in their field

notebooks. By the end of the nineteenth century, they had, quite literally, thousands of volumes of these notebooks, but nobody had a clue how to analyze them. So they invited mathematicians and biologists from all over continental Europe to spend a couple of years at Rothamsted, studying the field notebooks. The result was the birth of modern statistical theory.

Another field station that has changed our understanding of the world is Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Western Pennsylvania. Scientists there had been studying and monitoring migrating raptors for 50 years. It was that database that convinced Rachel Carson, the mother of the modern environmental movement, that something was changing in the food web. Her 1962 book, *Silent Spring*, brought to the forefront the impact that organochlorine pesticides, especially DDT, were having on the world's environment.

The work done at a third field station—New Hampshire's Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest—led directly to the passage of the Clean Air Act. The Hubbard Brook field station has the longest continuous record of lake and stream water quality

A grinding stone used by Muwekma Ohlone Indians, who lived in the San Francisquito Creek watershed for at least 2,000 years



data in North America. Scientists there have been studying stream and lake water quality for decades. In the mid-1960s, they began noticing that the water was becoming more acidic because of acid rain, which was caused by coal-fired power plants on the eastern seaboard. Field stations like these are doing extraordinarily important work, and in many respects, their success equals their invisibility.

### THE EARLY HISTORY OF JASPER RIDGE

In the late nineteenth century, biological field stations were being formed all over the United States. As a result, when Stanford opened its doors in 1891, many faculty members viewed university lands, as well as Hopkins Seaside Laboratory, as important focal points for research. In 1896, a student named Elizabeth Babcock completed the first master's thesis on Jasper Ridge. In 1897, John VanDenburgh completed his Ph.D. there and went on to start the Department of Herpetology at the California Academy of Sciences. Stanford's first president, David Starr Jordan, studied fish in the creeks at Jasper Ridge and brought his classes there.

From 1900 to 1920, Stanford University awarded 20 advanced degrees to students who did their research at Jasper Ridge. From 1920 to 1960, the university awarded another 52 advanced degrees—in biology, geology, and engineering—to researchers at the field station.

Of course, there were other attractions than research at Jasper Ridge. One of them was a man named Domingo Grosso. Known as “The Hermit,” he lived and had a mining claim on Jasper Ridge. Grosso told people he was mining for gold and silver, but he was best known for his hospitality, his vineyard, and the wine that he poured for students. He was very popular. Grosso died in 1915, and almost immediately afterward, people ransacked his home looking for the gold that he kept talking about. Of course, there wasn't any.

Long before Grosso, Jasper Ridge was occupied primarily by Muwekma Ohlone Indians. The radiocarbon dates for some of the sites found along San Francisquito Creek indicate that they resided in its watershed for at least 2,000 years. Excavations have found many kinds of fire-cracked rock, artifacts, and dietary and burial remains. They have also found

obsidian tools that came from Napa and Clear Lake, indicating that the people were engaged in trading.

It seems that they had a good diet and lived a good life. They ate bay oysters, sea mussels, sturgeon, leopard shark, bat rays, and fur and harbor seals. They also used at least 22 species of herbaceous plants, 16 species of shrubs, and 10 species of trees for medicine, tools, and other purposes. Acorns, surprisingly, were not a major part of their diet, and there is little evidence they ate salmonids, especially steelhead trout and Coho salmon. In the Bay Area, excavation sites have yielded 105,000 individual elements of fish bone, but only 37 have been identified as steelhead and 14 as Coho. So either the Muwekma Ohlone Indians very quickly eliminated steelhead runs in many Bay Area streams or the fish were never present in large numbers.

The Europeans, of course, introduced immense changes to the area when they arrived. After Gaspar de Portolá set foot on Jasper Ridge in 1769, the landscape was altered almost immediately. The Spanish built missions and presidios, forcing the Muwekma Ohlone into Santa Clara de Asis and other mission compounds. By 1800, sheep, cattle,

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*In the late nineteenth century, biological field stations were being formed all over the United States; as a result, when Stanford opened its doors in 1891, many faculty members viewed university lands as important focal points for research*

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and horses were grazing in the San Francisquito Creek watershed, collapsing stream banks and driving back native elk and deer. Eurasian grasses were already displacing native vegetation. By 1860, about 92 species of introduced plants were present throughout California. There were also a lot of wagon trails crisscrossing the landscape, and some of those later became roads. Sand Hill Road, Portola Road, Mountain Home Road, and Woodside Road are all former wagon trails.

In 1891, the year Stanford opened, the Spring Valley Water Company constructed Searsville Dam on Corte Madera Creek, creating Searsville Lake.



The next big changes occurred after Mexico declared independence from Spain in 1821. According to Julie Cain and Laura Jones in Stanford's Heritage Services, most of the land grants in this part of California were Mexican, not Spanish, in origin, and Jasper Ridge was one of those Mexican land grants. Rancho Cañada del Corte de Madera, a 13,000-acre grant to Maximo and Damien Martinez, included almost the entirety of Jasper Ridge. The Martinez families were native Californios who raised cattle and horses and farmed the land until the Gold Rush. The Gold Rush, of course, changed everything, and Jasper Ridge was no exception.

## GOLD AND TIMBER

In 1848, the discovery of gold in California led to a dramatic increase in population and the emergence of an American economy. Local sawmills went crazy trying to keep up with the demand for lumber in San Francisco. Much of the east side of the Santa Cruz Mountains and parts of Jasper Ridge, especially riparian zones, were dominated by old-growth redwoods. Within decades, they were all gone. Virtually all of the east side of the Santa Cruz Mountains on the Peninsula was clearcut. The town of Searsville—which included part of what today is Jasper Ridge—had 15 sawmills within a five-mile

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In 1922, the university licensed two Stanford diving coaches—Ernst Brandsten (left, shown here in 1932) and his wife, Greta—to run the Searsville Lake Park recreation area.



After he arrived at Stanford in 1959, Paul Ehrlich—now president of Stanford’s Center for Conservation Biology and Bing Professor of Population Studies—transformed the nature of research at Jasper Ridge with his groundbreaking work on the population of the Bay checkerspot butterfly.

radius at one point and employed more than 800 men to cut and mill the rich supply of timber.

Searsville had been established in 1851, when John Sears came to the area and put up the Sears Hotel. The following year, August and Lena Eikerenkotter built a second hotel. The two establishments attracted lumberjacks and miners throughout the area, who flocked to Searsville for food, drink, and gambling. The town developed quite a reputation, and the landscape was altered in almost its entirety.

In 1891, three weeks after Stanford opened, the Spring Valley Water Company completed Searsville Dam on Corte Madera Creek, creating Searsville Lake. The original plan was to send the water to Crystal Springs Reservoir in order to provide additional

drinking water to San Francisco, but it turned out that the water wasn’t potable. As a result, from that point forward, Stanford has mainly used Searsville water for nonpotable purposes. Searsville Lake Park,

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*Parts of Jasper Ridge were dominated by old-growth redwoods; the Gold Rush created a huge demand for lumber, and within decades, they were gone*

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*In 1973, the university created the first 960 acres of the preserve, and in 1976, it terminated the licensing of Searsville Park; to provide some continued access for the community, Stanford created a docent program*

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meanwhile, quickly became an incredibly popular recreational area. People from all over the region would come there for swimming, boating, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, camping, and picnicking. By the 1920s and '30s, it was absolutely packed, with cars parked everywhere.

In 1922, the university licensed two diving Stanford coaches, Ernst and Greta Brandsten, to run the recreation area. Ernst, who coached the men's team, had won the 1912 Swedish National Diving Championship. Greta, who coached the women's team, had won a gold medal in the 1912 Stockholm Olympics. When the Brandstens gave up the license in 1956, it went to Austin Clapp, one of Ernst's diving champions who had won a gold medal in the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics. Clapp ran Searsville Lake Park until 1973, and it was such a popular venue that folksinger Pete Seeger staged a concert there in 1965.

### **FROM RECREATION TO RESEARCH**

Back in 1891, when Stanford first opened, it took almost a day to get to Jasper Ridge, so students and faculty would typically spend the night there. Today, it's only a 15-minute drive or 30- to 45-minute bicycle ride from campus. It's much more accessible, and the focus of university research there has changed significantly. Until the 1960s, research on the preserve concentrated mainly on taxonomy and

evolutionary relationships. John Hunter Thomas's 1961 book *Flora of the Santa Cruz Mountains* was probably the seminal taxonomic work during that era. Two years later, Stanford graduate students produced the last of 40 dissertations devoted to taxonomy and systematics. The nature of research at Jasper Ridge was transformed by the arrival of Biology Department faculty including, in 1959, Paul Ehrlich, now president of Stanford's Center for Conservation Biology and Bing Professor of Population Studies, and, in 1968, Hal Mooney, now Paul S. Achilles Professor of Environmental Biology, emeritus. Ehrlich began his groundbreaking work on the population of the Bay checkerspot butterfly. His lab made major contributions to our understanding of population biology, and, in 1964, he and Peter Raven formulated the theory of coevolution. Mooney, meanwhile, focused on the physiological ecology of plants in Mediterranean ecosystems. His lab helped us understand how plants allocate resources for photosynthesis.

Because recreational activities were interfering with their work in research and education, pressure increased to close Jasper Ridge to the public. In 1973, the university responded by creating the first 960 acres of the preserve, and in 1976, it terminated the licensing of Searsville Park. To provide some continued access for the community, Stanford created a docent program. Herb Dengler, a remarkable naturalist who hiked the trails of Jasper Ridge for almost 80 years, was its first instructor.

Ehrlich and Mooney have continued to change our understanding of natural resources and the environment. Ehrlich's lab has provided important insights into population extinctions. Mooney's research has helped model how the biosphere functions. His student, Chris Field—now faculty director of the preserve—studied how plants use nutrients, along with the aging process of leaves. This research has proved foundational for understanding the movement of carbon from

leaves to ecosystem. It is also a core component for modeling the relationship between ecosystems and the climate system. Mooney and Field's work, along with that of Terry Chapin—then professor of Integrative Biology at UC Berkeley—led to a 1991 National Science Foundation grant for one of the first projects to model how an increase in atmospheric carbon influences grassland ecosystems. In 1998, that work led, in turn, to the Jasper Ridge Global Change Experiment. The project, which is ongoing, helps us understand how ecosystems may respond to climate change.

Today, the future of Searsville Dam has been the focus of considerable attention by the Stanford, Jasper Ridge, and surrounding communities with competing goals and interests. One unique development has been the work of Erik Steiner, Creative Director of the Spatial History Project at Stanford's Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis (CESTA). By combining geospatial technology with research on the historical ecology of the Searsville Reservoir, Steiner's work can provide a visual synthesis and bird's-eye view of how the landscape of Jasper Ridge has changed from pre-European times to the present. Steiner's team—including Laura Jones, director of Heritage Services and University Archaeologist; Julie Cain, program coordinator for Heritage Services; former research assistant Matthew Walter; and post-doctoral fellow Maria Santos—has created a model of how the landscape of redwood forests and grasslands has been transformed since 1800. This work not only helps us envision the past, but may help us understand how future decisions are likely to alter the landscape of the preserve, and the whole watershed, in years to come.

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*For further reading, see Dorothy F. Regnery, The History of Jasper Ridge: From Searsville Pioneers to Stanford Scientists (Stanford Historical Society, 1991).*



Harold Mooney—shown here at Jasper Ridge in 1997 and now Paul S. Achilles Professor of Environmental Biology, emeritus—came to Stanford in 1968 and focused his research on the physical ecology of plants in Mediterranean ecosystems.

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# Stanford through the Century

## 1915–2015

100 YEARS AGO  
(1915)

For the better part of a year, Stanford's Board of Trustees was deeply divided over the **selection of a new president** to succeed David Starr Jordan and interim president John Casper Branner. The new

and outspoken young trustee Herbert Hoover, an internationally known mining engineer and the university's most successful alumnus, favored his close friend, Ray Lyman Wilbur, '96, dean of

the medical school, as did Jordan. Hoover argued that Stanford needed an administrator, not a scholar or orator, a Western man and preferably someone who had experienced Stanford's unique program. Branner and others balked at appointing Hoover's friend to the position, and feared that Wilbur would drag the university deeper in debt to save the medical program. Some favored an Ivy League man with stronger academic credentials. One trustee asked Hoover to serve, but Hoover declined, citing his commitment to his massive Belgian relief program. In October, a majority of trustees voted for Wilbur and the others acquiesced. Wilbur was appointed to take office January 1, 1916.

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In fall 1915, after lengthy debate, trustees approved the appointment of Stanford Medical Dean Ray Lyman Wilbur, right, to succeed David Starr Jordan, left, and John Casper Branner as president of the university.



## 75 YEARS AGO (1940)

In September, **John F. Kennedy** registered as a graduate student for fall quarter, under a special arrangement that allowed him to audit classes. As a son of the U.S. ambassador to Great Britain, he drew the attention of a newspaper photographer when he was one of more than 1,500 students and instructors who registered in October for the Selective Service System. His number was the 18th drawn in the national lottery; a total of 24 Stanford men and two professors were selected. Kennedy enlisted in the Navy shortly afterward. While at Stanford, Jack Kennedy lived in a cottage behind the apartment house at 624 Mayfield Avenue and took classes in business, economics, and political science.

Wearing colorful new uniforms and emulating the Vow Boys of the 1930s, Stanford's "**Wow Boys**" (named by a sports writer) were undefeated, to everyone's surprise, in the regular football season and in the Rose Bowl, on January 1, where they dispatched Nebraska 21-13. Appointment of new coach Clark Shaughnessy had been controversial—his 1939 team at the University of Chicago performed miserably. Confidence in Stanford's varsity team was not any better—the 1939 squad lost eight of its nine games and was characterized by a former Vow Boy



John F. Kennedy, on campus auditing graduate courses in fall 1940, registered for the draft on October 16 as, from left, Professor Leland Chapin and students Dwight Hutchinson and Bill Turner looked on.

as "the worst group of players who have ever worn the Stanford red." But in his first year as coach, Shaughnessy revived the long-forgotten T-formation, bewildering

opponents, and utilized the passing skills of quarterback (and future San Francisco 49er) Frankie Albert. Teams everywhere converted to the T-formation.

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Football coach Clark Shaughnessy, center, led the Stanford "Wow Boys" to a Rose Bowl victory on January 1, 1941.



Orrin Leslie Elliott, Stanford's first registrar and de facto admissions director, documented Stanford's early history in his book, *Stanford University: The First 25 Years*.

The campus mourned the passing of **Orrin Leslie Elliott**, who died in August, aged 80. Elliott joined Stanford in 1891 as the university's first registrar, but he was also de facto director of admissions, as well as President David Starr Jordan's right-hand man. After his retirement, in 1925, he documented Stanford's early history in *Stanford University: The First 25 Years*, a well-researched and well-written account of the university's evolution.

## 50 YEARS AGO (1965)

The Computer Science Division of the Mathematics Department was spun off as the separate **Computer Science Department**, one of the first such departments in the nation. Now one of the most important majors at Stanford, lodged in the School of Engineering, the department traces its roots to the Mathematics Department's hiring of George Forsythe, specializing in computing, in 1957. The field initially focused on mathematical and statistical computations and numerical analysis, but Forsythe had a broader vision of potential developments in programming languages, artificial intelligence, and machine translation of languages.

A program of small **freshman seminars** was initiated to help launch first-year students into the intellectual life of the university. Some 265 students enrolled in 38 seminars the first year, with the program quickly expanding and adding sophomores in 1980.

"**Stanford Jazz Year '65-'66**," a student-organized series of jazz concerts, lectures, and exhibits, featured fall quarter concert headliners Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, and Duke Ellington. More than 50 other jazz artists, critics, and scholars were scheduled for the nine-month series.



Louis Armstrong and his orchestra performed at Frost Amphitheater as part of "Stanford Jazz Year '65-'66."

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25 YEARS AGO  
(1990)

**The Stanford Sexual Rights Forum** registered as a voluntary student organization. It was the earliest known student group nationally to advocate civil rights for homosexuals, the term used at the time for gays and lesbians. Members also sought changes in campus regulations limiting visits between men and women in dormitories, and they lobbied for access to contraceptives at the Student Health Service. The group was active through spring 1966. In November 1970, the Stanford Gay Students Union organized. Under a succession of names, it became established as the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center in the Old Firehouse.

In September, gene research began a new era of biomedical investigation on campus as researchers from the School of Medicine, Department of Biological Sciences, and Department of Computer Science assumed key roles in the **Human Genome Project**. An international effort to decipher the entire genetic code of human beings, the project was expected to lead to discoveries that would improve diagnosis and therapy of human diseases. The role of computer science would be important because after the human genome had been completely sequenced, the challenges that remained would be analytical, requiring new generations of microprocessors and software design to interpret biological research results.

**Stanford launched its Centennial Year** on September 30 with a convocation in Frost Amphitheater (complete with a high-tech “Centennial Fanfare”), the dedication of a U.S. Postal Service commemorative postal card, and a spectacular fireworks display over the Oval for a crowd of 5,000. Two *Stanford Daily*

photographers premiered a 15-minute slide show culled from 25,000 images before a crowd of thousands in the Inner Quad Courtyard. A centennial poster with a watercolor by Art Professor Nathan Oliveira was unveiled in October. The Frost Amphitheater convocation featured talks by alumni Vartan Gregorian, president of Brown University, and Mae Jemison, the country’s first black female astronaut.

The Incomparable Leland Stanford Junior University **Marching Band** was suspended for one game after offending fans at the University of Oregon with a parody of the spotted owl vs. lumber industry controversy.

In October, **two Stanford professors won Nobel prizes**: SLAC physicist Richard W. Taylor, a co-winner in physics for work proving that protons and neutrons are composed of quarks, and William F. Sharpe, of the Graduate School of Business, a co-winner of the memorial prize in economic sciences, for developing models to aid in investment decisions.

—KAREN BARTHOLOMEW

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SEPTEMBER 1, 2014, THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2015

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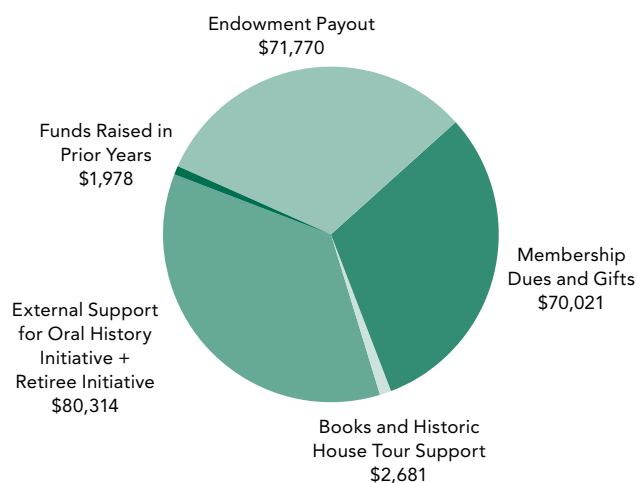
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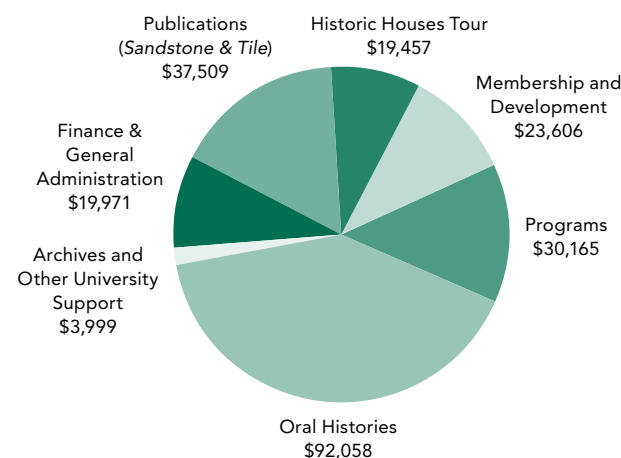
# Stanford Historical Society 2014–15 Financial Summary

The Historical Society uses a “total consolidated budget” in keeping with university practices. The “Where Funds Came From” chart displays activity in all of our accounts, including some endowment and other special-purpose funds that are not necessarily spent in every year. All figures are net of the university’s 8 percent infrastructure charge. The “How Funds Were Used” chart includes an allocation of the salary and other costs of the society’s administrative officer to the various programmatic areas.

**Where Historical Society Funds Came From**  
Consolidated Sources—Year Ending August 31, 2015  
\$226,764



**How Historical Society Funds Were Used**  
Consolidated Expenses—Year Ending August 31, 2015  
\$226,764



## Timeless Gifts from the Stanford Historical Society

This year, consider giving the gift of history! Gift memberships to the Stanford Historical Society are great for that person who has everything. And for the reader in your life, consider giving a book about Stanford history. Proceeds support the preservation and educational efforts of the society.

With a **one-year gift membership**, your family member, friend, colleague, or neighbor will receive invitations to SHS members-only events, all other society programs, and a subscription to *Sandstone & Tile*. They will have the gratification of belonging to a vibrant and welcoming SHS community, as well as knowing that they are helping to promote the preservation of Stanford’s rich heritage.

Gift memberships may be made at the \$60 level or higher at the Historical Society web site: <http://historicalsociety.stanford.edu/>. At the right side bar of the page, click on the **Make a gift now** link to begin the process. Please include the name and address of the recipient in the “Special Instructions” field so we know where to send the welcome packet. You can also call the society office directly at (650) 725-3332.

If you’d like to **give a book** instead, *Stanford Street Names: A Pocket Guide. Revised and Updated* is a good choice. Released in 2014, it includes all the streets discussed in the original 2005 edition as well as additional streets and 66 photographs and illustrations. The price is \$9.95 + \$0.87 sales tax (CA residents) + \$4.00 shipping and handling per book.

### OTHER SHS BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR SALE

*A Chronology of Stanford University and Its Founders* (Reprints). Karen Bartholomew, Claude Brinegar, Roxanne Nilan. \$13.95 + \$1.22 sales tax (CA residents) + \$6.00 shipping and handling per book.

*Historic Houses III: San Juan Neighborhood, Stanford University*. \$19.95 + \$1.75 sales tax (CA residents) + \$6.00 shipping and handling per book.

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Wishing you a wonderful 2016,  
Stanford Historical Society Board



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## 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 exclusive members-only programs on aspects of Stanford history

### Membership Categories

- Current Stanford Student \$10
- Society Member \$60
- 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*). Please use the enclosed envelope for additional donation or gift membership only.

## UPCOMING SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

**January 19** Barbara Wilcox on Camp Fremont, Stanford's World War I Battlefield

**February 18** Shelley Fishkin and Gordon Chang on Chinese workers on Gov. Stanford's Transcontinental Railroad

**March 2** Christine VanDeVelde on Bing Nursery School