



The Elisabeth Morrow School

Let's Lunch – Speaker Bios

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Oct. 16, 2020
(in alphabetical order)



Joseph Agresta, 1978 – Business Owner/Entrepreneur

Joseph Agresta is the president of Benzel-Busch Motor Car Corporation, one of the largest Mercedes-Benz retail centers in the United States, as well as Audi Meadowlands and Mercedes-Benz of Orange County. Joseph currently serves on the national board of the American Cancer Society, the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation USA Board of Directors, the Englewood Economic Development Corporation Board of Trustees, and The Elisabeth Morrow School Board of Trustees.

Joseph earned a bachelor's degree from Boston College and a master's in Business Administration from Columbia University.



Victor Alvarez, 1993 – Real Estate

Victor primarily oversees strategic direction, deal sourcing, underwriting, and portfolio management for AMPI. His primary areas of focus include strategic business direction, acquisitions/dispositions, and capital sourcing. Prior to founding the firm, Victor served as a Director with Alvarez & Marsal's North American Commercial Restructuring practice, where he represented clients and lenders throughout different stages of the restructuring process across a range of industries. Furthermore, Victor founded Lucky Tree, LLC, an early stage

venture platform committed to innovation. Victor earned his bachelor's degree in economics from Tulane University. In his spare time, Victor enjoys spending time with his wife and three children at his beach cottage in Maine. As a member of the Board of Trustees of The Elisabeth Morrow School and Endowed the Spark Innovation Program at Tulane University, Victor has a personal stake and is actively involved in various charities.



Paul Bodnar, 1989 – Environment

Paul Bodnar transferred to The Elisabeth Morrow School from the Cliffside Park school system for sixth grade and, he says, “It completely transformed my childhood and outlook.” After graduating in 1989, Paul went on to Dwight-Englewood (class of 1995) and Stanford (class of 1999, Phi Beta Kappa), and Harvard (M.A.). His field is international environmental policy and financial markets. Paul started a company in Europe (Vertis.com) and served in the Obama State Department and White House, including as special assistant to the President and senior director for energy and climate change at the National Security Council during the negotiation of the Paris Agreement. He currently helps lead the global clean energy nonprofit Rocky Mountain Institute.



Stephen Borg, 1980 – Journalism

Stephen Borg is the former publisher of *The Record*, *(201) Magazine*, NorthJersey.com, and several community newspapers, such as *The Montclair Times*. While under his family’s ownership, *The Record* won a Pulitzer Prize for commentary and was also a Pulitzer finalist for its investigative reporting of the opioid epidemic in northern New Jersey. Additionally, a *Record* photographer took the now-iconic image of three firefighters raising the American flag at Ground Zero after 9/11 and, with the help of a former EMS parent, *The Record* broke the story commonly known as “Bridgegate,” where former state employees reduced commuter access to the George Washington Bridge as political payback to the Fort Lee mayor not endorsing Governor Chris Christie for a second term. The Borg family also owned and operated Gateway Communications, Inc., a former operator of four CBS-affiliated television stations with news operations. Stephen received his B.A. in English from Dartmouth and MBA from Columbia.



Dr. Natalie Capan, 1984 – Orthodontics

Dr. Natalie Capan practices in the specialty of orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. She was drawn to the profession due to its balance of art and science. Dr. Capan has followed her dream to become an orthodontist by graduating from the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Columbia University, and the University of Pennsylvania – graduating Cum Laude and receiving several other awards. She has been practicing in Bergen County since 2000. As a native of Bergen County, she attended the Dwight-Englewood School and The Elisabeth Morrow School. She is an avid member of the American Association of Orthodontists, the American Dental Association, the Harvard Society of Orthodontists, the Columbia Orthodontic Society, and the World Federation of Orthodontists. She specializes in treatment for children and adults with braces, growth modification, and clear aligners. Dr. Capan lives in Cresskill with her husband, Greg, a certified financial planner, and their three sons, Shant, Garo, and Saro. Two of them graduated from EMS in 2015 and 2017 and Saro is in second grade.



Matt Cohen, 1988 – Law

Matt Cohen is a seasoned business attorney and Assistant General Counsel with The Knot Worldwide (owner of TheKnot.com and other lifestage brands) where he focuses on digital media, privacy, advertising and marketing, technology transactions, and cybersecurity, while also advising on commercial leasing, employment, corporate governance, and SEC compliance. Previously, Matt was Director of Legal with The Swatch Group supporting the U.S. and Canadian operations of Harry Winston and luxury watch brands including Omega and Longines; and Vice-President, Legal with Westwood One, a producer of diverse sports, entertainment, and news audio programming in partnership with brands including the NFL, NCAA, Grammys, CBS News, and NBC Sports. Matt also served as general commercial in-house counsel with global retail consultant Daymon Worldwide and prior to moving in-house worked in private practice for two small law firms. Prior to law school, Matt worked in financial services with Deutsche Bank and Thomson Reuters. Matt received a B.A. in Economics from Union College, a Juris Doctor from Brooklyn Law School, and previously served on the Board of Trustees for Union College. Matt lives in Chevy Chase, Maryland, with his partner Annabel and their two children.



Dr. Joshua E. Hyman, 1975 – Medicine

Dr. Joshua E. Hyman specializes in non-operative and surgical care for a broad spectrum of pediatric orthopedic conditions and is one of the world's foremost experts on cerebral palsy (CP). His clinical interests also include hip diseases and dysplasia, neuromuscular disorders, lower extremity deformities, limb length differences, and complex fracture care. As clinical director of the Weinberg Family Cerebral Palsy Center, Dr. Hyman helps oversee a team of medical professionals who carefully designs and executes personalized treatment programs for each patient to achieve the best possible outcomes. He is a staunch advocate for pediatric patients with CP, believing that they, like all children, require comprehensive healthcare. He is dedicated to ensuring the delivery of high-quality care across the lifespan for patients with CP while also addressing their families' concerns. Dr. Hyman's research focuses on identifying methods to measure the quality of life in children. He is also actively involved in research trials on clubfoot, scoliosis, and neuromuscular diseases in pediatric patients. A prolific scholar with approximately 70 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters to his name, Dr. Hyman has received numerous national and international awards and garnered more than \$850,000 in grant funding. From 2012-2014, Dr. Hyman was co-investigator on a research project that explored pain in adults with CP – a study that was supported by a \$400,000 grant from the Cerebral Palsy International Research Foundation. He also researches Perthes disease, a childhood hip disorder caused by a disruption of blood flow to the femoral head, and is a founding member of the International Perthes Study Group. In addition to excelling as a clinician and researcher, Dr. Hyman is a well-respected medical educator and mentor. Columbia University presented him with the Charles S. Neer "Teacher of the Year" award in 2013 for his enthusiasm, passion, and dedication to resident education. As part of his larger, personal commitment to philanthropy, he seeks to advance musculoskeletal care in medically under-served regions. Dr. Hyman travels to China annually to perform surgery on disabled children living in orphanages and provides clinical training to Chinese medical teams as medical director

of the Children of China Pediatrics Foundation. He is a member of the International Medical Surgical Response Team (IMSuRT) and was one of the first responders in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake, providing surgical services at the primary field hospital in Port Au Prince. He is a founding board member and the Medical Director of Miraclefeet, an international NGO focused on promoting the care of children with clubfoot in medically under-resourced regions. Dr. Hyman also serves as a board member of the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, a public foundation that encourages humanism in medicine. Among his many professional affiliations, Dr. Hyman is the president of the International Society of Orthopaedics and Traumatology – US. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine, and the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Orthopaedic Subgroup.



Olivia Katrandjian, 1999 – Journalism/Literature

Olivia Katrandjian is an Armenian-American writer and journalist with a background in print reporting and documentary filmmaking. She has worked in Thailand, Armenia, and New York, and her reporting has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the BBC, PBS, ABC News, the *Huffington Post*, the *Bergen Record*, and *Quartz*, among other outlets. In 2016, she moved to Luxembourg to write *The*

Ghost Soldier, a historical novel based on the Ghost Army, a top-secret group of artists who used inflatable tanks, sound effects, and fake radio transmissions to deceive the Germans in World War II. The manuscript was awarded second place in the National Literary Prize of Luxembourg in 2019. In 2020, Olivia was longlisted for the Bristol Short Story Prize. She is currently pursuing a graduate degree in creative writing at Oxford University.



Adam Kirsch, 2007 – Business Owner/Entrepreneur

Adam Kirsch is a mergers and acquisitions manager at West Monroe, a boutique consultancy in New York City. Working on behalf of private equity firms and strategic investors, he assesses the operational and technical factors associated with acquiring, integrating, operating, and selling businesses. While he has diverse industry experience, Adam specializes in working with software, media, and entertainment businesses. Prior to his current work, Adam launched since-acquired startups in the software and entertainment industries. He consulted with early-stage companies and their investors, advising on go-to-

market strategy and internal operations. To this day, he serves as an advisor to several startups and is a member of the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship's Advisory Board. He is an alumnus of the Startup Leadership Program and Cornell University, holding a B.S. in Industrial Labor Relations and an MBA concentrating in Entrepreneurship & Private Equity. While completing his MBA, Adam invested on behalf of Cornell's BR Venture Fund and participated in Cornell's accelerator program.



Maxime Menne, 2009 – Real Estate

Maxime Menne is a brokerage and marketing team lead in JLL's New York office. With experience in both agency and tenant rep assignments and brokerage marketing, she provides strategy and transaction support to New York- and Detroit-based real estate owners, technology, media, and financial services organizations. Maxime has five years of brokerage experience, with an emphasis on marketing agency assignments. She has provided project management and marketing support for leasing transactions across the New York tri-state region, including assignments for 25 Kent Ave. and 667 Madison Ave., where she re-branded and re-introduced the buildings to the market. She also collaborated on multiple new business pitches, which recently led to acquiring a \$500,000 S.F project in Brooklyn. Prior to joining JLL, Maxime served as a top leasing agent for JRC Management and Glenwood, where she worked on a residential portfolio of more than 30 buildings across Manhattan. In that capacity, Maxime handled all client relationships, lease negotiations, documentation, and background diligence.



Dr. Sarah Nowygrod Weihmiller, 1987 – Medicine

Dr. Sarah Nowygrod Weihmiller is a physician specializing in Pediatric Emergency Medicine. She was born in Englewood and lived there until she left for college. She has many fond memories from The Elisabeth Morrow School and is still best friends with one of her EMS preschool classmates! She majored in Neuroscience and Behavior at Wesleyan University in Connecticut and earned her medical degree from New York Presbyterian College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University in New York. She completed her Pediatric Residency along with a chief resident year also from Columbia University at Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital. She followed this with a fellowship in Pediatric Emergency Medicine at Children's Hospital Boston. She is board certified in both Pediatrics and Pediatric Emergency Medicine. Currently, she is a physician at Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte, North Carolina. She teaches medical students, residents, and fellows at Carolinas Medical Center. She loves spending her free time with her husband and three children, ages 9, 7, and 5, and camping, hiking, and watching movies. Her family was made complete two years ago with the addition of her German Shepherds, Storm and Ranger.



Dr. Anil Ranawat, 1986 – Sports Medicine

Dr. Anil Ranawat is a clinical specialist focusing on sports injuries of the hip, knee, and shoulder. His clinical and research interests have focused on joint preservation of the hip and knee. He is constantly pushing state of the art advancements in joint restoration, including both non-operative and operative management of these conditions. His focus has been on the biological restoration of the hip and knee joints. He has been a leading educator on hip arthroscopy and performs open techniques for hip conditions, such as femoral-acetabular impingement, dysplasia, labral tears, and avascular necrosis. He also has a keen interest in the knee, where he performs complex ligament reconstructions, knee osteotomies, advanced knee arthroscopy, and robotic partial knee replacement. He has extensively researched these subjects and has written numerous peer-

reviewed publications and chapters and authored three books. After graduating from The Elisabeth Morrow School in 1986 and Horace Mann in 1992, Dr. Ranawat began his academic study at Duke University, where he attained numerous academic honors. Later, he would begin his medical training at Weill Medical College of Cornell University and would continue his training at Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS). Throughout his career, some of the accolades that Dr. Ranawat has received include the T. Campbell Thompson Award for Excellence in Orthopedic Surgery, the Jean C. McDaniel Resident Teaching Award at Hospital for Special Surgery, the Maurice Müller European Traveling Hip Fellowship, and the AAOS Washington Health Policy Fellowship. He serves on numerous orthopedic boards, including the American Orthopedic Society of Sports Medicine (AOSSM) and Eastern Orthopedic Association (EOA). At HSS, Dr. Ranawat is the fellowship director for the prestigious Sports Medicine Fellowship Program. He also serves as the physician assistant (PA) medical director at HSS for the world's largest Orthopedic PA program. Lastly, he is an assistant team physician for the New York Mets and assistant orthopedist for the New York Rangers.



Dr. Reshan Richards, 1990 – Education

Dr. Reshan Richards is the director of studies at New Canaan Country School and co-founder of Explain Everything, a software company, where he has served as chief learning officer and chief executive officer. At Columbia University, he is an adjunct assistant professor at Teachers College and lecturer at the School of Professional Studies. His research has focused on formative assessment, education technology, and organizational leadership.

Dr. Richards is the co-author of *Make Yourself Clear: How to Use a Teaching Mindset to Listen, Understand, Explain Everything, and Be Understood* (2019) and *Blending Leadership: Six Simple Beliefs for Leading Online and Off* (2016), both published by Wiley. He has an Ed.D. in Instructional Technology and Media from Teachers College, Columbia University; an Ed.M in Learning and Teaching from Harvard University; and a B.A. in Music from Columbia University. He graduated from Horace Mann in 1996 and from The Elisabeth Morrow School in 1990.



Dana Romita, 1984 – Real Estate/Entrepreneur

Dana Romita spent years working on national commercial and residential projects with her family's real estate holding company that afforded her a wealth of experience to become a trusted, invaluable resource to both buyers and sellers alike. Her personable, charismatic, highly approachable demeanor, and passion for developing sincere relationships with clients makes Dana a perfect fit for individuals looking for investment properties or those in the personal housing market. Her capacity to cultivate meaningful

interactions with people can be attributed to her time spent managing customer relations at Castle Energy and as the owner of Ajune Medical Day Spa. In addition, bringing a creative, entrepreneurial, and forward-thinking approach to investments is Dana's forte. Her spot-on instincts and ability to conduct in-depth research and leverage her diverse network to assemble investor groups have earned her a reputation for professionalism, resourcefulness, and ingenuity. Dana received a triple B.A. in Political Science, English, and French Literature from Duke University and an Executive MBA in

Management from Stern School of Business. After college, she was a credit analyst at Chemical Bank before beginning her career in the petroleum industry as an account manager at Castle Energy. In June 1998, Dana used her business acumen and entrepreneurial spirit to become an industry pioneer by opening the first medical day spa in Manhattan – Ajune LLC – which she operated for 18 years. Running Ajune served as the foundation for her adeptness in managing people, growing a client base, identifying market trends, and building a business from scratch. Currently, Dana is involved with and serves on the boards of several philanthropic organizations focused on child welfare: Bergen Family Center, Table to Table, and Madison Square Boys and Girls Club. She is also active with and supports numerous cultural organizations, such as the Metropolitan Club, Metropolitan Museum, Columbus Club, and Pawling Mountain Club.



Katherine Schlatter, 1986 – Health Education

Katherine Schlatter gained her Doctorate from the Department of Health and Behavior Studies at Teachers College Columbia University in May 2018. She also has an Ed.M. in Child Development and Psychology (2015), plus an A.L.M. in Biology from Harvard University (2013). Currently, she consults for a Native-owned and operated Health Promotion and Disease Prevention program serving Plains Tribe youth. Through a collaboration with this program, Katherine conducted participatory photo-elicitation investigating mental health and wellness with adolescents. Children in this study investigated how they think about mental health, as well as their lived experiences of mental health and wellness. This work served as a formative study shared with the program and the basis of her doctoral dissertation. Katherine spent her early career reporting in Asia and the Pacific, before relocating permanently to the U.S. From 1997-2006, Katherine worked for major print and broadcast outlets, such as *The Asia Wall Street Journal*, KHPR/KIPO, TVB Pearl, and Voice of America. She also contributed regularly to NPR, KQED, BBC, and *The Scientist*. Career highlights in the journalistic field include coverage of Asia's economic and political woes following the 1997 financial crisis, the 2002-2003 SARS crisis, and the spread of avian influenza since the late 1990s. In 2004, Katherine's science coverage was awarded a Knight Public Health Fellowship at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. There, she joined several high-profile investigations into deadly disease outbreaks. She presented her findings at the Knight Fellow's Forum in October 2004. Shifting gears slightly in 2005, Katherine went to work for medical publisher MediTech Media in Hong Kong. After leaving Hong Kong in June 2006, she increasingly focused on the health care crisis in the U.S. and gained major academic clients in Boston, Massachusetts, while pursuing a career in higher education and research.



Kari Schwartz Hershey, 1986 – Fashion/Retail

Kari Schwartz Hershey graduated The Elisabeth Morrow School in 1986 and Dwight-Englewood in 1992. She went to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and graduated with a B.S. in 1996. After college, Kari lived in New York City and attended the New York School of Interior Design. She has done a few renovation and house restoration projects. Kari has been a collector her entire life, starting when she was a child when she would go antiquing regularly with her mother. She grew an extensive collection of designer scarves and started making pillows as home accessories out of the scarves. Three years ago, she created a repurposing business called Kari Elizabeth. Within three years, she has created more products than pillows, participated in numerous trunk shows, grew her social media following, and placed her products in multiple stores. Her business, now called East Coast Vibes (eastcoastvibes.com) is based on fashion creativity and sustainability. She says she tries to “focus on sophisticated and timeless design that will forever be in style.”



Chip Thomas, 1993 – Arts/Event Management

Chip Thomas graduated from the University of Michigan with honors and a B.A. in Political Science. After college, he moved to New York City to intern at an independent record label called Wind-up Records. Soon after, Chip began working with Mark Ronson at his label, where he witnessed the creation of the *Back to Black* album by Amy Winehouse. Chip felt like he had to choose between being a professional musician and a professional in the music business. When he landed at music start-up Ticketfly, he was given the flexibility to do both. Eventbrite acquired Ticketfly in 2017, where Chip excelled in business development and DEI initiatives. Recently, he became the head of business development at the start-up Union, focusing on in-person and online events in the fitness industry.