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Summary

Chidi Nwaogu is a serial tech entrepreneur, entrepreneurial ecosystem builder, and software developer. Nwaogu started his entrepreneurial journey when he was 16 with the creation of 9ja Boi Interactive, a video game development company. Today, Nwaogu is the co-founder and CEO at Publiseer, a digital publisher for African Creatives, described by Konbini as "one of the largest digital publishers in Africa", and identified by IFC as one of the startups "that could speed up innovation in Africa".

He is a co-founder at Savvy, a global fellowship program that has equipped over 3,700 brilliant individuals from 135 countries, with the necessary knowledge and skill that they need to start their own impact-driven business in a post-COVID era and succeed as entrepreneurs. Since Nwaogu was 19, he has co-founded, grown, and sold two Internet companies, including LAGbook, a social network that garnered over 1-million registered users within three years. He has been described as one of the "Young innovators making Africa great in 2019".

Nwaogu began public speaking as a keynote speaker at IT Leaders West Africa Summit 2012, where he spoke on the role of social media and mobile in developing nations. Today, he speaks around the world, including at the 2019 International Publishers Association Regional Seminar in Nairobi, the 2019 Geneva Book Fair in Switzerland, and TEDxFolaOsibo. Nwaogu mentors young entrepreneurs through platforms like Lagos Innovates Idea Hub by Lagos State Government, and Investment Readiness Program by the United Nations. Nwaogu is the youngest member and only African on the Advisory Council of the Pursuit Incubator by Because International.

He was selected by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for the Venture Scaling Bootcamp in Boston, and by World Culture Open to present Publiseer at the Better Together Challenge in South Korea. His startups have been featured in several media publications, like Africa Business Review and TechCrunch, for their strides in the tech ecosystem.

Nwaogu is an Acumen Fellow, Alibaba eFounders Fellow, IDEX Fellow, Westerwelle Fellow, Yunus&Youth Fellow, African Presidential Leadership Fellow, Halcyon Incubator Fellow, AyadaLab Fellow, YALI Fellow, SOCAP Entrepreneur Scholar, and a 2x recipient of OD Young Person of the Month. He is the winner of the Africa 35.35 Award, Young Leaders Award, Migration Entrepreneurship Prize, The Bizz Business Excellence Award, and Startup World Cup Nigeria Regionals. Nwaogu is the 1st place winner of the OD Impact Challenge and a 2x winner of the ITU Innovation Challenges.

Experience

Co-founder and CEO

Publiseer

Aug 2017 - Present (3 years 9 months +)

Publiseer is a digital platform that helps independent and underserved African writers, musicians, filmmakers, and video game developers, typically those from low-income and disadvantaged communities, to earn above the minimum wage and live above the poverty line from the sales of their creative works. Publiseer achieves this by helping them distribute, protect, promote and monetize their creative works worldwide, at no charge, with just a single click, and the digital platform shares in the

revenue it generate for these creators, which in turn goes back into helping more creators in Africa. So far, Publisээр has helped over 6,000 African creators from Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, and Egypt, to earn over \$240,000 in revenue since inception in August 2017.

In a nutshell, every day, Publisээр discovers extraordinary local African creators and gives them a platform to focus on doing what they love doing the most and what they know how to do best, which is to create, while Publisээр handles the tedious but important business of transforming their creativity into wealth for them. When Publisээр accepts a creator on its platform, Publisээр fine-tunes their creative works to industry standard, so that the creator stands a chance to compete on a global scale. Then Publisээр distributes it to its over 400 well-established partner stores so that the creator is easily discovered. Publisээр also protects this content from illegal distribution and intellectual property theft, so the creator truly owns the content. The creators can monitor their sales performance on Publisээр's centralized dashboard, and their receive royalties via African-tailored payment methods, such as into a local bank account or through a mobile money wallet.



Co-founder and Head of Fellowship Program

Savvy Fellowship

Aug 2020 - Present (9 months +)

Savvy was founded to help at least 10,000 young professionals around the world transition into entrepreneurship, equip them with the relevant knowledge and skills to become successful entrepreneurs, as a way to reduce global employment thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic. So far, we've trained over 3,700 individuals in 135 countries, who have gone on to start over 900 impact-driven businesses across diverse sectors in different regions. Savvy consists of three components—the learning, assessment, and mentorship sessions, which all take place online.

For 12 weeks, selected participants learn how to start, build, and scale an impact venture. Using visual presentations, Savvy helps them answer all the relevant questions on their mind. The Savvy program is available in over 100 languages, including English, French, Chinese, Arabic, Spanish, Hindi, Bengali, Russian, Japanese, Zulu, German, Italian, Portuguese, Yoruba, Igbo, and Hausa. This fosters easy learning for those whose native language isn't English. They learn how to gain early traction, achieve product-market fit, and scale into newer markets.

While learning, Savvy participants are offered mentorship as well, which is a great way for them to have a better understanding of their chosen industry. Mentorship comes in two ways: peer-to-peer mentorship and expert mentorship.

The Savvy mentorship team is made up of 140 seasoned entrepreneurs from 37 countries, creating change in diverse sectors, and across different regions. Each, with an average of over 6 years of entrepreneurial experience, these entrepreneurs have been trained or recognized by MIT, Harvard, UN, Acumen, ITU, Forbes, Product School, Halcyon Incubator, World Economic Forum, Ashoka, One Young World, Obama Foundation, Singularity University, etc.



Co-Anchor

Dear Entrepreneurs

Apr 2019 - Jul 2019 (4 months)

So on April 2, Jason Njoku, a famous Nigerian entrepreneur tweeted about how entrepreneurship abuses and consumes us if we let it. And this is nothing but the truth. Entrepreneurship isn't glamorous at all, and often it affects our mental health. However, in contrast to Jason's opinion, we believe there

is true happiness in it if you share your pains, mistakes, worries, failures, and shortcomings with other like-minded entrepreneurs, and receive feedback and help, and grow with it. In a bid to achieve this, we have started a podcast for entrepreneurs called "Dear Entrepreneurs". Chidi Nwaogu and Olamide Akomolafe will be anchoring this podcast every Saturday, where we will talk about our experiences as entrepreneurs, the good and the bad, in order to encourage other entrepreneurs going through tough times.



Co-founder and Lead Web Developer

PRAYHoUSe

Feb 2013 - Mar 2014 (1 year 2 months)

After the acquisition of LAGbook, I co-founded PRAYHoUSe with my twin brother, an online Christian prayer directory of more than 10,000 prayers from the Scripture. I organically grew PRAYHoUSe from zero to over 200,000 users in less than six months. In March 2014, PRAYHoUSe was acquired by the American non-profit organization, Ten Doves Charity.



Lead Front-End Architect

GROU.PS Inc.

Jun 2013 - Dec 2013 (7 months)

As a Front-End Architect, I was responsible for the look and feel of the social networking utility, and everything you'll see with your eyes. I made the social network mobile-friendly and added a 'friend suggestion' social feature to the platform, written in JS. I added all the cool stuff you'll see on the social utility. In a nutshell, I designed the social network from scratch, adding style to it. TagWorld is a social network created in 2005 by American serial entrepreneurs, Freud Krueger and Evan Rifkin as a rival to MySpace, another social network. TagWorld reached a million users in 2006 and received \$7.5 million in funding before MTV acquired it in 2008 as the growth of the social network continued. In 2010, an American social groupware platform, GROU.PS acquired TagWorld and its users while MTV continues to own the firm's social media technology.



Co-founder and Co-CEO

LAGbook

Apr 2010 - Jan 2013 (2 years 10 months)

At the age of 19, I co-founded, built, and organically grew LAGbook (otherwise known as Ladies And Gentlemen book) with my twin brother. LAGbook grew from zero to over one million registered members in less than three years. It was initially created for students of the University of Lagos but later expanded to the youth demographic (18 - 30 years) in Africa. The social network was acquired by the Canadian technology company, Gulf Pearl Ltd. in January 2013. LAGbook was featured on TechCrunch for garnering 30,000 new members in less than six months, and on African Business Review for signing an eight-week advertising deal with the multinational company, BlackBerry.



Co-founder and Lead Game Developer

9ja Boi Interactive

Sep 2006 - Aug 2009 (3 years)

In 2006, I co-founded 9ja Boi Interactive, a video game developer, with my twin brother. We developed video games with the Game Maker software, and wrote our video games in GML, using DLL to extend its functionalities. Our first video game was "Save The Admiral", which is a 2d space shooter that

combined AI and gamification to explain global warming to teenagers. Save The Admiral was first released in 2008, with further development and releases spanning till 2009.

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

MIT Venture Scaling Bootcamp

2019 - 2019

MIT Venture Scaling Bootcamp is for founders, CEOs, key leadership team members whose ventures have demonstrated product-market fit and now ready to scale up. One semester condensed into a week. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is a private research university in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The Institute is a land-grant, sea-grant, and space-grant university, with an urban campus that extends more than a mile alongside the Charles River.

National Training Academy

African Presidential Leadership Program

2019 - 2020

The idea of the program was launched as part of the implementation of one of the recommendations of the 2018 World Youth Forum and coinciding with the 2019 Egyptian Presidency of the African Union. The program aims at bringing together African youth with different affiliations and beliefs under one umbrella aimed at development and peace, complementing Egypt's role in effective participation with other African governments. The program is designed to give more than 1,000 young people from Africa a chance to participate in 10 sessions of 100 young African people each.

Istanbul Technical University

ITU Magnet Acceleration Program

2019 - 2019

The ITU Magnet Acceleration Program-Istanbul is managed by Istanbul Technical University's Technology Park, ITU ARI Teknokent, in order to strengthen the ecosystem of technology-based entrepreneurship in Turkey and the Region. The aim of the program is to inspire and support its technology start-ups at any stage and contribute to their success in the market and lead start-ups to get national and international traction.

MEST Africa

Certificate, Software Entrepreneurship

2018 - 2019

MEST offers a 12-month, full time, fully sponsored program in which the students – known as Entrepreneurs in Training (EITs) – complete a graduate-level course in software development, business and communications. The MEST program provides rigorous entrepreneurial training and extensive hands-on project work, designed to ensure EITs master industry-proven methodologies for developing startups. This coursework is supplemented by a series of guest lectures, featuring the experiences and insights of internationally-recognized executives and successful entrepreneurs. The course culminates in an investor pitch and the chance to receive seed funding and enter the MEST incubator.

Harvard Business School

Business Lessons

2020 - 2020

The lessons are designed for working professionals, leaders and entrepreneurs, and even college students and recent graduates who want to advance their careers with core business concepts. Professionals can develop knowledge to help their organizations achieve success, while college students can gain a competitive edge when entering the job market with new, actionable skills.



Graduate School of Business - University of Cape Town

Venture Incubation Programme Winter School 2018, Business Administration and Management, General

2018 - 2018

The Venture Incubation Programme (VIP) is designed to provide a supportive ecosystem to help startups build viable and scalable innovation-driven companies. The UCT Graduate School of Business is home to the only full-time African MBA ranked in the top 100 by the prestigious Financial Times and as just one of 73 schools world-wide to be “triple-crowned” (schools which are accredited by AMBA, EQUIS and the AACSB), the school is among the best in the world.



University of Lagos

Bachelor's degree, Physics

2009 - 2013

The University of Lagos, popularly known as UNILAG, is a public research university in Lagos, Nigeria. It is one of five first generation universities in Nigeria and was founded in 1962. The university has three campuses in Lagos, including the main campus in Akoka, the School of Radiography at Yaba, and the College of Medicine at Idi Araba. The University of Lagos enrolls over 40,000 students.