

Solomon Darwin

Executive Director, Garwood Center Corporate Innovation at Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, CA, US

Hailed as the “father of the Smart Village Movement”

About

Solomon Darwin has broad leadership experience in corporate management and academia. He is an international speaker recognized by peers, executives, and students with numerous awards for his innovative leadership and passion for teaching. He inspires students from both business and engineering disciplines in his courses for open innovation, business models, smart cities, scalable smart villages, IBM Watson and business models for emerging economies.

As an expert in “open innovation” and “open business models,” he is an adviser to senior executives of multinationals and government leaders in the emerging world. The list includes Google, Genentech, HP, Health Net, J&J, Toyota, NHS of UK, UCSF, Royal Caribbean, Autodesk, Nestle and government entities in Mexico, China, Russia, India, Colombia and Europe. He directs and moderates international innovation conferences and forums, and chairs quarterly Chief Innovation Officer round tables in Silicon Valley.

Prior to joining Berkeley Haas in 2005, he was an Associate Professor for nine years at University of Southern California. His progressive corporate leadership experience covers a span of 14 years as a Senior Executive Officer at Bank of America, First Interstate Bank, and Glendale Federal Bank and Motorola.

During summers, Darwin regularly teaches in executive programs at prominent international universities and institutions. He has conducted workshops and programs in over 18 countries. He also serves as honorary professor at several universities in Europe, China, and India. His current project, “Building Scalable Smart Villages,” was commissioned by the government of India.

Areas of Expertise

Open Innovation, Smart Villages / Smart Cities, Business Models Innovation, Strategies for Emerging Economies, Business Ecosystems, Sustainability of the Planet, Forensic Accounting

Selected External Service & Affiliations

2014 – present, Directs and Organizes The World Open Innovation Forum (annual), 2009 – present, Directs and Organizes The Berkeley Innovation Semiannual Forums, 2009 – present, Chair, Chief Innovation Officer Round tables (quarterly meetings), 2015 – present, Directs Garwood Innovation Fellows Program (Executive-in-residence program), 2012 – present, Conducts Leadership Seminars for Indian & Chinese C-suite Executives, 2011 – present, Keynote Speaker: Corporate Start-up Summit, Zurich (2018); Indian Institute of Plantation Management, India (2019); Inno-Frugal Conference, Finland (2018); TEDx Mumbai (2018); World Cities Congress, Istanbul (2017); International Triple Helix Conference, UK (2013); Big Innovation Center, London (2013/2012); International Open Innovations Conference, Moscow, (2012); Columbia Department of Commerce, Colombia (2016); Innovation Conference, Germany (2011); World Trade Center, Mexico City (2011/2010); The Atlantic’s “American Competitiveness,” San Francisco (2006), 2010 – 2018, Custom Courses Taught for Senior Executives at Google, HP, Genentech, Health Net, Conceptus, UCSF Medical Center, CIO Institute, American Association of Corporate Counsel, 2005 – 2018, New Courses Development: Business Models & Open Innovation for Emerging Economies; Building Smart Cities; Creating Smart Villages; IBM Watson & Business Models; Forensic Accounting and International Accounting and Custom Executive Accounting Programs, 2007 – 2010, New Degree Development: Developed a New Master’s Degree in Accounting for UC system wide adoptions: Spearheaded from inception to approval, 2017, Developed a Framework for the first smart village in the world – the “Mori Village” in India”, 2017, Conducting the First Inaugural Open Innovation Forum in India, 2018, Continued Smart Village research in 466 villages that was funded by the government of India , 2006 – 2009, Chaired, Chief Financial Officer Round tables (quarterly meetings), 2010, Chief Content Officer and Moderator: CFO Summit for Global 1000 companies, San Francisco, 2005 – 2009, Directed and moderated annual Financial Reporting Conferences, 1999 and 2003, Founded and spearheaded an International School and Charity Hospital in India, 2005 – Present, President of Hope For People International, Los Angeles, 1986 – Present, Chairman, Project India, 1998 – 2000, Board of Directors, Genius Labs, Pasadena, 1998 – 2004, Board of Directors, Mustard Seed International, Pasadena, 1980 – 1990, Board of Directors, Mission Compassion Inc., a relief organization, San Francisco, 1998 – 2000, Consulting for several companies started by former students, 1992 –1993, Chief Financial Officer, Mustard Seed Inc., Pasadena, Chaired CFRM Executive Board and Advisory Boards for Financial Reporting Conferences, Faculty Advisor to several student organizations student case competitions

Positions Held

At Haas since 2005

2009 – Present, Executive Director, Garwood Center for Corporate Innovation
2008 – 2009, Executive Director, Center for Innovative Financial Technology
2005 – 2008, Executive Director, Center for Financial Reporting & Management
1996 – 2005, Associate Professor, University of Southern California
1984 – 1995, Senior Corporate Officer: Bank of America, 1st Interstate Bank
1980 – 1983, Senior Financial Analyst, Motorola

Adjunct Professorships

2015 – Present, Adjunct Professor on Faculty, Lancaster (U.K.) University, School of Management
2011 – Present, Adjunct Professor on Faculty, Shanghai Jiao-Tong University

Visiting Positions Since 1996

Cambridge University
Norwegian Business School
University of Turku, Finland
Oxford University
University of Toronto
Kings University, Bangkok
Aachen University, Germany
WHU, Germany
Maastricht University, Netherlands
Lancaster University, UK
Stockholm School of Economics
University of Zurich
University of Science & Technology, China
World Trade Center, Mexico
Jiao Tong University, China
Korean University
Qingdao University, China
Moscow State University, Russia
International University of Business & Economics, Beijing, China
China Normal University
Fraunhofer Institute, Germany
Wuhan University, China
Euro-med School of Management, France
EM Lyon School of Management, France
Peter Drucker School of Management, Claremont, CA
Stanford University, Graduate School of Management

Education

Golden Gate University
Doctoral Studies (Doctor of Business Administration)

Harvard University, Graduate School of Business
MCCP

Golden Gate University
MBA

San Francisco State University
BA

Skyline College
AA

Honors & Awards

PhD (Honorary)

Shanghai Jiao-Tong University, Overseas College
2011

PhD (Honorary)

CapStone University, Pasadena, CA
2005

Leadership Award for Exemplary Service

Haas School of Business
2009

Golden Apple Teaching Awards

Marshall Business School, USC
1999, 2000, 2003

Most Innovative Teacher Award

Marshall Faculty Award, USC
2005

Motor Board Outstanding Professor Award

2005

Professor of the Year Award

National Greek Society – Gamma Sigma Alpha
2003

National Teaching Award "Who's Who Among America's Teachers"

2002, 2004, 2005

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