



WATANABE- KIMURA APARTMENTS

DEDICATION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2021



HARDIN-SIMMONS
UNIVERSITY

On February 19, 1942, two months after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 ordering all Japanese-Americans to evacuate the West Coast. This resulted in the relocation of over 100,000 people to internment camps located inland.

Knowing his family was to be forced from their home and placed in a cruel situation, Reverend Paul Yorishige Watanabe, a 1919 graduate of Simmons College, wrote to Hardin-Simmons, asking if his daughters could attend on scholarship.

The administration agreed to sponsor Paul's two older daughters, Grace and Jessie. Five months after arriving in the camp, they boarded a train to Abilene.

"We were frightened of the unknown, but we went out in faith," said Grace, who was 17 years old at the time, while her sister was 16.

The sisters focused on their studies. Jessie was a member of Alpha Chi. Grace was awarded the Julius Olsen Medal for earning the highest grade-point average during her four years, and the Minter Medal for making the highest GPA of the senior class.

After graduation, Grace moved to Chicago with her mother and youngest sister, Ruth. That is where she met her husband, Eugene Kimura. Jessie remained in Texas, where she met her husband Edward Saibara.

Years later when the U.S. Government provided reparation funds to the displaced families, Grace and Jessie donated a portion to HSU with the note, "to express our undying gratitude to HSU for welcoming us with open arms during a difficult period in the life of our family and for helping us to receive a strong Christian education." As well, Grace and Eugene were very generous to HSU, including the University in their estate plans.

Watanabe-Kimura Apartments Dedication

Saturday, November 13, 2021

Opening Prayer

Miss Evan Morgan '24
SGA Chaplain

Welcome

Mr. Eric Bruntmyer
President

History/Background

Mrs. Mary Burke
Communications and Content Strategy Specialist

Personal Remarks

Mrs. Kathryn Kimura Mlsna
Daughter of Grace Watanabe Kimura

The Watanabe Kimura Apartments

Dr. Jodie McGaughey
Vice President for Finance and Management

Expressions of Gratitude

Mr. Jason Darby '00
HSU Trustee

Closing Remarks

Mr. Bruntmyer

Benediction

Mr. Grey Hoff
Associate Vice President for Global Engagement

Simmons College



Paul Watanabe

having completed the course of study prescribed for the attainments of the Degree of

BACHELOR OF ARTS

and having been pronounced by the Faculty proficient in that course is hereby declared to be a titled Graduate of this College and the Trustees and Faculty do confer upon him that degree

Given at Abilene, Texas, this 2nd day of June A.D. 1917

Hardin-Simmons University

Abilene, Texas

has conferred on

Grace Watanabe

the degree

Bachelor of Arts

and all the rights and privileges appertaining to that Degree. In testimony thereof, the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the Faculty, has granted this Diploma bearing the Seal of the University.

Dated on this the

Summa Cum Laude



day of

June 19 46

**HARDIN-SIMMONS
UNIVERSITY**

W. S. ...
PRESIDENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Rupert N. Richardson
PRESIDENT