ABSTRACT:

Democratizing Audio: How UD Alumni Michael Mignano (CIS’05) built a company that transformed podcasting

In 2014, Michael Mignano (CIS’05) tried to start a podcast, only to become quickly discouraged by the complicated processes, software, and hardware he encountered. Inspired to make podcasting easier for himself and others, he and his friend Nir Zicherman started a company called Anchor. What began as a two-person startup ultimately democratized podcasting globally, transforming it from a small, niche medium into a universal form of creative expression adopted by millions worldwide. Join us to learn about Michael’s journey building Anchor and selling it to Spotify, where he went on to lead the company’s podcast, video, and live audio businesses globally.

BIOGRAPHY

Technology executive, entrepreneur, and investor Michael Mignano is passionate about building products that change the world. After serving as VP of Product for Aviary, and growing the photo editing platform’s audience to over 100M creators before an acquisition by Adobe, Michael co-founded Anchor which was acquired by Spotify in 2019 and is the world’s largest podcasting platform. His work on Anchor transformed podcasting from a niche medium into a universal form of creative expression adopted by millions worldwide. After Anchor was acquired by Spotify, Michael served as Head of Talk Audio for Spotify, where he led the podcast, live, and video businesses. In September 2022, Mignano joined Lightspeed — one of the world’s leading venture capital firms — as a Partner on the Consumer team where he will be investing globally in the best, brightest, and most creative teams in the world, helping them to pursue their missions and build world-changing companies.

Michael has been recognized by Fortune on their “40 Under 40” list, and he is an angel investor and advisor to more than fifty of the world’s most promising early-stage technology companies, including Cameo, Coda, The Infatuation, Parade, Pipe, and Stir. His career has been focused on building world-changing products that scale to hundreds of millions of users and empower people to express themselves creatively across mediums. Michael graduated from the University of Delaware in 2005 with a degree in Computer and Information Sciences.