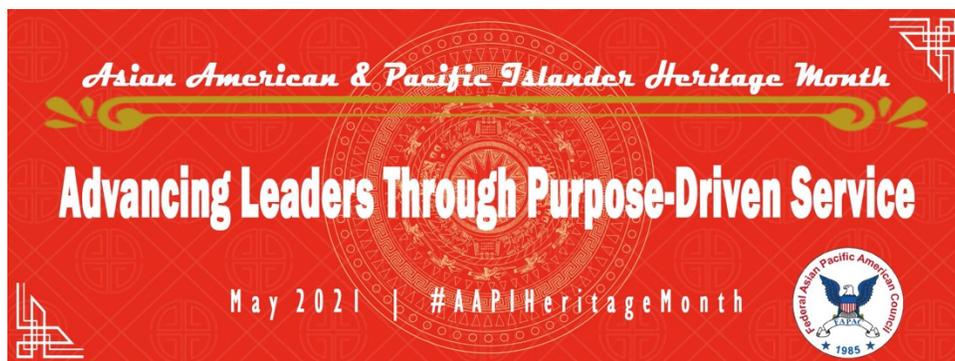


RST's committee for Equity, Justice, & Inclusion is proud to introduce our monthly newsletter. These updates will provide you with current events, updates on EJI initiatives, and other resources.

See attached for this month's custom backgrounds! Feel free to change your Zoom background to show your support for these events.



Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month: This May, join us in celebrating the achievements of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans in science, culture, and history. Below are just a few 'firsts' achieved by Asian and Pacific Islander Americans:

- **Chien-Shiung Wu**, a Chinese American, was the first woman elected president of the American Physical Society in 1975. Her contributions to nuclear physics earned her nicknames including "The First Lady of Physics" and "The Queen of Nuclear Research".
 - **Wataru "Wat" Misaka** broke the color barrier in professional basketball as the first non-white player in the NBA (then known as the Basketball Association of America). He achieved this in 1947, shortly after winning the NCAA tournament with the Utah Utes in 1944.
 - This past year, **Chloé Zhao** became the first woman of color, and second woman ever, to win Best Director at the Academy Awards for her work on the film *Nomadland*.
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May is also **Mental Health Awareness Month**. This year, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is amplifying the message of "You Are Not Alone." The EJI committee echoes this message and encourages anyone to seek help if you are experiencing mental health difficulties. Pitt has resources available including the University [Counseling Center](#), and the [Suicide](#)

[Prevention Lifeline](#) (800-273-8255) and [Crisis Text Line](#) (text HOME to 741741) are available 24/7.

Statement on the conviction of Derek Chauvin for the murder of George Floyd:

In the aftermath Derek Chauvin's conviction for the murder of George Floyd, it is natural to feel a mixture of intense emotions. You may be feeling relief combined with grief, or optimism combined with anxiety. Recognize that mixed feelings are valid, while still acknowledging that this is only a small step in the march towards justice.

We must continue to be proactive--the urgency with which we pursue systemic change must be stronger now than ever. Countless lives have been lost due to widespread racism, and pervasive inequities continue to detriment the health, education, and income of People of Color.

Over the past year, George Floyd has been painted as a martyr for movements towards Black justice and an end to police violence. However, we must remember him for what he was: a human being who deserves to be alive today. Convicting his killer is a critical move for accountability, but justice will be fully served only when all people can enjoy health, safety, and freedom without fear.

We'd also like to remind you of the [EJI Tip Line](#), where you can make accessibility requests or report concerns and suggestions.

The mission of the Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology's (RST) Equity, Justice and Inclusion Committee is to promote diversity, maintain accountability, and amplify the voices of disenfranchised persons. Through our efforts, we guarantee all department personnel the opportunity to succeed academically and professionally regardless of their background.