

Duke | ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERS NETWORK

A partnership between

Duke  INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Duke | TRANSLATION & COMMERCIALIZATION



2023 Cohort

Padowitz Alce LLM '10

Pad is an expert in AI-related Patents and the founding Patent Attorney of AI Patent Law, which is a boutique patent law firm specializing in patents for artificial intelligence and other complex technologies of startups and similar emerging companies. Pad has personally secured over 100+ Patent Grants in AI and machine learning technologies for his startup clients with a 100% success rate for patent applications prepared and prosecuted by his firm.

Pad is also an investor with Duke Capital Partners and periodically makes angel investments in various technology startups.

Pad completed his undergraduate studies in engineering at NC State University in his hometown of Raleigh, NC, obtained his JD/MBA from Campbell Law School and Business School, and a Master of Law & Entrepreneurship from Duke Law School. Pad is married to Shonda Alce with two children, Aiden and Elijah.



Jed Carlson MBA '05

Jed Carlson was the founder and chief executive officer of Adwerx, which made digital marketing for real estate agents brilliantly simple, leading it to \$30M in revenue in just 4 years. Jed believes that real estate agents should get the same tools as rock stars, literally.

That's because Jed is the co-founder and former president of ReverbNation (sold to BandLab in 2021), the leading digital marketing platform for over 5 million independent musicians and bands around the globe. It was inside of ReverbNation that Adwerx was conceived and incubated, being spun out in December of 2014 with Jed at the helm. Under Jed's leadership, Adwerx earned numerous awards such as Inc Magazine's Fastest Growing Privately Held Companies (5x), and Best Places to Work (4x).

Before earning his MBA from Duke University (winner of all scholarships for academic achievement), Jed was a successful entrepreneur in Minneapolis with a focus on technology and marketing. His past ventures include The Carlson Print Group, a commercial printing and packaging company, and SmartPrint, a division of AmericDisc Inc.

Jed continues to be obsessed with taking on the digital challenges that face small businesses, and building scalable, simple and affordable products to solve them. He is also an active angel investor, mentor and advisor to over ten tech startups. And he's is a frequent speaker and panelist at conferences on technology and digital marketing.

Jed's commitment to leveling the playing field for small businesses is equal only to his devotion to guiding other entrepreneurs to success.

Jed earned his B.A. in Economics and Environmental Studies from Bowdoin College in 1995.



Michael Dzuricky PhD '19

Mike is the Director of R&D at Isolere Bio, a wholly owned subsidiary of Donaldson Inc and the former CSO of the company. Isolere Bio is developing new purification paradigms in the cell and gene therapy space with its innovative product portfolio. From 2019-2023, Mike has been responsible for the technological development of Isolere Bio core products, responsible for growing the business from 3 to over 20 employees and securing over \$7M dollars in non-dilutive capital.

Mike attended Duke University from 2013-2019 to earn his PhD in Biomedical Engineering, publishing over 20 co-authored research papers and filing 2 patents during his tenure. He also worked for over a year in the Office for Translation and Commercialization as a technology transfer fellow. Upon graduation, Mike was awarded the "Outstanding Dissertation Award" for the year 2019. Previously, he earned a Bachelors from Case Western Reserve University in Biomedical Engineering. Mike collects extracurricular activities like they are trading cards but oft can be found outside the lab hiking with his young family and dog, playing orchestral music as an amateur cellist and absorbing copious amounts of soccer from abroad.



Doug Eisner JD, MBA '07

Doug was the Co-Founder and COO of GrassRoots Biotechnology, an agricultural biotechnology company that was spun out of Duke University. The GrassRoots team grew the company to 25 employees with over \$4 million in annual revenue. Monsanto acquired GrassRoots in 2013.

Doug has managed and advised numerous technology startups in the areas of agriculture, diagnostics, medical devices and microbiology. Currently, Doug is the Co-Founder and CEO of Catalyst Research Alliance, a data licensing company.

Doug began his career as an attorney, working as a prosecutor in the New York County District Attorney's Office and then as a litigator in commercial law firms.



John Fallone LLM '17

John is a corporate transactions attorney who spends a majority of his time working on venture capital and M&A transactions for early-stage/technology companies. Prior to practicing law, John co-founded SendHub, a startup dedicated to simplifying business phone systems. SendHub was a member of Y Combinator's Winter 2012 Batch and raised ~\$10MM from family, friends, angels, VCs and a public company. While helping guide SendHub to an exit, John realized that he preferred working on legal projects and strategy over building a startup. This realization led to the Fallone SV, a law firm that focuses on helping entrepreneurs and early-stage companies navigate the legal complexities of building a company. John has helped his clients close angel/venture capital transactions ranging from just a few thousand dollars to fifty million dollars; he has also worked on M&A transactions having deal sizes up to one hundred million dollars. John earned a JD from George Mason University School of Law and an LLM from Duke Law School. A long, long time ago, John earned a BS from FSU, where he walked on the football team and threw shot put for the Seminoles.



Kat Horvath PhD '22

Kathleen (Kat) Horvath, Ph.D. is a recent graduate from the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at Duke University. Her Ph.D. research centered on designing, constructing, and testing a portable mass spectrometer (an analytical chemistry instrument) for use in detecting hazardous environmental pollutants. Kat is currently the Business & Environment Fellow in the Nicholas School of the Environment and has been evaluating the commercial viability of spinning out this portable mass spectrometer technology. Beyond her research experience, Kat was a Duke Environmental Impact Fellow, a Duke delegate to the U.N. Climate Change Conference (COP26 in Glasgow), the Vice President for the Engineering Graduate Student Council, and a Co-President of Duke Climate Coalition. Prior to joining Duke, Kat received her B.S. in Nanoscale Engineering from the University at Albany (State University of New York) and spent two years working at Cree Inc. (now Wolfspeed) as a Process Sustaining Engineer.



Cam Irwin JD '23

Cam is a third-year student at Duke Law pursuing a dual degree in Law & Entrepreneurship. After graduation, he plans to join Cooley's emerging companies and venture capital practice group, where he will partner with entrepreneurs and investors to continue advancing the innovation ecosystem.

At Duke, Cam leads a team of legal associates within Duke Capital Partners, a venture network that connects and supports the Duke entrepreneurial community. Additionally, as a member of the Duke Startup Ventures Clinic, he has supported local founders with their various legal needs.

Before coming to Duke, Cam worked in corporate development at a fintech startup. In that role, he helped the company raise a \$7M seed round and develop a market-leading platform for financial institutions. He credits this experience and his mentors for cultivating his passion for entrepreneurship.

Cam holds an M.S. in Innovation & Management and a B.A. in Economics and Finance from Tufts University, where he won two national championships playing for the lacrosse team. Outside of law school, he spends most of his time throwing a tennis ball to his Aussie, Cash, who refuses to learn how to bring the ball back.



Cambre Kelly PhD '20

Cambre Kelly cofounded restor3d while researching her doctoral thesis in biomedical engineering at Duke University. The startup creates personalized orthopedic devices using 3D printing, biomaterials, biomechanics, and AI. It's raised \$42 million and grown to more than 100 employees. In addition to serving as restor3d's CTO, Kelly founded Reselute, a startup focused on treating implant infections that received an SBIR award from the National Science Foundation. Cambre earned her Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2015 and her Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Engineering from Duke University's Pratt School of Engineering in 2020.



Evelyn Kim MBA '17

Evelyn Kim is a seasoned product management director with experience in the technology and financial services industries. From cybersecurity software to credit cards, she has developed and launched successful products that solve customer pain points and delivers business value. Her expertise is in building out strategies and driving product growth through go-to-market, product positioning, and new customer acquisition initiatives.

Currently, Evelyn serves as a Program Director, Product Management, at IBM, where she leads a global team of product managers in delivering innovative cybersecurity solutions to customers. She also co-founded an ecommerce venture called Care+Giving, which offers sympathy gifts and support for family caregivers.

Evelyn holds an MBA from Duke University and a bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech. In her spare time, she sings and performs around Boston, where she lives with her husband.



V. Cary Ritter PhD '22

Dr. Cary Ritter is a postdoctoral research fellow at Duke University in the chemistry department. Her work is focused on the design and synthesis of new biocompatible polymers for intraocular lens applications, being commercialized by a biomedical start-up. She is also actively involved in early-stage STEM investing as a venture capital associate at Duke Capital Partners. Dr. Ritter completed her Ph.D. in Chemistry at Duke University in July 2022, where she invented new types of stimuli-responsive metamaterials for applications in nanotechnology and biomedical engineering. Before Duke, Cary completed coursework in chemistry at Columbia University while working in a lab that explores novel organic molecules and their self-assembly in devices for energy transport and storage. Prior to Columbia, Cary worked as a corporate paralegal at the corporate law firm Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, where she supported multi-billion dollar M&A transactions and financings for both public and private companies. Cary graduated from Wellesley College, where she majored in economics.



Stefan Roberts PhD '18

Dr. Stefan Roberts received his BS in Biomedical Engineering from Washington University in St. Louis and his PhD from Duke University. In 2018 he co-founded a regenerative medicine startup—inSoma Bio— based on foundational technology he developed during his time at Duke. Having worked at St. Jude's Children's Hospital and Barnes Jewish Hospital early in his career, he is motivated to drive a positive change in society through healthcare innovation.



Lily Schoen MBA '23

Lily Schoen is a Master of Business Administration Candidate at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business. Prior to pursuing her MBA, Lily worked at Ernst & Young in New York City as a consultant in the Wealth Management industry. There, she focused on strategizing and developing digital products within the Financial Planning and Financial Wellness spaces.

During her time at Fuqua, Lily has focused on Healthcare, Entrepreneurship & Innovation, and Strategy. She has worked closely with the Duke Office of Translation and Commercialization through the New Venture Fellows program: initially working as a fellow on a Duke University consumer health venture, and now as the program manager to help craft subsequent New Venture Fellow classes.

After graduation, Lily will join Cigna Ventures as a senior associate working on all aspects of the investment process, including sourcing, due diligence, and transaction execution. Her mission is to create a positive impact in the healthcare space by driving growth in innovative and user-centered solutions.



Dharma Subramanian MBA '23

Dharma Subramanian is a seasoned and innovative leader with a proven track record of driving data and digital transformation across regulated and high-touch industries. With extensive experience in launching and scaling products for startups and global enterprises, he excels in developing high-performing teams and collaborating across functions to achieve desired outcomes. Dharma is a strategic thinker who thrives in fast-paced environments, resolving ambiguities and creating structures to help his teams succeed.

Dharma is an expert in owning the full product lifecycle, executing agile, outcome-driven strategies, and developing strategic partnerships. He has a deep understanding of packaging, pricing, positioning, P&L management, complex programs, and cloud technologies.

In his current role as the Director, Product Line Leader for the Global Human Health Data and Analytics Platform at Merck & Co, Dharma leads a team of 100+ cloud, data and analytics professionals. He is responsible for accelerating Merck's adoption of cloud and data-driven execution, including the development, launch, adoption, and utilization of all aspects of the Data and Analytics capabilities for Merck's Human Health division globally.

Dharma has held leadership roles at other prominent organizations such as IntegriChain, Alice, Reltio, and Veeva Systems, where he has consistently achieved significant growth in ARR and valuation. He is experienced in start-up, scale-up and turn-around situations, and in designing and implementing new product strategies that leading to high-profile customer wins.

On the personal front, Dharma is happily married and lives with his wife and two daughters in the suburbs of Philly. In his free time, he enjoys driving, playing tennis and practicing his guitar lessons on his one and only fan - his dog!



John Washington MBA '23

After completing BB&T Bank's Leadership Development Program in 2011 John joined BB&T Capital Markets Equity Research group in Richmond, VA. There he worked closely with publicly traded transportation and logistics businesses ranging in enterprise value from \$80 million to \$12 billion and provided institutional investors with investment research, equity investment ideas, management team access, and industry research.

Following his tenure at BB&T, John joined a regional boutique investment bank based in Richmond where he advised middle-market companies and executives across industries on capital raising, strategy and mergers and acquisitions.

As a banker John developed a profound respect for entrepreneurs and was compelled to try his hand on the operating side of a business. In 2015 John joined a pre-revenue, pre-product software business in Charlotte, where he served as the head of finance and corporate development. There he led a successful seven-figure funding round and contributed to various aspects of product development, including strategy, pricing, sales, marketing, and customer service.

John has co-founded, advised or invested in a number of early stage businesses, primarily in the software and tech enabled services industries. In his current role, John is the Chief Financial Officer for a Swell, a venture capital backed ecommerce platform software business based in San Francisco for which he co-led a \$20M Series A financing round.

Originally from New Orleans, LA, John completed his undergraduate degree in finance at Elon University in North Carolina, where he was inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honor society, and Omicron Delta Epsilon, an international economics honor society. Outside of work, John enjoys golf, tennis, traveling and exploring North Carolina's many great hiking trails with his partner Maggie and their five year old Golden Retriever, Mabel.



Blair Willette PhD '23

I am passionate about cutting-edge research in the biomedical fields. My personal expertise lies in the field of G Protein Coupled Receptors (GPCRs), which are crucial proteins involved every physiological process and are targeted by over 30% of all FDA approved drugs. I utilize my 6 years of training in this field to effectively communicate the novelty and value of scientific findings to people inspired by discovery and share the excitement in the potential for success. I convey more than just interesting concepts; I convey the potential impact of findings for people and markets.

I have taken the initiative to develop both scientific and business skills throughout my training. I have 5 years of PhD training at Duke University, in addition to a one-year fellowship at the NIH, dedicated to understanding receptor biology in neurological diseases using cutting-edge technologies (gene editing, proteomics, and optogenetics). To establish my business foundation, I completed courses at Duke Fuqua School of Business and earned a certificate in Innovation & Entrepreneurship from the Duke Graduate School. Additionally, I worked as an Associate with Duke Capital Partners and will be joining KdT Ventures as an Associate this summer.

I leverage my ability to critically dissect the science and evaluate business models to uncover exciting biotech investing opportunities. My passion for biotech startups fuels my work. I am always interested in connecting with people to share ideas and learn more about the industry.



Abby Williams MBA '23

Abby is a second-year MBA student at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business. At Fuqua, Abby is concentrating in Health Sector Management and is the co-president of the Entrepreneurship and Venture Capital Club. She is interested in supporting family caregivers of the elderly and improving access and outcomes in healthcare. Prior to Fuqua, she spent six years at Suvoda, a high growth pharmaceutical and biotech clinical trial software startup backed by LLR Partners. Abby held multiple roles on the client services and talent teams as the company scaled from 60 to 700 employees globally. During her MBA summer, Abby was a Strategy Intern at Sprinter Health, a Series A startup reimagining last mile healthcare. Abby graduated cum laude from Lafayette College in 2015 with a BS in Neuroscience and BA in Policy Studies. She also holds a Master of Behavioral and Decision Sciences from the University of Pennsylvania. Outside of school and work, she is an avid Philadelphia sports fan and even named her dog after former head coach, Doug Pederson.

