



BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Commencement

2016



PETER M. SMALL, Doctor of Humane Letters (LHD)

Enrique Yepes, *Associate Professor of Romance Languages and Literature*

Peter M. Small, class of 1964, we are inspired by your gratitude, thoughtfulness, and generosity, three defining principles in your life and in your extraordinary record of service to Bowdoin College. You have often expressed how thankful you are for the many opportunities Bowdoin has created for your family through five generations, from your great-grandfather in the mid 1800s, to your grandfather and father in the 1900s, and your son and daughter who graduated in the 1990s. You have thoughtfully led the College through nearly 30 years as an Overseer and a Trustee, serving as Chair of the Board of Trustees from 2005 to 2010, and as a member of the 2014-15 Presidential Search Committee. Your talent as a leader in national real estate development and philanthropic initiatives has also enlightened us in the planning and funding of campus facilities and the residential life program, in creating stronger annual giving and capital campaigns, and in providing support for faculty and students, helping Bowdoin to grow intelligently in ever more inclusive and innovative standards of excellence. And you have let your gratitude and brilliance shine in generous deeds, serving in the U.S. Coast Guard right after your graduation, and participating in numerous altruistic endeavors that promote improved health care, education, and the fostering of community. Closer to your alma mater, your Peter Metcalf Small Scholarship Fund has helped students of many backgrounds flourish at Bowdoin since 1986, and the Peter M. Small Professorship has provided key resources for faculty research since 2007. I had the great honor to be the first recipient of this endowed fund, which allowed me to advance scholarship in the fields of Latin American poetry and ecological awareness. Peter, you teach us how to lead a thoughtful, generous life guided by the wisdom of gratitude.

President Rose, on behalf of the College and with profound appreciation, I am honored to present Peter M. Small for the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.