ALUMNI NEWSLETTER
BRINGING YOU THE LATEST STRAIGHT FROM THE SOURCE

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RECAP OF THE SEMESTER

WHAT'S NEW WITH APACC

During the spring semester our physical office space has been closed. Over the course of the semester, we have hosted office hours on Discord and Zoom in an attempt to keep everyone connected and engaged. The rise of anti-Asian violence, targeted attacks toward members in our community, and continual states of living in a pandemic here and abroad leaves many of us exhausted, heavy, and continually on the verge of burnout. It has been a rough year and we want you to know we are here for you. In April we celebrated Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Heritage Month with many speakers and guests including Hasan Minhaj, Eriko Tsogo, Elizabeth Hanna Rubio, and a performance from the Polynesian Party Planners. We ended the month with our annual awards ceremony celebrating the achievements of our graduates, scholarship winners and, members of our community. And now as we look toward summer, we are ready to plan for the upcoming year. We know students are craving to come back in person and we have high hopes for an in person reopening in the fall semester!
Remarks from the Staff

Kaitlynn
She/Her/Hers
I am currently a junior majoring in International Studies and minoring in Political Science, Business Administration, and Chinese.

My favorite memory of APACC from this year is when staff met last semester at a park to eat good food, celebrate accomplishments, and recognize the efforts of each other. It was one of the sparse times when I could see all of staff in-person and I really cherish that memory!

Jeannie
She/Her/Hers
Major: Communication Studies and minor in Global Environmental Sustainability
Job: Pre-collegiate Youth Development and Communications Manager

One of my favorite memories from the year was when the whole staff got together in person to catch up and chill. We went to go ax throwing, and it was loads of fun!

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.

My favorite memory from the year was when a lot of us volunteered at the Larimer County Food Bank. It was a lot of fun working with everyone and getting to know some new people! It is always nice to give back to the community and have fun while doing so.

Jessica
She/Her/Hers

I am the Community Development Coordinator. I just graduated and studied Human Development and Family Studies with a concentration in Leadership and Entrepreneurial Professions with a Minor in Spanish. My favorite memory from APACC was my first year in staff, we got to go to the mountains together and I remember when we all made s'mores together! It was super fun and I got to try toasting a Choco Pie. 😊

Karyn
She/Her/Hers

Hi! I’m the Student Success Coordinator in the office! My favorite memory of APACC this year was meeting new first year students in the Fall when the office was open. I cannot wait to be back in person soon and see them again!

Ben Torres
He/Him/His

I am a Senator ASCSU First Year Majoring in Political Science. My favorite memory from the year was coming into the APACC office for the very first time and listening to lo-fi music while talking to everyone!
Fang
She/Her/Hers

I just graduated with a Business major concentrating in Organization and Innovation Management & Human Resources. My job on staff is the Student Administrative Assistant. My favorite memory from the year was when the whole staff went ax throwing. I think many of us got a lot closer that day. It was most of our first times ever doing ax throwing, and it was so much fun. Can't believe the year is already over :(

Carl
He/Him/His

Hello, I am the APACC Assistant Director. A favorite memory for me this year was ax throwing with staff for sure.

JoAnn
She/Her/Hers

Hello. I joined APACC as the Director in July 2010. I had many memories of the year but, handing out stoles to our graduating seniors was one of the special highlights.

Michael
He/Him/His

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.
An-Ping
She/Her/Hers

Biology major
RamEvents Liaison

Although it has been a tough year and even tougher spring semester not being able to see everyone at APACC, I think all the times I’ve been able to stop by APACC have been my favorite memories. There is never a dull moment in the office!

Andrew
He/Him/His

I am a third-year majoring in International Studies and Political Science. I am the Community Development Coordinator. My favorite memory from the year was when the staff did a couple escape rooms on zoom during the pandemic, and it was such a creative and fun experience to be able to solve puzzles and collaborate even while remaining virtual.

Alejandra
She/Her/Hers

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.

Randy
He/Him/His

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

My favorite memory of APACC was when the staff all got together to celebrate all of our birthdays in one day. With COVID and everything, this whole year has been a struggle. It was a great day full of happiness and food. It was great getting to know everyone that day and getting closer to one another.

Christian
He/Him/His

Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts APACC Volunteer Coordinator

Muemang
She/Her/Hers

First Year Majoring in Political Science. As a staff member who joined in the Spring semester, I was nervous to attend my first staff meeting as everybody already knew each other from the Fall. I expected the staff meeting to be extremely professional and very serious but that wasn’t necessarily the case. The first thing I heard come out of Carl was an f bomb among many other hilarious statements. And I just sat there thinking about how I was worried trying to make a good first impression in a professional setting, while the people there were extremely cheerful and welcoming. Joking and roasting one another. They definitely roasted Carl every single meeting. My favorite memory was my first staff meeting, but all of our staff meetings were entertaining and welcoming, which is something I love about APACC.
NEW STAFF
Introduction of the new staff for 2021-2022

GRACE KIRK
Pronouns: they/them
First year Biomedical and Mechanical Engineering
I am from a small town outside of Colorado Springs called Peyton. I love to read, ride horses, and play with my cats. I hope to one day enter the prosthetics field and do research.

ETHAN HO
Pronouns: he/him/his
Computer Engineering (currently 1st year in college) (graduate 2024)
From Aiea, Hawaii. I'm excited to meet new people and excited to get some of my first work experience. Let me know if you need anything else.

SU K A V O
Pronouns: she/her/hers
Graphic Design, Second Year
I'm excited to finally meet with everybody at the APACC this upcoming year and join the community!

MARINA GORIN
Pronouns: she/her/hers
Zoology, Junior (3rd year)
I am an international student from France and Vietnam. I am currently majoring in Zoology and am on the pre-vet track. I am a huge dog lover and am currently a foster at All Abroad Animal Rescue. I am excited to work at APACC because I want to be able to provide inclusivity, diversity, outreach, and service to students.
APIDA HERITAGE MONTH

Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Heritage Month

PACIFIC ISLAND CULTURE AND DANCE

To kick off APIDA Heritage Month, we started with dance and culture from the Pacific Islands! Kalama Polynesian Dancers created a captivating livestream and recording of their dances!

HASAN MINHAJ

With Hasan Minaj as a guest speaker, we held one of our largest events ever. Around a hundred people came to listen and talk to Hasan speak about his life as an APIDA identifying person. It's always great to learn from and talk to other people.

ERIKO TSOGO

Eriko provided great insight on being an APIDA identifying person within the arts industry. Her struggles, achievements and much more. It was a great time talking to her and learning from her.
The Aspen Grille held a luncheon for APIDA heritage month and served a variety of food from West Asia. It was extremely good and left us wanting more. Great to see people trying new food and enjoying it.

The Chai to Understand about anti-Blackness within the APIDA community was a great opportunity for people to learn from each other and talk to one another about an issue that many may not know about. Needless to say we learned a lot from each other and the short lecture by PhD candidate Elizabeth Hanna Rubio.

Adoptee connections has been a great opportunity for adoptee identifying students and community members to connect and talk to one another. It has been exciting to see this program grow and reach many students.
2021 GRADUATES

Sarah Siayap

Stephanie Saenz

Miyuki Gardner

Laura Studley

Melissa Kang

Susan Wilson

Alex Hopkins

Michael "Miget" Donovan Cepeda Perez

Savannah Padilla

Maria Nguyen

Malcolm Brandon Cook

Lela Hautau

Diane Yang

Keely K Takayama
2021 GRADUATES

Karony Soeun

Fang Yang

Kaitlynn Husovsky

Kausila Niroula

Kailee Mitsuyasu

Billy Poon

Holly Ye

Bryanna Streeter

Jessica Jeong

Jeannie Vong

Sarah DeLaet

Vincent Ly

Bronson Rivera
Camille Laufasa-Duncan
Chanthana Meang
Chanthanee Meang
Hillary Holcomb
Jerry Nguyen
Rebecca Dizon
Rose Carter
Sarah Hill
Sarai Ramnani
Thaina Pletsch
Tylar Tafiti
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

Jennifer Honda PhD

Jennifer Honda graduated from CSU in 1997 and worked at APASS with Dr. Linda Ahuna-Hamill and JoAnn Cornell! During her time at CSU she was the President of Hawai‘i club. She is currently as Assistant Professor at National Jewish Health, and is part of a collaboration with a CSU Mycobacteria Group.

Dr. Alan Obara

Alan Obara graduated from CSU in 2001 and again in 2005 with his doctorate in Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. He currently works in Hawai‘i at Kalihi Pet Clinic serving as the primary care doctor.

STAY CONNECTED

@CSUAPACC
@CSU.APACC
APACC CSU
bit.ly/ApaccDiscord

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

Asian Pacific American Cultural Center (APACC)

ALUMNI NETWORK

Join our CSU APACC Alumni Facebook Group! https://www.facebook.com/groups/CsuApaccAlumni