

# HARUMI “BACON” SAKATANI

## THE INTERNMENT OF JAPANESE AMERICANS DURING WORLD WAR II



Believing that the lessons of the past will empower us to create a better tomorrow, **Harumi “Bacon” Sakatani** has made it his mission to preserve the history of his experience— documenting and educating others about the lessons learned from the internment of 120,000 American citizens of Japanese ancestry over 70 years ago.

Bacon comes to speak about World War II and his experience as a young teen in the internment camp at Heart Mountain, Wyoming. Bacon’s story begins in 1929. He was born and reared in El Monte, where he attended a segregated grammar school for Mexican and Japanese pupils from first through fifth grades. After Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, prompting World War II, all persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast were placed into internment camps.

The year was 1942 and Bacon was 13 years old. He and his family were first placed at the Pomona Assembly Center at the Los Angeles County Fairgrounds. Soon afterward, they were sent to a permanent camp in Wyoming, where his family of seven lived in a 20-by-24 room with one light bulb, a stove for heat, and army cots for beds. Thousands came from California. After leaving the camp in 1945, when the war ended and the families were released. Sakatani’s family settled temporarily in Idaho and then put down roots in Pomona on a broken-down farm the following year. Bacon returned to school and graduated from Pomona High School in 1947. He then graduated from Mt. San Antonio College. Not long after, he was drafted and served in the Korean War as a combat engineer.

Sharing these past experiences with current students has enriched their lives and their historical perspective. For his commitment in this regard as well as other personal and societal contributions we encourage your attendance for what is sure to be an enlightening talk.



### JOIN US ON:

MARCH 10, 2015 @ 3PM

HUMANITIES GATEWAY 1030

Hosted By: Department of East Asian Languages & Literatures  
**UCI** School of Humanities