

## Academy Trust

Four years ago, a strategic plan – *2000 and Beyond* – called for the Academy to expand its project and outreach activities, create a Visiting Scholars Program, revitalize its publications, and enhance its national visibility. Over the past several years, the American Academy has made significant progress in advancing all aspects of this work. It has become increasingly national and diverse, and a growing number of Fellows throughout the country are now involved directly in Academy programs and activities.

Last year, the Council established an Academy Trust to help strengthen the Academy's stewardship and its financial and resource development strategies. The Trust will provide critical advice and guidance for Officers, Councilors, and the Executive Office. Vice President Louis Cabot chairs the group, which includes Academy leaders and major supporters with a deep understand-

ing of the current and long-term needs of nonprofit associations, their goals, and their management.

Meeting for the first time on April 27 – 28, 2003, the Trust reviewed the Academy's overall operations and finances and met with program directors to learn about their objectives. Cabot described the session as "an excellent opportunity to talk about where the Academy is now and how we can help it achieve its long-term aspirations." Executive Officer Leslie Berlowitz said that she was "delighted by the enthusiasm of the Trust members for this special institution" and that she looks forward to benefiting from their expertise in advancing an organization's mission. The Trust plans to meet two or three times annually. Its second meeting was held in October. ■



Front (left to right): John S. Reed (New York Stock Exchange), Michael E. Gellert (Windcrest Partners), Vice President Louis W. Cabot (chair of the Trust), Executive Officer Leslie C. Berlowitz, and E. John Rosenwald (Bear Stearns Companies); back (left to right): Peter Nicholas (Boston Scientific Corporation), Secretary Emilio Bizzi (MIT), Richard Meserve (Carnegie Institution of Washington), and Arthur Gelb (Four Sigma Corporation); absent: President Patricia Meyer Spacks, William T. Golden (New York City), and Walter B. Hewlett (William and Flora Hewlett Foundation)

## From the Archives

At a meeting held on May 29, 1781, Fellows heard a report from a committee that had been appointed "to arrange the several subjects which . . . should principally engage the attention of the Academy." The committee's recommendations were:

1. That one class examine the various soils of the Country . . . Also what have been and are the various methods of culture . . . .
2. That a second class examine the growth of vegetables . . . .
3. That a third class collect samples of the various minerals and fossils in the country . . . .
4. That a fourth class make a chemical analysis of vegetables, minerals and fossils and ascertain their medicinal and other properties.
5. That a fifth class examine the various diseases of the Country . . . .
6. That a sixth class attend to mathematical disquisitions and astronomical observations . . . .
7. That a seventh class make meteorology their special object . . . .
8. That an eighth class examine into the progress of the mechanical arts in America . . . .
9. That the object of a ninth class be the rationale of Language, particularly the rationale, genius and idiom of the English language.
10. That it be the business of a tenth class to attend to the subject of the Commerce of America . . . .
11. That the Antiquities of the Country . . . be subjects of special enquiry by the eleventh class.

Over the past 223 years, the "several subjects" recommended for Academy study have grown and changed but, now as in the past, the rich insights and perspectives the Academy provides reflect the historic collaboration of distinguished individuals working at the interface of thought and action. ■