

Young Scholars LPP Mentoring Newsletter



Newsletter
January 2021

Linda Stewart
Mentor Coordinator



"A mentor is not someone who walks ahead of you to show you how they did it. A mentor walks alongside you to show you what you can do."

NEW MENTORS

Welcome:

Alexia Holmer - UCSD

James Hayes - Community

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Goal - increase visibility of the Young Scholars Mentoring Program and recruit mentors from all walks of life.

November 13, 2020 - The Utica Rotary Club invited me to speak about the mentoring program, via Zoom.

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GROW BIG DREAMS

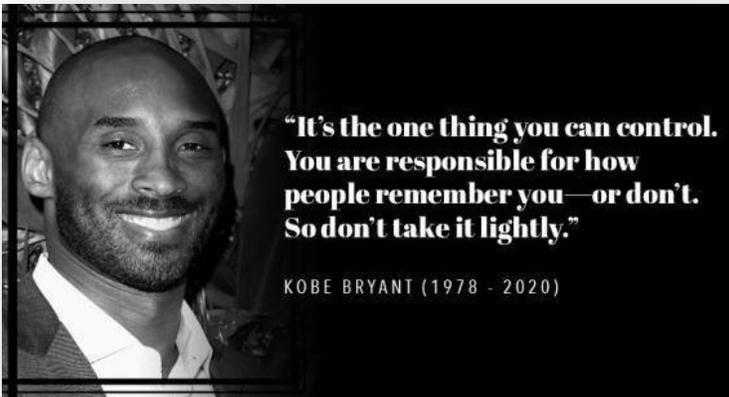
**THANK
YOU**



**THANK
YOU**

Thank you to all of the mentors who had to change gears in March of 2020, I honor you today.

Mentoring became virtual, you may have had to work from home, some mentors are also home schooling children and we had to learn new technology all while socially distancing. I know it has been challenging, but together we accomplished so much. We are stronger and I hope that 2021 brings us all back together.



2021
HAPPY NEW YEAR

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I may remember. Involve me and I learn." **Benjamin Franklin**

"The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled." **Plutarch**

"In learning, you will teach, and in teaching, you will learn." **Phil Collins**

Beautiful minds inspire others

Ongoing
Community Service/Service Learning Project
Save those sneakers! We will be collecting them throughout the 20/21 school year.



Join us for our first annual sneaker drive fundraiser.

In the spirit of environmental and economic sustainability, we have partnered with GotSneakers, a sneaker recycling organization, which will compensate up to \$3 for every pair of wearable athletic sneakers. There is no limit to the amount of money we can earn. All funds raised will be donated to a food bank in Utica. After the sneakers are collected, GotSneakers will process and distribute these sneakers around the world, specifically with impoverished nations. We can touch the lives of thousands by simply cleaning out our closets and collecting our unwanted sneakers. The request is simple: Clean out yours and your family's closets of all unwanted paired sneakers.

We will be collecting sneakers throughout the 20/21 school year and will advise where to drop off the sneakers once we are back to school.

**200
MILLION**

In the United States, at least 200 million pairs of shoes and sneakers end up in landfills each year.



Shoes in landfills can take 30 to 40 years to decompose.



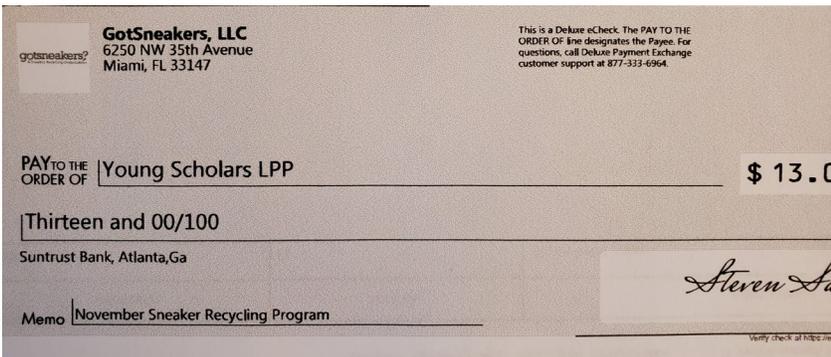
More than 600 million people worldwide don't even own a pair of shoes.



Our first full bag!

Our First Check!

This check along with any other proceeds, will be donated to a food bank in Utica.



Our First Zoo Mobile was held on November 14, 2020



Community Service Service Learning Opportunity

Utica Zoo will be presenting endangered species. They will introduce 4 different animals live on ZOOM!

Attendees receive 30 minutes community service. Follow up Research project "How to prevent these animals from becoming extinct" 1 additional hour of community service.

**Students & Mentors please join us on
Saturday, November 14, 2020 1 pm -1:30 pm**
Please log on 5 minutes early - the program starts promptly at 1 pm
Zoom Code:



Participate and you will be entered in a drawing to win the Utica Zoo shirt and other prizes!



Spotted turtle



Barred owl



Chinchilla



**Sponsor: First Source
Federal Credit Union.**

**Our Mentors only Event was held on
December 8th 7 to 7:30 pm**



Thank you mentors for attending our first **Mentor Only Event!** We discussed the wants and needs of mentors and mentees among other things. I received a lot of great suggestions. One thing I have already incorporated was a monthly calendar with all the flyers and zoom links in one place. Game night was another request and we have that scheduled for January 28th at 6:30 p.m.



Ann Rieben - \$25 gift certificate to Peter's Cornucopia

Peter Lennon - bottle of wine

Maureen Finnegan - bottle of wine.

Our Winter Wonderland Event was held on December 17, 2020.

Our first Winter Wonderland Event was well attended. Ebony and her mentee, Layah, submitted these cute snowmen and Santa which were made from pillar candles and objects from around the house.

Great imagination!



Young Scholars Zoom Event & Contest (prizes)

All students - including their family members and mentors & mentees

December 17, 2020 at 6:00 pm

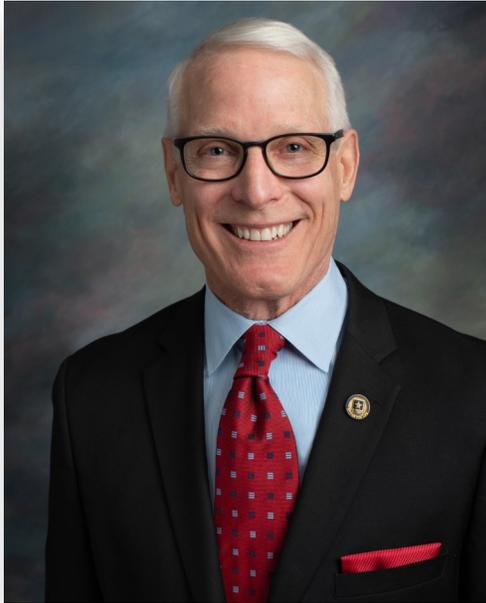
Zoom Link: LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

Samples



Official Rules

1. You Must submit your entry by noon on December 16, 2020. Send photo of your entry via email to: atnovick@utica.edu.
 2. Use only what you have at home such as: cardboard, milk container, paper, glue paper towel or toilet paper rolls etc.
 3. No food products allowed - for any project including gingerbread house.
 4. Staff will vote on winners in a blind vote.
 5. Make a gingerbread house, mobile, pop up card, 3-D winter scene etc.
- Use your imagination & be creative.



Featured Mentor

Peter Lennon

Although I don't have any biological children, I have always enjoyed the energy and creativity of the younger generation. Years ago, I coached High School wrestling and nothing could beat the feeling of being "matside" when, after months of dedicated practice (and even some self-doubt), everything just "came together" for one of my wrestlers in a hard-fought victory.

I witnessed this feeling many times in my 40-year military career, seeing my Soldiers develop individually, as members of a team, and eventually as leaders. Young Scholars is one more chance to coach and influence- and, if you're lucky, you once again witness that smile of satisfaction and accomplishment. Somewhere along the way, you also realize that even though you are an adult, you have grown too.

My mentee, Louis told his Mom that he thought the Young Scholars program and the few hours of contact with a mentor each month would offer him "another perspective." It has given me that and so much more...

Right now our physical contact is "on-hold" due to COVID. I can't be in the stands during his sports events or share our thoughts over a salad (he eats healthier than I do!) But I still smile each time we exchange a simple text or phone call as he carefully contemplates his next steps.

I was lucky to be matched up with a bright and focused young man with a very bright future. (I know there are many more great young folks just waiting for a mentor, but I'm pretty proud to have Louis as my Young Scholars teammate.)

We have built a friendship that I hope will grow beyond the mentor/mentee level: I eagerly look forward to hearing about his new opportunities and experiences.

What a rewarding program for both the mentors and mentees!



Featured Mentee Louis Robinson

Peter attended a Proctor football game to show support for Louis. Looks like they both enjoyed the day.



When the virus started to spike and forced the schools to shut down back in March I was stoked. Taking an extra few weeks away from school was good but after a while we couldn't go back to school for the rest of the year. Then realizing that's going to affect my senior year and couldn't get the full senior year experience. I had to miss proms, fall dances and sports; it was just disappointing. But I couldn't think negative- I started to do little projects to keep me busy I tried cooking, tinkered with toy cars and I even attempted meditation which made me feel calm and focus on my studies and applications. I'm also relying on the technology we have by emailing teachers for help: I go on-line for studying and do more research on the computer to get the proper information for my classes. (Louis Robinson)

When the going gets tough the tough get going!

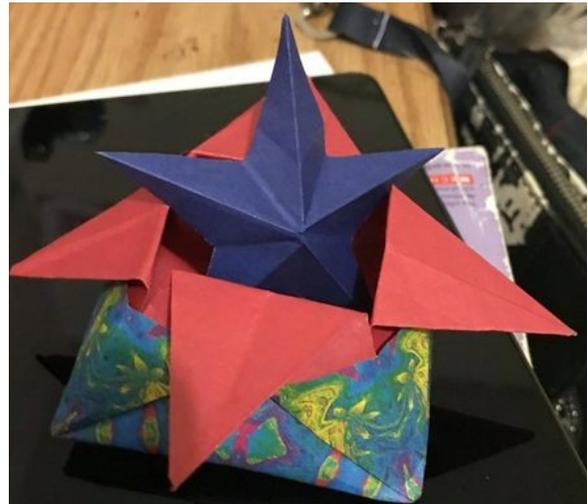
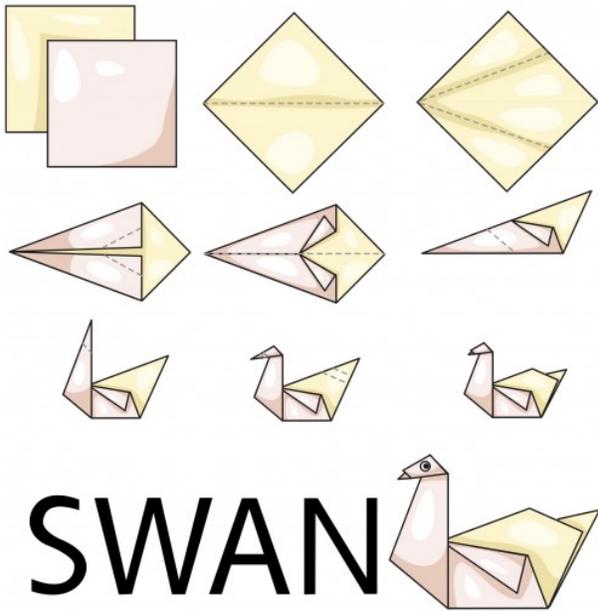
So impressed by the Mentors/Mentees creativity!



Kelly and Mumina found a way to keep their annual Christmas Cookie baking tradition, even during the pandemic. Kelly sent Mumina all the necessary ingredients by using Instacart at a grocery store near Mumina's house. Once that was done, they were able to bake cookies together via Zoom! Looks like Mumina had a great day!

ORIGAMI

More creativity. Holley mailed her two mentees, Vy and Truth origami paper. As you can see, they had fun and were actually very good at making origami swans.



**Our 2nd Zoo Mobile Event was held on
December 27, 2020**

 **Back by popular demand!**
**Utica Zoo Mobile
with live animals!**



FREE EVENT - JUST FOR FUN
This is for all Students including your whole family &
Mentors and Mentees
Sunday, December 27th at 3:00 p.m.
Proctor students use Proctor Zoom Link
Zoom Code:



Python



Lizard

It was too big to fit into one picture!



Opossum—This is the largest marsu-
pial in the Western Hemisphere.



**Thank you to our
donor who asked
to remain anonymous**

UPCOMING EVENTS



Local Author Melinda Grace



Mentees who attend will receive a free autographed copy of Melinda's book.

Smart and unflinching, this #OwnVoices debut contemporary novel stars an ambitious college student who refuses to be defined by her central auditory processing disorder.

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

6:30 pm

Zoom Link Will be sent via E-mail

Meeting ID Will be sent via E-mail

UPCOMING EVENTS



Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021

Time: 6:30 pm

Zoom Link Will be sent via Email

Meeting ID Will be sent via Email

PRIZES!  **PRIZES!**  **PRIZES!**

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Please share this flyer with your mentees. Both mentors and mentees can win prizes for this event!

PLEASE JOIN US

Celebrating Success

Student of the Month Program

To keep students motivated during this period of remote learning, Young Scholars LPP implemented a Student of the Month program for all YS to acknowledge students who are working hard to reach their potential. Please review our winners for September-November below. **Several of your mentees were chosen.**

September Students of the Month:

Angelina Khaing (DMS, grade 8), Htat Soe Paing (PHS, grade 9), Genesis Campbell (PHS, grade 11), Tulsi Patel (PHS, grade 12)



Angelina



Htat



Genesis



Tulsi

Celebrating Success

October - No mentees.

November Students of the Month:

Kimora Lee Simmons (PHS, grade 9), Ju Mi La (PHS, grade 10), Eh Moo Serr (PHS, grade 11)

Congratulations!



Kimora



Ju Mi La



Eh Moo

REMINDER

If you would like to be featured in our next newsletter, please feel free to contact me at lbstewart@utica.edu.

Also, feel free to submit photos and articles for consideration.

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

