

# Paul E. Raether

The word *alumnus* is derived from the Latin verb “alere,” which means “to nourish.” There could be no more relevant word to describe your involvement in the history of Trinity than *alumnus* in its fullest, deepest sense. Your foresight, determination, strategic vision, and generosity have strengthened our institution in countless ways during your time as chairman of the Board of Trustees. You graduated from Trinity in 1968, where you majored in history, were a member of Psi Upsilon, and participated in many sports, including soccer, baseball, and skiing. Following service in the U.S. Navy and after receiving your M.B.A. from the Amos Tuck School of Business Administration at Dartmouth College, you began a successful career in finance. Starting with Reynolds Securities, you went on to be an executive with Texasgulf Corporation and Blyth Eastman Dillon & Company. In 1980, you began your association with the global investment firm Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co., where you became a member in 1986. You have served on Trinity’s Board of Trustees since 1989 and have been the College’s longest-serving board chairman, holding that position since 2002. During these 25 years, you have been an invaluable guide to the College’s presidents, and your love for Trinity has been an inspiration to fellow board members and leadership volunteers.

You have been recognized with the Eigenbrodt Cup, the Gary McQuaid Award, and the President’s Leadership Medal, the highest honors given by the College’s alumni organization. As a result of your generosity, you and your wife, Wendy, have been included on the Trinity Wall of Honor. In turn, you are the founder of the Chair’s Circle, a program that recognizes leadership-level annual donors. You are among the most philanthropic of the College’s alumni, and your gifts have been given in conjunction with your family, including your wife and your three daughters: Elissa, Class of 1993; Alexa, Class of 1996; and Cara, Class of 2001. Your support has made possible the completion of the Raether Library and Information Technology Center, five Raether-endowed faculty chairs, significant faculty development initiatives, the Dream Camp summer program for Hartford children, a scholarship fund in memory of your father, Arnold Raether, and other scholarship funds. Beyond these highly visible projects, you have often stepped in quietly and anonymously to provide key gifts that have been of critical importance to the College.

In addition to your extensive involvement with Trinity, you serve on the Board of Overseers of the Amos Tuck School and the board of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Foundation. You also are president of the Institute for Sports Medicine Research. In your role as chairman of Trinity’s board, you have made certain that all voices felt heard and welcome, you have been a tireless advocate for the College, you have been courageous in your decisions, and you have done all this with a sense of humor. You are an *alumnus* indeed, a living example of the word’s roots in the concept of nourishment; your love for the College has brought both depth and breadth to the opportunities we offer our students. As your own experience attests, there is no more valuable preparation for life than a liberal arts education. Your leadership has ensured that generations of Trinity students will continue to enjoy its benefits, and we are grateful beyond measure.

For your extraordinary service to your alma mater, for your generosity, and for your wise leadership, I have the honor of presenting you, Paul E. Raether, for the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

---

James E. Jones, Jr.  
President and Trinity College  
Professor in the Humanities

---

Philip S. Khoury '71, Ph.D.  
Vice Chairman  
Trinity College Board of Trustees

May 18, 2014