

OUR TEAM

The Valentre team is made up of experts in their fields, passionate mentors and educational visionaries. These are just a few of our instrumental members:

Our Board



Rob Lue
Chancellor

Robert is a professor in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology and the Richard L. Menschel Faculty Director of the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning at Harvard University, where he is responsible for fostering innovative teaching in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. In 2012, Rob's extensive work on using technology to enhance learning took a new direction when he became the Faculty Director of HarvardX. In addition, as the Faculty Director of the Harvard Ed Portal, Rob oversees the integration of undergraduate education with community outreach on Harvard's Allston campus and is currently the UNESCO Chair on Biology and Social Innovation.



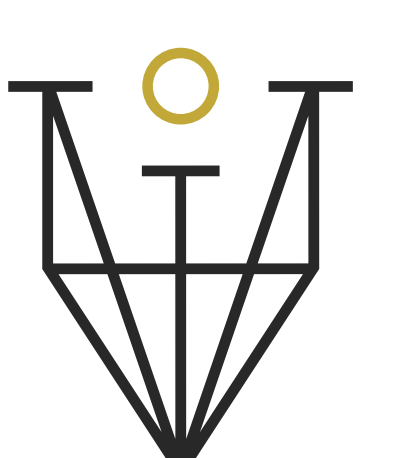
Samer Salty
Founding investor

Samer is the Founder and Managing Partner of Zouk Capital with almost 30 years' experience in private equity, sustainability, investment banking and technology. Samer's vision for sustainability started with his investment in The Carbon Neutral Company in 2000 and his philosophy is to make investments that both create economic value and build on sustainable principles. Samer holds a B.S. in Electronic Engineering from California Polytechnic and a M.S. in Management and Finance from MIT. He also sits on the International Council of the Harvard Kennedy School, Belfer Centre, and the Advisory Board of the MIT Sloan School of Management.



Robert Paddock
Founder & CEO

Robert is the Co-founder of GetSmarter, an online education company that has educated over 90,000 working professionals from 134 countries around the world, and partners with Universities such as Harvard, Cambridge, MIT, Oxford, LSE and Stanford. GetSmarter sold to Nasdaq-listed 2U in 2017. Rob is a founding board member of Injini, Africa's first EdTech incubator, an Executive Director of Hubble Studios, an education technology agency in Cape Town, and an advisor to a number of online education companies in Africa and abroad.



OUR TEAM

"I've had the great privilege of working with a number of the world's leading experts in Education, Technology and Sustainability to design the learning experience our students enjoy at Valenture Institute. There are huge opportunities for improvements in our education system, and we hope to be a shining light that others might follow in time."

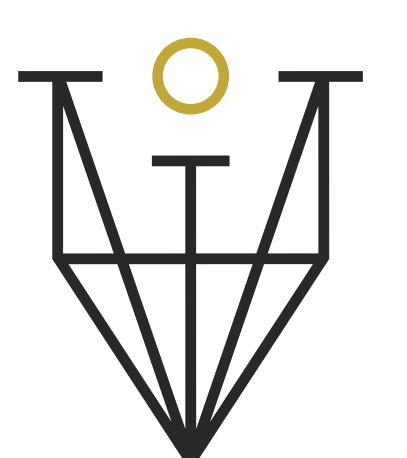
- Robert Paddock, Founder & CEO

Our Leadership Team



Bradley Elliott
Chief Marketing & Innovation Officer

Brad's passion is growing brands and businesses. He believes technology is a key enabler that makes the world a better place. Bradley was the Founder & CEO of Platinum Seed. With a broad range of digital experience, he grew the company to its current form as a digital partner to some of the most recognised regional and global brands operating within Africa. In 2012 he founded one of SA's first mobile payment solutions, CheqOut, which won Mobile Monday's App of the Year. He is also the Founder of Continuum, an Intelligent Social Marketing SaaS platform, as well as a Founding Partner in getTOD, an on-demand app that allows users to connect with tradesmen in real-time.



OUR TEAM



Amy Johnson
Chief Academic Officer

Amy is a curious and enthusiastic EdTech leader. Nearing 10 years in the education sphere, Amy has spent the majority of her career leading GetSmarter's learning design, learning technology, learning analytics and student support services, most notably on GetSmarter's executive team as Chief of Education. Having completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Media and Writing and a Post-Grad in Education, Amy is also passionate about pursuing micro-credentials and has completed a series of online teaching and learning courses through the Online Learning Consortium and the London School of Economics.

"I am thrilled to be part of a team that values the unique affordances of digital technologies and their application to bring about a truly transformative pedagogical approach for the next generation of disruptors and changemakers."

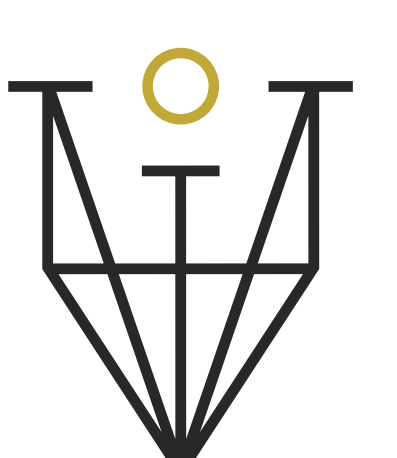


Daniel Coetzer
Registrar and Chief Learning Officer

Daniel held the position of Registrar at GetSmarter for 8 years. During his tenure as GetSmarter's Registrar, Dan was responsible for a diverse portfolio, including governance, quality assurance, academic administration, examinations, and oversight of the team responsible for carrying out these functions. In addition to his core functions he has also worked in a senior capacity within a student success team, which has given him a thorough understanding of what students need to be successful in an online learning environment. His work in these various spheres is underpinned by a strong passion for high-quality education and social equality.

In working with leading universities around the world, Dan has built strong working relationships with university academics and administrators, and developed the skills necessary to ensure that the varied needs and requirements of partner institutions are met.

"I believe that the future of education is one that offers an agile continuum, supporting the demands of today and predicting the needs of the future to adequately prepare each generation to meet global challenges."



OUR DEANS

Gareth Spencer-Smith

Dean of Mathematics

Garth is a highly qualified expert with a Master's Degree in both Maths Education and Monitoring & Evaluation. He has been teaching high school maths in South Africa, Namibia and the UK for over 20 years, the majority of the time following international GCSE, AS- and A-Level curricula. He's also edited and authored a number of maths textbooks and materials for online maths support sites.

"I am proud to say that by far the majority of the students I've taught and tutored have achieved excellent results in their final maths exams, and I look forward to helping Valentre students achieve the same level of excellence!"

Samantha Ipser

Dean of Social Sciences

Samantha has been in education for over 20 years and is passionate about developing and nurturing young people. She has an Honours Degree in Applied Linguistics, and has been fortunate enough to use her teaching qualification to 'travel' to interesting countries, such as Angola, Cambodia and Bangladesh, where she taught social sciences at various international schools.

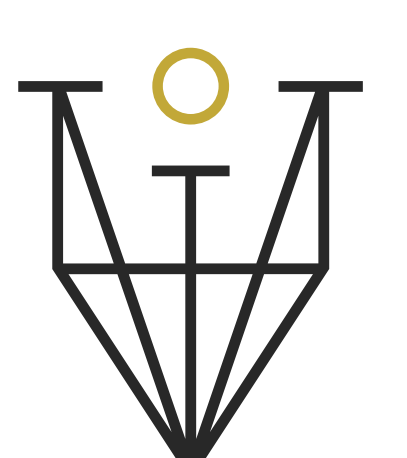
"Teaching across a range of schools, cultures and continents has helped me to see education in a broader sense - beyond the 'traditional' - to seek out the type of schools that truly prepare young people for an exciting, but challenging, globalised world. To this end I am currently completing a Master's Degree in Education and excited to be part of the Valentre adventure!"

Rick Greener

Dean of Life Sciences

Rick is an accomplished educator with 30 years of teaching experience, over half of which has been at management level. For the last 20 years he has worked in an international school which offers the Cambridge Examinations. Having taught science and biology to the International GCSE and A-Levels, he is well versed in the UK curriculum expectations and as professional development coordinator, has introduced many of the best practice teaching methods into his school. Rick got involved in education technology as the wave began to form in South Africa and helped organise and run the first national EdTech Conference. Since then, he has travelled both locally and abroad to research, plan and successfully implement the use of educational technology.

"I'm passionate about teaching and learning and making a difference in people's lives. I love working at a school that operates with a global mindset that incorporates best, often cutting-edge, practices."



OUR DEANS

Gareth Pinches

Dean of Business

Gareth is an experienced teacher, spending over 14 years teaching in IEB schools across South Africa. His classes have frequently received among the top results in the country, and he's excited about the ability to use various technological options to teach from anywhere, connecting with students around the world.

"I see solving problems as more important than rote learning, where investigating different solutions to problems is more important than simply acquiring the knowledge. Making connections with people across geographies and cultures is key to building diverse communities that are able to achieve significant, shared goals and address the growing global challenges that affect all of us."

Antoinette Black

Dean of Languages

Born in South Africa to a Swiss father and South African mother, Antoinette travelled quite widely as a young child. She attained her Honours Degree at Rhodes University, majoring in English, Afrikaans and French translation. Since then she has taught both French and English extensively, going on to receive her Master's Degree. She loves getting students to think for themselves, out-of-the-box and creatively, and has been teaching AS- and A-Levels English Language and Literature since 2015.

"I believe that English is a wonderful vehicle for personal extension and advancement, and take great pride in the results my students have achieved over the last 25 years. My teaching philosophy is best summed up by the following statement made by Albert Einstein: "Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think"."

