

Bowdoin College's 2020 Honorary Degree Recipients

For the Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters

DEBORAH JENSEN BARKER '80, LHD

Deborah Jensen Barker, of the Class of 1980, has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the College for twenty years (from 1999 until 2019). In 2013, she became the first woman to serve as chair of the Bowdoin College Board of Trustees, and during her tenure (2013–2016) she oversaw the transition to a new president of the College. Her role as board chair, and as chair of the former Financial Planning Committee, a member of the former Admissions and Financial Aid Committee, the former Information and Technology Committee, and the former Audit Committee, the Governance Committee, the Committee on Inclusion, the Resources Committee, and most recently as chair of the Governance Review Task Force, underscore the transformations that have strengthened the College over the past two decades.

Barker has a long record of service to Bowdoin and in a broad range of areas. As an undergraduate, she was class secretary and treasurer, was a senior class admissions interviewer, and a member of the Student Judiciary Board. In 1980, she graduated *cum laude*, with a double major in mathematics and Romance languages. Since her graduation, she has served on the Alumni Council, as class agent, a gift planning agent, and a member of the reunion committees for her class, and as a member of BRAVO (Bowdoin Regional Admissions Volunteer Organization). In 2005, she received the President's Award for Leadership in BASIC. As a trustee, she cochaired the Bowdoin Campaign (2004–2009), which raised \$294 million. In 2008, she and her husband established the Barker Family Scholarship Fund to encourage diversity in the student body. In 2012, she was a speaker at the annual Scholarship Appreciation Luncheon. Over the years, Barker has given generously of her time, talents, and resources to her alma mater.

Barker earned an MBA from Harvard University in 1985 and for ten years was a managing director for Prudential Securities. For ten years she was a volunteer college counselor at the Chad Science Academy. She has been a trustee of NJ SEEDS, the Pingry School, and the Student/Partner Alliance. She is currently a trustee of The Hyde and Watson Foundation, a member of the Hestia Fund, and vice chair of the Grand Teton National Park Foundation. She and her husband, Randy, have two sons: Lee, who is a member of the Class of 2016, and James.