

00:00 (upbeat music)
00:03 - Here on "The On-Ramp," we've talked about
00:05 how AI is helping students at the Sawyer Business School,
00:09 but can also be an invaluable teaching tool
00:11 for faculty as well.
00:13 Hello and welcome to "The On-Ramp," an ongoing series
00:16 that highlights thought leadership
00:18 from the Sawyer Business School in downtown Boston.
00:21 My name is Areta Odiah
00:23 and today I'll be speaking with Professor Hasan Arslan.
00:26 He's an Associate Professor of Information Systems
00:29 and Operations Management, as well as the Director
00:32 of Masters in Business Analytics.
00:34 Professor Arslan, thank you so much for being here.
00:37 - Thank you for having me Areta.
00:38 - So let's talk about the platform that you created.
00:40 You create an AI platform
00:42 that helps faculty become better teachers, right?
00:45 - Yes, that is exactly right.
00:46 And I have this vision
00:49 that when we create better teachers,
00:53 better students will be the outcome.
00:55 And on that vision,
00:56 I thought that one of the things that I was lacking
00:59 as a teacher in my classrooms is the input
01:05 that I would get from students after I teach a material.
01:10 And I usually make the assumption that I'm gonna go there
01:13 and teach and I'll do a wonderful job.
01:15 But that's, whether that is the case or not,
01:19 I had no idea.
01:21 And so one of the things that I thought
01:23 that the power of the AI that brings us as teachers
01:27 and our students can be turned into something valuable
01:32 for the teachers.
01:34 And right after we teach the material,
01:37 can we also ask the AI power
01:40 to bring those insights and whether the students
01:44 have understood the material or not.
01:46 And if you can bring that into teachers dashboard
01:50 in real time with some analytics, then as a teacher,
01:54 I can use that and make whatever the corrections that I have
01:57 to do in my teaching style
01:59 and whatever the new teaching methodologies that I have
02:02 to apply for that particular subject,
02:04 I'll be able to do that before it becomes too late.
02:08 And that was the source of the creation of EduMaestro.
02:13 And that helps the teachers
02:15 to bring many teaching assistants
02:19 as the teacher walks into the classroom
02:21 and the teacher deploys this teaching assistance
02:24 with each individual student with the activities
02:28 that the teacher creates in the classroom
02:30 and giving the immediate feedback to the teacher.

02:33 And that was the essence of EduMaestro.
02:35 - So EduMaestro, how did you come up with the initial idea?
02:39 - And the initial idea came in from my observation
02:43 that there's a comprehension gap that I know
02:46 and I observe it in my teaching.
02:49 During the classroom, I ask my students,
02:52 "Did you understand this material?"
02:54 Usually there's a nodding, "Yes, we understood it,"
02:58 but later on when I go and look at into some of the homework
03:02 and some of the projects and I realize that
03:06 what has been said in the classroom
03:08 sometimes does not align with the outcome.
03:11 And also some of my students are timid.
03:15 They may not ask the questions
03:18 and raise their hands in the classroom.
03:20 So I thought that there is this gap that I wanna be able
03:23 to reach to the students in a much more personalized way
03:28 and be able to understand
03:29 where the challenges they're facing.
03:31 And I was not able to do that before the AI.
03:36 But as a person who loves AI, as a person
03:39 who knows the value of the business analytics and preaching
03:43 and teaching it, and I thought that we have to take
03:46 that business analytics perspective
03:48 and be able to be a doctor of my teaching,
03:52 of my classroom, get the pulse of my students,
03:55 get an x-ray vision of my teaching
03:58 before it becomes too late.
04:00 And with that, and I said, I'm gonna go ahead
04:03 and take a look at what this AI power can do.
04:06 And also I'm gonna immerse myself into
04:10 what AI can do and be able to bring a technology
04:13 before waiting for that technology to come in
04:16 and show our students
04:18 and inspire our students that we don't have
04:20 to be just adopters,
04:21 but we can also be the developers of these technologies.
04:24 So there is a portion of helping the teachers
04:27 to be better teachers,
04:28 but there's also a side benefit from this
04:30 to inspire our students that creating products,
04:34 assembling products with the help of AI
04:36 is much, much better now.
04:39 - And what kinds of things can teachers do
04:40 with the platform?
04:41 - A great question.
04:42 So there are many features,
04:44 and I'm gonna be rolling out those features over time.
04:47 And one of the simple, the basic feature is
04:51 when my students are using large language models,
04:54 such as ChatGPT's,
04:55 and I encourage them to use it both in classroom
04:59 and outside of the classroom,
05:00 but I have no idea how they interact with it

05:05 and the lack of their interaction, the lack of the knowledge
05:09 of the interaction also doesn't give me
05:11 that comprehension on whether the students understand
05:14 really what I'm teaching.
05:16 So the basic platform right now gives everybody
05:20 to do some of the in-class
05:22 and outside of the class activities
05:24 based on what I teach within the platform
05:27 so that the platform becomes a place for me
05:32 to collect the feedback from students
05:34 where they have find the difficulties in the material,
05:37 what parts were not clear in our lectures.
05:39 And also it turns them into some actionable insights
05:43 so that before I jump into a new material,
05:47 I'm able to take the right action
05:50 that is data driven to be able to correct myself
05:53 without waiting the end of the semester.
05:55 So that's a core feature.
05:57 And on top of that, some of the additional features
05:59 that we are gonna be rolling is we're going to make it
06:02 much more personalized teaching to our students.
06:05 So some of the questions that they will ask
06:08 to these teaching assistants that are dedicated
06:11 to each class will be able
06:12 to understand the learning pattern of the students
06:15 and will be able to guide the activities
06:17 that I'm posting in the platform
06:20 with the learning style of each student.
06:24 So personalized learning will be made
06:26 much, much easier here.
06:28 And also I'm also going to be taking the transcripts
06:33 of my lectures in case if students want to refer to
06:37 what has been taught during that lecture,
06:39 in case they were not having a good day
06:42 or were not paying attention
06:43 or in case due to some illnesses, they miss the material,
06:46 they will be able to refer back
06:48 to the lecture material using the AI assistance context.
06:52 So all my lectures, the transcripts is gonna be updated
06:55 into the AI assistant.
06:58 And that gives a much,
07:00 much better comprehension for the learning.
07:03 - There's a lot of features going on. Love it.
07:04 - [Professor] A lot of features.
07:05 - So how have you already used these
07:07 in the classroom with your students?
07:08 - Yes, and I took the opportunity
07:10 to ask my students to take this as a pilot,
07:14 and I put that out there for the initial basic structure
07:18 and initial feedback, they loved it.
07:22 And also it gives them a safe environment
07:25 to be able to ask their questions to an AI assistant
07:28 without any judgment.
07:30 And also being able to capture the lecture materials

07:34 even after the lecture materials,
07:35 after the lectures over, gives a great ability
07:38 to students to follow up the material.
07:40 - So looking forward,
07:41 how do you envision EduMaestro being used here
07:44 at the Sawyer Business School?
07:45 - I envision EduMaestro to be really,
07:49 really useful for our curriculum.
07:51 I'm gonna start from the higher level, highest level.
07:53 If every class
07:55 that we are teaching in our business school
07:57 has a dedicated AI assistant that helps the teachers
08:01 to become better teachers,
08:02 and that takes the pulse of the teaching
08:05 and learning of the student about the teacher
08:08 and the students in our classroom, that is an immense amount
08:12 of business analytics that comes from a single class.
08:15 And if we get these insights from all, from every class
08:19 that we are teaching at our business school,
08:21 those insights can really turn it into something useful
08:24 at a curriculum level.
08:26 And our curriculum will be AI based, instant insights
08:32 that are collected from the students coming in
08:34 and fitting into our curriculum.
08:35 And we are constantly feeding our curriculum
08:38 by taking the pulse of our teaching.
08:40 So from that perspective, I see a great potential,
08:43 what it can offer to our business school.
08:46 And also, as I mentioned,
08:49 better teachers will always result in better students
08:52 and AI, with the AI power, it gives the teacher the ability
08:58 to create this orchestra
09:01 to conduct the teaching in a much better way.
09:05 And some of us may feel that AI will replace teachers,
09:11 and my vision is that AI will not replace the teachers.
09:14 AI actually will empower the teachers.
09:17 So from that perspective, adopting such technologies
09:21 and will help our teachers
09:22 to become much better AI powered teachers.
09:25 - And this can be used at other schools too, right?
09:27 - Absolutely, absolutely.
09:28 So this is not just gonna be on our business school.
09:32 It can be adopted by other universities,
09:35 also for the K-12 schools as well.
09:38 Anywhere where students don't feel alone,
09:42 there is a teaching assistant that they can take and help.
09:45 There's a teaching assistant
09:47 which is knowledgeable about what the teacher is teaching
09:51 and how the teacher's style is,
09:53 and also the teaching assistant that can adapt
09:56 to each student's learning style, will give the power
10:01 to the teachers and will give the power
10:03 to the students as well.
10:05 So I consider this as the teachers at the center

10:09 being a conductor.
10:11 And the teacher has the ability
10:13 to bring an individual teaching assistant
10:15 to his teaching in his teaching.
10:17 And his teaching assistants not only work with each student
10:21 during the classroom,
10:22 but can also work with each student
10:25 outside of the classroom.
10:26 And also there is a master teaching assistant who works
10:29 with the teacher telling him,
10:32 you have been teaching this course last semester
10:34 in the following way.
10:36 And the reaction of the students, they didn't understand it,
10:40 they were looking for much more visual examples.
10:43 The platform will give this feedback to the teacher,
10:47 and the teacher will be a better maestro
10:49 next time he's teaching the same course.
10:51 - Thank you so much Professor Arslan,
10:53 thank you for being here today.
10:55 - Thank you for having me.
10:56 I hope this inspires our teachers and our students
10:59 and we hopefully we'll see that the future
11:02 of the education will be AI powered
11:04 and we are as a software university
11:06 and as Sawyer Business School,
11:08 we'll be ready for that, not only as the followers
11:10 of the technology, but also the developers
11:12 of the technology.
11:13 - And thank you for joining us.
11:16 We'll see you next time on "The On-Ramp."
11:18 (upbeat music)