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Oregon
Executive MBA
PORTLAND

CAPSTONE PROJECT ADVISORS
directory

OREGON EXECUTIVE MBA
2024-25

Scott Chambers

McMinnville, OR

Before becoming a financial consultant, Scott Chambers was a professor of finance, teaching investments and corporate finance. His research focused on analyzing the asset allocation decisions of nonprofit endowments.

In 2004, Chambers started Headwater Investment Consulting, a firm that provides discretionary investment management to individuals, families, endowments, and foundations. As the company's president, he oversees investment selection, portfolio management, and regulatory compliance. Since 2000, Chambers has served as a director of First Federal Savings and Loan, a \$600 million lending institution.

Since starting as an Oregon Executive MBA Capstone advisor in 2018, Chambers has mentored projects involving new business ventures in food, hospitality, travel, real estate, and financial services. He has also assisted in planning new products for existing enterprises and assessed the feasibility of beginning independent consulting practices. While completing his PhD from the University of California-Davis—and continuing for many years afterward—Chambers guided multiday white water trips in Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska for a variety of outdoor outfitters.

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Sam Enoch

Los Angeles, CA

Sam Enoch is the senior vice president, film strategy and business development for NBCUniversal. He oversees various strategic analyses and industry trend monitoring as well as planning and budgeting for the studio's film slate.

Enoch also created and leads Universal's GreenerLight Program, an industry-first initiative that embeds sustainability into the studio's development, production, and greenlight processes. Prior to Universal, Enoch was at Warner Bros. in corporate finance, where he worked on global M&A and strategic venture deals across the film, TV, and video games industries.

Enoch holds an MBA from NYU Stern School of Business and studied for his undergraduate degree at Oxford University. In addition to his professional responsibilities, Enoch also serves on the board of the Los Angeles Zoo, the advisory board for the Hollywood Climate Summit, and two BAFTA committees: Finance & Learning and Inclusion & Talent.

Capstone projects would be growth ventures, internal corporate projects, non-profit, and socially-driven ventures as well as anything media, entertainment, or technology focused.

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Jim Coonan

Portland, OR

Jim Coonan is a successful entrepreneur and investor with a long avocational interest in the entrepreneurial ecosystem. Coonan's business career includes CEO/chair positions in defense/aerospace, consumer electronics, telecom, and software, as well as experience in consumer foods brand management.

As a supporter of entrepreneurs throughout the state, Coonan led efforts to create many of our most active angel and venture funds, including Cascade Seed Fund, Willamette Valley Angels, and, most prominently, the Oregon Venture Fund—to name a few.

Coonan has also been a leader on various nonprofits in support of entrepreneurship, including RAIN Catalysts, Oregon Entrepreneurs Network, Portland Angel Network, Oregon Growth Board, the Bend Venture Conference, and, most recently, in the establishment of the Launch Mid-Valley initiative. He is known for his decades-long unwavering support of growing entrepreneurial ecosystems.

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Scott Grout

Woodland, WA

Scott Grout is an active early-stage investor, mentor, and board member.

Grout works closely with entrepreneurs and young companies to help them formulate strategies, build their organizations, and realize their business

objectives. Prior to this, Grout was CEO of Radisys, a \$500 million global public technology company, as well as CEO of Chorum and Cedexis, two successful venture-backed startups in the technology space. Grout began his career at AT&T/Lucent as an engineer and worked his way up to become general manager of the company's multibillion-dollar fiber optics business unit. He has an undergraduate degree in industrial engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an MBA from the Sloan School of Management at MIT.

Grout is passionate about fostering a vibrant economic environment in the Portland area by sharing his years of experience as a senior leader in both large and startup organizations with the next generation of professionals.

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Scott Jenkins

Portland, OR

Scott Jenkins is the CEO of Stack, a sales-enablement software company that helps B2B companies professionalize and optimize their sales processes. As CEO, Jenkins leads the firm's overall growth and profitability.

In his two decades of experience, the main through-line has been growing and scaling teams, processes, and revenue across multiple industries (financial technology, management consulting, SaaS software) and geographies (United States, Asia, and Europe). Scott earned his BS in business from William Jewell College and his international MBA from the University of Edinburgh.

Capstone projects that focus on new ventures and/or internal projects focused on growth (specifically international growth) are of particular interest and applicability to Jenkins's skillset and background.

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Josh Kill

Portland, OR

Josh Kill is a seasoned product and design leader with nearly 20 years of experience in the creative tech space. As the former product director at Squarespace, Kill played a pivotal role in the company's growth from a small startup to a publicly traded company with more than \$1 billion in annual revenue. His expertise spans product design, user experience, and design leadership, and he has a proven track record of scaling teams and driving innovation.

At Squarespace, Kill led major initiatives that included transitioning the product to serve a broader audience, building a world-class design team, and creating the Squarespace developer network. More recently, he spearheaded the Squarespace Labs program that functioned as an internal product incubator.

Currently, he spends his time as an angel investor and advisor, helping startups to medium-sized companies refine their product strategies and craft compelling stories about their brands. Throughout his career, Kill has established himself as a respected figure in the tech industry, known for both his ability to transform innovative ideas into successful products and for his passion for helping companies translate their dreams into successful brands and products.

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Kathy Long Holland

Portland, OR

Kathy Long Holland is a specialist in the development and launch of new products and strategies. Long Holland spent seven years at Nike as the divisional head of new products and markets. Starting in 1987, she has had her own business advisory firm, LongSherpa Design, which specializes in new businesses and business transitions. Long Holland serves on numerous boards of directors. She holds a BA in history and art from the University of Nebraska, an MA in anthropology from the University of Nebraska, and an MBA from the University of Oregon with concentrations in finance and marketing.

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Ann Carney Nelson

Eugene, OR

Ann Carney Nelson has more than 25 years of experience investing in and supporting young and innovative technology companies. From 2009-2022 she served as COO at Inpria Corporation (acquired by JSR for \$514 million in 2021). As COO she helped define and direct the corporate strategy and operations. From 2008-11 she also worked as an independent consultant working primarily with technology companies in the Pacific Northwest in the areas of corporate strategy, fund raising, and operations. From 2008-09 she served as interim director of strategy for the Prison Entrepreneurship Program, a non-profit which used entrepreneurship education as a framework for teaching work skills and life skills to men nearing release from the Texas state prison system.

Previously, Nelson was the senior associate at Menlo Ventures, an early-stage high-technology venture capital firm based in Menlo Park, CA. She joined the firm in 1999 and during her tenure was active in a wide range of investments in early-stage infrastructure, software, semiconductor and internet companies. She was responsible for 18 new investments, representing over \$150 million in initial investments and participated in all stages of the investment process. Her investments included companies such as DriveCam, Librato, PowerReviews (acq. by bazaarvoice), and Tablus (acq. by RSA). She often represented Menlo Ventures as a board director or observer. In addition to her investment activities, Nelson organized and managed the business development programs for the firm's portfolio. These programs included, among others, a periodic seminar series as well as opportunities for portfolio companies to interact with key decision-makers at large public companies.

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Scott Sandler

Beavercreek, OR

Scott Sandler started his career at Intel and quickly learned that he liked startups better than big companies and enjoyed explaining technology more than creating and verifying designs. He served in applications engineering, customer support management, and marketing roles with electronic design automation companies Gateway Design Automation Cadence Design Systems, and Chrysalis Symbolic Design, before becoming CEO of Novas Software. He led diligence and investing activities at the Oregon Venture Fund for 10 years prior to retiring at the end of 2021.

In his own words: I am a generalist, especially after my years leading diligence at OVF for 10 years. Prior to that I was in a Vistage group for nine years and got exposed to the issues faced by companies of all sorts, very different from venture-backed startups. Although my background is tech, I believe I can help a wide range of companies. My forte is marketing and communications. I can listen to a pitch and suss out the core message quickly. (I got asked all the time “can you come make our next pitch for us?”) I have spent hardly any time in large companies, so I’m not best suited to helping someone navigate the politics of getting their project approved or funded internally.

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Steve Sterba

Bend, OR

Steve Sterba has more than 35 years of leadership experience in public and private high technology companies including Intel, Sequent Computers, and five venture-backed software companies.

He successfully increased valuations of companies by driving fast growth and profitability, while raising more than \$125 million of private equity. His international operational and sales experience includes North America, Europe, Asia Pacific, and Latin America. Sterba’s investment experience includes serving as a partner in a venture capital firm and as an angel/seed fund investor. He is currently a board member and adviser to several technology companies in the Northwest.

Sterba takes pride in being a Capstone advisor for the Oregon Executive MBA program at the University of Oregon. He has mentored Capstone projects for new ventures as well as internal company initiatives. While Sterba’s industry background and experience make him a good fit for technology projects, he has also successfully mentored and invested in companies in financial services, manufacturing, and nonprofits. He enjoys everything outdoors in the vast playground that is Central Oregon.

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Linda Weston

Portland, OR

Linda Weston has more than 35 years of senior leadership experience in the entrepreneurial ecosystem, professional sports, and tourism. Weston spent 17 years serving as the president and executive director of the Oregon Entrepreneurs Network (OEN), an organization that provides education, support, and access to capital for early-stage, high-growth companies. During her tenure, Weston oversaw more than 60 programs and events annually and grew the organization to serve more than 55,000 participants across Oregon and Southwest Washington. She generated more than \$12.2 million in sponsorships, donations, and grant funding to expand access to services for entrepreneurs in both urban and underserved areas.

Prior to leading OEN, Weston started and served as the general manager of the Portland Power, a women’s professional basketball team in the American Basketball League, the precursor to the WNBA. Under Weston’s leadership, the Power was the league’s most successful franchise, leading the league in ticket revenue and having the second-highest attendance numbers.

Weston started her career in destination marketing. She served for seven years as director of sales and marketing at the Convention & Visitors Association of Lane County and served another eight years as the organization’s CEO. After her retirement from OEN, Weston launched Rapporto, a consulting practice providing executive coaching to CEOs and other senior executives.

Weston has served as a Capstone advisor since 2017 and has worked with students on a variety of consumer products, internal projects, medical devices, professional services, tech products, and nonprofit Capstone projects.

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