

**The Honorands of
The 2014 Commencement**

**Richard O. Prum
Doctor of Science**

Richard O. Prum is the William Robertson Coe Professor of Ornithology, curator of ornithology, and head curator of vertebrate zoology at the Peabody Museum at Yale University. He earned an A.B. from Harvard in 1982 and a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1989. From 1991 to 2003, he was a member of the faculty of the department of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Kansas. His research contributions are extensive, ranging from the evolution of feathers to coloration that arises from the physical properties of nanometer-scale biological structures. The description of his research for his 2009 MacArthur Foundation Award says, in part, “Whatever the phenomenon under study, Prum habitually synthesizes concepts from disparate fields and follows surprising paths to reach carefully reasoned conclusions. His research to date raises the profile of ornithological studies in several fundamental aspects of biology, and he continues to open new frontiers with each subsequent project.” Prum is the director of the Franke Program in Science and the Humanities at Yale, a new initiative that encourages collaborative teaching and research across diverse disciplines.