BOWDOIN COLLEGE

COMMENCEMENT 1995

PHILLIP ALLEN SHARP, graduate of Union College of Kentucky and the University of Illinois, your work in molecular biology was instrumental in provoking truly profound changes in our understanding of the organization of genes. You showed that genes in higher organisms are not simply single long pieces of DNA, with a starting point at one end and an ending point at the other, but that they are instead broken up into segments, known as exons, by other pieces of DNA, whose function, if any is currently unknown. Thus, although you didn't coin the term, it is largely due to your work that the word "exon" evokes more than the oil company that brought us the Valdez in the minds of students of modern biology. This understanding of gene structure, and your subsequent work showing how the separate pieces are spliced together, revolutionized our thinking, and laid the ground-work for many additional discoveries, both by yourself and by others. These include advances not only in our basic understanding of molecular biology and genetics, but also in our understanding of diseases such as cancer. For these intellectual achievements, which have inspired numerous students of biology and medicine, you were awarded the highest of all scientific honors, the Nobel Prize. Your commitment to education, which has been apparent during your years at MIT, and your love of Maine give us even more reason to honor you today. President Edwards, it gives me great pleasure to present to you **PHILLIP ALLEN SHARP,** for the degree of **DOCTOR OF SCIENCE,** *honoris causa.*

Presented by Professor Patsy S. Dickinson