

**The Honorands of
the 2000 Commencement**

Bowdoin College

**Bernard Osher '48
Doctor of Laws**

A native of Biddeford, Maine, Bernard Osher of the Class of 1948 is a prominent businessman, community leader, and philanthropist in the San Francisco Bay area. In 1963 Mr. Osher and members of his family purchased Golden West, a small savings and loan institution in California. Under his direction as senior vice president (1963-70) and chairman (1968-70), Golden West grew to be the nation's third largest savings and loan institution.

Osher and a business associate purchased Butterfield & Butterfield fine arts auctioneers and appraisers in 1970. Mr. Osher is widely recognized for his role in establishing the firm as the fourth-largest auction house in the world and the premier institution of the West Coast.

Osher has served as treasurer of the San Francisco Opera, honorary trustee of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, and vice chairman of the Jewish Museum. The Swedish government honored him with the Knight of the Polar Star and the Italian Government conferred on him the title Commendatore.

The Bernard Osher Foundation supports the arts, education, environmental causes, and community projects in California and elsewhere. Mr. Osher established the Osher Funds for Maine Scholars in 1998. The funds, endowed at Bowdoin, Bates, Colby, and the University of Maine-Orono for \$1 million each, provide financial assistance to promising students from Maine.