



North Dallas Gazette

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STEM Solution: Focusing on the fields of the future

Part 1: Science and Technology

By Katherine M. Brown
NDG Contributing Writer

According to the Labor Bureau of Statistics, careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) are steadily increasing. In 2023, there were 10,712.4 STEM occupations. By 2033, it's estimated that there will be 11,822.8 STEM occupations.

Dallas ISD is doing much to prepare students for jobs in the STEM industry.

Dr. Roberto Gonzalez is the Executive Director of Science Curriculum for Dallas ISD. He supervises the science curriculum for grades K-12. Gonzalez ensures that the curriculum lines up with Texas standards. He says that he creates the experience that students have in the classroom.

"First, we need to understand that we are bound by the Texas standards," said Gonzalez. "The board has adopted materials that specifically target all these standards. For K-8, we use HMH and then for high school we use McGraw Hill. What is really neat about Dallas ISD is that we are implementing the new Texas standards. These standards are calling for something called Phenomenon-based learning, so it comes with a lot of hands-on experience for the kids."

Students can take classes such as chemistry, biology, physics, aquatic science, astronomy, and environmental systems.

Gonzalez emphasizes his commitment to provide equity to all

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*A North
Dallas Gazette
two-part
Special Report*



The battle for Black equity in 2024

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AI may help predict future cancer

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Remembering President Jimmy Carter

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The move to exonerate Marcus Garvey

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New 'Mufasa' film is a solid follow-up

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People In The News ...



Alicia Keys



Dr. Eddy Carder

NDG Quote of the Week: "We are each other's harvest; we are each other's business; we are each other's magnitude and bond."

- Gwendolyn Brooks

Alicia Keys

(Black PR Wire) SANTA MONICA, CALIF. – On Thurs, Jan. 30, 2025, GRAMMY® Award-winning music icon Alicia Keys will be celebrated at the fourth annual Recording Academy® Honors Presented by the Black Music Collective, taking place at the Fairmont Century Plaza.

Keys will receive the Dr. Dre Global Impact Award, established in 2023 to recognize artists whose influence extends far beyond music.

Named after legendary producer, entrepreneur and philanthropist Dr. Dre, the award celebrates not only musical excellence but also entrepreneurial achievements, philan-



Truu / Wikipedia (CC BY 2.0)

thropic efforts and a profound impact on a global scale.

“From her timeless music to her unwavering dedication to uplifting others, Alicia has made an indelible impact on the world,” said Harvey Mason jr., CEO of the Recording Academy.

“Alicia embodies everything the Dr. Dre Global Impact Award represents

– her artistry knows no bounds, her advocacy inspires meaningful change, and her influence has profoundly shaped culture. We are honored to celebrate her extraordinary legacy and the transformative contributions she continues to make in music and beyond.”

Keys is a 16-time GRAMMY Award-winning singer, songwriter, musician, producer, founder of Keys Soulcare, New York Times best-selling author, film/television and Broadway producer, accomplished actress, entrepreneur, and a powerful force in the world of activism.

She is one of the original founders of She Is The Music, an initiative to create change for women and

build an equal future for music.

Since the release of her monumental 2001 debut album, *Songs In A Minor*, Keys has sold over 65 million records, received over five billion streams and built an unparalleled repertoire of hits and accomplishments.

Keys has become the No. 1 RIAA certified Female R&B artist of the millennium with over 37 million certified track sales (US) and 20 million album sales (US). She released her eighth studio album, *KEYS (Original and Unlocked)* – a double album – in 2021 followed

by a deluxe version in 2022 and a sold-out *ALICIA + KEYS World Tour* that celebrated the *KEYS* and *ALICIA* albums. Keys released her book, *More Myself: A Journey via Flatiron Books*, which debuted and spent multiple weeks on *The New York Times Bestseller List*.

In March 2022, she released her first graphic novel titled, *Girl on Fire*, with HarperCollins. Keys released her first-ever holiday album *Santa Baby* in November 2022, which includes four original songs including the single “December Back 2 June.” In 2023, Keys completed

a spectacular, 360-degree show, the *Keys to the Summer Tour*, which hit 22 cities across North America.

Hell’s Kitchen, the GRAMMY-nominated and 13-time Tony Award-nominated original stage musical *Keys* diligently worked for 13 years to create opened on Broadway at the Shubert Theater on April 20, 2024.

Returning for the fourth consecutive year to produce the Recording Academy Honors event is MVD Inc, with Adam Blackstone also returning as music supervisor for the evening.

Dr. Eddy Carder

PRAIRIE VIEW, Texas (Dec. 18, 2024) – With great sadness, the Prairie View A&M University community shares the passing of Dr. Eddy Carder, a beloved Lecturer in the Division of Social Sciences of the Marvin D. and June Samuel Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences, on December 11, 2024. Dr. Carder dedicated nearly ten years of service to the University, where he taught Philosophy and Constitutional Law.

Dr. Carder was a highly respected educator whose expertise elevated the University’s profile as he frequently appeared on newscasts as an authority in his field.

Born on August 24, 1956, in Bonham, Texas, Dr. Carder answered a call



to ministry at a young age, leading his first church by age 20. His academic achievements included an undergraduate degree from East Texas State University (now East Texas A&M University), a Master of Divinity and Ph.D. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a J.D. from South Texas College of Law.

Dr. Carder will be remembered for his kindness, humility, and unwavering

faith, which inspired everyone around him. He was a source of strength and guidance to his students, colleagues, and community.

In lieu of flowers, the Carder family requests donations be made to First Wallis Baptist Church in Wallis, Texas, or the Brookwood Community in Brookshire, Texas, in honor of Dr. Carder and his wife, Olivia Blythe Carder.

A Celebration of Life service was held on Saturday, December 21, 2024 at First Wallis Baptist Church in Wallis, Texas.

Condolence messages for the Carder family can be shared at www.garmanycarden.com.

Dr. Eddy Carder’s dedication and spirit leave an enduring legacy at Prairie View A&M University. He will be deeply missed.

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The North Dallas Gazette, formerly Minority Opportunity News, was founded
in July 1991, by Mr. Jim Bochum and Mr. Thurman R. Jones. North Dallas
Gazette is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

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Rollbacks, Rallies, and Resilience: Black America's battle for equity in 2024

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

In 2024, Black Americans encountered a series of political events that tested their resilience and commitment to justice. From court rulings affecting civil rights to landmark political milestones, 2024 was a year of challenges and pivotal achievements.

Presidential Election and Kamala Harris's Historic Nomination

Vice President Kamala Harris made history as the first Black woman to lead a major party's presidential ticket. Most experts viewed her nomination as a breakthrough in representation and a continuation of the fight for equity. Harris's campaign, which didn't begin until President Joe Biden dropped out of the race in July, focused on protecting voting rights, promoting economic justice, and addressing racial inequities.

Despite those efforts, the 2024 election resulted in Donald Trump's return to the White House. His campaign rallies were marred by controversy, including appearances in former sun-down towns and speeches at Madison Square Garden laced with racially charged rhetoric. The return of Trump to power stunned pundits and raised alarms within Black communities about civil rights protections.

"Trump's rhetoric is dangerous, and his choice of

venues speaks volumes," said Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

Trump's conviction on 34 counts of falsifying business records in a New York hush money trial made him the first U.S. president ever convicted of a felony. The conviction meant little, as did the more than 50 other charges, as Trump still won the presidential election.

Project 2025 and Its Implications for Black Americans

Project 2025, a 900-page ultra-conservative roadmap drafted by Trump allies, details plans to restructure the U.S. government in ways that could severely impact Black Americans. The Legal Defense Fund (LDF) released an in-depth analysis showing how Project 2025 would weaken anti-discrimination laws, dismantle the Department of Education, threaten Black political power, and exacerbate health disparities.

"The most important part of the report is how Project 2025 will have an impact on individual lives and how those individual lives will be upended through the policy proposals," Karla McKanders, director of the LDF's Thurgood Marshall Institute, explained.

The report warned that dismantling the Department of Education would harm programs like Head Start, where 28% of enrollees are Black children, and cutting Pell Grants would disproportionately affect

Black college students. The plan also recommends replacing career civil servants with political appointees, which could undermine the integrity of agencies like the Census Bureau and result in undercounting Black communities, impacting political representation and federal funding.

The dismantling of agencies like the EPA and FEMA would leave Black communities vulnerable to environmental disasters. "The resources that the federal government provides when there's a natural disaster are instrumental in getting communities back on their feet," McKanders noted.

Rollbacks on Affirmative Action and DEI Programs

The Supreme Court's ruling in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* dismantled affirmative action policies in higher education, igniting a wave of state and corporate rollbacks targeting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives. In the months that followed, legislative efforts and legal challenges have accelerated the dismantling of these programs, further showing that opportunities for Black and brown communities are being systematically eroded.

In Florida, Governor Ron DeSantis signed legislation banning the use of state funds for DEI programs in public universities, leading to the immediate closure of DEI offices and the cancellation of diversity-related initiatives. Texas quickly

followed suit, eliminating diversity offices and mandatory diversity training, mandating that hiring practices in public institutions remain "color-blind and sex-neutral." Alabama joined the effort by shutting down DEI offices at its public universities, enforcing laws that prohibit the teaching of so-called "divisive concepts" regarding race or sex.

Legal battles in the private sector have mirrored these state-level rollbacks. The Fearless Fund, which provides grants to businesses owned by women of color, was forced to suspend its operations after a federal appeals court ruled the program may violate civil rights laws. The lawsuit, brought by Trump-backed conservative legal groups, claims the fund's mission of supporting minority women discriminates against other races. The case has set a troubling precedent, signaling that diversity-focused business initiatives could be vulnerable to similar challenges.

Corporate DEI programs are also facing intense scrutiny. Southwest Airlines recently faced legal action over a program that offered free flights to Hispanic students, with a lawsuit alleging the program discriminated against non-Hispanic students. Boeing encountered resistance when a judge rejected its plea deal in a separate case, raising concerns about the compa-

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Keep up with the news

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AI is helping shape the future of breast cancer risk prediction

(Newswise) — A new publication by a national collective of researchers has highlighted the potential for the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in identifying women with increased breast cancer risk.

The piece, published in *Trends in Cancer*, explores how AI can help clinicians to better identify features on a mammogram that indicate a high risk of developing breast cancer.

The University of Adelaide's Associate Professor Wendy Ingman, part of the



Robinson Research Institute and based at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, was lead author on the publication, which also featured experts from QUT, University of Melbourne, Peter MacCal-

lum Cancer Centre and University of Western Australia. "Artificial intelligence is enabling us to delve deeply into the information inherent in a mammogram and identify novel features asso-

ciated with higher risk of a future breast cancer diagnosis," said Associate Professor Ingman.

The patterns of white and dark on a mammogram have long been studied as mammographic breast density, which is a known risk factor for breast cancer.

It's within these patterns of mammographic density that AI is now finding new mammographic features that can be used to identify those women most at risk of a future breast cancer diagnosis.

"AI methods are now uncovering mammographic features that are stronger predictors of breast cancer risk than any other known risk factor," said Associate Professor Ingman.

Professor Rik Thompson, Professor of Breast Cancer Research and Domain Leader, Centre for Genomics and Personalised Health and School of Biomedical Sciences, QUT, was senior author of the article.

"There are a growing number of studies from Australia and internation-

ally suggesting that AI-generated mammographic features are indicative of early malignancy, undetectable by radiologists, but may also represent benign conditions like atypical ductal hyperplasia, which is associated with an increased risk of breast cancer," said Professor Rik Thompson.

"Certain mammographic features could be areas of high oncogenic activity that increases the chance of cancer developing."

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BATTLE, from Page 3

ny's commitment to diversity in selecting a compliance monitor. Once an industry leader in DEI, Walmart announced a rollback of its diversity policies, opting to abandon practices prioritizing suppliers based on race or gender to avoid potential litigation.

Civil Rights leaders said the erosion of DEI policies reflects a broader movement aimed at reversing gains made in racial and gender equity since the civil rights era. The rollbacks, framed by their proponents as efforts to ensure fairness, have drawn sharp criticism from advocates who view them as deliberate attempts to undermine progress.

"Without affirmative action, Black and brown students face higher barriers to entry. These rollbacks are designed to push us backward," said NAACP President Derrick Johnson.

Justice System and Legal Fights

Civil rights attorney Ben Crump has remained at the forefront of the fight for accountability in 2024, securing justice in several sig-

nificant police misconduct cases and advocating for systemic reforms.

In June 2024, Crump secured a historic \$45 million settlement for Richard "Randy" Cox, a Black man left paralyzed from the chest down after an arrest by New Haven police officers in Connecticut. This settlement is the largest ever recorded in a police misconduct case, surpassing the previous record set in the case of George Floyd.

Crump also represented the family of Tyre Nichols, a 29-year-old Black man who died in January 2023 after being beaten by Memphis police officers during a traffic stop. In October 2024, three former Memphis police officers were convicted of obstruction of justice in federal court, though they were acquitted on the most serious civil rights charges.

In November, Crump led the legal effort that resulted in a \$98.65 million jury verdict in a federal civil lawsuit against former Dallas police officer Amber Guyger for the 2018 killing

of Botham Jean in his own apartment. Crump called the verdict a powerful testament to Botham's life and the profound injustice of his death, pointing to critical issues of racial bias and police accountability.

Crump continued his advocacy by representing other victims of police misconduct in 2024. He sought transparency in the case of Roger Fortson, a 23-year-old Black U.S. Air Force airman fatally shot by a Florida deputy in his apartment, noting a witness's claim that police entered the wrong apartment. In another case, he pursued justice for the family of Sonya Massey, a Black woman shot and killed in her home by an Illinois deputy after she called 911 to report a prowler. Crump also took on the case of D'Vontaye Mitchell, a Milwaukee man who died after being restrained by hotel security guards, demanding accountability for the excessive use of force.

"We can't allow these injustices to become normalized," Crump stated. "Every fight, every case, is about ensuring that we live up to

the promise of equal justice under the law." Meanwhile, in *United States v. Texas*, the Supreme Court allowed Texas officials to arrest and deport migrants, which raised more concerns about state overreach.

Former Mississippi sheriff's deputy Hunter Edward was sentenced to 20 years in prison for torturing two Black men in January 2023, a rare case of accountability for racial violence.

Fani Willis and the Fight for Accountability

Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis remained at the forefront of efforts to hold Donald Trump accountable for alleged election interference in Georgia. Despite political pressure and threats, Willis won re-election in November. However, a Georgia appellate court in December disqualified Willis from the case.

Congressional Black Caucus Milestones and Losses

The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) grew to a record 62 members, enhancing its legislative influence. The CBC also honored Shirley Chisholm, the first

Black woman in Congress, for paving the way for current and future generations.

Tragedy struck with the death of long-serving Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee in July 2024 from pancreatic cancer. During her 15 terms representing Texas's 18th district, Jackson Lee was known for her fierce advocacy on civil rights, health care, and criminal justice reform. Her daughter, Erica Lee Carter, was elected to fill her seat, continuing her mother's legacy.

Baltimore and Maryland Progress

Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott was re-elected for a second term, affirming community support for his public safety and youth development initiatives. Maryland Governor Wes Moore issued pardons for over 175,000 individuals with low-level marijuana convictions. He posthumously honored abolitionist Harriet Tubman as a one-star general in the Maryland National Guard on Veterans Day.

Reparations and Racial Justice in California

In Palm Springs, the city

council approved a \$5.9 million reparations settlement for Black residents displaced in the 1960s.

Governor Gavin Newsom signed legislation to address the legacy of racial discrimination. "California accepts responsibility for the role we played in promoting, facilitating, and permitting the institution of slavery, as well as its enduring legacy," Newsom stated.

Social Unrest and Extremism

Neo-Nazi marches in Ohio underscored the rise of extremist movements, while pro-Palestinian protests erupted on college campuses, including a high-profile occupation at Columbia University. Hundreds of students were arrested after New York City officials ordered the dispersal of protests, accusing demonstrators of antisemitism.

Looking Ahead

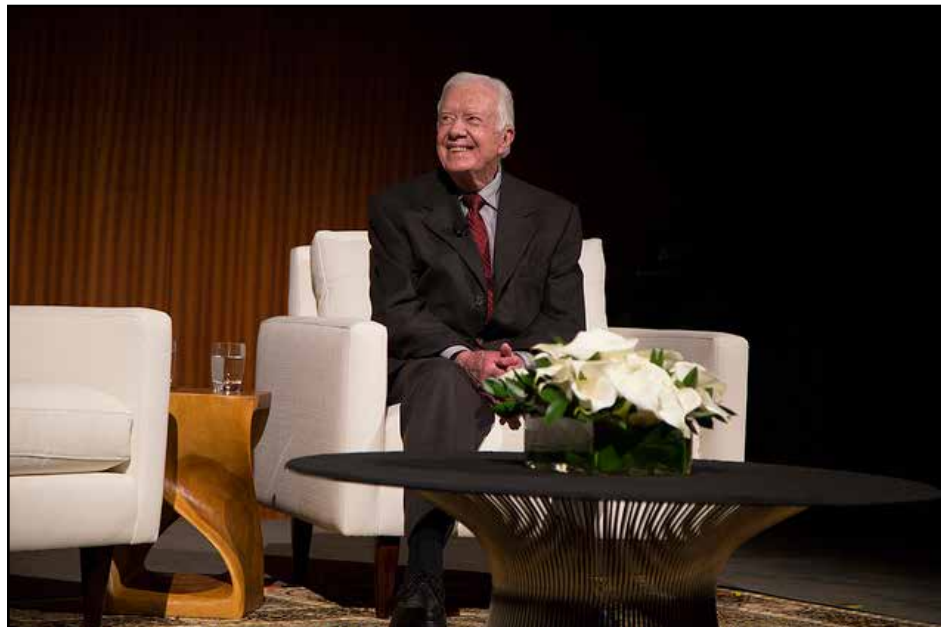
"We're not asking for special treatment — we're demanding the equal justice that America promises to all," Crump remarked.

Jimmy Carter, 39th president and global humanitarian, dies at 100

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

James “Jimmy” Carter, the peanut farmer from Plains, Georgia, who became the 39th president of the United States and later redefined the role of an ex-president through decades of humanitarian work, died Sunday at his home. He was 100. His son, James E. Carter III, known as Chip, confirmed the death but provided no immediate cause. Carter had been in hospice care since February 2023 after battling an aggressive form of melanoma that spread to his brain and liver.

Carter’s wife, Rosalynn, with whom he shared 77 years of marriage—the longest of any presidential couple—died on November 19, 2023, at 96. The couple’s final years were marked by their enduring love, and Carter’s last public appearance was at



Carter is survived by his four children, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and a legacy of public service that transformed lives around the globe. He will be buried next to Rosalynn under a willow tree near a pond he helped dig in Plains. (Photo via NNPA)

Rosalynn’s funeral, where he sat in the front row in a wheelchair.

Born in Plains on October 1, 1924, Carter grew up on a farm, served in the U.S. Navy, and rose to prominence as Georgia’s governor from 1971 to 1975. He was elected presi-

dent in 1976, becoming the first man from the Deep South since 1837. The victory made Carter the only Democrat to hold the office between Lyndon B. Johnson and Bill Clinton.

Carter’s presidency, defined by ambitious domestic and foreign policy ini-

tiatives, faced formidable challenges. During Carter’s presidency, America struggled with stagflation, an energy crisis, and international turmoil.

The 1979 Iranian hostage crisis and the failed rescue mission that followed, combined with economic

woes and a Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, led to his overwhelming defeat in the 1980 election by Ronald Reagan.

Despite serving just one term, Carter’s presidency is remembered by historians as one of the most consequential. He brokered the Camp David Accords between Egypt and Israel in 1978, a milestone in Middle East peace efforts. Carter prioritized human rights in U.S. foreign policy, advanced environmental conservation, and created the Departments of Energy and Education. His vision for alternative energy led to installing solar panels on the White House, which he called “a small part of one of the greatest and most exciting adventures ever undertaken by the American people.”

In his biography “His Very Best: Jimmy Carter, a Life,” Jonathan Alter described Carter as “perhaps the most misunderstood

president in American history.” In contrast, Kai Bird’s “The Outlier: The Unfinished Presidency of Jimmy Carter” highlighted his moral conviction in tackling issues others avoided, even at political cost.

After leaving the White House, Carter devoted himself to humanitarian work, transforming the role of former presidents. Through the Carter Center, founded with Rosalynn in 1982, he worked to promote democracy, monitor elections, and combat diseases like Guinea worm. The Center has monitored 115 elections in 40 countries and played a key role in nearly eradicating Guinea worm disease.

Carter and Rosalynn’s decades-long partnership with Habitat for Humanity further exemplified their commitment to service. Wearing tool belts and working alongside volun-

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2566	Hit \$500,000 Overall Odds are 1 in 3.72	\$10	2/19/25	8/18/25
2567	Hit \$1,000,000 Overall Odds are 1 in 3.41	\$20	2/19/25	8/18/25
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TEXAS LOTTERY

Jindal School tops Poets&Quants' Best Online MBA Program rankings

The University of Texas at Dallas' Naveen Jindal School of Management has claimed the top spot in the rankings of best online MBA programs for 2025 from Poets&Quants, a Times Higher Education publication that covers graduate business education.

UT Dallas tops the annual list for the first time, completing a gradual ascent that began with a 10th-place ranking in 2019. The online MBA program offers 13

specializations and over 150 electives, which allow its students to customize their experience to suit their career aspirations.

The Jindal School's online MBA earned top marks in ratings of career outcomes, with alumni giving the school's career services a 9.8 score out of 10. The program also reports that 62% of graduates secure promotions or salary increases either during or shortly after completing the program.

"We are thrilled to see our online MBA program recognized as the best in the country by Poets&Quants," said Dr. Hasan Pirkul, Caruth Chair and dean of the Jindal School. "This achievement reflects our continuous focus on delivering a high-quality educational experience that prepares students for real-world success, combining flexibility with a cutting-edge curriculum in emerging fields such as AI, analytics and cybersecurity."

Beyond career outcomes, the two major categories for evaluation by Poets&Quants are admissions standards and academic experience. The publication also cited the affordability and flexibility of the UT Dallas online MBA program, calling it one of the best value programs in the country.

The University of Michigan and Indiana University tied for second, while the University of Washington was fourth. Rice University was fifth.



The Naveen Jindal School of Management has the best MBA online program in the country, according to the latest rankings from Poets&Quants.(UT Dallas)

A Nurse in the Making: Collin College nursing student's lifesaving donation

At Collin College, students are not only preparing for their future careers but also making a direct impact on the world around them. Francisco Colina-Salas, a Collin College nursing student, recently made a life-saving blood stem cell donation through the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP), a global nonprofit organization. As we observed National Marrow Awareness Month in November, Colina-Salas' journey stands out as a testament to the power of compassion and the impact of community.

Early this year, after learning about a staff member's diagnosis of a life-threatening illness who would benefit from a bone stem cell donation, nursing program faculty and staff proposed an awareness campaign surrounding the NMDP registry. Kim Forcum, director of the Collin College vocational nursing



Sara Carpenter / Collin College

program, led the initiative with the help of others in the nursing program.

"We thought it would just be a good opportunity to share great information to our health professions and nursing students," Forcum said. "Our students were familiar with this staff member, and we wanted to support in any way possible, even if it just meant spreading awareness through the work NMDP is doing."

Forcum connected with NMDP, an organization that had worked with Col-

lin College before. They passed out more information about the NMDP registry, and how interested students could help.

"I didn't know too much about NMDP, but that changed when I was in class and got to hear about the difference registering could make," Colina-Salas said. "There was no feeling of obligation, but as a nursing student, I thought 'how can I be pursuing a profession to help people, and not use this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to help?' It's a

once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, not for me, but for a potential recipient."

Colina-Salas said the process for entering the registry was simple. He took a quick swab of the cheek, packed it in a sterilized tube, and sent it off via mail.

"Months passed before I heard anything from NMDP," Colina-Salas said. "I had honestly forgot about the whole thing until I received a phone call giving me the good news – I matched with someone!"

Due to the privacy of the matter, Colina-Salas was given limited information about the recipient. But he added that the details weren't too important to him, so long as he could help.

"It took a couple of tests and questionnaires to move on to the next phase of the process, but at every step, I was asked if I was willing to move forward, and if I

was still comfortable with my decision. I really appreciated that," Colina-Salas said.

Once Colina-Salas was cleared, he was told he'd be making a trip to Houston to make the donation. At this point, he began planning to make it happen.

"Francisco came to me with the great news that he was a match, and asked about being accommodated for class," Forcum said. "Luckily, we were able to do that. I was excited for him, and proud to see his commitment to this unique opportunity."

It was only days before Colina-Salas was on the road to Houston preparing to make his blood stem cell donation. On the day of the donation, Colina-Salas was filled with a mix of emotions – nervousness, excitement, and a deep sense of purpose. The procedure involved collecting stem cells from his bloodstream.

"I sat in a comfy chair for eight hours the first day, and six hours the next. It was just like donating blood, but it took a lot longer," Colina-Salas said with a chuckle. "It was all worth it."

According to NMDP's website, the probability of matches increases with a younger, and more diverse registry. Certain ethnic groups may have more complex tissue types than others, which makes finding a close match a bit more difficult. The probability of successful transplants increases significantly with cells from younger donors, as well.

"This information was all new to me," Colina-Salas said. "As a young Hispanic man, I hope I can at least share my story so others that look like me can learn about this."

As Colina-Salas contin-

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STEM, from Page 1

students in the classroom, saying the district seeks to close the knowledge gap for all the students.

“We now know that the difference between student A and student B is the exposure to different topics to different experiences,” Gonzalez said. “So, we’re trying to offer those experiences to every student. In the classroom, we are leveling the playing field where equity is being addressed. So, we are all about equity and access for all.”

For Gonzalez personally, science holds a very special allure.

“I’m originally a medical doctor, so I love science, and I love to instill science on everybody I can,” says Gonzalez. “Why do I enjoy this? Because I believe we are in a society right now that is operating based on everybody’s opinions, because they are out there and everybody can make their opinion known to the World Wide Web.”

Mr. Omar Cortez is a robotics and drone teacher in Dallas ISD. He has taught robotics for five years. Cortez utilizes the VEX educational robotics brand for his students. The brand has different robotic levels.

“It starts off with VEX GO at the introductory level which we do for a special rotation. And then, as the kids move on to middle school and 6th grade, they’ll do VEX IQ,” Cortez explains. “Once they hit middle school, we have three different levels. It’s VEX IQ, VEX EXP, and then VEX V5. It’s all under one umbrella, but they’re four different ecosystems that fall through the same pipeline. The other thing I

also teach is drones class. With the drones class, they give me what’s called a Co-Drone Edu which is provided by the Robolink brand and that’s just a programmable drone.”

Along with the robotics, Cortez emphasizes competition and collaboration in his classroom.

“I really like to do like a competition-based in the classroom. For the most part, we’ll start off real simple, and it could be something that’s as fun as like a little dance-off where the kids are programming autonomous movements,” says Cortez. “We’re really fostering collaboration here at my campus, so it’s always some kind of team-engaging activity and it can even go up to robot soccer and robot freeze tag. It’s always like at a competitive level where the kids do a lot of collaboration together.”

Cortez explains how the robotics curriculum looks.

“It starts off with fundamentals. The kids are learning about what the pieces are and how to use the pieces and structures. They’re learning about the simple machines. Then eventually, it evolves into understanding subsystems such as drive trains and programming them and competing with them,” says Cortez. “We do a whole Olympics usually by the end of the year in the different grade levels. It can be something as simple as a race and something as complex as learning to build an intermittent catapult. It’s essentially in essence the same class, but they’re kind of scaffolded each year to increase the rigor for the kids.”

Cortez says that the students not only learn a lot about robotics, but about other life skills as well. In the process of learning engineering, students gain knowledge in areas such as programming and computer science.

However, the competitive nature of the field involves much more than technical skills. While activities like building and programming robots, as well as using

egize. They have to be able to use their voice and find their voice. While they’re there, they also end up doing interviews with judges and the judges will ask them questions about their robots.

“So, they have to be able to understand procedural conversation, explain how they got to a certain place, and their pros and cons, along with their analysis of their challenges, and how

the STEM industry.

At Dallas College, STEM courses are offered in the School of ETMS (Engineering, Technology, Mathematics, and Science). Students can take a myriad of different subjects. Courses include geology, chemistry, biology, agriculture, physics, environmental, computer science, gaming, and information technology (IT). There are separate areas for IT, which include cloud computing, cybersecurity, networking, PC help desk, and programming.

Dallas College offers 2-year STEM programs. After students complete it, they can finish their degree at a 4-year university.

Dr. Raghunath Kanakala, Dallas College’s vice provost of the School of ETMS, explains the school’s STEM curriculum.

“Are the students going to be able to work immediately after going to Dallas College? Not all courses are work-ready immediately because we are only a community college,” explains Kanakala. “If a student is looking to go for work in a physics area they need to go to a four-year university and complete their two years, so the transfer component is always there.”

Kanakala says that Dallas College offers two options.

“We do have two different types of offerings which we call transfer and workforce. The workforce courses are all geared towards immediate employment, whereas the transfer is as it sounds,” explains Kanakala. “We expect the students to transfer to a four-year school and complete their bachelor’s from them.”

The STEM courses uti-

lize technology to teach students.

“For example, if you’re looking at teaching a biology course, the technology part that you need is models for how to show the student how the anatomy works or anything else. We have the tables where this is like a 3D system where you can see how muscles are built,” says Kanakala. “In biology, there are a lot of apps that the faculty uses to let the students know how the anatomy and physiology is built in a human or in an animal, so they have active labs. We have active labs on all seven campuses and extension centers.”

A typical day in the STEM program looks different, depending on what subject the students are learning.

“If you are looking at a biology course, the students might probably be doing a dissection to see how the different models have different organs,” says Kanakala. Different species are used on different campuses, so students may dissect an animal such as a frog, pig heart, or chicken legs.

Kanakala explains how the college is assisting students in preparing for the STEM field.

The college serves two main areas: transfer and workforce development. In the workforce sector, particularly for IT students, they facilitate internal job recruitment specific to the IT field. They ensure students are aware of the various job opportunities available to them based on the credentials they are earning. One challenge that students face when pursuing

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“In the classroom, we are leveling the playing field where equity is being addressed. So, we are all about equity and access for all.”
- Dr. Roberto Gonzalez

DWG Studio

tools like screwdrivers and wrenches, are commonly emphasized, there is also significant development in soft skills that often go unnoticed. These interpersonal and communication skills are an important part of the learning experience.

“They learn about teamwork and collaboration,” Cortez said. “When they go compete there, it’s an alliance-based competition and so they have to strat-

they were able to complete those challenges. A lot more than we would think with building robots and just programming them. They’re learning how to speak to adults, shaking an adults’ hand, look them in the eye, be able to respond, think on the fly, and communicate effectively as well as collaboration.”

Local colleges in the Dallas area are also preparing their students for careers in

Congresswoman Yvette Clarke leads push for Marcus Garvey's exoneration

By Stacy M. Brown
 NNPA Senior National
 Correspondent



In a letter to the president, the lawmakers described the case as rooted in prosecutorial misconduct designed to discredit Garvey and undermine his work for racial justice and empowerment. (Image via NNPA)

Congresswoman Yvette Clarke (D-NY) and 20 of her colleagues are urging President Joe Biden to exonerate Marcus Mosiah Garvey, the Pan-Africanist leader whose 1923 conviction for mail fraud has long been viewed as politically motivated. In a letter to the president, the lawmakers described the case as rooted in prosecutorial misconduct designed to discredit Garvey and undermine his work for racial justice and empowerment.

"Exactly 101 years ago, Mr. Garvey was convicted of mail fraud in a case that was marred by prosecutorial and governmental misconduct," the letter stated. "The charges against Mr. Garvey were not only fabricated but also targeted to criminalize, discredit, and silence him as a civil rights

leader."

Born in St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica, in 1887, Garvey was the youngest of 11 children. His father, Marcus Garvey Sr., a stonemason, steered him to achieve. Garvey described his father as "severe, firm, determined, bold, and strong," qualities that shaped his own steadfastness. His father's extensive library sparked Garvey's love for reading and ideas.

At 14, Garvey became a printer's apprentice and later moved to Kingston,

where his involvement in union activities and participation in a 1907 printer's strike ignited his passion for activism. He traveled through Central America as a newspaper editor, highlighting the exploitation of migrant workers, and studied at Birkbeck College in London, where he worked for the African Times and Orient Review, advocating for Pan-African nationalism.

In 1912, Garvey returned to Jamaica and founded the Universal Negro Improve-

ment Association (UNIA) to unite the African diaspora to "establish a country and absolute government of their own." His correspondence with Booker T. Washington brought him to the United States in 1916. Garvey settled in Harlem, establishing a UNIA chap-

ter and promoting economic independence for Black communities.

Garvey launched the Negro World newspaper in 1918, which reached hundreds of thousands of readers globally, and the Black Star Line in 1919, a shipping company intend-

ed to foster trade among Africans in the Americas, Caribbean, and Africa. The Negroes Factories Association, another Garvey initiative, aimed to create manufacturing hubs across the Western Hemisphere

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BACKSTAGE Chatter

Hawa Kamara

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The Dallas Morning News

Film Review: 'Mufasa' is a solid follow-up to the original 'Lion King'

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(***) “Every being has a place in the circle of life,” and “No more kings, we are all one.” Those lines of dialogue sum up the two major themes of this entertaining prequel/sequel. It’s the successor to 2019’s photorealistic/animated *The Lion King* (\$1.6B international box office), which was the live-action version of the 1994 traditionally animated *The Lion King* (\$981M).

Anyone guessing what this chapter’s box office receipts will be, needs to consider the heavy competition during the holiday season. *Sonic the Hedgehog 3*, *Wicked* and *Moana 2* are soaking up all the oxygen in the room. That said, *Mufasa: The Lion King* will definitely charm families and sell a lot of tickets. That’s due to its captivating, life-like photoreal computer-generated imagery and a narrative that’s compelling for its entirety (1h 58m).

Director Barry Jenkins (*Moonlight*) and screenwriter Jeff Nathanson (2019’s *The Lion King*) have created a storyline that champions all the values good parents would want to bestow on their children: Finding ways to survive and thrive in the darkest moments, cherishing friendships and family no matter who they may be and standing up to bullies. All are good messages, in times like these. Values that need constant reinforcement.

Rafiki (John Kani), an older griot-like mandrill, schools the lion cub Kiara (Blue Ivy Carter) on her ancestors and heritage. His recollections are witnessed by a fidgety audience of two: Pumbaa (Seth Rogen) the warthog and Timon (Billy Eichner) the meerkat. Rafiki: “It’s time. I will tell you a story...”

Mufasa (Braelyn Rankins), a small lion cub, is separated



Tiffany Boone, Aaron Pierre and Kagiso Lediga in *Mufasa: The Lion King*
(Image via NNPA)

from his parents during a natural disaster. He washes up on a riverbank and is saved by another cub, Taka (Theo Somolu). His rescuer, a prince, brings him back to his pride. Esche (Thandie Newton), Taka’s mom, wants to nurture the orphan. Obasi (Lennie James), his dad the king, thinks the interloper should be eaten or banished. Of course, mom wins out.

Years go by, and the older Mufasa (Aaron Pierre, Rebel Ridge) has been relegated to hunting with Esche and the females as a punishment. Paradoxically, the hunting expeditions have become a training ground for the young warrior lion who learns to trust his instincts. Meanwhile Taka (Calvin Harrison, Chevalier) has been pampered and sheltered. Like his dad, who sleeps all day. When Obasi’s pride is threatened, Mufasa and Taka are told to escape. Along their path the two meet and befriend Rafiki (Kagiso Lediga) a young mandrill, Sarabi (Tiffany Boone) a lioness and Zazu (Preston Nyman) a hornbill bird who’s Sarabi’s flighty majordomo. This new extended family seeks a promised land named Milele, which is their destiny. They’re followed by an evil group of animals bent on their annihilation.

The story-within-a-story format gets a bit confusing. Some viewers may wonder why this allegory didn’t just spin Mufasa’s yarn directly, without constant interruptions as Rafiki tells his tale. That’s a justifiable concern. However, the rest of the narrative plays out like a gem of an action/adventure/animation/family film. Kids are fed lofty notions about perseverance and helping others, that’s the subtext. But they’ll likely get caught up in the non-stop action and dazzling landscapes, from taupe plains to snowy white mountains. Watching the lions and animals run, especially when provoked by disasters or enemies is quite exhilarating. The rivalries and love triangles mix in drama and romance. There is no boring moment. No let down. Lots of kinetic energy.

This genre requires strong visuals and audio effects, and they’re on view and heard. Visual effects supervisors Adam Valdez and Audrey Ferrara, visual effects producer Barry St. John and animation supervisor Daniel Fotheringham make the beasts and their movement vivid and thrilling. Production designer Mark Friedberg’s sense of design and color makes the

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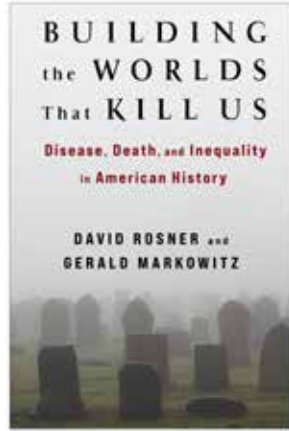
NDG Book Review: 'Building the Worlds That Kill Us' isn't happy, but insightful

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Get lots of rest.

That's always good advice when you're ailing. Don't overdo. Don't try to be Superman or Supergirl, just rest and follow your doctor's orders. And if, as in the new book, "Building the Worlds That Kill Us" by David Rosner and Gerald Markowitz, the color of your skin and your social strata are a certain way, you'll feel better soon.

Nearly five years ago, while interviewing residents along the Mississippi River in Louisiana for a book they were writing, authors Rosner and Markowitz learned that they'd caused a little brouhaha. Large corporations in the area, ones that the residents of "a small, largely African American community" had



battled over air and soil contamination and illness, didn't want any more "agitators" poking around. They'd asked a state trooper to see if the authors were going to cause trouble.

For Rosner and Markowitz, this underscored "what every thoughtful person at least suspects": that age, geography, immigrant status, "income, wealth, race,

gender, sexuality, and social position" largely impacts the quality and availability of medical care.

It's been this way since Europeans first arrived on North American shores.

Native Americans "had their share of illness and disease" even before the Europeans arrived and brought diseases that decimated established populations. There was little-to-no medicine offered to slaves on the Middle Passage because a ship owner's "financial calculus... included the price of disease and death." According to the authors, many enslavers weren't even "convinced" that the cost of feeding their slaves was worth the work received.

Factory workers in the late 1800s and early 1900s worked long weeks and

long days under sometimes-dangerous conditions, and health care was meager; Depression-era workers didn't fare much better. Black Americans were used for medical experimentation. And just three years ago, the American Lung Association reported that "people of color" disproportionately lived in areas where the air quality was particularly dangerous...

So what does all this mean? Authors David Rosner and Gerald Markowitz don't seem to be too optimistic, for one thing, but in "Building the Worlds That

Kill Us," they do leave readers with a thought-provoker: "we as a nation... created this dark moment and we have the ability to change it." Finding the "how" in this book, however, will take serious between-the-lines reading.

If that sounds ominous, it is – most of this book is, in fact, quite dismaying, despite that there are glimpses of pushback here and there, in the form of protests and strikes throughout many decades. You may notice, if this is a subject you're passionate about, that the histories

may be familiar but deeper than you might've learned in high school. You'll also notice the relevance to today's healthcare issues and questions, and that's likewise disturbing.

This is by no means a happy-happy vacation book, but it is essential reading if you care about national health issues, worker safety, public attitudes, and government involvement and inequality in medical care. You may know some of what's inside "Building the Worlds That Kill Us," so now learn the rest.

FILM, from Page 9

landscapes evocative. Every moment and its essence are recorded by cinematographer James Laxton, while film editor Joi McMillon intuitively knows when to cut a scene. It's likely the footage will be as much fun to watch on streaming services and TV, too.

Crashing sounds, swirling waters and big cat roars sound just right and accentuate the commotion, courtesy of supervising sound editor and re-recording mixer Onnalee Blank. Melodies flow courtesy of Dave Metzger's enchanting musical score. Lin-Manuel Miranda's (Hamilton) catchy tunes, which further develop the plot or characters, are memorable. Like the popish "I Always Wanted a Brother" or somber "Brother Betrayed," which expand on the lion brothers' feelings. While

"We Go Together" sums up the film's thesis on how disparate groups should coalesce for common goals: "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

The cast conveys philosophies and deep emotions with just their voices. Interchanges between Pierre and Harrison, from hopelessly bromantic to bitter and conniving, are convincing because the two actors have chemistry. Rogan and Eichner's hilarious asides, improvised jokes and rapid-fire jibes will make kids giggle and adults howl with laughter. As Boon and Newton bestow their certain grace on the lionesses those characters become beguiling. And when you need a villain, call Mads Mikkelsen, TV's Hannibal. He plays Kiros, the evil lion, like he knows how to

make audiences loathe an antagonist.

Jenkins directs all on view well, with a great attention to detail. His passion for storytelling, instincts for guiding performances and ability to corral tech aspects are solid. Even young audiences viewing this The Lion King saga, without knowing its evolution, will still have fun following the storyline, attaching themselves to the likable characters and ogling the action/adventure aspects.

Thirty years after the original The Lion King, who could imagine that themes like "Every being has a place in the circle of life" and "No more kings, we are all one" would still be so relevant. They are. They're more fitting than ever.

Visit Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com.



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GARVEY, from Page 8

and Africa.

Garvey's work peaked in August 1920 when the UNIA claimed 4 million members and held its first International Convention at Madison Square Garden, where Garvey addressed a crowd of 25,000, urging pride in African history and culture. However, his separatist philosophy faced criticism from established

Black leaders like W.E.B. Du Bois, who called Garvey "the most dangerous enemy of the Negro race in America." Garvey dismissed Du Bois as a tool of the white elite.

Despite his achievements, Garvey's growing influence made him a target of federal authorities. His 1923 mail fraud conviction centered on selling

Black Star Line shares. Historians and advocates have long argued that the charges were baseless and designed to dismantle his movement. President Calvin Coolidge commuted Garvey's sentence in 1927, and he was deported to Jamaica.

Garvey continued his advocacy until his death in London in 1940. His remains were returned to Jamaica in 1964, where he

was proclaimed the country's first national hero. His legacy is honored through symbols like Ghana's Black Star Line and national soccer team, named in tribute to Garvey's vision of African unity and empowerment.

Efforts to clear Garvey's name have persisted for decades, with hearings led by Congressman John Conyers in 1987 and resolutions introduced by Con-

gressman Charles Rangel in 2004. Congresswoman Clarke has now taken up the mantle.

"A pardon for Mr. Garvey would honor his contributions to Black history, remove the shadow of an unjust conviction, and reaffirm this administration's commitment to advancing racial justice," the letter stated.

Garvey's influence on the civil rights move-

ment and his advocacy for economic independence continue to inspire newer generations. His speeches, writings, and initiatives laid a foundation for Black empowerment and unity worldwide. In Washington, D.C., Garvey's legacy is commemorated with a bust in the Organization of American States' Hall of Heroes, a testament to his impact on the fight for racial justice.

CARTER, from Page 5

teers, they helped build or renovate more than 4,000 homes in 14 countries.

In 2002, Carter received the Nobel Peace Prize for his "decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development." Gunnar Berge, a Nobel committee member, called Carter "the best ex-president the country ever had."

Carter's post-presidency also saw moments of con-

troversy. His 2006 book "Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid" drew criticism for its comparison of Israeli policies to South African apartheid. Yet, even in contentious circumstances, his tireless advocacy for peace earned him widespread respect.

"During his presidency, Jimmy Carter advocated to have Medicare cover all Americans. After his presidency, he continued humanitarian works that everyone, regardless of political affiliation, should

respect," said former Congresswoman Nina Turner.

Carter maintained a modest lifestyle, choosing not to capitalize on his presidency. He and Rosalynn lived in the same Plains home they built in 1961, and Carter often said he wanted their gravesite in Plains to benefit the local economy through tourism.

In their later years, the Carters celebrated milestones with family and friends, including their 75th wedding anniversary in 2021. Guests included civil rights leader Andrew Young, country music stars

Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood, and former President Bill Clinton.

"Simply put, Jimmy Carter was a good man," said former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms. "He was the epitome of a

servant leader, changing the world and setting the highest example of what it meant to honor God, family, and country."

Carter is survived by his four children, numerous grandchildren and great-

grandchildren, and a legacy of public service that transformed lives around the globe.

He will be buried next to Rosalynn under a willow tree near a pond he helped dig in Plains.

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STEM, from Page 7

ing an IT credential is the complexity of job postings, as many IT positions use similar language and terminology, making it difficult to discern the specific skills or disciplines required. The organization helps students navigate these job descriptions, clarifying the focus of different roles and providing guidance on how to interpret job requirements effectively.

Kanakala enjoys the hands-on part of learning.

“In STEM, the hands-on part – that is the most exciting thing for me. When you are doing a project based or hands-on activity students learn more and they retain information well,” explains Kanakala. “That’s my perspective. If you have them work hands-on or they’re doing a project, they learn faster, and the information they learn actually remains with the student for a much longer time and they are able to connect information from one area to another.”

Tiffany Kirksey, vice provost of Dallas College’s educational partnerships, also explains how they are helping high school students.

“Dallas College partners with school districts, charter and private school systems to offer dual credit learning opportunities,” says Kirksey. “There was a 17% increase in dual credit headcount from 2018-2019 to 2023-2024 (from 25,558 to 30,032 unduplicated students enrolled). Dallas College offers 62 College and Career Readiness School Model programs approved by the Texas Education Agency, including 20 Dallas College Early College

High Schools (ECHS) and 42 Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) programs that provide pathways to certificates and degrees for students. Through these programs, students are exposed to rich academic curriculum. We also offer programs in STEM fields for dual credits students in partnerships with independent school districts.”

Programs offered to dual credit students include Interactive Simulation Game Technology, Network Administrator and Support, Software Development, Personal Computer Support, C# and Java Developer Certificates, Web Development Certificates, and STEM programs that prepare students for medical and engineering careers.

At the University of Texas at Dallas, students are also immersed in STEM.

There, Dr. Mary Urquhart teaches science courses such as astronomy, planetary science, and astrophysics. She uses a wide variety of resources to train her students.

“I’m a big proponent of both hands-on and minds-on learning. We’ll do a lot of activities in my classes that involve laboratory equipment or manipulatives that help people understand the particular concepts that we’re looking at. For example, for some of my courses that deal with astronomy, I’m doing scale model solar systems,” explains Urquhart.

“We’re building and walking our scale model solar systems, and then using that as a basis to compare to other planetary sys-

tems to look at the different sizes of stars beyond our own planetary system. And then also looking at why size and distance matter in terms of the properties of the planets in our own solar system including our own earth. That’s just one example of many things we do.”

Urquhart says that these

It’s very much making sure that that my students come away with a conceptual understanding of the material, and how to apply it in ways that matter to them, and matter to their future careers as well, or their current careers if they’re the master’s student.”

The university is doing

“I’m a big proponent of both hands-on and minds-on learning. We’ll do a lot of activities in my classes that involve laboratory equipment or manipulatives that help people understand the particular concepts that we’re looking at. For example, for some of my courses that deal with astronomy, I’m doing scale model solar systems.”

- Dr. Mary Urquhart

scale model systems are foundational to the students’ learning.

A typical day in Urquhart’s science classroom involves discussion and interaction.

“My students are active. They’re talking to each other, as well as discussing with me. We look at data. We read papers from the literature,” says Urquhart. “I also have a broad background for students in my courses, so we’re having those discussions, not relying on things like jargon.

much to prepare students for the STEM industry.

Different departments are aligning their coursework with industry expectations specific to their fields. For instance, the approach in chemistry or biochemistry may differ from that in emerging areas like nanotechnology or bioengineering. To ensure students are prepared for the job market, departments must align their curricula with the standards set by accreditation agencies, helping students succeed in accredita-

tion exams.

Additionally, industry experts play a key role in shaping the curriculum. Advisory councils, such as those in the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, provide valuable insights to ensure students are equipped with the skills needed for today’s workforce. Departments like Sustainable Earth Science also collaborate with industries, such as energy, to refine coursework and ensure students gain the necessary skills for success in the job market.

Science students can go into a myriad of different careers upon graduation.

“Many students may think that it’s just pre-med or engineering or computer science. But there are a plethora of jobs with any of our majors in our school of natural sciences and mathematics,” explains Urquhart. “We had a special series of presentations that we were giving to one of the schools in the Dallas Independent School district. It’s the science and engineering magnet school. We were talking about, for example, all the things that you can do with physics degrees. You can work for a lot of the systems in the area. You could work for TI. You could work for Raytheon. There are many, many, many things that you can do with physics degrees. It has to do with a way of thinking - the ability to really apply logic in a variety of situations.”

Urquhart says that she has a personal drive to understand the world around her.

“What I love about teaching is really sharing that joy and that journey with others,” she says. “Help-

ing them better understand the world around them, and giving them the tools that they can learn more, explore more on their own and help their own students - if they’re teachers - to be able to do the same.”

Urquhart also has plenty of advice for incoming college freshmen who are interested in a science career.

“One is - this is particularly true for freshmen - that it can be a difficult transition for some students. College is very different from high school in that people aren’t making you attend classes,” says Urquhart. “People aren’t making you do homework, so sometimes students will take advantage of that freedom, but that often leads to them struggling later. And that’s really unfortunate.

“We have students who they’re paying tuition or their parents or their scholarship is paying tuition, but they’re not coming to class. They’re not doing the work. The work that you’re doing in college, just like the work that they were doing in K-12 - whether they realized it or not - isn’t about the work itself. It’s about preparing you to do the next thing. It’s about the learning. And all too often, students who are young don’t focus on that aspect of what’s happening in college - that they’re really there to learn. It’s not about the grade. It’s about the learning. That’s the really important piece. You have to actually put in the effort. You have to put in the work.”

(Editor’s Note: This is the first of a two-part series on STEM education. See Part 2 in our Jan. 9 edition.)

DONOR, from Page 6

ues his studies to become a nurse, he carries with him the knowledge that he has already made a profound difference for at least one person. He adds that he hopes his future career will create more of these moments.

“It can be your friend, mom, brother, or anyone you love who might be ill and need something like this,” he said. “Illness

doesn’t discriminate. You just never know when you might be someone’s only hope.”

Colina-Salas has stayed connected with professor Forcum and hopes to share his story with other health-care students in the future.

“I plan to return to Collin College even after I complete my studies to share this story with other students,” Colina-Salas said.

“As for the recipient, I really hope they are on the road to recovery. I wish nothing more than to know they got another shot at life.”

Collin College is committed to preparing the next generation of health-care professionals to make a positive impact in their

communities and beyond. Colina-Salas is just one example of how a small act can create a lifechanging impact.

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And Then It All Came To An End

By Dr. James L. Snyder

Time has a way of getting ahead of me. Just when I think I've caught up, I find out I was wrong.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I were sitting down, relaxing after a wonderful Christmas activity with all the kids, grandkids, and great-grandkids. It was a wonderful time, but with my age, I ran out of steam very quickly.

Once upon a time, I had enough steam to do just about anything. Now, that seems to have evaporated.

This year's Christmas celebration was a wonderful time, and as we sat around the table, I noticed that the people around us were a lot older than they were a year ago.

I was not going to tell anybody; I would just let them find out for themselves that they were get-

ting old.

My bathroom mirror tells me every morning that I am an old goat and older than yesterday's goat. I could not help but reflect back when I was a teenager and we had family get-togethers, and looking around grandma's table, everybody seemed to be rather young. That isn't the case anymore.

Looking at me with a smirk, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, "Well, I guess this year's over." Then she let out one of her patented laughs

As always, she was right. This year will be over in a few days, and I can tuck it into bed and let it go to sleep.

It seems strange that when I'm getting used to something, it's over before I know it. Things go by so quickly these days.

As a young teenager, I just couldn't wait until I

was 16 to get my driver's license. It took me four and a half years to get to the point where I was old enough. It seemed like an eternity.

Looking back, I have had my driver's license for over 50 years, and I'm not sure how much time has passed. I can remember wanting my driver's license, and now, all of a sudden, all of that is over.

I remember when I was teaching teenagers in our church, and often told them when they visited their grandmother, asked her to show her wedding picture. Then compare that picture with what she looks like today. I wasn't finished. Then, look at your picture and just remember that one day you just might be as old as your grandmother.

Why is it that when you're young and have energy, things don't go very fast, no matter how hard

you try? However, the older you get the faster things seem to go. I guess I'll never figure that one out.

Then The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage mentioned the unmentionable, "So, have you worked on your New Year's resolutions yet?"

That's the one question I don't want to hear.

When she brought that up, I looked back at her, smiled and said, "On the top of my list is that I will only eat one Apple Fritter at a time."

She did not laugh at that one.

When I was done chuckling, I looked at her and said, "Okay, have you made your New Year's resolution list yet?"

Then she began with her list, which was almost infinity. She had so many things

that she wanted to get done in the next year that I got tired of listening to them. I did know that if she made a list of something, you can bet your bottom dollar that she's going to complete every one of them.

That's what made me a little alarmed.

I won't challenge that kind of thing with her. Whatever she wants to do, she can do it with my blessing.

Of course, there is the idea that if she's as busy as that list suggests she might be, I could sneak in an Apple Fritter occasionally without her knowing it. Now I'm smiling.

We were reflecting on what a great year we had. Sure, there were some bumps along the way. Despite those things, we had an excellent year together.

This year, we celebrated our 54th Christmas together. I can't believe it's been that long.

With a very curious look in her eyes, she looked at me and said, "Out of all those Christmases that we had together, which one would you think is your best Christmas?"

I learned a lot from my father, so I responded, "Oh, my dear. My best Christmas is the one we're celebrating right now."

You can get in trouble by saying something like that. Sure, we've had Christmases all the way back to 1970, and most of them I don't remember, so I believe the best Christmas I've ever had is the one I'm enjoying now.

Coming to the end of a

See SNYDER, Page 15

CANCER, from Page 4

"Critically, we need to identify the pathobiology associated with mammographic features and the underlying mechanisms that link them with breast cancer oncogenesis. It is this common goal that brings us together."

Associate Professor Helen Frazer, a breast radiologist leading research studies that investigate use of AI-generated risk-scores within the BreastScreen Victoria program, said research in this space could create new opportunities to improve breast cancer screening, tailored to suit individual needs.

"Use of AI could help us identify those women at increased risk of developing breast cancer in the future and be a step forward in per-

sonalising screening to best suit the individual and improve outcomes," said Associate Professor Frazer.

Gerda Evans, breast cancer survivor and Co-Chair of the Australian Breast Density Consumer Advisory Council, has been working side-by-side with researchers exploring how AI can help refine mammography-based risk prediction.

"This is a great advance in predicting breast cancer risk, with potentially huge benefits for the community," said Mrs Evans.

Associate Professor Ingman said mammographic density is still a valuable measure of risk at the time of a mammogram.

"AI is enabling us to refine mammographic density as a risk factor, and hone in

on particular features in a mammogram that are stronger risk predictors, however high mammographic density remains a significant breast cancer risk factor," said Associate Professor Ingman.

"More information about mammographic breast density can be found on the InforMD website that our research team developed to help de-mystify this breast cancer risk factor."

Tragically, one of the scientists involved in this research passed away before the work was published.

Professor John Hopper from the University of Melbourne was passionate about the potential for AI-generated mammographic features to shape the future of breast cancer screening.

"With this work, we intend to continue John's legacy," said Professor Thompson.

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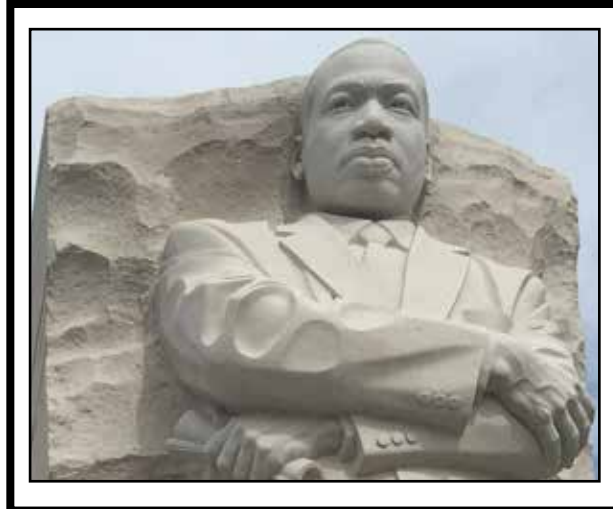


Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

Dr. King (January 15, 1929-April 4, 1968) was born Michael Luther King, Jr., but later had his name changed to Martin. His grandfather began the family's long tenure as pastors of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta honoring and praising God, he served from 1914 to 1931; his father served from then until his death and from 1960 until his death Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. acted as co-pastor.

After three years of theological study at Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania where he was elected president of a predominantly white senior class, he was awarded the B.D. in 1951. Dr. King received doctorate in 1955. In Boston he met and married Coretta Scott, a young woman of uncommon intellectual and artistic attainments. Two sons and two daughters were born into the family.

In 1954, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama and he was a member of



the executive committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the leading organization of its kind in the nation. In December 1955 he accepted the leadership of the first great Black nonviolent demonstration of contemporary times in the United States; the bus boycott lasted 382 days. On December 21, 1956, after the Supreme Court of the United States had declared unconstitutional the laws requiring segregation on buses, Blacks and whites rode the buses as equals.

In 1957 he was elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization formed to provide new leadership for the now burgeoning civil rights movement. The ideals for this organization he took from


Christianity; its operational techniques from Gandhi. In the eleven-year period between 1957 and 1968, King traveled over six million miles and spoke over twenty-five hundred times, appearing wherever there was injustice, protest, and action; and meanwhile he wrote five books as well as numerous articles. In these years, he led a massive protest in Birmingham, Alabama, that caught the attention of the entire world, providing what he called a coalition of conscience. and inspiring his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail", a manifesto of the Black revolution.


Dr. King planned voter registration drives in Alabama and he directed the peaceful march on Washington, D.C., of 250,000 people to whom he delivered his address, "I Have a

Dream", he conferred with President John F. Kennedy and campaigned for President Lyndon B. Johnson. He was awarded five hon-

orary degrees; was named Man of the Year by Time magazine in 1963; and became not only the symbolic leader of American blacks

but also a world figure. *(Editor's Note: This column originally ran in January 2012. It has been edited for space.)*

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DOING THE RIGHT THING



“The time is always right to do what is right.” — Martin Luther King, Jr.

SNYDER, from Page 14

year and the beginning of a new year, I couldn't help but think of a verse in the Bible.

Solomon wrote many years ago, "The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new

thing under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9).

My experience is that the older I get the less things change. As a young person, I always hoped things would change and get better. Sometimes they did, but more often than not, things remain the same.

The only change in my life was when I surrendered my life unto the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnyder51@gmail.com, website www.james-snyderministries.com.

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