

**BOWDOIN COLLEGE**  
**COMMENCEMENT 1996**

**JAMES EELLS**, mathematician, educator, good citizen of the world. You have written that "ours is a Golden Age in Mathematics." If that is so, then you are one of the people who is responsible. The name James Eells belongs on the list of this generation's mathematical giants.

Your love affair with Mathematics must have begun at Bowdoin. Professor Edward Hammond called you "the most enthusiastic student of mathematics who has ever appeared in my classes." He said of you, "he took every course in mathematics which we offered and even persuaded us to insert some specific courses for his benefit."

Your research contributions have been seminal. The systematic study of harmonic maps between Riemannian manifolds began with a fundamental paper you co-authored in 1964. Since then the subject has grown into a major branch of modern differential geometry, and you have played a fundamental role in its development with your five books and nearly eighty research papers. In recognition of your work, you have received one of Mathematics' highest awards, the Senior Berwick Prize of the London Mathematical Society.

You might have been content to enjoy the pleasures of Mathematics with your students at the University of Warwick, but you saw a need for mathematical development in the third world and responded to it by establishing the Mathematics Division of the International Centre of Theoretical Physics and serving as its first director. Due largely to your efforts, the Mathematics Section of the Centre has become one of the primary places where mathematicians from less fortunate parts of the world can encounter and learn from those at the research frontiers.

In the almost-fifty years since you left this College, you have been a remarkable and inspiring example of how intelligence, creativity and compassion can be combined for the advancement of knowledge and the betterment of humanity. Your achievements have brought great honor to Bowdoin.

President Edwards, I have the honor to present **JAMES EELLS** for the degree of **DOCTOR OF LAWS**, honoris causa.

Presented by Professor James E. Ward