The Hmong Student Association (HMSA) at Fresno State participated in the Fresno Hmong New Year parade on its opening day, Dec. 30, 2021 after it was canceled the previous year, due to COVID-19.

Around 30 of their members and past alumni joined together to participate in the parade filled with many different organizations and schools from throughout the Central Valley.

The Fresno Hmong New Year was open for four days rather than its usual seven day celebration due to the pandemic.

The local celebration has been an annual tradition for Hmong families all over the country, being the “largest Hmong New Year” in the United States.

HMSA was there for the first day. They arrived early at 9 a.m. to participate in the annual parade and to dance on stage, as they prepared a traditional Hmong dance unfold on stage.

She, along with HMSA culture chairs, Pahous Lee and Kasian Xiong, led the dance.

“Just seeing everyone there and being in the present moment around all other Hmong individuals was very fulfilling,” Xiong said.

Xiong spoke with great enthusiasm and said she felt great pride when watching the traditional Hmong dance unfold on stage.

The organization is the oldest Hmong student organization on the West Coast, as it was established in 1984, according to the association.

Rose Xiong has been in HMSA for four years.

With this being her last year as president, she detailed her experiences being back this year and leading HMSA after Fresno State went virtual in 2020.

She emphasized the fun members have within HMSA, and also noted that it is a place where members can bond and grow together in both education and culture.

“This year as president, I feel like people thought we were a ‘social club’ where you can have fun and such, but along with that I wanted to excel in education and culture, and going forward I want HMSA to continue to grow in those areas,” Rose Xiong said.

“I want HMSA to be a place where people can do so much and grow together.”

Rose Xiong detailed her favorite aspects of the club, including “building leaders” and “empowering today’s youth.”

“As President and being a part of this organization for a while now, I see so much potential in all our members, which is one of the reasons why I am so passionate about HMSA,” she said.
Aloha! Have you ever gone to an Asian supermarket and seen a snack called "Spam musubi (spam moo-oo-bee)" next to the registers or food department?

Perhaps you’ve heard of it or perhaps tried it previously, while others may be unaware of its existence.

Spam musubi is a snack and lunch item that consists of a slice of grilled Spam sandwiched between or on top of a block of rice wrapped in nori in the Japanese onigiri style.

It is a favorite grab-and-go snack among Asian Americans and is getting more popular in many places of the United States.

The origins of Spam musubi are hazy and debatable. Many people have various stories about how it came to be.

The most widely accepted account, however, takes place in Hawaii during World War II. When the United States declared war on Japan at the time, more troops, units and supplies were sent to Hawaii.

The original can of Spam was one of those essential staples. It is an essential meal during battle since it can last for three years from the production date, but it can last for several years beyond that if unopened.

Of course, after the military’s stock of Spam was excessive, it was made accessible to civilians. Surprisingly, because Hawaii has a large Japanese population, the creative culinary mind of the locals combined Spam in a Japanese dish called onigiri. Voila! Spam musubi was created.

Spam musubi is a beautiful blending of Asian and American culture, giving rise to the nation’s new iconic snack. It has had a significant influence on the variety of our cuisine culture.

Spam Musubi is available in many Hawaiian restaurants and Asian markets across Fresno. L&L Hawaiian Barbecue on 3314 W. Shaw Ave. is one of the places where you can get some of these.

Ching Thao, a customer at the restaurant, said he greatly enjoys the Spam musubi.

"I was introduced to it by a coworker. I was hesitant to eat it at first because I believe Spam is not a healthy food to consume. However, after tasting it, I changed my opinion," he said.

Thao normally stops by three times a week to buy it as a snack after work.

Kanoa Aria skillfully serves customers and describes each dish. She migrated from Hawaii and has worked at the restaurant for more than a year, so she is extremely familiar with the ingredients.

"We have dozens of menu choices, and one of our most popular items is the Spam musubi. It’s a must-order item that many consumers buy in combination with their entrée," Aria said.

She is pleased that her local snack has gained such popularity in recent years.

L&L Hawaiian Barbecue introduced this snack to its menu at its first mainland U.S. restaurant in Puente Hills, east of Los Angeles, in 1999. As their Hawaii-based franchise expanded across the U.S., the snack gained recognition on a national scale.

To commemorate the iconic snack, L&L established National SPAM Musubi Day on Aug. 8, 2021. Hawaii Gov. David Ige, as well as the mayors of Hawaii’s counties, attended the event.

Spam musubi, like anything else, has its own backstory and origin.

Nobody could have predicted that a military dish and a Japanese rice ball would pair so well and become an iconic snack in the future. It is a basic snack, like a hot dog or a burrito.

As a result, if you haven’t experienced it yet, you should go grab one or make one today.
Hello from Asian Pacific Review!

My name is Jesus Delgadillo and I am the editor in chief for spring 2022.

First and foremost, I would like to welcome you all back to our Asian Pacific Review community. I am humbled and grateful to serve as the editor for Asian Pacific Review.

The first thought you might have in seeing this is, “What exactly is Asian Pacific Review?”

Asian Pacific Review is one of four student ethnic supplements that The Collegian has established for specific student populations and interests.

The four inserts are: Asian Pacific Review, La Voz De Aztlán, Uhuru Na Umoja and Hye Sharzoom. Each of these supplements help provide insights into the represented student groups by providing content from the points of view of students.

Before continuing with my introduction, I would like to start off with a little newspaper history. The Collegian has been printing continuously at Fresno State since 1922. (There is an excellent article on the paper’s centennial anniversary on The Collegian website.)

On May 2, 1969 the first two supplements La Voz De Aztlán and Uhuru Na Umoja, were approved for creation. Hye Sharzoom and Asian Pacific Review soon followed. Three of the four inserts have been continuously running for years, providing student writers the opportunity to share their voices.

However, due to staff turnover, Asian Pacific Review has lain dormant from print since 2018.

The Collegian has a rich history of allowing student groups their own insert for publication and my writing staff and I are glad to revive Asian Pacific Review.

I am glad to be here, and I am happy to gain the opportunity to help with the relaunch this semester.

The goal for this slice of The Collegian will be to inform and entertain. Staff members will hope to highlight and exemplify issues that affect our Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) student population and community at large.

APR staff will work with diligence to ensure that our content is accurate, informative and insightful.

As my staff and I look forward to the next issues of the APR, we are excited to share our voices with our Fresno State family. It is my hope that these letters from the editor will be continuous as my fellow colleagues take the reins of Asian Pacific Review in future school years.

As I sign off for now, I would like to thank BoNhia Lee, our faculty adviser, for giving us the space to write our stories and for the guidance as we navigated through the relaunch of APR.

Finally, I would like to thank Jannah Geraldo for her support and encouragement in welcoming us back into The Collegian household.

Thank you for taking the time to read our first issue back. This new version will be the first of many more years to come.

From the editor,
Jesus J. Delgadillo
Asian Pacific Review Editor in Chief
Spring 2022

Have a story idea? Email us:
jjdelgadillo@mail.fresnostate.edu
As we take the time to relaunch Asian Pacific Review, I want to take some time to introduce some of the writing staff who will help bring APR to the school population. I will be highlighting some of the staff in this issue, and the other members in the next edition.

First, we have Katie Xiong. Katie is a first-year student who is enrolled in pre-health, and her intended major is nursing. She is from Clovis, CA. Katie loves creative writing. One fun fact about Katie is that she is a BTS fan, and she hopes to see them in person one day.

Yengtaova Yuatongjerxiong (Yeng) is a third-year international student from Laos. He is majoring in computer science. Yeng likes to hike when has free time and enjoys playing video games as a hobby.

Vanessa Rosario is a third year student whose major is liberal studies. Vanessa’s hometown is Fresno, CA. Some fun facts about Vanessa are that she loves Disneyland and has a collection of Mickey ears. She also graduated from Clovis Community College with four associate degrees. Vanessa works as a volunteer for the Wayfinders program in Fresno State.

I am Jesus Delgadillo, and I am a graduate student in my second and final year for my master’s program in Higher Education Administration Leadership. My hometown is a small rural community known as Cantua Creek here in California. I hope to become a program coordinator or director after graduation. My hobbies include video games, reading and watching cartoons. A fun fact about me is that my sister and I are the only left handers in our family.

Thank you for taking the time to meet some of the APR staff this month. Keep an eye out for the next staff profiles of Sarah Vor and Kalyan Madoori.