



THE CLARITY
— OF —
Sincerity
2015

TOPIC I:

CONTEMPORARY
MOVERS & SHAKERS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

POPE FRANCIS - JORGE MARIO BERGOGLIO	3
G. WILLOW WILSON	6
ISEULT WARD	7
CHRISTIANO RONALDO	8
ELON MUSK	10
WARREN BUFFETT	12
AASIF MANDVI	14
BRANDON STANTON	15
MALALA YOUSAFZAI	16
LIZZIE VELASQUEZ	19
KAILASH SATYARTHI	20
THOMAS P. PESCHAK	21
ARIANNA HUFFINGTON	22
NGOZI OKONJO-IWEALA	24
ARUNACHALAM MURUGANANTHAM	25
JEFF BEZOS	26
EBOLA FIGHTERS	28
JACK MA	29
ERTHARIN COUSIN	30



POPE FRANCIS - JORGE MARIO BERGOGLIO

Reference: <http://www.biography.com/people/pope-francis-21152349>

EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION

Jorge Mario Bergoglio was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on December 17, 1936, to Italian immigrants. As a teenager, Bergoglio underwent surgery to remove a lung due to serious infection. Following his high school graduation, he enrolled at the University of Buenos Aires, where he received a master's degree in chemistry before beginning training at the Jesuit seminary of Villa Devoto. In March 1958, he entered the Society of Jesus. Bergoglio went on to attend the Philosophical and Theological Faculty of San Miguel, where he earned a degree in philosophy, and later received a doctorate in theology in Freiburg, Germany.

ENTERING PRIESTHOOD

Ordained as a priest in December 1969, Bergoglio began serving as Jesuit provincial of Argentina in 1973. He later returned to his alma mater, the Philosophical and Theological Faculty of San Miguel, where he served as rector (1980-86) as well as a professor of theology.

In June 1992, Bergoglio was named titular bishop of Auca and auxiliary of Buenos Aires, and in February 1998, he became archbishop of Buenos Aires, succeeding Antonio Quarracino. Three years later, in February 2001, he was elevated to cardinal by Pope John Paul II, named the cardinal-priest of Saint Robert Bellarmine. In 2005, he was named president of the Bishops' Conference of Argentina, serving in that position until 2011.

After Pope John Paul II's death in April 2005, Bergoglio reportedly received the second-most votes in the 2005 papal election; Pope Benedict XVI (Joseph Ratzinger) won election as Pope John Paul's successor.

Early into his priesthood, Bergoglio earned a reputation as a doctrinal conservative. He strongly opposed the legalization of same-sex marriage in Argentina, calling it "a destructive attack on God's plan" (a same-sex marriage bill was approved by Argentinian lawmakers in July 2010, making Argentina the first country in Latin America to legalize such legislation). He also publicly disputed efforts to promote free contraception and artificial insemination led by Argentinian President Cristina Fernandez.

BECOMING POPE

On March 13, 2013, at the age of 76, Jorge Bergoglio was named the 266th pope of the Roman Catholic Church—becoming the first citizen from the Americas, the first non-European and first Jesuit priest to be named pope, and adopting the name Pope Francis (he reportedly took the title after St. Francis of Assisi of Italy, a Catholic preacher during the 12th and 13th centuries). Prior to the 2013 papal election, Pope Francis had served as both archbishop and cardinal for more than 12 years.

Addressing a crowd of tens of thousands in St. Peter's Square, in the Vatican City in Rome, Italy, after his election win, Pope Francis stated, "As you know, the duty of the conclave was to appoint a bishop of Rome. It seems to me that my brother cardinals have chosen one who is from faraway. ...Here I am. I would like to thank you for your embrace."

After the 2013 papal election results were announced, U.S. President Barack Obama issued a



statement about the new pope: "As the first pope from the Americas, his selection also speaks to the strength and vitality of a region that is increasingly shaping our world, and alongside millions of Hispanic Americans, those of us in the United States share the joy of this historic day."

In addition to his native Spanish, Bergoglio speaks Italian and German.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL VISIT AS POPE

Pope Francis made his first international visit on July 22, 2013, when he arrived at the Galateo-Antonio Carlos Jobim International Airport in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. There, he was greeted by Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff in a welcome ceremony, later circulating downtown Rio in order to be "close to the people."

While in Rio, Pope Francis was on hand to celebrate World Youth Day. More than 3 million people attended the pontiff's closing mass at the event. On his way back to Rome, Pope Francis surprised reporters traveling with him regarding his seemingly open stance on gay Catholics. According to *The New York Times*, he told the press that "If someone is gay and he searches for the Lord and has good will, who am I to judge?" His remarks were heralded by several gay and lesbian groups as a welcoming gesture by the Roman Catholic Church.

POPE AS SPIRITUAL AND WORLD LEADER

In September 2013, Pope Francis called for others to join him in praying for peace in Syria. The pontiff held a special vigil in St. Peter's Square on September 7, which was attended by roughly 100,000 people. According to the Catholic News Service, Francis told the crowd that "When man thinks only of himself ... permits himself to be captivated by the idols of dominion and power ... Then the door opens to violence, indifference and conflict."

The pope implored those involved in the conflict to find a peaceful solution to the conflict. "Leave behind the self-interest that hardens your heart, overcome the indifference that makes your heart insensitive towards others, conquer your deadly reasoning, and open yourself to dialogue and reconciliation."

Later that month, Pope Francis gave a revealing interview to an Italian Jesuit publication called *La Civiltà Cattolica*. He explained that the religious dialogue must be broader in scope, not simply focused on such issues as homosexuality and abortion. "We have to find a new balance; otherwise even the moral edifice of the church is likely to fall like a house of cards, losing the freshness and fragrance of the Gospel," the pope said, according to *USA Today*. "The proposal of the Gospel must be more simple, profound, radiant. It is from this proposition that the moral consequences then flow."

While he does not believe women should be ordained as priests, Francis considers themselves an essential part of the church. "The feminine genius is needed wherever we make important decisions," he said. He also continued to present a more accepting attitude toward homosexuality than previous pontiffs, saying that "God in creation has set us free: it is not possible to interfere spiritually in the life of a person," according to *The Guardian*.

In early December 2013, Pope Francis gave an "apostolic exhortation," an address calling for big changes in the Catholic Church, including rethinking long-held but antiquated customs. "I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security," he stated. "I do not want a Church concerned with being at the center and then ends by being caught up in a web of obsessions and procedures."



Also in December 2013, Pope Francis was named Person of the Year by *Time* magazine. Pope Francis—having joined the ranks of Pope John Paul II and Pope John XXIII, the only other popes to be awarded the title in 1994 and 1963, respectively—was a contender against other prominent figures of the year, including Edward Snowden, Senator Ted Cruz, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and Edith Windsor. In the article, it was revealed that the deciding factor which led to Pope Francis landing at the top of the list was his ability to alter the minds of so many people who had given up on the Catholic church in such a short period of time.

The following March, it was announced that Pope Francis had been nominated for the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize. He did not receive this honor, but he continued to devote his time to reaching out Catholics around the world. During that summer, Pope Francis went on his first visit to Asia. He spent five days in South Korea in August.

As he returned home from South Korea, Pope Francis discussed his own mortality with the press. "Two or three years and then I'll be off to my Father's house," he said, according to a report in the *Guardian*. He also suffered a personal loss around that same time after several members of his family were killed in a car accident in Argentina.

That fall, Pope Francis showed himself to be progressive on several scientific issues. He told the members of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences that he supported the Big Bang theory and evolution. According to the *Independent* newspaper, Pope Francis said that "The Big Bang, which today we hold to be the origin of the world, does not contradict the intervention of the divine creator but, rather, requires it." He also said that evolution "is not inconsistent with the notion of creation."



G. WILLOW WILSON

Reference: <http://www.acrl.ala.org/acrlinsider/archives/9018>

G. Willow Wilson, comics writer, prose author, essayist and journalist

G. Willow Wilson is a gifted author whose writing explores, across multiple genres, the most pressing issues of our time. An American convert to Islam, Wilson lives today in both Egypt and the United States. Her articles, graphic novels and books reflect her extraordinary cross-cultural experiences with remarkable originality and courage.

Earlier this year, Marvel Comics released "Ms. Marvel," the first-ever American comic book series to feature a Muslim superhero. Wilson is the creator and writer of this groundbreaking series, which features Kamala Khan, a young female superhero unlike anything the comic book world has ever known. The first issue of "Ms. Marvel" has been met with much enthusiasm and gone back to reprint six times. A video of Wilson talking about "Ms. Marvel," is available on YouTube.

Wilson began her writing career at the age of 17 as a freelance music critic for Boston's Weekly Dig magazine. Since then, she's written the Eisner Award-nominated comic book series "Air and Mystic: The Tenth Apprentice" and the graphic novel "Cairo." In her early twenties, Wilson moved to Egypt where she spent several years working as a journalist. Her memoir about life in Egypt during the waning years of the Mubarak regime, "The Butterfly Mosque," was named a Seattle Times Best Book of 2010. Wilson's first novel, "Alif the Unseen," won the prestigious World Fantasy Prize in 2014 and was a New York Times Notable Book and a contender for the Orange Prize (now the Women's Prize for Fiction).

Meet G. Willow Wilson, the Muslim Woman Revolutionizing Superhero Comics:

<http://www.vulture.com/2014/03/g-willow-wilson-ms-marvel-kamala-khan-interview.html>

Comic Heroine Ms. Marvel Saves San Francisco From Anti-Islam Ads:

<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/comic-heroine-ms-marvel-saves-san-francisco-anti-islam-ads-n294751>



ISEULT WARD

Tech start-up of the week: FoodCloud <http://www.siliconrepublic.com/start-ups/item/33934-tech-start-up-of-the-week>

Want to get surplus food to the hungry? Ireland's Iseult Ward has an app for that:
<http://time.com/3583520/shareable-feast/>



CHRISTIANO RONALDO

References: <http://www.biography.com/people/cristiano-ronaldo-555730>

SYNOPSIS

Cristiano Ronaldo was born on February 5, 1985, in Funchal, Madeira, Portugal. Manchester United paid £12 million to sign him in 2003—a record fee for a player of his age. In the 2004 FA Cup final, he scored Manchester's first three goals and helped them capture the championship. In 2008, he set a franchise record for goals scored. In 2009, Real Madrid paid a record \$131 million for his services.

EARLY LIFE

Born Cristiano Ronaldo dos Santos Aveiro on February 5, 1985, in Funchal, Madeira, Portugal, a small island off the western coast of the country, Ronaldo is the youngest of four children born to Maria Dolores dos Santos and Jose Dinis Aveiro. He was named after Ronald Reagan, a favorite actor of his father's.

Ronaldo grew up in a largely working class neighborhood, his home a small tin roofed shack that overlooked the ocean. His early life was shaped by hardship; his father, a gardener, often drank too much, and eventually died from kidney problems in 2005. To help keep the children fed, and maintain some financial stability, Ronaldo's mother worked as a cook and cleaning person.

INTRO TO SOCCER

It was through his dad's work as an equipment manager at a boy's club that Ronaldo was first introduced to the game of soccer. By the time he was 10 years old, he was already recognized as a phenomenon—a kid who ate, slept and drank the game. "All he wanted to do as a boy was play football," his godfather, Fernao Sousa, recalled for British reporters, adding, "He loved the game so much he'd miss meals or escape out of his bedroom window with a ball when he was supposed to be doing his homework."

By his early teens, Ronaldo's talent and legend had grown considerably. After a stint with Nacional da liha da Madeira, he signed with Sporting Portugal in 2001. That same year, at the tender age of 16, Ronaldo turned heads with a mesmerizing performance against Manchester United, wowing even his opponents with his footwork and deft skill. He made such an impression that a number of United players asked their manager to try and sign the young player. It wasn't long before the club paid Ronaldo's team more than £12 million for his services - a record fee for a player of his age.

SUCCESS WITH MANCHESTER UNITED

Ronaldo, however, did not disappoint. He showed his promise early on in the 2004 FA Cup final, scoring the team's first three goals and helping them capture the championship. In 2008, a year after signing a five-year, £31 million contract, Ronaldo again justified the high tab when he put together one of the club's finest seasons in history, setting a franchise record for goals scored (42), and earning himself the FIFA World of the Year honor. In all, Ronaldo helped steer Manchester United to three premier league titles.



But Ronaldo's time in England was marred by his mother's 2007 struggle with breast cancer as well as his father's death from alcohol-related illness. The latter was especially hard for Ronaldo as the two had been close, and the young athlete had often pushed for his father to enter rehab and address his drinking. His father, however, never accepted the offer.

DEPARTURE TO REAL MADRID

As lauded as Ronaldo was on the field for Manchester United, his commitment to the club came under constant question. Speculation swirled that he wanted to play elsewhere. So in 2009, when Spanish soccer club Real Madrid agreed to pay United a record \$131 million for the chance to sign him, nobody was all that surprised to see Ronaldo leave United.

"I know that they are going to demand a lot of me to be successful at the club and I know that I'm going to have much more pressure than at Manchester United because I was there for many years," Ronaldo told reporters. "But it means a new challenge and is going to help me be the best footballer."

In addition to his FIFA World Player of the year award, Ronaldo has also won the coveted Ballon d'OR, the Golden Boot, and been named the UEFA Club Forward of the Year, among other honors during the course of his career.

Charity is nothing new for Cristiano Ronaldo: <http://www.latimes.com/sports/la-sp-wc-cristiano-ronaldo-20140518-story.html>

Top players, FIFA, CAF and health experts unite in the fight against Ebola:
<http://www.fifa.com/aboutfifa/footballdevelopment/medical/media/news/newsid=2475755/>



ELON MUSK

Reference: <http://www.biography.com/people/elon-musk-20837159>.

Inventor, Engineer, Explorer (1971–)

Elon Musk is an entrepreneur known for co-founding Tesla Motors, X.com—which later became PayPal—and SpaceX, the last of which launched a landmark commercial spacecraft on May 22, 2012.

SYNOPSIS

Elon Musk was born in South Africa and became a multimillionaire in his late twenties when he sold his start-up company, Zip2, to a division of Compaq Computers. He went on to more early success launching PayPal via a 2000 merger, Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (SpaceX) in 2002, and Tesla Motors in 2003. Musk made headlines in May 2012 when SpaceX launched a rocket that would send the first commercial vehicle to the International Space Station.

EARLY LIFE

Elon Musk was born and grew up in South Africa, buying his first computer at age 10. He taught himself how to program, and when he was 12 he made his first software sale—of a game he created called Blaster. At age 17, in 1989, he moved to Canada to attend Queen's University, but he left in 1992 to study business and physics at the University of Pennsylvania. He graduated with an undergraduate degree in economics and stayed for a second bachelor's degree in physics.

After leaving Penn, Elon Musk headed to Stanford University in California to pursue a PhD in energy physics. However, his move was timed perfectly with the Internet boom, and he dropped out of Stanford after just two days to become a part of it, launching his first company, Zip2 Corporation.

An online city guide, Zip2 was soon providing content for the new Web sites of both the New York Times and the Chicago Tribune, and in 1999, a division of Compaq Computer bought Zip2 for \$307 million in cash and \$34 million in stock options.

AN EARNEST ENTREPRENEUR

Also in 1999, Musk co-founded X.com, an online financial services/payments company. An X.com acquisition the following year led to the creation of PayPal as it is known today, and in October 2002, PayPal was acquired by eBay for \$1.5 billion in stock. Before the sale, Musk owned 11 percent of PayPal stock.

"If I'm trying to solve a problem, and I think I've got some elements of it kind of close to being figured out, I'll pace for hours trying to think it through."

Never one to rest on his laurels, Musk founded his third company, Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, or SpaceX, in 2002 with the intention of building spacecraft for commercial space travel. By 2008, SpaceX was well-established, and NASA awarded the company the contract to handle cargo transport for the International Space Station—with plans for astronaut transport in the future—in a move to replace NASA's own space shuttle missions.



Another Musk venture is Tesla Motors, an automobile company dedicated to producing affordable, mass-market electric cars, which he co-founded in 2003. With a stake in the company taken by Daimler and a strategic partnership with Toyota, Tesla Motors launched its initial public offering in June 2010, raising \$226 million.

The boundless potential of space exploration and the preservation of the future of the human race have become the cornerstones of Musk's abiding interests, and toward these he has founded the Musk Foundation, which is dedicated to space exploration and the discovery of renewable and clean energy sources.

PREPARING FOR LIFT-OFF

On May 22, 2012, Musk and SpaceX made history when the company launched its Falcon 9 rocket into space with an unmanned capsule. The vehicle was sent to the International Space Station with 1,000 pounds of supplies for the astronauts stationed there, and it is the first time a private company has sent a spacecraft to the International Space Station. Of the launch, Musk was quoted as saying, "I feel very lucky. . . . For us, it's like winning the Super Bowl."

HYPERLOOP

Musk has continued his work in attempting to make his innovative ideas a reality. In August 2013, he released a concept for a new form of transportation called the "Hyperloop." The new invention is intended travel at speeds greater than 700 miles per hour to commute between major cities while severely cutting the time of travel. As opposed to using railroads, the Hyperloop would use tubes for transportation, creating travel options between Los Angeles and San Francisco—the original proposed location—that would take a shorter amount of time than a flight. Musk says that the Hyperloop could take from seven to 10 years to be built and ready for use.

Although he introduced the Hyperloop with claims that it will be safer than a plane or train, with an estimated cost of \$6 billion—approximately one-tenth of the cost for the rail system that California has been planning to make—his concept has still drawn skepticism. California High-Speed Rail Authority Chairman Dan Richard has stated that he will show Musk "what it really takes to build a project in California" if the Hyperloop project begins to gain momentum.

Elon Musk, the 21st Century Industrialist: <http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2012-09-13/elon-musk-the-21st-century-industrialist>

Triumph of His Will: <http://www.esquire.com/features/americans-2012/elon-musk-interview-1212>



WARREN BUFFETT

Reference: <http://www.biography.com/people/warren-buffett-9230729>

Known as the "Oracle of Omaha," Warren Buffett is an investment guru and one of the richest and most respected businessmen in the world.

SYNOPSIS

Businessman and investor Warren Buffett was born on August 30, 1930, in Omaha, Nebraska. Investing by age 11, Buffett was running a small business at 13. Buffett later started the firm Buffett Partnership in Omaha, with huge success. In 2006, Buffett announced that he would give his entire fortune away to charity (est. \$62 bil.); the largest act of charitable giving in United States history.

EARLY LIFE

Businessman and investor. Born Warren Edward Buffett on August 30, 1930, in Omaha, Nebraska. Buffett's father Howard worked as stockbroker and served as U.S. Congressman. His mother, Leila Stahl Buffett, was a homemaker. Buffett was the second of three children and the only boy.

Buffett demonstrated a knack for financial and business matters early on in his childhood. Friends and acquaintances have said the young boy was a mathematical prodigy, and was able to add large columns of numbers in his head—a talent he still occasionally shows off to friends and business associates.

Warren often visited his father's stockbrokerage shop as a child, and chalked in the stock prices on the blackboard in the office. At 11 years old he made his first investment; he bought three shares of Cities Service Preferred at \$38 per share. The stock quickly dropped to only \$27, but Buffett held on tenaciously until they reached \$40. He sold his shares at a small profit, but regretted the decision when Cities Service shot up to nearly \$200 a share. He later cited this experience as an early lesson in patience in investing.

FIRST ENTREPRENEURIAL VENTURE

By the age of 13, Buffett was running his own businesses as a paperboy and selling his own horseracing tip sheet. That same year, he filed his first tax return, claiming his bike as a \$35 tax deduction.

In 1942, Buffett's father was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, and his family moved to Fredricksburg, Virginia, to be closer to the congressman's new post. Buffett attended Woodrow Wilson High School in Washington, D.C., where he continued plotting new ways to make money. During his high school tenure, he and a friend purchased a used pinball machine for \$25. They installed it in a Washington, D.C. barbershop and, within a few months, the profits of the machine allowed Buffett and his friend to buy other machines. Buffett owned three machines in three different locations before he sold the business to a War Veteran for \$1,200.



HIGHER EDUCATION

Buffett enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania at the age of 16 to study business. He stayed two years, moved to the University of Nebraska to finish up his degree, and emerged from college at age 20 with nearly \$10,000 from his childhood businesses.

Buffett attended Columbia University for his advanced degree and in 1956, shortly after graduation, he formed the firm Buffett Partnership in his hometown of Omaha. His investment successes, particularly in buying undervalued companies whose stocks shortly began to rise, made him extremely rich and gained him the sobriquet, "Oracle of Omaha." Other notable career successes include helping rescue Salomon Brothers from corporate raiders (1987) and taking charge of the New York City house (1992) in the wake of an insider trading scandal.

RECORD-BREAKING DONATION

In June 2006, Buffett made an announcement that he would be giving his entire fortune away to charity, committing 85 percent of it to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This donation became the largest act of charitable giving in United States history.

The majority of Buffett's considerable fortune was amassed through Berkshire Hathaway, a company for which he is the largest shareholder and CEO. Once ranked as **Forbes'** wealthiest man in 2008, his net worth was estimated at roughly \$44 billion in 2012.

Now in his eighties, Buffett recently announced that he is battling prostate cancer. He will begin treatment in July 2012 and expects to be able to fulfill his usual responsibilities at Berkshire Hathaway. "I feel great ... and my energy level is 100 percent," Buffett said in a statement.

IN RECENT YEARS

In February 2013, Buffett purchased HJ Heinz with private equity group 3G Capital for \$28 billion. 3G, a U.S.-Brazilian company, also owns Burger King and a portion of Anheuser-Busch InBev. According to **TIME** magazine, Buffett has praised Heinz for making "great-tasting products" and for good management over the past several years.

As of early 2013, Buffett was rated No. 15 on **Forbes** magazine's "World's Most Powerful People" list.

Powerful People: <http://www.forbes.com/profile/warren-buffett/>



AASIF MANDVI

Reference: <http://thedailyshow.cc.com/news-team/aasif-mandvi>

Aasif Mandvi began performing at the age of seven as a pixie in a school play wearing tights and a bonnet. He knew from that moment on that discreet but comfortable leggings coupled with a desperate need for attention was the secret of success. Unaware of this at the time, but this type of beginning was perfect for a job as a correspondent on "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart," where the official uniform ironically happens to be "tights and a bonnet" (worn discreetly under one's suit, of course).

Mandvi is a recipient of an OBIE award for his critically-acclaimed one-man show "Sakina's Restaurant." His stage credits also include the 2002 Broadway revival of "OKLAHOMA!," "Guantanamo: Honor Bound to Defend Freedom," "Homebody/Kabul," "Suburbia," "Trudy Blue" and "Speak Truth to Power." Film and television credits include the title role in Merchant/Ivory's "The Mystic Masseur," "Music and Lyrics," "Spider-Man 2," "Freedomland," "The Siege," "Analyze This," "ABDC," "American Chai," "The War Within," "Sorry Haters," "Sex and the City," "Sleeper Cell," "The Sopranos," "The Bedford Diaries," "Oz," "CSI," "Law and Order," "Jericho," "ER," "Ed" and "Tanner," directed by Robert Altman. Aasif's journalistic integrity has never been questioned, and for that he is eternally grateful.

Aasif Mandvi's 'Halal In The Family' Web Series To Fight Islamophobia With Comedy:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/02/02/aasif-mandvi-halal-in-the-family_n_6596142.html



BRANDON STANTON

Reference: <http://ideas.time.com/2013/12/06/these-are-the-30-people-under-30-changing-the-world/slide/brandon-stanton/>

Brandon Stanton is the brain behind storytelling blog turned New York Times bestseller, “Humans of New York.” The street photographer’s work is being imitated all over the world (see Humans of India, Humans of Tehran, Humans of Bronx Science and Humans of LaGuardia), and the 29-year-old is getting major media attention for his capsules of a moment in time.

Brandon Stanton: Getting to know the man behind Humans of New York:

<http://www.metro.us/entertainment/brandon-stanton-getting-to-know-the-man-behind-humans-of-new-york/tmWmjn---20Az7B9aiT6A/>

Humans of New York: Behind the Lens: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/brandon-stanton/humans-of-new-york-behind_b_3210673.html

How One 13-Year-Old's Words Helped Raise Over \$1 Million For His Brooklyn School:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/02/03/humans-of-new-york-mott-hall-bridges-academy_n_6604722.html



MALALA YOUSAFZAI

Reference: <http://www.biography.com/people/malala-yousafzai-21362253>

Women's Rights Activist, Children's Activist (1997–)

As a young girl, Malala Yousafzai defied the Taliban in Pakistan and demanded that girls be allowed to receive an education. She was shot in the head by a Taliban gunman in 2012, but survived.

SYNOPSIS

Malala Yousafzai was born on July 12, 1997, in Mingora, Pakistan. As a child, she became an advocate for girls' education, which resulted in the Taliban issuing a death threat against her. On October 9, 2012, a gunman shot Malala when she was traveling home from school. She survived, and has continued to speak out on the importance of education. She was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 2013. In 2014, she was nominated again and won, becoming the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

EARLY LIFE

On July 12, 1997, Malala Yousafzai was born in Mingora, Pakistan, located in the country's Swat Valley. For the first few years of her life, her hometown remained a popular tourist spot that was known for its summer festivals. However, the area began to change as the Taliban tried to take control.

INITIAL ACTIVISM

Yousafzai attended a school that her father, Ziauddin Yousafzai, had founded. After the Taliban began attacking girls' schools in Swat, Malala gave a speech in Peshawar, Pakistan, in September 2008. The title of her talk was, "How dare the Taliban take away my basic right to education?"

In early 2009, Yousafzai began blogging for the BBC about living under the Taliban's threats to deny her an education. In order to hide her identity, she used the name Gul Makai. However, she was revealed to be the BBC blogger in December of that year.

With a growing public platform, Yousafzai continued to speak out about her right, and the right of all women, to an education. Her activism resulted in a nomination for the International Children's Peace Prize in 2011. That same year, she was awarded Pakistan's National Youth Peace Prize.

TARGETED BY THE TALIBAN

When she was 14, Malala and her family learned that the Taliban had issued a death threat against her. Though Malala was frightened for the safety of her father—an anti-Taliban activist—she and her family initially felt that the fundamentalist group would not actually harm a child.

On October 9, 2012, on her way home from school, a man boarded the bus Malala was riding in and demanded to know which girl was Malala. When her friends looked toward Malala, her location was given away. The gunman fired at her, hitting Malala in the left side of her head; the bullet then traveled down her neck. Two other girls were also injured in the attack.



The shooting left Malala in critical condition, so she was flown to a military hospital in Peshawar. A portion of her skull was removed to treat her swelling brain. To receive further care, she was transferred to Birmingham, England.

Once she was in the United Kingdom, Yousafzai was taken out of a medically induced coma. Though she would require multiple surgeries—including repair of a facial nerve to fix the paralyzed left side of her face—she had suffered no major brain damage. In March 2013, she was able to begin attending school in Birmingham.

The shooting resulted in a massive outpouring of support for Yousafzai, which continued during her recovery. She gave a speech at the United Nations on her 16th birthday, in 2013. She has also written an autobiography, ***I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban***, which was released in October 2013. Unfortunately, the Taliban still considers Yousafzai a target.

Despite the Taliban's threats, Yousafzai remains a staunch advocate for the power of education. On October 10, 2013, in acknowledgement of her work, the European Parliament awarded Yousafzai the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought. That same year, she was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. She didn't win the prize, but was named a nominee again in March 2014. In August of the same year, Leanin.Org held a live chat on Facebook with Sheryl Sandberg and Yousafzai about the importance of education for girls around the world. She talked about her story, her inspiration and family, her plans for the future and advocacy, and she answered a variety of inquiries from the social network's users.

In October 2014, Yousafzai received the Nobel Peace Prize, along with Indian children's rights activist Kailash Satyarthi. At age 17, she became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. In congratulating Yousafzai, Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said: "She is (the) pride of Pakistan, she has made her countrymen proud. Her achievement is unparalleled and unequalled. Girls and boys of the world should take lead from her struggle and commitment." U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon described her as "a brave and gentle advocate of peace who through the simple act of going to school became a global teacher."



SHEIKA AL-MAYASSA BINT HAMAD BIN KHALIFA AL-THANI

Reference: https://www.ted.com/speakers/sheikha_al_mayassa

Sheikha Al Mayassa is the young and progressive force behind Qatar's mission to become the Middle East's foremost destination for the arts and culture.

As chairperson of the Qatar Museums Authority (QMA), Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani uses the rich history of her country to drive education and cross-cultural interaction today. The QMA's flagship project is the Museum of Islamic Art, an institution built to serve as the world's center for education and information on art in the Muslim world. According to H.E. Sheikha Al Mayassa's vision, the museum will not only preserve and document the vast diversity of Islamic art, but also provide a welcoming place for the international community to learn more about an often-oversimplified culture.

Sheikha Al Mayassa has committed to fostering diversity and creating opportunity for all. She is also the chairperson for Reach Out to Asia (ROTA), an organization that is trying to provide access to education for underserved populations throughout Asia, regardless of gender or age. She's continuing her own education by pursuing a graduate degree at Columbia University in New York.

Qatar's Sheikha Mayassa tops art power list:

<http://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2013/oct/24/qatar-sheikha-mayassa-tops-art-power-list>

Qatar's culture queen: <http://www.economist.com/node/21551443>



LIZZIE VELASQUEZ

World's Ugliest Woman Pursues Anti-Bullying Film: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-2637461/Worlds-ugliest-woman-pursues-anti-bullying-film.html>



KAILASH SATYARTHI

Who is Nobel peace prize winner Kailash Satyarthi?:

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/oct/10/nobel-peace-prize-winner-kailash-satyarthi>

Meet the New Heroes: Kailash Satyarthi:

<http://www.pbs.org/opb/thenewheroes/meet/satyarthi.html>



THOMAS P. PESCHAK

Reference: <http://www.thomaspeschak.com/bio/>

Thomas P. Peschak is a contributing photographer to National Geographic Magazine. He leads a near continuous nomadic existence and spends 300 days per year in the field on assignments around the world. He was recently named as one of the 40 most influential nature photographers in the world.

He trained as a marine biologist and retired from science to pursue a life dedicated to environmental photojournalism after realizing that he could have a bigger impact with his photographs than statistics.

Thomas began his career specializing in photographing Africa's marine and coastal biodiversity and produced three books on the subject: Currents of Contrast, Great White Shark and Wild Seas Secret Shores. He has since then significantly broadened his geographic scope and in 2009 his book Lost World on the marine environment of Aldabra was published. His latest book Sharks and People is set for release in 2012 and chronicles the relationship between people and sharks at more than two dozens locations around the world.

Thomas is a multiple winner in the BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year Awards and in 2011 he received a World Press Photo Award for his work.

Thomas P. Peschak: Swimming With Sharks:

<http://proof.nationalgeographic.com/2013/11/27/thomas-p-peschak-swimming-with-sharks/>

Thomas P. Peschak: Discovering the Ocean of Childhood Dreams:

<http://proof.nationalgeographic.com/2014/04/07/thomas-p-peschak-discovering-the-ocean-of-childhood-dreams/>



ARIANNA HUFFINGTON

Reference: <http://www.biography.com/people/arianna-huffington-21216537>

Political Scientist, Journalist (1950–)

SYNOPSIS

Born on July 15, 1950, in Athens, Greece, Arianna Huffington went on to study economics at the University of Cambridge, eventually moving to the United States. She was a conservative commentator before switching to liberal politics and started the Web site **The Huffington Post** in 2005. The site, purchased by AOL in 2011, has gone on to become a popular and powerful online news platform. Huffington is also the author of more than a dozen books on topics ranging from feminism to corporate America to politics.

BACKGROUND

Arianna Huffington was born Arianna Stassinopoulus in Athens, Greece, on July 15, 1950. She moved to Great Britain during her teens to study at the University of Cambridge, where she earned her master's in economics and became president of its famed debate organization, the Cambridge Union. She then set up shop in London and pursued writing. In 1974, with Random House, she published her first book, **The Female Woman**, which looks at and critiques certain trends in women's liberation movements. She followed that with the political-oriented work **After Reason** in 1980.

Stassinopoulus moved to the United States in 1980 after a stalled romance in London with writer Bernard Levin. The following year, she released an acclaimed biography of one of the world's opera greats, **Maria Callas: The Woman Behind the Legend**. In 1983, she was able to plumb her ethnic roots with the work **The Gods of Greece**, which looked at the importance of ancient myths, and by the end of the decade she had also released a biography of Picasso.

In 1986, Stassinopoulis wed Michael Huffington, a secretary within the U.S. Department of Defense, and the couple had two children. Michael Huffington earned a seat as a Republican in the U.S. House of Representatives between 1993 and 1995, and Arianna aided him in his subsequent Senate campaign, although he lost. The two would divorce in 1997.

RACE FOR THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Huffington was initially known for her conservative political views and commentary, and she made regular television appearances to support her standpoints. But she eventually began to embrace more left-leaning platforms, including ecological activism and corporate reform.

In 2003, Huffington ran on the Independent ticket against Arnold Schwarzenegger for the California governorship, but she withdrew from campaigning to throw her support behind thwarting the recall vote aimed at Governor Gray Davis. That same year, she had a **New York Times** bestseller: **Pigs at the Trough: How Corporate Greed and Political Corruption are Undermining America**.

'THE HUFFINGTON POST'



In 2005, Huffington launched the online site ***The Huffington Post***, co-founding the platform with Kenneth Lerer and becoming its editor-in-chief. The site was initially known for its blogging, liberal punditry and news aggregation, a rebuttal to right-leaning aggregation sites such as ***The Drudge Report***. Over the years, however, it has grown to cover a wide range of media categories, from politics to sports to business, to name a few. By 2008, ***The Observer*** ranked ***The Huffington Post*** as the most powerful blog in the world.

While the Web site took off, Huffington continued to write books as well, and in 2007 she released ***On Becoming Fearless ... in Love, Work, and Life***, which would later become the inspiration for a 2013 ***Huffington Post*** blog series.

In 2011, Huffington sold the site to AOL for more than \$300 million, and she subsequently became president and editor-in-chief of the company's Huffington Post Media Group. ***Huffington Post*** writer David Wood won the site a 2012 Pulitzer Prize for national reporting, and the site's success has made possible corresponding international editions in Canada, Great Britain, France and Spain, among several other countries.

Huffington herself has also been recognized in various media outlets, appearing on ***Time*** magazine's 100 list (a collection of the 100 most influential people in the world) and ***Forbes***' special rundown of "The World's 100 Most Powerful Women," which saw her move to number 52 in 2014.

Huffington's 13th book, ***Third World America: How Our Politicians Are Abandoning the Middle Class and Betraying the American Dream***, was released in 2010, and her 14th, ***Thrive: The Third Metric to Redefining Success and Creating a Life of Well-Being, Wisdom, and Wonder*** was published in 2014, debuting at number one on the ***New York Times*** Bestseller list.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Huffington suffered a facial injury in 2007 after fainting in her office due to severe exhaustion and overwork. Since then, she has pushed a platform of individuals maintaining a balance between work, good health and life/enjoyment and has positioned the work/life balance as an important reform for companies to place at the forefront of their culture.

Huffington also appeared as Arianna the Bear, a talking animated ursine character, over the course of ***The Cleveland Show***'s four-year run.

Arianna Huffington Speaks At Davos About Journalism, Activism, 'Pop And Policy':
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/01/22/arianna-huffington-davos_n_6526910.html



NGOZI OKONJO-IWEALA

Reference: <http://www.fmf.gov.ng/the-ministry/management-team/honourable-minister.html>

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (born June 13, 1954) was appointed in July 2011 as the new Minister of Finance for the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Prior to this appointment, she was the Managing Director of World Bank (October 2007 - July 2011) and has also held the position of a Finance Minister and Foreign Minister of Nigeria, between 2003 and 2006. She is notable for being the first woman to hold either of those positions. She served as finance minister from July 2003 until her appointment as foreign minister in June 2006, and as foreign minister until her resignation in August 2006.

Prior to her ministerial career in Nigeria, Okonjo-Iweala was vice-president and corporate secretary of the World Bank Group. She left it in 2003 after she was appointed to President Obasanjo's cabinet as Finance Minister on 15 July.

In October 2005, she led the Nigerian team that struck a deal with the Paris Club, a group of bilateral creditors, to pay a portion of Nigeria's external debt (US \$12 billion) in return for an \$18 billion debt write-off. Prior to the partial debt payment and write-off, Nigeria spent roughly US \$1 billion every year on debt servicing, without making a dent in the principal owed.

Okonjo-Iweala also introduced the practice of publishing each state's monthly financial allocation from the federal government in the newspapers. She was instrumental in helping Nigeria obtain its first ever sovereign credit rating (of BB minus) from Fitch and Standard & Poor's. Nigeria is considered to have defaulted on its sovereign debt in 1983 (debt rescheduling is considered a type of default by rating agencies)

Reference: https://www.ted.com/speakers/ngozi_okonjo_iweala

As the first female Finance Minister in Nigeria, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala attacks corruption to make the country more desirable for investment and jobs. As a managing director of the World Bank, she worked for change in all of Africa.

During her two stints as Finance Minister, she has worked to combat corruption, make Nigeria's finances more transparent, and institute reforms to make the nation's economy more hospitable to foreign investment. The government unlinked its budget from the price of oil, its main export, to lessen perennial cashflow crises, and got oil companies to publish how much they pay the government.

Since 2003 -- when watchdog group Transparency International rated Nigeria "the most corrupt place on Earth" -- the nation has made headway recovering stolen assets and jailing hundreds of people engaged in international Internet 419 scams.

Reforming Nigeria: A Conversation With Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala:
<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/discussions/interviews/reforming-nigeria>



ARUNACHALAM MURUGANANTHAM

References: https://www.ted.com/speakers/arunachalam_muruganantham

Arunachalam Muruganantham created a system of simple machines to make modern sanitary napkins – giving millions of women in his home country and around the world access to hygiene.

Arunachalam Muruganantham of Jayaashree Industries designed, created, tested and implemented a sanitary napkin-making machine that operates on a small scale.

Contrary to a large-scale production model which requires Rs.3.5 Crores as initial investment, Jayaashree Industries sanitary napkin-making machine can be made available to a buyer for approximately Rs.65,000. This allows smaller players to adopt the business model propagated by him, and thus generates more employment and wealth in the most neglected sections of society. More specifically, an empowerment forum – such as a Self Help Group or a women’s group – can invest in a sanitary napkin-making unit to create a business that employs up to ten women. The new invention is capable of making 120 napkins per hour.

The Jayaashree Industries model helps offer livelihood, hygiene, dignity and empowerment to underprivileged women all over the world. And it does so using a sustainable business framework.

The Indian sanitary pad revolutionary: <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-26260978>



JEFF BEZOS

References: <http://www.biography.com/people/jeff-bezos-9542209>

American entrepreneur Jeff Bezos is the founder and chief executive officer of Amazon.com. In 2013, he purchased The Washington Post.

SYNOPSIS

Entrepreneur and e-commerce pioneer Jeff Bezos was born on January 12, 1964, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Bezos had an early love of computers and studied computer science and electrical engineering at Princeton University. After graduation, he worked on Wall Street, and in 1990 became the youngest senior vice president at the investment firm D.E. Shaw. Four years later, he quit his lucrative job to open Amazon.com, a virtual bookstore that became one of the internet's biggest success stories. In 2013, Bezos made headlines when he purchased *The Washington Post* in a \$250 million deal.

EARLY LIFE AND CAREER

Jeff Bezos was born on January 12, 1964, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to a teenage mother, Jacklyn Gise Jorgensen, and his biological father, Ted Jorgensen. Bezos's parents were married less than a year, and when Bezos was four years old his mother married his step-father Mike Bezos, a Cuban immigrant.

As a child, Jeff Bezos showed an early interest in how things work, turning his parents' garage into a laboratory and rigging electrical contraptions around his house. As a teenager, his family moved to Miami where he developed a love for computers and excelled in school, becoming the valedictorian of his class. In high school, he also started his first business, the Dream Institute, an educational summer camp for fourth, fifth and sixth graders.

Bezos pursued his interest in computers at Princeton University, where he graduated summa cum laude in 1986 with a degree in computer science and electrical engineering. After graduation, he found work at several firms on Wall Street including Fitel, Bankers Trust, and the investment firm D.E. Shaw where he met his wife Mackenzie and was named the youngest vice president in 1990. While his career in finance was extremely lucrative, Bezos chose to make a risky move into the nascent world of e-commerce. He quit his job in 1994, moved to Seattle and targeted the untapped potential of the internet market by opening an online bookstore.

PIONEERING E-COMMERCE

Bezos set up the office for his fledgling company in his garage where, along with a few employees, he began developing software. They expanded operations into a two-bedroom house, equipped with three Sun Microstations, and eventually developed a test site. After inviting 300 friends to beta test the site, Bezos opened Amazon.com, named after the meandering South American River, on July 16, 1995.

The initial success of the company was meteoric. With no press promotion, Amazon.com sold books across the United States and in 45 foreign countries within 30 days. In two months, sales reached \$20,000 a week, growing faster than Bezos and his start-up team had envisioned.



Amazon.com went public in 1997 and many market analysts questioned whether the company could hold its own when traditional retailers launched their own e-commerce sites. Two years later, the start-up not only kept up, but also outpaced competitors, becoming an e-commerce leader.

Bezos continued to diversify Amazon's offerings with the sale of CDs and videos in 1998, and later clothes, electronics, toys and more through major retail partnerships. While many dot.coms of the early '90s went bust, Amazon flourished with yearly sales that jumped from \$510,000 in 1995 to over \$17 billion in 2011.

In 2007, Amazon.com released the Kindle, a handheld digital book reader that allows users to buy, download, read and store their book selections. That same year, Bezos also set his sights far, far, away, announcing his investment in Blue Origin, a Seattle-based aerospace company that is developing technologies to offer space travel to paying customers.

Bezos then moved Amazon into the tablet marketplace with the unveiling of the Kindle Fire in 2011. The following September, he announced the new Kindle Fire HD, the company's next generation tablet designed to give Apple's iPad a run for its money. "We haven't built the best tablet at a certain price. We have built the best tablet at any price," Bezos said, according to *ABC News*.

BUYING 'THE WASHINGTON POST'

Bezos made headlines worldwide on August 5, 2013, when he purchased *The Washington Post* and other publications affiliated with The Washington Post Co., which owns the paper and other entities, for \$250 million cash. The deal marks the end of the four-generation reign over The Post Co. by the Graham family, including Donald E. Graham, the company's chairman and chief executive, and his niece, *Post* publisher Katharine Weymouth.

"*The Post* could have survived under the company's ownership and been profitable for the foreseeable future," Graham stated, in an effort to explain the transaction. "But we wanted to do more than survive. I'm not saying this guarantees success, but it gives us a much greater chance of success."

In a statement to *Post* employees on August 5, Bezos wrote: "The values of *The Post* do not need changing. ...There will, of course, be change at *The Post* over the coming years. That's essential and would have happened with or without new ownership. The internet is transforming almost every element of the news business: shortening news cycles, eroding long-reliable revenue sources, and enabling new kinds of competition, some of which bear little or no news-gathering costs. There is no map, and charting a path ahead will not be easy. We will need to invent, which means we will need to experiment. Our touchstone will be readers, understanding what they care about—government, local leaders, restaurant openings, scout troops, businesses, charities, governors, sports—and working backwards from there. I'm excited and optimistic about the opportunity for invention."

RECENT PROJECTS

In early December 2013, Bezos made headlines when he revealed a new, experimental initiative by Amazon, called "Amazon Prime Air," using drones—remote-controlled machines that can perform an array of human tasks—to provide delivery services to customers. According to Bezos, these drones are able to carry items weighing up to 5 pounds, and are capable of traveling within a 10-mile distance of the company's distribution center. He also stated that Prime Air could become a reality within as little as four or five years.



EBOLA FIGHTERS

Ebola survivors speak of suffering, service, faith:

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/11/07/kent-brantly-to-speak-about-medicine-faith/18600745/>

Back to the Slums of His Youth, to Defuse the Ebola Time Bomb:

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/14/world/africa/ebola-liberia.html?_r=0

American doctor who survived Ebola returns to Liberia:

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/01/15/health/feat-rick-sacra-to-africa/>

Woman who saved relatives from Ebola coming to U.S. for nursing school:

<http://www.cnn.com/2014/12/10/health/ebola-fatu-family-update/>



JACK MA

The Inspiring Life Story Of Alibaba Founder Jack Ma, Now The Richest Man In China:

<http://www.businessinsider.com/the-inspiring-life-story-of-alibaba-founder-jack-ma-2014-10?op=1#ixzz3Qp5c5X4r>

Jack Ma: Alibaba is just a baby: <http://money.cnn.com/2015/01/23/technology/jack-ma-alibaba-baby-world-economic-forum/>



ERTHARIN COUSIN

References: <http://www.wfp.org/about/corporate-information/executive-director/biography>

Ertharin Cousin began her tenure as the twelfth Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme on 5 April 2012. Ms Cousin brings more than twenty-five years of national and international non-profit, government, and corporate leadership experience focusing on hunger, food, and resilience strategies. Cousin guides the World Food Programme in meeting urgent food needs while championing longer-term solutions to food insecurity and hunger.

As the leader of the world's largest humanitarian organization with approximately 13,500 staff serving over 90 million beneficiaries in 80 countries across the world, she is an exceptional advocate for improving the lives of hungry people worldwide, and travels extensively to raise awareness of food insecurity and chronic malnutrition.

In 2009, Ertharin Cousin was nominated by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate to be the United States Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, and head of the U.S. Mission to the U.N. Agencies in Rome. During her nearly three years as the chief U.S. diplomatic voice for famine relief and hunger solutions, Cousin helped guide U.S. and international policy around some of the most devastating and life-threatening situations in the world. She advocated for aid strategies that integrate a transition from relief to development, including following the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, and for country-led sustainable agriculture programmes, particularly in the aftermath of the 2010 flooding in Pakistan and in response to the 2011 drought in the Horn of Africa.

As the U.S. Representative in Rome, she played a significant role in advocating for improved collaboration between, and promoting gender parity and mainstreaming in the operations of the three Rome-based food and agriculture agencies – the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Fund for Agriculture Development and the World Food Programme. During her tenure, she actively participated in reforming the Committee on World Food Security, enlarging the multi-stakeholder platform and helping to introduce a results-based framework. In 2011, she also assumed the presidency of the International Development Law Organization's Assembly of Parties.

Cousin worked in the Administration of U.S. President Bill Clinton for four years, including serving as White House Liaison to the State Department, and received a White House appointment to the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development.

Cousin served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Feeding America (then known as America's Second Harvest), the largest domestic hunger organization in the United States. She led the organization's response to Hurricane Katrina, an effort that resulted in the distribution of various relief supplies, including food, to those in need across the Gulf Coast region of the United States.

Cousin has significant background in the retail food sector, leading government communications and community affairs for two large U.S. grocery chains, Albertsons Foods and Jewell Foods. While working for Albertsons, she served as President and Chair of the company's corporate foundation, managing the organization's philanthropic activities.

Cousin is a native of Chicago and a graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago and the University of Georgia School of Law. She is a published author and accomplished speaker on food insecurity and chronic malnutrition. She is based in Rome, Italy.



Ertharin Cousin Explains Food Insecurity And How To Help Prevent It:
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/01/22/ertharin-cousin-davos_n_6507492.html

