

YEK Alumni Connection

Come to *Dreams to Dividends* in your area

And support YEK Ambassadors while you're there!

Every year, YEK honors students, teachers, volunteers and others at its three regional *Dreams to Dividends* awards ceremonies. These events are free and open to the public, and promise to be packed with entrepreneurial students who will wow guests with their business ideas and displays.

As YEK alumni, you are always invited to attend the *Dreams to Dividends* event in your area (see the calendar on Page 3 for dates, times and locations) but it is especially important that you consider attending this year's award ceremony.

The YEK Ambassadors will be at *Dreams to Dividends* selling YEK gear to raise money for their Summer Learning Trip. The Ambassadors Association is comprised of alumni from across the state. The mission of the Ambassadors Association is to continue learning about and experiencing the marketplace, perform community service and pursue the entrepreneurial spirit.

One way that Ambassadors fulfill this mission is by traveling in the summer to other business markets around the country for a Summer Learning Trip. This August, 20 Ambassadors from Wichita, Topeka, Lawrence and Kansas City will have the opportunity to travel to Atlanta to explore several entrepreneurial businesses there, as



West High YEK alumnus, Jaime Valverde, hands out his business card at the 2006 Wichita *Dreams to Dividends*. Jaime's business plan, *Aztec Candy Co.*, sold party supplies, including life-size piñatas like the one pictured here.

Come see this year's business ideas at your area *Dreams to Dividends* awards ceremony and support YEK Ambassadors while you're there!

well as enjoy recreational time at some of Atlanta's many attractions!

Ambassadors are undertaking a number of activities to raise money for this trip. One idea was to sell YEK t-shirts, Biz Paks, and other YEK items at *Dreams to Dividends* in each of the program areas. Please come to the awards ceremony in your area and bring your wallet! You can stock up on all things YEK and help the Ambassadors go to Atlanta at the same time. ★

Spotlight on Success: Andy Gillette

No one would have guessed that the skinny, geeky kid in the back of Wichita North High School's 1998-1999 YEK class would someday be chosen for a highly competitive internship in Washington, D.C. But Andy Gillette is doing just that.

Gillette has accepted a position with the Charles G. Koch Foundation in Washington, D.C., which he will begin in June of this year, and where he will "research and teach free-market principles."

"This is a dream job for me," says Gillette. "I feel like my involvement with YEK, what I studied in school, where I've worked in the past--these all lined up just for this job."

Gillette has been extremely involved with YEK over the years. He won the regional business plan competition in 1999, and went on to hold numerous leadership positions in the Ambassadors Association. He worked in the YEK office as the student assistant in 2002 and 2003, and has continued to volunteer for YEK, even as he double-majored at WSU in Entrepreneurship and English Literature.

When Gillette graduates in May, he will not only have two degrees, he will have a wealth of volunteer, internship and employment experience, including his

current position as marketing/communications associate for Allen, Gibbs & Houlik. The common thread in all of these endeavors is Gillette's unrelenting pursuit of the entrepreneurial principle called "opportunity recognition."



Gillette pictured in Thailand, where he studied abroad in 2005.

After reporting that he was a high school kid who saw opportunities but rarely acted on them, Gillette says, "YEK taught me that seeing an opportunity and NOT acting upon it is worse than not seeing it in the first place."

His advice to his fellow alumni follows suit: "Step outside of your comfort zone as often as possible. If you're doing something that's not giving you 'butterflies' or not scaring you a little bit, you're wasting your talents."

In other news...

Venue for Wichita *Dreams to Dividends* changed this year

If you've been to the YEK awards ceremony in Wichita in the last several years, you've gone to the Wichita Botanical Gardens. This year, *Dreams to Dividends* will be at The Grand Chapel, 828 N. Broadway, across from The Artichoke. There is parking on both sides of the building.

The Topeka/Lawrence *Dreams to Dividends* will be in the traditional location: The Bradbury Thompson Center on Washburn University's campus in Topeka. In its second year, the Kansas City location will also be the

same: The Party Theme Emporium at 2420 Merriam Lane in Kansas City.

Summer Partnership businesses and dates announced

The 2007 Summer Partnerships for Wichita are:

- Associated Advertising, July 6-20
- Cessna Aircraft Company, June 11-15, 19
- Kansas World Trade Center, June 18-29
- Smith Barney, May 30-July 25 (Mixer May 16)

Topeka and Lawrence YEK alums can apply for the Security Benefit summer partnership, June 11-15.

Upcoming Events

April 2007

- Apr 6—YEK Offices Closed
- Apr 12—Topeka/Lawrence Ambassadors meeting
- Apr 19—Wichita-area Ambassadors meeting
- Apr 24—Wichita YEK/Junior League Book Club
- Apr 26—Wichita-area Business Plan Competition and KCK Ambassadors meeting
- Apr 27—Summer Partnership applications DUE in Wichita!

See the YEK website for details on these and other events:

www.yeks.org/calendar

May 2007

- May 3—Kansas City Business Plan Competition
- May 4—Topeka/Lawrence Business Plan Competition
- May 9—Wichita *Dreams to Dividends*, 6:45 p.m., The Grand Chapel
- May 10—Topeka/Lawrence Ambassadors meeting
- May 16—Topeka/Lawrence *Dreams to Dividends*, 7 p.m., Washburn's Bradbury Thompson Center
- May 17—Wichita-area and KCK Ambassadors meeting
- May 22—Kansas City *Dreams to Dividends*, 7 p.m., Theme Party Emporium
- May 28—YEK Offices Closed

June 2007

- June 6-8—YEK Teacher Training for all Kansas teachers
- June 14—YEK Board of Directors meeting
- June 21—Wichita-area Ambassadors meeting

Also go to the YEK website for information on internships, employment and scholarships.

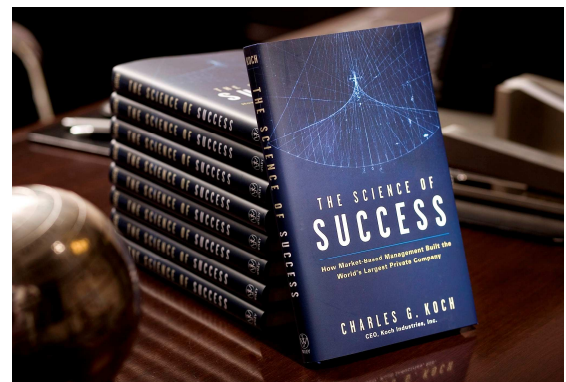
[www.yeks.org/
student-resources](http://www.yeks.org/student-resources)

(You'll have to remember what "ROI" stands for to log in.)

Business advice from the experts

Advice from Charles Koch, CEO, Koch Industries, Inc.

"We [at Koch Industries, Inc.] strive to select, reward and provide opportunities for individuals who create or have the potential to create the most value. This is why we appreciate the value of diversity. A truly free society rewards people according to their individual merits, not by what group they are associated with. Similarly, organizations applying [Market Based Management] reward people according to their virtue and contributions. We strive to find those who can create the most value through a diversity of perspectives, experiences, knowledge and abilities. Diversity within a company is also important to help it better understand and relate to its customers and communities in this diverse world."



Koch, Charles G. *The Science of Success: How Market-Based Management Built the World's Largest Company*. New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2007. This excerpt used by permission.

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In this issue:

- ★ *Dreams to Dividends* & the opportunity to support Ambassadors
- ★ Spotlight on Success
- ★ Business Advice from the Experts
- ★ Summer Partnership information
- ★ And more!

Thank you for reading the **YEK Alumni Connection!**

Let us know how we can improve the newsletter and what you'd like to see inside! Call 316-978-7955 or email jennifer@yeks.org.

Join the **YEK Facebook group:**
Y.E.K. - You're going to work for me someday!
(Find it under Student Groups > Classes & Departments.)

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