SOCIAL IMPACT AT CHICAGO BOOTH
2014–2015
Dear Social Enterprise Initiative supporter,

As we look back on the 2014–15 academic year, we are truly grateful for the energy, generosity, and insights of our community of supporters. It is your help that allows SEI to offer programs and events designed to meet the needs of the Chicago Booth students, alumni, and faculty working to solve the world’s toughest problems. Thank you for your contributions to this work.

This report provides a look back at some of the new initiatives, ongoing projects, and exciting milestones that your partnership made possible in the past year.

Your continued generosity and support are critical to the Social Enterprise Initiative’s ability to expand upon this depth and breadth of programming. We remain dedicated to providing students, alumni, and faculty with the tools needed to make an impact on issues ranging from education reform in Chicago to voter education across the US.

All the best,

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Faculty Codirector, SEI
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coaching sessions held with Social Entrepreneur in Residence, David Friedman, ’89. Friedman, who is the founder of social start-up AutonomyWorks, returned for a third year this fall. SEI also welcomed Brian Axelrad, ’09, as our first Impact Investor in Residence.

150 students, alumni, and community members attended our Social Impact Leadership Series (SILS) event on unlocking college persistence with education nonprofit OneGoal, founded by Jeff Nelson, ’14.

50 alumni now serve on nonprofit boards of directors as a result of the Alumni Board Connect program. Among those matched was Judy Lubin, MBA ’91, PhD ’04, who was recently voted board chair of science education nonprofit Project Exploration.

75 Visiting Fellows—Roland Bénabou of Princeton University and Maitreesh Ghatak of the London School of Economics and Political Science—spent time at Booth engaging with faculty around issues in behavioral and development economics.
social enterprises launched in the five years since the genesis of the John Edwardson, ’72, Social New Venture Challenge (SNVC). Placing first in the 2015 SNVC was BallotReady, an online and mobile app that provides tailored information about candidates on local ballots.

$40,000 in funding was given out to Chicago Booth faculty members researching social impact sector topics, including professor Pradeep Chintagunta’s study on the efficacy of a coaching program for Ugandan entrepreneurs.

420 alumni, students, nonprofit executive directors, and board presidents gathered at the second annual On Board conference on nonprofit board service. Popular panel sessions at the conference focused on finding and thriving on the right-fit board and driving long-term success.

In the Social Enterprise Lab, students worked with mission-driven organizations, including Chicago’s Field Museum, on strategic consulting projects. In-class learning focused on understanding the differences between social ventures and profit-maximizing firms.
ABOUT SEI

The Social Enterprise Initiative (SEI) at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business supports the aspirations of students and alumni to impact societal issues and furthers research on how institutions help solve social problems. Through ongoing curricular development, alumni and student programming, and support of faculty pursuits, SEI builds on Chicago Booth’s commitment to rigorous analysis and its discipline-based approach to understanding organizations, markets, and policy.

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