Read all about it!!!

Check your email! Newsletter #29 is out!

If you didn't get it, don't miss out -
Join the APIDA Center contact list: https://bit.ly/SDSUAPIDA

Location:
2nd floor of Aztec Student Union
Rooms #210A-K (Directly above Starbucks)

Hours:
Mon-Thurs 10am-8pm
Friday 10am-4:30pm

Connect with us!
@sdsuapidacenter
SDSU APIDA
Resource Center
Celebrate APIDA History & Heritage Month!

The APIDA Center is proud to kick off our 2022 APIDA History and Heritage Month Celebration. We are hosting our second annual APIDA Conference on Saturday, April 30 from 9-4pm. This year's theme is "Unity in Community: How Communities Work Together to Solve Problems." We have an amazing line-up of speakers including: Stop AAPI Hate, Cut Fruit Collective, Friends of Tonga, National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance, Dr. Amrit Deol (South Asian Americans in the American west), United Cambodian Coalition, and The Asian American Education Project. Please make the time to attend this conference; come to one or all sessions. Now, more than ever, we need to find strength and joy in our APIDA communities. Register for Zoom Link: bit.ly/2022APIDAconference

In addition to the conference, we are hosting several events throughout the month. Events include cultural community crafting, community games, speakers, cultural education programs, and more. (We are still confirming logistics for more PI-themed events, more gaming events, more speakers, etc.) APIDA histories and heritages are important all year long but the truth is they are not. So, we need heritage months like May to amplify APIDA voices and narratives.

Together, we can further advance the work of our APIDA communities and ensure that SDSU is a safe and welcoming space. To that end, here are three ways you can support the APIDA community at SDSU:

- Support APIDA representation by watching a movie or reading a book that highlights APIDA stories. As a community, create more demand for APIDA content.
- Include APIDA perspectives in your educational program by choosing to research or learn about APIDA people or histories. As a community, fight for APIDA content to be integrated into the curriculum.
- Attend an event hosted by the APIDA Center or by one of the APIDA-centered student organizations. As a community, support initiatives that promote APIDA histories and heritages.
APIDA Center hosts grand opening!

On April 25, APIDA Center hosted our [Grand Opening celebration](#). The APIDA Center has technically been serving the SDSU community since June 2020. But, we had opened virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic and amidst escalating anti-Asian hate. So, it was important for us to officially celebrate our physical space and our place in the university. We are here and ready to serve!

We are thankful to President [Adela de la Torre](#) and Vice President [J. Luke Wood](#) for sharing kind remarks and for their unwavering support of the APIDA Center. We are also thankful to [Chris Medellin](#), Director of the [Native Resource Center](#), for sharing the land acknowledgement.

That stated, the stars of the show were our students. We were awed and inspired by amazing performances from [VSA, PISA, KASA Ignite](#), and [APSA Music](#). After the performances, we hosted our Open House. Follow us on [Instagram](#) to see the super fun pictures from the event; we even have video footage of our students getting [Rickrolled](#)!
**APIDA Center hosts Ursula Liang!**

On April 23, the APIDA Center and the Division for Research and Innovation (specifically Dr. John Crockett, Associate Vice President of Research Advancement) hosted Ursula Liang. Liang is a director, producer, and journalist. She directed the two films that we screened: "9-Man" and "Down a Dark Stairwell."

"9-Man" is a sport documentary about a unique streetball tournament played by Chinese Americans in Chinatowns across the U.S. and Canada. 9-man is a volleyball team sport, created and played by Chinese immigrants.

"Down a Dark Stairwell" is about the tragic shooting in Brooklyn of Akai Gurley, an innocent Black man, and the trial of the Chinese American police officer, Peter Liang, who pulled the trigger.

Both films were provocative and so important for APIDA representation.

**APIDA Center goes to PISA Luau!**

On April 22, PISA hosted their 25th annual luau. They celebrated 25 years of excellence at SDSU. They also announced their new executive board members. The luau was such terrific fun. There was yummy food, great company, dancing, and amazing student performances. It was great to see current and former PISA members, who had traveled far and wide, gather at this event. Community was everywhere. Congratulations to PISA for hosting a super event! We can’t wait to go next year!
APIDA Center supports Arts Alive and "Postcard American Town"!

APIDA Center loves Arts Alive, led by Dr. Eric Smigel, Professor of Music. As part of the Arts Alive Discovery Series, which aims to amplify university-produced art that explores sociopolitical and cultural issues, Dr. Loh-Hagan moderated a panel to promote "Postcard American Town."

"Postcard American Town," is a musical and the newest production in SDSU's New Musical Initiative. It is about a young woman's awakening to the importance of social activism and a young APIDA man’s determination for change in the fictitious community of Westville. By examining the complexities of racial divisions in the United States through the simplicity of a small-town picnic, this musical reveals the universal impact of cultural discrimination. Written by Lynne Shankel (who worked on  "Allegiance" starring Lea Salonga and George Takei) and Crystal Skillman, this world premiere production will be directed by Professor Stephen Brotebeck from the School of Theatre, Television, and Film. The production runs April 29 - May 5.

In addition to Dr. Loh-Hagan, Dr. Smigel, Professor Brotebeck, Shankel, and Skillman, Professor Rob Meffe, Head of the SDSU MFA Musical Theatre Program, was on the panel. We discussed white fragility, cultural appropriation vs appreciation, cultural authenticity, and craft. One of the coolest insights from the panel was learning how Shankel changed song lyrics based on the APIDA actor's insights and lived experiences.
• **Chrystian Smith**, a first-year MA student in the Postsecondary Educational Leadership with a specialization in Student Affairs (PELSA) program, received a prestigious ACOHU-I (Association of College and University Housing Officers – International) internship. Smith will be spending the summer at Columbia University.

• **Ian Ordonio**, a film student and student assistant videographer, has a film credit in "Sugarcoat." He is listed as the production sound mixer.

• **Matt Garcia** was recognized by the United Sorority and Fraternity Council (USFC) for his years of service in Fraternity and Sorority Life.

• **Dr. Loh-Hagan** presented at the UCI Teaching for Justice Conference: A Spotlight on Teaching Asian American Studies Across the Curriculum. She discussed the importance of teaching APIDA history in K-12 classrooms.

We want to celebrate the SDSU APIDA community!

Have a flex to share?
Email us at apida@sdsu.edu.
Angie Miyashiro-Saipaia, President of the Pacific Islander Student Association (PISA) and a senior majoring in kinesiology with an emphasis in physical therapy, is recommending Manuhea'i'i, a Native Hawaiian family fashion brand founded in Oahu. She said, "I love being able to support local businesses. I also love showcasing my culture. I'm from Oahu so wearing Manuhea'i'i clothes reminds me of home. I like how every print has a symbolic meaning - this makes the clothes even more special. Also, Manuhea'i'i clothes are comfortable and easy to wear. They're good for any occasion, casual or fancy. Most importantly, they make me feel confident."

Share all things APIDA (i.e., books, movies, food, restaurants, etc.). Send a picture of you with the product and your glowing review.
Email us at apida@sdsu.edu.
Upcoming APIDA Center Events

**APIDA Conference**
Register for [Zoom Link](#)
**Dates:** Saturday, April 30 from 9-4pm
Join us for our 2nd annual APIDA Conference. This year's theme is "Unity in Community: How Communities Work Together to Solve Problems." We will be hearing from several APIDA organizations and experts who are doing amazing things for our communities. Speakers include: Stop API Hate, Cut Fruit Collective, Friends of Tonga, National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance, Dr. Amrit Deol, United Cambodian Coalition, and The Asian American Education Project. Thanks to generous funding from [Student Success Fee Programs](#). (Hosted by [Gi Gonzales](#))

**GameCon**
Location: APIDA Center
**Dates:** Sunday, May 1 from 11-7pm
With generous funding from Student Success Fee Programs, we will be hosting a Game Conference. This will be the first of many events for SDSU gaming enthusiasts. We will be discussing the benefits of playing tabletop games, video games, and role-playing games. We will also play games! Settlers of Catan, Dungeons & Dragons, mah jong...we got it all! (Hosted by [Krishna Ramamoorthy](#) and [Alexa Lawrence](#))

**Community Art Project: Leave Your Mark!**
Location: APIDA Center
**Dates:** May 2-6
Help us decorate our space. Make art on our community canvas. Come during Center office hours and leave your mark at the APIDA Center. Fill in all the white spaces.

**Supporting APIDA STEM Students**
Location: [Zoom](#)
**Date:** Wednesday, May 4 from 12:30-1:30pm
Are you a STEM student? Are you passionate about research and interested in graduate school? Come learn about how SDSU's Initiative for Maximizing Student Development (IMSD) program can support you in achieving your goals! This program provides funding, mentorship, and professional development opportunities designed to help make undergraduate students from historically underrepresented groups in STEM competitive candidates for direct admission into PhD programs. This webinar will also provide data about the underrepresentation of APIDA communities in STEM fields and information about resources available to STEM students who may not be interested in graduate study. Presenters: Dr. [Bill Tong](#), Vice Provost & Michelle Altemus, Program Coordinator

**Hometown Hero & Spelling Bee Champ: Snigdha Nandipati**
Location: [Zoom](#)
**Date:** Wednesday, May 4 from 6-7pm
The South Asian American community has dominated the National Spelling Bee for decades. They have built communities of support around winning spelling bees. Come hear from National Spelling Bee champion, Snigdha Nandipati, whose hometown is San Diego! Nandipati won the title at age 14; her winning word was "guetapens." She was the fifth consecutive Indian American to win and the tenth Indian American champion in the previous fourteen competitions. Today, she is a Yale graduate, patient advocate, and author. She is also a Desi musician, DJ, singer, and visual artist.

**APIDA Spelling Bee**
Location: APIDA Center
**Date:** Wednesday, May 4 from 7-8pm
Following Snigdha Nandipati's presentation, we will host our very own Spelling Bee! There will be prizes! Come spell with us!

**APIDA Community Conversations**
Location: APIDA Center
**Date:** Friday, May 6 and Friday, May 8 from 2-3pm
Let's be in community together. Come to the APIDA Center and let's chat about anything and everything APIDA-related including but not limited to: anti-Asian hate, cultural expectations, filial piety, representation and inclusion, Model Minority Myth, Perpetual Foreigner Stereotype, K-pop, anime, etc! Participants will get boba tea and snacks (while supplies last; first come, first served).

**AFD 101: Teaching Tough Topics**
Location: Virtual (Standby for zoom and RSVP)
**Dates:** Saturday, May 7 from 10-4pm
With generous funding from [Student Success Fee Programs](#), Allies for Education and the APIDA Center will be hosting our third annual AFD 101 professional development conference. This conference is designed by teachers for teachers! (Hosted by [Nadia Hernandez Ruelas](#) and [Alexa Lawrence](#))

**APIDA Graduation Celebration and End-of-Year Party**
Location: Templo Mayor
**Dates:** Sunday, May 8 from 5-8pm
In addition to celebrating the end of the school year, we will also celebrate our December 2021, May 2022, and August 2022 undergraduates and graduate students who identify as APIDA! The event is open to all (students, faculty, and staff). All APIDA graduates who attend the entire event get an SDSU APIDA Center pre-made cord and charm. Please [RSVP](#) by 5pm on May 6.

**Finals Week Fun**
Location: APIDA Center
**Date:** May 9-12 from 5-7pm
De-stress from Finals by crafting and being in community with us.
- **Mon, May 9:** Make tote bags that celebrate APIDA joy!
- **Tues, May 10:** Color anime drawings!
- **Wed, May 11:** Zentangle Asian-themed patterns!
- **Thurs, May 12:** Make origami Kimono paper dolls!

**Community Art Project: Cross-Stitching**
Location: APIDA Center
**Date:** Monday, May 16 from 12-2pm
Did you know that cross-stitching is believed to have originated in China during the Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD) and spread to the western world along trade routes via the Silk Road? On Monday, May 16, learn how to cross-stitch then come in all week (May 16-20) to work on your project in community with others. (Sewing circles have historically been centers of community power, especially for women.)

**Cultural Education Program: The Role of Ethnic Enclaves in Building APIDA Communities**
Location: APIDA Center
**Date:** Tuesday, May 17 from 12:00-1:30pm
Since the 1800s, APIDA communities faced anti-Asian hate and were forced to seek safety in ethnic enclaves. Community leaders provided resources and support services. These ethnic enclaves became centers of political power and cultural pride. Learn more about APIDA ethnic enclaves. Then, watercolor paint a Chinatown scene with us.

**Community Art Project: Pacita Abad-inspired Art**
Location: APIDA Center
**Date:** Monday, May 23 from 12-2pm
Pacita Abad (1946-2004) was an Iban and Filipina American painter. She became a painter after studying Asian history at USF. She developed a technique of tronco painting that included stitching and stuffing. She used found objects she collected from around the world to enhance her art. We will create our own paintings inspired by Abad's use of circles, lines, and mixed-media. On Monday, May 23, we'll learn how to paint like Abad and then come in all week (May 23-27) to work on your project in community with others.

**Panel of San Diego APIDA Community Leaders**
Location: [Zoom](#)
**Date:** Wednesday, May 25 from 3-4pm
About 13% of San Diego County identifies as APIDA. San Diego boasts several vibrant APIDA communities including areas such as Convoy District, Little Saigon, and Little India & areas in Mira Mesa, Paradise Hills & Bay Terraces, South Bay, and Oceanside. In this panel, we will hear from some APIDA leaders and learn about our community's successes, strengths, and next steps. There is still a lot of work that needs to be done. But, together, we will be better.

**Dungeons & Dragons Dungeon Master Training Boot Camp**
Location: APIDA Center
**Date:** Sunday, May 28 from 11-5pm
Gaming is a great way to build community. We are going to start a DnD campaign about "The Islands of Sina Una," which is inspired by pre-colonial mythology and culture from the Philippines. We will discuss cultural authenticity in DnD and teach folks how to be a Dungeon Master. RSVP by emailing Dr. Loh-Hagan at loh-hagan@sdus.edu, Instructor: Dan Wood, Creators Assembly! Board Member, Librarian, and a DnD expert in San Diego

**APIDA Community Party**
Location: APIDA Center
**Date:** Tuesday, May 31 from 1-5pm
To celebrate the end of APIDA Month, the APIDA Center is hosting an APIDA Community Party at the APIDA Center. We will play mah jong, bau cua tom ca, and other games. There will also be movies, karaoke, and snacks!
Opportunities

- RSO Presidents and Treasurers: The RSO Renewal Symposia takes place on May 1, 2022. This is a one day event where student org leaders can complete all the required training and renew their applications for the 22-23 school year.
- SDSU Global Campus is hiring student assistants.
- Please consider taking our Cultural Center Survey! The survey is 22 questions long and should take about 5 minutes to complete. It will be open April 25- May 12. It is completely anonymous, but you can opt to share your email with us on the last page of the survey to be entered to win one of 10 $50 giftcard to the bookstore.

Do you have an opportunity to share?
Email us at apida@sdsu.edu.

Scholarships

- The Hsiao Memorial Social Sciences Scholarship is a $1000 scholarship for a student to pursue graduate level studies in the social sciences/economics. Apply by May 16.
- The Slater-Millner Scholars Fund provides need-based scholarships to BIPOC rising college sophomores majoring in pre-medicine with a demonstrated interest in providing healthcare to underserved communities. Selected recipients will receive $2500 in the sophomore year, $5000 in the junior year, and $7500 in the senior year. Apply by May 19.
- NAJA-AAJA Journalism Scholarship helps Pacific Islanders pursue careers in journalism. The goal is to improve Oceania's representation and storytelling. Up to two scholarships of $4500 each will be awarded. Apply by May 31. Recipients will also receive membership to NAJA or AAJA as well as complimentary registration to the NAJA or AAJA conference.
- The Groundbreaker Leadership Scholarship provides financial assistance to APIDA college seniors and graduate students who have exhibited exemplary leadership, vision, and passion for blazing trails for the APIDA community. The award is for $1500. Apply by May 31.
- The Western Regional Chapter of the Korean American Scholarship Foundation is offering $5000 scholarships for students of Korean heritage studying in the western region (which includes California). Apply by June 30, 2022.

Do you have a scholarship opportunity to share?
Email us at apida@sdsu.edu.

***

Give to the APIDA Center and help support our programs directly!
Your donation, big or small, makes a huge difference for our center!

Give to the APIDA Center!

To read past newsletters, visit the APIDA Center newsletter archive!
On April 25, SDSU gathered as a community to celebrate the establishment of the APIDA Center. We recognize that the establishment of the APIDA Center, like so many other achievements, is the result of our campus community working together. Together, we can advance and support the work of our APIDA communities to ensure that SDSU is a safe and welcoming space for all students.

Dear SDSU Community,

This May, let us come together as a community to amplify Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) histories. The theme for this year is “Unity in Community.”

Since the late 1970s, May has been recognized as a month to celebrate APIDA people, heritage, and history. This is a nation-wide celebration to amplify the experiences, contributions and achievements of APIDA communities.

The month of May was chosen because it commemorated the arrival of the first Japanese immigrant to the United States on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad on May 10, 1869, which was made possible by the critical contributions of Chinese laborers. APIDA History and Heritage Month is dedicated to examining and honoring the important roles APIDA communities have played in shaping U.S. culture and history. Today it also serves as a call to be united as a community against anti-Asian hate and oppression.

All members of the SDSU community are invited to participate in the month’s events, which include:

- **April 30:** An APIDA Conference will be held featuring Stop AAPI Hate, Cut Fruit Collective, Friends of Tonga, National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance, United Cambodian Community, The Asian American Education Project, and a lecture on South Asian American communities in the American West. [Register online](#) to participate.
- **May 1:** GameCon will be held from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. Participants are invited to join a conversation about APIDA cultural authenticity issues in the gaming community. Tabletop games and role-playing games will be available in the APIDA Center, located in Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union.
- **May 8:** APIDA Graduation Celebration will be held from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Templo Mayor. Please [register online](#) by May 6 to participate.

The APIDA Center will also host cultural crafting and community-building events throughout the month. Be sure to keep up-to-date with our events by following the APIDA Center on Instagram [@sdsuapidacenter](#) and by referring to the May 2022 APIDA Month [google folder](#).

Engage with us and uplift APIDA communities. We look forward to seeing you at our events!

In solidarity,