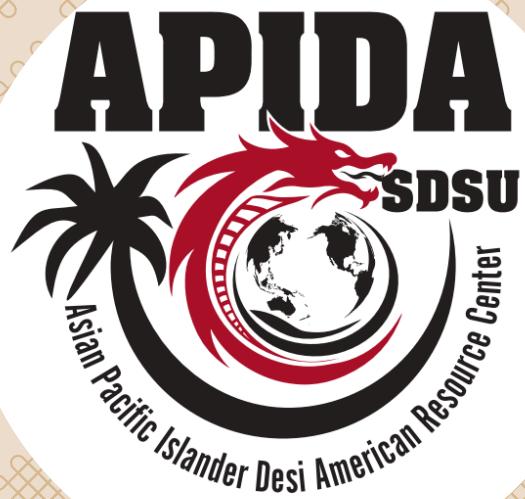


# SDSU Office of AANHPISI Affairs & APIDA Center



**Stay informed! Stay connected!**

**Check your email! Newsletter #154 is out!**

Subscribe to the newsletter: <https://bit.ly/SDSUAPIDA>

Read previous newsletters: <https://apida.sdsu.edu/archives/newsletters>



**APIDA Center Hours:**  
**Monday-Thursday 10:00-7:00pm**  
**Friday 10:00-4:30pm**

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

APIDA Center Website: <https://apida.sdsu.edu>

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

Office of AANHPISI Affairs: <https://aanhpisi.sdsu.edu>

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

**Connect with us!**



@sdsuapidacenter



SDSU APIDA  
Resource Center

**SA+CD**

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

November 23, 2025



## From Dr. Loh-Hagan: Representing at the CSU YMOC conference!

From November 19-21, the APIDA Center went on the road...in a mini-van (thanks to **Matthew H Garcia** for driving)! We drove up to Fullerton to present at the 2025 CSU YMOC conference. (This is our fourth year presenting at this conference.) Our presentation was entitled, "Defying Narratives about Asian American and Pacific Islander Men." Student panelists included **Teddy Morando**, **Stefano Peluso**, **Riley Realica**, and **Michael Zamora**. We proudly inserted our voices into this space and learned a lot about leading with service (versus ego) and the importance of grounding ourselves in our communities.

Along the way, we also visited several Asian American historical sites including Tanaka Farms, Historic Wintersburg, Little Saigon, Asian Garden Mall, Hem Mural, Cao Dai Temple, The Source OC, SoCo District, Vietnamese Heritage Museum, Anaheim Packing District, and more. We discussed the Asian American histories connected to each place. We learned about the early histories of Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese American communities in building Southern California. (We will be hosting more field trips in this area. Standby!)

We are thrilled to be able to provide such transformational experiences for our students. For all of them, this was their first time presenting at a conference; as such, we were able to increase professional skills and career preparedness. In addition, they built community with other young men of color and increased their knowledge about the contributions of Asian Americans. Community, cultural pride, and collective self-esteem are necessary for combatting effects of harmful narratives. We are changing lives! (Help us by donating to our efforts via our [Program Fund!](#))



# Know APIDA History!



## APIDA Center learns about Tanaka Farms!

Tanaka Farms is a Japanese American family-owned and operated farm. Takeo Tanaka immigrated to northern California in the early 1900s. At this time, Japanese immigrant farmers, like Tanaka, were known for their agricultural skills and developed many of California's farmlands. During World War II (1939-1945), the incarceration of Japanese Americans per Executive Order 9066 forced many to abandon their farms - many were challenged to recover their lands and businesses.

Tanaka's US-born son, George, fled to Utah to avoid being sent to an incarceration camp. There, George met his wife, Chris, who was from a farming family in Japan. Together, they returned to Orange County and established Tanaka Farms in Fountain Valley; they grew tomatoes, vegetables, and strawberries for local markets. George's son, Glenn, graduated from Cal State Pomona and expanded the farms. Glenn's son, Kenny, who is a fourth-generation Japanese American farmer, now manages Tanaka Farms. In 1998, he moved Tanaka Farms to its current Irvine site; instead of wholesale farming, he focused more on responsible farming techniques and agritourism. His children are keeping the tradition alive and are also farmers. Tanaka Farms reflects the sustained presence of Japanese American farmers in the region.



## APIDA Recommendation: Shop at Tanaka Farms!

If you are in the area, make sure to stop at [Tanaka Farms](#) and buy some fruits, vegetables, and merch. Tanaka Farms carries JellyBear jams - a Black-owned business in Escondido that uses farm-fresh ingredients to create yummy jams and jellies packaged in super cute bear jars. We highly recommend the low-sugar peach cobbler flavor - even Dewey approves!

# APIDA Center Highlights: News to Know!



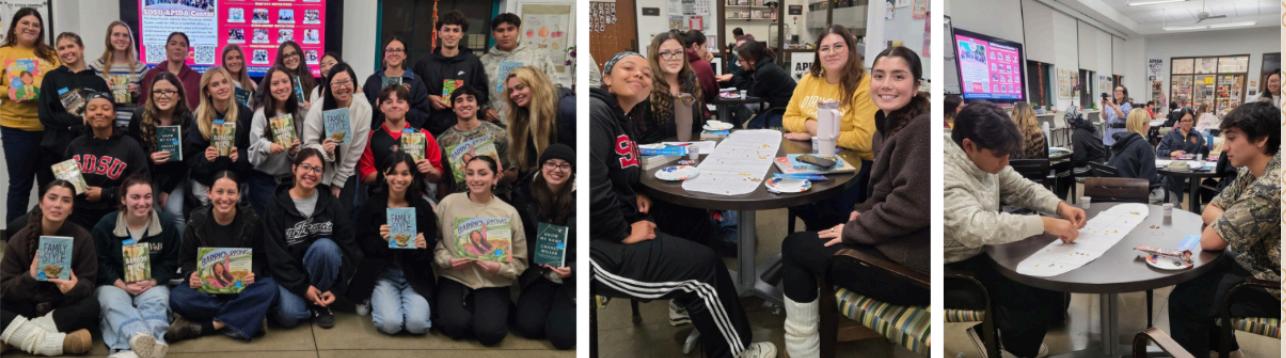
## APIDA Center hosts Thien Pham!

On Monday, November 17th, we hosted Thien Pham, the author and illustrator of *Family Style: Memories of an American from Vietnam*. Pham shared his writing journey with us and then signed books which we gave away as part of our One Book One San Diego partnership. We also served most of the foods mentioned in this graphic memoir. This book is especially important as 2025 commemorates 50 years of Southeast Asian American history. Stay connected with us as we are hosting more events about Pham's book!



## APIDA Center hosts Mesa College's Kapwa!

On Monday, November 17th, we hosted students from Mesa College's Kapwa learning community, which is led by Trish Guevarra and Jennifer Derilo. They learned about the APIDA Center, learned about Vietnamese resettlement in San Diego, played O An Quan, got copies of Pham's books, toured the campus, and visited the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies. One student reported that they weren't considering SDSU but after hanging out with us, they are more interested.



## APIDA Center hosts Honors 313!

On Tuesday, November 18th, the APIDA Center welcomed about 20+ Honors 313 students in our space. We discussed narratives that impact APIDA communities and the importance of narrative change. We also discussed Vietnamese resettlement, played O An Quan, and gave out copies of Pham's book. Many thanks to Ms. **Jacqueline Toy** for collaborating with us.



## APIDA Center learns about APIDA collectible culture!

On Wednesday, November 19th, we teamed up with APSA and hosted a workshop on APIDA collectible culture. We also learned about the science and psychology behind collecting. This workshop helps set up our [Collectible Fair](#) on December 3rd.



## APIDA Center learns about Captain Sikh America!

Did you know that November is California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month? On Wednesday, November 19th, we learned about Vishavjit Singh (born c. 1970s), an artist and performer who dresses as a Sikh version of Captain American in order to challenge stereotypes and raise awareness of Sikh American contributions. We also watched "American Sikh," an animated short documentary film.



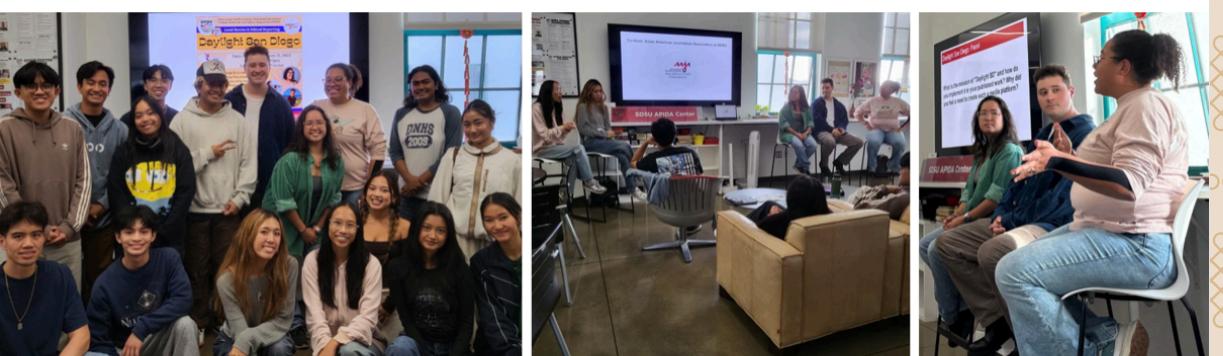
## APIDA Center learns about Hello Kitty!

On November 20th, **Jaelynn Delfin**, an APIDA Student Intern, hosted a workshop about the historical and cultural significance of Hello Kitty, a global icon and marketing phenomenon. The workshop focused on the emergence of kawaii (cute) culture that helped rebrand Japan after World War II. Then, attendees made simple Hello Kitty bookmarks.



## APIDA Center learns about Japanese calligraphy!

On November 21st, **Yurie Hara**, an APIDA Student Intern, hosted a workshop about the beautiful tradition of Shodō, the Japanese art of calligraphy with origins in China. Then, attendees practiced writing characters.



## APIDA Center learns about Daylight San Diego!

On November 21st, the APIDA Center collaborated with AAJA SDSU to host a panel featuring staff from "Daylight San Diego," a new local journalism startup focused on stories about underrepresented communities in San Diego. We were thrilled to welcome back co-founder, **Brittany Cruz-Fejeran**. Lauren Mapp (co-founder) and Sam Barney-Gibbs (reporter) were also part of the panel. It is always important to learn about ethical reporting and the power of telling our stories.

## APIDA Flex Alerts!

**Krissa Jackson** is a fourth-year Public Health major and an APIDA Center Student Assistant. She has been a part of the SDSU Waterski and Wakesports club since her freshman year. She competed at the 2025 NCWSA Syndicate National Championships in Imperial, California, from October 16-18, where the SDSU Waterski Team captured the 2025 D2 national championship, outperforming eleven other teams from across the country. Of the three events held at nationals, she competed in Jump, in which skiers use two long skis to launch off a five-foot ramp and travel the greatest possible distance. Krissa jumped 39 feet.

Dr. **Tianying Wu**, Associate Professor of Epidemiology in the School of Public Health, has received many accolades for her research which demonstrated [links between food and beverage temperature to mental and gut health](#). Her study has been featured in more than 20 media outlets.

Dr. **Loh-Hagan** presented at the California Reading Association's annual conference in October and at the California Library Association's annual conference in November. The focus of her talks were her children's books.



This year, Dr. Loh-Hagan nominated **Grace Academia**, a sophomore who was in A-LIST last year, for the National Pacific Islander Education Network's (NPIEN) Christina Diaz Student Scholar award. Grace was honored at the annual conference on October 20th. Grace gave this wonderful speech: "Hello, my name is Grace Academia and I'd like to share a little bit about how the APIDA Center has impacted my college experience. As an out-of-state student coming to SDSU, the APIDA center has been a major support in my life. When adjusting to college, having a welcoming space to go to for advising, studying, and socializing was a defining factor in my experience. The APIDA Center has provided me with both a space and with faculty for support. With them, I really feel like I have a solid support system regardless of if I'm there for only a minute or the entire day. These mentors want to see me thrive and succeed, which is evidenced by their guidance and constructive criticism. Not only have I learned more about other cultures, but I feel like I've also had the opportunity to dive into my own. The APIDA Center's programs and seminars have allowed me to get a deeper understanding of what it means to be Asian American, as well as Asian American history in the United States. I can confidently say that I've learned more about the diverse groups that make up Asian America. I've met my closest friends at this university through the A-LIST program. I was able to find peers who have similar yet diverse experiences to mine. Although my hometown is culturally rich, I find myself exposed to new cultures and ideas all the time. The APIDA Center encourages all of us to connect with fellow students and build community with one another. In a campus where it can be hard to find belonging, the APIDA Center and its philosophy has changed my college experience for the better. I'm thankful to the APIDA Center and everyone I've met along the way."



# Upcoming APIDA Center Events

## Gratitude Craft Night\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Monday, November 24, 2025 from 5-7pm**

Make gratitude crafts with us - like thank-you cards, friendship bracelets, small gifts, and more! Take a moment to share appreciation through handmade creations. Get crafty and spread a little kindness!

## Players' Choice Game Night\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Tuesday, November 25, 2025 from 5-7pm**

Join us for a chill Players' Choice Game Night! Pick your own games to play. Whether you're feeling competitive/spicy or just along for the vibes, APIDA has the right game for you.

## Tò He\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 from 5-7pm**

Learn about the historical and cultural significance of Tò he, the colorful Vietnamese toy figurines made from glutinous rice flour. Then, create your own Tò he-inspired art!

## Discussing Family Style: A Faculty Panel\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 from 4-5pm**

Join us as expert book clubbers discuss Thien Pham's graphic memoir. Learn how to critically talk about a graphic novel. While supplies last, we will be giving away copies of the book!

## Collectibles Fair & Meet-Up

**Location: Student Union Courtyard**

**Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2025 from 12-3pm**

The SDSU APIDA Center and One SDSU are hosting a Collectibles Fair & Meet-Up. If you have a collection, host a table at our Collectibles Fair. Meet other enthusiasts, trade collectibles, and/or meet new fans & friends. Email [apida@sdsu.edu](mailto:apida@sdsu.edu) with your name and your collection. Sign up today! Open until spaces are filled.

## Shichi Narabe\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Thursday, December 4, 2025 from 1-2pm**

Learn about the historical and cultural significance of Shichi Narabe (or the Japanese version of Sevens) and play this popular card game with us. Hosted by Yurie Hara, APIDA Student Intern.

## APIDA Student Leadership Retreat\*

**Location: Cuyamaca Outdoor School**

**Date: December 5-7, 2025**

Don't miss out! We are hosting our second weekend trip to Camp Cuyamaca. All expenses will be provided. All you need to do is sign up and commit! [SIGN UP NOW!](#)

## Discussing Family Style: Living the Refugee Experience\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Tuesday, December 9, 2025 from 4-5pm**

Join us as faculty share their personal connection to Thien Pham's graphic memoir. Learn more about the Vietnamese refugee and resettlement experience. While supplies last, we will be giving away copies of the book!



## **Modified Hours for Fall Break!**

As a reminder, this upcoming week's operation hours will be modified for fall break. On Wed, November 26th, we will close early at 4:30pm. For the rest of the week (November 27-28th), the campus will be closed. Our regular hours will resume on Monday, December 1st. Have a relaxing and restful break! Eat lots of gravy and hang with family and friends. We'll be here when you get back!

Two side-by-side promotional posters for the Collectibles Fair &amp; Meet-Up. Both posters feature the APIDA logo and 'ONE SDSU COMMUNITY'. The left poster is for 'SDSU Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Center x One SDSU' and the right is for 'SDSU Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Center x One SDSU'. Both posters have a red header 'Sign Up Today!', followed by 'COLLECTIBLES FAIR &amp; MEET-UP'. Below that, it says 'Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2025', 'Time: 12:00-3:00pm', and 'Location: Student Union Courtyard'. It then describes collectibles like toys, trinkets, art, sports memorabilia, and more. A red arrow points to the text 'WANT TO SHOWCASE YOUR COLLECTION? Email: apida@sdsu.edu'. The right poster also includes a photo of a collection of figures.

The SDSU APIDA Center and One SDSU are hosting a Collectibles Fair & Meet-Up. If you have a collection, we want you! Host a table at our Collectibles Fair. Meet other enthusiasts, trade collectibles, and/or meet new fans & friends. Email [apida@sdsu.edu](mailto:apida@sdsu.edu) with your name and your collection. Sign up today! Open until spaces are filled. All collections are welcome!

# Opportunities & Events

## APIDA Student Organizations:

- Tabletop Gaming Club is hosting [Pirate Games](#) on Tues, Nov 25 at 5:30pm in Music 206.
- The Asian Pacific Student Alliance is accepting nominations for their [KSF Superlatives](#). [Submit your nominations](#) by 11:59pm on Fri, Nov 28!

## Community Center Partners:

- Most SDSU Community Centers will have modified hours for Fall Break. Be sure to check their Instagram pages for more information!
- The Black Resource Center is hosting the [2025 Kwanzaa Celebration](#) on Thurs, Dec 4 from 5-7pm. [RSVP](#) today!

## Campus Partners:

- Asian American Studies is hosting focus groups about AI usage via zoom. Get a \$20 gift card for participating. If you identify as APIDA, you are eligible.
- The Glazer Center for Leadership & Service is hosting [Give Back and Track: Friendship Bracelets](#) on Mon, Dec 1 from 2-3pm.
- The Office of Graduate Life & Diversity is hosting a [Graduate Bowling Night](#) on Wed, Dec 3 from 5-7pm at Aztec Lanes. [RSVP](#) today!
- The Center for Asian and Pacific Studies is hosting [Ornament Crafting](#) on Thurs, Dec 4 at 4pm. [RSVP](#) today!
- Struggling with basic needs? Need resources? Connect with the [Economic Crisis Resource Team](#).

## Community Partners:

- San Diego Mahjong Club is hosting [Riichi Mahjong Night](#) on Sun, Nov 23 from 10-2pm at At Ease Games.
- Bridge The Gap San Diego is seeking volunteers for their upcoming event "Hello Halo!" on Sun, Dec 7 from 12-8pm. [Sign up](#) today!
- The Asian American Education Project offers free APIDA resources on their [website](#) and [Instagram](#).

## Research Opportunities

- **NEW!** Barby Castro from the San Diego County of Education is looking for volunteer participants for her research entitled, "Project EquiData." [Sign up](#) today!
- The *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry* is looking for [research proposals](#) on the impacts of structural and social determinants of health, including multiple forms of racism and minoritization, in child and adolescent mental health. Submit a proposal by Dec 1.
- The [2026 SDSU Student Symposium](#) is on Feb 27. [Register](#) to present by Dec 11. The APIDA Center and Office of AANHPISI Affairs is hosting a [Special Session](#).
- SDSU Entrepreneurship Initiatives is accepting applications for the 2026 Social Venture Challenge themed "Achieving Food Security Through Innovation." [Apply](#) by Dec 12.
- CREATE Scholars is accepting applications for the 2026 Summer Research cohort. [Apply](#) by Jan 16.

## Jobs & Paid Internships

- **NEW!** The Office of Graduate Life & Diversity is looking for a [Graduate Student Assistant](#). [Apply](#) on [Handshake](#) by Dec 1.
- **NEW!** The NBC Universal is looking for Peacock Marketing Interns. [Apply](#) by Dec 5.
- Center for California Studies is looking for paid fellows for their Capital Fellowship Programs. [Apply](#) by Dec. 8.
- The Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies is looking for Congressional Fellows. [Apply](#) by Dec 12.
- The US-Asia Institute is looking for participants for the IMPACT! Filipino American National Internship Program. [Apply](#) by Jan 31.
- The Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies is looking for Congressional Interns for Summer 2026. [Apply](#) by Feb 1.
- Google is looking for a Research Intern for Summer 2026. [Apply](#) by Feb 27.

## Scholarships

- **NEW!** The Pauahi Foundation is offering post-secondary scholarships to students of Hawaiian ancestry. [Apply](#) by Nov 30.
- The Balance Mental Health Group is offering \$500 to a student pursuing a career in mental health. [Apply](#) by Nov 30.
- Boster Bio is offering \$1000 to graduate students working in a biology or related lab. [Apply](#) by Nov 30.
- The American Physical Therapy Association is offering the Mary McMillan Scholarship Award to physical therapist and physical therapist assistant students. [Apply](#) by Dec 1.
- The Barbara Lotze Scholarship is offering up to \$3000 to students pursuing a career in high school physics education. [Apply](#) by Dec 1.
- The Willis H. Carrier Scholarship is offering two \$10,000 awards to undergraduate engineering majors. [Apply](#) by Dec 1.
- The Lynn G. Bellenger Scholarship is offering \$5000 to women in engineering. [Apply](#) by Dec 1.
- Forte Business Leaders Scholarship is offering \$1000 to business majors or minors. [Apply](#) by Dec 1.
- The It Takes a Village "Bayanihan" Scholarship by Tinidor Foods is offering \$500 to a Filipino immigrant undergraduate or graduate student. [Apply](#) by Dec 5.
- The RevPart 2026 STEM Scholarship is offering awards to undergraduate students pursuing a STEM-related career. [Apply](#) by Dec 31.
- **NEW!** APIA Scholars are offering multiple scholarships to undergraduate students. [Apply](#) by Jan 15.
- ASNT Foundation is offering the Robert B. Oliver Scholarship for pursuing studies in nondestructive testing or related disciplines. [Apply](#) by Jan 31, 2026.