Brad Burke - Managing Director, Rice Alliance for Technology & Entrepreneurship

Brad Burke, Managing Director of the Rice Alliance for Technology & Entrepreneurship, joined the Alliance from Viant Corporation, a global internet consulting firm, where he founded and led the Houston office. He has a background in technology, entrepreneurship, consulting, and energy. Prior to Viant, Brad was a principal with CSC Index (the management consulting division of Computer Sciences Corporation) where he worked with companies in the energy, distribution, and retail industries. Earlier in his career, Brad was an executive with Exxon Corporation. He received his MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management and B.S. from Vanderbilt University.

Desh Deshpande - Chairman, Sparta Group LLC

Gururaj “Desh” Deshpande is the Chairman of Sparta Group LLC, A123 Systems (AONE), Sycamore Networks (SCMR), Tejas Networks, Sandstone Capital and HiveFire. Prior to co-founding Sycamore Networks, Dr. Deshpande was founder and chairman of Cascade Communications Corp. Dr. Deshpande serves as a member of the MIT Corporation, and his generous donations have made possible MIT’s Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation. Dr. Deshpande holds a B.Tech. in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology - Madras, an M.E. from the University of New Brunswick in Canada, and Ph.D from Queens University in Canada. He and his wife are involved in several non-profit initiatives that include support for MIT, IIT, Akshaya Patra Foundation, and the Social Entrepreneurship Sandboxes in India and USA. Deshpande co-chairs a National Council to support President Obama’s innovation and entrepreneurship strategy with Mary Sue Coleman, President of the University of Michigan and Steve Case co-founder of AOL.

Jackie Eastwood - Former CEO, Salient Surgical Technologies

Jackie Eastwood was co-founder and CEO of Salient Surgical Technologies, formerly know as TissueLink Medical, Inc. Salient is located in Portsmouth, NH. Eastwood was a VP with Medtronic, Inc from 1987-1998. She has served on a number of public and private boards and is the recipient of numerous awards for her contributions in entrepreneurial and technology initiatives. She was named as a Mass High Tech All-Star in 2003 and Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year in Medial Devices in 2004 and was a finalist in NH High Technology Council Entrepreneur of the Year in 2006. She is the founder of The Global Child (www.theglobalchild.org), a school for street children in Cambodia. Eastwood is on the board The Center for Family Business and CEO Forum at the Whittemore School of Business and Economics at the University of New Hampshire.

Luka Erceg - Founder, President and CEO, Simbol Materials

Mr. Erceg is founder, President and CEO of Simbol Materials, a venture backed company commercializing transformative technology that leverages renewable energy to create clean energy storage materials. Mr. Erceg brings 12 years of transaction advisory experience predominantly in the energy and energy technology sectors. Prior to founding Simbol Materials, Mr. Erceg was engaged in private transactions related to oil & gas field telemetry, petroleum marketing and coal gasification. Earlier in his career, he was Director of Strategic Development for CenterPoint Energy (NYSE:CNP) where he completed acquisitions of an oil & gas field telemetry business, intellectual property licensing transactions, and pipeline and gas gathering systems. While at El Paso Corp. (NYSE:EP), he led the valuation and analysis team for El Paso’s domestic and international power asset portfolio of 77 power plants and restructured power assets as
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part of a multi-billion dollar financing vehicle. Mr. Erceg holds a M.B.A. degree from Rice University, a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Economic Law from the University of Houston’s Law Center, a J.D. from the South Texas College of Law, and a Bachelors (B.Com.) in Marketing from the University of Guelph in Canada. Mr. Erceg was born and raised in Toronto, Canada, and now resides in Menlo Park, California with his wife, daughter, and son.

Jeff Fagnan - Partner, Atlas Venture
Jeff Fagnan is a Partner in the technology group at Atlas Venture, and focuses on very early stage projects. Before joining Atlas Venture, Jeff was a Partner with Seed Capital Partners. While at Seed Capital, Jeff was the lead and founding investor in several companies including DataPower (acquired by IBM) and Polychromix (acquired by ThermoFisher). Before venture, Jeff worked for Booz Allen & Hamilton and Nortel Networks. Jeff currently serves on the Boards of Atlas portfolio companies AEB, AngelList, Bit9, DataXu, Grockit, Hopper, Keas, Lucky Labs, Songbird and Veracode. Jeff is a founder of TUGG (Technology Underwriting Greater Good), a non-profit foundation harnessing “Crowd-sourced Philanthropy” to catalyze social innovation in New England. Jeff was also a founder of Koffee for Kids, a non-profit company in Rochester, New York. Jeff received his M.B.A. with distinction from the William E. Simon Graduate School of Business at the University of Rochester and a B.S. from the University of Alaska.

Barry Fougere - CEO, Big Belly Solar
Chief Executive Officer of BigBelly Solar, Inc., the world’s first waste collection systems company that integrates renewable power and information technology to lower the operating costs, fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions associated with the waste collection process by up to 80%. Former CEO and President of Colubris Networks, a leading global wireless infrastructure company that was acquired by HP. At Colubris, grew revenues at an average rate of 2.5 times per annum while increasing enterprise value more than 12x over four-year tenure as CEO. During this period, Colubris operated at the highest ratio of revenue generation per dollar of invested capital of any private company in its industry. Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year finalist. Has served as a Partner with several professional and business services firms. Launched Sunapee Advisors to provide advisory support to companies in the energy/environmental sector, with an emphasis on resource efficiency (power, water, waste) in facilities and/or industrial processes. Co-led global Energy Efficiency sector at Heidrick & Struggles, the leading executive search and leadership advisory firm. Was a Partner and Executive Committee member at Cambridge Strategic Management Group (CSMG), a strategy consultancy serving the communications industry and venture capital investors in this sectors. Prior to CSMG, was a Partner and office head at A.T. Kearney. Began career at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Engines, where he worked in R&D, manufacturing operations and product management. Consistently active advisor to executives, Boards and investors in the clean energy and high tech sectors. Serves on the Board of Trustees of the Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council and the Advisory Board of the National Center for Technological Literacy, an organization focused on advancing STEM education in the K-12 levels. Has been a mentor with MIT’s Clean Energy Prize and Ignite Clean Energy competitions.
Kenneth W. Freeman - Dean, Boston University School of Management

Kenneth W. Freeman is the Allen Questrom Professor and Dean of Boston University School of Management. Ken comes to Boston University with almost forty years of business experience, most recently as a Member of the investment firm Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. (KKR). During his tenure at KKR, Ken has taken an active role managing the firm’s investments in Accellent Inc., previously as Executive Chairman and Acting CEO, and currently as Chairman; Masonite Inc., previously as Chairman and CEO and currently as a director; and HCA, Inc. as a director. He continues as a Senior Advisor at KKR and serves on the firm’s Portfolio Management Committee. Ken served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Quest Diagnostics Incorporated, the leading provider of medical diagnostic testing services, from 1997 through 2004. He joined Quest Diagnostics’ predecessor company, Corning Clinical Laboratories, in 1995, and subsequently led its spin-off from Corning. By executing a dramatic financial turnaround (establishing industry leadership, effecting expansion through acquisition, and driving organic growth), Ken created exceptional value for Quest Diagnostics’ shareholders. The results of a recent study conducted at INSEAD rated Ken the 67th best performing CEO in the world. Quest Diagnostics provided the third highest five-year shareholder returns among the Fortune 500 (1999-2003) and in 2004 was named to the BusinessWeek 50. The company’s market capitalization increased from approximately $350 million at the time of the spin-off to more than $9 billion. In 2004, he passed the Chairman and CEO position on to his groomed successor. Ken began his career at Corning Incorporated in 1972, progressing through the company’s financial function before leading several business turnarounds. An outspoken proponent of the need to improve quality throughout the healthcare industry, Ken introduced Six Sigma at Quest Diagnostics, became a Black Belt, and led defect reduction projects at the company. He has addressed industry groups on the subjects of Six Sigma quality and improving patient safety. His thoughts on CEO succession planning, driving profitable growth, the importance of culture and values, and executing turnarounds have been featured in *Harvard Business Review*, and *Strategy + Business*, in addresses to business and academic leaders, and in classrooms. Ken received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, from Bucknell University in 1972, and an M.B.A. with Distinction from the Harvard Business School in 1976. He is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Bucknell University, past chairman of the American Clinical Laboratory Association, and served as lead director of TRW until it merged with Northrop Grumman Corporation in 2002. He also served on the 2004 National Association of Corporate Directors Blue Ribbon Commission on Board Leadership.
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Jack Gill, Ph.D. - Co-founder, Vanguard Ventures, Professor in the Practice of Entrepreneurship, Rice University
Jack is the co-founder of Palo Alto-based Vanguard Ventures. In its first five funds, Vanguard invested $155 million into 88 startups, producing over 30 winners, which returned over $1 billion to Vanguard’s investors, ranking it among the top Silicon Valley VC firms. Since 1999, he has been teaching entrepreneurship courses at Harvard Medical School, MIT, Rice University, UC Berkeley, UC Davis and University of College, London. He serves on the boards of M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, The Horatio Alger Association, Project Hope & the Presidents’ Circle of the National Academies. Additionally, in 1997, Jack and his wife Linda established the Gill Foundation of Texas to focus on educational philanthropy.

Dr. Richard D. Gill, President & CEO at ActiveCyte Holdings
Dr. Gill has over 28 years of strategic management, research, and technology commercialization experience in the life sciences industry. Until recently as President and Chief Executive Officer of ProNai Therapeutics, the Kalamazoo, MI, based DNAi Drug Development Company for which he & his team raised $11.5M of $13M invested in achieving an IND APPROVED lead drug product PNT2258, in less than 2 year from the pre IND briefing meeting with the FDA, & previously as President and Chief Executive Officer of Signet Laboratories the Dedham, MA, based Evidence Based Medicine company, for which he led a successful M&A strategy – sold to Covance, and prior to that Dr. Gill was the President and Chief Executive Officer of AnVil, the Burlington, MA, based preeminent commercialization partner to the life sciences industry focused on in silico drug discovery and drug development solutions. Prior to AnVil Dr. Gill served as President and Chief Executive Officer of ActiveCyte, Newton, MA, which provided an enterprise wide solution for pharmaceutical intellectual property licensing, & was sold to Wolter’s Kluwer. Dr. Gill served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Genome Therapeutics Corp; now Oscient Pharmaceuticals (NASDAQ: GENE now OSCI), a Waltham, MA, genomics company, which focuses on the commercialization of genomics-based drug discovery. He had overall operational and strategic management responsibilities and led the company's successful follow on financing efforts raising $55M. Prior to this Dr. Gill served as General Manager and Senior Vice President of BTG International, Inc., a subsidiary of BTG plc (LSE: BGC), a global leader in the patenting, marketing, and commercialization of intellectual property rights. Earlier, he held positions of increasing responsibility in research and general management with Unilever plc. in the United Kingdom. Dr. Gill holds a Ph.D. in Endocrinology and a B.Sc. with honors in Physiology and Biochemistry from Reading University, UK.

Eugene Kuznetsov - Co-founder and Chairman, Abine
Eugene Kuznetsov is co-founder and Chairman of Abine, the online privacy company, where he previously served as CEO. Before Abine, he was an executive at IBM, with responsibility for product management and marketing of SOA appliances. In addition to his P&L management duties, Kuznetsov was also a member of IBM Software Group Architecture Board and IBM AIM (WebSphere) Strategy Council. Kuznetsov joined IBM through acquisition of DataPower in October 2005, with substantial returns for all shareholders. He founded DataPower in 1999 based on his idea of combining dynamic compilation and network hardware technology to
simplify the process of securely connecting disparate applications. At DataPower, he served as President, VP of Marketing, CTO and Chairman at various points in the company’s history. Both Kuznetsov’s business and technical leadership has received recognition, including the prestigious InfoWorld Top 25 CTOs of 2005 and regional Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2006 awards. Kuznetsov earned a BSEE from MIT.

Hambleton Lord - Managing Director, Launchpad Venture Group
Hambleton (Ham) Lord has over 25 years experience in the software industry founding and building industry leading companies. Currently, Ham is the Managing Director of Launchpad Venture Group. Launchpad is a Boston-based angel group that focuses on seed stage technology companies. He manages the group’s deal flow, due diligence and investing activities. Ham is an active angel investor and advisor to early stage companies. He is a board member for Building Engines and a board observer for EveryScape. Ham co-founded data visualization vendor, Advanced Visual Systems. Ham helped launch two computational chemistry companies, MicroChem Technologies and Polygen. These companies were early developers of drug discovery tools, and were part of an industry wide acquisition roll-up that resulted in Accelrys. Ham graduated with a degree in Computer Science from Brown.

Michael McClurken, Ph.D. - Former CTO, Salient Surgical Technologies
Michael McClurken, Ph.D. has over 30 years of experience managing the design and development of medical devices in small startups and large organizations. He has published 15 technical papers on medical technology and has 19 US patents. Mike developed disposables for American Hospital Supply, implantable vascular grafts for IMPRA (Bard), and the first transvenous defibrillation lead for CPI (Boston Scientific). Prior to joining Salient (now Medtronic Energy) as VP of R&D in 1999 he was VP of R & D for Angiomedics II, a startup company focused on the development of a device using an ultraviolet laser to prevent restenosis after coronary angioplasty.

Bill McCullen - Director, Launch Capital
Bill is an experienced private investor, with over 7 years backing companies in the networking, semiconductor, clean energy and online markets. Bill has been in/around the Boston startup scene for close to 15 years, previously holding senior level roles at companies such as Syacmore Networks. Bill received his BS and MS degrees in Electrical Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and an MBA from the MIT Sloan School of Management. Bill is a lifelong Bostonian who currently lives in the suburbs with his wife and 3 children. When he has time he enjoys playing basketball and cycling.

Jeff Mullen - Founder and CEO, Dynamics Inc.
Jeff is the Chief Executive Officer of Dynamics Inc. which produces next generation payment cards. Dynamics was the winner of the 2009 Rice Business Plan Competition. Before his role at Dynamics, Jeff served as a Patent Attorney at the Fish & Neave IP Group of Ropes and Gray where he first began as a technical specialist, matured as a patent agent, and then excelled as a patent attorney. Jeff earned his MBA in Entrepreneurship from Carnegie Mellon University, his JD from the New York Law School, and his B.S. in Electrical & Computer Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University.
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Peter Russo - Director, Entrepreneurship Programs, BU
Russo is an Executive-in-Residence who teaches Entrepreneurship and Strategy at Boston University School of Management. He is the Director of Entrepreneurship Programs for the Institute for Technology Entrepreneurship & Commercialization (ITEC). Russo teaches courses at the MBA, executive, and undergraduate level, is responsible for the School’s Entrepreneurship curriculum (both degree and non-degree) and serves as faculty advisor to the students concentrating in Entrepreneurship at the graduate and undergraduate level. In 2009, the School of Management awarded him the Broderick Award for Service to the Graduate Programs. Prior to joining the faculty at BU, Russo served as the CEO of Data Instruments, (currently Honeywell Data Instruments). He currently serves on the Boards of Advisors and/or Boards of Directors for a number of commercial and not-for-profit organizations. He has a BS in accounting and an MBA from Harvard Business School where he was elected a Baker Scholar.

Nicholas Seet - Founding CEO, Auditude
Nicholas has been a serial-entrepreneur since his first startup concept was funded and he left his software-development position at Deloitte Consulting. Since that time he has worked to refine his business skills, serving at different times as CTO, CEO, and Founder of Auditude. A part of Auditude (called IntoNow) was spun-off in 2010 and was acquired by Yahoo in 2011. In November that same year, Auditude was acquired by Adobe Systems. Nicholas received his MBA from the UCLA Anderson School of Management in 2005. While there he participated in and won the UCLA Knapp Business Plan Competition as well as the Rice University Business Plan Competition, receiving over $1 million in funding and prizes. Nicholas received a BS in engineering and BA in economics at Harvey Mudd College in 1999. Nicholas is Chinese by ethnicity and was born in Australia. He has two daughters, Anya and Maya. He enjoys public speaking, creative writing, and being with his wife Vivien.

Matthew Witheiler - Principal, Flybridge Capital Partners
Matt is a Principal at Flybridge Capital Partners whose investment interests and experience broadly cover companies and technologies across the information technology sector including financial technology, digital media, semiconductors. Matt currently represents Flybridge Capital Partners on the board of Convoke Systems and serves as an observer on the boards of DataXu, Sand 9, Saving Star, Simple Tuition and a portfolio company working in stealth. He previously sat on the board of Ready Financial. He also sits on the board of The Capital Network and is a Founding Executive Committee Member of FirstGrowth Venture Network, a network of venture and angel investors supporting first and second time entrepreneurs building exciting companies in the New York area. Matt joined the firm as a Senior Associate in July 2008 after completing his MBA at Harvard School of Business (HBS). Most recently, Matthew was a Summer Associate at Jefferies Broadview in technology investment banking where he advised on sale, IPO and debt strategies of various companies in the technology industry. Prior to that, Matthew spent three years at ATI Technologies, a $4B 3D-graphics silicon provider. At ATI, Matt focused on the integration of 3D graphics and digital video and was responsible for the TV on the PC integrated circuit product line. He researched, led development and launched the company’s flagship multimedia processor. Before joining ATI, Matt served for four years as co-owner and Senior Hardware Editor of the successful hardware review website, Anand-Tech.com, where he helped build one of the world’s largest hardware review sites.