



Beth Boosalis Davis '70

Exceptional Service Award

Beth Davis is the kind of person people turn to when they need advice because they know they will get a thoughtful, honest reply. During her years of service to the college since her graduation in 1970, Davis has been called upon time and again—and has responded with wisdom, kindness, and tact.

Davis majored in English at Carleton and graduated from the University of Chicago Law School in 1974. Davis has practiced law, served in elected office, managed a national nonprofit, written the book *Mayor Helen Boosalis: My Mother's Life in Politics*, and served on numerous boards in the greater Chicago area and nationally.

As a Carleton volunteer, Davis has served in an array of roles: president of Alumni Council, working on reunion planning committees, supporting Alumni Annual Fund gift efforts, serving as the Chicago club chair, sitting on search committees and strategic planning groups, and her long tenure on Carleton's Board of Trustees, beginning in 1994 as an alumni trustee and serving in numerous leadership roles on the Board from 2002 to 2014.

"That's what the written record says," former president Steve Lewis says in his letter of recommendation, "but it was the character of Beth's service that sets her apart from others who have some of the same 'credentials.' One of the reasons Carleton is as strong an institution as it is

lies in the willingness of Carleton alumni to do both what is asked of them by the college and to go beyond those tasks in offering to undertake jobs, to proffer thoughtful advice, to be analytical in their approach to issues that the college faces (or ought to face), and to do so without expecting the college or its leadership to agree with them on everything. Beth is really exceptional in all those dimensions," Lewis writes.

Appreciated for her tact, creativity, kindness, intelligence, and willingness to roll up her sleeves, "Beth has a buoyant personality that has the effect of raising the morale of any group she works with," one recommender notes. But what is intangible is the "impact her work has had, or the absolute faith and trust that leaders at the college and on the Board of Trustees have placed in Beth over time. While serving as a leader in so many ways, Beth has also been among our most humble and modest alums."

Davis also enjoys returning to her Carleton roots for leisure: She has been an enthusiastic participant in Carleton Alumni Adventure trips to Alaska, the American Southwest, the Columbia River, and the Black Sea.

Davis and her husband, Max, live in Evanston, IL, and have two grown sons.