ALUMNI NEWSLETTER
2020

WHAT’S INSIDE:

Recap of the Year  Meet the Staff  Semester Overview  Alumni Spotlight
Recap of the Year

2020 brought hope and excitement for spring semester
- Carl Murray Olsen was hired in January to serve as the new Assistant Director and was ready to start meeting staff and students
- Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Heritage Month in April included a Lō‘au, tasty lunch dishes to be served at the Aspen Grille and a new initiative with Durrell Dining to have a dinner of hotpot and boba
- Chai to Understand had a variety of sessions planned including a mixer for both mixed-race students and transracial adoptees
- APACC had a dragon boat row team that started practicing in spring for the annual Colorado Dragon Boat Festival in July at Sloan’s Lake in Denver
- Student engagement and students visiting the office had been steadily increasing through the years

As spring break approached, grim news surfaced about the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and on March 23, 2020, campus closed due to a pandemic. The campus quickly pivoted to finish the semester remotely which affected the rest of spring programming.
- All APIDA Heritage Month activities were either cancelled or hosted virtually
  - Chai to Understand was held virtually
  - Virtual keynote with Asian Boss Girls
  - Showing of “Parasite” in the residence halls
- We hosted virtual office hours and meeting
- Annual Awards Ceremony was a slide-show on Instagram and Facebook recognizing our volunteers, winners of awards, and photos from the fall semester
- The dragon boat row team canceled practices and the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival was cancelled too
- Atlas and Carl hosted Instagram LIVE sessions in April and May
- We were not able to get to say goodbye to many of our graduating seniors and Atlas’ contract ended in late April, leaving the end of the spring feeling bittersweet

Remote work continued throughout the summer since the Lory Student Center was still closed and was scheduled to open in August. APACC worked during the summer to prepare for reopening with a newly reconfigured space to follow social/physical distancing protocols, limiting numbers to less than 16 in the space with strict cleaning schedules and adherence to wearing masks.

In August with a combination of new and returning staff we were ready to start the Fall semester. We hired Kalyn Bonn to serve as Student Success Coordinator to support existing programs and start new ones. With newly installed plexiglass and boxes of cleaning solution, we opened our office and invited our students to our physical space to be in community.
- Our new Volunteer Coordinators created volunteer opportunities with the local Larimer County Food Bank
- Our Community Development Coordinators invited students from each residence hall to meet other APIDA students where we could introduce many first year students to our space
- Our Student Administrative Assistants continued hosting Chai to Understand presenting on multiple topics in addition to bringing in guest speakers
- We had many new peer mentees join us this Fall and new Peer Mentors to support their transition to CSU
- Our staff also created various infographics about issues and topics within the APIDA community

The ability to safely be open for students was immensely important. Our staff worked diligently to keep the space clean so we could remain open until the week before Fall break. During this semester we learned a lot. We learned to be flexible, be creative in a virtual setting and hosting Studio Ghibli Movie nights over zoom. We hope to continue to provide our students a community they can rely on and come to for support.
Meet The Staff

Kaitlynn
She/Her/Hers

I am currently a junior majoring in International Studies and minor in Political Science, Business Administration, and Chinese. I joined APACC because I wished to give back what APACC has provided to me my freshman and sophomore years. I wish to continue its legacy of providing community, resources, and a safe place for APIA identifying students, as well as expand upon my own journey of exploring my identity further, meeting and helping new people, and learning new things. I am happy that I can continue to work with APACC and I look forward to where it may go in the future.

Jeannie
She/Her/Hers

Major: Communications study and minor in Global Environmental Sustainability
Job: Pre-collegiate Youth Development

Why: Growing up in a White dominated space and in San Francisco made me learn the value of having spaces such as APACC. I am empowered by working with and for the APIA community.

Hi! I'm the Student Success Coordinator in the APACC Office! I recently graduated from CSU with my Masters in Ethnic Studies and am excited to work at the place I have called home for the past 6 years. As a transracial transnational Chinese adoptee leaning into my ethnic identity has been a continual struggle and APACC has been a space I can explore this part of me.

Jessica
She/Her/Hers

4th Year in Human Development and Family Studies with a Minor in Spanish

I first became aware of the office my first year and never really went in. Eventually, I joined APhiG and had a couple of sisters who actually worked at the office! (Shoutout to Claire, Ereka, and Emme) Because of them, I kept going back to the space, eventually met JoAnn, and from that point on, APACC became my favorite place on campus. <3

DJ
He/Him/His

Hey how's it going? I'm Dinard Jesse B. Gonzales, but I go by Dj and use he/him/his pronouns. My major is Computer Science and I initially joined APACC because I wanted to learn more about my Filipino heritage. At the time I had started attending CSU I spent a lot of time at the Adult Learners and Veteran Services Center. I was active duty in the Air Force from 2008 through 2018 and I'm currently in the Colorado Air National Guard, so I wanted to make friends outside of the military and network with regular folks outside of the military. APACC Staff, the office, and the students that frequent it have allowed me to find a home away from home and I've been able to make close friends and what I'd hope to be lifelong friendships there.
Fang
Business major with concentration of Organizations Innovation management & Human Resources
Job on staff: Student Administrative Assistant
Why I joined APACC: I joined because I wanted to be more involved for my last year at CSU while connecting to my culture. The office gave me a home feeling therefore I really care about it and want to be part of it as a staff.

Carl
Hello, I am the APACC Assistant Director. My hometown is Longmont, Colorado. Fun fact: I was a leadership development coordinator for what was the Asian Pacific American Student Service Office back in 2007-2008.

Jo-Ann
Hello. I joined APACC as the Director in July 2010. I have done academic advising, internship coordination and career counselling in my previous jobs at CSU. I’m a first generation college student and third generation Japanese American. I grew up in downtown Denver and Lakewood, Colorado.

Sarah
Peer Mentor
Coordinator & Senior Student Coordinator
After being invited to the APACC First Year Student Network by a hallmate my first semester I joined all of APACC’s programs, and at the end of that year applied to help run one of them. I’ve been working at APACC ever since, this is my fourth and final year at APACC, and college wouldn’t have been anywhere near as great as it has been without the friends and experiences I’ve made while being a part of this wonderful community.

Michael (Miget)
Civil Engineering
Student Administrative Assistant (Chai to Understand Coordinator)
I got involved with APACC because it was the first place on campus where I felt comfortable. It was a place where I could be myself and interact with other people who grew with the same or similar culture. I continue to stay involved because I want to help students feel the same way.
Christian
Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts
APACC Volunteer Coordinator

I joined APACC to become a part of the APIDA community both as a student and as a coordinator. The people at APACC are some of the best people I have met throughout my entire college experience. There's a sense of community here that doesn't fade when campus is closed for a pandemic, or when race violence occurs, or when you graduate or move somewhere new. It's a great place to work and my time at CSU has only been better because of it.

Andrew
I am a second-year majoring in International Studies and Political Science.

I have been going to APACC events ever since I was a kid, but I joined the staff last semester because I believe that representation matters and advocacy can have a tangible impact on marginalized peoples' lives. APACC has allowed me to connect better with my own identity and help connect APIDA identifying students to resources to help them as well.

Hey my name is Randy Huynh. My pronouns are He/Him/His, and I’m majoring in Accounting. I am the Communications Manager in APACC.

I joined because I want to make a difference in other APIDA students' lives. Being born in America, I didn't get the opportunity to learn too much about my culture, so I wanted to dive deeper into getting to know myself, and hopes to help others along the way. I also love making new friends and meeting new people. Please say hi if you ever see me!

An-Ving
Biology major
RamEvents Liaison

This is only my second semester at APACC, but it has helped me learn and grow in my activism for underrepresented identities.

Alejandra
My name is Alejandra Mariñelarena-Olvera, my major is International Studies and Ethnic Studies, and my pronouns are she/her/hers. I'm an ICA at Newsom Hall and I correspond to the SDPS office, APACC. I became an ICA because I'm passionate about empowering students of color here at CSU.
At the beginning of the semester our team worked to put together a plan for the spring semester. Spring semester which always seems to fly by, was going to be busy with APIDA Heritage Month, end of year celebrations and graduation. Our program Chai to Understand is a weekly discussion series hosted by two of our student staff members. Every month they choose new topics to present on, find resources across campus, and invite guest speakers or panelists. In February Jessica facilitated a discussion on the fetishization of APIDA women and the power of positive empowerment. We also had APIDA parents come in and talk about parental love languages.

If there is one thing about APACC it is our love for food. In February during Black History Month some of our staff and students were able to enjoy the meal made by Aspen Grille during.

In the Fall 19’ semester, co-captains Alex and Vincent recruited and brought together a strong team to row at the 2020 Dragon Boat Festival. This was the first time in a few years that students came together to build CSU’s row team. Some practices began in the fall but in the spring they moved to the pool.
However, practice came to a stop due to the pandemic. But a team was formed with a few practices under their belt. It set the stage to be able to build a new team in future years.

In the midst of the pandemic we went virtual. Programs and connecting shifted from in person to zoom boxes.

During APIDA heritage month our Chai to Understand team created a series of Not so Subtle Asian Traits. Inviting APIDA panelists to speak on their identities. Atlas and Carl had weekly discussions on various topics in an effort to uplift APIDA voices. And APIDA staff shared their story with our community. To listen to any of these discussions, panelists or stories visit our YouTube page. APIDA heritage month was further celebrated by a keynote live stream with the women of Asian Boss Girl...’A podcast for the modern day Asian American woman.’

Joined by Janet Wang, Melody ‘Mel’ Cheng and Helen Wu we learned more about their stories. They talked about how and why they turned their passion project into a small business and advice in college and post-graduation. For folks in the residence hall, there was an exclusive streaming of award winning “Parasite”.

The semester did not end as it has in the past, but we continued to find moments to celebrate. JoAnn was awarded the Multicultural Staff & Faculty Network Distinguished Service Award. This award recognizes JoAnn for her outstanding contributions to diversity, inclusive excellence and multiculturalism in her professions within the University, our community and society. On social media we celebrated our spring award winners in addition to our many graduates.
CELEBRATING THE SPRING

Our 2020 Awardees

Outstanding Student Staff
Jinjara Clanton

Outstanding Faculty/Staff
Dr. OiYan Poon

Outstanding Student Org
Asian Pacific American Student Association (APASA)

Outstanding Student Org Officer
Kailee Mitsuyasu
Pacific Club

Outstanding Student Volunteer
Chian Baumer
Dr. Linda Ahuna-Hamill Memorial Scholarship
Lia Moon

2020 Graduates

Chelsea Carruthers

Theresa Sari

Vivian Chung

Chian Baumer

EmmeTruc Tran

Erica Howe

Lilia Maeda

Sofia DeBenedittis

Jinjara Clanton

Venus Cariaso
As the semester began we opened our doors to invite students in at a limited capacity. The office looked a little different but the comfort and feelings of home remained.

Our open house was a great time to connect and catch up after the summer break. We had amazing guest speakers with the support of our RamEvents Liaison. We were fortunate to stream the documentary ‘First Vote’ with a Q&A session with Director Yi Chen, a discussion and presentation about Anti-Asian Racism and Covid-19 facilitated by Dr. Jennifer Ho, and a virtual event with Schuyler Bailar CSU’s first Trans Awareness Week keynote speaker in partnership with the Pride Resource Center and RamEvents.

Our peer mentor coordinators worked with mentors and mentees to provide community and opportunities to engage throughout the semester. They explored the outdoors on a hike and gathered for a picnic at the Oval. In person and online there were multiple opportunities to gather together as a community.

Our Volunteer Coordinators organized multiple opportunities for students to volunteer at the local Larimer Country Food bank. And we found ways to have fun, be creative even during the spooky season.
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

CSU'S DRAGON BOAT ROW TEAM
Annie Ngo & Alex Lee

2015
In July 2015 we had our first Dragoon Boat Festival row team founded and lead by alumni Annie Ngo. This was the first time a CSU team has ever participated in the races and took third place overall! This was the first step in building a team at CSU.

Malinda Sloan
As a student and an alumni, Malinda has continued to provide her time, care and compassion to support the mission of APACC. This past year she has provided our students with masks, hand sanitizer, and individually wrapped snacks. Her commitment to care for our student’s basic needs and passion to go above and beyond never goes unnoticed.

2020
In December 2019 Co-captains alumni Alex Lee and current student Vincent Ly worked together to recruit a 2020 Dragon Boat row team. Although they were not able to row at the 2020 Dragon Boat festival they built a strong team and built momentum for future teams.

Barbara Funamura
Former President of the Kauai United Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association
Creator of the Spam Musubi

Read More about her legacy at this article By Peter T Young
http://imagesofoldhawaii.com/tomesome-grave/

Tony Ho
This year Alumni Tony Ho (*11) started a community funded campaign for the Dr. Linda Ahuna-Hamill Memorial Scholarship. With this initiative and the support of 60 friends, family and community members we are $5,328 closer to reaching endowment.

Dr. Linda Ahuna-Hamill Memorial Scholarship
We are finding new ways to stay connected and started an online community via Discord. We have played games, talked about music and our favorite K-dramas. On a few rare occasions JoAnn even joins us and has recently learned how to play Among Us! We are excited to already have a few alumni on our server and hope you join us too!

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Fill out our online form to join our discord community!

---

**Save the Date**

**ALUMNI VIRTUAL DROP IN**

**FRIDAY APRIL 9TH**

**12:00-1:30 MST**

STAY TUNED TO OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS

---

**We want to highlight more alumni! Is there an alum you want us to spotlight? Email Kalyn at Kalyn.Bonn@Colostate.edu with your nominations!**

---

**Stay Connected!**

@CSUAPACC

@CSU.APACC

APACC CSU

---

We're updating our alumni contact information. Please fill out our alumni contact info form on our website. http://apacc.colostate.edu/