

Visiting Scholars Program

The Academy welcomed its second group of Visiting Scholars to its headquarters in Cambridge in September 2003. In characterizing the new class, the Chair of the Visiting Scholars Program (VSP), novelist and historian James Carroll, observed, "The 2003–2004 group of post-doctoral fellows and junior faculty exhibit a broad range of interests as well as a deep level of engagement with some of the most important issues in their fields. Their presence at the House in Cambridge will be stimulating for all of us, while their projects will make significant contributions to scholarship in areas of vital concern to the Academy." Representing the fields of international relations, law, political science, African American studies, American history, and American literature, the Visiting Scholars will carry out research on a variety of topics ranging from race and ethnicity in modern America to intercultural dialogue and co-existence.

Now in its second year, the VSP was founded to stimulate and support research by promising scholars and practitioners in the early stages of their careers, and to foster ties between an emerging generation of scholars and Academy members with shared scholarly and social concerns. As Executive Officer Leslie Berlowitz notes, "The Visiting Scholars work in a genuinely interdisciplinary center, with all the opportunities this brings for their intellectual development and future careers. At the same time, the Academy benefits from having scholars in residence to add to the intellectual vitality of its studies and activities."

The Academy's 41 University Affiliates are providing crucial support and guidance for the VSP. The program is also funded by grants from the Annenberg Foun-

ation, the Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation, and the Charles and Suzanne Haar Fund at The Jerusalem Foundation. The Academy is grateful to Marjorie Garber, Director of the Harvard Humanities Center, for providing library privileges for the scholars, and to other Boston institutions, including the Boston Public Library and the Boston Athenaeum, that have joined with the Academy to enrich the experience of the Visiting Scholars during their year in residence. ■



Front (left to right): Robert Chodat, Eileen Babbitt, Ann Mikkelsen, Matthew Lindsay, Crystal Feimster; back (left to right): Adam Webb, Jonathan Hansen, James Carroll

Profiles of the Visiting Scholars

Eileen Babbitt – Assistant Professor of International Politics, Fletcher School, Tufts University. *Refugee Repatriation after Civil War: The Tension between Coercion and Trust*. An examination of whether coercive laws and structures are the only way to keep "enemies" together when refugees return and try to reintegrate into communities where they are not welcome, and whether this coercive strategy leads to voluntary coexistence or undermines peace-building efforts.

Robert Chodat – Postdoctoral Scholar, Stanford University. *The Patterns of Persons: Ideas of Agency in American Literature and Philosophy*. A study of meaning and action in twentieth-century American literature and philosophy, focusing on how certain writers, including Gertrude Stein, Don DeLillo, and Saul Bellow, articulate competing pictures of mind, intention, and personhood.

Crystal Feimster – Assistant Professor of African American History, Boston College. *Lynching Women: Racial and Sexual Violence in the American South*. An analysis of the varied roles played by black and white women in the history of lynching in the southern regions of the United States.

Jonathan Hansen – Postdoctoral Scholar, Boston University. *Apostate's Return: American Expatriates and the Dilemmas of National and Ethnoracial Identity*. An exploration of the cultural criticism of twentieth-century American expatriates whose return home reveals the ineluctable grip of national allegiance on twentieth-century selfhood, while providing a fresh perspective on American national identity.

Matthew Lindsay – J.D. Yale Law School, Ph.D. candidate, University of Chicago. *Equal Protection in the Age of "Ethnicity" – Racial Equality and the "Colorblind" Constitutionalism Since the Second Reconstruction*. A historical analysis of the constriction of citizenship rights post Reconstruction, leading to insight into the retrenchment of anti-discrimination law since 1970.

Ann Mikkelsen – Lecturer, Committee on Degrees in History and Literature, Harvard University. *Voices from the Field: Pastoral, Pragmatism, and Twentieth-Century American Poetry*. A project on twentieth-century poets who called attention to social, economic, and political inequities and attempted to reconcile these with their own relatively privileged, but simultaneously marginal, status as representative voices of a democratic society.

Adam Webb – Postdoctoral Scholar, Princeton University. *A World, Not a Globe: Towards an Alternative Vision of Intercivilizational Dialogue and Political Cosmopolitanism*. An exploration of encounters among the major premodern civilizations, and of the lessons they provide for an ethically richer view of cross-cultural collaboration and a future world order.

Chair of the VSP

James Carroll – Historian and columnist for *The Boston Globe*. Books include *An American Requiem*, *Constantine's Sword*, *The Church and the Jews: A History*, and, most recently, the novel *Secret Father*. During his tenure at the program, he is working on a history of the Pentagon.

The VSP will be hosting two Senior Scholars in spring 2004: Israeli novelist and Foreign Honorary Member Aharon Appelfeld and Academy Fellow Jerrold Meinwald, Goldwin Smith Professor of Chemistry at Cornell University. ■