



ASIAN  
PACIFIC  
AMERICAN  
HERITAGE MONTH

# ISABELLA ABBOTT

ETHNOBOTANIST AND EDUCATOR

Dr. Abbott was the first native Hawaiian woman to receive a PhD in science. She was considered the world's leading expert on Pacific algae, also known as *limu* in the Hawaiian language. Dr. Abbott authored eight books and over 150 publications, discovered over 200 *limu* species, and received the Gilbert Morgan Smith Medal from the National Academy of Sciences, among many other awards.

PHOTO CREDIT: Celia Smith, Ph.D.

A black and white portrait of Kalpana Chawla, a NASA astronaut and engineer. She is smiling and wearing a flight suit. An American flag is visible on the left side of the frame. In the top right corner, there is a text box with the words "ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH".

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# KALPANA CHAWLA

NASA ASTRONAUT AND ENGINEER

Dr. Chawla was the first woman of Indian descent to go to space. She first flew on the Space Shuttle *Columbia* in 1997. On her second mission on *Columbia*, Dr. Chawla was one of the seven crew members who died when the shuttle disintegrated upon re-entry. She was posthumously awarded the Congressional Space Medal of Honor.



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# STEVE CHEN

COMPUTER SCIENTIST AND INTERNET ENTREPRENEUR

Mr. Chen is co-founder and previous chief technology officer of YouTube. He led YouTube through its Google acquisition less than a year after it launched and was instrumental in building the platform into the most popular video sharing site. Mr. Chen is currently an adviser at Google Ventures, a firm that provides funding to technology companies.

PHOTO CREDIT: Steve Rhodes/Flickr

A black and white portrait of Jefferson Han, a middle-aged man with dark, wavy hair and glasses. He is looking slightly to the right with a gentle smile. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

# JEFFERSON HAN

COMPUTER SCIENTIST

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Mr. Han is one of the main developers of “multi-touch sensing,” a technology that enables surfaces such as trackpads or touchscreens to recognize multiple points of contact. In 2006, he presented his multi-touch screen in a TED Talk and founded Perceptive Pixel, which was later acquired by Microsoft to enhance Windows OS.

PHOTO CREDIT: Christopher Michel/Flickr





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# GRANT IMAHARA

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER AND ROBOTICIST

Mr. Imahara is best known for his work on MythBusters, where he used various electronics to test common myths through scientific experimentation. As an expert in animatronics, he worked on the three Star Wars prequels, the Matrix trilogy, and more. He is credited for his work in updating the aging Star Wars R2-D2 robots.

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# MICHIO KAKU

THEORETICAL PHYSICIST AND POPULARIZER OF SCIENCE

Dr. Kaku is a bestselling author, futurist, and science communicator known for his TV specials and physics books. He co-founded string field theory, building on Einstein's unfinished work and helping expand our understanding of the universe. Dr. Kaku's Japanese American parents met in a concentration camp for American citizens of Japanese ancestry during World War II.



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# NERGIS MAVALVALA

ASTROPHYSICIST

Dr. Mavalvala is best known for her work with the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) project, where she played a major role in the first observation of gravitational waves. She often speaks about the importance of breaking barriers such as traditional gender roles to pursue one's career choice.

PHOTO CREDIT: John D. & Catherine T./MacArthur Foundation

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# ANDREW NG

COMPUTER SCIENTIST AND GLOBAL LEADER IN AI

Dr. Ng is co-founder of the artificial intelligence research team Google Brain and founder of AI Fund, an investment fund for AI startups. His co-founding of Coursera and deeplearning.ai helped improve access to higher education and provide affordable educational opportunities to online learners.

PHOTO CREDIT: Steve Jennings/Getty Images for TechCrunch



A black and white portrait of Kathy Pham, a woman with long dark hair, smiling slightly. The portrait is the central focus of the page.

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# KATHY PHAM

COMPUTER SCIENTIST AND PRODUCT LEADER

Ms. Pham, a founding member of the U.S. Digital Service, has also worked with companies like Google and IBM. She incorporates her passion for public service with her tech expertise by helping improve marginalized communities' accessibility to government services. Ms. Pham was invited as First Lady Michelle Obama's guest to the 2015 State of the Union.

A black and white portrait of Dr. Flossie Wong-Staal, a woman with short dark hair, wearing a white lab coat over a patterned top. She is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a calm expression. The background is a blurred laboratory setting with various equipment and shelves.

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# FLOSSIE WONG-STAAAL

VIROLOGIST AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST

Dr. Wong-Staal was the first scientist to clone HIV and determine the function of its genes, helping prove that HIV is the cause of AIDS. She also completed genetic mapping of the virus, which made testing for HIV possible. Dr. Wong-Staal is co-founder and chief scientific officer of iTherX Pharmaceuticals.