

# YLA Newsletter



YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

A Not-For-Profit 501 c 3 Corporation

## YLA Scholarship at Judson University



For cadets interested in earning a four-year degree, they may be able to do so with a full tuition scholarship at Judson University.

Judson has partnered with the Youth Leadership Academy to offer cadets a scholarship once they have completed their Associate's

Degree at Elgin Community College. Why would a cadet want to attend Judson? There are a number of reasons: a 12:1 student-to-teacher ratio, the large number of faculty who hold a doctorate degree in their field, study abroad programs that allow students to learn in another culture for a semester, the great location, and more! Any YLA cadet interested in attending Judson is encouraged to call their Admissions Office to set up an individual tour. That number is 1-800-TRY-JDSN. Cadets are also encouraged to share their intention of attending Judson with the YLA Executive Director so that paperwork can be properly organized. Please know that there may be no more than four (4) YLA Scholarship recipients at Judson University in any calendar year. Recipients must complete the Free Application for Free Student Aid (FAFSA) on or before April 15th and must maintain a 3.0 grade point average while on campus.

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The YLA Newsletter is produced the YLA office and is distributed once per month. Any comments, questions or letters can be addressed to YLA 410 Renner Dr., Elgin, IL 60123.

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### YLA CADET VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**What:** Ushers / Greeters for Elgin's 26th Annual Celebration of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

**When:** Sunday, January 16, 2011 from 3:00—6:00 pm

**Where:** Hemmens Cultural Center, 45 Sympho-ny Way, downtown Elgin.

**YLA Field Trip** for Monday, January 17, is **cancelled**. Cadets are encouraged to use this day to make progress on their Service-Learning project issue research.



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### LIBRARY TEEN CENTER OPENS

Studio 270 is the newest and coolest place for high school teens to hang out in the Elgin area. It is located at the Gail Borden Library and comes equipped with a performance stage, a gaming station, a craft table, laptops available for check-out and more. **Monday, January 17, is the Grand Opening from 9:00 am—**

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## YLA Kicks Off 2010 Service-Learning Projects

Thirteen (13) small groups of cadets will begin meeting this month to begin their Service-Learning experience. Service-Learning begins with cadets researching an issue to better understand why there is a need for community service projects. Cadets will then together work as teams to decide, plan and implement a service project that will address the larger issue in a positive way. At the conclusion of their service projects, cadets will make presentations to various community groups about what they have accomplished and learned, and encourage others to give back.

If you are interested in helping with any Service-Learning group, please contact the YLA office.

The Service-Learning groups have been organized on the following issues, based on cadet interests:

1. Invisible children in Uganda
2. Bullying behavior
3. Unethical treatment of animals
4. Gang violence and prevention
5. Prevention of drug abuse
6. Youth in Belarus
7. Boys developing into respectful and responsible men
8. Girls developing into confident and strong women
9. Homelessness
10. Being green and environmentally friendly
11. Nutrition and staying healthy
12. Basketball Tournament
13. Cross-cultural communication

## YLA New Office Open House on Jan. 26

The Youth Leadership Academy offices were moved over the holidays to the new Multipurpose Classroom Building (MPC) on Elgin Community College's main campus. The new office address is 410 Renner Dr., Elgin, IL 60123. For all who want to come and visit our new space, please come to the MPC Open House on Wednesday, January 26, from 3:30—5:00 pm.

### Quote of the month:

**“All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.”**  
— Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

## Higher Education: How Far Will You Go?

Certificate or Diploma — these are not college degrees, rather, programs that institutions such as Elgin Community College offers that generally lead to employment in an occupational field. For example, ECC offers a Vocational Certificate: Automotive Electrical Specialist. This program educates the student in automotive electrical, brake and suspension, and engine mechanical repair.

Associate's Degree — this degree is awarded to students completing two years of study (full time) similar to the first two years of a four-year college. Community colleges or four-year universities offer these degrees. Students who complete an A.A. may transfer to a four-year college to complete the requirements for a bachelor's degree. For example, Elgin Community College has an Associates in Art degree for students studying Criminal Justice, Education, Music, Pre-Law and more.

Bachelor's Degree — this degree is awarded to students completing four years of study (full time) at a college. For example, Judson University has bachelor degrees in art and science (sometimes called undergraduate programs). A student must determine a major such as psychology, sociology, education, business, or architecture (there are more) that will help them gain a career in a particular professional field.

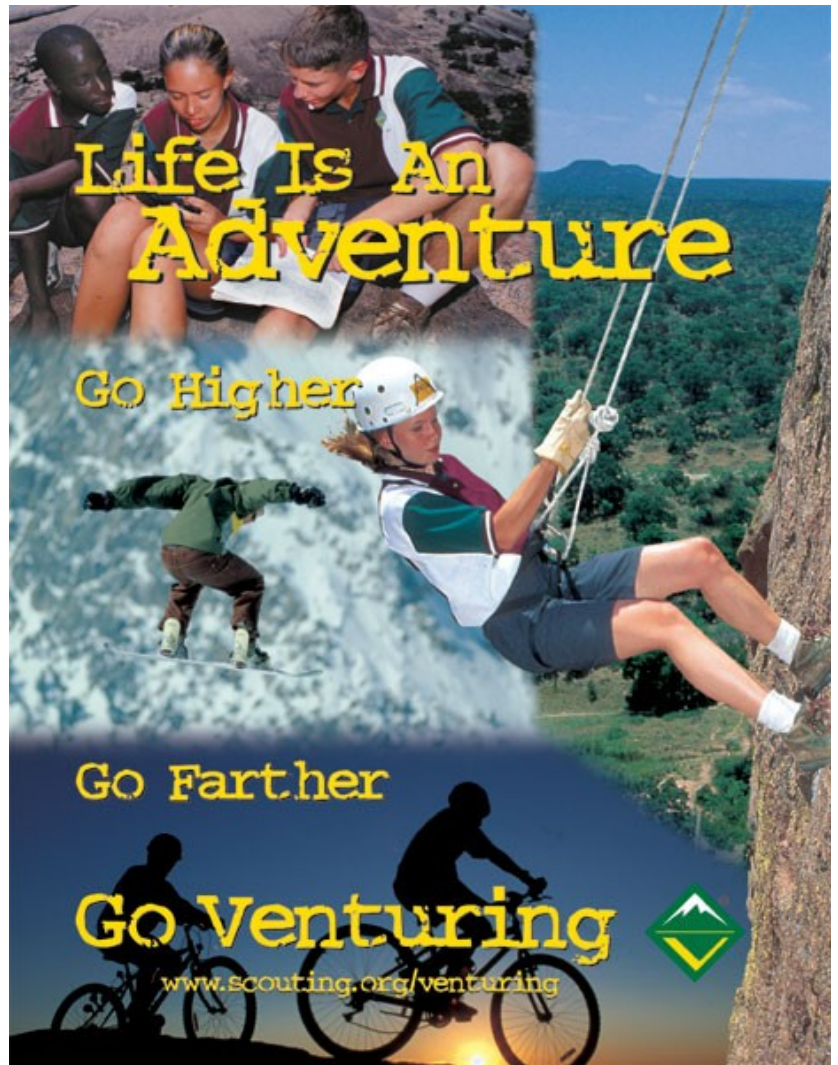
Graduate Degrees — these are degrees that require additional years of study, based on the field of study. A Master's Degree is usually completed within two years of additional study. For example, Judson University offers a Masters of Education with ESL/Bilingual Endorsement. A Doctorate Degree is obtained with successful completion of a coursework and individual research beyond the masters level. A PhD, or Doctor of Philosophy, is one kind of Doctorate Degree, as is the MD, Doctor of Medicine.

## YLA Partners with Boy Scouts

YLA Cadets: what are you doing for the summer? Your answer may be Venture Crew! Thanks to a new partnership with the Boy Scouts—Three Fires Council, interested cadets can sign up to participate in a newly formed co-educational (meaning, not just for boys!) troop. YLA Venture Crew #200 is a skill building team that will gain practical leadership experience in the outdoors. Crew members will have access to camps, outdoor equipment, and trained Scouting leaders. Crew activities may include canoeing, camping, hiking, biking, fishing, and learning about the local natural environment.

Any cadet interested in joining the Venture Crew may do so at any time beginning January 2011. The group will meet after each YLA working session for an hour alongside YLA PLUS. The Crew will be leading all YLA cadets in a Teambuilding Event on April 30th.

Parents: If you're interested in being a part of the YLA Venture Crew, Scouting experts Robert Faber and Sue Webb will train you! No previous experience with scouting or outdoor activities is necessary. Contact the YLA office for details.



## Average Annual Earnings for College Graduates and Non-Graduates

Professional Degree	\$109,600
Doctoral Degree	\$89,400
Master's Degree	\$62,300
Bachelor's Degree	\$52,200
Associate's Degree	\$38,200
Some College	\$36,800
High School Graduate	\$30,400
Some High School	\$23,400

Source: US Census Bureau, Current Population Surveys, March 1998, 1999 and 2000 as charted on [EarnMyDegree.com](http://EarnMyDegree.com).



### YLA THANK YOU's to:

- Robert Morris University for holiday cookies that were shared with cadets and their families at the December 18 YLA session!
- Multifilm Packaging Corporation for their financial gift!
- Melissa Chee, London and Olivia Bradley, Dr. Wes Scott and Lois Stark for their financial gifts!
- All cadets who helped with the Borders Bookstore fundraiser!
- Elgin Leadership Academy for mentoring the Service-Learning groups!

# Youth Leadership Academy

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*"I AM on the path to success.  
I AM college bound."*

**Visit us online at  
[www.ylaecc.org](http://www.ylaecc.org)**

## Mission of the Youth Leadership Academy:

We engage and inspire youth to maximize their potential to become successful community leaders through the access and responsible utilization of post-secondary education.

## YLA Office Hours:

- Monday—Friday, 9:00 am—3:00 pm
- No office hours on Saturday
- Summer Schedule: Monday—Thursday, 9:00 am—3:00 pm.

## YLA Board members:

- Dr. Wes Scott, President, Elgin
- JoAnne Fields Whittaker, Vice President, Elgin
- Kevin Stark, Treasurer, Algonquin
- Jeri E. Smith, Secretary, Elgin
- Eric Isibue, West Dundee
- Eary Isibue, Elgin
- V. Elaine Miller, Elgin
- Danesa Tamayo, Belvidere
- Dr. Bruce Austin, Grayslake
- Dr. Julie Schaid, Elburn

## YLA Executive Director:

Dianha Ortega-Ehreth

## YLA Administrative Assistant:

Karen McCoy



## NPC President, Alan Bjerga, to speak at YLA Fundraising Dinner March 11

The Youth Leadership Academy will be holding a fundraising dinner on Friday, March 11, at Elgin Community College — University Business Center (UBC) “Leaders and Educators in a Networked World.” The featured speaker is the 2010 National Press Club President, Alan Bjerga. The theme of the evening will be: **How does education develop leaders and how do leaders educate?**

Alan Bjerga will speak on his experience as 2010 president of the National Press Club, the world’s leading professional organization for journalists, and his impressions of leaders as educators. From his interactions with leaders ranging including former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, actor Dennis Quaid, members of Congress and cabinet officials, community leaders in African villages and corporate CEOs, Alan will detail how leaders inform and guide those around them toward building positive experiences.

Alan will share about his own rise to leadership within a media organization during a turbulent time for journalism and how his own education in a rural town with a high poverty rate prepared him for a globally visible career.

For tickets (\$50 per person), call the YLA office at 847-214-6910.