



May 13, 2022

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 community.

Our nation and world are greatly impacted by the dedication and innovation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans. For example, Patsy Mink was the first Asian American woman to serve in Congress in 1964, and her contributions include advancing affordable child care and gender and racial equity. Mink also co-wrote the Title IX Law, which states that “no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.” Peter Tsai, a Taiwanese American materials scientist, invented the fabric used in N95 filters that have been widely used during the COVID-19 pandemic. Tsai-Fan Yu was a Chinese American doctor who discovered the relationship between gout and high levels of uric acid in the bloodstream. Her research identified a set of drugs that help treat gout.

During AAPI Heritage month at UMB, we also affirm our commitment and support for Asian American and Pacific Islander colleagues and friends as we continue to see a perpetuation of anti-Asian racism and xenophobia against the AAPI community. We are pleased to have supported and sponsored AAPI events and programming at UMB this year and in past years.

**Past UMB Events for AAPI Heritage Month:**

***The Table Dialogue***: Showing Up for Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities

***Care to Care?***: Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Experiences in Higher Education and Health Care. The event recording on YouTube can be accessed [here](#).

***A Time to Reflect***: Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month event with keynote speaker Nydia Han.

**Past Podcasts:**

The Intercultural Center released a two-part series in 2021, "[Anti-Asian Racism is Not New](#)," with Crystal Han, MD, and Angeline Pham, MD, psychiatry residents at the University of Maryland and the facilitators of the Crazy Stressed Asians group, to discuss anti-Asian racism and its impact on the mental health and well-being of Asians and Asian Americans. Part 1 focused on the history of anti-Asian racism in the United States and how to build solidarity movements across racial and ethnic groups. Part 2 focused on racial trauma and mental health for Asians and Asian Americans, and People of Color more broadly.

**Student Affinity Groups:**

[Chinese Student and Scholar Association \(CSSA\)](#), an organization that represents the voices of the Chinese community within the University with a goal to build a strong sense of community in a home-away-from-home for Chinese students on campus.

[Indian Association](#) is an organization that focuses on Indian-identifying students, providing space on campus that builds community.

Happy AAPI Heritage Month!

In partnership and collaboration,

**Diane Forbes Berthoud, PhD, MA**

*Vice President and Chief Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Officer*

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

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