

KOSHI DHINGRA

SCIENCE/ STEM EDUCATOR



DALLAS
WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION



KOSHI DHINGRA, ED.D.

1 Professional Passion: Promoting conversation about the diversity of STEM and STEAM thinking in our daily lives, in our communities, and in our world through talkSTEM and walkSTEM.

2 Fun Fact: I consulted on the science content in Nickelodeon's preschooler television series *"Blue's Clues."*

3 Who were your role models and/or who inspired you to pursue this career? A lot of teachers, scientists, artists, and writers whom I have met over my personal and professional life — these people cared deeply about certain things, shared their vision with others, and inspired others to join them.

4 What do you love most about your job? As Director of an education nonprofit organization, you get to play a lot of roles: party planner, photographer, filmmaker, writer, researcher, influencer, and more. You get to meet a lot of interesting people who tend to care about the same things you do, and you also get to meet a lot of different people from all walks of life who teach you new ways of looking at things.

A circular portrait of Sarah Parcak, a woman with long, wavy brown hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a light-colored, button-down shirt and a necklace. The portrait is set against a light blue background.

SARAH PARCAK
SPACE ARCHAEOLOGIST



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SARAH PARCAK, PH.D.

1 Street Cred: National Geographic Explorer, winner of the 2016 TED Prize, founder of the Laboratory for Global Observation, TED Senior Fellow, discovered the lost Egyptian city of Tunis.

2 Professional Passion: To make the world's invisible history visible once again.

3 What inspired you to go into your field of work? When I was a child, one of my favorite things to do was to look for sand dollars on the seashores. But, these shells are hard to find. They're covered in sand, they're difficult to see. Over time, I started seeing shapes and patterns that helped me to collect them. This grew into a passion for finding things, a love for the past and archaeology.

4 How do you do your work? We take images collected from 450 miles above the Earth's surfaces, and use complex algorithms to see subtle changes to the vegetation below that signal manmade objects, hidden from view. Our methods have helped locate 17 potential pyramids in Egypt, in addition to 3,100 forgotten settlements and 1,000 lost tombs.

TIERNEY THYS

MARINE BIOLOGIST



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TIERNEY THYS, PH.D.

1 Professional Passion: The Ocean Sunfish (Mola), a giant fish that can grow more than 10 feet long and weigh over 5,000 pounds. I became enchanted with the Mola after seeing a picture of one on my advisor's wall. To me it just seemed such an unlikely design for any self-respecting open ocean fish. It completely piqued my curiosity and has held me spellbound ever since.

2 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women? Do your best to understand what are the biggest fears and obstacles of the people you want to lead. If you can figure a way to alleviate at least some of those fears and obstacles you will be well on your way to being a leader.

3 What's the most daring thing you've ever done? Once I did a deep-water night dive on a seamount out at Cocos Islands off Costa Rica and a huge storm moved in. Each time the lightning would crack the sky above, the sea around me would become illuminated in cool lavender light for a split second, but long enough to reveal hundreds of hammerhead sharks just beyond the reach of my flashlight.

CHRISTINE LEE

BIOARCHAEOLOGIST



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CHRISTINE LEE, PH.D.

1 Professional Passion: Paleopathology, the study of ancient human diseases.

2 What prompted you to go into your field of work? When I was little, I loved fried chicken and Thanksgiving turkeys. I used to identify everyone's pieces of chicken before allowing anyone to eat them, and then I'd reassemble the bones after everyone had eaten.

3 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field? There are very few women archaeologists in East Asia. I have made things work by finding male archaeologists who were willing to work with and support a woman on their field excavations.

4 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work? One of my present archaeological excavations is in Mongolia. We live in traditional nomad round homes called gers and we usually stay in the field for about one month living together.

AMY FAITH HO

EMERGENCY MEDICINE PHYSICIAN



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AMY FAITH HO, M.D.

1 When did you know you wanted to go into your field of work? I decided to go into healthcare as a physician in high school, but I didn't choose my specialty until the last year of medical school!

2 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work? For a few years, I flew on a helicopter as a physician that responds to "scenes" — I'd end up running crouched from a car crash into a "hot" running helicopter after performing all sorts of procedures like intubation or chest tubes on the ground just mere feet away from the crash!

3 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women? Don't let being a woman or being young dissuade you from what you want to do.

4 What are a few fun facts/tidbits you would want young women to know about your career? I was 115 pounds when I started as a doctor, and I realized in the chaos of somewhere like an emergency room, you have to assert yourself to make up for the physical presence difference compared to your male counterparts.

CAROLYN BOYD

ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARCHAEOLOGIST



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CAROLYN BOYD, PH.D.

1 Professional Passion: Started the Shumla Archaeological Center—a global leader in rock art research & education using advanced science and technology to preserve the endangered murals of the Lower Pecos Canyonlands of Texas.

2 Street Cred: Received one of archaeology's highest honors, the 2017 Society for American Archaeology Scholarly Book Award, for her most recent book, *The White Shaman Mural*.

3 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field? Changing perceptions about the ability to bridge art and science to answer questions about our human past.

4 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women? People sometimes feel threatened or intimidated by determined and passionate young women. Their response, sadly, can be to retaliate with gossip, ridicule, and slanderous statements. It will hurt and will make you angry, and you may be tempted to quit or retaliate. Stand firm, and rise above it and remain a woman of integrity, respect, and humility.

MEAGAN POLLOCK

ENGINEER & EQUITY LEADER



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MEAGAN POLLOCK, PH.D.

1 Professional Passion: Closing the gender gap in engineering, improving STEM career counseling, equipping STEM professionals to be role models, and equity training for educators.

2 Who were your role models and/or who inspired you to pursue this career? My dad encouraged me to solve challenging problems, my mom encouraged me to use my leadership skills to help others learn, my mentor Tegwin Pulley encouraged me to question my beliefs and advocate for others, and young women and young students of color inspired me to pursue the combination of these three professions.

3 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work? My work requires that I travel about 40% of the year, and the rest of the time I get to work remotely. I may hike a mountain trail, meander in an art gallery, or kayak a river to find inspiration and creative solutions that are often stifled by simply sitting at a computer.

4 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women? Choose to make a difference. Choose to work hard. Choose to be true to you.

LUCY GILDEA

CHIEF SCIENTIFIC OFFICER



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LUCY GILDEA, PH.D.

1 Street Cred: B.S. in Biology from Georgetown College and a Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology, Immunology and Infectious Diseases from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine.

2 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field? One of the pivotal decisions in my life was choosing to leave academia for industry/applied science. I had a yearning to learn what other opportunities were out there beyond academia — I followed my heart to Mary Kay Inc. and couldn't be happier.

3 What are a few fun facts/tidbits you would want young women to know about your career? I never imagined I would have the experiences I have had in my career—I have: shadowed surgeons, taught college courses, traveled 30+ countries, lived overseas, given seminars, worked in a state police crime lab and been on TV to talk about my career.

4 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women? Look at every situation, seminars, classes, guest speakers, and workshops as an opportunity to learn, to network and to hone your understanding of the field.

TEMPLE GRANDIN

ANIMAL SCIENTIST



PHOTO CREDIT: ROSALIE WINARD



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TEMPLE GRANDIN, PH.D.

1 Street Cred: National Women's Hall of Fame Honoree, American Academy of Arts and Sciences Inductee & the subject of an Emmy Award-winning biopic.

2 Professional Passion: Animal welfare advocate and autism spokesperson.

3 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field? The most fun stuff I ever did was brainstorming with other people to figure out how to make a new piece of equipment work. We would make up ideas and then go build them in the shop, and when they did not work, I had to figure out how to make it work. Successfully figuring out how to make a new thing work is really fun.

4 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women? You have to work really hard and have perseverance. A major motivator was that I wanted to prove I was not stupid and that I could do it. You have to keep your eyes on a goal.

JENNIFER STIMPSON

EDUCATOR. INNOVATOR. SCIENTIST.



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JENNIFER STIMPSON

1 Street Cred: First African-American woman at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls to graduate with a master's degree in Chemistry.

2 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work? I have traveled the world on a Fulbright-funded excursion to Ghana as well as educational expeditions to Brazil, Northern Uganda, and the Galapagos Islands.

3 Who inspired you to pursue this career? My father, my first science mentor, instilled in me how to "pay it forward," by defining the importance of giving back to society through service. I also came to understand the social responsibility bestowed upon professional scientists of color and their connection to the community.

4 What's one revelation you had as a child? The science perspective of a young black girl could change the world.

5 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field? I was often not taken seriously in the scientific world. As an African-American woman with a master's degree in Chemistry, I was often academically and professionally alone. Keeping myself encouraged, I endured and persevered, finding my voice to share my passion for the nature of science.

RACHEL RICHTER

URBAN WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST



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RACHEL RICHTER

1 When did you know you wanted to go into your field of work? My senior year of high school.

2 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work? I spent a summer as an intern working with sea turtles at Bald Head Island Conservancy in North Carolina. Bald Head Island is a small barrier island that is only accessible by boat with only about 150 permanent residents, and it has some amazing habitats to explore including maritime forest, salt marshes, and beaches with sand dunes.

3 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women? Don't be afraid to take risks or step outside your comfort zone. Having the courage to explore a new opportunity can take you to great places.

4 What are a few fun facts/tidbits you would want young women to know about your career? The wildlife biology field used to be very male-dominated, but that's changing! As a professional working in the field, I know many women leading wildlife conservation efforts.

JESS CRAMP

MARINE CONSERVATIONIST
& SHARK RESEARCHER



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JESS CRAMP

1 Professional Passion: Stopping the over-exploitation of sharks and the degradation of our oceans. I strive to inspire the next generation through my work.

2 Where's most fun place you've conducted your work? I spent over a month on a tiny island in the Cook Islands called Palmerston. It is home to only 50 people. There are no hotels, street lights or stores, so we had to bring all our food on the sailboat. Our team of 7 scientists slept in one large room together and cooked in an open kitchen on the sand. Learning to live so simply, sharing with our neighbors and working with the community was one of the most precious memories of my scientific career.

3 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women? You can be a marine scientist even if you grow up in the forest or in the city. I grew up in the mountains of Pennsylvania. My path wasn't direct or easy, but I found my own way. I even dreamed of becoming a National Geographic Explorer, and I still pinch myself knowing that I am now part of that team. It didn't come easily, but it came because I never gave up working for what matters to me, without any promise of reward.

LINDA ABRAHAM-SILVER

SCIENCE AND NATURAL HISTORY
MUSEUM, CEO



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LINDA ABRAHAM-SILVER, ED.D.

1 When did you know you wanted to go into your field of work? I always loved visiting museums, but only considered a museum career after I took a museum studies course at university and then began volunteering. Becoming the CEO of Perot Museum of Nature and Science is a dream come true!

2 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work? This past spring I worked on the island of Socotra — one of the most remote island archipelagos in the Arabian Sea — it has been described as “the most alien-looking place on Earth.” The island is very isolated and a third of its plant life is endemic (found nowhere else on the planet). We were looking for confirmation of previously described lizard species as well as looking for new species that have not yet made it into the scientific literature.

3 What's the most daring thing you've ever done? I moved from the United States to the Middle East three months before the Arab Spring began and lived in the Gulf for the next six and a half years. While I was there, I worked for the Government of Abu Dhabi on science education initiatives to help encourage Emirati youth to pursue careers in STEM.

DELORES ETTER

PROFESSOR IN ELECTRICAL AND
COMPUTER ENGINEERING



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DELORES ETTER, PH.D.

1 Street Cred: Former Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Science and Technology, Former Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisitions).

2 What's the most interesting place you've visited through your work? Antarctica as a member of the National Science Board. The research projects included learning from cores through the polar ice shelves into the underwater sediment to gaining an insight into biological and geological history over millions of years.

3 When did you know you wanted to go into your field of work? I started teaching computer engineering after my daughter was born. I liked university teaching so much that I decided to do a Ph.D. in Electrical/Computer Engineering to continue teaching and build a research program.

4 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women? Build a network of people that know you from actual experiences of working with you in your job, volunteer activities, or hobbies. They can open many unexpected doors for you.

DEEPALI PALTA

ENGINEER & SCIENTIST



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DEEPALI PALTA, PH.D.

1 Street Cred: I have 4 granted patents for work in sustainability including inventing ways to use biodegradable packaging and food waste.

2 Professional Passion: My passion for STEM led me to be a founding team member for PepsiCo STEM Council with the mission to attract and retain the best STEM talent.

3 Where's the craziest/ most fun place you've conducted your work? In 2011, I was selected to be part of the inaugural PepsiCorps team to go to Denu, Ghana. It was a month-long experience that provided an opportunity to leverage my STEM and business skills to address a global societal challenge like clean water. We worked with local office and villagers to help them better access and manage their clean water resources. We also visited local schools every Friday to teach kids about hygiene and sanitation. I am grateful for this amazing opportunity as it made me appreciate team work, cultural and thought diversity in problem solving.

4 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women? Trust your instincts.

BREEA GOVENAR

SCIENTIST, PROFESSOR,
PROGRAM DIRECTOR



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BREEA GOVENAR, PH.D.

1 Where's the craziest/most fun place you've conducted your work? Most of my research has been conducted onboard oceanographic research vessels or in deep submergence vehicles, which are both incredibly fun experiences.

2 What's the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in your chosen field? I read a lecture by a woman who encouraged the audience to “fire your committee of self-limiting beliefs,” and it always stuck with me. At different points in my life when I felt that the environment was telling me that I wasn't successful in one area or another, I had to remind myself that ultimately I had the power to change my circumstances through my determination and hard work, opening new pathways to achieving my goals.

3 What's one piece of leadership advice you have for young women? Listen and learn as much as you can, and then act and speak confidently without affect or hesitation to bring out the best in everyone.