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JESUIT SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS

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Upcoming Events

With JSRI:

Immigration on Film: Guest Speaker Series. Join JSRI Affiliate Fellow, Dr. Pablo Zavala's Immigration on Film class speaker series of local organizations and experts share the work they do and the challenges they face doing work with and for immigrants. **Fridays** at 11:30–12:20 P.M. in Bobet 332. 3/6: Luke's House Clinic; 3/13: Home is Here; 3/20: Isabel Medina, J.D. (Distinguished Professor of Law at Loyola College of Law); 3/27: Hiroko Kasuda, J.D. (Loyola Law Clinic & Center for Social Justice). See the flyer [here](#).

On Campus:

Theater for the Culture and Loyola's Black Student Union Present: Black History Month Showcase this Thursday! In celebration of Black History Month, Loyola [highlights all student organizations](#) that purposefully embody the rich history, legacy, and fortitude of the African American community. **Thursday, February 26th** at 7:30 P.M. in Nunemaker Hall. See the [flyer here](#).

Inspiring Collective Action: Public Health Advocacy Inside Angola Prison

By Gabrielle Corona

In May 1995, Linda Carter accompanied her 14-year-old son Nicholas to the Louisiana State Penitentiary hoping to save Nicholas's life as he battled aplastic anemia. Karen Braud from the Louisiana Bone Marrow Registry and Margaret Lawhon with her local WBRZ-TV news crew accompanied them. Nicholas told the crowd that he felt good about visiting Angola because he knew people here wanted to help. Incarcerated people invited Nicholas to the prison after securing collaboration from the prison administration. They hoped to find a bone marrow transplant match for him—but, they recognized their ability to inspire civilian donors to get tested, too.

Chronicled in [The Angolite's September/October issue](#) of that year, Linda & Nicholas' visit is one example of incarcerated people in Louisiana organizing to assist children in need of healthcare. **Their determination to set a powerful precedent for others to test if they could be a match serves as an example of how imprisoned people can and do organize to inspire change beyond bars.** Looking beneath the surface, Nicholas Carter's story draws attention to how incarceration depletes the health of entire communities, not solely the incarcerated.

Nicholas's struggles with the search for a donor were connected to the larger societal problems of poverty, racism, and healthcare inequality. Most donors in the National Bone Marrow Donor Program were white, which limited his chances of finding a match. An African American donor would be more likely to match because patients have a higher probability of matching with donors of shared ancestry. With underrepresentation within the program, Lawhon reported on Nicholas's plight for four years urging viewers to test for compatibility. Frustrated by public inaction, Norris Henderson—then prison organizer at Angola and now founder of [Voice Of The Experienced](#)—launched the effort to assist Nicholas. With the support of Warden Burl Cain, other incarcerated leaders, and local businesses to fund testing, **roughly 1,500 people at Angola volunteered to find out if they could be a match for the boy. Those at Angola endearingly christened him "Little Nick."**

"Earth's Greatest Enemy"

Screening this Friday! This new documentary argues that "exempt from international climate agreements and rarely scrutinized in mainstream reporting, the Pentagon is the world's single largest institutional polluter—spewing carbon, contaminating water, and scarring landscapes across the globe." The screening will be followed by a Q&A. **Friday, February 27th at 12:30 P.M. in Miller Hall 114.** See the [flyer here](#). RSVP [here](#).

Build the Future NOLA. Event empowering local college students and emerging changemakers with the tools, resources, and connections needed to navigate today's challenges and actively participate in civic life. This will have short panel discussions, resource tables, and dedicated voter registration stations to support civic participation. **Wednesday March 4th 4–7 P.M. at Loyola College of Law. (4–5 P.M.: Pre-registration, voter registration, networking, resource engagement; 5–7 P.M.: Program and speaker lineup.)** See [more information here](#). [Registration](#) required & is free.

Creation on the Move: Ecological Migration in an Integral Ecology Lecture. Join Loyola Institute for Ministry's free online lecture series, *Walking with the Migrant: Jubilee, Justice, and Hope*. In this lecture, examine how climate change and ecological degradation drive migration, and how Catholic social teaching calls us to respond. **Thursday March 12th at 7:00 P.M. with Msgr. Kevin W. Irwin, S.T.D.** See [information about other dates, registration, and recordings here](#).

'The Trail They Blazed' & 'Leading Toward Justice: Loyola, New Orleans, and the Struggle for Civil Rights' are



NICHOLAS (center) AND HIS NEW FRIENDS

*Nicholas Carter sits with part of the crowd who welcomed him at Angola. Photo from the [September/October 1995 issue](#) of *The Angolite*.*

Linda thanked the crowd that received them at the prison, telling them through her tears that both she and Nicholas felt the "concern and caring" from the bottom of their hearts. Upon finding out that Nicholas was hearing impaired, the incarcerated population raised \$1,200 to purchase a hearing device for him. **He left the prison with a basketball, cap, and T-shirts gifted to him by his new friends.**

A class of society without full access to citizenship, financial resources, and social belonging still recognized their ability to support a community member in need. Unfortunately, a fully compatible match for Nicholas was not found at the prison. Award winning *Angolite* Editor Emeritus Wilbert Rideau reflected in the "Little Nick" feature, a "half-match for Nicholas was among the first inmates tested. **How many more potential matches are in prison?"**

Carceral expansion over the last two decades meant that thousands of potential donors were behind bars. At the same time, the Bureau of Prisons and many state correctional departments **placed regulations prohibiting donations of biological material from incarcerated people.** The effort at Angola prompted conversations about regulations banning prisoners from donating, excluding many Black people from the donor pool. In fact, Karen Braud noted that there were more Black men at the state penitentiary than there were at the local Historically Black University, Southern University.

Just five months later on October 17, 1995, Nicholas died at age 15 in Baton Rouge. But, as Rideau emphasized, "like so many other black youths, he didn't have to die." **Rideau's assessment of Nick's story underscored how his death was not an inevitable tragedy—it was a story intimately connected to escalating incarceration rates and inequalities within race and medicine.**

on display on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd floors of the Monroe Library. Through archival photographs and oral history excerpts, these exhibits immerse viewers in the daily realities and extraordinary courage of the era. They also explore the history of the civil rights movement on our own campus—highlighting student activism, faculty leadership, and key moments in Loyola's pursuit of racial justice. Together, these two installations connect statewide civil rights history with the university's lived story. See the [flyer](#) here.

In the Community:

Oscar-Nominated Russian Whistleblower Documentary "Mr. Nobody Against Putin" opens in New Orleans. This film offers an intimate, first-hand perspective on life under Putin in Russia during the Ukraine war, captured through the lens of co-director and school teacher Pasha Talankin. In theaters until Thursday, March 5th. See the [flyer](#) & read [more information here](#). See [showtimes at the Prytania at Canal Place](#).

A Lesson Before Dying staged readings! This play is about Jefferson, a young Black man who sits on Louisiana's death row in the 1940s. A teacher reluctantly agrees to meet with him, and together they discover lessons of strength, dignity, and humanity. This powerful piece of theatre addresses the death penalty and how it intersects with education, identity, and community. **Showing at the St. Charles Center for Faith + Action (7100 St. Charles Ave) on Friday, March 13th at 7:30-9:00 P.M. – [register for free here](#).** Showing at the Promise of Justice Initiative (1024 Elysian Fields Ave) on Wednesday, March 18th at 7:30-9:00 P.M. – [register for free here](#).



*Wilbert Rideau sits behind Nicholas Carter. Photo from the [September/October 1995 issue](#) of *The Angolite*.*

The mass incarceration of people in the late twentieth century in the United States continues to have implications on the health of communities which they came from. **For those in need of transplants, the thousands of people held in carceral facilities across the state could not help, even if eager to do so.** Lifting these restrictions would not alleviate the public health problems posed by incarceration. Before restrictions prohibiting blood and organ donations from incarcerated people, blood plasma collection inside of United States prisons had deadly consequences inside and outside of prisons, globally. **To adequately address the public health harms of incarceration, reducing the number of people incarcerated and providing healthcare to returning community members must be a priority.**

Nick's invitation to the prison disrupts common notions of incarcerated people as noncontributing members of society. The effort to test for a potential match for Nick is not the only instance of those within and beyond Louisiana's carceral system organizing to make a difference in their

Unión Migrante Immigration Court Watch. Unión Migrante is a democratic organization of immigrants, for immigrants. They are dedicated to fighting for immigration reform, providing training and offering advocacy to support immigrants in emergencies. **As the threat of racist state violence against immigrant communities continues, Unión Migrante rises to meet it—and they want you to join!** See the [post here](#).

Career Opportunities:

Justice & Mercy Poetry Contest for Young Adults. This poetry contest invites participants ages 18-39 to submit an original poem on the injustice of the death penalty. The winner will receive a cash prize and the opportunity to present their poem at CMN's October 2026 *Justice Reimagined Awards & Celebration* event at the Vatican Embassy in Washington, DC. **Read more about this opportunity [here](#).** Submissions due March 20th.

community. "Friends in Unlikely Places," an article in *The Angolite* written by Kerry Myers, then-editor and now [Louisiana Parole Project](#) Deputy Director tells a story that continues this legacy.

In 2009, people at Angola and the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women (LCIW) at St. Gabriel raised money for Trinity, a three-year-old African American girl with a condition affecting her optic nerves. Alongside outside community members, they contributed thousands of dollars towards her journey to the People's Republic of China for an experimental stem cell surgery to help Trinity see. Reminiscent of Nick and his mother's visit, Trinity and her mother, Teosha Moore, visited LCIW and Angola's radio station. Combing through Louisiana prison archives, I found more evidence of adults at Angola fundraising for incarcerated juveniles as well as restoring bikes for children in surrounding areas. **Their solidarity with other oppressed groups—children and disabled people—highlights a desire to remain in community and resist the isolation and stigma of incarceration.**

Imprisoned people have historically recognized their power to inspire others to seek change—in this instance, they found an opportunity to do so while also discussing incarceration as a public health problem. Remembering his time in prison, Albert Woodfox, co-founder of the Angola Prison Chapter of the Black Panther Party, recognized that he and his costrugglers positioned themselves at the "forefront of social struggle." The intersections between prisons, policing, race, health, and wellbeing should remain at the forefront of conversations about imprisonment. **Not only are incarcerated people prevented from supporting their communities through activities like donating blood and tissue, but they also lack access to healthcare while facing hunger, physical and sexual violence, and living conditions that decrease their lifespan.** In challenging the carceral system, outside advocates should continue to look to inside-changemakers for knowledge and inspiration.

Gabrielle Corona is a Ph.D. candidate in the departments of history and African American Studies at Princeton University. She holds a B.A. in history from the University of California, Berkeley, and an M.A. in history from Princeton University. Gabrielle's research centers on the experiences of imprisoned people in relation to health and medicine in the late twentieth century United States. Their article, "Food, Punishment, and the Angola Three's Struggle for Freedom, 1971-2019," in Southern Cultures won the 2022 Nomadic Press literary prize for nonfiction.

Monthly articles reflect the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of Loyola University New Orleans. Please send feedback to jsri@loyno.edu.

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