

YEA! STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

Chad Bingo

**CEO, Dogstar
Pet Products,
Rochester, NY**

Chad Bingo has always had a love for dogs and making caring for them more fun and enjoyable. In the Academy, Chad launched the Gotta Go Button, the first product from his company, Dogstar Pet Products. The Gotta Go Button “speaks” for your dog and lets owners know when Fido’s “gotta go”! The button comes complete with a 2 week training system. The Gotta Go Button has been featured on Good Morning America and in Walmart’s “Get on the Shelf” contest. Chad has two more Dogstar Pet products in development, the Waterback Leash and the Doggy Door Stand. Chad is increasing production, managing overseas manufacturers and filling orders all from his dorm room! www.gottagobutton.com



Eric Meyer

**CEO, Spotlight Video
Productions, Young
Scholar Adventures
& Haystack Mobile
Technologies**

In the Academy, Eric Meyer launched Spotlight Video Productions and transformed his passion for filmmaking into a business that generated tens of thousands of dollars in revenue. As a sophomore in high school, Eric graduated as the CEO of his own company, producing wedding videos, corporate productions, and even traveling around the world to produce resort promotional videos. He then began Young Scholar Adventures, a company that works to create educational summer opportunities for students in their local areas. Meyer’s most recent business venture is Haystack Mobile Technologies, a mobile app aimed to revolutionize the way people park. www.haystackmobile.com

Sujay Tyle

**Sherpa Ventures/
Foundry**

Sujay Tyle graduated from the YEA! program creating a business called Spirited Sweets. He then teamed with brother, Sheel, to develop a company called ReSight, Inc., an organization dedicated to the eradication of treatable blindness. Since then, Sujay matriculated at Harvard University at only 15 years old! He became a National Thiel 20 under 20 Fellow, allowing him to focus on research and self-education. Sujay has since moved out west to California to pursue several business ventures. He has been named to the Forbes 30 Under 30 List in 2013 and is currently working at a San Francisco-Based Venture Fund, Sherpa Ventures.



Gabby Griffin

**Gabby’s Tortillas,
South Baldwin, AL**

In 2012, high school freshman, Gabby Griffin turned her passion for fighting child hunger, neglect and abuse with her talent for baking tortillas when she launched Gabby’s Tortillas as a part of the Young Entrepreneurs Academy class in South Baldwin, Alabama. Gabby’s Tortillas offers homemade, organic, tortillas. For every pack of tortillas sold Gabby’s Tortillas donates two tortillas to a local food bank and a portion of each sale goes to charities that fight against child abuse and neglect. Gabby was selected as the 2013 Saunders Scholars Semi-Finalist from the South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce YEA! class. Just one year later, Gabby’s Tortilla’s is thriving and she has gone on to open her own café where she manages a staff all while attending high school! www.gabbystortillas.com

Justin Hillery

**Co-Founder,
Strong Arm
Technologies,
Rochester, NY**

Justin Hillery is a 2007 YEA! graduate who has gone on to do amazing things with the business skills he gained in the Academy. Justin started his first business, Buyology as a YEA! student. Since then, he has co-founded Strong Arm Technologies. The company’s premiere product, the Strong Arm Vest is a load responsive vest that uses cables to transfer weight from your hands and arms to other parts of your body as you lift. Justin and his co-founder were inspired to create the vest after witnessing their fathers suffer from the daily toll of manual labor. Justin set out on a mission to improve the quality of the lives of manual laborers and enable them to work longer and more safely. The Strong Arm Vest won Hillery and Strong Arm Technologies first place and \$25,000 at the annual High Tech Rochester’s Regional Business Plan Contest in 2012, competing with over 100 professional business plans from across the region. www.strongarmvest.com



Habibe Hakiqi

**Co-Founder,
Bubble Tea Mania**

Bubble Tea Mania closed its doors shortly after the academy ended, but Habibe’s entrepreneurial endeavors continued. Habibe matriculated into the University of Rochester as a double major in Economics and Political Science and graduated with a truly distinguished college career—she was a Hajim Scholar, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and the International Economics Honor Society, and was the recipient of the Young Women of Distinction Award, among others. In 2014 Habibe graduated from the Harvard Business School with her MBA. Habibe has returned to Rochester to join the Manning and Napier team as an Investment Manager.

YEA! STUDENTS BY THE NUMBERS

100% of Academy graduates graduate high school on time

99% of Academy graduates enroll in college

49% of YEA! students are female

56% of YEA! students are underrepresented minorities

19% of YEA! students start second businesses

YEA STUDENTS have been awarded millions of dollars in scholarships as a result of their involvement in the Young Entrepreneurs Academy

2,298 YEA! students nationwide have launched more than 1,700 real businesses in America

YOUNG
ENTREPRENEURS
Academy

