

Commencement 2015
For the degree of Doctor of Laws
Barry Mills, '72

Barry Mills, proud son of Rhode Island, Bowdoin Class of 1972, and the fourteenth president of the College: the importance of your leadership cannot be overstated. As a faithful steward of one of the most historic colleges in America, you have inspired an outstanding faculty, built the most diverse student body in the College's history, renewed a commitment in word and deed to sustainability and the Common Good, invigorated and energized a dedicated alumni body, and established a record of financial management that is the envy of colleges and universities across the land. You have transformed the arts at Bowdoin, not only to the benefit of the College but to the benefit of Maine and beyond with the breathtaking renovation of this Museum where we stand and with the creation of Studzinski Recital Hall and the Edwards Center for Art and Dance. Above all, as a first-generation college student, you have always remembered how Bowdoin changed your life. You have been determined and successful in opening the doors of opportunity for every young man and woman who, through hard work, promise, and accomplishment, deserves a Bowdoin education, regardless of their financial means or background. And the infectious enthusiasm with which you unfailingly greet students, faculty, and staff has re-established the tradition of "The Bowdoin Hello." Bowdoin stands today among the very best colleges in the nation, in large part because of your enduring legacy of leadership, which has been in equal measures forward-thinking, wise, tough, bold, and compassionate. You, Karen, and your three sons will always hold a special place in the hearts of the Bowdoin family.

On behalf of the College, with a deep sense of gratitude, affection, and pride, I am honored to present Barry Mills for the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.