



## Irish Impact Social Entrepreneurship Conference 2016

Sponsored by the Haley and Zielsdorf Families;  
Gigot Center for Entrepreneurship at  
Mendoza College of Business; and  
FISH (Fellow Irish Social Hub) at  
Innovation Park Notre Dame

### Keynote Speaker and Panelist/Lecturer Bios

#### **Amon Anderson, *Acumen America***

Amon co-leads Acumen America – setting strategy, building community, and investing in companies across the US. Most recently, Amon worked on Acumen’s Global Portfolio team. Amon led Acumen’s agriculture and water/sanitation investing in East Africa, where he originated, performed due diligence, and managed a number of investments, building the agriculture portfolio from scratch. Prior to joining Acumen, Amon worked in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with Cherokee Investment Partners, developing an impact investing strategy and building a community of entrepreneurs. Amon began his career at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, helping to launch the Carolina Entrepreneurial Initiative. He holds a BA with Highest Honors from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he was a Morehead-Cain Scholar, and an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business where he received the Frances & Arjay Miller Fellowship in Social Innovation and the Miller Social Change Leadership Award.

#### **Katie Hench, *Infiniteach***

Katie Hench is a former Special Education teacher turned co-founder and CEO of Infiniteach, a mission-driven technology company that develops accessibility solutions to make cultural institutions and businesses more inclusive to all. In addition, Katie is a certified Structured Teaching trainer, and travels throughout Illinois training parents, teachers, and therapists on the development and implementation of structured autism programs. Katie also serves as the volunteer Director of AACTION Autism, a nonprofit that provides autism trainings in developing countries. Having trained educators from across Southeast Asia and Western Africa, Katie enjoys bringing various cultural perspectives into her work. Katie’s younger brother, diagnosed on the autism spectrum at the age of 6, is her inspiration.

#### **Chris Yura, *SustainU***

Chris Yura is the Founder and CEO of SustainU in Morgantown, West Virginia. SustainU is an apparel company with the mission to change the way that clothes are made by improving the environment, reinvigorating America’s manufacturing sector, and educating the world about how clothing can positively impact people’s lives. Chris has been a featured speaker at the Clinton School of Public Service, TEDx Asheville, and at numerous colleges and universities. In 2011, Mr. Yura was invited to the

White House three times to participate in forums regarding Young Entrepreneurs and American Job Growth. He was a four-year letterman and stand-out fullback for the Fighting Irish football team.

**Matt Zieger, *Catholic Charities USA***

Matt Zieger is Senior Director of Impact Investing and Social Entrepreneurship for Catholic Charities USA. With a mission to reduce poverty in America, Catholic Charities is one of the largest nonprofit networks in the nation, serving more than 9 million people a year, regardless of their religious, social, or economic backgrounds. For more than a decade, Matt has dedicated his career solving pressing social challenges by harnessing the power of private sector innovation and investment. In his previous role as VP of The Forbes Funds, a foundation with a mission to build capacity and innovation in the social sector, Matt led the creation of an impact investment platform focused on transforming how we tackle key social challenges. Matt and his wife Lisa live in the DC Metro area with their two adventurous boys, a little electric car, and enough camping gear for a small army. There is an 87% chance that he's drinking coffee right now.

**Mackenzie Colgan, *Impact Assets***

Mackenzie Colgan is currently the Regional Director of Distribution for ImpactAssets. Prior to ImpactAssets Mackenzie worked as a Portfolio Associate at the Acumen Fund, where she sourced private debt and equity impact investments in the East Africa healthcare sector. In financial services, Mackenzie worked at New York Life/MainStay Investments on the strategic distribution and sales of their asset management products. She has also held positions in development, marketing and communications for the Clinton Health Access Initiative and the Clinton Climate Initiative. Mackenzie serves as an advisor to Kidogo, a startup early childhood development social enterprise in East Africa. She graduated cum laude from Skidmore College and currently resides in Brooklyn, NY.

**Will Towns, *Benefit Chicago***

William W. Towns is the new executive director for Benefit Chicago. He leads the day-to-day work of this ambitious effort to help socially motivated businesses and nonprofits access the capital they need to innovate and grow. Will comes to Benefit Chicago from the University of Chicago, where he led the Neighborhood Initiatives team and its work to fuel economic growth, better health outcomes and increased vibrancy and sustainability in south side communities. Prior to that, he worked on affordable housing issues related to families and communities at Mercy Portfolio Services, focusing particularly on 27 Chicago neighborhoods hit hard by the economic downturn. Will currently serves on the city's Community Land Trust Board, the Cook County Economic Development Advisory Committee and PNC Bank's Community Development Advisory Board. He is also a board member of the National Children's Center, the Roseland Community Medical District and Neighborhood Housing Services. He earned his M.B.A. from Notre Dame and his bachelor's degree in marketing from Loyola University.

**Dr. Peter Kirchschräger, *University of Lucerne***

Peter Kirchschräger is a senior research fellow in the Faculty of Theology at the University of Lucerne, Switzerland. With research interests that include human rights, business and economic ethics, social entrepreneurship, development, and global politics, he is an expert on the theological and philosophical

justifications for human rights. In addition to cofounding and codirecting the International Human Rights Forum Lucerne and the Centre for Human Rights Education at Pedagogical University Lucerne, he has held academic positions at universities in Europe and the United States, including most recently a visiting fellowship in ethics at Yale University. He is the author of four monographs and dozens of articles in journals and edited volumes and has consulted on human rights and ethics for national and international organizations such as the United Nations, UNESCO, the European Union, and Amnesty International. He holds a doctorate in theology from the University of Zurich and a second doctorate in theological ethics from the University of Fribourg.

**Connor Chelsky, *Impact Engine***

Connor Chelsky is the Analyst / Operations Coordinator at Impact Engine. He provides support to Impact Engine portfolio companies, in addition to helping identify new investment opportunities. Connor also oversees the internal infrastructure at Impact Engine and assists in other operational capacities. Connor previously served as a research associate for Strong Bodies Fight where he helped to conduct a feasibility analysis on entering the Bangladesh garment industry in the form of a social enterprise, which ultimately led to his interest in the impact investing and social entrepreneurship world. Connor graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2015, where he earned a B.A. in Political Science while minoring in Education, School, and Society. He served as a senior captain of the Notre Dame Men's Boxing team.

**Tim Rann, *Mercy Corps***

Tim brings close to a decade of experience developing market-based solutions that endeavor to address major social inequalities. He is the Senior Advisor to Mercy Corps' Social Ventures Fund, which invests equity and debt capital in seed stage, for-profit social businesses. Tim has co-founded and led social ventures in Cambodia, Vietnam, and Afghanistan, including Joma Bakery Cafe, Hagar Social Enterprise Group and Artillery Group. Tim has also advised impact investment funds and social businesses in Southern Africa, East Africa and Southeast Asia. He currently holds board positions on Joma International, Vasham, Artillery Group, and Hagar International. Tim is currently based in Bogota, Colombia and manages Mercy Corps' investment portfolio across Southeast Asia and Latin America. Tim obtained his BBA from the University of Notre Dame.

**Brendan Maher, *Heron Foundation/FISH***

Brendan Maher joined the Heron Foundation in 2016 as a Director on the Capital Markets team. Prior to joining Heron, he was a Partner and Portfolio Manager for several long/short equity asset management companies over the past two decades. Brendan is currently the President of the Board of Team Schools, a KIPP New Jersey cluster of charter schools located in Newark, NJ; sits on the Advisory Board of the Gigot Center for Entrepreneurship at the University of Notre Dame; and is the Founder of FISH, Inc., a social venture incubator located in South Bend, IN. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame and is married with three fabulous children.

**Maria Gibbs, *Venture Founders Program***

Maria Gibbs is a civil engineering PhD student at the University of Notre Dame. She is currently co-leading the Venture Founders Program at Notre Dame, a brand new partnership between the University

of Notre Dame's ESTEEM Program and enFocus of South Bend. Maria is interested in creating tools in design thinking to infuse human-centered insights into engineering design, specifically focusing on public infrastructure. Previously, she has served as the Operations/Research Coordinator and on the Board of Directors at Bridges to Prosperity. She graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Duke University in 2012.

**Tracy Kijewski-Correa, *College of Engineering/I-Labs***

Tracy L. Kijewski-Correa is the Leo E. and Patti Ruth Linbeck Associate Professor of Civil Engineering and Geological Sciences at Notre Dame. An Indiana native and a "triple-Domer," she joined the Notre Dame faculty in 2003. Called the best structural engineer of her generation by her peers, Tracy and her Structural DYNAMics And MONitoring (DYNAMO) Laboratory team address 21st-century civil infrastructure challenges posed by increased urbanization and natural hazard vulnerability. She is also the faculty advisor for NDSEED (Notre Dame Students Empowering through Sustainable Engineering Development), which each year designs and builds a footbridge in an isolated rural community—so far in Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua. Tracy was also part of the founding team of the Engineering2Empower organization on campus. She received her bachelor's, master's, and doctorate in civil engineering from Notre Dame.

**Steve Reifenberg, *Keough School for Global Affairs/I-Labs***

Steve Reifenberg is the Executive Director of the Kellogg Institute for International Studies. Before coming to Notre Dame in February 2010, he worked for nearly two decades on international education, negotiation and development issues at Harvard University. From 1996 to 2002, Steve served as the Executive Director of Harvard's David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies. In 2002, he established Harvard's first-ever university-wide office overseas in Santiago, Chile, an office that he directed for seven years. He is the former Program Director for Latin America of the Conflict Management Group and served as the Director of the Edward S. Mason Program in Public Policy and Management, jointly administered by the Kennedy School of Government and the Harvard Institute for International Development. In the early 1980s, Steve lived and worked for two years at a small orphanage, Domingo Savio, in Santiago, Chile. He continues to be actively involved in Domingo Savio, and serves on numerous nonprofit organization boards in Chile and the United States that focus on innovation, education, conservation, and expanding opportunities for children.