Bob Sayles, a 1952 UC Berkeley alumnus who led the more than $40 million restoration of Berkeley’s castle-like Bowles Hall, died Sunday at age 85 following a brief illness. Sayles and a handful of other “Bowlesmen” launched an ambitious campaign in 2005 to reestablish the residential college where they had once lived, eaten, studied and been mentored as students.

Built in 1929 and on the National Register of Historic Places, Bowles Hall became a conventional dorm for men in the 1970s. By 2005, it housed only male freshmen. But last August, it reopened as a residential college — a four-year live/learn community for about 180 undergraduates — after 12 years of effort by alumni.

Nathan Mayer, who graduated from Berkeley in 2016, was part of a multigenerational team chosen by Sayles to plan the return of Bowles as a residential college. Sayles was “a person of passion,” says Mayer, who lived at Bowles in fall 2013, “and Bowles Hall Residential College is a product of his passion and caring.”

Sayles, a longtime resident of Sacramento, spent more than a decade “completely and selflessly” helping to reestablish a much-needed residential community where college students could live, learn and build relationships among faculty and graduate students, adds Mayer.

“What the building looks like doesn’t matter; it’s what it houses that matters,” he says. “That it’s a castle is the cherry on top.”

Shawna Carpenter, Sayles’ granddaughter, says that in his 65-year career, which included serving in the Marines, 22 years with IBM and running his own consulting company, “the successful renovation and reopening of the Bowles Hall Residential College was the most fulfilling, rewarding and cherished project he ever participated in.”

“He told me more than once, ‘My goal was to get Bowles renovated and the residential college underway,’” and now those goals have been accomplished, says Berkeley and Bowles Hall alumnus John Baker, who oversaw the construction project and has succeeded Sayles as president of the non-profit Bowles Hall Foundation. “He was very happy.”

Bob Jacobsen, dean of undergraduate studies, recalls that Sayles’ approach to working with students, alumni and all those involved in the Bowles Hall project was, “Let’s dig in and do something great.” The result, he adds, was
something very valuable to the campus — a better residential experience for students.

“He had a huge appreciation for students,” says Jacobsen. “He knew they were different from his day, but he understood they wanted to be great in their own way, and he wanted to help.”

“Any time I wanted to talk,” adds Mayer, who now works for a Silicon Valley tech firm, “Bob Sayles was always on the other line of the phone. He was the kind of person who took you under his wing and was a resource.”

“I learned a lot from him,” agrees Baker. “I learned how to deal with difficult people in difficult situations, and I’ve never seen anyone with the tenacity he had. There were a number of times when it seemed we should abort the project, but he always managed to see the light.”

Melissa Bayne, a lecturer in the Department of Psychology, says Sayles offered to be a sounding board for her as she began her role as dean of Bowles Hall.

“He would often advise me on the importance of work-life balance; in particular, how to negotiate one’s dedication to professional excellence with one’s love and commitment to family and community,” she says.

Bayne added that Sayles was a role model for many on campus for his “perseverance in the face of obstacles and his unwavering vision for what is possible for our students. Bob valued integrity and grit and served as a fine role model of both. I hope to serve our students in a way that would make him proud.”

Sayles’ family hopes to honor Bob Sayles with a dedication ceremony at Bowles Hall sometime during the next academic year.

On May 14, 2017 long time California resident Robert “Bob” Arthur Sayles passed away peacefully after a brief illness.

Bob was born in Stockton, CA on September 13, 1931 to Arthur Ledbetter and Rena Passavoy Sayles. He grew up in Stockton, attended Stockton High School and graduated in 1948. While in high school, he met his wife, Judith Ann Alles. Bob and Judy attended UC Berkeley, and graduated 1952. They married June 29, 1952 and enjoyed nearly 65 years of marriage.

Bob served active duty in the US Marines 1952 to 1954 and several years of reserve duty. He started his career with IBM, working for 22 years. Bob then launched his own consulting company, Robert A. Sayles Associates, Inc., which he managed for almost 30 years, primarily in the telecommunication industry.

His passion project of the last 12 years was the restoration and reestablishment of the historic Bowles Hall Residential College at UC Berkeley. His desire to improve the student experience at UCB lead to the formation of the Bowles Hall Foundation and restoration of historic Bowles Hall, which re-opened fall of 2016. It was his experience as a Bowlesman that shaped his life’s aspirations, career, and desire to provide future generations with the same experiences.

Bob and Judy enjoyed many wonderful travel experiences to Israel, South Africa, New Zealand, Hawaii, but his favorite retreat was 25 years of family reunions at UC Berkeley’s Camp Blue. Bob was preceded in death by his parents, his step-mother, Marie Brown Sayles, his sister Vera, brother Roy, step-sister Nadyne, and cousins Terry and Mike Sayles. He is survived by his wife Judy, children Pat (Jon), Cathy (Bryan), Kim (Steve), Jeff (Mary Kay), Nancy (Steve), grandchildren Jon (Monica), Steve (Theresa), Breanne, Shawna, Travis, Jason, Andrew (Courtney), Daniel, Erin and Joe, and great grandchildren Melissa, Anthony, Jessica, Darren, Haley, Grace and Collin.

Memorial service was held on Friday, May 26, 2017 at 11 am at Oak Hills Church, 1100 Blue Ravine Rd., Folsom, CA. In lieu of flowers, the family requests a donation to the Bowles Hall Foundation (11230 Gold Express Drive, Ste. 310-363, Gold River, CA 95670) or charity of choice.

Remembering Bob
by John Baker (’68)

I didn’t know Bob when I was living in Bowles Hall in the late 1960s, but I now know that I was standing on his shoulders the whole time. For it was Bob and many of his classmates who helped entrench Bowles Hall in the minds and spirits of those who would call it home in the decades after they left. He helped turn it from a drafty castle on the hill into a home away from home, a place where boys became men and undergrad rambounction became post-grad determination. But I didn’t know these things while I rested my head there. I felt them but I didn’t know them. It was only when our paths serendipitously crossed in 2005 that I began to appreciate the work of the Hall’s forefathers. And in the years since, Bob became a mentor and a friend. Yes, we had moments of difficulty — who hadn’t been on the wrong end of a Bob Sayles lecture?!? — but I rarely doubted his passion or professionalism. He taught me as many things about myself as he taught me about the Hall. I learned more deeply the satisfaction of doing things unselfishly and honorably. I learned the value of tenacity in face of seemingly unwinnable situations. And I learned that no one person was greater than Bowles Hall. Bob undoubtedly stands tallest among the giants who have lived at Bowles but he never wanted to cast a shadow on others. He is the godfather of Bowles’ rebirth but he painstakingly sought and implemented a succession plan that put our journey in well-qualified hands — and then went out of his way to make sure we each knew the magnitude of our role. And such will be his legacy. Not in the structure that is Bowles Hall but rather in its student residents and the people who support it. We’ve lost a great leader who will be dearly missed but he helped several generations of men straighten their backs to support shoulders upon which thousands more will stand.
President’s Report

This has been one of the most difficult letters I’ve ever written. I’m filled with a variety of exciting news and updates about Bowles Hall but I’ve struggled with the simple fact that, for as long as I’ve been a part of the Bowles Hall Foundation, this space has been filled by the wisdom of our beloved Bob Sayles. He used this forum to provide details on Foundation priorities and inject key energy at difficult junctures into our decade-long haul. His words guided us all and served as critical calls to action—and they will be missed. As I assume the con, I can only hope you find my words almost as compelling in the years to come.

Fortunately, things start out with a bang: The second year of Bowles Hall Residential College begins on August 13 and we’re once again sold out! The vast majority of those who lived with us last year have returned and a carefully-crafted marketing campaign drove more than enough interest for the limited number of available beds. Continuing Berkeley students and incoming freshmen hailing from all corners of the world rose their hands in hopes of joining our journey. College Dean Dennis Lieu and his student lieutenants worked methodically through hundreds of submissions to identify those befitting of our mission and we achieved an almost equal split among genders and class years. (See page 10 for full details and read some of their application submissions.)

Running at 100% capacity since we first opened the doors is as exciting as it is demanding. With each passing month, we work with student residents to find ways to improve our offering. While we were very pleased that our formal resident survey demonstrated high satisfaction rates—we received excellent marks on living conditions, for example—the Board is very much focused on constantly advancing. Chief among the areas we’ve addressed based on student feedback are food services and complimenting our Graduate Advisors by adding undergrad seniors who’ve been part of the Cal community for three years.

But there’s only so much the Board can do by itself. In reality, one of the Hall’s chief value propositions is its ability to connect current students with our alumni. As you undoubtedly know, we have an impressive array of alumni. Among our ranks, we have captains of industries and decorated military men, high-ranking public officials and non-profit experts. We also have lawyers and doctors and academics as well as beatniks and chefs and artists and even a few charlatans. And let me tell you, these students are interested in every single one of you. You don’t need to be famous or rich or an adept public speaker to be of value. Our students seek your perspective and awareness; they want to learn from your experiences, good, bad and indifferent. With this in mind, you’ll consistently hear from me and other alumni over the coming year as we greatly prompt our mission to provide alumni support to our residents.

You’ll also hear from Chuck Sizemore, our head of fundraising. While the facility itself has firm financial footing as required by our bond covenants—and we’re pleased to inform you that we finally got the University to agree to share excess revenue—it is critical to note that student fees only cover the physical plant and maintenance. All of our programming is paid through generous financial contributions from alumni and other special friends. Quite literally, we are unable to offer anything more than room and board to students unless we get your help. And if we only provide basic sustenance, we will quickly become little more than a dorm devoid of enrichment programs that today’s students so desperately seek and deserve. We’re grateful for the support that hundreds of you have shown (see some reasons why on page nine), but we need hundreds more, so we’ll keep you well informed on student programming via regular newsletters and email dispatches. But please

continued on page 9...
This past January, I was given the opportunity to become the new Principal at Bowles Hall. I really didn't know what to expect, as I had never lived in a student dormitory on a long-term basis. What I did know was that I enjoy working with students and had been heavily involved with student activities since my arrival on campus almost 30 years ago. I was already familiar with the Bowles Hall renovation project, and had been keeping a keen eye on its progress because I thought it was a wonderful concept. When the opportunity to become the Principal presented itself, of course I had to take it. It didn't take too long to convince my wife that, soon after our own kids had finished school and moved into their careers, we should adopt 183 more. But she quickly adjusted to the change and is now happily engaged in Bowles Hall activities as a sort of house mother. Her projects with students have become increasingly popular, and included things like making Chinese dumplings, succulent bowls for our dining room tables, bread, apple pie, and ice cream.

The Spring semester saw many of the start-up challenges start to settle down, thanks to the hard work of the resident staff, EdR, Chartwells, the Bowles Hall Foundation, and the Hall students themselves. The primary challenges at the beginning of the year were controlling food service expenses and fixing the remaining mechanical quirks in the building. The quality of the food has risen to one of the best, if not the best, of all the residential units on campus (and I've eaten at just about all of them). Food costs are also coming under control, thanks to changes like the new sandwich bar that improved food quality and convenience while reducing kitchen effort, food costs, and waste. We finally got a handle on the causes and fixes for the false fire alarms, the intermittent lack of hot water, and the occasional water leaks that happen when one of the wettest winters on record is combined with an 88 year-old building.

Overall, I am pleased to report that the renovation efforts were a success, and that the building is structurally and mechanically sound. The building has even become an engineering laboratory with its own resident engineering class that studies the mechanical operation of the building.

The Spring semester saw an upswing in staff organized activities, both social and intellectual. The Seminars Committee brought speakers to the Hall almost weekly, with guests ranging from professors on campus to prominent alumni of the Hall. The Louis Grivetti Lecturer this semester was Prof. Sheryl Sorby from Ohio State University, who gave a lecture on the importance of developing spatial visualization skills for success in many STEM related fields. Two of the highlights of the semester were the visits by the chancellors. On 1 May, incoming
Returning residents were able to store some of their belongings in the 8th floor attic for the summer.

UC Berkeley Chancellor Carol Christ toured the building, had dinner in the Dining Hall with the students, and then hosted a fireside chat in the Lounge with over 60 residents. On 3 May, current Chancellor Nicholas Dirks, whose support was instrumental in the Hall renovation project, came to the Hall to judge our apple pie making contest, and then toured the Hall afterward.

The semester ended on May 14. The vast majority of residents who are not graduating are returning to live in the Hall again in the Fall. In order to reduce move-out efforts, which will also reduce move-in efforts, by returning residents, the attic was offered as temporary storage space for those who needed it. Many of our out-of-state and international students were especially grateful for this service, as they did not have the luxury of parents with vehicles as do our more local students.

Overall, I was pleased with the progress shown during the Spring semester and I’m very pleased with the progress of the project altogether. It was all made possible by dedicated people who were determined to make the new Bowles Hall a success—our alumni and student residents, Hall staff and the entire Cal community.

**Bowles Hall Wins BAHA Award**

On May 25, the Bowles Hall Foundation received an award from the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association (BAHA) for the restoration and preservation of Bowles Hall. BHF Board Member Scott Wilson was on hand to accept the award that will soon hang on the Seventh Floor of the Hall. “This award owes a great deal to those named on the award,” said Scott, “but also to Jane Egginton (widow of Bowles alumnus John) who was instrumental in making this happen. Jane’s leadership in the importance, integrity, and persistence of the Bowles Hall project were critical to our success.”

**Bowles Hall Foundation Board**

*Executive Committee for 2017-18*

President: John Baker, P.E. (’68), retired SVP at Kleinfelder
Chief Financial Officer: Lawrence Jones, CPA (’68), retired Audit Partner at PwC
General Counsel & Secretary: Richard G. Snow, Esq. (’67), retired General Counsel and Secretary of J.D. Edwards
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*Additional Board Members for 2017-18*

Philip Bowles, Chairman of Bowles Farming, great-grandson of Philip E. and Mary Bowles
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David Presti, PhD, Chairman of Student Affairs Committee of the UCB Academic Senate
John Woods, PhD (’68), Vice Chancellor Emeritus of Resource Management and Planning at UCSD
Student Message

by Henderson Wong

I’m pleased to report that nearly two-thirds of our 2016-17 residents are returning to live in Bowles Hall during the new academic year, and we’re all eager to continue the residential college experience. Our incoming new residents, mostly freshmen but also including junior transfers, sophomores, and seniors, will surely benefit from having such a large and diverse array of continuing residents to interact with.

The single most important advantage from having voluminous returning residents is that our activities will not only be easier to mount, but there will be ample room to improve and expand, as well as create new activities altogether.

Our Game Day Tailgates were a popular attraction for residents last year, and provided alumni the opportunities to return to Bowles so they could reminisce, meet up with other alumni, and tour the newly renovated Hall. With three home games back-to-back in September, we will have the unique opportunity to establish ourselves as the place to be for Game Day tailgating.

Coming back to Bowles this year is the popular Fireside Chats, our speaker series. With funds generously donated by Lou Grivetti (’60), the series invites speakers from across different disciplines to share their experiences with residents. Our series last year featured engineers, economists, thinkers, and culminated in the May visit of chancellor-designate Carol Christ.

The Bowles Hall Haunted House, easily the most monumental undertaking of the fall semester, will be a familiar activity to our returning residents as well as an exciting opportunity for our new residents to get involved in Hall life. Last year’s event drew more than 1,200 visitors, lasted more than five hours and was overseen by more than 50 actors, designers, and facilitators, all residents who volunteered their Friday evening to make it possible. With the excitement and know-how from the previous year, we can expect to make an even bigger spectacle come October.

The Yule Ball is sure to provide a magical night of socialization as the fall semester concludes. The Irish Pines are laced with string lights as the front courtyard comes alive with spotlights, candles, and decorations to establish a feel of winter splendor. Please join us.
Donor Spotlight

For Richard May (’57), giving to Bowles Hall Foundation was a no-brainer. “I received incredible value from my years at Bowles,” he says, “so I was highly compelled to help make sure those values do not vanish from the UC experience.”

To say Richard enjoyed his time at Bowles would be putting it mildly. “For me, Bowles was the site of my real education,” says the retired insurance broker and non-profit leader. “It is where you grow up, help others grow up, learn leadership, develop and establish your core values, and polish your interpersonal relationship skills.”

But Richard wasn’t your average Bowlesman; in fact, one can say he left a unique legacy. “I was the Hall Secretary several semesters,” he says, “and I changed the nature of the job, or at least set forth my version of the job. No staid reading of the minutes of the previous week’s house meeting. Rather, ‘The Minutes’ became a report of the foibles, successes, hi jinx, and other so-called interesting activities of Bowlesmen the just-concluded week. It was raucous and humorous, but also instructive for boys becoming men.”

Bowles was also where he dreamed of standing hip deep in rivers and streams baiting trout and steelhead to take a ride with him, a passion that fueled him into founding California Trout, a non-profit dedicated to conservation of the state’s cherished resources. But as those same bodies of waters took Richard further and further from Bowles, they also surrounded him with a certain amount of sorrow.

“Looking back now,” he says, “I wish the many friends and relationships with fellow Bowlesmen could have been maintained and sustained after graduation. But we all flew our separate ways – to jobs and military obligations – and we never got back together. So I guess you could say all our shared experiences were lost to time and history. Here’s to hoping the newest generation of Bowles residents do better at staying connected!”

Richard May and his Bowles cohorts knew a thing or two about animal husbandry. “One night a group of Bowlesmen ‘borrowed’ a cow from the hills upslope from the Hall,” he confesses. “We painted the appropriate Greek letters on her side, marched her down to Sorority Row in the wee hours, chained and padlocked her in some fashion to the Tri-Delt house. We then retreated to our beds. Chaos ensued the next morning; the girls were not pleased but the the Tri-Delt Cow became an instant celebrity and she didn’t seem to mind the attention.”

President’s Report …continued from page 5

...continued from page 5

don’t wait to be contacted; reach out to Chuck or me or any board member to let us know how you’d like to contribute. Phone, email, or carrier pigeon. Whatever your idea and no matter your form of communication, we’re excited by the prospect of hearing from you soon.

I’d be remiss if I didn’t once again tip my hat to the man who made all of this possible, Bob Sayles. I have stepped into his mighty big shoes but he strongly encouraged me to not feel as if I live in his shadow. “Bowles Hall is what we make of it,” he said. “Not what I make of it but what we make of it. We’ve laid a lot of good track but the train’s success demands the on-going support of our alumni and special friends. Without their fuel and commitment, we will never reach our destination.” Yes, indeed, Bob; yes, indeed. All Ahead Full.

With gratitude,

John Baker (’68)
BHF President
916-806-4564
John.a.baker.jr@gmail.com
Why do you want to live at Bowles Hall?
It would be a privilege to live at Bowles Hall because I believe that it is a place where I will grow and thrive. Bowles Hall has a strong, supportive community of mentors and advisors along with career and academic counseling to provide students with the guidance they need to be successful in their future careers. These opportunities are not offered at other residential housing options, and I believe I will be able to acquire essential skills at Bowles Hall by taking advantage of these opportunities to make a difference in people’s lives in the future.

Additionally, Bowles Hall is a place where everyone is welcomed and open to long-lasting friendships. College is the place where I will grow in skills and knowledge. However, it is equally important to find and form a community. I am seeking for authentic and long-lasting friendships and Bowles Hall is the perfect place to build them. Bowles Hall carries a welcoming attitude and it would be a great privilege to be part of Bowles Hall’s big, welcoming family.

Bowles Hall is full of and creates students who are able to overcome obstacles and then go on to change the world. I aspire to do the same; therefore, being surrounded by a community with similar interests would not only be a great privilege but also would push me to go beyond my standards. — an incoming Sophomore

If you had $1,500, what would be your theme and design for an event for 300 guests?
My event would be “Bowle-d Discussions” (Bold Discussions). The general premise is that I would invite two leaders in a certain field of thought with opposing viewpoints to debate a current social, political, economic, or academic issue in front of our 300 guests. The format of this event would be an interactive debate. First, we would hear from two experts in the field who would present opening arguments on the subject. For example, NAFTA, Police brutality, immigration, positions of military or diplomatic strength in Asia, payment of college athletes, and so on. Why have a debate at Bowles? The answer is simple; it’s our future. To have a debate on a national stage would raise awareness, but the majority of people watching will not be in a position to make a difference. As college students, we are the next set of news anchors, politicians, cultural experts, scientists, businessmen, and doctors. The world is truly our oyster because we have the motivation and the time to nurture our ideas into the social revolutions that we want to see in the world. As college students graduate, especially from Berkeley, they take their experiences and forward-thinking minds into the world. — an incoming Freshman

You have a chance to fight any historical figure. Who would you choose and why?
Easy: Kurt Vonnegut. Now, he isn’t my favorite author based on his writing style, because sometimes I find him to be a bit impersonal, but I just love the messages and personality behind his novels. Kurt Vonnegut has inspired me since the first time I read Slaughterhouse 5, and has continued to do so as I’ve read his other novels and short stories over the years. So why exactly do I want to fight him? Purely, so I could say, “I fought Kurt Vonnegut once.” I just like the ring of it. Also, Vonnegut is known for putting himself inside his own novels, and I feel like maybe if I fought the man, he would put our quarrel in one of his novels as well – which would be phenomenal, really. — an incoming Junior transfer

2017-18 Application Highlights
Take a step inside some of the essays submitted by students who will live in the Hall during this academic year.
As a returning resident, what would you do to ensure that most residents engage in these programs?

At the Bowles Hall inauguration, I met the donor from my room, Mike Schutz and his wife Veronique. As soon as Dr. Schutz stepped into his former room, he started to tear up before sharing all of the great memories he had made in Bowles Hall. At that moment, I knew that I wanted to get more involved in the Hall and start with a mindset that I will make great memories in the Hall. During the Grand Re-Opening dinner, he and his wife were so encouraging of me and the capabilities that I have to make an impact in the future. After the inauguration, we didn’t lose contact, instead, we were in communication with each other and they would send me letters in the mail and would send me quotes and verses of encouragement to strive to be the best person I can be. In the letters, they expressed how they wanted to meet my roommate, being that she didn’t attend the Bowles Hall re-opening ceremony, so we set up a date where we can have dinner together. We went out for dinner in Berkeley and the communication that I have with them right now is very important for me. So based on my personal experience of living here at Bowles hall, I truly agree that resident participation is at the heart of most Bowles Hall programs, but another key component is the interactions Residents have with the Donors or Alumni from Bowles Hall. So, I would encourage the Residents here at Bowles Hall to seek out and get to know the Donors or Alumni from Bowles Hall, because learning about their experiences here at the hall will encourage more participation to develop lovely memories that we can then share in the future.

— a rising Junior

What are your career interests?

I have wanted to be a doctor since I was very little, but I have more recently cultivated a passion for community-oriented medicine and public health in more recent years. One of the reasons I chose to attend Cal is because, as a Bay Area resident, I felt a call to help address the problems of my own community. Though a career in medicine would probably take me all over the world, I plan to return to my roots and eventually ensure that everyone I grew up with has access to affordable, high-quality healthcare. A highlight of my public health experience has been serving the Hispanic community in Oakland. I have volunteered at La Clinica de la Raza, a community-serving health clinic in Fruitvale for the past two years. I love working at La Clinica because I get to utilize my Spanish-speaking skills while working directly with the Chief Medical Officer to learn about the primary challenges in my community and the cutting-edge projects being created to address them.

I chose to attend the College of Natural Resources because of my passion for the environment, but I also chose it because I knew it would provide me with a solid background in science and research, two things that are vital to medicine, healthcare, and disease management nowadays. I considered a career in biological research in high school, but after a summer at Stanford Medical School with the Stanford Institutes of Medical Research (SIMR) Program, I knew I wanted to be a clinician instead. Interacting with people (not computers) and learning about their lifestyles, past medical history, and views on medical treatment is the crux of what clinicians do, and it happens to perfectly coincide with what I value in life. I hope to combine my love of research and data with my love for people in a fulfilling medical career. I also hope to do a lot of good in my community and beyond.

— an incoming Freshman

Why do you want to live at Bowles Hall?

The prospect of living at Bowles Hall for all four years is unique. Outside the Greek System, which does not interest me due to concern for the seriousness the system places on academics, the prospect of living with a large group as part of a community for multiple years does not exist at Berkeley. From my Scouting experience, I appreciate the value of learning from more senior members of a group and the importance of serving in a mentor and leader role for the benefit of more junior members over time. Starting with the opportunity to interact with residents during daily meals, social events, and other programming, Bowles Hall allows discussion among upperclassmen, underclassmen, and faculty leaders at Bowles to the benefit of both, but particularly the younger members of the community. But the opportunity to build and maintain these relationships in the Hall over multiple years would facilitate deeper relationships with a broader and more diverse number of students than would be possible with a year in campus housing and relationships otherwise largely driven by students in one’s major.

— an incoming Freshman

2017-18 Student Body

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Hometown

U.S. States Represented: 31
Countries Represented: 14
Harry Arthur Taussig Featured by the Smithsonian Institution

by Bill Ragsdale

**First**, a secret. I am the only person alive who knows that my Hall room-mate, Harry Taussig, had no middle name at birth. His birth certificate reads Harry A. Taussig. In mid-life he decided Arthur was appropriate for “A” and has been Arthur Taussig ever after.

The rationale for this article is to celebrate the acquisition by the Smithsonian Museum of American History of Arthur’s “Museum Project.” This is a collection of almost 70,000 photographs made over the past thirty-or-so years of vernacular museums across America.

First, a definition: the ‘vernacular’ part means a museum of domestic and functional items rather than the monumental. i.e. ‘stuff’ rather than heroic pieces. Eclectically curated and largely ignored by the mainstream museum sector, vernacular museums sit at the intersection of the nostalgic and the historic.

This is one of the largest digital photography acquisitions by the Smithsonian guided by David Haberstich, the Curator of Photography.

Now, the back story of Arthur’s life achievements after Bowles Hall.

Arthur Taussig was born and raised in Los Angeles with early schooling in Eagle Rock, and in 1963, received a degree in Physics from the University of California, Berkeley. At Bowles Hall we shared the responsibilities as co-Social Secretary but that is another story.

In addition to science, he studied anthropology and music history. He began playing folk guitar and banjo, and soon began teaching and performing on radio station KPFK’s “Midnight Special” folk music program. I was with him at most of those sessions.

In 1964, Taussig moved to Orange County where he began work as a physicist for Ford-Aeronutronics Corporation. During this time, he began studying art and photography.

In 1967 he made his first limited edition solo recording, “Fate Is Only Once” (which has since been reissued on Tompkins Square records).

Not thrilled by a role in the military-industrial complex, he entered UCLA to continue his education. A side venture included operating a small haberdashery firm, neckties, in the Hippy Days.

During his studies at the UCLA Brain Research Institute, he continued his efforts in photography. In summers, he worked with Ansel Adams, among others. He received his Masters in Biochemistry and a Doctorate in Biophysics in 1971 while beginning to exhibit his photography internationally.

He accepted a teaching position in Photography at Orange Coast College where he later also taught film. His interest in the visual arts led to publishing several annual books of movie reviews on suitability for children. This in the hey-day of movie rentals.

His graphic work appeared at museums including The Art Institute of Chicago, Denver Museum of Art, Fogg Art Museum of Harvard University, Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Portland Art Museum, Seattle Art Museum, New Orleans Museum of Art, and many others. Taussig’s work has been included in over 300 exhibitions world-wide. In 1982 he received the National Endowment of the Arts Visual Artist’s Grant.

Music continued to be a second love, after photography, Tompkins Square Records issued his second album in 2010 to wide acclaim, and in 2012, he was invited to perform at the South by South-West Music Festival in Austin where Wired Magazine listed him as one of the top 50 performances.

Currently, in addition to continuing his photographic works, he has produced a series of illuminated books of classic works: Dante’s “The Divine Comedy,” James Joyce’s “Ulysses,” Shakespeare’s “Hamlet,” and so on. Taussig has also embarked on a series of collage works based on Jungian Psychology: “Alex’s Adventures in the Five Rivers of the Underworld” and “Alice’s Alchemical Adventures.” In this vein, he has done what he calls “a 21st century” set of Tarot Cards. He has been busy!

American culture consists of far more than fine art. There are literally thousands of often little-known museums around the country preserving other aspects of our culture. The curators of these museums are often ordinary people fascinated by some aspect of the world around them.
Every summer Arthur makes an extended road trip visiting these eclectic, out of the way museums. We track his progress via photo rich email reports.

Typical visits have included: The Salt and Pepper Shaker Museum, The Dragon Dreams Museum, or the Asphalt Museum. Some museums celebrate local heroes, from Ava Gardner to Billy the Kid, while others celebrate local events, like The War Between the States Museum or The Folsom Prison Museum. Sports museums dot the country featuring personalities from Bear Bryant to Babe Zaharias and sports from Figure Skating to Wrestling. Industry is celebrated in museums like The Mary Kay Museum, the Wal-Mart Museum, and the Spam Museum.

The variety of these native sociological observations about ourselves seem almost endless: The Giant Shoe Museum, Kidd’s Toy Museum, Bolt’s Tool Museum, The Money Museum, The Oklahoma Jazz Museum, and on, and on.

From these annual odysseys Arthur built his collection of 70,000 images. So far, he has photographed museums in 49 of the fifty states – a good excuse for a trip to Hawaii.

Arthur reports he originally thought he had photographed over 300 museums. But once the work was organized he was shocked to find he actually photographed over 700! Thus his work serves as a method of archival preservation as almost one quarter of the photographed museums sadly no longer exist.

He plans to continue documenting America’s vernacular museums, time, money and energy permitting. The call of the road beckons as he has built a list of over 5,000 possibilities to investigate.

### Bowles Hall Foundation

**Donation Commitment Form**

Name: ___________________________  Class: __________________

Street Address: _____________________________________________

City: ___________________  State: _______  Zip: __________

Phone: ___________________  Email Address: __________________

Please accept my contribution of $ ________________ to the Bowles Hall Foundation to support the Bowles Hall Residential College.

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**ONE-TIME DONATIONS**

Please accept my one-time donation and contact me to discuss benefit options.

- [ ] Tower Society: $100,000 or more
- [ ] Philip E. & Mary Bowles Society: $35,000 to $99,999
- [ ] George Kelham Society: $10,000 to $34,999
- [ ] Phoenix Society: up to $10,000

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**ENDOWMENTS**

I would like to contribute to help underwrite the annual cost of the following program:

- [ ] Library Fund: Provides funding to ensure Hart Library contents are relevant and useful to today’s students.
- [ ] Student Professional Growth Fund: Provides funds to assist residents become more job ready. *Example: Professional testing of aptitude and preferences.*
- [ ] Scholar/Artist/CEO-in-Residence Series: Enables interaction with subject matter experts and organizational leaders who broaden students’ horizons. *Example: An evening with a noted expert on the current world economic situation.*
- [ ] Celebrate-the-Arts Fund: Support students experiencing the arts. *Example: Season tickets to the San Francisco Symphony and Opera.*

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**ADDITIONAL GIVING OPPORTUNITIES**

I would like to talk with the Foundation about adding BHRC to my estate plans in the following manner:

- [ ] Bequest
- [ ] Charitable Gift Annuities
- [ ] Charitable Remainder Trusts
- [ ] IRA Beneficiary Designation
- [ ] IRA Charitable Distributions

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**PAYMENT**

- [ ] My check is enclosed made payable to Bowles Hall Foundation. Please contact me to discuss my specific wishes.

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**PLEDGES**

- [ ] I would like to make a pledge. Please contact me to arrange a payment schedule.
- [ ] I would like to make a donation via Paypal. Please contact me with details.

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All gifts and pledge payments to Bowles Hall Foundation (BHF) are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. BHF is a qualified 501(c)(3) organization. Our tax identification number is 26-3747734.
Lloyd Christensen  
**Bowles Class of ’41**

Raised in Hanford, Lloyd knew from an early age that he wanted to be a doctor. A master of the practical – building a collapsible boat, setting up a telegraph line to the home of his best friend – he was also a consummate student. His life to science and rational thought took him to University of Southern California Medical School where he finished his schooling in three years so he could join the war effort where he and his newly-married wife Cloe were stationed in France and later Frankfurt during the post-war. They returned home to Hanford in 1947 where Lloyd opened what would become a 50-year practice. Throughout, his passion was music. If science was his intellectual guide, music was his soul and touched him in a way that was magical. Lloyd is survived by two children, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. For more on Lloyd, be sure to check out page 9 to see a letter from his daughter Donna.

Bob Johnson  
**Bowles Class of ’44**

Son of a skilled railroad craftsman, Bob grew up in Los Angeles before heading to Berkeley where he earned his Bachelors and a Masters in Engineering in route to begin a World War II naval officer. After the war, he joined Douglas Aircraft and helped to develop the new technology of rockets. He made major contributions to the development of the Thor, Delta and Saturn space vehicles. In 1969, he was nominated and served as Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research and Development. His career continued with the McDonnell Douglas Corp., eventually ending as a member of the Board of Directors. Bob is survived by Sally Ballard, his companion since 2009, his two daughters, two sons, four grandchildren, seven great grandchildren.

Larry Rabinowitz  
**Bowles Class of ’57**

It’s not every day that a man from California leads the creation of the ACLU’s first branch south of the Mason-Dixon line, but that was Larry for you. Born in San Francisco the son of a medical family, Larry graduated Berkeley to earn his PhD at University of San Francisco before heading to Maryland to work at the National Institutes of Health then the University of North Carolina Medical School. Witnessing the civil rights movement firsthand, he sought to legally protect the many demonstrators and workers, including himself. He and his wife Celia would soon return to California where he became a founding faculty member at UC Davis Medical School. He remained on staff for 31 years, focusing his research on the physiology of the kidney where he made major contributions to the understanding of potassium regulation. Larry is survived by his wife and three children.

MISSING ALUMS

Can you help us get back in touch with some fellow Bowlesmen with whom we’ve lost contact?

John Kramer ('57?)
Robert Short ('63)
Michael Galbraith ('65)
Douglas Leroy Williams ('65)
Lloyd Smith ('70)
Frank Dabin ('71)
Richard Cuts ('75?)
Steven Ray Wilson ('81)
Donald May ('84)
Huong Phan ('84?)
Mattias Krull ('85)
Daniel Peterson ('85)
Brian Mau ('89)
Jon Woo ('89)
Ray Solomon ('90?)
Schwan Kim ('91)
Donald Whardja ('92)
Andrew Bowler ('94)
Geoffrey Hobart ('95)
Hunter Kelly ('99)
Jarrod Davis ('10)
Arthur Jen ('10)
Steven Lea ('10)
Kai Mesa ('10)
Michael Roy ('10)
Patrick Thrasher ('10)
Karl He ('11)

Please email any updated contact information you have on these alums to: BowlesHallFoundation@gmail.com. Thanks!
Inside:
- 2017-18 Student Application Highlights
- Donor Spotlight: Richard May
- Harry Arthur Taussig Featured by the Smithsonian
...and more

Note to newsletter recipients:
In the interest of achieving broad readership regarding the progress of the re-establishment of the Bowles Hall Residential College, we mail a hard copy of our newsletter to alumni and friends for whom we don't have an email address. If you wish to change your delivery method, please email Shawna Carpenter at carpenter.shawna@gmail.com.

It is with deep gratitude that we bring tribute to Judy Sayles, wife of Bob ('52). For more than 65 years, you provided the foundation for Bob's personal and professional pursuits and provided constant reassurance during the Bowles Hall resurgence as he stood eye to eye with naysayers and curmudgeons at almost every turn. You bring grace and charm and courage to everything you do, and we very likely wouldn't have the Bowles Hall Residential College were it not for your support. You are a treasure, Judy, and your light will always shine brightly within our castle.