

# DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS AND CAMPUS DIVERSITY

## SDSU Office of AANAPISI Affairs & APIDA Center



**Read all about it!!!**

**Check your email! Newsletter #135 is out!**

**If you didn't get it, don't miss out! Everyone is reading it!**

**Join the APIDA Center contact list: <https://bit.ly/SDSUAPIDA>**



### **Hours:**

**Mon-Thurs 10:00-8:00pm**

**Fridays 10:00-4:30pm**

**Location: 2nd floor of Student Union**

**Rooms #210A-K (directly above Starbucks)**

**Center Website: <https://sacd.sdsu.edu/apida>**

**Center Email: [apida@sdsu.edu](mailto:apida@sdsu.edu)**

**Executive Director: Dr. Loh-Hagan at [vloh-hagan@sdsu.edu](mailto:vloh-hagan@sdsu.edu)**

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**connect with us!**



**@sdsuapidacenter**



**SDSU APIDA  
Resource Center**

**SA+CD**

# SDSU Office of AANAPISI Affairs & APIDA Center Executive Director's Message

May 5, 2025

*All students, regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, or national origin, who are interested in APIDA Center programming and services are welcome.*



## **From Dr. Loh-Hagan: APIDA Month 2025!**

This has been another exciting week at the APIDA Center! In addition to our regular programming, we also commemorated Black April (the Fall of Saigon), celebrated 50 years of Southeast Asian American history in the United States, and kicked off our fifth annual APIDA History and Heritage Month.

Personally, I am connected to Black April as my parents were part of the first wave of refugees who fled from the Cambodian genocide after the Fall of Saigon. (My parents were ethnically Chinese living in Cambodia.) My parents landed in Fort Chaffee in Arkansas and then were sponsored by a family in Northern Virginia. As such, I was born in Virginia (hence my name) and was the first person in my family to be born in the United States. So that essentially makes me the O.G.! :) As a child of refugees, I am proud of my history and hope that you all learn your immigration story as well. We all belong here!

Celebrate all things APIDA with us!



# Complete Survey!



SDSU APIDA Center x  
San Francisco State University AA CARES



## Navigating Wellness: A Survey of Asian & Asian American California State University (CSU) Students



[bit.ly/AACARESSurvey](https://bit.ly/AACARESSurvey)

Scan the QR code to complete  
the survey for a chance to win a  
\$50 gift card!

As a student on a CSU campus, please take this survey (approximately 15 mins) and join an optional focus group! Participants will have the option of entering a prize drawing. About 300 participants will be awarded **\$50 gift cards**! In addition, students can participate in a focus group. Each focus group participant will receive **\$100 for an hour of their time**.



## Navigating Wellness: A Survey of Asian & Asian American California State University (CSU) Students

The Asian American Collective Action for Racial Equity and Solidarity (AA CARES) at San Francisco State University is conducting research on the well-being of Asian American students at CSU campuses. Please complete their survey (which will take approximately 15 minutes). Participants can win a \$50 gift card! In addition, students selected for a focus group will receive \$100 for an hour of their time. The APIDA Center is also providing snacks (while supplies last) for completing the survey!



# Know APIDA History!



## APIDA Center learns about Committee of 100!

The Committee of 100 is a non-profit, non-partisan membership organization of prominent Chinese Americans in business, government, academia, science, technology, and the arts. The group formed in 1989 following the aftermath of the Tiananmen Square protests in 1989. Renowned architect I.M. Pei (1917-2019) assembled a group of prominent Chinese Americans to address the critical issues impacting the Chinese American community and to help foster positive relations between the United States and China. The first generation of Committee of 100 members included Yo-Yo Ma (born 1955), I.M. Pei, Henry S. Tang (years of life unknown), Oscar Tang (born 1938), Chien Shiung Wu (1912-1997), and Shirley Young (1935-2021).

Today, the Committee of 100 continues the work with several goals in mind. The organization aims to provide leadership and act as a constructive force in promoting the full participation of all Chinese Americans in society. The organization serves as a public policy resource for the Chinese American community and aims to advance constructive dialogue and relationships between the leaders of the United States and Greater China.

Last weekend, for the second year in a row, Dr. Loh-Hagan was invited to speak as a panelist at the Committee of 100 annual conference in Los Angeles. Along with Mr. Stewart Kwoh (Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director of The Asian American Education Project) and Dr. Russell Jeung (Professor at San Francisco State University and Founder of Stop AAPI Hate), Dr. Loh-Hagan discussed the challenges of teaching Asian American studies in today's political climate. (Fun Fact: This year, the conference featured the cast of "The Joy Luck Club." OMG!)



# APIDA Center Highlights: News to Know!



## APIDA Center decorates Hoi An Lanterns!

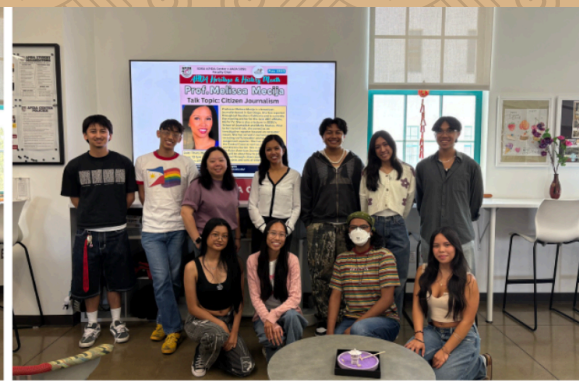
On Monday, April 28th, we learned about Hoi An lanterns, an iconic hallmark of Hoi An, a province in central Vietnam. The traditional craft of making lanterns dates back over 400 years. We decorated our own paper lanterns using paint, markers, and more! It was lit!



## APIDA Center learns about Black April!

Wednesday, April 30, 2025, marked 50 years since the Fall of Saigon, which happened on April 30, 1975. The APIDA Center hosted several programs to commemorate this important history. First, we hosted a discussion about Black April where we learned about the significance and meaning of Black April. We also reflected on 50 years of Southeast Asian American history. Second, we hosted a cultural education program about the histories of Vietnamese resettlement in the United States. We learned about Vietnamese American communities in California, New Orleans, and Texas. Third, we hosted a program about the historical and cultural significance of Bánh Mì sandwiches and enjoyed some Bánh Mì from Pho Today, a local Vietnamese eatery near SDSU. Lastly, we concluded our Black April programs by with a guest speaker, Dr. Thao Ha, who shared about her experiences as a refugee and researcher. We also watched "Seadrift" to learn about the tensions between Texas fishermen and Vietnamese refugee fishing communities in Seadrift, Texas in the late 1970s.





## APIDA Center features Professor Melissa Mecija!

On Thursday, May 1st, the APIDA Center and Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA) at SDSU hosted a faculty talk with Professor **Melissa Mecija** to discuss the significance of citizen journalism in amplifying APIDA stories in the media. We learned about Mecija's experiences as a journalist. Mecija also provided some tips for students interested in citizen journalism.



## APIDA Center celebrates Lei Day!

May Day is Lei Day in Hawaii! On May 1st, **Grace Academia**, one of our APIDA Center Student Interns and an A-LIST student, presented on the historical and cultural significance of lei as well as the origin of Lei Day. Then, we made ribbon lei, which are a perfect gift for the upcoming graduation celebrations!



## APIDA Center meets Yu-An Chien!

On May 1st, the APIDA Center hosted the last Meet Your Counselor program for the academic year. Students met Ms. **Yu-An Chien**, one of the APIDA-identifying counselors from SDSU's Counseling & Psychological Services. We talked about Ms. Chien's journey as a mental health professional, the importance of self-care during finals, and more.



# APIDA Recommendation: Jazmine Ibarra



**Jazmine Ibarra** is a third-year transfer student majoring in Psychology. She recommends Kawachi Crafts, a local small business crochet craft vendor. Jazmine said, "I got Jiji (my crocheted cat) from a vendor called Kawachi Crafts during SDSU's Makers' Market last semester. Jiji is a character from the 'Kiki's Delivery Service,' one of my favorite Studio Ghibli films. Jiji is well-made and super cute. He serves as a little memento of my first semester at SDSU, and two friends I've become close with. I recommend attending Makers' Market with friends to view or buy lovely handmade crafts like these to support creative culture at SDSU."

Kawachi Crafts is founded and owned by Krissen Kawachi-Mercer and her mother, Davette Kawachi. They specialize in *amigurumi*, which are crocheted and knitted stuffed toys. In Fall 2024, Kawachi Crafts debuted at the SDSU APIDA Center's annual Makers' Market. Their stand was a hit! Some popular items at Kawachi Crafts included crocheted sunflowers, lavenders, and spam musubi.

**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](mailto:apida@sdsu.edu).**



# Upcoming APIDA Center Events

## Feel Your Feelings: Managing Finals-Induced Stress\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Monday, May 5, 2025 from 5-6pm**

Finals season is one of the most stressful time in one's college career. Share your stresses as well as helpful tips and trusted techniques to manage stress and finish strong.

## History of Paper-Making: One of China's Great Inventions\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Monday, May 5, 2025 from 6-8pm**

China is known for "The Four Great Inventions" - which refers to the compass, gunpowder, paper-making and printing. Learn more about the history of paper-making, including the STEM behind the process. Then, make some paper with us.

## D.I.Y. Masala Chai\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 from 4-5pm**

Masala chai is a popular spiced black tea beverage from South Asia, typically made with black tea, milk, sugar, and a blend of aromatic spices. Learn about its historical and cultural significance and then make your own tea blend!

## Research Talk: Samoan Language with Dr. Grant Muāgututi'a\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 from 3-4pm**

Join us to learn about Dr. Grant Muāgututi'a's research on Samoan language and his work as a cultural scholar and activist.

## APIDA Teaching STEM: Meet Ms. Kylie Olsen\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 from 5-6pm**

About 2% of U.S. teachers are APIDA. We need to diversify the teaching force, especially in STEM. Meet and greet Ms. Kylie Olsen, a math teacher at Montgomery Middle School. Ms. Olsen will share her journey as an APIDA-identifying math teacher.

## Asian Courting Rituals\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 from 6-8pm**

Learn the art of culturally significant flirting! Learn about and practice various Asian courting rituals. Examples include pov pop (a Hmong ball-tossing game), tips from the Kama Sutra (an ancient Indian Hindu Sanskrit text), and more! We will also provide opportunities to meet new and old friends!

## Feel Your Feelings: So You've Graduated? The Stress of What's Next!\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Thursday, May 8, 2025 from 11-12pm**

Life after graduation can feel overwhelming. Discuss the challenges and stresses of transitioning from student life to the "real world."

## 2025 APIDA Excellence Celebration

**Location: Student Union Courtyard**

**Date: Thursday, May 8, 2025 from 5-9pm**

We will be recognizing our December 2024, May 2025, and August 2025 graduates as well as celebrating the end of the academic year! Enjoy lots of food, cake, caricatures, balloon art, photobooth, dancing, and more! [RSVP](#) by April 25th.

## APIDA Field Trip: "Aloha Vaqueros" Exhibit at the San Diego History Center\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Friday, May 9, 2025 from 10am-6pm**

Learn about "Hawaiian cowboys" and their connection to San Diego. Also, visit San Diego sites that are connected to Hawaiian history and culture. [RSVP](#) by 5pm on Friday, May 2, 2025.

## Finals Fun

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: May 12 to May 15 from 5-8pm**

Join us from 5-8pm for fun, de-stressing activities that offer a break from studying for finals:

- Monday, May 12: Sustainable Stitching
- Tuesday, May 13: Weaving Wonders
- Wednesday, May 14: Game Night
- Thursday, May 15: Movie Night

## Hmong-Lao Veterans Day\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 from 3-4pm**

During the Vietnam War (1955-1975), the CIA and U.S. Armed Forces recruited and trained Hmong-Lao forces to combat communist forces. Thousands of Hmong-Lao people courageously fought. May 14, 1975, marks the day that the last of the Hmong-Lao soldiers and their families fled Laos for the Nam Phong refugee camp in Thailand. Learn more about how May 14th is recognized as Hmong-Lao Veterans Day.

## Game Night: Catan\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 from 6-8pm**

The APIDA Center and the Data Science Initiative (DSI) student organization will be hosting a Catan game night! Learn about Catan and its relation to data science. Learn some algorithms and statistics to enhance your performance. Then, play Catan with us!

## APIDA Camping & Student Leadership Retreat\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Friday, May 23 to Sunday, May 25, 2025**

Remember 6th grade camp? Didn't get a chance to go? Let's go! All expenses including transportation, lodging, meals, activities, etc. will be provided. We will travel to Cuyamaca to enjoy the great outdoors, team-building, leadership development, and more! [RSVP](#) by 5pm on Monday, May 5th.

## Craft for a Cause

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Dates: All Semester Long!**

Crochet, knit, and loom hats, scarves, blankets, etc. with us. We will donate our hand/heart-made goods to local communities in need! Come to the APIDA Center and craft away. Instructions and supplies will be provided.

*NOTE: In order to participate in the workshop (i.e., crafts, food, etc.) and/or earn [APIDA SWAG](#), course extra credit, etc., you must attend events on time and in their entirety and be engaged for the entire event. For events marked with an asterisk (\*), we will not permit attendees after the indicated start time. We don't want you to miss out on anything and we want to be courteous to the presenters.*



## Opportunities & Events

### APIDA Student Organizations:

- [Pacific Islander Student Association \(PISA\)](#) is hosting their [28th Annual Lu'au](#) on Sat, May 3 from 3-7pm in Tula. [Buy tickets](#) today!
- [Asian Business Association \(ABA\) at SDSU](#) is hosting an [End-of-Year Bonfire](#) on Sat, May 3 at 3pm on Mission Beach. [RSVP](#) today!
- [Vietnamese Student Association \(VSA\)](#) is hosting their [End-of-Year Banquet](#) on Sun, May 4 from 5-7pm at the Parma Payne Alumni Center. [RSVP](#) today!
- [Korean American Student Association \(KASA\)](#) is accepting [Fall 2025 Executive Board](#) applications. [Apply](#) by Sun, May 4.

### Community Center Partners:

- The [Latinx Resource Center \(LRC\)](#) is hosting "Cartoneras: Documentary Screening & Workshop" on Mon, May 5 from 11-1pm.
- The [Center for Intercultural Relations \(CIR\)](#) and the [Office for Graduate Life & Diversity](#) are continuing to host [Relax & Refuel Stations](#) from Mon, May 5 to Fri, May 9 from 12-4pm.
- The [Undocumented Resource Center \(URC\)](#) is hosting a [Graduation Cap Decoration](#) session on Tues, May 6 from 12:30-1:30pm.

### Campus Partners:

- The [Charles Wei-hsun Fu Center for Asian and Pacific Studies](#) is hosting an [End-of-Semester Celebration](#) on Thurs, May 8 at 4pm.
- Associated Students, Aztec Nights, and SDSU Esports Engagement Center are hosting [Midnight Study Break: Game On!](#) on Thurs, May 8 from 9pm-1am in Montezuma Hall.
- ZIP Launchpad at SDSU is accepting applications for the Summer 2025 Cohort. [Apply](#) by May 30.
- Struggling with basic needs? Need resources? Connect with the [Economic Crisis Resource Team](#).

### Community Partners:

- Golden Guide's [Golden Makers Market](#) is on May 3-4 from 11-4pm at the SD Made Factory.
- Japanese Americans Citizens League San Diego is hosting a panel entitled, "What Does It Mean to Be Japanese American?" on Tues, May 6 at the Mission Valley Library starting at 5:15pm. [RSVP](#) by Mon, May 5.
- The Asian American Education Project offers free APIDA resources on their [website](#) and [Instagram](#). Their next free workshop is entitled "Amplify APIDA in May" on Tues, May 6 from 4-5pm. [Register](#) today!

Do you have an opportunity to share?  
Email us at [apida@sdsu.edu](mailto:apida@sdsu.edu).



### From Our Special Partner: [Math and Science Teacher Initiative \(MSTI\)](#)

- MSTI is looking for a Student Assistant in the College of Education for hire! [Apply](#) today!
- MSTI is offering free California Subject Examination Prep courses for aspiring Math and Science teachers in Summer 2025. [Register](#) soon!
- MSTI is providing a Crash Course in Science Teaching program from May 19-23. Completion of the program renders eligibility for a \$500 MSTI Scholarship! [Apply](#) today!
- MSTI is now hiring 6th-12th grade Math and Science tutor positions for the 2025-2026 academic year. [Apply](#) today!

Do you have an opportunity to share?  
Email us at [apida@sdsu.edu](mailto:apida@sdsu.edu).



# Paid Internships & Scholarships

## Paid Internships:

- **NEW!** ZIP Launchpad at SDSU is seeking interns to support their teams. [Apply](#) today!
- **NEW!** Intuit is looking for a Finance Intern for their Global Business Services. [Apply](#) today!
- **NEW!** AAPIs for Civic Empowerment Education Fund is looking for part-time AAPI FORCE-EF Fellows. [Apply](#) by May 5th.

## Scholarships:

- **NEW!** South Asian Journalists Association (SAJA) is offering up to \$30,000 awards to up to six undergraduate and graduate students of South Asian descent or who are interested in covering stories about South Asia and/or the diaspora. [Apply](#) by May 16th.
- Indigenous Journalists Association and Asian American Journalists Association are offering two \$5,000-rewards through the Pacific Islander Scholarship program. [Apply](#) by May 31st.
- Against The Grain Productions is offering \$1,500 to current college students of Asian and/or Pacific Islander ethnicity. [Apply](#) by May 31st.
- **NEW!** Pacific Islander Student Association is offering Frank Sablan Dedication Scholarships for graduating high school seniors of Pacific Islander descent. [Apply](#) by June 1st.
- **NEW!** Banyan Treatment Centers is offering \$1,000 to a currently enrolled working students pursuing degrees in nursing, social work, psychology, healthcare administration, and other related fields. [Apply](#) by June 25th.
- **NEW!** The University Network is offering \$10,000 to up to five college undergraduates who identify as female pursuing a STEM-related field of education. [Apply](#) by June 30th.
- Delete Cyberbullying is offering \$1,000 through the Mental Health Awareness Scholarship. [Apply](#) by June 30th.

**Do you have a resource to share?**

Email us at [apida@sdsu.edu](mailto:apida@sdsu.edu).