



May 1, 2025

Dear UMB Community,

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, a time when we highlight the legacies and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States and our University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) community.

It is a time to honor those who have paved the way for future generations through their resilience, creativity, and tireless efforts to make a difference. From early struggles and triumphs to contemporary achievements, the AAPI community has enriched the fabric of our society in immeasurable ways. Their stories are woven into the tapestry of our nation's history, representing a wide array of backgrounds and experiences that contribute to our shared identity.

Our nation and world are greatly impacted by the dedication and innovation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans. Their enduring impact is evident in various facets of American life, showcasing an impressive range of accomplishments in fields such as politics, science, and the arts.

This month, we celebrate not only their historical contributions but also the ongoing efforts of the AAPI community to push boundaries and break new ground. For example, David T. Wong, PhD, joined Eli Lilly and Company as a senior biochemist in 1968 and discovered the antidepressant drug fluoxetine (Prozac). Fluoxetine was the first identified selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor and is used by more than 30 million people worldwide.

Amid the celebrations, we recognize both revered figures and contemporary trailblazers whose work continues to inspire and change lives. Their contributions are not only historical but also present in innovative advancements, highlighting the dynamic role the AAPI community plays in shaping our future. Each achievement is a testament to the enduring spirit and resilience prevalent among Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans. This month, we encourage everyone to delve deeper into these narratives and join us in paying homage to the remarkable individuals who have made indelible marks on our society.

Aruna Miller is the 10th lieutenant governor of Maryland. She is the first woman of color, being of south Asian descent, and the first immigrant elected to statewide office in Maryland. Susan Lee is Maryland's first Asian American Secretary of State. Lee is a political trailblazer, having served for more than 20 years in the Maryland General Assembly. Derald Sue, PhD, and Stanley Sue, PhD, founded the Asian American Psychological Association. Dr. Derald Sue is best known for his work on multicultural counseling and racial microaggression, and Dr. Stanley Sue is best known for his work on cultural competence in psychotherapy with Asian Americans.

During AAPI Heritage Month at UMB, we also affirm our commitment and support for Asian American and Pacific Islander colleagues and friends. We are committed to increasing belonging, justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion at UMB and throughout Baltimore, the state of Maryland, and the world.

Keep an eye on *The Elm* website and *The Elm Weekly* newsletter for more ways to celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

In partnership and collaboration,

Diane Forbes Berthoud, PhD, MA

*Chief Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Officer and Vice President, UMB
Professor, School of Graduate Studies*



This note was authorized for distribution to the University of Maryland, Baltimore community by the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.



*The University of Maryland, Baltimore prohibits sex discrimination in any educational program or activity that it operates. Individuals may report concerns or questions to the [Title IX Coordinator](#).
Read the [UMB Notice of Non-Discrimination](#).*

University of Maryland, Baltimore | Office of Communications and Public Affairs
220 Arch St.
Baltimore, MD 21201 US