

Young and In Charge!

It may come as a surprise, but many of the world's leading business were established by people under the age of 30. Google, Facebook, and Microsoft, among others, were all set up by college students, and today these companies dominate their respective industries. For those of you who have the makings of a young entrepreneur, read on for inspiration.

Susan Gregg Koger has always had a passion for unique clothes and good deals. As a college freshman, she and her boyfriend sold vintage clothing they found at thrift stores through an online shop they created. Although the site was useful for extra income, they knew that if this hobby was going to be a full-time job, they would have to expand. They began purchasing clothing from independent designers to carry along with their vintage findings. Today, ModCloth has over 200 employees, and the company is valued at more than \$50 million!

After teaching himself the ins and outs of programming software and building Web sites, Suhas Gopinath opened his IT consultancy company, Globals Inc., at the age of 14. Using his shrewd business sense, Suhas registered his business as a corporation and thus became the world's youngest CEO. Now, Globals Inc. has offices in several countries and employs more than 400 people. Even though he could have sold the company for hundreds of millions of dollars, Suhas prefers to continue leading his own enterprise.

At five years old, Hannah Taylor saw her first homeless person. She was strongly affected by the realization that some people have nothing and decided that she would assist the needy people of Canada. When she turned eight years old, she founded the Ladybug Foundation. This charity collects funds to help the homeless and raises awareness of the issue. Even though she's now a busy teenager, Hannah still works relentlessly with the foundation. She constantly visits schools and the venues to spread the message that the problem of homelessness could be eliminated.

Nowadays, young competent and successful business leaders are common all around the world. This shows that no matter you age, when you have the zeal to make your dream a reality, you can launch an organization that will thrive!

The Future of Food

Experts predict that nine billion people will populate the Earth by 2050. Medical advancements have caused the average life span and birth survival rate to surge. These are outstanding successes, but they've created a problem: as farmland disappears due to overpopulation, what will people eat? If scientists don't discover an answer, the world might face a food crisis. Thankfully, there are possible solutions.

Vertical farming is the concept of cultivating food within skyscrapers. Using advanced greenhouse technology, it's feasible to produce fruit and vegetables indoors. If this idea becomes reality, it will require significantly less land than fields. In fact, a 30-story building with a five-acre-wide base could yield a yearly harvest equivalent to 2,400 acres. This exceeds traditional farming output because plants inside a building are sheltered from the weather. With climate, water, and light control, the effects of temperature, droughts, and cloudy days are eliminated. Crops can be grown year-round. It's also beneficial that vertical farms can be constructed in close proximity to urban areas. As much as 30 percent of crops are wasted due to spoilage during transport. With a shorter distance between food and consumers, harvested produce can be delivered while it's still fresh.

Indoor plant production has already been successfully implemented in Japan. The country has about 50 fully operational factories that grow everything from lettuce to strawberries. These facilities pump out food two to four times faster than traditional farming. When functioning at full capacity, they can produce up to three million vegetables per year.

Meat, on the other hand, will be trickier to copy, yet it is as essential as plants. Livestock consume more energy per food unit than any plant crop. For example, one pound of beef requires 16 pounds of grain and 2,500 gallons of water. Obviously, if everyone became a vegetarian, this would no longer be a problem. But a campaign to convince billions of omnivorous humans to stop eating meat wouldn't stand a chance. Thus, scientists are experimenting to create meat. To accomplish this, cells are taken from live animals and stored to grow into meat over time. In theory, this process could meet global demands. However, the idea is still in its infancy.

Until scientists achieve artificial food production, you should consider restricting your meat consumption and growing produce in your own yard. The world of 2050 will thank you.

The Beauty and Power of WATER BALLET

Those who wish to succeed in water ballet will need the elegance of a ballerina and the strength of a long-distance swimmer. Within its relatively short history, water ballet has captured the admiration of millions and has earned recognition as a legitimate sport.

Water ballet has attracted fans since the early 1900s. Annette Kellerman, an Australian, is often credited as the founder of this sport. As a child, she was afflicted with rickets, a disease that weakens the bones. She began swimming in order to strengthen her legs. After years of practice, she dubbed herself an “underwater ballerina” and started to perform a swimming and diving routine in a glass tank. Her act was so dazzling that she was soon convinced to take her show to America, where it had triumphant success.

Originally an individual sport, water ballet became a popular group activity after membership in water ballet clubs grew. In the 1930s, it was renamed “synchronized swimming” which more accurately describes the perfect unison of swimmers’ dance moves. It wasn’t until the 1980s that it was included in the Olympic Games as a competitive sport.

Today’s synchronized swimmers are more athletic than the water ballerinas of the past. Members of the Aquamaids, the toughest synchronized swimming club in America, practice eight hours a day, six days a week. Not only do they complete thousands of laps every week, they also spend numerous hours in gymnastics classes. Although it’s a formidable commitment, joining the Aquamaids is the best choice for anyone who wants to make the US Olympic team. This club has produced more than 60 percent of the swimmers that have gone to the Olympics to participate in the sport.

There are other options available for professional synchronized swimmers. One of the most famous groups in the world is the Weeki Wachee Mermaids, who put on show in Florida. These talented swimmers have been doing amazing stunts in an underwater theater for over 60 years. Interestingly, the mermaid costumes are based on the original designs that were used by Annette Kellerman during her acts almost 100 years ago.

It’s true that synchronized swimmers make their sport look effortless, but don’t be fooled. It takes extensive training to pull off the complicated movements these real-life mermaids perform every day.

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