

N. Louis “Lou” Shipley
Trinity College Class of 1985
Doctor of Humane Letters

You once said that entrepreneurship is about betting on yourself and that success offers not only a financial upside but also a great learning experience. You have spent your professional life betting on yourself, and you have been rewarded with tremendous success.

You have worked in six start-ups, serving as CEO of the last three. You led Black Duck Software’s transformation into a global software security leader and in 2018 sold the company to Synopsys, then the world’s 13th-largest software company. Earlier in your career, you were CEO of Reflectant Software, which was acquired by Citrix Systems, and Turbonomic, which ultimately was acquired by IBM. You joined your first pre-revenue software start-up, digital video editing pioneer Avid Technology, in 1990 and lived in Japan while managing Avid’s Asia-Pacific business.

For the past eight years, you have served on several software company boards—including Wasabi Technologies, Fairmarkit, Leapwork, Sentry1, CustomerGauge, and GTreasury—while continuing to teach full time at Harvard Business School, where you pioneered the entrepreneurial sales curriculum. In doing the latter, you have realized a full-circle moment, as you yourself earned an M.B.A. from Harvard.

Your educational path started just northwest of Hartford, in Simsbury, Connecticut. As a member of Trinity’s Class of 1985, you played ice hockey and studied abroad at the London School of Economics on your way to earning a B.A. with honors in economics.

A devoted Trinity alumnus, you made the founding gift to the Elting Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in 2023. You have served as the chair of the Trinity College Fund and are a member of the Elms Society. In addition, your name has been inscribed on the Wall of Honor, signifying the transformative impact of your philanthropy on the College. You also have shared your wealth of experience through your valuable service on Trinity’s Board of Trustees since 2018.

Your dedication to the blue and gold doesn’t stop there, as you have made it a point during your career to hire and to mentor other Trinity graduates. You have noted that you see in Trinity students the qualities of successful employees: intellectual curiosity; a broad, diverse education; an understanding of the need for diligence and hard work; and a high emotional IQ. Beyond sharing your wisdom with Bantams, you also recently co-authored your first book, *Unlikely Entrepreneurs: Wins, Losses, and Crucial Advice in Building Great Companies*.

You and your wife—your high-school sweetheart Amanda—are the proud parents of three children and live in Andover, Massachusetts.

In recognition of your exceptional entrepreneurial spirit and success and of your unyielding dedication to your undergraduate alma mater, I have the honor of presenting you, N. Louis “Lou” Shipley, for the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.