

SDSU Office of AANHPISI Affairs & APIDA Center

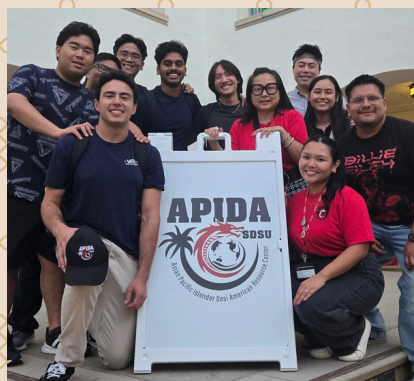


Stay informed! Stay connected!

Check your email! Newsletter #169 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
Office of AANHPISI Affairs: <https://aanhpsi.sdsu.edu>
Executive Director: Dr. Loh-Hagan at vloh-hagan@sdsu.edu



@sdsuapidacenter

**SDSU APIDA
Resource Center**

SA+CD

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

April 10, 2026



From Dr. Loh-Hagan: 2026 AAAS Conference!

SDSU was well represented at this year's Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS) conference. I was thrilled to be able to take three students: **Salinas Dinh**, **Leilani Javier**, and **Teddy Morando**. They helped me present a session entitled, "Localizing Histories to Globalize Perspectives." (In addition, I was on a CSU panel about navigating wellness and hosted a K-12 Section meeting.)

Other SDSU faculty who presented at AAAS included: Dr. **Alvin Henry**, Dr. **Stephen Suh**, Dr. **Eunice Uhm**, **Katie Bui**, **Jacqueline Toy**, and others.

The AAAS conference is a great opportunity for the Asian American Studies community to convene, network, and learn. It was great to be able to meet new and old friends from across the nation and to engage in discourse about new research and scholarship.



SDSU Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Center

April 2026

Southeast Asian American History & Heritage Month



The APIDA Center is celebrating Southeast Asian American histories and heritages throughout April. Thai, Laotian, and Cambodian New Year is April 13-15th and Black April (Fall of Saigon) is on April 30th. Join us for a month of fun and learning! Stay connected for more activities!

- Wed, April 8 from 4:00-5:30pm: Lauren Vuong & "Finding the Virgo"
- Mon, April 13 from 5:00-7:00pm: Tung Sai Moo (Thai Paper Garland)
- Mon, April 20 from 5:30-7:00pm: Paj Ntaub (Hmong Embroidery)
- Tues, April 21 from 5:00-7:00pm: Makruk (Thai Chess)
- Thurs, April 23 from 4:00-5:00pm: The Secret War in Laos
- Fri, April 24 from 10:00-5:00pm: Field Trip to SEAA Sites in San Diego
- Wed, April 29 from 12:00-1:00pm: Papaya Salad
- Thurs, April 30 from 3:00-4:00pm: Refugee Camps in Lit and Media

Celebrate Southeast Asian American History & Heritage!

The APIDA Center has designated April as Southeast Asian American History and Heritage Month! Thai, Laotian, and Cambodian New Year takes place from April 13-15th and Black April (Fall of Saigon) is on April 30th. Join us for a month of fun and learning! Stay connected for more activities!

Know APIDA History!



APIDA Center learns about Waikiki!

This year's AAAS conference took place in Waikiki, Hawai'i. We did our very best to be conscious travelers. First, we stayed at a locally owned and operated hotel instead of at the conference hotel or at an AirBnB (which raises the local housing market). Second, we strived to learn as much as we can about Native Hawaiian history and culture. For example, we took a traditional lei-making class, went to the Bishop Museum, went to Honolulu Chinatown, attended sessions featuring Kānaka Maoli, organized a Waikiki historical walking tour and read every place marker sign we saw...and yet, we know that there is so much more for us to learn. We engaged in conversations about colonization, Asian settlerism, militarization, and more. (Note: We are finalizing our walking tour and will share it on our website - standby!)

Waikiki means "spouting water" as it was once a wetland retreat with rivers and springs that richly flowed into the area. Starting in the 1400s, it was known for its fishponds and taro patches. After Europeans arrived in 1778, Honolulu became a small harbor village established by foreign fisherman and Waikiki emerged as a vacation retreat for Hawaiian royalty. As more foreign visitors arrived, roads and hotels were built to accommodate a growing tourism industry. The dredging of the Ala Wai Canal in the 1920s drained the wetlands to make way for development. This forever changed the area. In addition, Waikiki beach is historically significant for popularizing surfing globally, with Duke Kahanamoku (1890-1968) making the sport famous in the early 20th century and bringing more tourists to Waikiki. Furthermore, in the 1900s, parts of Waikiki, specifically Fort DeRussy, were developed and occupied by the U.S. military. As such, military presence and tourism currently fuel the economy, reshaping Hawai'i to serve foreign interests. There is ongoing resistance against this with activists noting the "slow violence" of environmental damage and cultural displacement. Native Hawaiian resistance for "Land Back" seeks to reclaim stewardship and sovereignty over ancestral lands stolen through the 1893 overthrow, broken treaties, and continued US military occupation.

APIDA Center Highlights: News to Know!



APIDA Center hosts Cypress College!

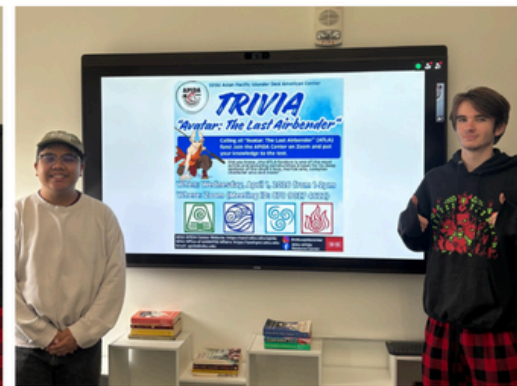
On Friday March 20th, before Spring Break, we were thrilled to host students from Cypress College. We gave them a tour of the APIDA Center and hosted a zines workshop. We hope to see these students at SDSU in the coming years!

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PANEL
Stefano Peluso, Karim Plascencia,
Mendoza, Enoch Ampofo, & Juan Gallego



APIDA Center represents at SDSU YMOC summit!

On Thursday, March 26th, APIDA Center represented at the SDSU Young Men of Color (YMOC) Summit as **Matthew H Garcia** and **Stefano Peluso** presented and **Diego Del Mundo** tabled.



APIDA Center hosts online "Avatar" programs!

Over Spring Break on Wednesday, April 1st, the APIDA Center hosted a workshop about refugee representation in "Avatar: The Last Airbender" and a trivia game.



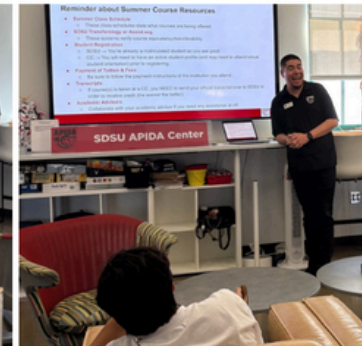
APIDA Center continues to craft and puzzle!

On Monday, April 6th upon returning from Spring Break, we jumped right back into old, cozy habits - we crafted and puzzled.



APIDA Center hosts San-San Onglatco!

On Tuesday, April 7th, we kicked off our Asian American Short Films Fest (led by **Diego Del Mundo**) by featuring Fil-Am filmmaker, San-San Onglatco! We watched her short film entitled, "Zenaida." Then, we learned about her work in amplifying immigrant identities and experiences through film. (Many thanks to Student Success Fee for supporting this program!)



APIDA Center hosts a workshop about summer courses!

On Wednesday, April 8th, we provided an academic success workshop all about navigating summer courses. We learned about tuition options, funding sources, credit transfers, and other tips that can support student success.



APIDA Center welcomes Arasha!

On Wednesday, April 8th, in partnership with the Asian American Journalists Association SDSU and the Department of Journalism and Media Studies, we hosted a guest speaker event featuring actress, comedian, and internet personality, Arasha! We learned about her work and experiences as an Indian American actress and discussed ways to navigate the acting and film industry. We also engaged in improv activities. Lucky fans got to meet Arasha after the event!



APIDA Center meets Lauren Vuong!

On Wednesday, April 8th, we watched Lauren Vuong's "Finding the Virgo," a documentary about the Vuong family's decades-long search for the captain and crew of a U.S. cargo ship that rescued her and other Vietnam War refugees. We learned about Vuong's work in making the film and her experiences as a refugee. We also discussed the importance of amplifying Vietnamese refugee experiences and preserving personal histories through documentaries. (Many thanks to our student leaders and Student Success Fee.)



APIDA Center learns about handling political dissonance!

"Parents just don't understand." On Thursday, April 9th, we learned about the cultural factors that cause political dissonance with parents. In partnership with Counseling & Psychological Services, we discussed and reflected on our own experiences encountering political disagreements with loved ones. Then, we practiced mindfulness and healing exercises through poetry.

Upcoming APIDA Center Events

Tung Sai Moo (Thai Paper Garland)*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Monday, April 13, 2026 from 5:00-7:00pm

Tung Sai Moo is a traditional paper garland craft from northern Thailand. These garlands are net-shaped and typically made with bright colors. Learn more and make your own garland.

Global Job Market: International Resume Workshop*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 from 1:00-2:00pm

Craft a globally competitive resume and navigate cultural expectations in international job markets. (Takeover Host: PBD SDSU)

Meet Caitlyn Phu & Screening of "Gong Gong's Bucket List"*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 from 3:00-4:00pm

Caitlyn Phu specializes in narrative shorts and music videos. *Gong Gong's Bucket List* is about her experience helping her grandfather fulfill his bucket list items.

DIY Paper Speaker*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 from 5:00-7:00pm

Build your own speakers with paper and wire. Learn about APIDA connections, STEM principles, and more. (Takeover Host: SASE SDSU)

Documentary Screening: "Standing Above the Clouds"*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 from 4:00-5:30pm

Three Native Hawaiian families dedicate their lives to defending their sacred mountain Mauna Kea from the building of the world's largest telescope. Join us for a screening and discussion. (Co-hosts: AAS and PISA)

Meet Jessica Liu & Screening of "Better Life"*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Thursday, April 16, 2026 from 2:00-3:00pm

Jessica Liu's debut feature *Better Life* is about an aging father who uses a medical procedure to transform people without any ambitions into working members of society.

APIDA in Hip Hop*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Thursday, April 16, 2026 from 4:00-5:30pm

Hip Hop emerged in the early 1970s in the Bronx through the collaborative efforts of Black, Caribbean, and Puerto Rican youth. Learn how APIDAs have contributed via the development of DJ culture, breaking, etc.

APIDA Center Drop-in Advising*

Location: APIDA Center or [Zoom](#)

Date: Monday, April 20 to Friday, April 24, 2026

The APIDA Center is here to support you. Drop-in hours will be first come, first served and each session will only be 15 minutes to accommodate as many students as possible. For specific times, check the [APIDA Center Instagram](#).

Guest Speaker: Dr. Sarin*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Monday, April 20, 2026 from 3-4pm

Meet Dr. Sarin, a tech and policy leader with expertise in data and Artificial Intelligence. Shaped by his experiences growing up in post-genocide Cambodia, his work is dedicated to leveraging technology for social good. (Co-Host: Charles Wei-Hsun Fu Center for Asian and Pacific Studies)

Paj Ntaub (Hmong Embroidery)*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Monday, April 20, 2026 from 5:30-7:00pm

Paj Ntaub (/pahn-dow/) is a traditional form of Hmong embroidery used to decorate clothing and home textiles. Learn more about the Hmong and Paj Ntaub and then, stitch with us.

Screening of "Liquor Store Dreams"

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Monday, April 20, 2026 from 4:00-5:30pm

This film is about two Korean American children of liquor store owners who set out to bridge generational divides with their immigrant parents in Los Angeles.

Makruk (Thai Chess)*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 from 5:00-7:00pm

Makruk, also known as Thai Chess, is a traditional board game popular in Thailand and Cambodia. Learn more about its historical and cultural significance; then, play with us.

Meet Chaewon Suh and Screening of "I Wanna Be"*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Thursday, April 23, 2026 from 3:00-4:00pm

Chaewon Suh began her career working in the K-pop video industry. She now works on independent feature films and a Disney+ series. "I Wanna Be" is about a blind Korean American high school track star who trains another student.

The Secret War in Laos*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Thursday, April 23, 2026 from 4:00-5:00pm

Learn about the often-overlooked history and legacy of the Secret War in Laos (1964-1973). This was a covert CIA-led operation in which the United States recruited Hmong soldiers and dropped bombs in neutral Laos to combat North Vietnamese communist forces.

Strategies for Dis/Engaging with Parents about Politics*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Thursday, April 23, 2026 from 5:00-6:00pm

Learn how to effectively engage (or disengage) with parents about politics by learning about assertive communication tools and setting health boundaries. (Takeover: Counseling & Psychological Services)

APIDA Field Trip: Southeast Asian American Sites in San Diego

Location: Various Sites in San Diego

Date: Friday, April 24, 2026 from 10:00-5:00pm

Join us on a local field trip to learn more about Southeast Asian American history in San Diego. We will be visiting various sites including the "Across the Waves" exhibit at Southwestern College, Little Saigon San Diego, and the USS Midway Museum. [RSVP](#) by 5pm on Sunday, April 19.

Power of K-Pop*

Location: [Zoom](#)

Date: Friday, April 24, 2026 from 12:00-1:00pm

Korean popular music, or K-Pop, is a global music genre and cultural phenomena. This webinar explores how K-pop evolved from a regional genre into a global cultural force, examining its history, spread, fandom, impacts, and more! [Register](#) today!

Gidra*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Friday, April 24, 2026 from 1:00-2:00pm

"Gidra" (1969-1974) was a UCLA student-run monthly newspaper known as the "voice of the Asian American movement." It combined grassroots activism and artistic expression. Learn more about the power of community-based media. (Takeover: AAJA SDSU)

Meet Alijah Jacob Buada & Screening of "Adrift"*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Friday, April 24, 2026 from 2:00-3:00pm

Alijah Jacob Buada is a Filipino American filmmaker and published author known for *Awaken* and *Adrift*. *Adrift* is about an astral projector in search of his grandma's wisdom.

Meet So Yun Um & Screening of "In Bloom"*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Monday, April 27, 2026 from 4:00-5:30pm

So Yun Um is a Korean American filmmaker with works including "Liquor Store Dreams," "The Rose: Come Back to Me," and "In Bloom," a short film.

Toxic Threads: T-Shirt Production in Asia*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Monday, April 27, 2026 from 5:30-7:00pm

Driven by U.S. consumerism and capitalism via fast-fashion, mass t-shirt production in Asia has significant negative local and global impacts on the environment. Learn more and make crafts from recycled t-shirts.

Papaya Salad*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 from 12:00-1:00pm

Papaya Salad, or Som Tam, is a spicy, sweet, sour, and salty salad with Thai and Lao variations that uses shredded unripe green papaya as its main ingredient. Learn and eat with us.

Dr. Tom K. Wong: What does it mean to be UndocuAPIDA?*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 from 1:00-2:00pm

Dr. Tom K. Wong is a leading expert on immigration, citizenship, and migrant illegality. He will share the unique experiences of undocumented APIDA communities, especially in our border town of San Diego.

Representations of Southeast Asian Refugee Camp Experiences in Literature & Media*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Thursday, April 30, 2026 from 3:00-4:00pm

Learn more about the histories and lived experiences of Southeast Asian refugees. We will discuss how these experiences are represented in literature and media.

Screening of "Free Chol Soo Lee"

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 from 2:00-3:30pm

Sentenced to life for murder, Korean immigrant Chol Soo Lee was set free after a pan-Asian solidarity movement helped to overturn his conviction. This film is about his struggle fighting for his life inside California state prisons.

Screening of "The Rose: Come Back to Me"*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Wednesday, May 6, 2026 from 2:00-3:30pm

This film showcases the rise of The Rose, the Korean indie rock band with roots in the K-pop training system. After cultivating a millions-strong global fanbase, a label dispute forces them into a years-long hiatus.

Meet Eugene Yi*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Wednesday, May 6, 2026 from 5-7pm

Meet Korean American Emmy award-winning filmmaker & SDSU Asian American Studies lecturer, Eugene Yi! His works include "Free Chol Soo Lee," "The Rose: Come Back to Me," and more.

2026 APIDA Excellence Celebration*

Location: Student Union Courtyard

Date: Thursday, May 7, 2026 from 5:00-9:00pm

Join us for cake, food, dancing, fun activity booths, karaoke, and more! We will be celebrating our December 2025, May 2026, and August 2026 graduates! We will also be celebrating the end of year so come one, come all! [RSVP](#) by May 4th!

Opportunities & Events

APIDA Student Organizations:

- Asian American InterVarsity is hosting a [series of events](#) for April 2026.
- Asian Pacific Student Alliance is hosting "APSA Unplugged" on Sat, April 11 at 5:30pm. [RSVP](#) today!
- International Student Association is hosting a Torrey Pines Hike on Sun, April 12 at 9am. [RSVP](#) today!
- Sikh Student Association is hosting a [Poway Gurdwara Trip](#) on Sun, April 12 from 11-2pm.
- Vietnamese Student Association is hosting a [Nominations GBM](#) on Mon, April 13 from 4:30-5:30pm.
- Japanese Student Association is hosting a [Koinobori Event](#) on Mon, April 13 from 2-3pm in the Engineering Quad.
- (AAPI)Phany is hosting "Journaling for the Soul: Draw Yourself Calm" on Thurs, April 16 from 3:30-5:30pm in PSFA 100.
- Nikkei Student Union is hosting a Beach Social on Sun, April 19 from 1-5pm. [Sign up](#) by April 17!

Community Center Partners:

- Native Resource Center is hosting "Howka Weekend" on Fri, April 10 at 4:30pm.
- Women's Resource Center is hosting Take Back the Week events from April 13-16. Visit the [WRC website](#) for more information.
- Latinx Resource Center is hosting an event entitled, "Poetry, Community, and Conversation: An En Confianza Session with Dra. Hortencia Jimenez" on Tues, April 14 from 1:30-3:30pm.
- Center for Intercultural Relations and the Middle Eastern and North African Student Union are hosting a [Mosaic Making Workshop](#) on Tues, April 14 from 6:30-8:30pm in Mata'yuum.
- Project Rebound, in partnership with CIR and Cal Coast Credit Union, is hosting a "Taxes & Income Management" workshop on Wed, April 15 from 12-1pm.
- Pride Center and LGBTQ+ Studies are hosting the [3rd Annual Pride Research Symposium](#) on Fri, April 17 from 11-4pm in Love Library 430.

Campus Partners:

- SDSU Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) is hosting Lunch & Lab tours on Fri, April 17 from 1:00-3:45pm. Limited spots. [RSVP](#) by Fri, April 10.
- Basic Needs Center is hosting a [CalFresh Pop-up](#) on Mon, April 13 from 12-2pm in front of Hepner Hall.
- Career Services is hosting the Health & Human Services Career Expo on Wed, April 15 from 10-2pm at the Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center. [Register](#) on Handshake!
- Office for Graduate Life & Diversity is hosting an "Effective Job Search" workshop on Wed, April 15 from 12-1pm. [RSVP](#) today.
- The Office of Educational Opportunity Programs, Outreach, and Success is hosting [Interview & Networking Skills](#) on Thurs, April 16 from 12-2pm in SSE 2109.
- Struggling with basic needs? Need resources? Connect with the [Economic Crisis Resource Team](#).

Community Partners:

- Viet Voices is hosting a Spring Mixer on Sat, April 11 from 10-1pm at the Central Avenue Mini Park. [RSVP](#) today!
- The Asian American Education Project offers free APIDA resources on their [website](#) and [Instagram](#). The next free webinar is entitled, "Amplify APIDA in May" on Tues, April 14 from 4-5pm. [Register](#) today!
- Lao San Diego is supporting the [Lao, Thai, Cambodian New Year Proclamation](#) on Wed, April 15 at 4:30pm at Escondido City Hall.

Research Opportunities

- **NEW!** The National Archives Foundation is accepting applications for the Cokie Roberts Fellowship for Women's History to conduct new research to elevate women's history using archival sources. [Apply](#) by April 15.
- Call for presentation proposals for the 2026 California Science Education Conference is now open. [Submit](#) by April 15.
- **NEW!** The Climate Science Alliance is accepting submissions for the Plurinational Climate Art Fellowship from artists interested in using art to communicate climate science solutions. [Apply](#) by April 17.
- Save the Date! Mentee Applications for the [SDSU Summer Undergraduate Research Program](#) opens on April 17!
- Call for proposals for the 8th Annual RE:BORDER Conference is now open. [Register](#) by April 17.
- Pacific Arts Movement is now accepting film submissions for the 27th San Diego Asian Film Festival. [Apply](#) by April 20.
- *Piano Magazine* is hosting a Collegiate Writing Contest about piano pedagogy for their upcoming issue. [Submit](#) by May 1.

Jobs & Paid Internships

- **NEW!** The Department of Asian American Studies is hiring two students or recent grads for a paid summer internship to help work on mobile apps. Duties includes completing feature builds, connecting AWS backend services, handling basic security and testing, and publishing to the Google Play Store. Mobile development experience in React Native, Flutter, or native Android preferred. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, so early submissions are encouraged. [Apply](#) today.
- **NEW!** Staff applications for the Vietnamese American Youth Association are now open! [Apply](#) today!
- **NEW!** Newswell Times of San Diego is looking for a Summer 2026 Intern. [Apply](#) today!
- **NEW!** Brilliant PR & Marketing is looking for a Business Development intern for Fall 2026. [Apply](#) today!
- The Frances Clark Center is seeking 2026-2027 Interns. [Apply](#) by May 1.

Scholarships

- **NEW!** Aztec Scholarships are now open! [Apply](#) today. The early action deadline is Fri, April 10. Final deadline is Sept 4.
- Scholarship is offering four awards of \$1,000 to students pursuing a nursing degree. [Apply](#) by April 12!
- The Hawai'i's Daughters Guild of California's Annual Scholarship is offering up to \$2000 to college undergraduate and graduate female students of Pacific Islander ancestry. [Apply](#) by April 15.
- The AAPI Arts & Media Scholarship is offering \$3,500 to five undergraduate students. [Apply](#) by April 20.
- The Empowering Future Female Leaders Scholarship is offering \$5,000 to ten first- and second-year female students pursuing careers in business, economics, or STEM. [Apply](#) by April 20.
- The Matt Fong Asian Americans in Public Finance Scholarship is offering four \$5,000 awards to Asian American undergraduate students majoring in Social Science, Accounting, Business Administration, or related fields. [Apply](#) by April 20.
- The Brave of Heart Scholarship is offering up to \$50,000 to undergraduate and graduate students who are children, spouses or domestic partners of a frontline healthcare worker who lost their life to a COVID-19-related cause. [Apply](#) by April 22.
- **NEW!** The CrowdStrike scholarship offers up to \$10,000 to current students pursuing a career in Cyber Security. [Apply](#) by April 27.
- **NEW!** The American Bus Association Diversity Scholarship is offering \$5,000 to undergraduate and graduate students pursuing a career in tourism. [Apply](#) by April 30.
- The Jimmie & Suey Fong Yee Grants are offering two \$2,000 grants to students or recent graduates pursuing careers in sports journalism. [Apply](#) by April 30!
- The Stanford Chen Internship Grant is offering \$1,500 to college juniors, seniors, or graduate students who have secured a summer internship at a news outlet. [Apply](#) by April 30.
- The Lily Pabilona Emerging Entrepreneur Scholarship is offering up to \$5,000 to full-time college students in all majors. [Apply](#) by May 31.
- The Against the Grain Artistic Scholarship is offering \$1,000 to Asian American college students majoring in performing, visual arts, journalism and/or mass communications. [Apply](#) by May 31.