



**DUBAI COLLEGE**

*A tradition of quality in education*

Dubai College Business Dinner



Radisson Blu Hotel, Media City

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022

7pm - 9:30pm

## DUBAI COLLEGE Business Dinner 2022

A very warm welcome to our 'Business focused' dinner for Sixth Form students.

The purpose of this evening is to promote careers advice and guidance, develop social skills in a business dinner setting as well as providing networking opportunities for the future. This event has been kindly supported by alumni members and friends of Dubai College who will be offering their expertise in the areas of Audit/Accounting/Management Consultancy, Banking & Finance, Engineering, Entrepreneurship/Business Start Ups, Law and Medicine.

Dubai College sincerely thank Clyde & Co and SPJ Foundation for their generous sponsorship of this event.

We hope that you have an enjoyable and enlightening evening.

Michael Lambert, Headmaster

### ACCOUNTING/AUDITING

#### **SHEHMIR SHEIKH**

Consultant,  
KPMG

Shehmir graduated from Dubai College in 2008.

Shehmir graduated from New York University (NYU) in 2012 with a degree in Economics.

Following his graduation, Shehmir was an entrepreneur in the technology space launching a peer-to-peer logistics business. He then joined KPMG Advisory as part of their Digital and Innovation practice. At KPMG, Shehmir leads large scale digital and customer transformation programs for public and private sector clients in the UAE and more recently his focus has been towards building KPMG's Ventures and Futures solution.

#### **ALY IBRAHIM**

Deal Advisory  
Associate, KPMG

Aly graduated from Dubai College in 2014.

Aly then went on to obtain a BA(Hons) in Economics at the University of Manchester and a MSc in Economics and Strategy for business at Imperial College London Business School.

Aly moved back to Dubai to join Julius Baer's investment advisory team providing asset allocation and portfolio construction advisory to private clients on a variety of asset classes including equities, fixed income, and commodities. Following which, he moved to London to join the Asset Management arm of Intesa San Paolo providing buy side fund due diligence. At the time, the fund ran around 13.5 billion euros which included equity, fixed income, hedge fund, and alternative risk premia solutions

Aly recently joined KPMG in December 2021 within the Advisory division, providing financial due diligence on both buy and sell side transactions as part of the M&A process.

## BANKING & FINANCE

### STUART KEENAN

Stuart attended Dubai College from 2004 – 2008.

VP Receivables  
Product Head for  
the MENA region  
Citi

He studied Economics at the University of Warwick, with an exchange year at the University of California, Berkeley.

Whilst at university, Stuart did a Spring Week and two summer internships at Citi before joining permanently in 2014. He moved back to Dubai in August to become MENA Receivables Head having previously worked in London and Dublin. Stuart works in Treasury and Trade Solutions which provides integrated cash management, working capital and trade finance solutions to multinational corporations, financial institutions and public sector organisations around the globe.

### KUNAL CHOITRAM

Kunal graduated from Dubai College in 2002.

Middle East &  
Africa Expansion  
- Global  
Partnerships  
Stripe

Kunal is a payments professional with more than 15 years of industry experience, currently driving Stripe's regional expansion across the Middle East and North Africa, including their recent launch in UAE. Prior to Stripe, Kunal held multiple regional leadership positions at Visa in their Dubai and London offices, most recently heading sales for the Visa Direct money movement network. Kunal has also managed Visa's acceptance growth with acquirers and merchants across the Middle East, as well as the network processing and business development verticals in Europe. Kunal entered the payments industry through Citigroup's London graduate program, focusing on treasury management and card acquiring solutions. Kunal has an undergraduate degree in Economics from the University College London and lives in Dubai with his wife and son.

## ENGINEERING

### CATHY JOSHI

Cathy is a parent of 2 students at Dubai College.

Chartered Civil  
Engineer, HKA  
Consulting

Cathy is a Chartered Civil Engineer at HKA Consulting with more than 25 years of construction industry experience. Cathy has an extensive background in both the design and project management of high profile and large scale, complex projects across the Middle East, Europe, North America and Asia, ranging from buildings and utilities to immersed tube tunnels and causeways.

Cathy is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers and the Association for Project Management. She holds an LLM in Construction Law and Arbitration.

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### REHAN ALI

Rehan graduated from Dubai College in 2008.

Work Winning  
Lead for  
Transport and  
Infrastructure  
and Project  
Management  
Services,  
WSP

He attended Imperial College London to study MEng Mechanical Engineering before returning to the UAE to complete his education following an unfortunate event in the family.

He began his career in the Oil Industry, working as a Field Engineer on the LEAD Program for Baker Hughes. However, following the collapse in oil prices and the subsequent market downturn, he decided to change over to the Building Services Industry where he worked on iconic projects across the region as a Mechanical Engineer for Atkins. He is now working for WSP as a Work Winning Lead for Transport & Infrastructure and Project Management Services.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

### ELLIOTT DENHAM

Startup Programs  
Team, Dtec  
Ventures

Elliott graduated from Dubai College in 2011.

Elliott sits on the intersection between people, business, and technology. He started his career leading the Student Union at the University of Nottingham as Postgraduate officer, when he was also board chairman of £3.2m company budget. Elliott was then headhunted into a tech startup in London; this is where he “became friends with uncertainty” and quickly learned what it means to “wear multiple hats”. Despite having multiple offers to stay in London, 2 years later Elliott then took the decision to volunteer around the world. To this day he still refers to this being the biggest-yet-most-rewarding-risk he has ever taken.

Having travelled the world helping start-ups develop, refine, and execute their go-to-market strategies, he now leads the Startup Programs team in Dtec Ventures, notably running SANDBOX; the region’s landmark founder-focused 12-month program supporting early-stage technology entrepreneurs to scale, fundraise and grow.

### SACHA HAIDER

Sacha graduated from Dubai College in 2011.

Partner, Global  
Ventures

Sacha joined Global Ventures as a Senior Associate in early 2020. She has 5 years of investment experience across emerging markets including MENA, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and Asia. Prior to joining Global Ventures, Sacha was an Associate at Colony Capital (US REIT) in Mexico City, for the firm’s sector agnostic Pacific Alliance fund. Sacha has also worked as part of The Abraaj Group’s Sub-Saharan Africa Investment Team, based in Kenya, for the generalist fund. Prior to this, Sacha interned at L Catterton in Singapore as part of the value acceleration team. Sacha is fluent in Spanish and Urdu, and holds a BA in History and Politics from the University of Warwick.

## LAW

### **BEN SMITH**

Partner,  
Clyde & Co

Ben graduated from Dubai College in 2001.

Ben studied law at Nottingham University before completing his professional exams at the College of Law, London. Ben joined Clyde & Co in Dubai in 2008, and has been a partner with the firm for five years.

He specialises in foreign direct investment. He advises clients on expansion into, and operations in, countries throughout the Middle East. He advises on the establishment and structuring of new entities and group restructuring, often in a cross border context. He has a detailed knowledge of the legal, regulatory and practical environment in which businesses operate in the region.

Ben also advises clients on a range of commercial and compliance issues, including data protection, consumer protection and customs. He has drafted and negotiated numerous commercial agreements.

Ben represents clients operating in many sectors including technology, media, pharmaceutical, retail, FMCG and hospitality.

Ben has been seconded to one of the world's largest IT hardware manufacturers and consultancy service providers and to a leading international hotel and leisure company. He has presented at various seminars and has been featured on the Dubai Eye Business Breakfast radio show. He regularly contributes to publications on a range of corporate and commercial matters.

### **TRACEY JARVIS**

Head of Human  
Resources for  
Middle East &  
Africa, Clyde & Co

Tracey is a colleague of alum, Ben Smith.

Tracey has been in the HR profession for just over 25 years within financial services and professional services.

She started her HR career in Learning and Development before moving into HR Operations/Management and through a number of promotions has held HR Director and Head of HR positions.

Tracey transferred from Clydes in the UK to the Middle East in December 2019 into the role of Head of HR for Middle East and Africa.

Tracey has always had a passion for people development and enjoys mentoring/coaching and encouraging people to take control of their careers.

Tracey has recently qualified as an Executive Business Coach and is hoping to utilise these skills to further support people to be the best that they can be.

## MEDICINE

### **DR MARTIN VERHEIJ,**

General Surgery  
Specialist,  
Mediclinic  
Parkview Hospital

Martin graduated from Dubai College in 2007.

He graduated from the University of Cape Town, Faculty of Health Sciences in 2012 with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB). After graduation he continued to work in large academic hospitals within South Africa with an interest in Trauma and Anesthetics as well as emergency medicine in the private sector.

He relocated to the U.A.E in 2017 and is currently working as a general surgery specialist at Mediclinic Parkview Hospital where he has been for the past 3 years. He is involved in the surgical treatment of conditions ranging from acute appendicitis and colon cancer to gastro-esophageal reflux disease.

Martin is a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and holds a postgraduate diploma in Anaesthesiology from the College of Medicine of South Africa.

### **DR TIERNAN BYRNES**

Neurosurgeon,  
American Hospital

Dr Tiernan Byrnes is a parent at Dubai College

Tiernan Byrnes is a Consultant Neurosurgeon and Spinal Surgeon currently practicing at the American Hospital Dubai. He went to school in the North of Ireland and Medical School in Edinburgh. His Neurosurgical training was based in London at St George's Hospital, King's College Hospital, Great Ormond Street Hospital and the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery. He has a Postgraduate Medical Research Doctorate from the University of London. Dr Byrnes is Fellowship trained in Complex Spinal Surgery at both the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery and the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, the Society of British Neurological Surgeons and the AO Foundation. Dr Byrnes worked in St Bartholomew's and The Royal London Hospital with a specialist interest in Complex Spine Surgery and Neurosurgical Trauma prior to moving to Dubai.

**7.00pm**  
Drinks & Canapés

**7.20pm**  
Welcome  
Michael Lambert, Headmaster

**7.25pm**  
Guest Speaker  
Clyde & Co

**7.35pm**  
Starter  
Tomato cherry burrata with rocket salad (V)  
Asparagus & salmon mimosa salad

**8.00pm**  
Main Course

Orecchiette pasta with Grilled vegetables,  
Basil pesto cream & parmesan shaved (V)  
Pan seared sea bass with asparagus, pickled  
fennel & citrus tomato sauce  
Sous vide chicken roulade with potato and  
roasted vegetable jus

**8.45pm**  
Dessert  
New York cheesecake with berry compote

**9.15pm**  
Thanks  
Bobby Trivic, Head of Sixth Form

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