SDSU Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Center

Read all about it!!!
Check your email! Newsletter #32 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!

Center Website: https://sacd.sdsu.edu/apida
Center Email: apida@sdsu.edu
Director: Dr. Loh-Hagan at vloh-hagan@sdsu.edu
Associate Director: Matt Garcia at mhgarcia@sdsu.edu
Stand against hate and violence!

As a community, we are in mourning. Our hearts are heavy and our souls are hurting.

On May 11, 2022, a gunman who held anti-Asian sentiments opened fire at a hair salon in Koreatown in Dallas, Texas, injuring three Korean American women.

On May 14, 2022, a gunman who held a white supremacist ideology opened fire at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York resulting in the deaths of 10 African Americans and injuring three more people.

On May 15, 2022, a gunman who held anti-Taiwan sentiments opened fire at a Taiwanese American church in Laguna Woods, California, resulting in one death and five injured persons.

On May 24, 2022, a gunman opened fire at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, resulting in the deaths of at least 19 children and two teachers and injuring 17 other people. About 90% of Robb Elementary’s students is Latinx.

These horrifying racist acts of violence are the latest among escalating hate against communities of color. Gun violence and hate must be condemned. My heart goes out to the surviving families and friends who are forever changed by these tragedies.

President Adela de la Torre said, “These atrocities are symptomatic of a toxic mix created by multiple crises — racism, mental health, and gun violence — intersecting at once. We must never become numb to this."

We are living in challenging times. If you need any support, please reach out. The APIDA Center is one of many campus resources available to you. We are here to serve you. Together, we will stand against hate and violence. Together, we will thrive. Together, we will heal.

The APIDA Center is hosting two informal community discussion spaces to unpack current events:

- **Virtual**: Tuesday, May 31 from 10-11am via zoom
- In-Person: Friday, June 3 from 2-3pm at the APIDA Center
APIDA Center remembers the Stockton schoolyard shooting.

On January 17, 1989, a gunman shot and killed five schoolchildren and injured 32 others at Cleveland Elementary School in Stockton while the children were playing on the playground. This tragedy is known as the Stockton schoolyard shooting. The victims were predominantly Cambodian and Vietnamese refugees. Their names were: Sokhim An (age 6), Ram Chun (age 8), Oeun Lim (age 8), Raphanar Or (age 9), and Thuy Tran (age 6).

The gunman had openly talked about his hatred toward Asian immigrants, believing they stole jobs from "native-born" Americans. Such thinking is a direct result of racist ideologies like Yellow Peril and the Perpetual Foreigner Stereotype which have plagued Asian Americans throughout history. To combat such hate, we must learn about our history and fight against white supremacy.

The Stockton schoolyard shooting led to the creation of California's first assault weapons act. This act was the first legislative restriction on assault weapons in the nation and served as a model for a similar federal statute in 1994. To combat violence, we must do more than respond to incidents with thoughts and prayers; we must act and change laws and policies.

To learn more, read the late Cambodian American writer, Anthony Veasna So's short story collection Afterparties, which is currently being developed for television; the Stockton schoolyard shooting is featured in the last story which is entitled, "Generational Differences." (So was born in Stockton to Khmer parents who had fled Cambodia.)

Tragedy struck San Diego as well. The Stockton schoolyard shooting happened about ten years after a school shooting took place on January 29, 1979 at another school named Cleveland Elementary School in San Diego Unified School School District. The principal and custodian were killed; eight schoolchildren and a police officer were injured.

School shootings should never happen. Our students, all students, should have the right to feel safe at school.
APIDA Center celebrates APIDA History and Heritage Month!

We are moving into the final weeks of APIDA History and Heritage Month. In spite of these challenging times and horrific events, it is important to celebrate joy. There is so much inspiration and love that we can find from our APIDA community. Keep celebrating!

Did you know that cross-stitching may have originated in China and spread via the Silk Road? On May 16th, we hosted a cross-stitching community art project. On May 18th, we co-hosted a Chinese paper-cutting workshop with the SDSU Chinese Cultural Center; we learned that Chinese paper-cutting is rooted in ancient ancestor worship activities. And, on May 25th, we hosted a conversation with San Diego APIDA community leader, Miki Holmes, who is a District Representative for California State Assemblyman, Christopher M. Ward. (Fun fact about Ms. Holmes: Her family owns Sushi Deli.)

APIDA Center hosts second annual APIDA Alumni Mixer!

Did you know that SDSU has over 22,000 APIDA alumni members? Every year, we continue to add more and more folks to this prestigious group. APIDA alumni are important to us; they are proof of our community’s strength and success.

On Thursday, May 26th, the APIDA Center and Alumni Engagement hosted a mixer to celebrate and engage with our APIDA Alumni. This is our second mixer and and first in-person event. We served L&L Hawaiian BBQ and enjoyed each other's company.
APIDA ERG helps host the ERG End-of-Year Party!

ERGs are Employee Resource Groups. These affinity groups are designed to build an inclusive environment for SDSU employees with particular attention to employees from historically underrepresented and underserved backgrounds. They are opportunities for faculty and staff to create support networks, establish a sense of belonging, and have fun with folks who share similar identities.

At SDSU, we have 17 Employee Resource Groups including the APIDA ERG and the Bayanihan Filipino American Faculty & Staff Association.

On May 17th, the APIDA ERG helped host the inaugural ERG recruitment and end-of-year party. It was so much fun - there was food, music, dancing, prizes, photo/video fun, and more. Many thanks to Dr. Tonika Green, Associate Vice President of Campus Community Affairs, for supporting and coordinating the event. A great time was had by all! APIDA ERG definitely represented at the mic, on the dance floor, and at the snack tables!
APIDA Flex Alerts!

- **APISWA** and **Union of Pan Asian Communities** are featured in a podcast entitled, "Stop the HAAte: Combating AAPI Hate and Violence." **Ann Huynh**, APISWA Board Member and new APIDA alum, said, "...[this] podcast addresses hate crimes including what is considered a hate crime and how to report it...[it] has vital information that could help members of the APIDA community."

- **Dr. Beth Chung**, Professor of Management in the Fowler College of Business, is a recognized expert in organizational behavior, leadership, diversity, and inclusion. She was featured in "SDSU Management Professor Takes a Hard Look at Inclusion in the Workplace."

- **Dr. Minjeong Kim** has been elected as the Director of the **Center for Asian & Pacific Studies** (CAPS), effective August 18, 2002. The APIDA Center is looking forward to continuing our close partnership with CAPS.

- On May 24, **Dr. Loh-Hagan** was inducted as the International President for **Phi Beta Delta**, the Honor Society for International Scholars.

**We want to celebrate the SDSU APIDA community!**

**Have a flex to share?**

**Email us at apida@sdsu.edu.**
Dr. Loh-Hagan, APIDA Center Director, is committed to supporting APIDA creatives and APIDA-owned businesses. At a recent gala event, she met J. Glenn Kay, who is the President and CEO of Mandalay, a North American luxury fashion brand. She said, "I love the fact that Glenn had attended The Army Navy Academy in Carlsbad and is now a 'go-to' designer for celebrities such as Taylor Swift, Jennifer Lopez, Selena Gomez, Carrie Underwood, Miranda Lambert, Lindsey Vonn, Paris Hilton, Kimora Lee Simmons, Kim Kardashian, Ashley Tisdale, Demi Lovato, Venus Williams, Beyoncé, and others. He was born in Burma and raised in California. Today, Mandalay has become one of the most sought out luxury evening wear names in the world. I love meeting APIDA people who are living their creative lives."

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

**Makenzie De Armas: APIDA DnD Game Designer**
Location: Zoom  
Date: Friday, May 27 from 1-2pm  
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. Come meet the lead writer of Sina Una, Makenzie De Armas. We will discuss APIDA representation in the gaming industry. We will also discuss the importance of APIDA women in this field.

**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 vloh-hagan@sdsu.edu. Instructor: Dan Wood, Creators Assemble! 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, bài cờ, and other games. There will also be movies, karaoke, and snacks!

**APIDA Community Discussion Spaces**
We know these are challenging times. As a community, we can heal. Together, we can support each other. The APIDA Center is hosting two informal community discussion spaces to unpack current events:

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**Student-Led Workshops & Student-Created Social Media Campaigns**
Do you have expertise on a topic? Do you have a special skill? Consider sharing your knowledge with us! APIDA Center launched our Student-Led Workshops and Student-Created Social Media Campaigns. This is a great opportunity to show off your expertise and share your passion with others. It’s also an opportunity to learn how to plan an event or prepare a campaign with our support. Work with an APIDA Center staff member who will serve as your project mentor. We are interested in any and all APIDA-related topics! If you are interested in participating, email us at vloh-hagan@sdsu.edu.
Opportunities

- On June 1-2, the Aztec Unity Project is going to the canyonlands! Go on an outdoor volunteer service event. You'll get bagels for breakfast, Chipotle for lunch, and a free SDSU t-shirt for your service. Sign up now.
- On June 4 at 2pm, the Chinese Cultural Center is hosted a storytelling event to celebrate Dragon Boat Festival.
- On June 16 and June 20, the Center for Inclusive Excellence is hosting an Introduction to Inclusion Workshop for students. Students can register at https://bit.ly/Summer22ILAT.
- Well-Being and Health Promotion is hiring financial education peers (all majors are welcome). The mission of this program is to empower students to achieve financial independence and to educate college students on financial topics so that they develop healthy financial habits. Applications are due June 22. There are three open student worker positions: Director of Recruitment, Director of Events, and Director of Social Media Marketing.
- Need basic needs resources? Need help through a financial crisis? Connect with Crisis Response Team.

Do you have an opportunity to share? Email us at apida@sdsu.edu.
• The **Against the Grain Artistic Scholarship** provides financial assistance to AAPI students pursuing a major in the performing/visual arts, journalism, and/or mass communications. Apply by May 31, 2022.

• The **Asian American Architects and Engineers Foundation** is offering scholarships to full-time students studying architecture, engineering, design, or construction. Apply by June 10, 2022.

• **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.

• Apply for **SDSU Aztec Scholarships**. The general application for 22-23 awards will be open from April 18 to August 5, 2022.

**Do you have a scholarship opportunity to share?**

Email us at apida@sdsu.edu.

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Give to the APIDA Center and help support our programs directly!

Your donation, big or small, makes a huge difference for our center!

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To read past newsletters, visit the **APIDA Center newsletter archive**!