

THE WHARTON ETHICS PROGRAM AND THE ROBERT M. AND DIANE v.S. LEVY SOCIAL IMPACT FUND SEMINAR

SPEAKER: Jonathan Harrison
TITLE: Making a Career in Social Entrepreneurship
LOCATION: Jon M. Huntsman Hall, Room 265
DATE: February 4, 2009
TIME: 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

ABSTRACT:

In his speech, Mr. Harrison will share his professional and personal experiences in the field of Social Entrepreneurship. He will discuss how Rubicon National Social Innovations has been able to scale up social enterprises that deliver high social impact in a financially sustainable manner. He will also discuss the topic of “doing well while doing good” and explain how his business education has helped him in his work as a Social Entrepreneur.

This summer, Mr. Harrison will be mentoring one Penn student intern in his capacity as Director of Rubicon National Social Innovations through a social entrepreneurship mentoring program sponsored by the Wharton Ethics Program and the Robert M. and Diane v.S. Levy Social Impact Fund.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:

Jonathan is a seasoned social entrepreneur who has devoted his career to building and running community-based enterprises.

As Director of Rubicon National Social Innovations, he leads an multidisciplinary team that is developing the next generation of social enterprises – business models that are scalable to multiple locations, financially self sufficient yet deliver high social impacts.

Prior to joining RNSI, he led lending programs at MACED in Berea, KY, a community development financial institution (CDFI) focused on lending to viable but unbankable small businesses.

In 1998, Jonathan co-founded alt.Consulting, a social mission-driven consulting nonprofit and led the organization as Executive Director for its first five years.

In addition to starting and operating social entrepreneurial ventures including food coops and nonprofit bakeries, Jonathan was a fellow of the Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise and business consultant with the North Carolina Institute of Minority Economic Development. Earlier in his career, he spent time running advertising and marketing efforts at Carnegie Hall, and was faculty instructor at the Xi'an Institute of Finance and Economics in the Peoples' Republic of China. He has an MBA from the Yale School of Management.