

Conferring of Honorary Degrees and Suspension of Bylaw 29.1

Committee On Educational Policy #E4
Board of Regents, July 16th 2009

Judy Sakaki, Vice President – Student Affairs

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Honoring Students Prevented from Completing their Degrees due to Executive Order 9066

Task Force Representatives

UC Academic Senate

Daniel Simmons, UC Davis School of Law (Co-Chair)

Mary Firestone, UC Berkeley (UCB Senate Chair)

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Valerie Matsumoto, UCLA

Paul Terasaki, UCLA

UC Administration

Judy Sakaki, Vice President, UCOP (Co-Chair)

Joseph Castro, Vice Provost, UC San Francisco

William Kidder, Asst. Executive Vice Chancellor, UC Riverside

John Tateishi, former UC Merced trustee (UCB and UCD alumni)

Charles Upshaw, Assistant Vice Chancellor, UC Berkeley

Task Force Staff:

Martha Winnacker & Brenda Abrams, Academic Senate

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A Historic Injustice has been Federally Recognized ... But for UC, some Unfinished Business

“As the Commission documents, these actions were carried out without adequate security reasons and without any acts of espionage or sabotage ... and **were motivated largely by racial prejudice, wartime hysteria and a failure of political leadership**...for these fundamental violations of the basic civil liberties and constitutional rights of these individuals of Japanese ancestry, the Congress apologizes on behalf of the Nation.”

--Civil Liberties Act of 1988, signed by President Ronald Reagan



Korematsu v. United States (N.D. Cal. 1984)

Hirabayashi v. United States (9th Cir. 1987)

Fred Korematsu's legal team: Many UC graduates and a UC faculty member

In the fall of 1941 there were ~700 Japanese American students at UC

- UC Berkeley – 454
- UCLA – 175
- UCSF – 54
- College of Agriculture (now UC Davis) - 15



In 1942 the Opportunity to Earn a UC Degree was Altered by Exec. Order 9066



- Some of the ~700 Japanese American UC students graduated in 1942 with the aid of sympathetic faculty and administrators (and a few did so after the War)
- After their release from the internment camps, many earned degrees at Midwest/East Coast colleges (with UC officials playing a role), but do not have UC degrees
- Some of our students never completed their education

Honorary Degrees at UC: Policy and History



- The Regents may authorize honorary degrees, and the Academic Senate “shall be consulted” -Standing Order 105.2(a)
- Dating back to the 19th Century, UC campuses have awarded a total of ~600 honorary degrees
- In 1972 President Hitch imposed a moratorium, which was continued by Presidents Saxon and Gardner
- Honorary degrees require $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the Regents, and no more than four per campus can be awarded annually -Bylaw 29.1
- The moratorium on honorary degrees has been the policy of the Regents since 1986

Task Force Recommendation

- With concurrence of the Academic Senate, the Regents authorize granting honorary degrees to victims of EO 9066 – while reaffirming that the moratorium on honorary degrees is still otherwise in place – by suspending Regents' Bylaw in this unique and historic case



UC students at the Assembly Center in Sacramento, May 1942



Tanforan

A Carefully Limited Proposal to Address an Extraordinary Situation



Manzanar

- **Protects UC's academic integrity** through a one-time suspension of policy rather than opening the door to more honorary degrees
- In contrast to typical honorary degrees, our Japanese American students in 1941-42 had an academic relationship with UC that was torn asunder by Executive Order 9066; an honorary degree is an appropriate means of restoring this bond
- Preserves the **intent of the Regents' moratorium** (e.g. prevents a UC degree from being tainted by political or donor influences)
- Sends the right message about the **University's core values**, and in this sense reaffirms academic integrity

UC's Academic Senate Strongly Endorses this Proposal

- **Unanimously supported** by Academic Council on April 30th
- **Unanimously supported** by Academic Assembly on June 17th
- The Academic Senate has approved conforming changes to its regulations should the Regents adopt this proposal



Changes to Senate Regulation 625

“Persons enrolled at a campus of the University of California during the academic year 1941-1942 who were subject to removal or exclusion under Executive Order 9066, and who were therefore unable to receive a degree from a University of California campus, are awarded an Honorary Degree of the University of California *Inter Silvas Academi Restituere Iustitiam* (to restore justice among the groves of the academy).”

Changes to Senate Regulation 736: How the Diplomas Will Appear

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Honoris Causa

Inter Silvas Academi Restituere Iustitiam

By authority of the Regents and the Academic Senate of the University of
California

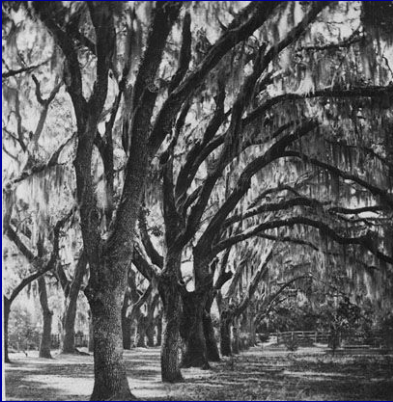
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who was enrolled at the campus of the University of California
in the academic year 1941-1942 and who was excluded from continuing by
reason of Executive Order 9066, is awarded this honorary degree.

.s/.....



s/.....



Cal Memorial Stadium Commencement Pauley Pavilion Commencement

Proposed Special Honorary Degree

Inter Silvas Academi Restituere Iustitiam

(to restore justice among the groves of the academy)



U. of Washington: A Comparable Situation

- UW had only granted 15 honorary degrees since 1885
- Yet, **UW Regents voted unanimously** for honorary degrees for the 447 Nisei students forced to withdraw in 1941-42
- At UW, Honorary degree recommendations are vested in Faculty Council (i.e., shared governance)



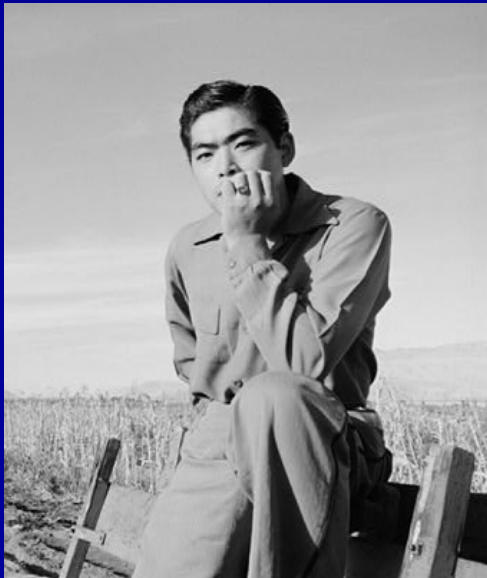
“But today, without question, will be the most profoundly important act we will have the opportunity to do during our term on the Regents.”

-- UW Regent Chair Stanley Barer, at the 2008 Commencement

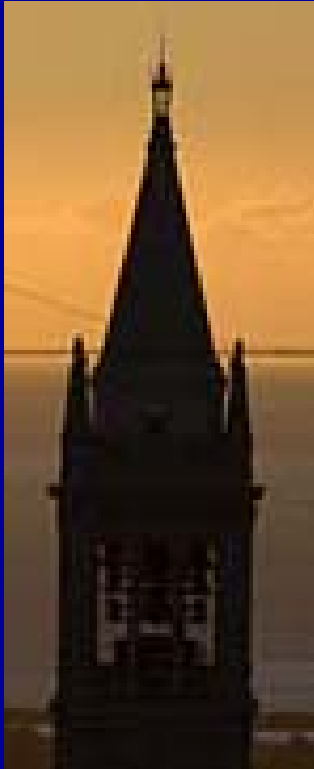


Today's Action Item

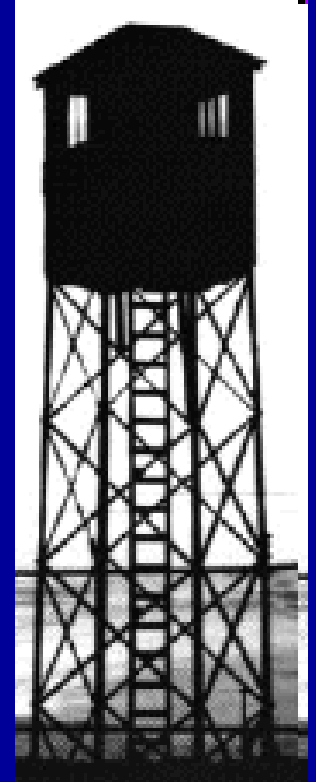
- President Yudof requests delegated authority to award this special class of honorary degrees to students prevented from completing their UC degrees as a result of Executive Order 9066.
- Regents Bylaw 29.1 and the moratorium on honorary degrees would be suspended for this one exceptional case.



Backup Slides



Personal Stories:
The Impact of Executive Order
9066 on the UC Community



A UCSF Student with a Lifelong Commitment to Health



Aiko “Grace” Obata Amemiya is a retired nurse in Iowa. She grew up in Vacaville, and worked summers on a farm to save money for college. She completed her lower division courses at UC Berkeley and then enrolled as a UCSF nursing student in 1941.



After leaving the Gila River internment camp (AZ), Grace joined the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps and cared for wounded soldiers. She is in her late-80s and she still speaks to student groups about her experiences during WWII. She was not able to complete her nursing degree at UCSF. ¹⁶

Students Facing Internment Together

UC Berkeley students **George and Michi Uchida** at their wedding on April 27, 1942, the day before they were sent to the Tanforan Assembly Center. Because their camera was confiscated by government officials, it took the Uchidas 17 years to find copies of the only photographs of their wedding.

“President Roosevelt sent out the Executive Order 9066 and we decided we would get married so that we could stay together.”

-- Michi Uchida



Harvey and Rose Itano:

He Graduated in 1942, She Could Not

- **Harvey Itano** is the only winner of UC Berkeley's University Medal who could not receive this award at commencement; he was detained at the Wallerga Assembly Center in Sacramento (at right).
- Dr. Itano is a Professor Emeritus at UC San Diego; he conducted pioneering research on sickle cell anemia and became the first Japanese American elected to the National Academy of Sciences.
- **Rose Sakemi Itano** is originally from Indio, California. She attended UC Berkeley in 1941, but did not complete her degree at UC because of Executive Order 9066. With scholarship support she eventually completed her bachelor's degree in Wisconsin after being interned.



Some Made the Ultimate Sacrifice and Could Not Complete Degrees at UC



- **George Ichiro “GI” Nakamura** was a freshman at UC Berkeley. He was interned at Tule Lake CA, and later served in military intelligence. Sgt. Nakamura was killed in the Philippines in June, 1945 trying to convince a group of enemy soldiers to surrender. He was awarded the Silver Star; in 1980 the Defense Language Institute in Monterey dedicated Nakamura Hall in his honor.
- **Masami Sakamoto** finished six semesters by 1941 at the College of Agriculture in Davis. He was detained at the Amache camp in Granada CO. Sgt. Sakamoto served in the 442nd, and was killed in action in France in March 1945. Boy Scouts at the Amache camp organized a memorial service for Sakamoto (far right).

A Band of Bruin Brothers



The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a segregated unit of Japanese Americans, was the most decorated unit in the history of the U.S. Army. Three UCLA graduates who were incarcerated at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center (WY), then served in the 442nd and were killed in action:

- **Hitoshi “Moe” Yonemura:** UCLA '42, was head Yell Leader and in student government; accepted into the Army with the aid of President Sproul; 2nd Lt. killed in the Po Valley campaign, Italy (April, 1945).
- **Kei Tanahashi:** UCLA '39, 2nd Lt. killed in action in Rome-Arno, Italy (July, 1944). When medics arrived Tanahashi ordered that the others be treated first even though he was the most seriously wounded; when medics returned, they found that he had died.
- **Yoshiharu Aoyama:** UCLA '42, Corporal killed in action in Rome-Arno from artillery fire, Italy (July, 1944).

A Difference Maker in Difficult Times



Once internment became imminent **Lillian Matsumoto**, a UC graduate in social welfare ('35), proposed to the government that she and her husband Harry would organize and oversee a “Children’s Village” for all the orphans and foster children. Otherwise the military would have dispersed orphans across many internment camps without assurances that there would be attentive care.

Matsumoto cared for over 100 orphans at Manzanar. In recent years she has been reunited with the former orphans. Lillian adopted her daughter Karyl in the Manzanar Children’s Village, and today Karyl Matsumoto (in all 3 pictures) is the mayor of South San Francisco.

A Faculty Member Who Helped Build UC, But Could Not Complete His UC Degree



- **George Matsumoto** is currently retired in Oakland.
- Matsumoto was only one semester shy of finishing his degree at UC Berkeley when the War and Executive Order 9066 prevented him from graduating.
- Matsumoto was a leader of the modernism movement in architecture and he was a UC Berkeley faculty member in the 1960s.
- He served as the architect for buildings at the UCSF Medical Center and UCSF School of Nursing.
- Matsumoto has children who graduated from UC.

UC's True Colors: Teaching and Learning

With help from many UC colleagues, Berkeley Professor **Chiura Obata** founded art schools in the camps at Tanforan (CA) and Topaz (UT) that reached 600 students



“In any circumstance education is as important as food to a human individual whether young or old.”

-- Professor Chiura Obata, 1942

UC Dreams Deferred but not Forgotten

“My dad (his brother too, I think), was a sophomore at UCLA and never finished because he had to go to the relocation camps. I would do anything to help expedite UCLA Japanese Americans getting their college degrees now.”

-Request to a UC Regent, 2008

“Recently the U. of Washington awarded honorary degrees to 430 Japanese American students ... Did Cal ever honor our students in a similar manner? If we haven't, let's expedite it before they all pass on.”

- Cal Alumni '62 to UC Berkeley, 2008



Frank Inouye, pictured in 1944, and writing to UCLA in **1992**:

“I believe it would be fitting if UCLA awarded degrees to all of us Nisei who were unable to complete our undergraduate studies because of our evacuation in the spring of 1942. I would certainly love to become a full-fledged UCLA alumnus, even after all these years. I still consider UCLA my ‘alma mater,’ and thrill to its academic and athletic accomplishments.”



Daily Bruin Editorial, December 9th 1941

“Intense, irrational feelings, emotions, hatreds, raging dislikes and tempers are all products of war eras - this one is no exception...

In our brief stay here we have seen outbreaks of racial and religious prejudice, smearing and tarnishing the record which U.C.L.A. should have. But we were confident that any discrimination will come from the outside and not from within the student body itself.

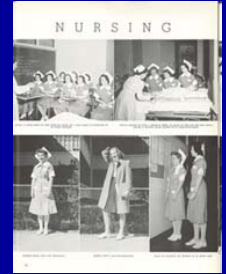
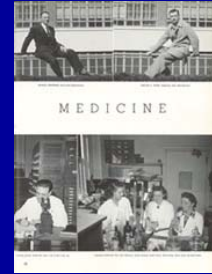
But no matter what direction, we must prepare ourselves to do battle with the rising tide of hatred.”

UCSF Students

Wallerga Assembly Center in
Sacramento, May 1942:

Masamichi Suzuki (left)
completed three years at the
UCSF Medical School, was a
member of Phi Beta Kappa, and
worked in the Assembly Center
hospital.

Bill Sugiyama (right) was
accepted into UCSF before
evacuation, but could not enroll
due to Executive Order 9066.





College of Agriculture (now UC Davis)

Johnny Fukazawa, an Aggie graduate, serves as foreman of a farming crew at the Manzanar Relocation Center, 1942



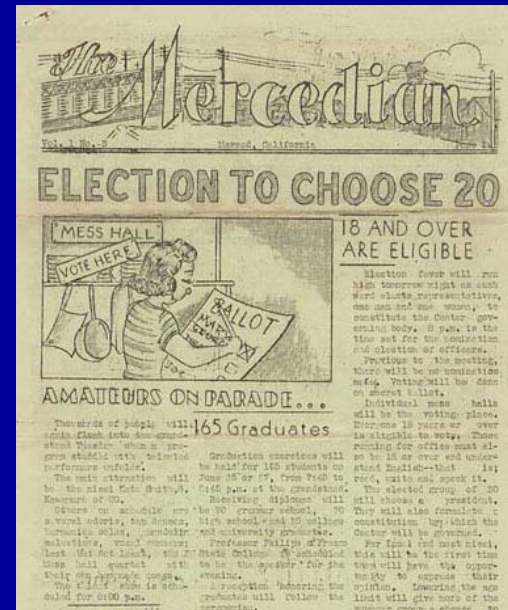
Two UC College of Agriculture graduates (names unknown) pictured a few days prior to internment, April 1942

Merced: The Camp Before the Campus

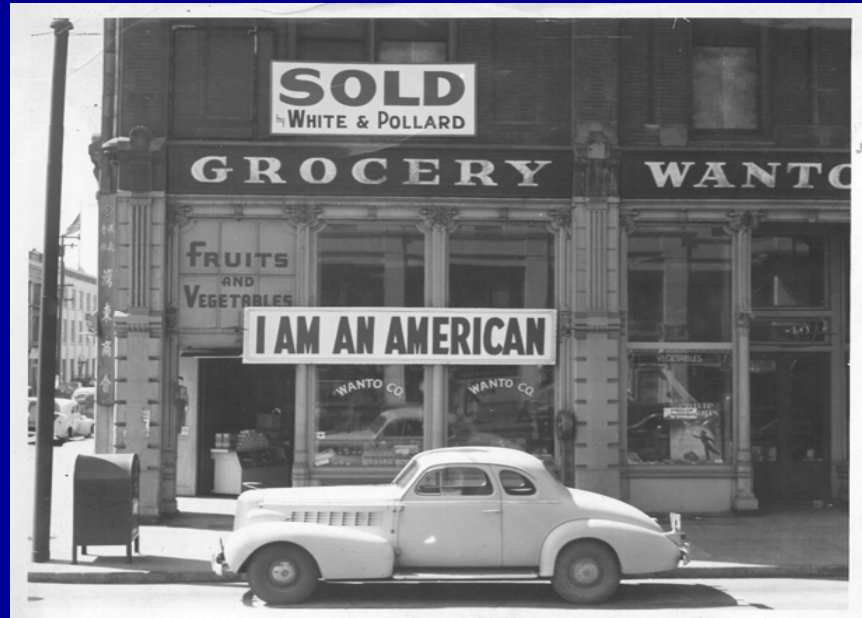


Over 4,600 Japanese Americans were detained at the Merced Assembly Center in 1942. Pictured at left are families from Woodland awaiting the train that will take them to Merced.

The Mercedian newspaper describes a graduation ceremony inside the camp for high school and college students who were prevented from attending their school commencements, May 1942.



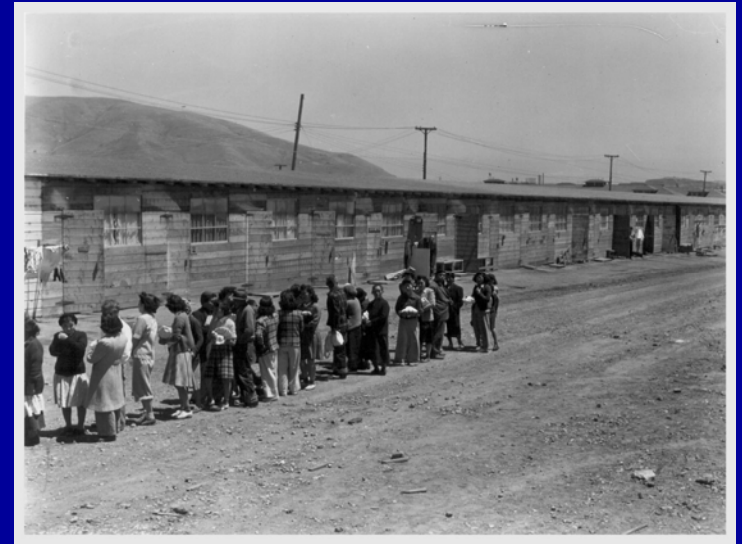
A UC Graduate Takes a Stand



Oakland, CA 1942: This is one of the most famous pictures of internment in California, but few know that this grocery store -- on Franklin St., near the current UCOP building -- was owned by UC graduate **Tatsuro Masuda**. Immediately after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Masuda proclaimed “**I AM AN AMERICAN**” with this storefront sign. His grocery store was sold in 1942 and the Masuda family members were incarcerated at the Gila River internment camp (AZ). The family never re-opened their grocery after WWII.

Impact on UC Faculty

- Marked a profound intrusion into the faculty's teaching mission
- Many faculty went to uncommon lengths to assist their students
- Some faculty were interned



San Bruno, 1942: Tanforan Assembly Center, where several UC faculty were incarcerated, and where others assisted their detained students

“Loss of some of its most valuable faculty members ... was faced today by the University of California.

The Japanese faculty members include Professor Chiura Obata, assistant professor of art and curator of the Armes Collection of Japanese art at the university; Ensho Ashikaga, associate in the Japanese Department; Kazumi Kasuga, instructor of U.C. Medical School internees at San Francisco Hospital, and Kunisada Kigasus, assistant clinical professor at the medical school.”

-- San Francisco News, March 1942

UC President Robert Sproul was critical of Internment and Worked to Support UC's Japanese American Students and Faculty



“The American citizen of Japanese ancestry is likely to be discriminated against because of superficial physical characteristics that have no influence whatsoever on the quality of his mind, the strength of his character, or the depth of his loyalty to the United States. Every good citizen should recognize this danger and do all in his power to counteract it, whatever may happen on the other side of the Pacific.”

-Sproul quoted in the *Japanese American Courier*, January 1, 1942

“The evacuation meant that some 3,500 Japanese Americans would be prohibited from attending colleges and universities on the West Coast.... First to recognize and confront the problem was a group from the University of California at Berkeley led by Robert Gordon Sproul, then president of the University.”

--*Personal Justice Denied: Report of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians* (1982)

Provost Deutsch Stood Up for UC's Japanese Americans



UC Provost Monroe Deutsch sent a telegram to **U.S. Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter** protesting the evacuation of Japanese Americans, which he called “**an unprecedented blow at all our American principles.**”

-Personal Justice Denied: Report of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (1982)

“People fail to recall that these people who are being evacuated have had no charges against them individually...They are being removed because of fear, which is gripping the hearts of some people. Personally, I feel that our country will someday feel ashamed of its conduct in this entire matter.”

-Provost Deutsch letter to church officials, April 1942



The Matsumotos: A Typical Profile of UC Alumni Who Would Receive Honorary Degrees



- **Alice Abe Matsumoto (1920-1997)** was a student at UC Berkeley in 1941-42. She was interned at Tanforan and Topaz. With scholarship support she eventually graduated from Temple, but not from UC. Alice and Yoshio married in 1944. Alice became the head therapeutic dietitian at St. Joseph's Hospital in St. Paul. A scholarship fund is named in her honor.
- **Yoshio Matsumoto (1922-)** from San Diego was a junior at UC Berkeley in 1942, then was interned at Tanforan and Topaz. With scholarship support, he graduated from Washington University, but not from UC. He served in the Army in Europe and after being discharged in 1946, he led a career as an engineer, including at 3M in St. Paul. He is still active in the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund in Minnesota.