

**The McDermond Center Industry Insight Panel:**

**Entrepreneurship**

**Monday, April 19th, 2021**

**4:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

**Zoom**

**Mary Beth Oakes ‘90**

*CEO, Business Furniture LLC*

“MB” graduated from DePauw University in 1990 with a degree in Communication. Her favorite professor and advisor was Professor Jeff McCall where in classes she honed in skills for public speaking and communication plans, expertise she uses everyday as CEO at Business Furniture + Choreo in Indianapolis. Whether she’s meeting with clients or hosting the company “Wine Down Wednesday”, she is passionate about making culture the center of every company.  MB thanks her time at DePauw and the Delta Gamma sorority for her love of events and networking. She also was an active part of the Student Senate and worked on campus at WGRE, the campus radio station at DePauw.

Mary Beth spent the last 28 years working in furniture and change management and dedicates her spare time to serving on boards focusing on female leadership and empowerment.

**JT Benton ‘03**

*Special Partner, COGO Labs; Founder and CEO, Workbook6*

JT Benton is an entrepreneur, executive and board member/advisor with deep experience launching and growing businesses across a range of industries and commercial categories. To date, his most notable accomplishments have focused on the direct response marketing space, primarily serving financial services enterprises in their customer acquisition efforts. Recently, JT joined COGO Labs, a Boston/Cambridge-based venture incubator focused on launching and scaling new companies which display compelling growth trajectories. Prior to this, in 2016, JT founded WorkBook6 upon recognizing that escalating costs and declining lifetime values were leading many marketers into a profitability crisis. The concept was quickly validated – WorkBook6 quickly grew to serve many dozens of large and mid-sized enterprises with their growth strategies.

Prior to launching WorkBook6, JT served as Chief Revenue Officer of a national insurance agency. Before that, he oversaw a leading US-based contact center and global digital agency and led a mobile advertising business to a $10MM run rate within its first year of operation. JT recently served on the Board of Directors for InsuraMatch, a national insurance agency, which was sold to Travelers Insurance in February of 2021. JT currently lives in Tempe, Arizona, with his wife, Jennie, and two boys.

**Brittany Hizer ‘04**

*Co-Founder and COO, Pluie*

Brittany’s early career was focused on designing and innovating treadmills, cross-trainers and exercise bikes found in health clubs and fitness centers around the world. She had a diverse career experience with Life Fitness, the leading global manufacturer of commercial fitness equipment, and managed the acquisition and integration of SCIFIT, Inc. After graduating from the Kellogg School of Management Executive Program, she pivoted from fitness to fishing as the president of Crestliner and became Brunswick’s first female P&L owner.

She is now the Co-Founder and COO of Pluie, the world’s first and only self-sanitizing diaper changing table for public restrooms. Pluie is truly innovative as the first and only changing table that self sanitizes using a patent-pending UV-C light system and is now considered a health and safety solution for businesses. Pluie brings innovation to a decades-old problem: diaper changing tables are outdated, dirty and uncomfortable, and will be featured in public restrooms nationwide in 2021.

**Sumeru Chatterjee ‘13**

*Co-Founder, Share Koro*

Did you know that 90% of online courses are in English? That’s crazy given that only 14% of the world speaks any English at all! We wanted to change that so we started Share Koro, (founded by Sumeru Chatterjee ‘13 and Vedant Singhania ‘13). We are a digital education startup with a focus on bringing financial literacy to 235M speakers of the Bangla language. We started our business during the COVID-19 pandemic and have since graduated over 3,000 students. We are completely bootstrapped, profitable and are set to double this year.  We also care about making education accessible and have delivered 225,000 hours of FREE financial literacy training to 90,000 people so far.

Before Share Koro, "Sumo" spent 7 years in Silicon Valley and Wall Street working for high growth startups and investment banks. At DePauw, he was a Management Fellow and an Honor Scholar, ran track and beatboxed for *DePauwcappella.*