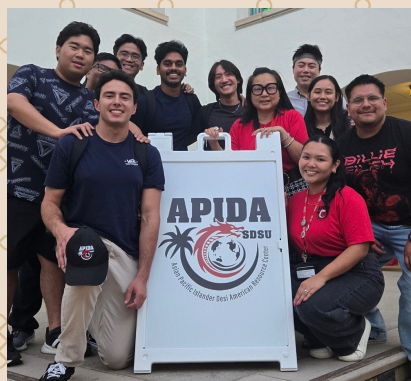


# SDSU Office of AANHPISI Affairs & APIDA Center



**Stay informed! Stay connected!**  
**Check your email! Newsletter #156 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)**

***Connect with us!***

APIDA Center Website: <https://apida.sdsu.edu>  
APIDA Center Email: [apida@sdsu.edu](mailto:apida@sdsu.edu)  
Office of AANHPISI Affairs: <https://aanhpsi.sdsu.edu>  
Executive Director: Dr. Loh-Hagan at [vloh-hagan@sdsu.edu](mailto:vloh-hagan@sdsu.edu)



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SDSU APIDA  
Resource Center

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

December 12, 2025




## From Dr. Loh-Hagan: 'Tis the Fall 2025 finals season!

It's hard to believe that the semester is almost over. December 12-18 is finals week and the APIDA Center is ready. We are hosting silent study hall and finals fun activities. Stop by, study, and hang. We are here for you. (Even Dewey came by for a little bit to wish everyone good luck!)



### APIDA Center Finals Week

**Fall 2025 Semester - Important Dates:**  
Dec 11: Last Day of Classes  
Dec 12-18: Final Exams



**During Finals Week,  
the APIDA Center will be hosting:**

- Silent Study Hall from 10-5pm
- Finals Fun Activities from 5-7pm
- Craft for a Cause from 10-7pm



### FINALS FUN

**Location: APIDA Center**  
**Date: Dec 15 – 18, 2025**  
**Time: 5:00–7:00pm**

DEC 15



**GUNDAM!**

DEC 16



**ZINES!**

DEC 17



**WATCH PARTY!**

DEC 18



**TOTE BAGS & STICKERS!**



# APIDA Student Leadership Retreat



## APIDA Center goes camping!

From December 5-7, the APIDA Center hosted our second APIDA Student Leadership Retreat. We had so much fun building community by telling stories and eating s'mores over campfires. We also participated in activities like rock climbing, archery, rock and wood crafts, hiking, and more. Attendees worked in teams and developed leadership and communication skills. We also engaged in activities related to career readiness. Overall, it was a transformational experience. Here are some student testimonials:

"Through the metaphorical application in proactive activities and critical thinking, I've come to understand more about how I can contribute as a leader, through skills such as effective communication, problem solving, and self-expression. By enhancing these skills, I can eagerly strive towards my personal and professional goals of self-growth...This has become one of the most valuable experiences in my undergraduate years, which I am proud to say has greatly influenced how I desire to show up in my day to day life."

"The retreat helped my career development by improving the way I work with others. I had to adjust to new situations, collaborate with people I had just met, and build relationships quickly, all of which are skills I know I'll need in any future job...[For the activities] you actually have to work together, and that creates a different kind of learning experience. They also help students form friendships, make memories, and feel a stronger sense of belonging. They helped me boost confidence and grow both personally and professionally."





## APIDA Center Highlights: News to Know!



### APIDA Center learns about Noche Buena!

On December 8th, we hosted a workshop about Noche Buena, which is a Filipino Christmas Eve tradition dating back to the Spanish colonial era. Then, we made and ate Filipino fruit salad, a dessert traditionally served during Noche Buena! This workshop was led by **Ailey Munoz**, APIDA Student Intern.



### APIDA Center makes folding fans!

For our Cultural Crafting Night on December 8th, we learned about the historical and cultural significance of folding fans, which were invented in Japan as a result of cultural exchange. We discussed its importance as a cooling device and as a form of communication. Then, we made and decorated our own folding paper fans. This workshop was led by **Jaelynn Delfin**, APIDA Student Intern.



### APIDA Center makes folding fans!

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### APIDA Center learns about Sarimanok!

On December 9th, we hosted a workshop on the significance of Sarimanok, a legendary bird from Philippine mythology. We learned about its significance to the indigenous history of the Philippines and how it symbolizes prosperity and good fortune. Then, we made Sarimanok-inspired paper crafts. This workshop was led by **Ailey Munoz**, APIDA Student Intern.





## APIDA Center hosts a *Family Style* faculty panel!

On December 9th, we continued our programming to support the One Book One San Diego initiative and to commemorate 50 years of Southeast Asian American history (since the Fall of Saigon). We hosted a panel featuring Dr. **Loh-Hagan**, Dr. **Alvin Henry**, Dr. **Tri Nguyen**, and Dr. **Giang Pham**. They shared their family stories about the Vietnamese refugee and resettlement experience and their connections to Thien Pham's *Family Style*. Fun Fact: Dr. Pham's story was featured in this article, entitled, "[The Luckiest Refugees](#)." One of the photos features her as a toddler.



## APIDA Center learns about matcha!

On December 9th, we learned about the history and cultural significance of matcha. We discussed ways to appreciate, not appropriate, matcha. Then, we enjoyed some matcha-flavored tea and snacks! This workshop was led by **Quinton Sagisi**, APIDA Student Intern.



## APIDA Center plays matching games!

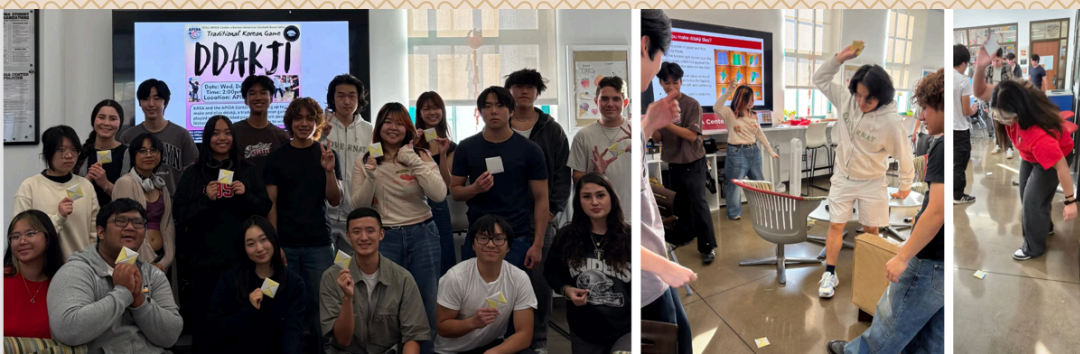
After our matcha workshop, we played matching games! (Get it? matcha and matching?!) We played games that matched our vibe, including Code Names, an APIDA Center Game Night favorite!



## APIDA Center learns about Pokemon!

On December 10th, we continued learning about Asian/APIDA collectible culture and hosted a workshop about the history of Pokemon! We learned about the role of Pokemon in the rise of Kawaii culture after World War II. Then, we made Pokemon-inspired bookmark crafts! This workshop was led by **Patricia Alfonso**, APIDA Student Intern.





## APIDA Center plays Ddakji!

On December 10th, we collaborated with the Korean American Student Association (KASA) and hosted a workshop about Ddakji, a traditional Korean game. We learned about the history of Korean paper-folding traditions and then, made Ddakji tiles. We had tons of fun flipping the paper tiles.



## APIDA Center learns about Thomasites!

On December 11th, we hosted a workshop about Thomasites. Thomasites were the first group of about 600 U.S. teachers who established the English-based public school system in the Philippines. We discussed the lasting impacts of the Thomasites and of U.S. colonization. This workshop was led by **Marianne Lababit**, APIDA Student Intern.



## APIDA Center hosts a Michelle Yeoh Fan Club!

Did you know Michelle Yeoh does her own stunts? For our Watch Party on December 10th, we hosted a Michelle Yeoh Fan Club. We learned about Yeoh's early life, career, and legacy. Then, we watched a Michelle Yeoh movie! This workshop was led by **Jalen Rodriguez**, APIDA Student Intern.



## APIDA Center eats Pan De Sal!

On December 11th, we hosted a workshop about the history of Pan De Sal, which is a staple bread roll in the Philippines. We learned about how colonization impacted the evolution of Pan De Sal. Then, we ate some Pan De Sal with various toppings. This workshop was led by **Jalen Rodriguez**, APIDA Student Intern. Fun Fact: Jalen's family owns a bakeshop so he has been making Pan De Sal from an early age.



# Upcoming APIDA Center Events

## **Finals Silent Study Hall**

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: December 12 to December 18, 2025 from 10-5pm**

We are observing silent hours from 10-5pm during Finals Week. In addition to study areas, we have snacks, test-taking supplies, computers, and more.

## **Finals Fun: Gundam**

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Monday, December 15, 2025 from 5-7pm**

De-stress from finals by helping us build a gundam and continue to learn about Asian/APIDA collectible culture.

## **Finals Fun: Zines Workshop\***

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Tuesday, December 16, 2025 from 5-7pm**

Zines (short for magazines) are small, handmade, self-published booklets that have served as vehicles for personal expression, activism, and more. Create and design your own zine with Vince Alvendia, a local indie comic artist and illustrator. Help start the APIDA Center's zine collection!

## **Finals Fun: Watch Party**

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Wednesday, December 17, 2025 from 5-7pm**

Hang out and watch a movie/TV show of your choosing. We will serve popcorn and snacks.

## **Finals Fun: Tote Bags & Stickers**

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Thursday, December 18, 2025 from 5-7pm**

To celebrate the last day of finals, come to the APIDA Center and design your own tote bags and stickers.

## **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.*

## **SAVE THE DATES!**

Here are some upcoming APIDA Center events:

- Tues, Feb 17, 2026 from 12-2pm: Lunar New Year Festival
- Thurs, May 7, 2026 from 5-9pm: APIDA Excellence Celebration



## **APIDA "HAPI" Hours! (HAPI = Happy + Asian Pacific Islander)**

There's always something to do at the APIDA Center. Take a break, meet new friends, and learn something. On Monday through Thursday nights, we will be hosting themed programs. Join us.

Contact [apida@sdsu.edu](mailto:apida@sdsu.edu) if you are interested in hosting a Thursday Takeover.

## **Student-Led Workshops & Student-Created Social Media Campaigns**

APIDA Center is hosting Student-Led Workshops and Student-Created Social Media Campaigns. This is a great opportunity to share your passion with others. It's also an opportunity to learn how to plan an event or prepare a campaign with our support. We are interested in any and all APIDA-related topics! If you are interested, email [apida@sdsu.edu](mailto:apida@sdsu.edu).



# Opportunities & Events

## APIDA Student Organizations:

- The Pacific Islander Student Association (PISA) is rolling out to the [Coronado Light Show](#) on Thurs, Dec 18 at 6pm.

## Community Center Partners:

- The Native Resource Center (NRC) is hosting a [Build Your Own Survival Kit](#) event from Dec 8-18 while supplies last.

## Campus Partners:

- Counseling and Psychological Services (C&PS) is hosting [Finals Support Talk It Out](#) sessions. The next session is on Tues, Dec 16 from 10-12pm in Lamden Hall 259.
- Struggling with basic needs? Need resources? Connect with the [Economic Crisis Resource Team](#).

## Community Partners:

- The Lao Hmong Family Association San Diego is hosting a Hmong New Year celebration on Sat, Dec 13 and Sun, Dec 14 from 8-5pm at the Kearny Mesa Recreation Park.
- The Asian American Education Project offers free APIDA resources on their [website](#) and [Instagram](#).



# Research Opportunities

- The [2026 SDSU Student Symposium](#) is on Feb 27. [Register](#) to present by Dec 11. The APIDA Center and Office of AANHPI 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.
- **NEW!** The SDSU Native Resource Center and Elymash Yuuchaap Indigenous Scholars & Leaders are accepting research presentation proposals for the Native and Indigenous Research and Arts symposium in March 2026. [Apply](#) by Feb 6.
- The San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance is accepting applications for the Conservation Science Summer Fellowship Program. [Apply](#) by Feb 15.
- **NEW!** The SDSU Pride Center and LGBTQ+ Studies Department are calling for research presentation proposals for the 2026 Pride Symposium. [Apply](#) by April 17.

# Jobs & Paid Internships

- **NEW!** Norton Lilly International is looking for an intern. [Apply](#) today!
- **NEW!** Element Biosciences is looking for a Software Automation Test Intern. [Apply](#) today!
- **NEW!** The Asian American Journalists Association and ABC News are looking for Summer 2026 interns. [Apply](#) by Jan 21.
- The Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship is offering \$9,500 to juniors and seniors pursuing STEM and social science careers. [Apply](#) by Jan 31.
- 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 UniMovers Working Student Scholarship is offering \$1,000 to current college students. [Apply](#) by Dec 15.
- Kuru Footwear is offering \$1,000 to college students pursuing a degree in nursing. [Apply](#) by Dec 19.
- The National Writers' Association is offering \$1,000 to support future writers. [Apply](#) by Dec 31.
- The RevPart 2026 STEM Scholarship is offering awards to undergraduate students pursuing a STEM-related career. [Apply](#) by Dec 31.
- APIA Scholars is offering multiple scholarships to undergraduate students. [Apply](#) by Jan 15.
- **NEW!** The Anna Chennault Scholarship is offering \$5,000 to an AAPI graduate student pursuing a journalism career. [Apply](#) by Jan 21.
- ASNT Foundation is offering the Robert B. Oliver Scholarship for pursuing studies in nondestructive testing or related disciplines. [Apply](#) by Jan 31, 2026.

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**Do you have an opportunity to share?**

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

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