

The Honorands of The 2011 Commencement

Cynthia M. Friend **Doctor of Science**

Cynthia M. Friend is the Theodore Williams Richards Professor of Chemistry and Professor of Materials Science at Harvard University. She earned a bachelor of science degree in chemistry at the University of California-Davis in 1977 and a doctorate in chemistry at the University of California-Berkeley in 1981. Following a postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University, Friend joined the Harvard faculty in 1982. Her pioneering research focuses on controlling the chemical and physical properties of interfaces through selective catalytic synthesis and the use of hybrid metals/metal oxides (including nanostructures) for chemical and photocatalysis. Using these techniques, the Friend group researches new avenues for the production of biofuels and esters, splitting water to create storable hydrogen energy, and strategies for reducing pollution. Friend has received many awards for her work, including the Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg Fellowship, the American Chemical Society's George C. Olah Award, the Francis P. Garvan-John M. Olin Medal, and the Alexander von Humboldt Senior Research Award. The author or co-author of numerous scientific journal articles and reports, she is also the coeditor in chief of the journal *Catalysis Science & Technology*. She has served on advisory panels and committees for the National Science Foundation, NATO, and the U.S. Department of Energy.