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Global Leader Today

FALL ISSUE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

Deena Mousa

Creating a
Medical
Miracle

Also Inside:

Hope for
the Forests

The Power of
Lemon "Aid"

Improving Life
One App
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DECEMBER 16



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DECEMBER 16
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Global Leader Today

Volume 1, Issue 2

Fall Issue

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Letter from the Publisher



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the second issue of *Global Leader Today*, the primary voice of *Global Education Vision* wherein we bring you stories to motivate and inspire our readers with the adventures and accomplishments of other young people around the world who are doing things that actually matter.

Often those who become leaders are inspired to take action because of something they see in their environment that needs to be changed. Many times people find inspiration by seeing, reading or hearing about what others have done. While there's nothing wrong with trying to break the latest Guinness Record for this or that, I believe there are more important things we need to be focusing on.

Every one of our readers, no matter where you are in the world, truly does matter. Each of you has a skill or ability that maybe you don't even know about, but if harnessed and focused, may in fact help to change the world. Take for example Malala in our last issue, with her courage and leadership in the face of threats and even brutality. There is no shortage of people who, throughout history, have stood up to oppression or injustice, whether it be King or Gandhi or Chavez; people like these inspire others and help to make our world a better place.

To be a leader, though, doesn't mean you have to change the whole world. There is a phrase you may have heard that says, "Lead by example." Maybe you are a student, or a worker in a factory, or a cashier in a busy market. Leadership doesn't call you to leave your setting, but rather, to be the best student or factory worker or cashier you can be, to do an excellent job, to shine where you are, and that can lead others to be the best they can be.

Our hope in this magazine is to bring you stories that inspire you and motivate you to be the best you can be. We sincerely thank you for taking time out of your busy day to spend a few moments with us here. My hope is that together, we can do something that really matters.

Regards,
Dr. Harry Hwang
Global Education Vision
California, United States



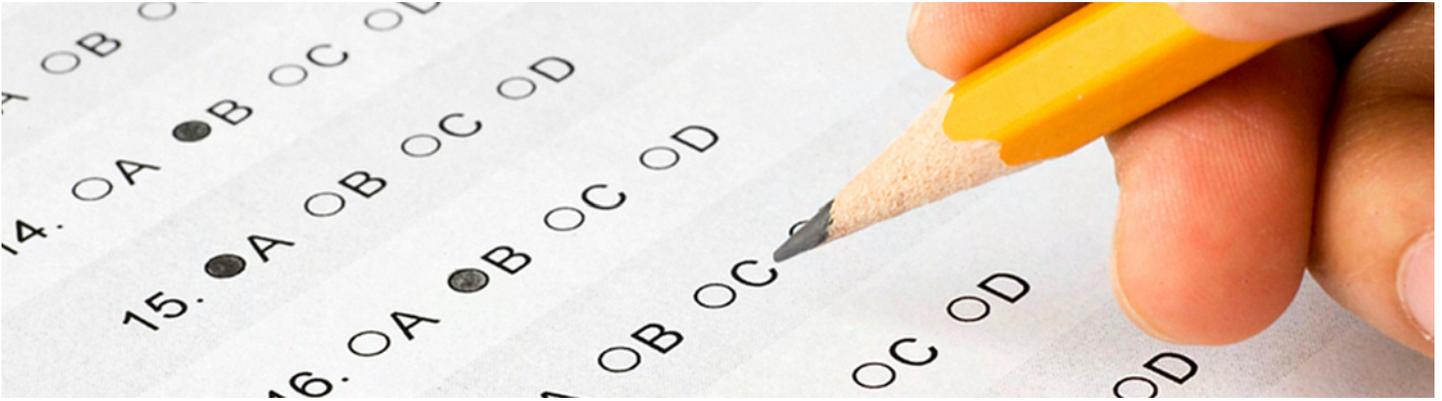
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To The Parents...



This Thing Called “STEM”

STEM is an acronym that refers to the academic disciplines of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The term is typically used when addressing education policy and curriculum choices in schools to improve competitiveness in science and technology development.

In the past, the United States has historically been a leader in these fields, but fewer students have been focusing on these topics recently. According to the U.S. Department of Education, only 16 percent of high school students are interested in a STEM career and have proven a proficiency in mathematics. Currently, nearly 28 percent of high school freshmen declare an interest in a STEM-related field, a department website says, but the majority of these students will lose interest by the time they graduate from high school.

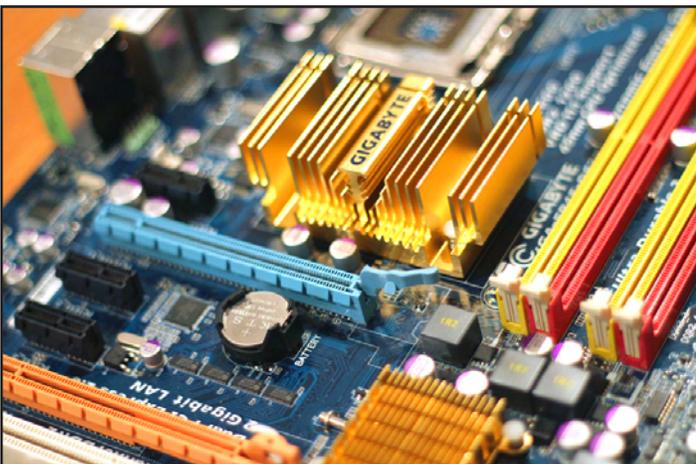
The Obama administration has invested billions of dollars in federal programs on STEM education. The investments were made to recruit and support STEM teachers, as well as

support STEM-focused high schools with STEM Innovation Networks. The budget was also invested into advanced research projects for education, in order to better understand next-generation learning technologies.

The Importance of STEM Education

All of this effort is to meet a need. According to a report by the website STEMconnector.org, over 70% of future jobs in the developed countries will require core STEM skills. The manufacturing sector faces an alarmingly large shortage of employees with the necessary skills. The field of cloud computing alone created 1.7 million new jobs between 2011 and 2015, according to the report. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that by 2018, the bulk of STEM careers will be:

- Computing – 71 percent**
- Traditional Engineering – 16 percent**
- Physical Sciences – 7 percent**
- Life Sciences – 4 percent**
- Mathematics – 2 percent**





STEM jobs do not all require higher education or even a college degree. Less than half of entry-level STEM jobs require a bachelor's degree or higher. However, a four-year degree is incredibly helpful with salary — the average advertised starting salary for entry-level STEM jobs with a bachelor's requirement was 26 percent higher than jobs in the non-STEM fields, according to the STEMconnector report. For every job posting for a bachelor's degree recipient in

Solve the System of Equations Using Substitution

$$\begin{array}{l}
 y = 3x + 1 \\
 y = -2x + 6 \\
 \hline
 y = 3(1) + 1 \\
 y = 4 + 1 \\
 y = 5
 \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{r}
 3x + 1 = -2x + 6 \\
 + 2x \qquad \quad + 2x \\
 \hline
 5x + 1 = 6 \\
 \quad \quad \quad -1 \quad \quad -1 \\
 \hline
 5x = 5 \\
 \div 5 \quad \div 5 \\
 x = 1
 \end{array}$$

a non-STEM field, there were 2.5 entry-level job postings for a bachelor's degree recipient in a STEM field.

This is not a problem unique to the United States. In the

United Kingdom, the Royal Academy of Engineering reports that the Brits will have to graduate 100,000 STEM majors every year until 2020 just to meet demand. According to the report, Germany has a significant shortage of workers in the mathematics, computer science, natural science and technology disciplines.

Blended Learning

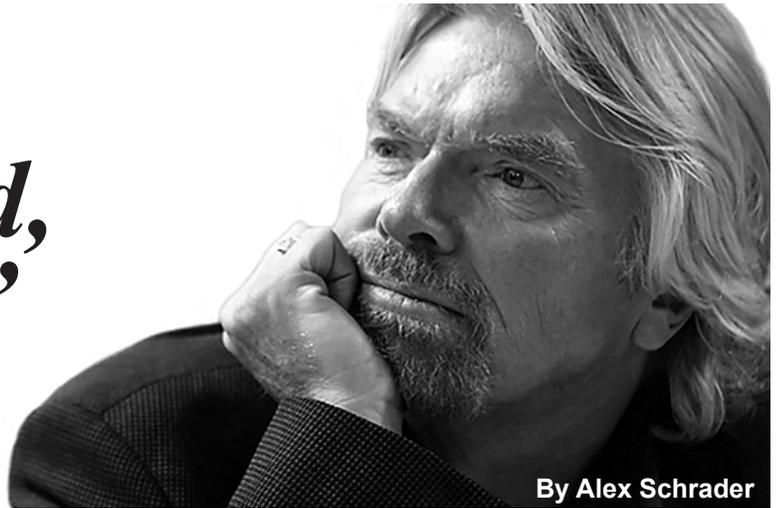
What separates STEM from the traditional science and math education is the blended learning environment and showing students how the scientific method can be applied to everyday life. It teaches students computational thinking and focuses on the real world applications of problem solving. As mentioned before, STEM education begins while students are very young.

Much of the STEM curriculum is aimed toward attracting underrepresented populations. Female students, for example, are significantly less likely to pursue a college major or career. Though this is nothing new, the gap is increasing at a significant rate. Male students are also more likely to pursue engineering and technology fields, while female students prefer science fields, like biology, chemistry, and marine biology. Overall, male students are three times more likely to be interested in pursuing a STEM career, the STEMconnector report said.

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*“Work hard,
play hard”*



By Alex Schrader

A Profile of Sir Richard Branson

“You don’t learn to walk by following rules. You learn by doing, and falling over.” A very wise lesson indeed. Richard Branson is a man who has started from scratch, conceptualized, developed, and fallen over countless times. He has even been quoted as saying, “Being an entrepreneur is not easy. We fail countless times, but you have to pick yourself up and try and try again!”

Sir Richard Charles Nicholas Branson’s desire to become an entrepreneur began at a very early age. The eldest of three children, Branson was born in 1950 in London, England to a Barrister (Lawyer) father and an Airline Stewardess mother. His very first business venture at the age of sixteen, ironically, was the magazine “Student.” (Ironic in the sense that its mission is essentially the same as our magazine “*Global Leader Today*” in highlighting exceptional youth stories from across the globe).

“Student” was an opportunity to give young people a voice at a time when they didn’t have one. It also gave young Richard Branson an opportunity to interview and connect with people around the burgeoning London music scene of the 1960’s. (Among those interviewed were Mick Jagger). This allowed him to advertise popular records of the day, which ultimately lead to the creation of Virgin Records.

The name “Virgin” according to Branson, arose from Tessa Watts, a colleague of his, when they were brainstorming for business ideas. She suggested Virgin – as they were all new to business – like “virgins.” The name stuck, as did

Branson’s style, zest for life, and out-of-the-box thinking. He took a chance on a hopelessly drug-addicted, seriously deranged bass player named Sid Vicious and his band The Sex Pistols, and signed them to a record deal when no one else would. That decision would pay off handsomely and began what future historians would call the famed Punk Rock Movement of the 1970’s.

Branson has also had his share of failures. In order to keep his fledgling airline company Virgin Atlantic Airways afloat, he sold Virgin Records in 1992 to EMI for \$500 million and reportedly sobbed. Neither Virgin Cola nor Virgin Vodka have achieved much traction as of late, but that has never stopped him. His current dream and ultimate enterprise is Virgin Galactic – that hopes to fly commercial passengers into space by the year 2020. Never one to shy away from the challenges of life, Virgin Galactic fits Branson’s free spirit quite perfectly. A man who professes to “play hard” after a long day’s work, Branson has attempted to break - and has broken – multiple world records in sailing and flying, so taking people into space (as dangerously life-threatening as it sounds) would naturally be the next step in his business and psychological evolution.

Whatever course he takes, it’s sure to be entertaining. I leave you all with perhaps his most profound quote, “It’s okay to be yourself. And please, be polite. Nothing in life should erode the habit of saying thank you to people or praising them.”

Consider This...

DANCE LIKE
NO ONE'S WATCHING
SING LIKE NO ONE'S LISTENING
LOVE LIKE
YOU'LL NEVER BE HURT
PLAY LIKE THERE'S
NO WINNERS
BEHAVE LIKE MOM'S WATCHING
GIVE LIKE YOU HAVE PLENTY
AND SMILE

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Spotlight



are living in an era where the greatest discoveries, the greatest inventions, don't necessarily come from high-tech labs or from behind the walls of major corporations, but can come from ordinary teenagers...in their pajamas."

In September 2014, *Time Magazine* named Ciara as one of the 25 most influential teens worldwide, and she has been pegged as a "rising star" and "one to watch" by several national and international news outlets.

Ciara is currently working with a global team on a new not-for-profit youth outreach platform called Project Zilkr to provide an online structured program that inspires young entrepreneurs. [For more information, visit: www.ciarajudge.com]

CHANGING THE WORLD IN YOUR PAJAMAS

Ciara Judge is an 18-year-old scientist and entrepreneur from Kinsale, Ireland. Over the past three years, she has won the BT Young Scientist, the European Union Contest for Young Scientists and the Google Global Science Fair with her teammates for their research on the work of rhizobium with cereal crops. As Ciara mentioned in her TEDxTeen talk earlier this year, "We

New Ideas

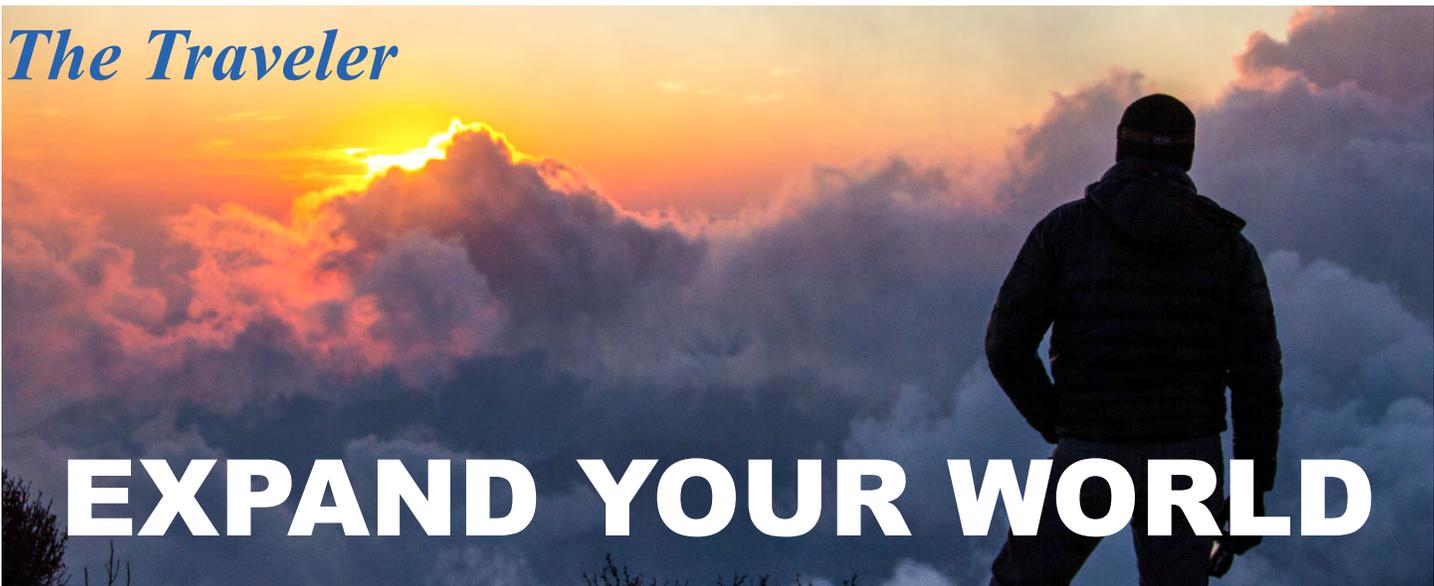
Immersive Virtual Reality

From a ride in a helicopter to a fashion show, to a visit to a concert, the new world of immersive virtual reality allows you to journey to the far corners of the galaxy right from your cell phone. Companies like Oculus and Nearpod and applications like YouTube, YouVisit and Cardboard make the experience both affordable and immediate. A number of architecture firms, as an example, have been experimenting with using VR to see exactly what their building will look like, and get an understanding of the scale that is impossible on a traditional monitor.

From: www.techradar.com



The Traveler



EXPAND YOUR WORLD

Rejoice, oh young ones, in thy youth... Pay no mind to the myriad political issues facing the world at this moment: The catastrophic effect Brexit might have on the European Union, the upcoming American Presidential elections, or the strife facing your part of the world at this time.

These things will pass...

Besides, one day you'll realize that the hamburgers taste better, the pizza tastes better and the perfume smells better at your age. So enjoy. Strife (though deeply stressful and most of the time unnecessary) can occasionally be a positive thing. Take the case of "Lucy" for instance...

When I was your age, I was fortunate enough to view the "Lucy Exhibit" and to see firsthand the bones of our ancient ancestor who toiled away under brutal conditions in the deserts of sub-Saharan Africa some 3-million years ago. Every moment of daylight in her life must have been full of strife! From diseases, to competing tribes, to all sorts of predators who couldn't wait to take a bite out of



AP PHOTO

Alex Schrader

her. Perhaps the only moment of peace she had was cuddling atop a cave with her mate... eating berries... gazing at the primordial moon...

She may have also been the very first creature to realize that in order to touch it, she would need a high enough tree to climb. Lucy's sole purpose in life was to live as best as she could given the circumstances she had. How could she have possibly known that her children would one day erect the walls at Troy... the temples at Angkor Wat... build an empire

in Rome that would last a thousand years... and one day... put a man on the very same moon she used to gaze at?

You see... the purpose of man and woman is to strive and survive. That's it. Period!

That is also the most important lesson my mother ever taught me. She died earlier this year, and as heartbreaking as her passing was, the things that will always remain are the values she instilled in her children: To do the best you can and to always lend a hand to a friend or family member in need.

Remember, all it takes is a spark... an idea... or an angle... and all of a sudden the "strife" around you creates an opportunity... that "opportunity" creates a goal... and that "goal" causes you to expand your world... and ultimately the world around you.

Believe me... it can come from anywhere, at any place, at any time.

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Meet Rachel Bernadsky, a high school sophomore who is officially part of a new generation of Israeli ingenuity.

Tel Aviv Teen To Improve Life For Her Mom And Her Country

By Elissa Einhorn

Like her predecessors who created the cell phone, voicemail technology, and other innovations that have improved daily life around the globe, Bernadsky, too, has used technology toward the greater good. Thanks to this 16-year-old student, the lives of individuals with disabilities will be made easier by no longer having to search for handicapped parking spaces. Instead, they will be able to download an app, enter their destination, and be directed to the nearest disability-accessible space.

While Bernadsky's invention will undoubtedly impact the lives of the 120,000 individuals with disabilities estimated to live throughout the State of Israel and who are still able to drive, her inspiration for the app is very personal.

"Nearly three years ago," she begins, "my mother lost her ability to walk and now is in a wheelchair. My mom and I would run errands and places would not have access for her. I thought, 'What if I do an app to show if a place is accessible?'"

While researching the idea, Bernadsky discovered an Israeli law that actually requires all public places to be accessible so she had to scratch her original concept. However, like all great inventors, she was undeterred and decided to narrow her focus to parking spaces instead of buildings.

"This would give disabled people the ability to navigate their car to a parking space," she realized.

The teenager's school, Shevach Moffet, is located outside of Tel Aviv and, no surprise, special-

izes in science and technology. It adheres to a philosophy of rethinking school subjects and implementing innovative teaching methods while also becoming the first green high school in the city. Translated as "Praise Model," the school certainly lives up to its name.

In addition to the regular curriculum, several extracurricular subjects, such as chess and art, are offered, as well as five professional subjects: Computer Science, Business, Sketching, Biotechnology, and Robotics. For Bernadsky, the selection was simple. Computer Science, it seems, is part of her DNA.

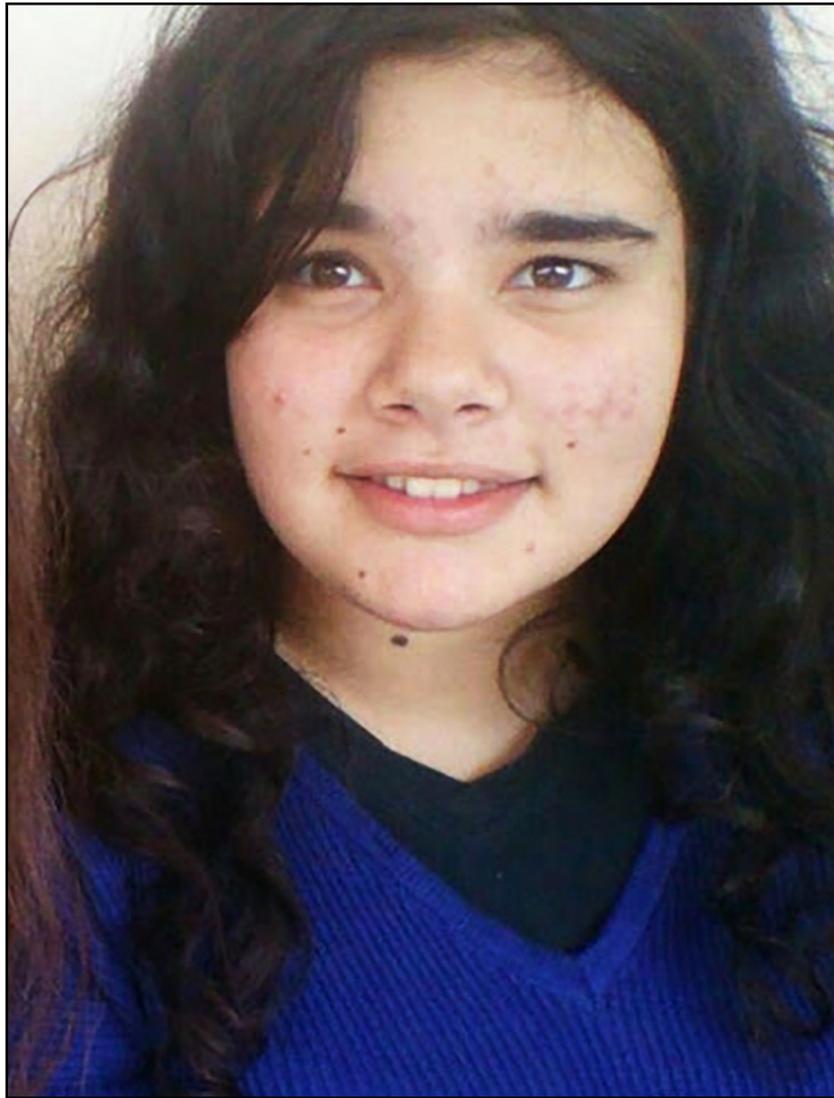
"My mom is a programmer," she explains. "From a young age, I have loved it and have been interested in it. It was a natural choice."

Bernadsky enrolled in an after-school entrepreneurial course at Shevach Moffet that taught coding and programming in addition to business, so students could learn how to both create and sell their product.

"We were asked to think about ideas that mattered to us and that would bring about change," she says. Bernadsky brought her disabled parking idea to two classmates who make up her team. After vetting other ideas,

they agreed to begin work on the handicapped parking app, which is scheduled to launch in 2018.

"My mom loves the idea but she thinks I need to finish my education," the teen notes of the timeline.



"We were asked to think about ideas that mattered to us and that would bring about change," Rachel tells us.

A first generation Israeli, this multicultural young woman speaks perfect Russian—her mother is from Belarus and her father from Uzbekistan—as well as Hebrew and English. When she is not using her left brain to advance technology, she can be found using her right brain to write poetry and draw. While her

future is as yet undecided, she knows she can take the easy path and become a programmer like her mother, but easy is not how this teen approaches life. She is considering opening up her own business or perhaps staying in the army depending

on the unit in which she serves (army service is compulsory in Israel for both young men and women). She also has additional ideas for apps but is not ready to share any trade secrets just yet. What she is happy to share is her philosophy about age and not letting it dissuade anyone from pursuing their goals.

"Even if you are in high school and it's tough, you can think about what you love and what you believe in," she declares. "If you really care about something, you can put the time into it. You can do it even though it's hard. You can do something great."

Soon, tens of thousands of disabled people will be glad that a 16-year-old teen from Tel Aviv put in the time and work in order to improve their lives.

Bernadsky pauses as if only realizing her accomplishment and admits with well-deserved pride, "For a small country, that's a big impact!"

ON THE MAP



1. United States Private School Becomes First School in the Nation to Serve Only Plant-Based Food

By Jana Free

MUSE School in the United States recently became the first school in the country to serve only vegan food to its students. The environmentally conscious school is in the state of California and it serves children from elementary to high school. Film director James Cameron, and his wife Suzy Amis Cameron, founded MUSE in 2006. In 2014, Amis Cameron announced that MUSE would make the transition to vegan food over the course of the following 18 months.



2. ITT Tech Shuts Down

On September 7th, students across ITT Technical Institutes' 130 campuses awoke in the morning to emails saying they wouldn't be attending class anymore. The closure that was ordered by the U.S. Department of Education affected more than 40,000 students and 8,000 employees. "The department has taken strong action to protect students and taxpayers, and it was the right decision," U.S. Under Secretary for Education Ted Mitchell said. This action witnesses a growing trend by the government to protect students from taking out large student loans for degrees that afford them no real career options.



Source Facebook.com

3. Indian Teen Goes To Wimbledon

Tanisha Kashyap is the first Assamese girl to represent India in the under-14 category at Wimbledon. Crowned as India Champion, she contended in the Road to Wimbledon National Finals on the grass at Wimbledon in August. Although Tanisha did not win at Wimbledon, she was very inspired just to represent her country. According to her, "It was a dream come true." To date, Tanisha has won more than twelve junior titles, including a national championship.

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17-Year-Old Egyptian-American Entrepreneur Creates Miracle Medical Compound

By A. A. Francis

The audacity of ambition, the drive to succeed and the will to implement a realistic plan can change a life and then the world.

One determined individual who lives her life by just such a saying is 17-year-old Egyptian-American high school student Deena Mousa. Deena is a future medical researcher, pioneer and current entrepreneur who is trying her best to make a positive change in medical care standards today.

She created a miracle medical compound that

stops extremely severe bleeding in life threatening wounds in a matter of seconds. Deena is in the process of patenting her creation and is negotiating with manufacturers to make sure that her product is sold on the market at an affordable price. Deena wants to make sure that those who need her product can afford to buy it.

In the end, the only thing that may be greater than Deena's talent, entrepreneurial drive and humanitarian spirit is her heart.

However, nothing that is worthwhile in life is ever achieved easily.

Deena studied, researched very hard, worked very hard and experienced a lot of rejection before she achieved her goal.

Deena, who resides in New York City, presented a challenge to herself that she now personally strives to help solve for the future good of the world. Determined to solve problems that are just not getting enough reactive attention, Deena decided to do extensive research and study on the leading causes of death in American hospitals.

She found out that a leading cause of patient death in hospitals is severe, uncontrolled bleeding from life threatening wounds and injuries. Once Deena found out this fact, she began brainstorming ideas to help fix the problem. For her, just pointing out a serious problem is not enough. Something had to be done to fix it.

Through her research, she learned that American hospitals use medical compounds and products that can take up to 15 minutes to completely stanch severe bleeding. Too many lives can be lost in such a long window of time.

Deena knew that she could better maximize the current medical standards in regards to efficiently treating massive blood loss. However, the only way that Deena could try to help solve this immediate problem was to further her research in a real research laboratory.

Unfortunately, she did not have access to one.

At the age of 16 Deena contacted and emailed many col-

leges and science institutions in New York City with research laboratories on campus. Deena wanted to volunteer her services as an intern or volunteer her time to work in exchange for using a research lab for her own projects on her own time.

Deena was rejected by many colleges and institutions. She was deemed to be too young, naive and idealistic.



Deena points to her name at Intel ISEF 2013. Photo courtesy of Deena Mousa.

Deena's interning-for-research offer was finally accepted by the Albany College of Pharmacology. In exchange for working as a lab intern for a full year, Deena would be afforded use of the college's research lab on her own time to further her personal research.

She began conducting research, testing and experimenting on compounds to find a safer and more efficient way to staunch severe bleeding.

All in all, it took Deena almost 18 months of personal research before she came across a discovery.

Based on all of her own self-conducted research, testing and experimentation, Deena created

a medical compound that can stop severe bleeding from life-threatening wounds and injuries in about 10 seconds.

Deena's product is called Hemostat V-Seal. It strengthens and aids the human body's ability to clot to stop bleeding. Just a few drops of Deena's product poured into a life-threatening wound is enough to stop massive blood loss within 10 seconds.

She is currently finalizing the patent for her creation and is also awaiting FDA approval.

Though a very shrewd researcher and entrepreneur, Deena also is a humanitarian at heart. Her product will be made available to hospitals and the general public within months. So she is negotiating with the manufacturers and advertisers of her product to make sure that it is made and sold affordably. She is working hard to make sure that her Hemostat V-Seal medical product will sell at a price that insures that those who need it can afford to buy it.

In the meantime, Deena is studying molecular biology at Yale.

With the audacity of ambition, hard work and following a realistic plan with goals, Deena Mousa has incredibly changed her life.

If she continues on her current career path, she will undoubtedly change the world as well.

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The Power of Lemon 'Aid'

By Eileen Weber



Lemonade stands have probably been around as long as lemons. Search for it online and the results are how to build one, where to buy one, and how to compete with other stands. But some pretty generous kids are taking the concept beyond a little extra pocket money.

After catastrophic rainfall in Louisiana this past summer, Benjamin Chaisson, 8, gave over \$2,000 to the East Baton Rouge First Responders in aid for flood victims with his salesmanship. Californian Jaelyn Sagen, 12, raised \$16,000 to help homeless shelters in her area. And in Michigan, Connor Nicol, 4, raised \$93 with his stand and then another \$1,000 with his GoFundMe page. When his neighborhood friend Ella died of cancer, he wanted to give toys to

kids who also had the disease in her honor.

These are just a few examples. There are so many more stories just like them.

Tyler Hardiman, a seven-year-old in Grafton, Mass., has raised more than \$2,500 with his lemonade stand helping military veterans at Project New Hope in Worcester. With a little bit of help from his mom, Danielle, they promoted the event in August and hundreds of people showed up.





“There were easily about 500 people there,” said Danielle. “People were coming off the highway because they heard about it on the radio. People were getting really choked up.”

Danielle explained that the stand was so well received because it was helping our troops back from combat. She said people have respect for those who serve our country. And, it was a sobering moment for Tyler to know that sometimes our military leave for an assignment and never make it home.

But Tyler is not new to the lemonade game. Last year when he heard a police officer in his neighborhood was suffering from lymphoma and needed a bone marrow transplant, he ran a lemonade stand to raise funds that would pay for the man’s surgery.

For family friend Steve Warren, that simple gesture was stunning. “I’m speechless,” he explained. “I couldn’t believe he wanted to raise money for someone he hadn’t even met.”

Warren, a vet himself, felt compelled to show his support for Tyler’s stand both times. This year, he organized a Jeep convoy that ran from the local high school through the town to the boy’s house. Creating

more than a little excitement, it was complete with a police escort and a five-ton army truck.

Sometimes, those little lemonade stands on the side of the road blossom into something much bigger than could ever be imagined. That’s how Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF) became what it is today. Based in Pennsylvania, it is an organization that funds research for children with cancer. It all began with one little girl and a dream.

Alexandra Scott, or Alex for short, was diagnosed with neuroblastoma before her first birthday. By the time she turned eight, she had already hosted four lemonade stands raising money to help find a cure. Her first stand made \$2,000. Her last stand made \$1 million. After her death in

2004, her parents decided to keep the movement going.

Today, the foundation has raised close to \$130 million funding more than 650 research projects. Elizabeth Romaine, Director of Communications and Public Relations with ALSF, said they serve a very important purpose.

“We are severely underfunded by the government,” she said of the federal aid given specifically to cancer research. “We’re filling a funding gap.”

Jay Scott, Alex’s dad and the co-founder of ALSF with his wife Liz, couldn’t be more proud of the work they’ve done to honor his daughter’s vision. He said the latest research and medical technology has already been making some great strides.

“There are still so many kids who are dying,” he replied. “But I think we’re on the cusp. There are no magic bullets, but we’re already seeing them tailor-make treatments to fight cancer at the DNA level.”

With Alex’s first stand, her parents thought she just wanted a little cash to buy a toy. Then, they realized that her goal was far greater. Sometimes we forget how the innocence and will of a child can overcome obstacles we thought were too tough. Like Tyler, it’s the youngest among us who make the impossible possible.





Hope for the Forests: The Tanay Mountaineers' Call to Action

By Karen Aquitaña

The Philippines is one of the 34 global biodiversity hotspots and is recognized as one of the 17 megadiverse countries which contains two-thirds of the earth's biodiversity. Aside from providing habitats to this biodiverse treasury, Philippine forests serve as key ecosystems that are vital for a healthy environment and for a healthy population. However, according to the latest forestry data of the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) - Forest Management Bureau (FMB), the total forest cover shrunk from 23.9 percent in 2003 to 22.8 percent in 2010. In addition, the Philippines has the second-lowest forest cover in Southeast Asia and among the most threatened biodiversity globally. Consumption of forest products through slash and burn agriculture, logging activities, and pag-uuling or kaingin (charcoal making) have contributed to this decline.

Charcoal is a major source of fuel energy for cooking in the Philippines. It is almost always available in the market and sold relatively cheaper than LPGs. The traditional method of kaingin or wood charcoal production requires prevalent cutting down of trees that results in forest degradation.

Tanay, Rizal is a first class municipality and is part of the Sierra Madre Mountain range and one of the coastal towns surrounding the Laguna de Bay and has three protected watershed areas--the Kaliwa Watershed Forest Reserve, Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape, and Tanay

Micro Watershed. Based on the studies done by the Local Government Unit of Tanay, the common practice of kaingin, especially by the communities living in the uplands, degrade the forest.

The Tanay Mountaineers, Inc. (TM) is a non-government youth organization founded in 1997 by Engr. Carlos Inofre Jr based in Tanay, Rizal. Their aim is to protect and preserve the environment and to serve as a stand-by search and rescue group in times of calamities and emergencies. Heeding the call for environmental preservation, the young Tanay Mountaineers researched that forest degra-

dation leads to more damaging disasters and calamities since forests are essential in climate change mitigation, and the prevalent practice of kaingin has been causing forest loss. To alleviate and to eventually phase out this practice, the Tanay Mountaineers decided to implement the “Community-based Charcoal Briquetting Project,” a project that aims to advocate the shift from the traditional wood charcoal production to the modern technology of charcoal briquette production.

Charcoal briquetting is a modern way of producing charcoal without sacrificing the environment. It is made of agricultural waste or biomass molded under high pressure and high temperature. The most common materials used are coconut shells, sawdust, woodchips, shavings, corn stalk, rice husk, corn cob, coffee bean hull, among others. According to Engr. Belen B. Bisana, head of the Department of Science and Technology’s Forest Products Research and Development Institute (DOST-FPRDI) Bio-Energy and Equipment Development Section (BEEDS), “Compared to plain charcoal, briquettes are less messy and easier to handle because they are compact and uniform in size. They are also easy to ignite, burn slowly, give more intense heat per unit volume and are almost smokeless when burning. Charcoal briquettes made from agro-forest waste may lessen the extensive charcoaling of wood, thus helping protect what is left of the country’s forest resources.”

In 2013, the TM was awarded as one of the Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations (TAYO) for

their “Disaster Risk Reduction & Management Advocacy Program: Empowering the Youth In Building Disaster Resilient Communities” where they won a grant of USD 1,000. A portion of the grant was allocated to the implementation of the initial stages of the charcoal briquetting project.

In 2014, the TM conducted information dissemination sessions with the communities and the Dumagat-Remontados (indigenous peoples who live in the uplands and whose main economic activity is kaingin) about the drastic intergenerational effects of kaingin and cutting of trees in general and advocated the modern technology of briquetting production and its advantages. According to them, for a ton of charcoal briquettes produced, 88 trees are saved from being cut.

They coordinated with nine barangays and trained the participants, composed of barangay officials and other community members, on the briquetting process. TM donated carbonizers to the hotspot areas or barangays with the higher incidences of kaingin. The carbonized materials produced by the carbonizers in the barangays are sold at 10cents per kilo and brought to the municipal’s Materials Recovery Facility to continue the final carbonization process. The finished products are gathered by the TM and are sold by the beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (or 4Ps is a conditional cash transfer program of the Philippine Government) and non-government organizations like the Tanay Kapuso Lions Club and Barangay Solid Waste Management Committees. The TM advocates the

use of the charcoal briquettes to schools and other locals.

The success of their initiative rippled to other agencies and organizations. The Government’s Climate Change Commission funded for the procurement of additional Charcoal Briquetting Machines for five areas under the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected landscape. The 2nd Infantry Division of the Philippine Army were also drawn to replicate the project.

To sustain the project, the TM continues to advocate the briquetting technology to other stakeholders. They plan to buy another charcoal briquetting machine and to partner with other organizations and national government agencies. They dream that this project will expand not just in their municipality but for the whole province of Rizal as well.

With the sobering state of the environment, one cannot help but feel powerless and vulnerable. However, pro-environment projects such as TM’s charcoal briquettes production offer a glint of hope amidst the great challenge of forest preservation and conservation and climate change mitigation.

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14-year-old Lila Copeland is on a Mission to Get Vegan Meals Into an Entire School District

By Jana Free

Lila Copeland's "Healthy Freedom" campaign aims to get a complete plant-based meal option onto the menu of one of the largest school districts in the United States. It's just one of the projects her Earth Peace Foundation is working on.

"We cannot have peace among men whose hearts find delight in killing any living creature." - Rachel Carson

Building a better global community requires that betterment take place at home as well as abroad, which is why 14-year-old Lila Copeland from Los Angeles, California, in the United States, is leading a mission to get vegan meals onto the menu of every school in the public school district where she lives. Her campaign is called "Healthy Freedom," and it's one of many projects that her educational organization Earth Peace Foundation is tackling on the road to social and environmental harmony. "Healthy Freedom," when fully implemented, would give all Los

Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) students, who attend school in one of the largest school districts in the U.S., access to a complete plant-based lunch option each day as part of the district's regular meal menu. It's Lila's idea for bringing peace to the plates of hundreds of thousands of students (and possibly millions, if she has her way), from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

In 2015, when high-school freshman Lila was in the 8th grade, she took a look around at what her schoolmates were eating for lunch and felt sick at



11-year-old Lila Copeland giving a powerful speech that she wrote herself

what she saw. Not only were her friends consuming things that were unhealthy, they were ingesting cruelty, she says. Lila doesn't blame the students for what they ate, though. She realized that many of these kids didn't have the option to choose a nourishing and compassionate lunch. They simply ate what was available and what the adults gave to them. Lila knew then that there had to be a choice, even if it meant creating that choice herself. With her activist mother's support, and backed by her Earth Peace Foundation that she started when she was only 10 years old, Lila put plans into motion to give all students in the LAUSD the power to choose a lunch that would be good for their bodies, and that would be good for the planet and the animals who share the earth with humans.

"We all know now, based on science, that animal agriculture makes up 51% of the toxic load on our atmosphere, water, and land. More than transportation, oil, and plastics combined," Lila says. "I felt so bad the kids had nothing else to choose, so that is how I came up

with my campaign, 'Healthy Freedom.'"

Lila grew up in an activist family, attending her first protest against animal cruelty when she was just 4 months old, and continuing to demonstrate in opposition to animal captivity, slavery, and torture through her young years that followed. Even to this day she publicly confronts those who choose to use and abuse animals for their benefit. Lila knew, when she came up with her initial plans for "Healthy Freedom," what stood

ahead of her in terms of time, effort, and possible push back from those who might question the idea of feeding only plants to children. Lila has experienced her friends having no interest in her efforts with Earth Peace Foundation and veganism, and she has seen the negative reactions of some parents who force their children to eat meat even when the kids no longer want to consume animals. She was determined, however, to go through the process of convincing the decision makers at LAUSD that a daily vegan lunch option would be a delicious, and more nutritious, addition to a menu that was already partly based on healthy food. And, she was ready to confront, once again, the notions that a person needs to eat animals to thrive and that we can get away with consuming animals without any repercussions. So far during her campaign, "knock on wood" she says, she hasn't faced much of a fight with those who can potentially help her create positive change within LAUSD.

"My mom and I have been very pleasantly surprised, at least so



At 13 Lila Copeland is one of the nation's youngest reporters.

far, at how receptive LAUSD has been,” stated Lila. “We experienced no push back so far. They seem very open to working with us. It’s been 5 months now since we started the project with them, and we are getting cooperation and an open flow of back and forth communication to make it work for everyone concerned.”

While holding meetings with representatives from LAUSD, Lila did learn that there would be financial and logistical challenges to push through. But, she’s aware of the social and environmental benefits of plant-based meals, and she’s prepared with facts from the World Health Organization and Physician’s Committee on Responsible Medicine’s showing that animal products cause disease in humans. So, she remains committed to her campaign, meeting with key district members to assure them that she can work within budget constraints to give students healthy and compassionate options. Lila even prepared a small tasting session for LAUSD representatives, to offer them examples of the food she envisions on the schools’ menus.

“Where we are now is preparing a menu that will be tested by a menu committee of 35 to 40 people at LAUSD, sometime before Christmas break. Getting the ingredients right, the supply chain set up, and the preparation down for our list of first pilot schools, to be implemented for the 2017 school year,” Lila offers.

Lila says that a large event prior to the menu test will serve as the actual kick-off for the project. She stresses that getting an entire school district in the United States to offer a full vegan meal, 5 days a week, has never been

done before. Lila and Earth Peace Foundation are on the verge of making history, and this is just the beginning for her and her organization. As she continues to meet with LAUSD representatives, hopefully rolling out her program in pilot schools starting in August 2017 and then in 25 new LAUSD schools every 30 days after that, she will simultaneously work on getting vegan lunches into all public schools in California. During the year that she anticipates it will take to fully implement the “Healthy Freedom” project in LAUSD, she will meet with people from the California Department of Education (CDE) to talk about nourishing and kind alternatives to many of the foods kids are already used to. Lila wants to incorporate veggie sliders and meatball subs, pastas, tacos, sandwiches, wraps, and chili in her vegan lunch menu. She also sees some exotic possibilities for student meals like whole-grain Samosas, as well as some fun dishes that feature fresh fruits. If all goes well, school children will also have vegan beverages as an option.

“A big part of the program has always been getting plant milks right out there on the line, so kids can decide which milk they want, not just being forced to take the dairy because there is nothing else to drink,” says Lila. “We face a problem with our plant milk though, and that is that there is a federal law prohibiting children in some schools from being allowed to have plant milk without a doctor’s note and permission slip signed by their parents.”

This hurdle doesn’t discourage Lila, however. She’s talking with LAUSD about creative ways to get plant milks to kids before the existing law is changed. And,

she’s willing to work to create new California laws that require schools in the state to offer vegan meals to students. Lila says she’s looking forward to hearing the words “resolution accepted” when she finally gets to the point where LAUSD committee members vote in favor of her “Healthy Freedom” program. She wants to see the looks on the students’ faces when they eat delicious plant meals and love them as much as she does.

What mindset does Lila keep as she pushes through social norms like eating animals, and as she challenges habits that don’t contribute to a better world? She says she just keeps forging ahead.

She offers this advice to kids who want to campaign for a good cause, “Set your mind to hear ‘no’ at least 10,000 times. Any time you want to try to change anything, you will be met with push back. It’s human nature. If you keep going, no matter what, you will meet that key person who will say ‘yes’ at some point and you will be able to move forward.”

Regarding veganism, Lila says, “It’s every person’s duty at this point, regardless of whether or not they care about animals or cruelty, to go vegan for the planet. We have nowhere else to go and the science is all there. We are destroying our planet with our meat-eating habits... We have to grow up now and evolve, and we will not have a planet unless it becomes a vegan one in short order.”

To learn more about Lila, Earth Peace Foundation, and the “Healthy Freedom” campaign, visit: www.earthpeacefoundation.org, www.facebook.com/earthpeacefoundation, and @earthpeacefoundation on Twitter.

CURRENT EVENTS

AROUND THE WORLD IN JUST TWO PAGES

By Randy Gold

INTRODUCING FACEBOOK'S INTERNET DRONE



Facebook wants to bring the internet to the whole world — using a giant, solar-powered drone with the wingspan of an airliner. And it flies on the power of roughly three hair-dryers. That drone, dubbed “Aquila,” completed its first successful flight in Yuma, Arizona, according to a post on Facebook from Mark Zuckerberg’s account on Thursday, July 21st.

The drone is intended to be one of a fleet of drones flying at 60,000 feet for months at a time and beaming the internet to remote parts of the world. “Over the next year we’re going to keep testing Aquila — flying higher and longer, and adding more planes and payloads,” Zuckerberg said in a post on Facebook. “It’s all part of our mission to connect the world and help more of the 4 billion people who are not online access all the opportunities of the internet.” [From: MarketWatch.com]

PHELPS MAKES HISTORY AGAIN



In 2000 Michael Phelps was 15-years-old and became the youngest person to ever make the U.S. Men’s Olympic swim team. While he did manage to finish fifth in the finals of the 200-meter butterfly, it wasn’t until the following Olympics in 2004 that he struck gold. This year in Rio marked his fifth Olympic appearance and like his last four trips, he again entered the record books by becoming the most decorated Olympian of all time with a total of 28 medals, 23 of which are gold.

As a teenager, Phelps idolized Australian swimmer Ian Thorpe, modeling his public image after him. Thorpe initially said it was highly unlikely for Phelps to win eight gold medals at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. Phelps used the remarks as motivation, taping them to his locker during the Games. Thorpe was in the stands for the 4×100-meter medley relay, where Phelps was swimming for his eighth Olympic title. When Phelps and his teammates captured the gold, Thorpe gave a congratulatory kiss to Phelps’s mother, then gave a handshake and a hug to congratulate Phelps. Thorpe afterwards said “I’m really proud of him not just because he won eight golds. Rather, it’s how much he has grown up and matured into a great human being. Never in my life have I been so happy to have been proved wrong.”

So, what does Michael advise others to do to become a success? “I think that everything is possible as long as you put your mind to it and you put the work and time into it,” Michael said. “I think your mind really controls everything.” Even though he is still young, sometimes Michael thinks about the future. In those moments he says, “I want to be able to look back and say, ‘I’ve done everything I can, and I was successful.’ I don’t want to look back and say I should have done this or that.”

WE LOVE YOU CHARLIE BROWN!



This year when Jimmie Kimmel hosted the 68th Annual Primetime Emmy awards at the Microsoft Theater in downtown Los Angeles, the winner of the Outstanding Children’s Program for 2016 was “It’s Your 50th Christmas, Charlie Brown!” The show itself aired on ABC and was hosted by Kristen Bell and included performances by Sarah McLachlan, Boyz II Men, Pentatonix, Kristin Chenoweth, Benoit, and the All-American Boys Chorus. In the promos, President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama also made an appearance.

For over half a century, Charlie Brown has been a staple of American culture. Schulz’s main goal for a Peanuts-based Christmas special when the show first came out was to focus on the true meaning of Christmas. Beyond its references to religion, unheard of on

television at that time, the special also marked the first time children voiced animated characters. Back in 1966 when the show first won the Emmy for Outstanding Children's Program, the creator Charles Schultz joked, "Charlie Brown is not used to winning, so we thank you."

ARGENTINA TAKES THE CUP

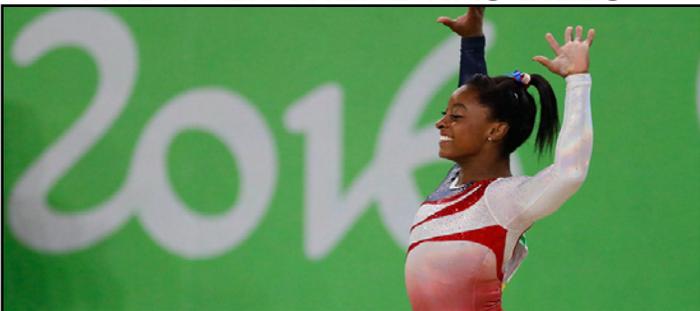


Congratulations to Argentina for winning 5-4 against Russia in the 2016 FIFA Futsal World Cup. 24 teams played 52 matches in 3 different cities in Colombia for the title.

Futsal is played between two teams of five players each, one of whom is the goalkeeper. Unlimited substitutions are permitted. Unlike some other forms of indoor football, the game is played on a hard court surface delimited by lines; walls or boards are not used. Futsal is also played with a smaller ball with less bounce than a regular football due to the surface of the field. "Futsal" started in 1930 when Juan Carlos Ceriani, a teacher in Montevideo, Uruguay, created a version of indoor football for recreation in YMCAs. This new sport was originally developed for playing on basketball courts, and a rule book was published in September 1933. His goal was to create a team game that could be played indoor or outdoor but that was similar to football.

The host for the 2020 FIFA Futsal World Cup will be picked in December and comes down to five potential countries: Costa Rica, Iran, Japan, Lithuania or New Zealand. Stay tuned for further updates...

AND THEN THERE WAS BILES



Simone Arianne Biles (born March 14, 1997) is an American artistic gymnast. Biles is the 2016 Olympic individual all-around, vault and floor gold medalist.

She was part of the gold medal-winning team dubbed the "Final Five" at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. She also won the bronze medal for the balance beam during the Olympics. Biles is a three-time world all-around champion (2013–15), three-time world floor champion (2013–15), two-time world balance beam champion (2014, 2015), four-time United States national all-around champion (2013–16), and a member of the gold medal-winning American teams at the 2014 and 2015 World Artistic Gymnastics Championships.

Having won a combined total of nineteen Olympic and World Championship medals, Biles is the most decorated American gymnast, taking over from Shannon Miller, who had held this record since 1996. With her win in Rio, Biles became the sixth woman to have won an individual all-around title at both the World Championships and the Olympic Games. With four Olympic gold medals, Biles set a new American record for most gold medals in women's gymnastics at a single Games. Simone was chosen by Team USA to be the flag bearer for the closing ceremonies. She was the first American female gymnast to be given the honor. As Simone likes to say, "Surround yourself with the dreamers, the doers, the believers and thinkers: but most of all surround yourself with those who see greatness within you even when you don't see it yourself."

PUTTING THE EXTREME INTO EXTREME SPORTS



Segways, hoverboards, mini segways, rollerblades, BMX and skateboards, you'll find them all and more at the skateparks today. Another thing you'll find is gender equality. Gone are the days when the girls would cheer on their daredevil boyfriends from the sidelines. Today's risk takers come in every shape and size, every skin color and every gender. All that's required to participate is the courage to enter the game. If you have that, there really are no limits to what you can do.

One Last Word...

Let The Sparks Fly!

By Alex Schrader

After the success of the first issue we collectively made the decision to do one per quarter. As we all know, the world moves fast. Things can change on a day-to-day or week-to-week basis. Plus, every quarter something new happens around the globe such as the Brexit, the Olympic Games, or the upcoming American Presidential Elections. Doing one issue per quarter gives us perspective and allows us to look back and maybe reflect on what has occurred. But at the same time, we will continue our primary mission which is to do stories that highlight youthful endeavors that improve our lives, or seek to improve our lives in areas that have been unaddressed. We profiled six people in this issue who recognized an immediate need and took the steps necessary to ful-



fill those needs.

And it all began with a spark...

In the case of the amazingly brilliant Rachel Bernadsky, the spark was ingenuity. In Deena Mousa's case, her ambition and determination shined too brightly for any obstacle to dim. In the case of the ethereally lovely Lila Copeland, it was a passion for health food. For Alexandra Scott, Benjamin Chais-

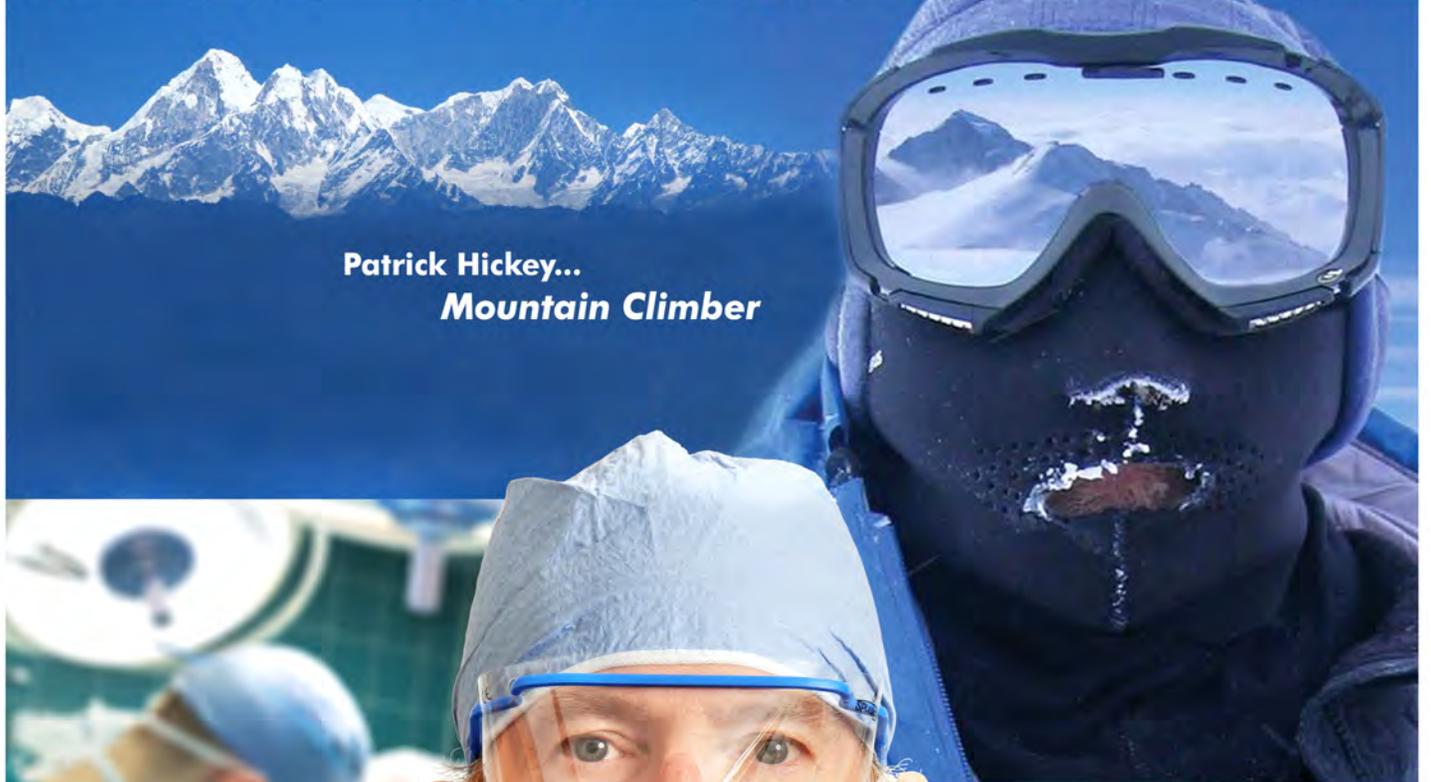
son, Jaelyn Sagen and Tyler Hardiman, the spark was hustle, sales skills, and a simple, old-fashioned lemonade stand to further their social causes. So you see...? Anything is possible.

So whether you're watching a film, listening to music, eating good food, spending time with friends or loved ones... or just watching the sun set over the Sahara Desert, let the sparks fly!

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Patrick Hickey...
Mountain Climber



Patrick Hickey...
O.R. Nurse
Assistant Clinical Professor
in the College of Nursing at
the University of South Carolina

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