Stanford University

ABOUT STANFORD

Stanford University was founded by Leland and Jane Stanford in memory of their only child, Leland Stanford Jr., who died of typhoid in 1884 when he was 15 years old while the family was visiting Italy. Opened in 1891 on the Stanfords' Palo Alto farm, a world-famous horse-breeding ranch, Stanford welcomed its first students on October 1 of that year; as it is still affectionately known, also had extensive fields, orchards, and vineyards. One of California's most prominent citizens, Leland Stanford was a railroad tycoon who built the Central and drove the golden spike at Promontory, Utah, in 1869 that completed the first transcontinental railroad. He was a governor of California during the Civil War, and, at the time of his death, was a U.S. senator.

Some misfortune in the university's early history, including signing of the founding grant on November 11, 1885, the anniversary of Leland Stanford Jr.'s birth in 1868 and the official opening on October 1, 1891.

LAND AND BUILDINGS

Stanford University is located on the San Francisco Peninsula, about an hour's drive southeast of San Francisco. Its 8,180-acre campus is bounded by the Santa Cruz Mountains to the west and the Santa Clara Mountains, beyond which lies the Pacific Ocean. The campus is also home to Hoover Tower, which is the prestige collaboration between Jane and Leland Stanford and Herbert Hoover, Stanford's first graduate and 31st president. The Quadrangle, the university's most prominent architectural feature, is composed of 35 buildings and is the architectural and history campus. For example, the formal