

BOWDOIN COLLEGE  
Commencement 1987

JOHN RIPLEY FORBES, friend of natural science and loyal son of Bowdoin of the Class of 1938, when you set sail 50 years ago for Baffin Island on the Schooner Gertrude L. Thebaud, under another great alumnus, Admiral Donald MacMillan of the Class of 1898, you were also setting forth on what was to be your own lifelong voyage of discovery amid the wonders of nature. We honor you today because you did not keep what you found for yourself. You shared your excitement and enthusiasm and love of learning. To say that you established 20 museums and science centers and 12 nature sanctuaries around the country, and aided in the foundation of more than 200 other science centers is only to touch the surface of your achievement. What cannot be counted, but only felt and marveled at, is the way you have enriched so many young lives and set so many people on the path to distinguished scientific careers. The lessons in ecology you have taught will ensure that your work endures for future generations on this planet you love so well. You have been a great friend of the sciences and of education, and that other friend of science and patron of education, James Bowdoin III, would surely share our pleasure in saluting you today. *Honoris causa*, DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS.