

BOWDOIN COLLEGE
COMMENCEMENT 1996

KENNETH IRVINE CHENAULT, loyal alumnus, former Overseer of Bowdoin, gifted corporate leader, and exemplar of the College's commitment to promoting the Common Good -- your alma mater honors itself by honoring you today. After graduating from Bowdoin in 1973, you strayed from your goal of becoming a history professor, completing a law degree at Harvard Law School in 1976 and then sojourning briefly in law practice and business consulting. In making your career you sought "more action" and "more impact," and you certainly have found these at American Express where you began work in strategic planning in 1981. Your extraordinary skills as communicator, motivator, planner and implementer have resulted in a dizzying rise to your 1995 appointment as Vice Chairman of the company. The integrity, vision, commitment to inclusiveness, and humanity that you bring to your work make you a model corporate leader. And in the midst of your phenomenal success, you have not forgotten your wider responsibility for the common good. A deep concern for disadvantaged young people has prompted you, for example, to be an organizing member of the American Council for Drug Education and a member of the Community Service Council of Harlem. You serve as a Director of Prep for Prep which assists talented but underprivileged youths to find their ways to preparatory schools and colleges, and you have become a primary fund raiser for the Rheedlen Centers for Children and Families which for 26 years have been doing remarkable work in New York City to assist high risk youth. The Bowdoin family of students, faculty, administration, staff and alumni are enormously proud of you and your accomplishments in business and community leadership.

President Edwards, it is a great privilege to present to you **KENNETH IRVINE CHENAULT** for the degree of **DOCTOR OF LAWS**, *honoris causa*.

Presented by Professor Craig A. McEwen