

**The Honorands of
The 2000 Commencement**

Bowdoin College

**Robert Fagles
Doctor of Humane Letters**

Scholar and noted translator Robert Fagles graduated *summa cum laude* from Amherst College in 1955 and earned his doctorate in English Literature at Yale University in 1959. Since 1960 he has been a member of the faculty at Princeton University, where he was the founding chair of the department of comparative literature (1975) and is currently the Arthur W. Marks '19 Professor of Comparative Literature.

Fagles is best known for his translation of Greek literature. He has been called “the best living translator of ancient Greek drama, lyric poetry, and epic into modern English” (Gary Wills, writing in *The New Yorker*). His translation of Homer’s *The Odyssey* (1996), which has been on many “best books” lists, was required reading for Bowdoin’s Class of 2002 before their arrival on campus, and he delivered a lecture during their orientation. His translations of *Three Theban Plays* by Sophocles and *Oresteia* by Aeschylus were nominated for National Book Awards. He is widely published: his translations appear in textbooks, anthologies, and scholarly/literary journals; and his poetry has appeared in many journals. His own book of poems, *I, Vincent: Poems from the Pictures of Van Gogh*, was published in 1978.

Fagles has received numerous awards for his translations, including a PEN/Ralph Manheim Medal for Translation in 1997 and an Academy Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1996. He has been a Woodrow Wilson Fellow (1956) and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1994), the American Philosophical Society (1997), and the American Academy of Arts and Letters (1998). In 1990 Fagles was awarded an honorary degree by his alma mater, and last year the Greek government named him a Commander of the Order of the Phoenix.