

The Valley Weekly

"It takes a deep commitment to change and an even deeper commitment to grow."

- Ralph Ellison

FREE

Volume 3, No. 18

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, January 13, 2017

Two Valley-Linked Millennials Make Forbes '30 Under 30' in Science

Two individuals with ties to the Tennessee Valley have been named to Forbes magazine's '30 Under 30' - Science (2017).

Dr. Timothy Downing



is a 29-year-old assistant professor at the University of California, Irvine. His research demonstrates

how extracellular signals can influence the final fate of cells. He earned an undergraduate degree from Northwestern University and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California Berkeley and University of California, San Francisco.

Moreover, Dr. Downing's discoveries have larger implications in the field of biomedical engineering, including regenerative medicine. By guiding neuronal tissue formation, challenges like spinal cord repair may be better met.

Seven of his aunts and uncles are Alabama A&M University graduates, including Dorothy Downing, the late Geraldine Williams Downing, Vanessa



Downing Henderson, Lori Downing Smith, Debbie Downing Owens and Terry Downing and Chris Downing.

Dr. Arun Sharma is a 26-year-old postdoctoral fellow at Harvard Medical School. The Boston resident earned the B.A.

degree in science from Duke University and the Ph.D. degree from Stanford University.

Dr. Sharma worked as an investigator for a grant funded by the Center for the Advancement of Science in Space. According to Forbes, his research on the effects of microgravity on stem-cell derived heart cells was boarded on the SpaceX Dragon and received by the International Space Station. At Harvard he uses pluripotent stem cells to study cardiovascular biology.

Sharma is the son of Dr. Anup Sharma, professor of physics at Alabama A&M University.

- Forbes.com

ArtNSoul Presents MLK Poetry



The ArtNSoul Society of Expression will present Martin Luther King Poetry 2017 on Sunday, January 15, at 7 p.m. at the Robert "Bob" Harrison Senior Wellness and Advocacy Center in Huntsville, Ala.

ArtNSoul Society is kicking off its 16th Season with this event that started it off ... MLK Poetry! This year's theme is: "EMBRACING EMPOWERMENT - IT'S TIME TO BUILD."

There is no better time than the present to come together, commune and use God-given gifts, and build up the community. This is an open mic event.

Please arrive early to sign up. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

HudsonAlpha, St. Jude Receive NIH Grant

HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital were jointly awarded a three-year, \$14.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health Common Fund's Gabriella Miller Kids First Pediatric Research Program (Kids First) to produce genetic sequencing data and create a centralized resource for study of birth defects and childhood cancers.

The program will create a joint sequencing center run by Shawn Levy, PhD, of HudsonAlpha and Jinghui Zhang, PhD, of St. Jude.

Noted Laugh Masters on Tap for New Comedy Club

The burgeoning entertainment scene in the Valley area will include the addition of the Stand Up Live comedy club and dinner theater. Stand Up Live will open on January 19, with comic Killer Beaz, who will perform January 19-22.

With thousands of national stage, radio, and television appearances,

Killer Beaz is a familiar face of comedy. As a favorite guest of several nation-

ally syndicated radio shows, Beaz entertains millions of his fans on a

regular basis. He has made numerous appearances on Showtime, Entertainment Tonight, Comedy Central,

E!, A&E, CNN, ESPN, CMT, and GAC.

Owner Andrew Dorf-

man called now "a great time to bring something new and

different to Huntsville."

Future artists will include Christopher Titus, Piff the Magic Dragon,

STAND UP LIVE
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

Medium Cindy Kaza, Jermaine "FunnyMaine" Johnson, John Heffron, George Wallace, D.L. Hughley and many others.

Stand Up Live is located off SW Memorial Parkway. The grand opening will be Thursday, January 19. For additional information, visit <http://huntsville.standuplive.com>.

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Sav-A-Lot

Sneed's Cleaners

St. Bartley PB Church

St. Luke Christian Church

Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

The Hamm Consulting Group



Your Washington Recap

Here are the top issues in Washington, D.C., this week:

1. The House and Senate are in session this week. The Senate will continue work on the FY2017 Budget Resolution that includes instructions for repealing Obamacare under the filibuster-proof budget reconciliation process. If the Senate completes work on the FY2017 Budget Resolution, the House will take it up this week. The House, among other items, will take up a bill requiring the Energy Department to prioritize its funds to increase the number of skilled workers trained to work in energy and manufacturing-related fields and an omnibus anti-regulation bill combining several measures aimed at blocking and/or delaying the rulemaking process by federal agencies.

2. On Tuesday President Obama traveled to Chicago to deliver his farewell address at a public event at McCormick Place.

3. On Wednesday, President-elect Trump held his first post-election press conference in New York. It was reported last week by Congressional Quarterly that Mr. Trump would transmit his budget priorities for FY2018 to

Congress with a formal Budget Submittal in May with a pre-submittal budget summary sent to Congress in February.

4. While the "vote-o-rama" is taking place on the Senate floor on budget amendment votes this week, there was a "hearing-o-rama" in the Senate Committees with 6 Trump Administration nominees who appeared Tuesday and Wednesday:

- Attorney General-nominee Jeff Sessions at the Senate Judiciary Committee;
- Homeland Security Secretary-nominee John Kelly at the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee;
- Education Secretary-nominee Betsy DeVos at the Senate HELP Committee;
- Secretary of State-nominee Rex Tillerson at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee;
- CIA Director-nominee Mike Pompeo at the Senate Intelligence Committee; and
- Transportation Secretary-nominee Elaine Chao at the Senate Commerce Committee.

5. Multiple news outlets reported last week that Presidential daughter Ivanka Trump and her husband Jared Kushner will move into a 6-bedroom, \$5.5

million house in D.C.'s tony Kalorama neighborhood that is two blocks from the home the Obamas will be living in after they leave the White House.

6. The New York Times reported that on Sunday, Hillary Clinton received a standing ovation from the sold-out audience at the final performance of "The Color Purple" on Broadway.

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DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMEMORATION PROGRAM

THEME: "DREAMKEEPERS OF INFINITE HOPE AND JUSTICE"

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2017

4:00 P.M.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE
CONFERENCE TRAINING CENTER, EXHIBIT HALL
(FORMALLY THE UNIVERSITY CENTER)



Judge Glenda Hatchett

This is your special invitation to attend the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Program.

Judge Glenda Hatchett, author, television personality and founding partner at the national law firm, The Hatchett Firm, PC, will provide an invigorating keynote address to honor the life and legacy of Dr. King.

Presentations by:
UAH Minority Graduate Student Association

Special performance by:
In One Accord

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For additional information, please contact the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs at 824-2332 or fax inquiries to 824-7236.

This event is free of charge and open to the public.



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The Valley Weekly

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From the Editor

Ahhh, Happy Birthday, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr!

On next Monday, January 16, we will pause to celebrate the birthday of Dr. King. Last June, I had the good fortune to visit The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, located in West Potomac Park in Washington, D.C., southwest of the National Mall. Dr. King is the first African American honored with a memorial on or near the National Mall and only the fourth non-president to be memorialized in such a way. It is an awesome tribute to one of America's greatest champions of peace and justice.

All of us have 24 hours in each day. How we allot those hours is up to us. One of Dr. King's famous quotes has to do with service. What are we doing for others? Sometimes we observe the service of others and make judgments about why 'they' are so busy. I have lived long enough to discover that in almost every successful endeavor, you have those who have passion, grit and urgency to 'do for others, while you have those who do little or nothing but are critical of those who make it happen. Servant leadership required that we 'do for others' in our own ways, using the talents and resources with which we are gifted and blessed.

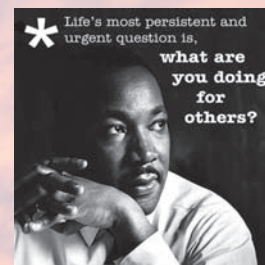
I had great role models and mentors who taught me the value of hard work and giving back to the village. My mother sent me to Rosenwald Elementary School at five years old to the first grade. I got it done because she had to go to work and I did not want to disappoint her. There was always work to do, so we had to plan and prioritize in order to be successful. As a youth, I can't remember a time when I didn't want to escape the type of back-breaking, hard work we endured on the farm. My older sisters and brother still 'swear' today that the youngest siblings, including me, did not really know what hard work was. I still disagree. I could not wait to graduate from high school and go to college. By now you know that I never wanted to return home except to visit. Living there was *never* part of the plan for my future.

There was a time in my life when I did not understand the term work-a-holic. I always figured you work until you got it done, just like we did when we picked peas and beans all day and sat on the porch all night to shell them. Like work-a-holics, some of us are serve-a-holics. Even when we are on the paid job, we see service as part of our responsibility. As an observation, I gave Alabama A&M University some of my most productive professional years of work and service. I remember times when many of us were there days into nights to 'get it done,' week after week and month after month. We worked so late that we left the building in pairs to make sure our cars started and that we were safe. Trust me, as we mature, we learn how to make wiser choices about our service and even learn to say 'no, but thanks' in a loving and kind manner. It was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who said: "All of us can be great, because all of us can serve."

When you begin early, you move through life with acceleration. When people tell you they are tired, regardless of their age, they might be telling you the truth. So, with that, let's continue to serve and give, understanding that we need to bring forth successors who have the passion and energy we once had. Recently, I have had to say 'no' to a few things, with the explanation that I have a few recommendations of others who are qualified and interested in serving!

The answer to one of life's most urgent questions for me is: "Regrettably, I am unable to commit at this time, but I know a few folks who might be." Over the last two decades, I have grown and developed in so many ways, I don't have space or time to share them all. As we celebrate the 88th birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, let's determine a cause worthy of our service that truly helps someone else. With that, Dr. King's life and legacy will be well honored by those of us who continue to benefit from his sacrifice.

Blessings until next week ...



Dorothy

Reports: Robots Claim Manufacturing Jobs

Good news on about good old American manufacturing is hard to come by these days, notes Techcrunch.com.

The site notes that the U.S. and Canada have been shedding jobs to offshore competition for nearly 50 years, citing that over 5 million jobs have disappeared between 2000 to 2010.

Just 13 percent of those, however, jobs were lost owing to international trade, according to Techcrunch.com. The majority of the losses derive from some form of machine that replaces workers.

Although China and Mexico may soak up some jobs, those jobs are finding their ways to other human beings. But when it comes to robots, entire sectors can be alleviated.

Over the past two decades, “inflation-adjusted U.S. manufacturing output has increased by almost 40 percent, and annual value added by U.S. factories has reached a record \$2.4 trillion,” according to Techcrunch.com.

In other words, although there are fewer manufacturing jobs, manufacturing employees “are better educated, better paid and producing more valuable products — including the technology that enables them to be so much more productive,” reports the site’s contributor Matthew Rendall.

An aging workforce are behind the empty seats of some two million jobs in the manufacturing sector.

According to the article, “robots aren’t stealing our jobs — they’re improving them.”

Rendall offers reasons centering around safety, reliability, ethics over (using exploited overseas labor) and, last but not least, cost-effectiveness with short return on investment. “That is a game-changer in an industry relentlessly driven by cost reduction and plagued by slow-drip evolution,” writes Rendall.

Savings create a ripple effect as more “desirable” jobs can remain in North America and manufacturers can focus on and invest in innovation. Thus, notes Rendall, “new jobs are created that require and build a better educated, highly skilled workforce.” He calls job displacements “short-term” and a precursor to long-term benefits to workers and society.

For instance, instead of performing dangerous tasks, workers now program robots to do the dirty work for them—and receive higher pay for doing so ... more productivity and a higher quality of life.


Finally, major investment in automation on a national scale goes hand-in-hand with improvement in a nation’s GDP, which corresponds with improvement in quality of life, from fewer workplace injuries to more skilled work.

Finally, more skilled work leads to higher pay, which allows people to afford higher education. Ultimately, this means an even more skilled workforce with time and disposable income to push the economy forward.


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- James A. Baldwin

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Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

It has been my experience that God won’t give you a purpose without preparing you for it.

For example, all your life and all your experiences, God was preparing you for His purpose.

So, if you really believe this, then you can embrace anything that comes into your life. You see, God is bigger than any giants that we may face in life. But sometimes no matter how much people encourage us, it’s hard for us to keep ourselves encouraged.

Joshua 1:9 says, “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid and do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” But how far you go is up to you.

Discouragement is a choice that we make. That’s why it’s so important for all of us to learn to encourage ourselves.

It is so important that we all learn to speak life over ourselves and our situations.

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.



Save the Date!

Saturday, March 11, 2017

Five O’Clock in the Evening

The Jackson Center

Huntsville, Alabama

www.rosettajamesfoundation.org



Valley Mourns Death of Defense Industry Retiree

The Tennessee Valley area mourns the recent death of Mrs. Patricia (Patti) Gale Wrobel Fitzgerald, who passed away during the holiday season.

Patti was the wife of Joe Fitzgerald, the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the United States Army.

A former resident of Danbury, Conn., she relocated from to Huntsville, Ala., in 1987 with her husband. She worked for many years in the aerospace and defense industry in contracting and administration and retired several years ago.



In lieu of flowers, her family is requesting that donations be made to the Russell Hill Cancer Foundation, 3601 CCI Drive, Huntsville, AL 35805.

"Don't wait around for other people to be happy for you. Any happiness you get you've got to make yourself."

- Alice Walker

Pre-Release Concert for Gospel CD

Tennessee Valley! To all the good gospel, praise and worship music lovers, Happy New Year! It's time to really get your praise on!

Finally, the long awaited, awesomely gifted, anointed, gospel singer and worshipper extraordinaire Mrs. Andrea Brown will be featured in concert.

She is being celebrated in a CD recording pre-release concert with a VIP reception immediately following on Saturday, January 14, at True Light Church of God in Christ at 6 p.m.

The church is located at 6380 Pulaski Pike; Huntsville, Ala. Brown will be

joined by "Sisters in Worship".

The Concert is FREE. The CDs are \$10/each and will double as an admission ticket to the VIP reception. CDs are going fast!

Access Brown at #andrea brownsings and pre-order her CD.

A Good Read by Jerome Saintjones

Andre Dubus' "A Father's Story"

Luke Ripley lives alone and operates a farm in New England. He allows youngsters to offer horse riding lessons there, and he receives visits from a friendly priest. The di-

vorcee's sons have families of their own and rarely visit their father, but his college-age daughter still finds time to visit and to rekindle her childhood friendships during her summer stays on the farm.

One night on her way home from visit-

ing friends and having drinks, she fatally wounds a man. Shaken, she tells her father, who goes back into the windy night to find the man, who later dies.

The father fakes an accident by running into a tree, effectively masking the car's previous damage from striking the unknown man.

City Council Meetings



Huntsville City Council Meetings City Council regular meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

City Council work sessions also held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

For more information, call (256) 427-5011.

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Valley Deaths

Funeral service for **Mr. John Okoye** (b. 1985) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **Mrs. Glory Small** (b. 1956) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **Mr. Leonard Montgomery** (b. 1956) will be announced later.

Funeral service was held at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Saturday, January 7, for **Mrs. Marian M. Fletcher Humphrey** (b. 1962)

Funeral service were held Saturday, January 7, for **Mr. Winslow Brandon** (b. 1949) at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service was held January 3 for **Minister Zadie M. Watkins Toney** (b. 1953) at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor O. Wendell Davis officiating.

Funeral service for **Mrs. Darlene F. Woodard** (b. 1957) was held January 2 at Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Larry Davidson officiating.

Funeral service for **Mr. Willie Lee Rice** (b. 1945) was held at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church December 29 with Rev. Curtis Strong officiating.

-Nelms Memorial
Funeral Home



Popular Comic Book Store Looks on Bright Side After Car Crash

A large loss for one business maybe a blessing for avid comic book collectors.

Regular patrons and collectors alike should keep an eagle's eye on the Deep's social media pages. The Deep, Comic & Games, a popular comic book store in the Rocket City, will be holding a special "Scratch and Dent" sale. Details of the sale have not yet been released.

Last week, The Deep was victim to a car crash that demolished a large portion of their memorial parkway location.

Owner Ed Walls and five others were present when the vehicle sped into the building. Two of the individuals present were customers. No one was injured.

The police are currently investigating the incident, and are not sure what caused the car to derail from the road into the store.

According to news outlet WAAY TV, responders stated a medical issue

may have caused the early morning accident.

The vehicle, a Honda CR-V, crashed into the store early on January 6 when it swerved into the building, destroying their gaming section, leaving the comic books otherwise unscathed.

While the gaming section makes up of half of the store, Walls told reporters that the damage can be repaired over time and that he is glad that no one got hurt. A majority of the debris was cleared out by the end of the day.

After the accident, the store posted a short-but-sweet response on their Facebook page: Ouch, BUT WE ARE OPEN.

In a statement from Walls, he said that the incident has garnered a lot of attention, so the store will stay open to allow customers to still purchase their favorite comic books as if nothing ever happened.

The Deep, Comic & Games is located at 2310 Memorial Parkway S.W.

by Reggie Allen



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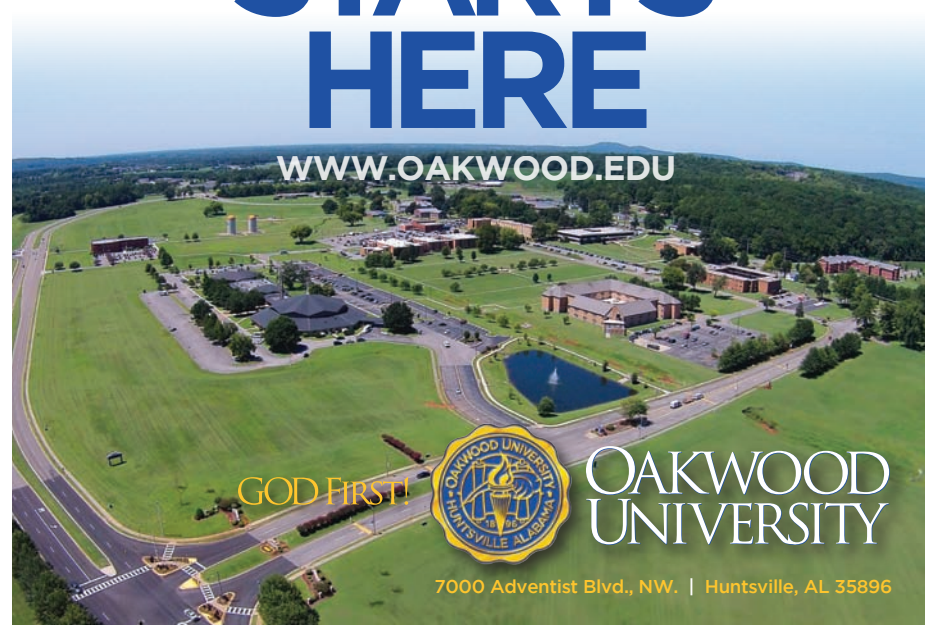
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Calendar of Events

January 14

Alpha Phi Alpha MLK Unity Parade
Downtown Huntsville
12 Noon

Friends of the Bradfords (Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr. and Mrs. Nell Lane Bradford Scholarship Foundation, Inc.)

Contacts: Veronica Winston, (256) 509-4894, or Patricia Ward, (256) 350-9054

Von Braun Center North Hall, 5 p.m.

Basketball
Alabama A&M vs. Alabama State
Elmore Building,
4 & 6 p.m.

January 16

Alpha Phi Alpha Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast
Von Braun Center, 8 a.m.

January 21

Alabama A&M Basketball vs. Southern University
Elmore Gym | Women's Game 4pm | Men's Game 6pm

February 4

Huntsville Symphony Orchestra
Concert Hall - Von Braun Center, 11 a.m.

February 9

Comedy Show featuring J. Anthony Brown, Shuckey Ducky, Jammin Jay Lamont and Pierre Hosted by Kool Bubba Ice
Von Braun Center Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.

February 21

The CornerStone Initiative C4 Conference
The Jackson Center
6001 Moquin Drive
Huntsville, Ala.
8:30 a.m.

Vision Workshop Set This Weekend

The New Year offers you a clean slate to create the life you long for. Give yourself this life-affirming gift of claiming a day for yourself to intentionally create your vision. This is an opportunity to get clear and focus on how you really want to live in 2017!

Make 2017 your best year ever!

The one-day workshop will be offered on your choice of two days: January 14 OR January 21 9:00 am – 4 p.m.

(Lunch is "on your own" or "bring your own").

The new location for the sessions is The Entrepreneurial Center, 515 Sparkman Drive (Across from Bevell Conference Center.) Cost: \$40, with materials provided.

*Pre-registration requested. Contact Renee at beckhamir@aol.com or 512-573-5008. Using guided meditation and creative expression you'll

explore what you want to attract into your life. You will create a Vision Board (Treasure Map) by bringing together images that assist in transforming your intentions and thoughts into reality.



Due to the change in venue, lunch will NOT be provided. The schedule will allow adequate time for you to take a lunch break at a nearby eatery.

Renee Beckham is a Certified

Life Mastery Consultant and Facilitator of Julia Cameron's The Artist Way. A retired Army officer, she is also a Master Prosperity Teacher, a Unity Truth Student and a potter. Her passion is sharing the amazing power of living life intentionally from a place of gratitude.

To register or for questions contact Renee at (512) 573-5008 or beckhamir@aol.com.

Weeden Exhibit at Burritt

Burritt on the Mountain will present the life and works of Huntsville artist Maria Howard Weeden through September 2017.

Many of Weeden's watercolor portraits are on display, along with additional watercolor and oil paintings, pencil sketches, illuminated poems, her four published books and

copies of her poems in the historic regional black dialect. Burritt is proud to hold the largest publicly owned collection of her paintings.

Admission to the mansion is included in the regular admission prices, ranging from \$8 - \$10. No admission charged for toddlers age 2 and under.

JAN 2017 14TH / 6PM

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On This Day - Friday, January 13 - TRACI BINGHAM is a model/actress born n Cambridge, Mass. Bingham is also known for playing the role of Jordan Tate on the television series "Baywatch" between 1996 and 1998. - *BlackinTime.info*

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