

**The Honorands of
The 2013 Commencement
(awarded at Reunion)**

**Patrick Dempsey
Doctor of Humane Letters**

Patrick Dempsey, actor, philanthropist, and native son of Maine, we honor you today for your many talents—acting, skiing, juggling, race car driving, business, and, of course, your philanthropic efforts. A native of Lewiston, you have worked on both stage and screen since 1985, with your first major feature film role coming at the age of 21 in the movie *In the Mood*. Your most prominent role as Dr. Derek Shepherd in the long-running television series *Grey's Anatomy* has delighted those of us connected with Bowdoin not only because of its story lines but because of the glimpses of Bowdoin paraphernalia, which you occasionally wear. For your work on television and in films you have received numerous award nominations. But the focus of our honoring you today is your generous philanthropy in Maine. Following your mother's diagnosis and treatments for cancer starting in 1997, you established the Patrick Dempsey Center for Cancer, Hope, and Healing at the Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston in 2008. The Center provides free support, education, and wellness services to anyone impacted by cancer. A *Down East* magazine article described you as passionately fierce about everything you do, and your philanthropy seems no exception. You give not only your financial resources to the Center but also your personal time and commitment, participating in the Dempsey Challenge, a run, walk and cycle event held annually in the fall—October 12th-13th this year for those who are interested. It is this spirit of engagement that makes us delighted, and honored, to have you now officially a part of the Bowdoin community. There are many ways to play the role of a healer and we are grateful that you have chosen to play a part in healing in Maine. It is fitting that we honor you today, one day before National Cancer Survivors Day, a day, which because of your generosity, many more can celebrate.