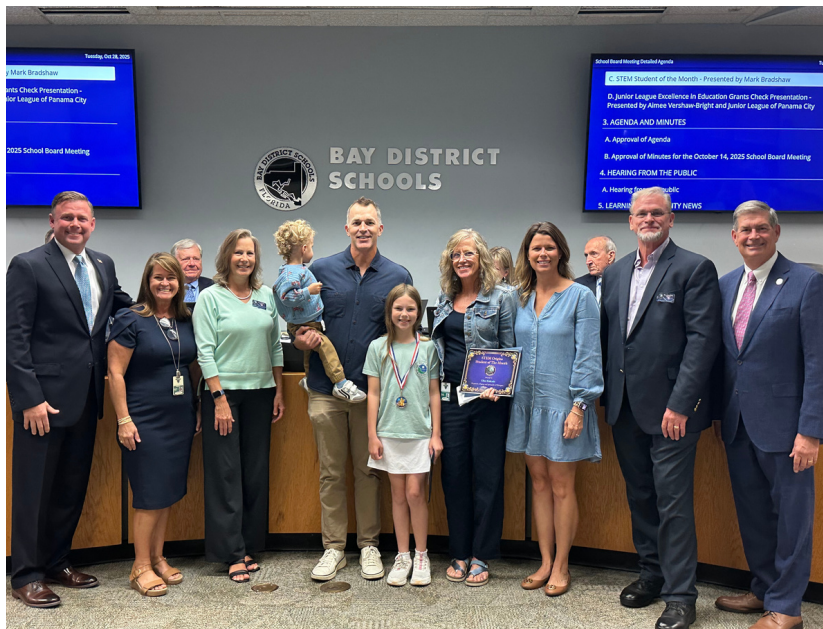




ORIGINS

STEM Origins Foundation

November 2025



Elise Kinkade: Student of the Month

On 28 October 2025, the STEM Origins Foundation presented our monthly STEM Student of the Month award to Elise Kinkade of Patronis Elementary. Elise received a medal, an award certificate suitable for framing, and a gift certificate to Texas Roadhouse. Because excellent teachers foster excellence in the classroom, we also recognized her teachers, STEM teacher Kelly Hodges and classroom teacher Alison Rose-Evans, with gift certificates from Texas Roadhouse, along with a copy of Elise's award to display in the classroom. Congratulations to Elise on her achievement! The following nomination letter

was written by Elise's teachers:

We are honored to recommend Elise Kinkade for the STEM Origins student of the month. Elise demonstrates the core values STEM Origins seeks for this award. She is passionate, diligent, curious, eager to collaborate, and demonstrates excellence in everything she does.

Elise actively engages with each science lesson, posing thoughtful questions that reflect her desire to thoroughly understand complex concepts. Her recent participation in a summer science camp focused on

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kitchen chemistry. At the camp, she learned about physical and chemical changes while learning how to cook. She loves attending summer science camp and eagerly shares her learning with her family, peers, and teachers.

See: Elise Kinkade, page 2

Elise Kinkade (continued)

In addition to her intellectual curiosity, Elise embodies diligence and patience, particularly as a member of the Patronis Earth Club. In this role, she contributes to the upkeep of our campus by participating in activities such as trash collection, weeding, and planting wildflowers. Her meticulous care for the school garden showcases her commitment to the environment and her ability to work collaboratively with her peers.

Academically, Elise stands out as an exceptional student, consistently earning top scores in both science and mathematics. During a recent visit to the STEAM Lab, her class was tasked with addressing a real-world problem related to earthquakes. Elise and her team developed an innovative building design that effectively demonstrated rational, objective, and logical thinking, highlighting her aptitude for engineering principles. The process of designing the building required her and her team to think through various designs, communicate, and come to a shared conclusion on the final design.

Beyond her academic achievements, Elise goes above and beyond to demonstrate leadership and initiative. As a member of the Patronis Earth Club, she initiated a recycling project that involved transforming old crayons into molds for prizes during Earth Month. In the classroom, Elise offers to help other students during Science Notebook entries. If another student is absent, she is willing to glue in their entries for them, so that they are ready to move forward with their learning upon their return. Her creativity extends to her home life, where she actively seeks opportunities to engage in STEM activities. Recently, she created digital designs using Canva software and expressed a desire for a 3D printer to further her exploration of engineering and design.

In summary, Elise is a dedicated and passionate young learner who would benefit from this recognition and be encouraged to continue learning about science, technology, engineering, and math.

Scott Deon, Volunteer

Scott is a Mechanical Engineer who started with an AAS degree in Engineering Sciences from the State University of New York and later earned his BS in Mechanical Engineering from Clarkson University.

Scott's more than 40 years in the Aluminum industry includes designing equipment and facilities, technical supervision, and Aluminum facility start ups. Scott worked in the US, Africa, Canada, Europe, and South America.

Scott recently retired to Panama City Beach with his wife Connie. He sums up his career choice, "As an Engineer I was fortunate to be given the opportunity to work with some great people to resolve equipment safety and reliability issues in facilities all over the world. It was very rewarding to know that I helped make the workplace safer and more reliable for the people working there."

Vitamin D: Your Aging Shield

Aging isn't just about wrinkles. It's etched into our DNA through shortening telomeres, the protective caps on chromosomes. But new research shows that a daily dose of vitamin D can slow this process, thanks to its anti-inflammatory superpowers. In a study of older adults, supplements preserved telomere length, potentially warding off age-related diseases like heart issues and cancer. This simple, sunlight-inspired nutrient could be a game-changer for public health.

Attribution: [Science Daily](#)



Alfred Nobel: The Explosive Inventor Who Changed the World

Alfred Nobel may be best known for creating dynamite, but his real story is one of curiosity, invention, and a lasting wish for peace.

Born in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1833, Nobel moved with his family to St. Petersburg, Russia, when he was young. There, he was tutored by top professors who taught him science, chemistry, and languages. After the Crimean War, the family returned to Sweden, where Alfred began experimenting with explosives.

At that time, nitroglycerin was a powerful but very dangerous liquid. It could explode from even a small bump. Nobel invented a special detonator in 1863 that made it easier to control. Two years later, he discovered how to mix nitroglycerin with a soft, absorbent material to make it stable and safe to handle. He called his invention dynamite.

Dynamite changed the world. It helped miners dig deeper for minerals, made railroad construction faster, and allowed builders to carve tunnels and canals through mountains. These advances made modern cities and industries possible.

Nobel never stopped inventing. He earned over 350 patents for his discoveries in chemistry, biology, and even optics, the science of light. But he worried his explosives were being used for war instead of progress. When he died in 1896, he left most



of his fortune to create the Nobel Prizes—awards given every year for achievements in science, literature, and peace.

From an inventor of powerful tools to a champion of human progress, Alfred Nobel's legacy continues to inspire people who use science to make the world a better place.

U.S. Patent No. 78,317

Inducted in 1998

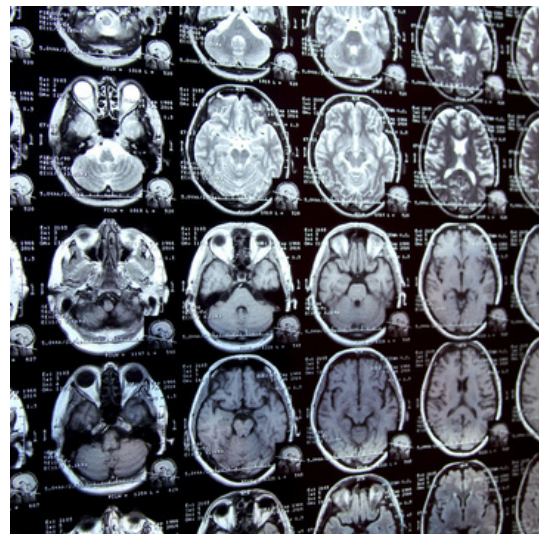
Born Oct. 21, 1833 - Died Dec. 10, 1896

Attribution: <https://www.invent.org/inductees>

Human-AI Collaboration Could Streamline Healthcare

MIT innovators have unveiled MultiverSeg, an interactive AI tool that lets researchers swiftly label key features in fresh medical scans—like tumors or tissues—without pre-training models. As users add images, the system learns on-the-fly, cutting annotation time from hours to minutes and enabling massive dataset builds for clinical studies. This could accelerate drug trials, improve diagnostic accuracy, and ultimately lead to better patient outcomes by enabling faster research cycles.

Attribution: [MIT News](#)



Activities and News

The STEM Origins Foundation hosted a **Five o'clock Somewhere** event at Latitude Margaritaville Watersound on 6 October where participants were mixing up fun and curiosity through the exploration at interactive stations. Stations included a Van de Graaff generator, an LCD microscope, Squishy Circuits, a 3D gravity maze, and others. We met several new STEM enthusiasts who are interested in supporting our organization!

Mike Anderson, CTE Teacher at Arnold, met with mentors to discuss how technology may be able to support classroom management for Construction and Building Trades.



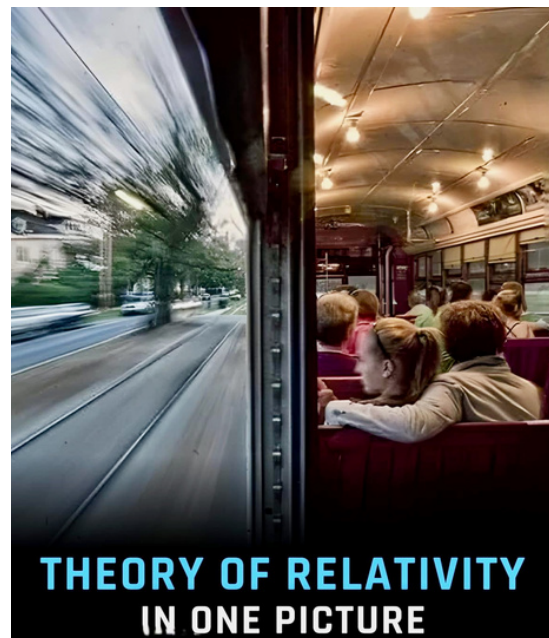
Relativity in the Real World: The Theoretical Envisioned

This creative image shows Albert Einstein's famous theory of relativity in a simple, visual way. It features a moving tram divided into two scenes. Outside, the world blurs past as if time is racing. Inside, everything feels calm and still. Both views are real, but they look different depending on who's watching.

Einstein realized this difference wasn't just about speed. It was about perspective. Every person experiences motion in their own way, depending on their "frame of reference," or where they are observing from. To someone standing on the street, the tram is racing by. To someone sitting inside, it feels like it isn't moving at all.

This idea changed science forever. Einstein showed that motion and rest don't exist the same way for everyone. Even time itself can stretch or shrink depending on how fast you move. For example, a clock on a speeding spaceship would tick more slowly than one sitting still on Earth. This means that time and space aren't fixed. They're connected, bending and shifting together.

By showing both sides of the tram, motion and stillness side by side, this image makes a complex idea easy to see. It reminds us that



reality depends on our point of view. The universe looks different to each observer; what seems still to one may be racing to another.

In one simple picture, the artist helps us glimpse what Einstein discovered: that time and motion are part of the same story, and that even an ordinary tram can reveal extraordinary truths about how our universe works.

Attribution: NASA, CERN, Scientific American, and National Geographic

Fun(d)raising

We're thrilled to announce the winner of our exclusive Top Golf Platinum Elite membership, generously donated by Top Golf and valued at a whopping \$1,800! A huge congratulations to David Blasi, the lucky winner!

David is a huge Top Golf fan, and this membership unlocks a world of fun, giving him the ability to bring up to five friends on every visit — and he can do it as often as he likes! Talk about the ultimate VIP experience! Enjoy your Elite membership, David – we hope you hit some hole-in-ones!

But wait, there's more! If you're jealous (we don't blame you 😊), there's still a chance to win your very own Elite Top Golf membership! We're hosting an online raffle for the next membership, and the winner will be drawn at



our Top Golf Fun(d)raising Event on April 26th.

Don't miss out — grab your chance to swing for the stars and elevate your game with Top Golf! You can enter the raffle by scanning the QR code with your phone, or at:

<https://stemorigins.rallyup.com/apr26topgolf>



STEM Origins - Top Golf Spring Fundraiser

26 Apr 2026



TOPGOLF



- **12pm-3pm:** 26 April 2026
- **3hr** Experience, w/ Food Buffet, Soft Drinks & Tips incl.

3 Price Tiers:

- Now - **15 Jan:** **Early Bird rate = \$65/ea**
- 16 Jan - **1 April:** **Reg Rate = \$78** (*same as our last event*)
- 2 April - **18 April:** **Last Minute rate = \$90**

- **Great Value, Great Fun**
- Reg retail price for Sunday afternoon is \$52/hr = **\$156/3hrs**



• Also Seeking Corporate Sponsors

Special Thanks to Our Supporters

In addition to our Top Golf fund raising event, we have other exciting news to share about recent contributions and support from the community:

- We are grateful to **Goetz Family Properties** for their incredibly generous \$5,000 donation this month. We are honored to have you as a partner in STEM education initiatives.
- Thank you to **Kent and Vicki Anthony** for their \$500 donation this month, as well as the donation of time and expertise in navigating the labyrinth of Liability Insurance in order to select the best policy to address the unique insurance needs of this foundation.

Also, our sincere appreciation to the following donors who have contributed the following items to our online silent auction, which will go live very soon on our facebook page (fair market value shown):

- **Jolly & Bright:**
www.jollyandbrightlights.com A holiday house front lighting package (\$1,000).
- **Margaritaville Beach Resort:** A 2-night bungalow stay (\$1,000).
- **Ms. Kelly Chamberlain:** A Solo Stove Mesa XL Roasty 'm Toasty Bundle (\$600).
- **LMWS Residents:** A Margaritaville Key West Frozen Concoction Maker (\$240).



Thanks to our *Grants for Great Ideas* Judges

STEM Origins recruited volunteers from a variety of fields, including retired teachers, to serve as judges for Grants for Great Ideas through the Bay Education Foundation. Thank you to all who volunteered for this worthy endeavor: **Donna Alexander, Michele**

Arrowood, Mark Bradshaw, Scott Deon, Gregory Jackson Farmer, Brian Maxwell, Dawn Snyder (partnered with **Jacalyn Swink**), and **Melanie Smith**. Your input is essential in helping recognize and support innovative educational initiatives in our community!

Upcoming Events

15 November: *Bay District Schools Future Physicist Program* at FSU campus
Join in the "Pumpkin Chunkin" fun!

18 November, 6:00pm - 7:00pm: *Deane Bozeman new Library Opening*
Nearby Deane Bozeman school hosts a "Family Reading Night" in their library with guest readers, activities, food, and fun! We are looking for volunteers interested in doing a STEM activity with students at their event.

27 January 2026: *Gulf Coast State College Career Fair*

12 April 2026: *STEM Event at the Thunderbirds Air Show*
We have been invited to provide our hands-on demonstrations at the upcoming Air Show.

26 April 2026, 12-3pm: *Top Golf Spring Fun(d)raiser*

Mark your calendars and purchase early bird tickets for just \$65 now through January 15th! The 3 hour experience of unique golf games and fun with friends will include a food buffet, soft drinks, and tips. Regular rate tickets (\$78) will be available Jan 16th-April 1st, while last minute tickets (\$90) can be purchased from April 2nd-April 18th. This is a fantastic deal, because the retail rate for 3 hours at Top Golf on a Sunday afternoon is \$156!

Ongoing Weekly: *Bozeman STEM Club*
The Bozeman STEM club meets weekly with 3rd-5th graders on STEM topics. We are currently acquiring the needed background clearance for our volunteers to be able to serve as mentors for this group.

About Us

Our mission is to support local education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) with projects that inspire students and teachers at every level of the academic ladder from kindergarten through college.

We seek to increase the quantity, quality, and diversity of high school and college STEM graduates. Our approach involves engaging students early (K-5) to foster interest in STEM subjects and maintaining engagement throughout middle school, high school, and college with progressively advanced activities.

Programs include providing hands-on experiences, classroom equipment, and

access to STEM professionals through visits, virtual presentations, and coaching on innovation and long-term goals. We plan to offer scholarships for college STEM fields and STEM camps for all grade levels overtime. Additionally, we support STEM teachers through grants for career development, professional growth, and innovative classroom experiments to enhance student learning experiences.

The STEM Origins Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in Bay County, Florida. IRS Certification, Articles of Incorporation, and By-Laws are available on our [website](#). Also visit us on [Facebook](#).

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