

**RICHARD KENNETH BARKSDALE**, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Bowdoin in the Class of 1937, scholar of Black literature, and Professor of English at the University of Illinois. Formerly Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences and Professor of English at Atlanta University, he was instrumental in the development there of one of the major centers of Black Studies in the United States. Deeply sensitive to the need all students have to discover and understand their own identities, he has set an outstanding example as a teacher and leader at a number of institutions in addition to Illinois and Atlanta. His recent publication of a comprehensive anthology of Black literature has been an important step in the process by which this nation has become aware of a major literary heritage it had previously ignored. With a consciousness that literature is for all and not just for the few, he has sought to bring an awareness of the writings of his people to the widest possible audience. In doing so he has contributed much to the growth of understanding among people, thus exemplifying the goal of public service which has been the inspiration of this college.

*Honoris Causa*, DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS