

From Gold Claims to Stock Options

Golden Gate University's place in San Francisco history

And They're Off...

The Gold Rush era begins, and people from around the world flood into the Bay Area in hopes of finding their own personal gold mine. In 1853, the new San Francisco YMCA offers its first lecture series as an alternative to the "raucous life" on the Barbary Coast.



Down to Earth

The biggest earthquake on record in Bay Area history levels most of the city. Residents and businesses — including the YMCA Evening College — erect tents for temporary shelter. The YMCA building at Mason and Ellis streets is destroyed by the quake and ensuing fire; classes are held under YMCA tents. Four years later, a new YMCA building, at the corner of Golden Gate Avenue and Leavenworth Street, is dedicated.

I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing

Delegates of 50 nations meet in San Francisco on April 25 for the United Nations Conference on International Organization. They draw up the 111-article charter, which is adopted unanimously on June 25 in the San Francisco Opera House. The next day, delegates sign it in the Herbst Theatre auditorium of the Veterans War Memorial Building. As San Francisco cements its international reputation, Golden Gate welcomes students from around the world. Today, international students comprise some 40 percent of GGU's San Francisco student population.



Reap What You Sew

The AIDS Quilt is born in response to the epidemic sweeping through San Francisco's gay community and around the world. Peter Fowler, a Golden Gate School of Law alumnus turned adjunct professor, begins teaching a course titled "AIDS and the Law" in 1988. It is one of the first law courses in the country dedicated to the subject matter.



Litigating Circumstances

Recognizing that only the elite can afford to study law in San Francisco, Charles Baer approaches the YMCA with a plan to create an evening law program for the common person. Four years later, he and three other students comprise the school's first graduating class.

The YMCA Evening College becomes Golden Gate College. A student committee selects the name because it symbolizes "romantic California."

Big Apple Turnover

Despite his other achievements as mayor of San Francisco, Golden Gate alumnus George Christopher says he'll always be remembered for one thing: luring the Giants away from New York to his adopted hometown.

W3

Though the Internet was invented some 40 years earlier, its use was primarily limited to the military and the federal government. With the launch of the World Wide Web, the masses can now log on. In 1996, Golden Gate opens its CyberCampus, which quickly wins national recognition as a model for online education.

1849

1881

1901

1906

1923

1945

1958

1987

1991

1862

Merging its assorted lectures into formalized evening classes in English, typing, vocal music and, of course, gold assaying, the YMCA Night School opens. By 1894, the Night School serves 266 students and is renamed the Evening College.

1929

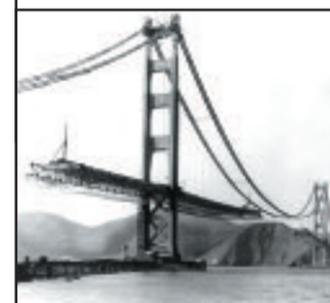
1933



First Position

America's first professional ballet company opens in San Francisco. Sixty years later, Golden Gate alumnus Arthur Jacobus becomes executive director.

1937



A Troubled Bridge Over Water

Plagued by financial and engineering problems from the outset, the Golden Gate Bridge, which spans about three miles, finally opens to traffic after six long years of construction. In comparison, the Bay Bridge, which began construction a year after the Golden Gate and is more than twice as long, takes only five years to complete.

1964



New Age Dawning

Hippies take over the Haight, and the once-working-class neighborhood soon becomes the center of the city's psychedelic drug culture. Musicians such as Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin perform at the first and last Monterey International Pop Festival during the Summer of Love. This mix of drugs and rock 'n' roll — combined with the invention of the birth-control pill — helps usher in the sexual revolution. GGU has a minor revolution of its own, moving out of the YMCA building and cutting its ties with the organization. On March 4, Golden Gate College purchases the Allyn Building, at 532-536 Mission St., for \$369,688.98.

1972

Golden Gate College becomes Golden Gate University. During the next 21 years, regional campuses open along the West Coast, from Los Angeles to Seattle.



Com One, Com All

The dot-com era begins, and people from around the world flood into the Bay Area in hopes of finding their own personal gold mine. More than \$2 billion in venture capital pours into local start-ups, and Silicon Valley produces 64 new millionaires each day. GGU responds to this rush with classes to help men and women become qualified to find work in this highly practical field. Formal programs are developed in such areas as e-commerce and Web design and development; this time around, however, gold assaying is not in the curriculum.

Stock it to Me

As San Francisco enters its Silver Age, the Pacific Stock Exchange opens for trade. Predictably, more than 100 banks set up headquarters nearby, and the city becomes the pre-eminent financial center of the West. More than a century later, Golden Gate alumnus Richard Rosenberg becomes president of Bank of America, one of San Francisco's earliest banking powerhouses.



Crunching Numbers

The Great Depression rocks the country. In 1932, Golden Gate opens its Graduate School of Accountancy to help men and women become qualified to find work in this highly practical field. Students such as Edward S. Ageno attend classes in the evening while working during the day to support their families. Acknowledging the role Golden Gate played in Ageno's success, The Ageno Foundation later gives \$5 million to the university; the Edward S. Ageno School of Business is dedicated in 2000.

Sources: The Golden Gate University Story, Vols. I and II; San Francisco: From Gold Rush to Cyberspace; San Francisco Chamber of Commerce

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