

uc san diego

Asian
Pacific
Islander
Middle
Eastern
Desi
American

programs and services

Years in Review

2019-2022

UC San Diego APIMEDA Programs and Services

A program of the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Highlights

Between 2019 and 2022, APIMEDA Programs and Services worked to support Asian Pacific Islander Middle Eastern Desi American students in the following ways:

- Started weekly APIMEDA Community Time events.
- Worked with Dining Services and the Muslim Student Association to advise on and advocate for the opening of the only Halal-only stand alone dining hall on a college campus in the United States, Canyon Vista Marketplace.
- Sponsored tickets for students to attend Cambodian Rock Band at the La Jolla Playhouse, and hosted members of the cast for a reception with students.
- Worked in collaboration with the others to promote the 2020 US Census and to co-sponsor campus-wide education.
- Transitioned programming online during the portions of the pandemic when we were not able to hold in-person gatherings.
- Supported the start of the Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies Program and its partner program Project GROW.
- Received Associate Student Funding to increase programming and community support for undergraduate students.
- Supported the UC San Diego AANAPISI Task Force and campus Minority Serving Institution efforts.



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About APIMEDA Programs and Services



about us

Opening in July 2016, Asian Pacific Islander Middle Eastern Desi American (APIMEDA) Programs and Service is an initiative within the Office of the Vice Chancellor –Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion. Developed after strong student advocacy, APIMEDA Programs and Services provides outreach, programs, and other support for our diverse APIMEDA student population. APIMEDA people are diverse, and we come to campus with different experiences and identities that make up who we are. Our office seeks to help folks find connections with one another while supporting the whole population.

what we do

APIMEDA Programs and Services supports the retention of APIMEDA students on campus by presenting opportunities for students to enhance their academic and career success. We work for develop leaders who will have a positive impact on the campus and enrich out diverse communities. We initiate and develop activities that increases the campus knowledge of the diversity of APIMEDA peoples and reflect the diversity of experiences that APIMEDA people have.



Changes to the Staffing

During the 2019-2020 academic year, APIMEDA Programs and Services had one full-time Program Manager and three undergraduate student staff: two Community Assistants and one Design and Publications Assistant. Because the Design and Publications Assistant that year graduated in June and UC San Diego was fully remote for the 2020-2021 academic year, a third Community Assistant was hired to support remote programming instead of a Design and Publications Assistant. In addition, the Division of Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs offered some departments, including the Campus Community Centers and Programs, the opportunity to hire a Graduate Community and Climate Intern to assist with developing programming to support graduate and professional school students. We hired our first Intern in Fall 2020.

For the 2021-2022 academic year, the undergraduate staff left their positions and the Design and Publications Assistant was returned to the staffing model. In addition, the campus approved a reclassification and title change for the Program Manager to Associate Director, and added a Programs and Operations Coordinator position to the full-time staff.



Windi Sasaki

Associate Director



Brian Crie

Programs and Operations
Coordinator

Program Student Staff



Yuzu Chin

Community Assistant

2019-2021



Fran Bautista

Community Assistant

2019-2021



Dephny Duan

Community Assistant

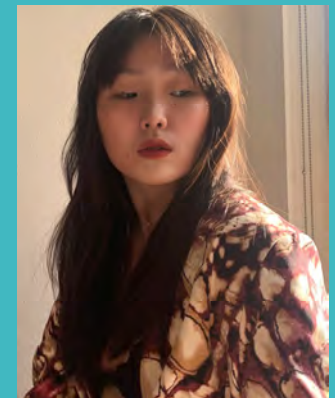
2020-2021



Kayla Yasuda

Community Assistant

2021



Alexandra Kim

Community Assistant

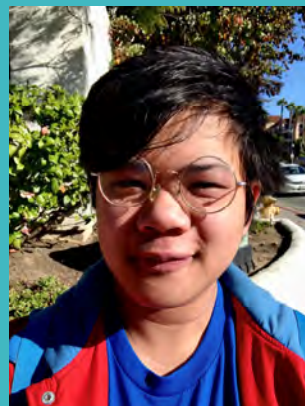
2021-2022



Kelly Callejo

Community Assistant

2021-2022



Noel Nguyen

Design and
Publications Assistant

2019-2020



Vivian Yan

Design and
Publications Assistant

2021-2022



Vanessa Na

Graduate Community and
Climate Intern

2020-2022

Changes to our Liaisons

While APIMEDA Programs and Services has had many liaisons and campus partners in our short time, we experienced a lot of changes to our liaisons during this period.

Our inaugural Library liaison was Gayatri Singh. She unfortunately passed away unexpectedly in Fall 2019. After a period of grieving, we were able to work with the Library to select Alanna Aiko Moore as our new Library Liaison.

We had started Fall 2019 with two liaisons to Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): Dianna Quach and Niyatee Sukumaran. By Summer 2020, each of them left UC San Diego for other professional opportunities. We began working with Louie Limas on November 2020.

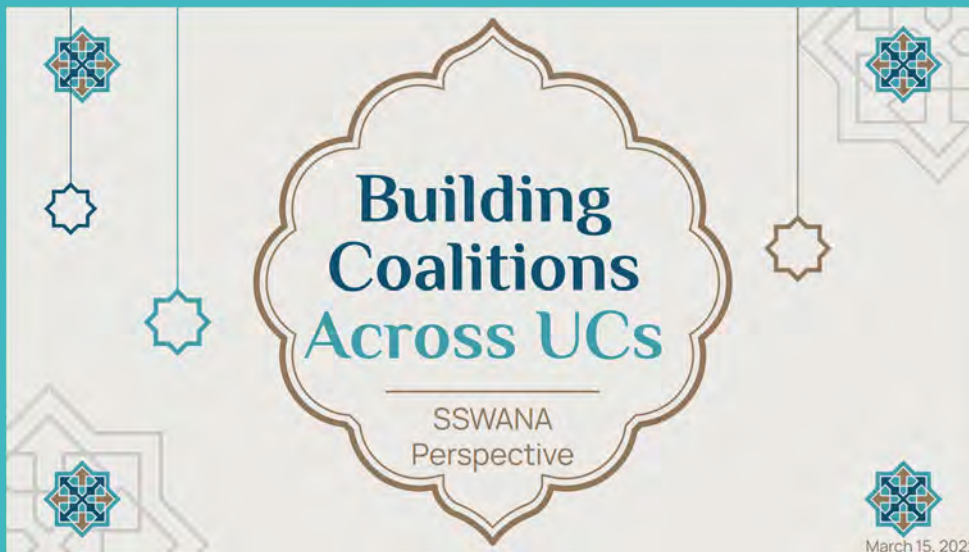
During the 2019-2020 academic year, our Career Center liaison, Tina Gov, moved to the Physical Sciences department. After Tina's departure, we began working with Brianne Wada as our liaison. Brianne worked with us on a few projects in this capacity and when she left the Career Center in Fall 2021 to work for the Rady School of Management. We then began working with Cam Pham in January 2022.

Our inaugural Discovering Your Career Compass liaison and co-developer of the program, Frank Lin, left UC San Diego in January of 2022. Due to other changes, we took the rest of the academic year to determine how we would like to move the program forward, particularly with the addition of the Programs and Operations Coordinator.



UC SSWANA

Since 2019, many of the University of California campuses has established or expanded a position on their campus to support some combination or subset of students of South Asian, Southwest Asian, and North African (SSWANA) descent. UC Riverside was the first campus in the United States to have a Middle Eastern Resource Center, and there are few examples or scholarship on the needs of SWANA American students or best practices published. After a few of us met at a UC Systemwide meeting for cultural centers and Associate Director Windi became connected with two others who were starting offices at two other UC campuses, the group of staff working with SSWANA students began to meet and connect on a regular basis. The staff at UC San Diego, UC Riverside, UC Davis, UC Santa Barbara, UC Berkeley, and UC Santa Cruz worked to create further education at a future UC Systemwide virtual meeting for cultural centers,



and began to collaborate on online programming. As events in the world effected our students, the group was able to work to advertise coordinated lectures and gatherings for our communities to come together and learn more. The collaborative partnership is critical to the development of the services and visibility needed for SSWANA American students in higher education, especially in the UC system.

In-person Programming and Partnerships



APIMEDA Community Time

One of the challenges that APIMEDA Programs and Services faces is the absence of a physical space for students and other community members to walk into and find a sense of community. Thanks to the generosity of the Sixth College Office of Residential Life, APIMEDA Programs and Services was able to host a weekly space called APIMEDA Community Time. We shared with students that every week at the same time and in the same place, they would be able to find us. We'd always have something to do, and they could decide if they wanted to do that with us or not, but that they were welcome to join us there for those two hours. Events had a regular set of people who came by to check in with staff, hang out, study, and meet people.



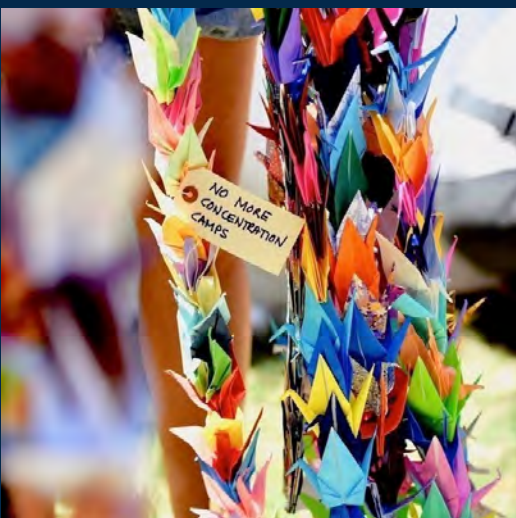
Examples of APIMEDA Community Time events:

- APIMEDA Community Time Kick-Off
- Affirmations and Burmese desserts
- Ask APIMEDA Faculty
- APIMEDA Paint Night
- Discovering Your Career Compass workshop
- &Me. Project presentation
- Why UCount—Census Panel and Discussion
- Drop-in Career Advising with Tina



Day of Remembrance

The Nikkei Student Union at UC San Diego has hosted their annual Day of Remembrance program for the past several Februaries. This event provides education to the UC San Diego community about the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. APIMEDA Programs and Services partnered with the Nikkei Student Union on their event this year, which included a screening of “Never Give Up! Minoru Yasui and the Fight for Justice” and a panel that included Minoru Yasui’s daughter, Holly Yasui, retired Professor Jim Lin, and Joy Yamaguchi from the Japanese American National Museum. Minoru Yasui had spoken at UC San Diego in the 1980’s at the invitation of Professor Lin and resulted in greater campus support for the creation of the Ethnic Studies Department and the push for Asian American studies. This event was also co-sponsorship from the San Diego Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League.



In addition, APIMEDA Programs and Services partnered with Dr. Christen Sasaki in the Ethnic Studies Department to host a Tsuru for Solidarity Fold-In. This event included a presentation from Joy Yamaguchi on the efforts of Japanese Americans to protest the incarceration of migrant asylum seekers at the southern US border. Tsuru for Solidarity asks community members to fold strings of paper cranes that are hung at detention centers. The crane is a Japanese symbol of transformation, healing, and non-violence, and the presence of 1,000 cranes is a wish for peace and a symbol of hope.

Census Programming

As it does every ten years, the United States collects data through the US Census. While every community of color is on the list of populations typically under counted, many civil rights groups believed that Asian American communities would be the most undercounted. The large number immigrants in the community, the large diversity of languages spoken and read, and the large refugee population were factors in this projected undercount. The APIMEDA Program Manager believed that the Middle Eastern American population had a high risk of undercount, due to their inclusion in the “white” demographic category and because their populations were had similar characteristics to the factors that were described for a potential undercount in Asian American populations. The campus started a Committee with members from APIMEDA Programs and Services, Associated Students, the Graduate Student Association, the Center for Student Involvement, the Black Resource Center, the Cross-Cultural Center, and the local US Census outreach teams. APIMEDA Programs and Services assisted with creating informational materials, staffing information tables, and presenting a panel discussion for the campus. In addition, APIMEDA Programs and Services held our own discussion of Census data with the local Asian American outreach specialist, and created additional passive programming to encourage people to take the Census and to discuss the Census with their friends and families.

sharing our invisible histories

YOU COUNT! TAKE PART!
CENSUS 2020

MIDDLE EASTERN AND NORTH AFRICAN PEOPLE HAVE NEVER HAD THEIR OWN RACIAL CATEGORY ON THE US CENSUS.

Despite advocacy to add a racial category for Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) people, MENA people are included in the White racial category.

U Count!

COMPLETE THE CENSUS! IT IS REALLY IMPORTANT!
LEARN MORE ABOUT UC SAN DIEGO AND THE 2020 CENSUS AT [HTTP://CENSUS.UCSD.EDU/](http://census.ucsd.edu/)
LEARN MORE ABOUT AN ACCURATE MENA COUNT AND FUTURE ADVOCACY AT [HTTPS://WWW.AXIUUSA.ORG/2020CENSUS/](https://www.axiuusa.org/2020census/)

Halal Dining at UC San Diego

During the 2018-2019 academic year, the APIMEDA Program Manager helped connect the leadership of the Muslim Student Association (MSA) to staff at Dining Services in Housing Dining Hospitality. The students asked that the APIMEDA Program Manager join these meetings. Much of the initial conversation had been about making sure that there were options and accommodation for Muslim students to have access to food for meals during Ramadan, as many of these meals were when the restaurants were closed. Students also began to talk with staff about pursuing Halal certification, and recommended companies that provide this certification. Dining was in the process of remodeling Canyon Vista in Warren College, and during Summer 2019, met with MSA students and the APIMEDA Program Manager to share that they had contracted with a group to work on Halal certification for Canyon Vista food preparation stations and recipes.



MSA leaders and the APIMEDA Program Manager met with the representative from IFANCA, the certification company, with the Dining staff, toured the facility during the renovation phase, attended product tastings and the soft opening, and attended the ribbon cutting ceremony when the restaurant opened in January 2020. Warren College student Salma from MSA spoke at the opening about the significance of the opening of the restaurant on campus for Muslim students. Canyon Vista Marketplace is the largest all-Halal dining facility on a college campus in the United States.

A Move to a Remote Community

ASK APIMEDA CAREER CENTER STAFF

Ask our Career Center staff anything you've ever wanted to know about who they are, what they do, and how you can engage with their services.

MON. APRIL 27
ON

(REGISTRATION REQ



Why Belonging is Conditional: The Effect of Microaggressions on Asian Americans

A panel about mental health, racism, and xenophobia

Tuesday, May 12
11:30 am - 1 pm

On Zoom (registration required)
<https://tinyurl.com/AAMHPanel2020>

APIMEDA COMMUNITY TIME: APIAHC TRIVIA!

Join APIMEDA Programs and Services for Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Celebration Trivia! Form a team or play on your own and join us for some fun online trivia!

Register your team at
<https://tinyurl.com/2020APIAHCtrivia>
Team captains will submit your answers on behalf of your team.

Play trivia by viewing the game live on
Monday, May 18 at 4 PM Pacific Time
<https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/94234561196>

TRIVIA!



Asian Pacific Islander Middle Eastern Desi American Programs and Services

Shifting to Remote

During finals week of Winter 2020, UC San Diego began to have discussions about how to prepare for and protect our communities from COVID-19.

APIMEDA Programs and Services was able to move to a remote setting starting that week. By Spring Break, it became clear that we would be remaining in a remote environment much longer.

At the start of Spring 2020, the Program Manager checked in with the three student staff to make sure that they were safe and then to see what capacities they each had to continue working in a remote environment. Community Assistant Fran began working on adding elements to our weekly e-news recommending things to do and eat from home and completing the start of our Instagram account. Design and Publications Assistant Noel finished the 2020 APIMEDA Lifebook then joined Fran to start creating remote programming on Zoom. This included finding different means to share screens, teaching art making, and playing games. As the pandemic continued into the following academic year, additional ideas and resources were employed to continue to engage students and to connect students with campus resources and support.

APIMEDA COMMUNITY TIME
THE BASICS OF PODCASTING
WITH JOE FEJERAN

MAY 25
4PM-6PM ON ZOOM
9121 3230 851

APIMEDA COMMUNITY TIME: MAKING MICROWAVE MOCHI

Thursday, October 8
5-7 pm PST
Zoom: 964 9734 5701

We're making a Japanese Hawaiian style rice flour dessert.

What you will need:

- microwave-safe dish, bowl, spoon/fork, microwave
- mochiko (rice flour)
- sugar
- plastic wrap
- non-stick spray (or something to grease the dish)
- plastic knife (to cut finished mochi)
- vanilla (may be able to replace with water)
- 3-oz. pack of flavored jell-o (optional, if you want flavored mochi).
- food coloring (optional, for non-flavored mochi)

Questions about ingredients? Email wsasaki@ucsd.edu before the event.

Increased Social Media Presence

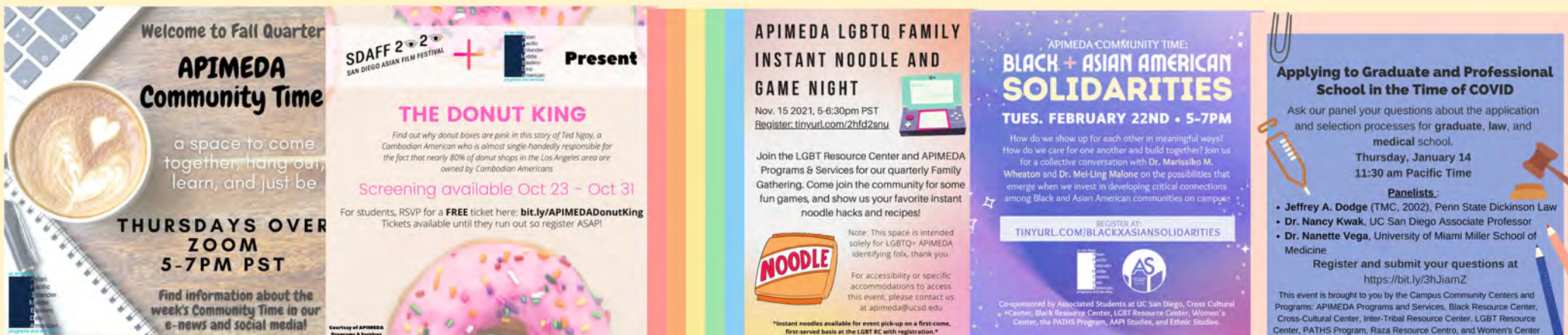
While APIMEDA Programs and Services started a Facebook page in 2016, it had been the only social media outlet that our office used to communicate. After hearing student organizations share that they were needing to adapt because new students were sharing that they were not using Facebook, the APIMEDA Programs and Services Community Assistants set up an Instagram account in February 2020. Initially, we thought we would take some time to coordinate how we would start using it in Spring Quarter and slowly roll out information. When we moved to remote, social media provided a key way to share the passive programming that we were doing. This included:

- A shift of our planned observance of the Buddhist New Year, which is observed widely by Southeast Asian American communities in April. This turned into a series of slides sharing how the new year is observed in these communities. These images were shared nationwide and had a reach of 17,000 people.
- An increase in the production of our Sharing Our Invisible Histories program. This had been sporadic but turned into a weekly program after a three-day Census program.



Moving Programming Online

A couple of weeks into the pandemic's order to shelter in place order, the APIMEDA Programs and Services team had regrouped and was ready to explore online programming. The Spring 2020 staff worked to explore the use of Zoom for community programming and consider different things we could do to interact remotely. The APIMEDA Program Manager worked with Community Assistant Fran to test a few ideas for APIMEDA Community Time and bring students together remotely. This later expanded to include the Community Forum events, and Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month programming. Staff took advantage of online gaming and coloring modules to provide options for remote programming. In the following academic years when other staff joined the team and gathering in person was not recommended, they created additional types of programming, including academic writing groups and workshops, cooking classes, art workshops, and group movie viewings. Staff also took advantage of the opportunity to invite speakers remotely and to engage with the community both within and outside of UC San Diego.



Ramadan 2020



Ramadan 2020 fell during Spring Quarter. Within the first week, we had received outreach from the Marshall College Office of Residence Life that students were having difficulty related to their observance of Ramadan. A staff member from the Women's Center and the Program Manager met with the Marshall College staff and students. While students spoke about missing the community gatherings, the biggest need was related to food. The following things were identified and modified.

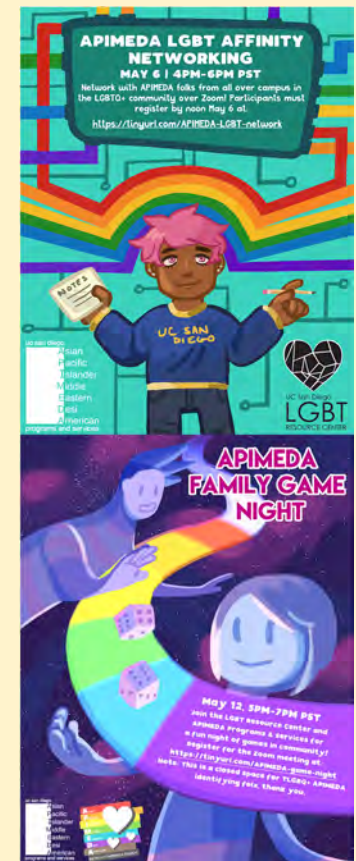
- Due to the pandemic and the reduction of residents in single undergraduate housing, Dining services reduced hours in all dining facilities, including Canyon Vista Marketplace. Dining staff extended hours for Canyon Vista Marketplace to 8:30 pm through the end of Ramadan to allow students to get a fresh, Halal evening meal. APIMEDA Programs and Services created all messaging about this change in hours.
- Students had previously attended iftars that included a free evening meal. These meals provided comfort to Muslim students with food insecurity and allowed them to observe the holiday fully. APIMEDA Programs and Services developed a Ramadan meal request website for students to request an evening meal for pick up at Canyon Vista. The other Campus Community Centers agreed to assist with the cost if it exceeded what APIMEDA Programs and Services could afford. While only a few meals were requested, we heard from students that they were appreciative of our responsiveness to the issue.

Out and Proud Events Reimagined

The UC San Diego LGBT Resource Center typically coordinates Out and Proud programming in April. Campus partners were encouraged to submit their events for the campus-wide calendar in February. With the move to remote and concerns for the privacy of students who may not be out yet, programs were paused or cancelled. APIMEDA Programs and Services had planned to host at least three events during this time. Once the staff was able to regroup and discuss what things we had energy for and what felt safe, we hosted two programs in partnership and consultation with the LGBT Resource Center.

- APIMEDA LGBT Affinity Networking: This event provided students with an opportunity to gather and meet with APIMEDA LGBT-identified staff and faculty. Those gathered shared how they were coping with the pandemic, their different experiences on campus, and the challenges they were facing over the course of the quarter.
- APIMEDA Family Game Night: The Family Game Night served as the quarterly APIMEDA LGBTQ Family Gathering. Students joined in to play games from our Jackbox Suite and release some stress.

Events required pre-registration and an acknowledgement that they understood the intent for the space and the privacy of the individuals who might join. Zoom information was sent after the registration was screened. While most students joined with their cameras off, as the events went on students turned on their cameras with the others. Students shared that they needed the space and hoped that there would be more opportunities for them to be in this type of space in the future.



Staff Learning Remotely

REGISTER FOR THE APIMEDA LUNCH & LEARN SUMMER 2020 PROGRAM!

READ A CURATED SELECTION OF ARTICLES ON APIMEDA STUDENT EXPERIENCES WITH US!

| | |
|---------|---|
| JUNE 24 | Introduction |
| JULY 8 | Racial Context of Asian Americans |
| JULY 22 | Data Disaggregation |
| AUG 5 | Arab American Student Success |
| AUG 19 | Serving Low Income AAPI Students |
| SEPT 2 | Asian Americans in Coalition Student Leadership |

ALL MEETINGS WILL TAKE PLACE FROM NOON TO 1:30 PM ON ZOOM.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, VISIT [APIMEDA.UCSO.EDU/RESOURCES/LUNCH-AND-LEARN.HTML](https://apimeda.ucsd.edu/resources/lunch-and-learn.html)

UCSD staff and faculty attending full sessions will be entered into a drawing to receive this new text edited by UC San Diego alumna Dina Maramba!

TRANSFORMATIVE PRACTICES FOR MINORITY STUDENT SUCCESS

APIMEDA LUNCH & LEARN

APIMEDA LUNCH & LEARN 2021

APIMEDA Programs and Services continued to engage staff and faculty in continuing their learning about Asian American, Pacific Islander, and SWANA American peoples. This seemed particularly vital, as national consciousness of the discrimination that APIMEDA people face and have historically encountered was highlighted during the pandemic. Sessions for the 2020 and the 2021 Lunch and Learn were moved online to continue learning and discussion of scholarship connected to APIMEDA peoples in higher education. Readings were selected to provide those new to learning about APIMEDA people some historical context for the racism that they were observing or experiencing, and moved to what that looks like in higher education and how practitioners and scholars propose change. Participants were invited to register online for sessions and provided a link to join on Zoom. Readings, as previously, were available either publicly or through the Library's online holdings using a Single Sign On log in.

APIMEDA LUNCH & LEARN

Read with us, discuss the topics and readings related to working with APIMEDA students, and discuss ways to better serve our students! Participants have an opportunity to receive a book.

Topics include:

- AANIPISIs in Practice
- Pacific Islander students
- Southeast Asian American students at UC San Diego
- Campus Climate Experiences of AAPI Students

Discussions held every **Tuesdays**

12 NOON-1:30 PDT ON ZOOM

FOR DATES, READINGS, AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION, VISIT [HTTPS://APIMEDA.UCSO.EDU/RESOURCES/LUNCH-AND-LEARN.HTML](https://apimeda.ucsd.edu/resources/lunch-and-learn.html)

Both the 2020 and the 2021 Lunch and Learn programs were highly attended, with nearly thirty people joining for a session at its peak. Smaller sessions were usually in September or on smaller populations at UC San Diego. It was later determined to not host September sessions moving forward.

Remote Fall Welcome Events



Fall 2020 opened in a fully remote environment, and meant that there was a change in the ways that we had previously welcomed students to campus. We also gained a Graduate Community and Climate Intern who could lead graduate and professional student welcome events for the first time. Our usual undergraduate welcome event ASCEND was instead three panel events with our student organization leaders about getting involved at UC San Diego and finding community. In addition, we held one online graduate community welcome. All students were invited to our virtual Community Time programming to connect with students.

Since large in-person gatherings were not allowed for Fall 2021, a similar format for welcome events was used. Students were still able to connect with other students and find ways to find their place within the UC San Diego campus community.

Graduate Student Programming

Beginning in Fall 2020, the Division of Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs (GEPA) began offering the Campus Community Centers and Programs and a number of other campus offices and Divisions the opportunity to hire a Graduate Community and Climate Intern at 10 hours per week. This new initiative is intended to build a stronger graduate student community and provide stronger support for graduate students at UC San Diego. GEPA covers the cost to hire and pay the intern, provides some training meetings for the interns to gather across campus, and a small programmatic budget for the year. The Intern is supervised by the Associate Director.

Vanessa Na was hired as the inaugural APIMEDA Graduate Community and Climate Intern for Fall 2020. Vanessa hosted the first APIMEDA Graduate Welcome event and began hosting the APIMEDA Graduate Community Cafes, a bi-weekly space for graduate and professional students to gather to write and support one another with their writing projects. Vanessa also developed a partnership with the Writing Hub, and fostered programs that gave graduate and professional students more support with their graduate writing and connected them with our Writing Hub Graduate Writing Assistant, Doreen. Graduate students shared that these vents provided culturally relevant support that had not been available to them before this position and these events existed.



The Start of AAPI Studies

In Fall 2019, APIMEDA Programs and Services worked with the Coalition for Critical Asian American Studies (CCAAS) to host a meeting between faculty and students to discuss the students' interest in an Asian American Studies program. At the time, professors Nancy Kwak and Simeon Man were the Director and Assistant Director of the Institute for the Arts and Humanities. Having arrived to UC San Diego after the broader efforts of CCAAS between 2014 and 2016, Drs. Kwak and Man, as well as other newer faculty, were unfamiliar with CCAAS and their ask for Asian American Studies. Students shared their desire to have a multi-disciplinary AAPI Studies program that provided specific insights and learning about people from their specific ethnic group in America. In addition, the leadership of CCAAS discussed with the Pacific Islander Student Association, which was a new student organization, about their desires for coursework on campus. Faculty made a commitment to propose an AAPI Studies minor. Their proposal was approved by the Academic Senate to start in Fall 2020.

At the start of the minor, the API Alumni Council hosted a session with Inaugural Director Simeon Man, APIMEDA Program Manager Windi Sasaki, student Yuzu Chin, alumnus Irving Ling, and community activist Samuel Tsoi to discuss the importance and impact of the minor for UC San Diego. In Spring 2021, the minor had four students graduate with the minor, and increased in its numbers in Spring 2022.



Responding to Anti-Asian Hate

The pandemic illuminated the anti-Asian sentiments and effected our communities in a variety of ways. Members of our communities, especially women and queer people of all Asian ethnicities, shared throughout the pandemic that they were afraid for their safety, whether or not anyone had said anything to them directly. Events like the shootings in Atlanta and Indianapolis increased anxiety from members of our community. In order to support, APIMEDA Programs and Services provided the following:

- **Registration to attend the online APIMEDA Forum with our CAPS partners.** The registration was to create an understanding of the use of the space and have information about who was entering the space in case of Zoom-bombing or other behaviors that may make participants feel unsafe.
- **Assisted with the planning of forums and memorials.** After different events, staff hoped to hold gatherings and needed assistance with organizing Zoom space, facilitating conversations, and advertising the events. APIMEDA Programs and Services assisted with a number of these events.
- **Facilitated processing spaces.** AAPI Studies and APIMEDA Programs and Services co-hosted processing spaces for students, staff, and faculty. APIMEDA Programs student staff facilitated spaces for students while staff and faculty were asked to self-facilitate spaces to process and share with one another what we needed. Groups were brought together to share and provide mutual support.
- **Educated campus.** Incidents ignited a desire for learning about the experiences of APIMEDA people in the US over time. APIMEDA Programs and Services hosted seminars to engage people to learn more.

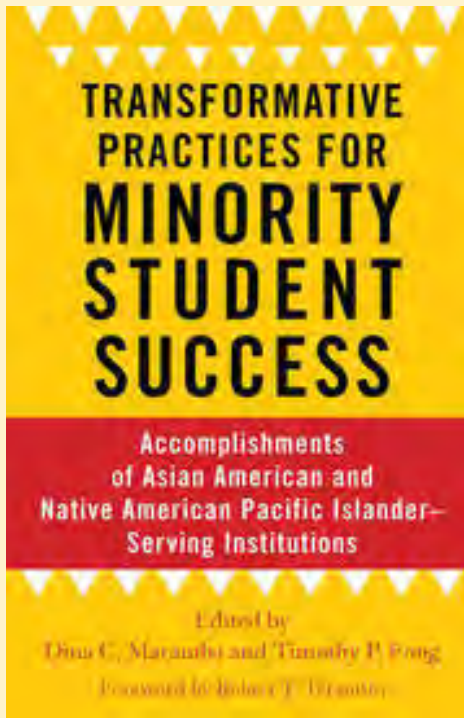
Generating & Reclaiming Our Wisdoms

As the AAPI Studies Program was getting started, inaugural Director Dr. Simeon Man wanted to make sure that the AAPI Studies Program and its Director was always connected to the efforts and movements that lead to the start of the program. He brought together staff from the UC San Diego Library and APIMEDA Programs and Services to work with students to archive documents and collect stories from different parts of the movement to create AAPI Studies and other connected efforts in support of AAPI people at UC San Diego. The Library had involvement of other similar efforts, and was happy to build this archive. Generating and Reclaiming Our Wisdoms (GROW) was created as a way for current students to be involved in learning about developing the archive and to be involved with the collection of the stories of alumni, staff and faculty involved in the efforts for AAPI Studies.



The group consisted of undergraduate and graduate students who engaged in an online Directed Group Study course to learn the history and to contribute to the archive. Through the course, we were able to introduce one another to documents and archives, invite alumni, faculty, and staff to share their stories with the group, and teach students to do archive work. Students reached out to alumni, staff, and faculty to interview them about their experiences and reflections of their work. In addition to learning the history of the campus, students appreciated connecting with people who they didn't know who were active in this movement, and with one another. Interviews and a timeline archiving documents were placed on the GROW website through the UC San Diego Library.

AANAPISI Task Force



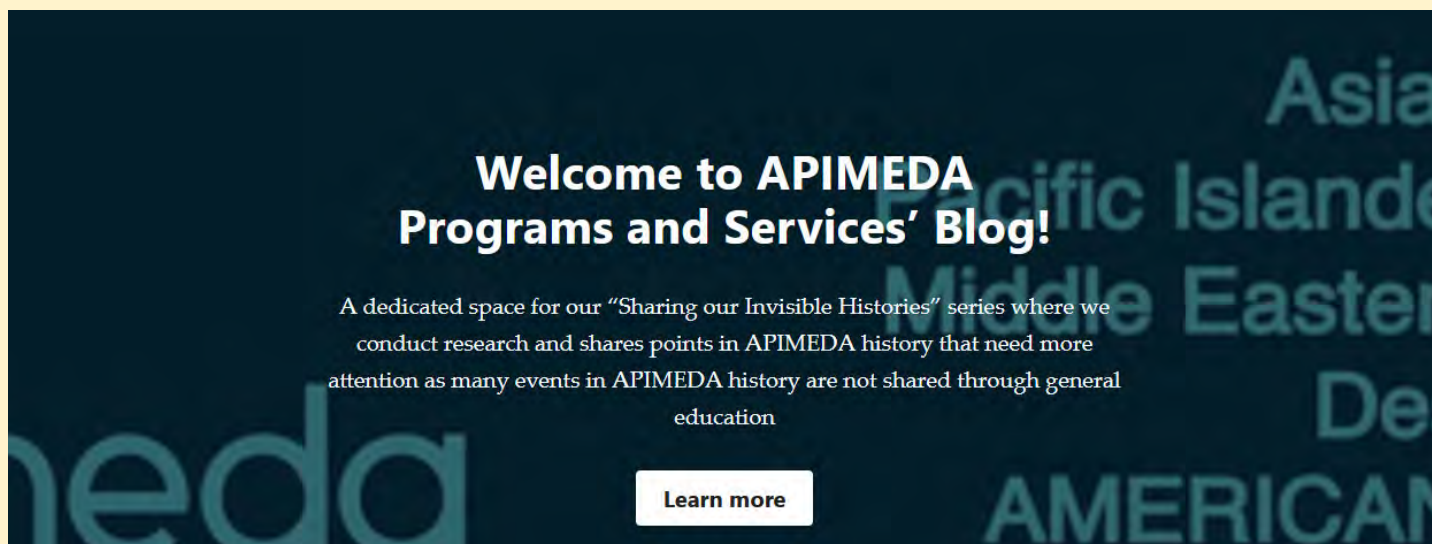
In Spring 2021 the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, convened a joint Senate-Administration Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI) Task Force. This Task Force was chaired by APIMEDA Program Manager Windi Sasaki and included several campus stakeholders from across campus, including faculty, staff, and students. The group was sent the book Transformative Practices for Minority Student Success: Accomplishments of Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions to review as background, and provided information on the United States Department of Education’s definition of AANAPISI.

AANAPISI is a federal designation from the United States Department of Education. AANAPISI-designated institutions are eligible to apply to receive grants and related assistance to improve and expand their capacity to serve Asian American, Native American Pacific Islanders, and low-income students. As a public institution with a large undergraduate population of Asian American and Pacific Islander descent, UC San Diego is positioned to be a leader for the nation in supporting our students.

The members of the Task Force reviewed campus data and relevant literature. They worked together to write a report that included an assessment of current university practices and made recommendations to improve student experience.

Sharing Our Invisible Histories Blog

During the pandemic, the Community Assistants decided to look into creating a blog site through Wordpress to house the Sharing Our Invisible Histories (SOIH) and other potential future blogs. SOIH is a passive program that shares a bit of information about a notable person or event that faces a part of the APIMEDA community and encourages others to learn more. The Community Assistant staff registered apimedaatucsd.wordpress.com and began to review information about how to set up the blog. They made the initial posts in April 2020. As those students left their position, the blog progress was attempted to be passed on to new staff, but never got set up until Programs and Operations Coordinator Brian started his position. Brian was able to complete the set up for the blog and launch the blog in February 2022 with more posts, that were a mix of posts from SOIH that existed before the blog and new posts that he researched. The blog is now the primary place to find full information about each SOIH post.



Shifting to Hybrid and Return to Campus



Together Apart

The 2021-2022 academic year brought with it different starts and stops with in-person gatherings and events. Because students were able to come to campus, we were able to provide supplies for events that were happening remotely and to begin to find safe ways to gather outdoors. Fall started with a restriction on all in-person non-academic gatherings, and so we resumed remote programming. Students joined us online for gatherings to plant seeds, paint canvases, and share stories of their favorite instant noodles, all using supplies that we were able to provide to them while they were on campus. This also allowed the Associate Director to meet students and connect in person.

After returning to remote in January 2022, things loosened later in the academic year. We were able to host some outdoor gatherings in new spaces, and appreciated taking advantage of the Arts and Humanities Building's patio. We particularly enjoyed hosting mixers and other opportunities for students to connect with faculty, staff, and scholars. Events without food were hosted in the Sixth College Lodge and in the Student Services Center Multipurpose Room. These spaces were used to host lectures, workshops, and other activities. We observed that students were initially excited to gather, but nervous about meeting new people.



Associate Students Funding

Associated Students UC San Diego (A.S.) had voted to approve an allocation of funds to support APIMEDA students at UC San Diego during the 2021-2022 academic year. After discussing the use of the funds with the former and current A.S. Presidents and the A.S. Advisor, APIMEDA Programs and Services gained access to funding to use for programming that supported the success of APIMEDA undergraduate students for use between January and June 2022.

Funding was used to invite speakers and support programming and learning that we would not have had access to. Many of the invited speakers discussed the intersection of their racial identity with other identities they hold, including being a transracial adoptee, queer, and/or the child of immigrant parents. In addition, funds were used to support other major events, like our 5th Anniversary, Out and Proud Weeks, the Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Celebration Kick-off event, and the first Symposium on the Experiences of Students of Asian Descent.

APIMEDA COMMUNITY TIME: BLACK + ASIAN AMERICAN SOLIDARITIES
TUES. FEBRUARY 22ND • 5-7PM
How do we show up for each other in meaningful ways? How do we care for one another and build together? Join us for a collective conversation with Dr. Marisako M. Wheraton and Dr. Mei-Ling Malone on the possibilities that emerge when we invest in developing critical connections among Black and Asian American communities on campus.
REGISTER AT: [TINYURL.COM/BLACKXASIANSSOLIDARITIES](https://tinyurl.com/blackxasiansolidarities)

APIMEDA PROGRAMS & SERVICES
Unpacking the In-Between: Critical Perspectives of Adoptee Awareness and Advocacy
WED. MAY 25 | 3PM PST @ GREAT HALL
There are hundreds of thousands of Asian American Transracial adoptees in the U.S. but their unique perspectives and experiences are often misunderstood or missing from important conversations and activities that uplift the Asian American community, such as APIA Heritage Month. This workshop will share adoptee perspectives and raise awareness of the transracial adoptee nuances that exist among the Asian American community. Dr. Amanda Assalone will discuss how her adoptee journey has empowered her to engage with adoptee rights groups and advocate for adoptees without citizenship. She will also offer suggestions on how to support transracial adoptees as they navigate through their own adoptee journey.

Major Decisions, Multiple Pathways:
Negotiating APIMEDA cultural and familial expectations for academic & career goals
Thurs, May 19 | 6:30 - 8pm PST | Sixth College Lodge
Many of our academic experiences are influenced by our cultural backgrounds and intersecting social identities. You may have heard it before, "BECOME A DOCTOR, LAWYER, or ENGINEER!" Where do these common aspirations for STEM and professional fields actually stem from? What do we do if these disciplines aren't areas that we actually want to pursue? Join us to discuss the pressures and expectations that Asian-Pacific Islander/Middle Eastern/Desi/American college students face, and come share your experiences with navigating these conversations with your families, loved ones, and peers. Learn about the strategies and resources to help you explore options and career paths that are the most intriguing and meaningful to you!

APIMEDA PROGRAMS & SERVICES
MENTAL HEALTH PANEL: CHILDREN OF ASIAN AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS
FRI. MAY 13 | 1 - 2:00 PM PST
ZOOM REGISTRATION: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/APIMEDAMHP2022](https://tinyurl.com/apimedaMHP2022)

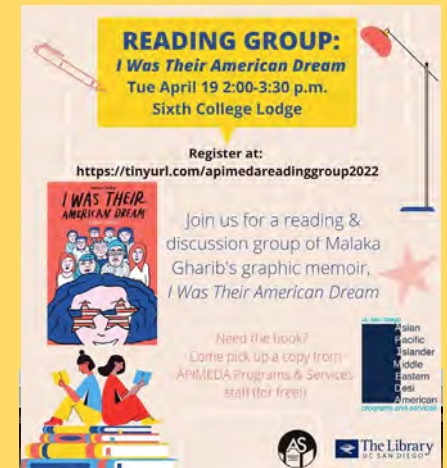
APIMEDA PROGRAMS AND SERVICES X LGBT RESOURCE CENTER
COLORING IN QUEERNESS: IDENTITY, MINDFULNESS AND HEALING THROUGH ART
Thursday, April 21 | 5-6:30pm
Location: Sixth Lodge
Register: <https://forms.gle/wcYcbvFBTZ9pqqIVK9>
Dr. Raja Bhattar will facilitate a workshop on mindfulness, meditation, intersectional identities and healing using their coloring books. Participants will receive a specially curated set of printed coloring pages along with reflection prompts.

Dr. Raja Gopal Bhattar (pronouns: they/them/theirs) is a nationally-recognized higher education leader, advocate, consultant, and author. Dr. Bhattar comes from a lineage of Hindu spiritual leaders and is a proud queer and gender non-conforming person of color, 1.5 generation immigrant, first-generation college student and spiritual practitioner.

Our 5th Anniversary

APIMEDA Programs and Services celebrated its 5th anniversary in July 2021. The staff chose to wait until we could gather in person to hold an anniversary event. Community Assistant Fran had begun communication with journalist and graphic novelist Malaka Gharib. Malaka's discussion of her own identity resonated with Fran and we believed that she would be an excellent speaker for our anniversary. Arrangements were continued by Windi after Fran's graduation from UC San Diego. A date for the event was chosen in April in hopes that we would be approved to have an in-person, masked gathering to celebrate our anniversary and to hear Malaka discuss her autobiographical first graphic novel, *I Was Their American Dream*. Malaka also shared a comic of her second book, *It Won't Always Be Like This* for those in attendance to preview. Malaka provided a brief presentation of her thoughts and process in discussing her identity as she wrote her first book, and then joined Community Assistant Alexandra on stage for a brief question and answer session.

In addition to this event, we worked with our Library liaison, Alanna Aiko Moore, to host a book discussion of *I Was Their American Dream*. Students were invited to register and receive a free copy of the book in advance of Malaka's talk and the book discussion to have some time to review the material and discuss the book, their identities, or other relevant topics.



Out and Proud Series Keynote Speaker

UC San Diego Out and Proud Series Presents:
Out and Proud Keynote Featuring



KIM CHI

The first Korean-American drag super star!

Wednesday, April 20th | 12pm
Price Center West Plaza



APIMEDA Programs and Services was proud to work with the LGBT Resource Center to collaborate on the 2021 Out and Proud Keynote Speaker. We hoped to take this opportunity to ease back in to our in-person partnerships with the LGBT Resource Center through out APIMEDA LGBTQ Family Gatherings and to support the in-person return of the Out and Proud Series.

After considering many speakers and performers, the group selected Kim Chi, a popular Korean American drag queen. The event was held in the Price Center West Plaza and allowed for the UC San Diego community to gather and hear Kim Chi discuss her identity and the importance of visibility in her communities. Kim Chi was interviewed during the event by APIMEDA Programs and Services Community Assistant Alexandra, who also identifies as Korean American. She also took a number of questions from the very large crowd that had gathered to hear her, and afterwards signed posters for those in attendance.

What We Learned





We are resilient.

While we are affirmed that our communities are resilient and strong, there had been a lot of things that changed in the span of three years. These changes have affected and will continue to affect the ways that APIMEDA people experience campus and the ways that we will do our work. The following are things that we have noticed:

Our histories need to be preserved and taught: The events of the pandemic have reaffirmed that communities have not learned the context for their current states. We have done much to not only teach the histories of the our peoples in the context of the United States, but also to try to preserve the activities and histories of our student organizations and campus as leadership transitions were made difficult by the pandemic.

The remote university made people shy: One of our student leaders started to tell everyone that they are shy—something we had never experienced them to be. They explained that interacting with everyone through a screen meant they didn't interact—they turned off their camera and didn't talk to anyone. In returning to campus, we saw over half of our student population return seeming nervous to meet others and interact. Their nervousness persists in the ways they lead organizations and in their reluctance to seek assistance.

Our communities want to support one another: The pandemic and the remote environment reinvigorated the engagement of campus staff and faculty to actively learn about APIMEDA peoples and to volunteer their time to support students.

Thank you!



Thank you for taking the time to read the APIMEDA Programs and Services Years in Review for 2019-2022.

We look forward to continuing to learn from the change during those three years and to build strong services and sense of connections for our communities.

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Asian
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