KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr. Julio O. De Castro (Dominican Republic) is the Lewis family distinguished professor of global management and professor of Entrepreneurship at Babson College. Previously, he was Associate Dean of Research and Professor of Strategy and entrepreneurship management at Instituto de Empresa in Madrid, Spain and Associate professor of organizational management at the University of Colorado. Julio teaches in the areas of strategy and entrepreneurship. His research examines entrepreneurial and cross-cultural aspects of firm management and strategy with particular attention to the characteristics of the process of entrepreneurship; entrepreneurial failure and exits; the nature of entrepreneurship among women and Hispanics and the nature of the entrepreneurial process in micro-enterprises. Julio has consulted for a number of firms, both in the U.S. and internationally, and his work has been published in Journals such as the “Academy of Management Journal” and the “Journal of Management Studies.” He has served on the Board of Governors of the Academy of Management and on the Editorial Board of such publications as the “Journal of World Business” and “Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice” and is the president of the Iberoamerican Academy of Management.

Richard Herman, Esq., (United States) is a nationally-known immigration lawyer and commentator on immigration, global diversity and global business development. He has appeared on FOX News (The O’Reilly Factor), ABC News 20/20, National Public Radio, affiliates of NBC, CBS, and ABC and has been interviewed by numerous television and radio stations around the U.S. He has also appeared in many publications such as BusinessWeek, Forbes, USA Today and the Washington Times. Richard is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University School of Law, speaks Russian and is a former resident of Moscow, Russia where he practiced law for nearly two years. Along with Robert Smith of the Cleveland Plain Dealer newspaper, Richard co-authored “Immigrant, Inc. --- Why Immigrant Entrepreneurs Are Driving the New Economy (and how they will save the American worker.” He is the co-founder of TiE-Ohio, a chapter of The International Entrepreneurs Association based in Silicon Valley and a catalyst in the development of Global Cleveland.

Dr. Jan T. Vilcek (Czechoslovakia -now Slovakia) is a Professor at the Department of Microbiology at New York University School of Medicine in New York City. He received his MD and PhD degrees in Czechoslovakia but immigrated to the United States in 1965 with his wife Marica, an art historian. In the same year, he joined the faculty of NYU School of Medicine where he did early research of interferon, an important immune system protein, and later on another protein called tumor necrosis factor (TNF). His contributions to the understanding of proteins that control the body’s defenses against infections were instrumental in the development of the novel anti-inflammatory drug, Remicade® or infliximab, used for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis, psoriasis and other chronic inflammatory disorders. Jan has published over 350 papers in scholarly journals, holds more than 30 U.S. patents and served on editorial boards of numerous professional journals. He has donated most of his share of the royalties from the sale of Remicade® to NYU School of Medicine. In 2000, Jan and his wife Marica established the Vilcek Foundation whose main mission is to recognize and honor outstanding contributions of immigrants to the sciences, arts and humanities in the United States.

PANELISTS

Dr. Amnon Aliphas (Mexico) is a serial entrepreneur in technology; founder and CEO of VentureOnLine, TechOnLine and DSP (Digital Signal Processing) World. He is also the Chairman of the Computer & Electronics School at ITT Technical Institute. Amnon obtained his PhD from Stanford University and his BSc from The Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, both in Electrical Engineering. His early work was on speech compression and speech recognition, and he developed one of the early DSP chips in the industry while at KurzweilAL. Amnon founded DSP
World (the largest industry conference and exhibit in DSP Applications and Technology), which was later sold to United Business Media (UBM). In 1993 he founded TechOnLine that became the largest on-line resource for education and marketing in the electronics industry. TechOnLine was acquired in 2005 by UBM. Amnon founded VentureOnLine in 2008 to promote and accelerate the growth of entrepreneurship in the high-tech electronics industry

Rodrigo Cerveira (Brazil) is a Senior Loan Consultant at ACCION USA, the leading Microfinance provider in the United States. ACCION USA is a nonprofit micro-lender that provides access to credit and financial education for small business owners who cannot obtain traditional credit. Rodrigo has a BA in Architecture from the UNIGRAN University in Brazil where he owned, operated and sold an architecture firm. Rodrigo is currently a candidate for an MBA at the Catholic University of Brasilia and serves on the advisory board at the Community Center for Entrepreneurship at Bunker Hill Community College. Rodrigo immigrated to the United States in 2002 and has worked with the immigrant community in the U.S. for eight years providing education and financial services.

Yumin Choi (Korea) is currently at HLM Venture Partners, a healthcare focused Venture Capital firm that specializes in medical technology, healthcare services and healthcare IT (Information Technology) investments. He is active in the local entrepreneurship community and is co-founder of several companies. Yumin previously worked at Angel Healthcare Investors making early stage investments in healthcare startups. He was also a financial consultant at a boutique investment firm called Zweig White where he worked on valuations, mergers and acquisition services for the Architecture, Construction and Engineering industries. Yumin co-founded and was CEO of a consumer electronics consulting firm. He is a member of the Steering Committee of the New England Venture Network (NEVN), the largest young venture capital community in the East Coast, and heads up their healthcare group. He is an advisor to several startups, involved in several angel groups around Boston and is on the Board of Directors of The Capital Network, a non-profit focused on providing education to entrepreneurs on financing. Yumin is a graduate of Babson College.

Dr. Marilyn Halter (United States) is Professor of History and Director of Graduate Studies in American Studies at Boston University where she is also a Research Associate at the Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs (CURA). Her books include Shopping for Identity: The Marketing of Ethnicity; New Migrants in the Marketplace: Boston's Ethnic Entrepreneurs and Between Race and Ethnicity: Cape Verdean American Immigrants, 1860-1965. Marilyn’s current research project, “African and American” is a study of recent West African immigrants and refugees to the United States. She also co-chairs the Boston Immigration and Urban History Seminar, an ongoing series in conjunction with the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Dr. Sridhar Iyengar (2nd generation from India) is director and Chief Technology Officer for AgaMatrix. Agamatrix is a biotechnology firm that produces “next generation” blood glucose monitoring products for diabetes and was founded by Sridhar with Sonny Vu (Vietnam) in 2001. Sridhar drives the innovation behind the technology used by AgaMatrix that forms the foundation of WaveSense™. Combining his background in electrical engineering and biological sciences, Sridhar conceived of and pioneered the concept of using Dynamic Electrochemistry™ coupled with an advanced DSP (Digital Signal Processing) approach to enhance biosensor performance. His work in the years following his PhD research is the cornerstone for AgaMatrix's intellectual property. He holds several key patents filed under his name and several others under development. Sridhar obtained his PhD from the University of Cambridge in England as a Marshall Scholar.

Alvaro de Castro e Lima (Brazil) is the Director of Research at the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA). He oversees research that formulates public policy related to planning and community economic development and supervises staff that collects and analyzes current, historical and comparative data on Boston’s economy. Prior to his work at the BRA, Alvaro was the Senior Vice
President and Director of Research for the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (ICIC) where he worked on the design and execution of The State of the Inner City Economies (SOICE) to uncover drivers of performance, increase private investment and sharpen public policy. In his native Brazil, he served as the Coordinator of Regional Development Projects for the Institute for Social and Economic Research. His work is frequently published, and he is a highly regarded public speaker and conference panelist. Alvaro holds a Masters Degree in Economics from the New School for Social Research where he is also a Doctoral candidate.

Javier Marin (Venezuela), founder of the Hispanic News Press, is an experienced executive with proven leadership in publishing, grass-root event marketing, media and public relations. Javier specializes in strategic marketing and communications and was instrumental in building the largest online, print and event Hispanic publishing company in New England. This venture grew into the newspaper “El Planeta”, the web portal “Tuboston.com” and other Hispanic products, which led toward the company’s sale to The Phoenix Media Group in 2008. Javier is in the process of launching an Hispanic television station. He earned his Master of Science in Management at The Arthur D. Little School of Management, his BA in International Management at Webster University in Leiden, The Netherlands and his Certificate of Broadcasting at Universidad Central de Venezuela.

Alison Moronta (Dominican Republic) is Director of Business Development at the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation (JPNDC). At JPNDC, she is responsible for providing business counseling, education and access to financing for minority owned and microenterprise businesses in Jamaica Plain. Alison has twenty four years of business management experience and has run one of Boston’s leading business development programs for ten years where she specializes in working with food businesses and retail. She has strong community participation, collaboration and partnership experience with such organizations as commercial banks, Main Streets projects, community development organizations, merchants and business associations. She received the Ricanne A. Hadrian Award “for her exemplary efforts to meaningfully engage local residents as leaders in building economically and racially diverse communities.”

Vinit Nijhawan (Canada) is Managing Director, Office of Technology Development and Director of Enterprise Programs at ITEC (Institute of Technology, Entrepreneurship & Commercialization) at Boston University and a serial entrepreneur. Vinit has over 25 years experience building five startups primarily in wireless technology. He was CEO of three; four were acquired; the fifth has grown to over 300 people. Vinit was also Venture Partner at Key Venture Partners where he sourced over 200 deals over two years and made one investment that was acquired for $430M. Vinit is an advisor and board member to several technology start-ups and was a Mass High Tech All-Star in 2005. He has participated in over 140 panel discussions and paper presentations and is a Board of Trustee of TiE Global, a non-profit that fosters entrepreneurship globally. Vinit earned a BASc in electrical engineering from the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada.

Long Nyguyen (Vietnam) is a social entrepreneur with over 20 years of experience in starting and leading community-based organizations and social purpose enterprises. From 1995 to 2004, Long served as founding executive director of Viet-AID, the first community development corporation founded and managed by Vietnamese refugees in the U.S. At Viet-AID, he designed and implemented projects that built a strong immigrant community and a vibrant Boston neighborhood. These projects ranged from a community center to affordable rental and homeownership housing, social enterprises, small business development, revolving loan funds and a child care center. From 2007- present, Long served as Te-Enterprise’s founding CEO, a global development and investment firm. In four years, Te-Enterprise helped launch three national and regional initiatives that prepared a new generation of non-profit leaders, turned around struggling ethnic-based non-profit organizations and contributed to the rebuilding of the Gulf Coast communities devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Ike. Long has a BA in political science and economics and a law degree from Boston University.
Anne O’Callaghan (Ireland) is founder and Executive Director of the Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians, a centralized employment and resource center for immigrants in the Delaware Valley. Since opening its doors, the Welcoming Center has served over 7000 immigrants and has built an innovative program to welcome and support immigrant entrepreneurs. Trained as a Physical Therapist (PT) in Ireland, Anne came to the United States in 1970 and worked in the PT field for twenty years as a practitioner, college-level instructor and service director. She built her entrepreneurial skills in founding a software development company to serve the home health care industry and used these skills to develop the Welcoming Center and support for Philadelphia’s immigrant entrepreneurs. Anne was educated by the Sisters of St. Louis in Carrickmacross and received her training and certification at the University of Dublin (Trinity College) School of Medicine and the Oswestry and North Staffordshire School of Physiotherapy.

Saul Perlera (El Salvador) is owner of Perlera Real Estate in East Boston founded in 2003. Saul came from El Salvador at age 16 as an undocumented immigrant with no English. He worked three jobs, became fluent in three languages and was then hired by a real estate business in East Boston where he became the top agent. Along the way, Saul acquired legal status and a Broker’s license. In 2003, he decided to establish his own real estate company and provide working space for agents that was stylish with a high-tech infrastructure and could serve the Latino market. The firm grew to 14 agents and a full support staff to become one of the top real estate firms in East Boston. Although the real estate market was hard hit by the severe economic downturn, the firm survived and Saul looks forward to continued growth as the economy recovers. He is also taking his vision to the neighborhood at large serving as an advocate and mentor for other small businesses.

Ashish Sangani (India) is owner of GIRI Hotels in Quincy, Massachusetts, and Freeport and Augusta, Maine. Ashish was born and raised in Bombay, India where he studied at the University of Bombay and received his Bachelors Degree in Accounting and his post graduate diploma in Business Finance. At the age of 21, he came to the United States by himself to pursue his dream of being an entrepreneur. His first job in this country was a front desk clerk position at a local hotel but was rapidly promoted to manager and then to Controller. He helped this privately-held company grow from five to 30 hotels in a 5-year period. His time there provided valuable experience and learning in all aspects of hotel operations and prepared him to acquire his own property. In 2002, he became owner of a 37-room hotel in Quincy, Massachusetts, called The President's City Inn. As his success in hotel ownership grew, he formed a new company called GIRI Hotels. Since that initial purchase, GIRI has grown its portfolio to include six hotels and is actively pursuing opportunities to continue its growth. Ashish broadened his entrepreneurship outside of the hospitality industry when he purchased a medical testing lab in 2005. He employs in excess of 100 people across all of his companies.

Kathleen Tullberg (United States) is Manager of the Massachusetts Community & Banking Council (MCBC) established in 1990 to encourage community investment in low- and moderate-income and minority neighborhoods. MCBC brings together community and bank representatives to promote a better understanding of the credit and financial needs of lower-income neighborhoods and provides information, assistance and direction to banks and community groups in addressing those needs. Prior to her work with MCBC, Kathleen was Senior Vice President and Director of Community Investment for Shawmut National Corporation and was responsible for the corporation’s community investment activities in six states. In that position, she represented Shawmut as a charter member of the MCBC Board of Directors. Kathleen also worked for the Boston Private Industry Council and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
Dr. Anna Voronova (Soviet Union- now Russia) is a life science consultant and entrepreneur. She is a founder and principal at AV Consulting LLC; a member of a founding team at Abkine Pharmaceuticals; a Mentor at Boston University Kindle Program and a Grant Reviewer and Catalyst at the Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation. She was also a founder of Avija Therapeutics Inc. Anna has a strong record of industry experience in therapeutic target discovery and development including biologics and small molecules at biotechnology and large pharmaceutical companies. She was a team leader for the cell-based small molecule TNF inhibitor program at Wyeth and more recently headed up translational research in inflammation and autoimmunity at Merrimack Pharmaceuticals. Anna received her MS in Biology and Virology from Moscow State University in Russia and PhD from the University of California at San Diego with postdoctoral work in Immunology and Molecular Biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her major contributions include the discovery of LCK, a tyrosine protein kinase critical for immune cell signaling, and the elucidation of the functional structure of bHLH transcription factors including c-myc. Anna has numerous publications in peer-reviewed journals and several U.S. patents.

Dr. Paul Watanabe (United States) is Director of the Institute for Asian American Studies and Professor of Political Science at the University of Massachusetts Boston. He is also a member of the U.S. Census Advisory Committee on the Asian Population; President of the Board of Directors of the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund and a Board of Directors member at the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts. His principal research interests are in the areas of political behavior, ethnic group politics, immigrants and immigration, Asian Americans and American foreign policy. He is the author of Ethnic Groups, Congress, and American Foreign Policy and principal author of A Dream Deferred: Changing Demographics, New Opportunities, and Challenges for Boston. His scholarly articles have appeared in Amerasia Journal; Asian American Law Journal; Asian American Policy Review; Business in the Contemporary World; New England Journal of Public Policy; Political Psychology; PS: Political Science and Politics; Public Perspective; Western New England Law Review and World Today. He contributes analysis and commentary to national and local television, radio, newspapers and newsmagazines. Paul received his PhD in Political Science from Harvard University.