

John Howard '74



John D. Howard is a Co-CEO of Irving Place Capital and Celebrands and has more than 35 years of private equity investing experience in the consumer products and retail industries. Prior to founding Irving Place Capital (which began as the Bear Stearns Merchant Banking Group in 1997), he was the co-CEO of Vestar Capital Partners, a private investment firm specializing in management buyouts. Previously, Mr. Howard was a Senior Vice President and Partner of Wesray Capital Corporation, one of the foremost private equity sponsors and a pioneer in the leveraged buyout business.

EDUCATION

- M.B.A. from Yale School of Management
- B.A. degree from Trinity College

CURRENT BOARD SEATS

- SKIMS
- Veronica Beard
- Bendon
- Frame-Denim
- Good American
- rag & bone
- Wolf & Shepherd

REPRESENTATIVE FORMER PORTFOLIO COMPANY BOARD SEATS

- Aero Safety
- Aéropostale
- Avis
- Dots
- Integrated Circuit Systems
- Multi Packaging Solutions
- Nice-Pak Holdings
- New York and Company
- NRT Incorporated
- Safety 1st
- Seven For All Mankind
- Simmons Bedding Company
- Standard Hotel
- Stuart Weitzman
- Universal Hospital Services
- Vitamin Shoppe
- William Carter Company

Rhoden Monroe '09



Rhoden Monroe is the visionary founder and CEO of CariClub, a revolutionary technology platform that stands at the intersection of leadership development and professional networking. By connecting corporate professionals with nonprofit board opportunities and facilitating transformative leadership experiences, CariClub is redefining how companies cultivate top talent while driving social impact.

Rhoden's journey to founding CariClub began during his successful career as a derivatives trader at prestigious firms like Citigroup. Despite his achievements in finance, Rhoden recognized a pressing need for accessible and engaging opportunities that would allow professionals to develop their leadership skills while giving back to their communities. Identifying the untapped potential of corporate talent to drive social change, Rhoden set out to create a platform that would bridge this gap and revolutionize the way professionals grow and network.

Under Rhoden's leadership, CariClub has emerged as a thriving marketplace and matching platform, connecting thousands of professionals with impactful board opportunities and delivering measurable results for nonprofit organizations, corporate partners, and individual members alike. CariClub's corporate clients, which include over 60 blue-chip firms such as KKR, Citigroup, and Davis Polk, pay annual subscription fees for their emerging and experienced leaders to access the platform, gain valuable board experience, and expand their professional networks.

CariClub's innovative approach to leadership development and professional networking has garnered significant recognition. The company has been listed as a top "50 Startup to Watch in NYC" by Built in NYC and named by CB Insights as one of "21 Nonprofit and Charity Tech Startups to Watch." CariClub has also attracted the support of notable investors and Trinity alumni, Paul Raether and Todd Dages, as well as esteemed business leaders Henry Kravis and Ray McGuire.

Beyond his work at CariClub, Rhoden is a sought-after speaker and thought leader on topics related to social impact, corporate philanthropy, and the future of work. He has been featured in various publications, including Forbes, Fast Company, Crain's, and the Wall Street Journal. Rhoden's commitment to social impact extends to his personal life, as he serves on the governing boards of Charity Navigator and Row New York, and is a former member of the Board of Fellows at Trinity College and the Alumni Association Board at Middlesex School.

Rhoden holds a B.S. in Economics from Trinity College, where he was awarded the prestigious Gary McQuaid Award in 2019. This award recognizes alumni who have demonstrated exceptional leadership as undergraduates and achieved notable success in the business world.

With his unique combination of business acumen, technological expertise, and unwavering commitment to social impact, Rhoden Monroe is pioneering a new era of leadership development and professional networking. Through CariClub, he is empowering companies to invest in their most valuable asset – their people – while creating a global network of purpose-driven leaders who are equipped to drive positive change on an unprecedented scale.

Alyssa Daigle Schoenfeld '99



Alyssa graduated with an honors degree in Neuroscience from Trinity in 1999 and started her professional career as a Clinical Research Assistant in the Psychotic Disorders Unit at The Massachusetts General Hospital. She then transitioned to a role in a clinical manufacturing facility as a Process Technician in Beverly, MA, and ultimately landed in a Life Science sales position with a Boston-based territory for a large distribution company in 2001. In 2007, Alyssa accepted a position within the company based in Seattle, WA, advancing to a Region Manager role with responsibility for a team of 8 Sales Representatives and a territory spread across 6 states. It was in Seattle that Alyssa first discovered food tours, and immediately fell in love with the concept. However, the change in career paths was not immediate. Rather, four years later, the motivational opportunity to make a change came in the form of a major corporate reorganization that forced her to reexamine her future in her current field. In 2011, Alyssa made the decision to move back to Boston to create a food tour of her own, and became the Founder of Bites of Boston Food Tours - the first tour company of its kind in Boston.

Nearly 13 years - and a pandemic - later, Bites of Boston is still going strong, and continues to offer both locals and visitors a creative way to explore and experience Boston through the lens of local food. Sharing Boston's neighborhoods, history, culture and local food scene with tour guests has become a true passion, and being able to support and showcase local eateries in a meaningful way will forever be an honor. Bites of Boston offers 3 unique public local food tour experiences, and has become a popular choice for private corporate outings and team-building activities.

Ella Wechsler-Matthaei '14



Ms. Ella Wechsler-Matthaei, hailing from Cambridge, MA, graduated from Trinity College in 2014 with a degree in Theater and Dance focused on Arts in Community. She went on to teach dance in schools and afterschool programs in Cambridge and Boston while also traveling annually to Trinidad and Tobago to train and perform with Soca artists. Her love for dance, Soca music, and empowering people of African American, Caribbean, and African descent inspired her to establish Soca Fusion in 2017. As the following for Soca Fusion grew, Ms. Wechsler-Matthaei felt the need for growth and decided to pursue a degree in Prevention Science and Practice at Harvard's Graduate School of Education. She graduated with her M.Ed in 2020, receiving the Intellectual Award. Since then, Soca Fusion has expanded its program offerings, formed partnerships, and welcomed new team members.