

*Spring 2026*

# ENTREPRENEUR

LEADERSHIP SERIES



# THIS YEAR'S SPEAKERS

**January 7**

**Mike Glauser**  
Executive Director, Center  
for Entrepreneurship

**January 14**

**Shauna Smith**  
CEO, Savory Group

**January 21**

**Adam Paul**  
Founder, CEO, Next Meters

**January 28**

**Danny Clark**  
Co-Founder & CEO, D&D  
Enterprises

**February 4**

**Heather Mason**  
Founder, Caspian Agency

**February 11**

**Dr. Lyle Barbour**  
Owner, Mountain Point Equine  
Hospital

**February 18**

**Daphne Blanchard**  
Founder, Zelano International  
and ZConnect

**February 25**

**Alex Swanson**  
CEO, Nuvia Management Services

**March 18**

**Justin Haskell**  
Founder & CEO, Maximum Senior  
Benefits, LLC

**March 25**

**Michelle Smith**  
President, Miller Sports &  
Entertainment

**April 1**

**Joseph Grenny**, *Entrepreneur of the Year*  
Chairman of the Board, The Other Side Academy

## SHARK TANK NIGHT April 8



Kristyn Allred

Jacob McHargue

Amy Rees Anderson

Nate Putnam

# WHAT WE DO HERE...

## The Entrepreneurship Center

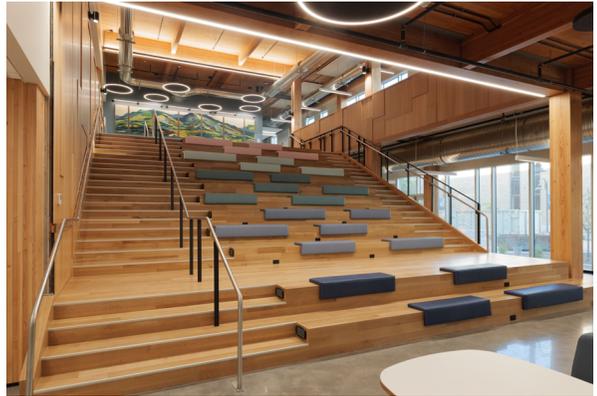
Prepares students to become entrepreneurial leaders by blending innovative curriculum with transformative real-world learning experiences. Through the Entrepreneurship Minor, E Club, and Entrepreneur Leadership Series, students gain practical experience and mentorship from accomplished entrepreneurs, business professionals, and peers—building their skills and confidence to launch and lead successful ventures.

## SEED Program

Helps aspiring entrepreneurs in developing nations succeed through three initiatives: teaching, mentoring, and resource support. Our students deliver practical instruction in business-building fundamentals, provide personalized mentorship throughout the entrepreneurial journey, and assist in securing critical resources. Together, these experiences give families the tools and confidence they need to grow successful companies and improve the quality of their lives.

## Entrepreneurship Minor

Prepares students across all majors to think and act as entrepreneurial leaders. In four courses, students gain a deep understanding of the entrepreneurial process, access valuable resources and networks, and develop the skills to create innovative solutions. Empowers students to launch new ventures and apply entrepreneurial practices.



**SEED**  
SMALL ENTERPRISE EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Spring 2026  
**ENTREPRENEUR**  
LEADERSHIP SERIES

# MIKE GLAUSER

EXEC DIRECTOR, E-CENTER

JAN 7



**Mike Glauser** has extensive experience as a successful entrepreneur, business consultant, and university professor. He is the founder and former chairman of Golden Swirl Management Company and a founder of Northern Lights. Both companies were sold to a publicly traded company in Canada. Mike has consulted with numerous corporations in the areas of business strategy, organizational effectiveness, and leadership development. His clients have included Associated Food Stores, The Boeing Company, Clinical Innovations,

Department of Workforce Services, Esso of Inter-America, Harmon Music Group, Saudi Consolidated Services, and USANA Health Sciences. Mike has held faculty positions at the University of North Carolina and Westminster College. Mike has published numerous articles and three books on entrepreneurship: *Glorious Accidents*, *The Business of Heart*, and *Main Street Entrepreneur*, which

chronicles his 4,000-mile bicycle ride across America to interview remarkable entrepreneurs who have successfully merged livelihood and lifestyle in places they want to live. He has appeared on Great Day America, First Business from Washington, Voice of America, Kansas City Live, Good Morning Chicago, Associated Press Radio, and many other radio and TV programs.

Lifetime entrepreneur, innovator,  
teacher, mentor and Center director

Savory brands have generated  
over 2.5 billion dollars in sales

**Shauna Smith** is an accomplished executive leader with more than 15 years of experience at the helm of food and beverage organizations. Shauna started as an operator and has since been integral in developing, acquiring, and operating over 400 restaurants across a dozen states since 2008. Collectively, these establishments have generated more than \$2.5 billion, offering employment opportunities to over 40,000 individuals. Her primary focus is elevating operational efficiencies and accelerating revenue growth across the various brands in the Savory portfolio. With an operational depth supported by a 70-person value-add team, she

directly supervises the senior leaders of each portfolio company to ensure both strategic and tactical objectives are met. Shauna's superpower is value creation through three key drivers – growth, efficiency and site replication. This remarkable growth trajectory earned the firm multiple accolades, including back-to-back fast-growth awards from

*Restaurant Monitor*, as well as eight appearances on Inc. Magazine's prestigious Inc. 500 list — a testament to its rapid expansion and success.

Beyond her organizational achievements, Shauna herself has been the recipient of several distinguished industry awards such as Women to Watch, CXO of the Year and CEO of the Year.



**SHAUNA SMITH**  
CEO, SAVORY GROUP

Next Meters provides  
humanitarian help internationally

**Adam Paul** is the Founder and CEO of Next Meters, a leading designer and manufacturer of smart metering. His entrepreneurial path was unexpectedly sparked by a casual conversation about flaws in meter systems. With no formal training in electronics or software, he taught himself and built prototypes in his garage. That curiosity and persistence launched Next Meters. Now recognized on the Inc. 5000 list of the nation's fastest-growing private companies, Next Meters is known for products that improve accuracy, efficiency, and conservation. Under Adam's leadership, Next Meters has become the dominant

submetering provider for the multifamily housing market in the U.S. Guided by a commitment to innovation and sustainability, the company has helped conserve billions of gallons of water and continues to set ambitious goals for environmental and humanitarian impact. In recognition of this

work, Adam was named EY Entrepreneur Of The Year and Utah Business CEO of the Year. His story reflects the power of entrepreneurial determination. What began as a chance encounter has grown into a global enterprise that is reshaping utility management and empowering communities worldwide.



**ADAM PAUL**  
FOUNDER, PRESIDENT, CEO NEXT METERS

JAN 21

# DANNY CLARK

CEO, D&D ENTERPRISES

JAN 28



**Danny Clark** is Co-founder and CEO of D&D Enterprises, which owns and operates 37 Jimmy John's locations. Beyond this, he is an active investor with stakes in Viva Chicken, Outdoor Elements, and multiple real estate ventures. A dedicated philanthropist, Danny also serves as the Board Chair of Roots Charter High School in West Valley City,

where he champions innovative approaches to education and community development. Outside of his professional work, Danny values family above all. He and his wife, Mary Clark, are the proud parents of four children—three daughters and one son.

Danny is an accomplished horseman, avid surfer, and passionate outdoor

adventurer. He views experiences as life's most valuable currency and is deeply committed to creating lasting memories with his family. Most recently, this spirit of adventure took them on a remarkable three-week safari across Africa—a journey filled with discovery, connection, and unforgettable moments.

Danny owns 37 Jimmy Johns locations across multiple states

# HEATHER MASON

FOUNDER, CASPIAN AGENCY

FEB 4



**Heather Mason** founded Caspian Agency in 2005, to bring a strategic discipline to high-level gatherings and convenings for good. Caspian has produced conferences for Hewlett Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Ford Foundation, and Omidyar Network, as well as the Skoll World Forum for the past 19 years. Prior to launching Caspian, she worked in TV and film development, and was the first Director of the Student Program at the American Pavilion at the Cannes Film Festival in 1997. She also created and produced

the largest non-official event at the Sundance Film Festival in 2000. In 2024, she debuted The Impact Lounge at the Sundance Film Festival, bringing Changemakers together with Filmmakers to shine a light on the ecosystem of impact filmmaking and content creation. The Impact Lounge has traveled to Cannes Film Festival, the United Nations, Oxford, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and Austin, TX for South

by Southwest. Heather is an instructor in the Masters Hospitality program at San Diego State, and she serves on the boards of Women Founders Network, Utah State Alumni, Foundation Board of Utah State University and former Board of Trustee and Board of Entrepreneurs Organization. She was a consultant on convening design for the Rockefeller Foundation, and the editor and key contributor for their Convening Guide.

Heather created the Impact Lounge at Sundance Film Festival

Dr. Barbour is currently working  
on over 400 acres to help animals

**Dr. Lyle Barbour** is a dedicated equine veterinarian and the proud owner of Mountain Point Equine Hospital in Bluffdale, Utah. His journey began as a pre-veterinary student at Utah State University (1998–2001), followed by earning his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Colorado State University in 2005. In 2007, he founded Mountain Point Equine Hospital, where his team strives to provide the most optimal customer/patient experience in equine veterinary medicine. Beyond his professional expertise, Dr. Barbour is known for his deep commitment to his clients, valuing the personal relationships he builds as much as the animals he treats. He brings authenticity and heart to his work every day, both in the clinic and out on the ranch. More than just a practitioner, Dr. Barbour is a passionate advocate for personal growth through adversity. His approach is deeply influenced by principles of stoicism –

choosing discipline over discouragement, and clarity over chaos. He finds meaning in his daily work, not just through veterinary medicine, but through the strong personal bonds he builds with his clients. Outside of his career, Lyle is equally devoted to life on the land—raising cattle and growing hay on his 420-acre ranch—and to his growing family,

spending time with his wife as they prepare to welcome their first child. Whether he's in the field, the clinic, or speaking to a room full of aspiring professionals, Dr. Barbour brings an honest, grounded perspective rooted in hard work, humility, and the belief that failure is not the end—it's the beginning of something better.



**DR. LYLE BARBOUR**  
VETERINARIAN

FEB 11

## Director of USU's Bingham Entrepreneurship Center

**Daphne Blanchard** has spent her career building businesses and social enterprises across borders, believing that entrepreneurship is a powerful tool to fuel self-sufficiency and address pressing global challenges. Since 1999, when she became the first female sales representative for Pro Look Sports, she has launched and led ventures in diverse industries and communities. These include designing an educational system for a factory in Tijuana, developing social enterprises in Ecuador, and co-owning a yellow dragon fruit farm in the Amazon region. Through her company, Zelano International, Daphne also oversees ZConnect (a global outsourcing initiative), Neeyo Green Clean (a Latin American service company), and international product sourcing. In addition, she directs Kovê International, working alongside community leaders in Ecuador to provide construction

projects, medical trainings and clinics, immigrant services, and educational scholarships. Today, Daphne serves as a Lecturer in Entrepreneurship and Director of the Bingham Entrepreneurship Center at Utah State University's Uintah Basin campus. She holds a master's degree in International Relations from the University of San Diego, where she specialized in economic development

in Latin America. Her combined experience in education, business, and non-profit leadership equips her to collaborate across sectors, expand markets, and create meaningful social impact. After several years living in South America, she is excited to once again enjoy paddleboarding and biking in Utah's mountains again.



**DAPHNE BLANCHARD**  
FOUNDER, ZELANO INTERNATIONAL AND ZCONNECT

FEB 18



**Alex Swanson**, credits his success to his wife, three children, and his passion for entrepreneurship. He loves entrepreneurship and encourages it to anyone seeking career advice. While studying accounting at the University of Utah, Alex found himself learning more from podcasts and books than from his classes. After graduation, he took a job at the front desk of a dental office to put that knowledge into practice. Alex has built his career on curiosity, resilience, and an endless appetite for reading and learning. Entrepreneurship has transformed his life, and he believes its future is

brighter than ever. With instant access to the wisdom of the world's greatest minds, he sees unlimited opportunity for the next generation of entrepreneurs. Using his entrepreneurial skills, Alex founded Nuvia Dental Implant Centers. The clinics specialize in giving patients permanent zirconia teeth in 24 hours, eliminating the need for temporary dentures. They offer transparent pricing, flexible payment

plans, and emphasize patient eligibility, clinical experience, and the promise of restoring function and confidence through a permanent smile. Alex is also a staunch advocate for eliminating social media, attributing much of his focus and success to staying clear of its distractions. He firmly believes that the defining strength of America, and a gift to humanity, is entrepreneurship – risk-takers betting on themselves, building a better future for their families, communities, and society as a whole.

Innovator in the Dental Industry

# JUSTIN HASKELL

FOUNDER, CEO MSB

MAR 18



**Justin Haskell** began his career in the life insurance field where he realized that Medicare plan solutions and final expense benefits were a growing need for people across the country. He decided to start Maximum Senior Benefits (MSB), a national company that focused on offering these benefits, while also offering peace of mind in the process. For over a decade, MSB has hired competitive, passionate sales professionals who seek to offer comfortable, tailored solutions to individuals and their families. Justin's story starts well before that in the small town of Elk Ridge, Utah. He spent his

whole childhood there, attending Payson High School and graduating in 1998. After high school, Justin served a Latter-Day Saint mission in the Dominican Republic. After that, he attended Utah State University, majoring in International Studies with minors in International Business, Portuguese, and French. After graduating, Justin joined Best Buddies International, a non-profit designed to help people with disabilities.

While working for Best Buddies International, Justin moved all over the country, from California to Florida, finally settling in Utah and running Best Buddies' Utah operation. While doing that, Justin discovered a love for business and entrepreneurship. That's when he went back to school and earned his MBA. He started Maximum Senior Benefits soon thereafter. Justin currently resides in Elk Ridge, Utah with his wife, Leslie, and their five children.

Founder of national firm  
Maximum Senior Benefits

Oversees Salt Lake Bees, Megaplex  
Theatres, and Big League Utah

**Michelle Smith** strategically manages and oversees the operations of key sports and entertainment businesses, including the Salt Lake Bees, Larry H. Miller Megaplex Theatres, and Big League Utah. She is committed to elevating guest experiences, supporting business partnerships, creating family memories, and enriching lives. As Chief People Officer, she is responsible for successful integration and onboarding practices of newly acquired businesses. The role supports the portfolio's People & Culture vision

and strategy with appropriate practices, policies and programming that are responsive to the changing dynamic of the workforce, supportive of the diverse needs of the businesses and ensure consistent commitment to the mission, vision and values of the Larry H. Miller Company. Prior to her role with the company, Michelle cultivated more than 20 years of experience in the sports and entertainment industry gaining business

strategy expertise in marketing, sales, and human resources. Most recently, Michelle served as Chief People Officer for the National Basketball Association's Utah Jazz franchise. Michelle was recently named as one of Utah Business Magazine's 2020 "30 Women to Watch," is a founding board member of Women in Sports & Events, and was a former co-chair of the Gail Miller Women's Leadership Group.



**MICHELLE SMITH**  
SPORTS EXECUTIVE

MAR 25

# JOSEPH GRENNY

CO-FOUNDER, TOSA

APR 1



**Joseph Grenny** is an author of ten books, including four *New York Times* bestselling books with more than seven million copies in print. His works are also standard texts in universities worldwide. His bestsellers include *Crucial Conversations*, *Crucial Influence*, *Crucial Accountability*, and *Change Anything*. Joseph's work has been used by nearly half of the Forbes Global 2000 and has helped millions of people achieve better relationships and results. In 1990, Joseph cofounded Crucial Learning, one of the world's most respected learning and organization development firms.

Crucial Learning offers solutions to achieve healthy communication, high-performance habits, productive relationships, and influential leadership. It has a community of more than 20,000 certified trainers and facilitators worldwide. Joseph is also the cofounder and current board chair of Unitus Labs, an international nonprofit that has helped more than 50 million people increase their self-reliance. Unitus Labs

affiliates have provided capital arrangement services of more than \$4 billion to some of the world's most successful socially oriented ventures. Joseph is cofounder and board chair of The Other Side Academy (TOSA), a residential school that teaches vocational and life skills to people with histories of crime, addiction, and homelessness. In 2021 he cofounded The Other Side Village, a 430-home community for the chronically homeless based on principles of self-reliance and peer accountability. A dynamic keynote speaker and leading social scientist for business performance, Joseph's work has been translated into twenty-eight languages and is available in thirty-six countries.

Joseph Grenny is our Huntsman  
Entrepreneur of the Year for 2026

# SHARK TANK

APRIL 8

Kristyn Allred is the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and the Karen Haight Huntsman Endowed Professor of Leadership at Utah State University's Huntsman School of Business. She directs two initiatives, the Huntsman Hive and Freshman Academy, focused on student success. Previously, she served as CEO of Allred Management Consulting and conducted global research on belonging.



Jacob McHargue is the Director of Entrepreneurship at Central Bank's CB Vault, where he champions startup growth through mentorship, funding strategies, and community partnerships. A former city manager of one of the fastest-growing cities in the U.S., Jake holds an MPA from Brigham Young University and a BS in Accounting from Utah Valley University. He's passionate about entrepreneurship, outdoor adventures, and extreme sports.

Amy Rees Anderson is the Founder and Managing Partner of REES Capital, a Mentoring and Angel Investing Firm. She is also an author and serves as a contributor to *Forbes* and the *Huffington Post*. Anderson also recently founded the IPOP Foundation, a charity focused on helping educate and mentor entrepreneurs. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award and Utah Business CEO of the Year Award.



Nate Putnam believes in building people. At Monu-metric, Nate focuses on data analysis and optimization strategies that unlock significant earning potential for online content publishers. He is passionate about democratizing ad technology to drive performance for both advertisers and publishers. He aligns himself with causes, companies, and individuals committed to leaving the world better than they found it.



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Watch all lectures live on Wednesdays at 6pm at: [aggiecast.usu.edu](http://aggiecast.usu.edu)