

ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD
Honoring
Tom Caldwell '68 and George Shaw '68
June 8, 2018

Each year the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association recognizes alumni who have rendered and performed a high degree of service to the College. This year, the Alumni Association Board has selected Tom Caldwell and George Shaw from the Class of 1968 to receive Alumni Service Awards.

Tom and George have served as the perfect complements to one another on the steering committee of DavidsonServes for Life, an alumni civic engagement effort. Tom is the ultimate self-titled “agitator” and George is the strategic and tactical planner. Along with many others in this room over the past five years including Cecil Clifton, Mike Coltrane, Tom Earnhardt, David King, Steve Lee, Bo Perry, Julian Prosser, Chip Vogan and Bruce Weihe, they created and built a community engagement effort that puts Davidson’s participation percentage among the top-- if not the top – alumni service weeks in the country.

As I hope you all remember, several months before our last reunion five years ago, Tom Caldwell wrote a letter to the Class of 1968 urging us to consider how we, as the first class of baby boomers, now mostly retired, could have an impact on addressing some of society's most urgent issues. The letter got posted on the reunion website. Several of us read it and at the reunion engaged in a lively discussion of how our class might serve as a catalyst in causing alumni to consider how we can be of service to others, in other words, what it means to embody Davidson's Statement of Purpose to live "a life of leadership and service."

After Reunion, the group decided to embark on a challenge to all Davidson graduates to become more civically engaged. The result of that effort—and a collaboration with the Center for Civic Engagement and the Office of Alumni and Family Engagement – lies in the success of DavidsonServes for Life.

As students, Tom and George followed different paths. Tom majored in psychology, played varsity football for three years and ran varsity track for two years, was the winner of the outstanding freshman athlete award, participated in the IFC and Social Council and joined Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. George majored in history and was a member of the International Relations club and the Young Democrats. He participated in the Model U.N. Conference and worked as a library assistant. Both continued their studies after college; Tom went to the University of North Carolina School of Law; George received an MBA from New York University in International Marketing. Both excelled in their careers, Tom as a partner at Caldwell, Helder, Helms and Robison, and George as a Director of International Strategy at Raytheon International.

Through their efforts over the past five years, DavidsonServes for Life increased the number of Davidson alumni chapters involved in Volunteer Week from single digits to almost 50, and the

number of service projects to 71 with over 600 participants. With these numbers, the participation percentage of Davidson alumni rivals Yale, Duke and others who are known for their community service efforts.

In addition, George worked with Davidson to sponsor a Davidson Impact Fellow to work at Stop Hunger Now in Raleigh. Through his mentorship, a Davidson graduate spent two years working to improve programming and operations and make a lasting impact.

Finally, Tom and George worked not only to expand the membership of the Steering Committee, but also to put a succession plan in place to continue the committee as board members roll off. Davidson College recognized DavidsonServes for Life through its Alumni Service Award at the Celebration of Service in 2016. Just this year, George was honored at the Celebration of Service for his work to eradicate hunger.

Davidson College strives to “develop humane instincts and disciplined and creative minds for lives of leadership and service.” For your unfailing efforts to agitate and lead the college to live up to its mission; today we thank you, Tom Caldwell and George Shaw, and present each of you with the Alumni Service Award.