



QUINSIGAMOND
Community College

**Welcome
to the
Social Justice
Community Space**



For information about the
Diversity Caucus

or use of the

Social Justice Community Space,

Please contact Selina Boria in the President's Office at x4368 or sboria@qcc.mass.edu



**May
2021**

Tammy Duckworth

Tammy Duckworth was born on March 12, 1968, in Bangkok, Thailand. She was deployed to serve in the Iraq War in 2004 and lost both of her legs when her helicopter was struck. In 2006 she became director of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs. In 2009, President Obama appointed Duckworth as assistant secretary in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. In 2012 she was elected to Congress, representing Illinois' 8th District. Four years later, she was elected a U.S. senator, thereby becoming the first disabled woman and the second Asian-American woman in the Senate. In April 2018, Duckworth became the first female senator to give birth while holding office.

<https://www.biography.com/people/tammy-duckworth-21129571>



Anh Vu Sawyer

As Executive Director for the Southeast Asian Coalition of Central Massachusetts, Ms. Sawyer oversees the agency's mission to provide critical assistance to SE Asian refugees, immigrants and low-income families so that they can thrive and contribute, while helping to preserve the Southeast Asian cultural heritage in Central Massachusetts.

During her directorship, SEAC received 2016 Katherine Forbes Erskine Award, 2016 MCPHS Community Partner Award, 2016 John Auerbach Community Leader Award, 2015 Massachusetts Non-Profit Network Excellence Award, 2015 Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Outstanding Member and 2014 Eleanor T. Hawley Human Rights Commission Award.

<http://www.seacma.org/anh/>



Margaret Cho

Margaret Cho was born on December 5, 1968 and raised in San Francisco. Her career as a viciously sharp-tongued and unfiltered stand-up comedian began in her teen years. By her 20s, this Korean-American performer found herself starring in her own short-lived TV sitcom, *All-American Girl*. Since then, Cho has been the highlight of many comedy specials, tours and albums, as well as films and books. Her reign entertaining TV audiences has continued, too, with *Dancing with the Stars*, *Drop Dead Diva* and *30 Rock*. When not cracking up the masses, this funny lady focuses her energies on advocating for gay rights and fighting racism and sexism.

<https://www.biography.com/people/margaret-cho-20984631>



Chien-Shiung Wu, Scientist, Physicist (1912-1997)

Chinese-American nuclear physicist Chien-Shiung Wu, also known as "the First Lady of Physics," contributed to the Manhattan Project and made history with an experiment that disproved the hypothetical law of conservation of parity.

<https://www.biography.com/people/chien-shiung-wu-053116>



Yoko Ono

Singer, Artist, Activist, Anti-War
Activist, Singer (1933–)



Yoko Ono is a multimedia artist who became known worldwide in the 1960s when she married Beatles front man John Lennon.

Born in Tokyo, Japan, in 1933, Yoko Ono began her artistic pursuits in New York City. She met John Lennon of the Beatles in November 1966, when he visited a preview of her exhibition at a gallery in London. They married in March 1969, and collaborated on art, film and musical projects until 1980, when Lennon was shot.

Ono has continued her art career as well as efforts to honor Lennon's memory, starting the LennonOno Grant for Peace award in 2002.

<https://www.biography.com/people/yoko-ono-9542162>



Lance Ito was born in Los Angeles, California, on August 2, 1950, and attended law school at UC Berkeley. After a stint in private practice, Ito joined the L.A. district attorney's office in 1977. He was appointed L.A. County Superior Court judge in 1989, and six years later he presided over the O.J. Simpson murder trial. The trial, broadcast on live TV, became a national obsession and made Ito a celebrity. He remained a judge for another 20 years, before retiring in 2015.

<https://www.biography.com/people/lance-ito-011216>



Lance Ito

Judge (1950 -)

Michelle Wie

Athlete, Golfer



Born on October 11, 1989, in Honolulu, Hawaii, Michelle Wie displayed immense potential after learning to play golf at age 4. She qualified for a USGA tournament at age 10, and at 14 she became the youngest female to compete against men in a PGA Tour event. After claiming her first LPGA victory in 2010, the former prodigy won her first major tournament at the 2014 U.S. Women's Open.

<https://www.biography.com/people/michelle-wie-201183>



Asian
American
and
Pacific Islander
Heritage
Month

Jhumpa Lahiri

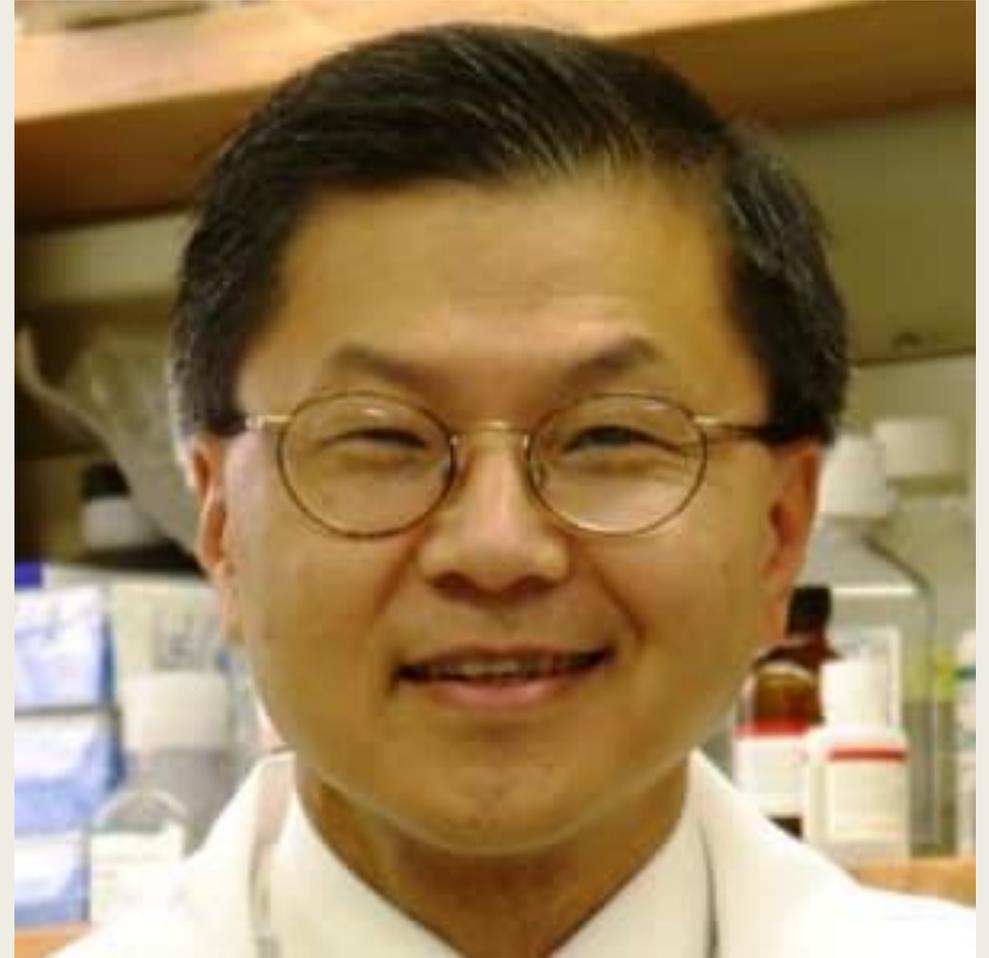


Jhumpa Lahiri is a Pulitzer Prize-winning author known for works of fiction like Interpreter of Maladies, The Namesake, Unaccustomed Earth and The Lowland.

<https://www.biography.com/people/jhumpa-lahiri-21465687>

David Ho

Born in Taichung, Taiwan, on November 3, 1952, David Ho's contribution to AIDS research may be the most significant of any individual's to date; his work has influenced the understanding, investigation and treatment of HIV/AIDS worldwide. After attending Harvard Medical School, Ho began conducting research at Boston's Massachusetts General Hospital, and soon proved that, contrary to previous thinking, once the AIDS virus (HIV) enters the body, it reproduces itself in massive quantities almost immediately. His discovery heralded a significant reversal in long-held precepts of AIDS research and treatment.



Michio Kaku

Born on January 24, 1947, in San Jose, California, physicist Michio Kaku studied at Harvard University and later the University of California, Berkeley, before starting his long teaching tenure at the City College of New York. The co-founder of string field theory, Kaku is the author of several popular books and has appeared on numerous television programs.



Mazie Hirono



The first Asian-American female, Buddhist and Japan-born U.S. Senator.

<https://www.biography.com/people/mazie-hirono-21132407>

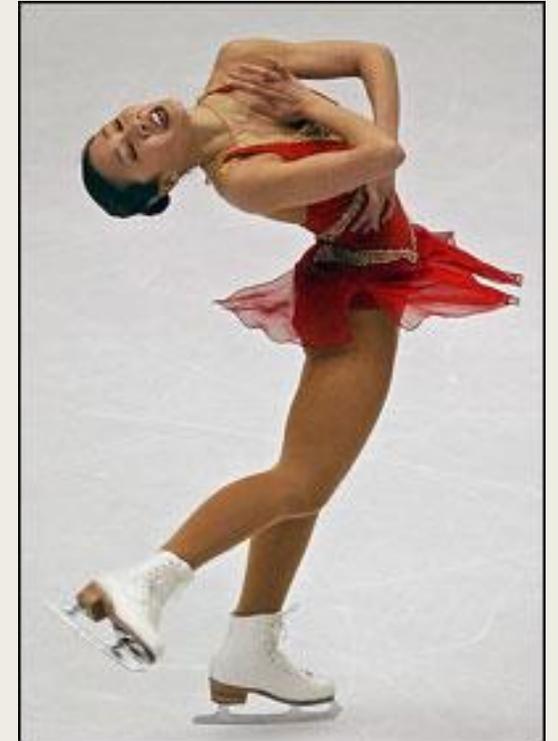
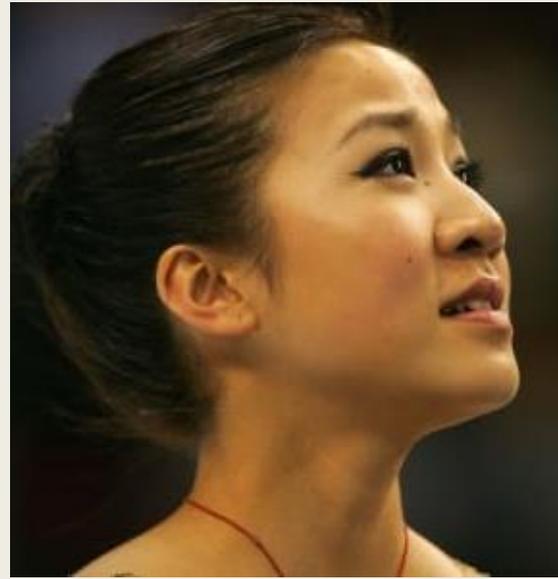
George Takei

Born on April 20, 1937, in Los Angeles, California, George Takei overcame the racial barriers of his time to launch a successful acting career. He starred as Lieutenant Hikaru Sulu during the three-year television run of *Star Trek*, and later reprised the role for six movies. Prominently involved with gay rights and Japanese-American groups, Takei has become a highly popular social-media presence.



Michelle Kwan

Born July 7, 1980, in Torrance, California, Michelle Kwan finished eighth in the 1994 World Championships at the age of 13, and has since been a five-time World Champion. At her first Olympics in 1998 she lost gold to Tara Lipinski; in 2002 she took bronze. A serious injury forced to withdraw from the 2006 Olympics. Stepping away from the sport, Kwan went to the University of Denver to finish her bachelor's degree. She continued her studies at Tuft University in 2009 where she enrolled in a two-year master's program. Kwan served as TV correspondent for 2010 Winter Olympics.



Amy Tan

She gained international attention in 1989 with the publication of her first novel, *The Joy Luck Club*, a story about Chinese women and their Chinese-American daughters. The book has been translated into 25 languages and has been made into a movie. In addition to her best-selling novels, Tan has also written two children's books, *The Moon Lady* and *Sagwa*.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/asian-american/notables.htm>



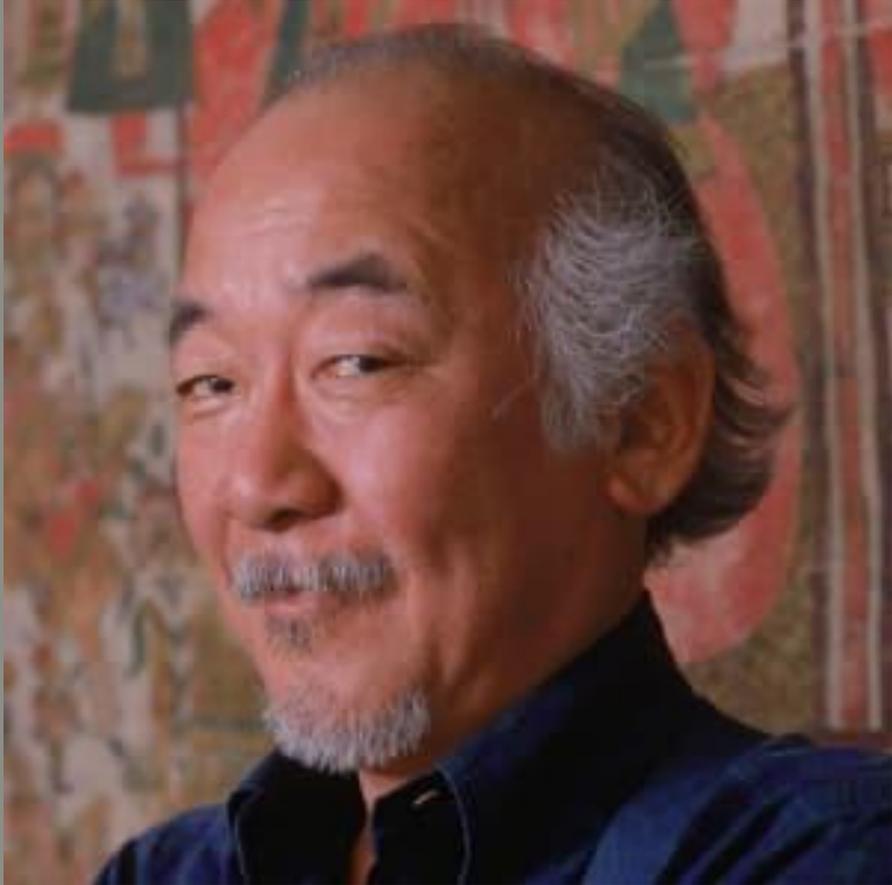
Maya Lin

Maya Lin rose to fame in 1981. Just 21-years-old and still an architectural student at Yale University, Lin won a contest to design the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Her design beat out more than 1,400 entries.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/asian-american/notables.htm>



Pat Morita



Born in 1932, Pat Morita battled spinal tuberculosis as a child. He and his family also spent part of World War II in a Japanese internment camp. Morita appeared on several TV series in the 1970s, including *Sanford and Son* and *Happy Days*. In 1984, Morita co-starred with Ralph Macchio in the hit film *The Karate Kid* and appeared in several sequels. He continued to work in film and television until his death in 2005.

<https://www.biography.com/people/pat-morita-20973585>



Dalip Singh Saund

Born in India in 1899, Saund came to the United States in 1920 to study at the University of California, Berkeley, where he earned a doctorate degree in mathematics. However due to anti-immigrant feelings, he worked in farming for 20 years.

In 1949, he and other Indians finally earned the right to become U.S. citizens. In 1956, Saund left the farming fields of California for the halls of Congress. **In 1956, he became the first Asian elected to Congress.** He served three terms in the House of Representatives, working to improve U.S.-Asian relations. Saund's political career was cut short when he suffered a stroke while campaigning for a fourth term. Still, he opened the door for Asian Americans to enter U.S. politics.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/asian-american/notables.htm>

Men of Steel

In 1865, Central Pacific officials hired 50 Chinese laborers to lay down a section of track. Their work was so well done, they decided to recruit more Chinese men. In the end, nearly 12,000 Chinese railroad workers were hired to perform dangerous work that white men refused to do. They dammed rivers, dug ditches, and blasted tunnels through mountain ranges. Hundreds of men died on the job. The Chinese also faced discrimination because they looked different from the white workers. Although they often outperformed other laborers, they were paid less. Despite all of the hardships, the Chinese laborers never quit. Thanks to their hard work, America became the first continent to have a coast-to-coast railroad.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/asian-american/notables.htm>



Chinese men working on the Union Pacific Railroad in the late 1800s. (Photo courtesy of the Western History/Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library)