

The Honorands of The 2007 Commencement

Geoffrey Canada '74 Doctor of Humane Letters

Geoffrey Canada, president/CEO of the Harlem Children's Zone, is a visionary educator and advocate for children and community redevelopment. He grew up in the South Bronx, graduated from Bowdoin in the class of 1974, and earned a master's degree in education at Harvard University in 1975. In 1983 he began working in New York with the Rheedlen Centers for Children and Families, an inner-city human services agency, and became president/CEO in 1990. The Harlem Children's Zone initiative was launched in 1997 in a sixty-block area of central Harlem to provide children and their families with the kinds of support and resources that can transform lives and communities. *U.S. News and World Report* named Canada one of "America's Best Leaders" in 2005. Last year New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg chose him to be co-chair of a task force assigned to reduce poverty in the city. He is the recipient of the Heinz Award in the Human Condition, a 2005 Liberty Medal, and Bowdoin's 1993 Common Good Award. He was elected an overseer of the College in 1995, trustee in 1996, and trustee emeritus in 2006.