

Presenter Bios

Innovation in Entrepreneurship: Threads Driving the Future *Risk-Taking, Teaching Entrepreneurship and Leading Social Change*

Lou Shipley '85, is a seasoned entrepreneur, sales innovator, investor, business writer, educator, and mentor.

Lou served as President and CEO of Black Duck Software, which was acquired by Synopsys in 2017. Prior to Black Duck, he held CEO positions at Turbonomic (IBM) and Reflectent Software (Citrix Systems). Early in his career, Lou worked at Avid Technology, Inc. and WebLine Communications (Cisco).

Lou is a Senior Lecturer at Harvard Business School, where he teaches four sales courses. He has published four HBS Case studies as well as articles in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Forbes.com*, and *Harvard Business Review*. Lou is the co-author with Tricia Favreau of the upcoming book *Unlikely Entrepreneurs* (Wiley), slated for publication in early 2026.

He is a board member of high-growth technology companies, including Wasabi Technologies, Fairmarkit, CustomerGauge, Leapwork, and Teamworks. Lou is a member of Trinity's Board of Trustees, made the founding gift to establish Trinity's Entrepreneurship Center and has been active fundraising for the center.

Abigail Cook Stone '10, Co-Founder, Otherland

Abigail Cook Stone is the co-founder of Otherland, a modern candle brand known for transforming everyday spaces into immersive, artful experiences. Otherland was acquired by Curio Brands in 2023, and Abigail continues to oversee brand strategy and execution.

Before launching her company in 2016, Abigail began her career as an art buyer for Ralph Lauren, traveling the globe in search of design treasures. Inspired by her passion for art and interiors, and a lifelong love of candles, she launched Otherland while earning her MBA from Columbia Business School.

While attending Columbia Business School, she was an associate at Founder Collective, a seed stage venture fund, and a partner at Dorm Room Fund, First Round Capital's student-run VC fund.

Liz Elting '87, Co-Founder, Transperfect, Founder and CEO, Elizabeth L. Elting Foundation

Liz Elting is a trailblazing entrepreneur, philanthropist, bestselling author, and advocate for women's leadership and equality. She is the Founder and CEO of The Elizabeth Elting Foundation, where she champions systemic change to empower women, marginalized people, and underserved communities.

A passionate linguaphile and global thinker, Liz co-founded TransPerfect in 1992 from an NYU dorm room after receiving an MBA at the NYU Stern School of Business. She served as Co-CEO for 26 years and grew it into the world's largest provider of language and technology solutions for global business, generating over \$1.2 billion in revenue with offices in 140+ cities worldwide.

Liz has served on Trinity's Board of Trustees and has received numerous awards for her leadership and humanitarian work, including honors from Ernst & Young, the American Heart Association, and Forbes' Richest Self-Made Women list (2015–2025). In September 2023, Liz published her debut bestseller, *Dream Big and Win*, sharing her career wisdom and inspiring others to turn their passions into purpose and transform dreams into reality.

Danny Meyer '80, Founder and Executive Chairman, Union Square Hospitality Group; Founder and Chairman of the Board, Shake Shack

Danny was a Political Science major and in his junior year he studied International Politics and Italian Language at Trinity's campus in Rome. In 1985, at the age of 27, he opened Union Square Cafe, his first restaurant in New York City. Today, as Founder and Executive Chairman of Union Square Hospitality Group (USHG), he oversees some of New York's most beloved restaurants, Union Square Cafe, Gramercy Tavern, The Modern, Manhatta, Ci Siamo, Daily Provisions and more. He is also the visionary behind Shake Shack, which became a public company in 2015, and where he continues to serve as its Chairman of the Board.

Under Danny's leadership, USHG has become synonymous with "Enlightened Hospitality," setting new standards for employee care, leadership, and social responsibility. Meyer, his restaurants, and his chefs have won an unprecedented 28 James Beard Awards, and his New York Times bestselling book, *Setting the Table* continues to inspire leaders of organizations, well beyond the world of restaurants.

In addition to his contributions to the culinary world, Danny has served on Trinity's Board of Trustees and on the boards of Share Our Strength and the Union Square Partnership.