

The Honorands of The 2011 Commencement

Henry A. Millon Doctor of Humane Letters

Dean Emeritus of the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art, Henry A. Millon is one of the foremost scholars on the architectural history of the Renaissance and Baroque eras. Born in Altoona, Pennsylvania, Millon entered the Navy V-12 program at Tulane University in 1943 and served on active duty in 1946. He returned to Tulane and earned bachelor's degrees in English, physics, and architecture, then went to Harvard University, where he earned master of arts degrees in architecture and urban design and in art history, and a doctorate in art history. Following three years in Italy as a Fulbright Fellow and a fellow at the American Academy in Rome, he was appointed to a professorship at M.I.T. His writings on Michelangelo's architectural contributions to the design of St. Peter's Basilica marked a fundamental change in the scholarship of Renaissance art. He was chosen as the first dean of the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art, a position that he held for twenty years until his retirement in 2000. Millon has served as vice-chair of the Boston Landmarks Commission, director of the American Academy in Rome, president of the Society of Architectural Historians, and president of the Foundation for Documents of Architecture.