

The Honorands of The 2001 Commencement

Robert H. Edwards Doctor of Laws

Robert H. Edwards was inaugurated as Bowdoin's 13th president in the fall of 1990 and will step down June 30, 2001. During his tenure he has concentrated on the College's financial management; the modernization of its physical plant; expansion of the College's faculty, student body, and curriculum; and the establishment of a new residential life system. During this decade, Bowdoin's endowment has increased from \$185 million to approximately \$465 million.

An American citizen, Edwards was born in London and raised in Middletown, Ohio. He attended Deerfield Academy and is a 1957 *magna cum laude* graduate of Princeton University in English. He read law at Cambridge University, from which he received a B.A. and M.A. He earned an LL.B. degree from Harvard University and was admitted to the Federal Bar in 1961.

While serving under the Queen's Commissioner in the Bechuanaland protectorate from 1961 to 1963, Edwards assisted young African politicians in preparing their country for independence as the nation of Botswana. From 1963 to 1965 he was with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of United Nations Affairs. He became the Ford Foundation's representative in Pakistan in 1968, and returned to New York in 1971 to become head of the Foundation's Middle East and Africa Office. In 1977 he was appointed president of Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota.

In September 1986, he joined the Secretariat of His Highness the Aga Khan, as Head of the Department of Health, Education, and Housing. He served on the Aga Khan's Management Board and as a Trustee of the Aga Khan University.

Since coming to Bowdoin, Edwards has served as Chair of the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance, and was appointed by Maine Governor John McKernan to the Board of the Maine Science and Technology Foundation (1993-1998). He presently serves on the Advisory Council to the National Science Foundations' Directorate for Education and Human Resources and the Board of Visitors of the University of Maine. Last October, he was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He holds an honorary degree from Carleton College and will receive an honorary degree from Colby College on May 27, 2001.