

Academy News

American Academy Welcomes New Members

On Saturday, October 11, 2003, the Academy inducted its 223rd class. With over 400 current Fellows and their guests attending, Academy officers welcomed 153 new Fellows and Foreign Honorary Members – 70 percent of the 2003 electees. Induction speakers included Tom Leighton (MIT and Akamai Technologies), Carolyn R. Bertozzi (UC Berkeley), William H. Gates, Sr. (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation), Michael Wood (Princeton University), and Sherrill Milnes (Northwestern University).

The day began with an orientation session at the House of the Academy. President Patricia Meyer Spacks (University of Virginia) greeted and congratulated the new members, and then gave a brief account of the Academy's history, institutional character, and mission. Highlighting the Academy's independence from the pressures and constraints that affect government and the university, she stated that "such freedom has enabled the Fellows to shape the Academy's agenda," adding that "their distinction, integrity, and wide range of interests provide the impetus for ever new forms of thought and action."

Vice President Louis Cabot (Cabot-Wellington, LLC) observed that the Academy is one of the few interdisciplinary institutions in the nation whose members represent every field and profession, and he called intellectual collaboration the "hallmark" of the Academy's projects and studies. Secretary Emilio Bizzi (MIT) reviewed the rights and privileges of Academy membership and invited the new class's "active involvement with all aspects of our work."

Executive Officer Leslie Berlowitz spoke of the Academy's "dedication to advancing scholarship as the critical basis for thoughtful action." Then, in introducing the leaders of several current Acad-

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Induction Ceremony speakers Tom Leighton (MIT and Akamai Technologies), Carolyn Bertozzi (UC Berkeley), William H. Gates, Sr. (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation), Michael Wood (Princeton University), and operatic baritone Sherrill Milnes (Northwestern University), who performed for the attendees

William Julius Wilson Awarded the Talcott Parsons Prize

One of the most distinguished scholars in America on issues of urban poverty, race and class relations, and social inequality, William Julius Wilson has been named the 2003 recipient of the Academy's Talcott Parsons Prize, awarded for outstanding contributions to the social sciences. The Lewis P. and Linda L. Geyster University Professor at Harvard University, and a Fellow of the Academy since 1988, Wilson received the prize at the 1876th Stated Meeting of the Academy in Cambridge on November 12.



The author of *Power, Racism, and Privilege* (1973), *The Declining Significance of Race* (1978), *The Truly Disadvantaged* (1987), *When Work Disappears* (1996), and *The Bridge Over the Racial Divide* (1999), Wilson was a MacArthur Fellow from 1987 to 1992. He was awarded the National Medal of Science in 1998.

Doug McAdam (Stanford University), chair of this year's Talcott Parsons Prize Committee, noted that Wilson "brings the highest level of empirical social science to bear on questions of demonstrable social and scholarly importance. His work has served to sustain a tradition of engaged, real-world scholarship that, for many people, speaks to the ultimate value of the social sciences. He should be credited with almost single-handedly resuscitating the study of race and urban inequality and putting a host of related issues back on the public agenda."

Along with McAdam, members of the selection committee were John Mark Hansen (University of Chicago), Nannerl Keohane (Duke University), John Reed (New York Stock Exchange), Robert Solow (MIT), Eric Wanner (Russell Sage Foundation), and Harriet Zuckerman (Andrew W. Mellon Foundation).

First awarded in 1974, the Talcott Parsons Prize was established to honor the noted sociologist who served as President of the Academy from 1967 to 1971.

Previous recipients include:

- Clifford Geertz (Institute for Advanced Study, anthropology, 1974),
- Robert Dahl (Yale University, political science, 1977),
- Robert K. Merton (Columbia University, sociology, 1979),
- Albert Hirschman (Institute for Advanced Study, economics, 1983),
- C. Vann Woodward (Yale University, history, 1988),
- Daniel Bell (Harvard University, sociology, 1992), and
- Joseph H. Greenberg (Stanford University, anthropology and linguistics, 1997). ■

Induction

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emy projects, she emphasized that Academy studies focus on long-term societal and scholarly challenges and are addressed to both policymakers and the broader intellectual community (see pages 2–5 for more on these projects).

- Patricia Meyer Spacks (University of Virginia) described the three aspects of the Academy’s Humanities and Culture Initiative: the development of a systematic approach to databases in the humanities; the publication of research studies on the evolution of the humanities in the twentieth century; and the creation of an online Humanities Research Center.

- New Fellow William Allen (NYU) outlined the work of the Academy’s project on Corporate Responsibility: Beyond Regulation. He focused on its investigation of the responsibilities of key “gatekeepers” – auditors, regulators, journalists, lawyers, investment bankers, and corporate directors – in promoting ethical corporate conduct.

- Robert Post (Yale Law School) and Linda Greenhouse (*The New York Times*) described the study on Congress and the Court, which is exploring the tensions underlying the changing relationship between the federal legislature and the judiciary.

- Joel Cohen (Rockefeller and Columbia Universities) provided an overview of the project on Universal Basic and Secondary Education (UBASE) and gave a detailed description of this project’s efforts to calculate the cost of achieving universal education.

In addition, Carl Kaysen (MIT), co-chair of the Academy’s Committee on International Security Studies, and writer James Carroll, a Committee member, discussed the policy issues involved in the Academy’s program on security and international relations, including its study on the commercial and military uses of space.

At the Induction Ceremony held at Harvard University’s Sanders Theatre, five Academy Inductees addressed the audience. Full texts of their remarks will be reprinted in the Winter 2004 *Bulletin*.

- Mathematician and computer scientist Tom Leighton spoke about how the same underlying protocols that have enabled the Internet to serve hundreds of millions of users around the world have rendered it increasingly vulnerable to misuse. Leighton outlined the challenge of protecting society from the malevolent exploitation of the Internet: “Today, we worry about spam, viruses, and e-crime. Soon, we will need to worry about the possibility that a government or a terrorist will use the Internet to attack critical infrastructure, with far more serious effect than an overflowing mailbox or a loss of money or of confidentiality.”

- Calling herself “a chemist who studies biological systems,” Carolyn R. Bertozzi explained that the new field of chemical biology is using tools developed by other disciplines to study the body from the standpoint of individual atoms and molecules. She pointed out that, in her own research, the newfound ability to “study cell surfaces just like we explore the landscape of the planet Earth” is illuminating the role of cell-

surface interactions in cancer, inflammation, and bacterial infections. Yet the practical value of such knowledge, Bertozzi said, should not blind us to the importance of “fundamental scientific discovery” as part of “our natural drive to make sense of the world.”

- Lawyer and philanthropist William H. Gates, Sr., addressed the current debate about the federal estate tax and how it relates to “fundamental national axioms.” Noting that American entrepreneurs benefit significantly from a market economy protected by the rule of law and subsidized by \$96 billion in annual federal support for basic research, Gates asserted that one way some Americans “manage to get so rich” is simply by “being born in the United States.” Under these circumstances, he asked, “Can there be a serious question about the rectitude of society recovering from its most successful citizens a significant fraction of the fortune they leave at the time of their death?”

- Literary scholar and critic Michael Wood discussed the kind of knowledge that literature offers

1. Orientation speakers Joel E. Cohen (Rockefeller and Columbia Universities), Linda Greenhouse (*The New York Times*), William Allen (NYU), and Robert Post (Yale Law School)



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2. Academy President Patricia Meyer Spacks (University of Virginia)



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3. Arthur Levitt, Jr. (The Carlyle Group), Sidney Harman (Harman International Industries), Jane Harman, and Sharon Percy Rockefeller (WETA)



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4. Archie H. Brown (St. Antony’s College, University of Oxford) and Kenneth L. Judd (Stanford University)



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1. Hue-Tam Ho Tai (Harvard University)
2. Adele Bacow, Lawrence S. Bacow (Tufts University), and John S. Reed (New York Stock Exchange)



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3. Linda Hutcheon (University of Toronto) and Elizabeth F. Loftus (UC Irvine)
4. Kenneth L. Sokoloff (UCLA), Bruce Mazlish (MIT), Secretary Emilio Bizzi (MIT), and Louis Sokoloff (National Institutes of Health)



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5. William G. Unruh (University of British Columbia), Henry Petroski (Duke University), and Dennis A. Ausiello (Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital)
6. Zena Werb (UC San Francisco) and Samuel C. Silverstein (Columbia University)

by proposing that there are things that works of literature “know” but do not explicitly tell us. He affirmed the value of “soft” and “silent” knowledge. “Every story has a story it is not telling,” Wood declared, “and if we listen, we can hear it in the silence, and we cannot only guess what it means, we can know what it knows. We can hear the kindness in the anger; the generosity in the rage; the certainty in the doubt; and the hope in the very articulations of despair.”

- World-renowned operatic baritone Sherrill Milnes, accompanied on piano by Assistant Professor Sean Gallagher of the Harvard

Music Department, sang two pieces, “Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this Place” by the contemporary Gospel composer Lanny Wolfe, and an arrangement of “At the River” by Aaron Copland (Academy Fellow, 1951 – 1990). On concluding his performance, Milnes spoke about his ancestor Matthew Lyon – the first American to be indicted under the Alien and Sedition Acts signed by U.S. President and Academy co-founder John Adams. “I am not sure how Matthew Lyon would feel about my being inducted into this Academy, but I am extremely honored,” Milnes remarked.

Following these presentations, Academy officers welcomed the new inductees by class. Each member was called forward to sign the members’ book – a tradition that goes back to the Academy’s founding. President Spacks closed the ceremony by quoting John Adams’s exhortation “Let us dare to read, think, speak, and write,” and urging the new members to play an active role in the “community of daring” that is central to the mission of the Academy. ■

Induction 2003



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1.
2003 Nobel Prize Laureate Peter C. Agre (Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine) and Mary Agre

2.
Laura L. Kiessling (University of Wisconsin, Madison) and Carolyn R. Bertozzi (UC Berkeley)



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3.
Sir Anthony Kenny (St. John's College, University of Oxford), Lawrence S. Bacow (Tufts University), and Robert A. Katzmann (U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit)

4.
Corinne Schelling (American Academy) and Bernd Giese (University of Basel)



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5.
The Honorable Richard W. Fisher and Nancy Fisher (Kissinger McLarty Associates)

6.
Friedrich Katz (University of Chicago), Thongchai Winichakul (University of Wisconsin, Madison), and Harry D. Harootunian (NYU)



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7.
Steven B. Sample (University of Southern California), Katherine Sample, and Larry William Swanson (University of Southern California)

8.
Vinay Chowdhry and Uma Chowdhry (DuPont Engineering)