



Visiting Scholars Program Completes Inaugural Year

In May 2003 the Academy concluded the first year of its Visiting Scholars Program (VSP) at the House in Cambridge. Representing the fields of economics, political science, history, English, and American studies, seven young scholars spent a year in residence, working on a range of academic projects related to the Academy's core program areas: **Science and Global Security; Social Policy and American Institutions; Humanities and Culture; and Education.** The three junior faculty members and four postdoctoral scholars were selected by a distinguished group of Academy Fellows who reviewed more than 125 applications from candidates at private and public universities in 21 states. (*Profiles of the scholars, including overviews of their research, begin on page 20.*) The members of the 2002–03 advisory committee for the VSP were author and historian James Carroll (chair), Academy Executive Officer Leslie C. Berlowitz, R. Howard Bloch (Yale University), Allan Brandt (Harvard University), Neil Harris (University of Chicago), John Steinbruner (University of Maryland), Eugene Skolnikoff (MIT), and Pauline Yu (American Council of Learned Societies).

The VSP is designed to nurture a new generation of thinkers who show promise of becoming leaders in their fields. One of the unique features of the program is its ability to combine individual research with involvement in the Academy's program areas. Visiting Scholars are invited to attend Academy project conferences and contribute their ideas to advance studies on such topics as global security, the feasibility and potential consequences of universal basic and secondary education, the changing relationship of Congress and the federal courts, and

the evolution of the humanities over the past century. As Academy President **Patricia Meyer Spacks** notes, “These young scholars are giving the Academy fresh perspectives. Their contributions to our ongoing studies have already proved to be welcome and thought-provoking.”

Executive Officer **Leslie C. Berlowitz** points out that the program offers numerous benefits to assist these scholars in their professional development: “Through the generosity of **Marjorie Garber**, director of Harvard University’s Humanities Center, they have access to unparalleled library facilities. They also benefit from the Academy’s institutional partnerships with other universities and intellectual centers, including the Boston Public Library and the Boston Athenaeum.” According to Berlowitz, “The Academy not only provides an opportunity for reflection and writing; it also recognizes the importance of contact with the broader intellectual community in the Boston area and beyond.” At monthly seminars, scholars present their work and respond to comments and questions from their colleagues and interested Academy Fellows. They participate actively in the Academy’s Friday Forums, which bring together representatives of the media and members of the surrounding academic, business, and cultural communities for discussions of timely issues. They also attend Academy lectures and seminars, as well as informal gatherings with Fellows in the area.

In addition to the seven postdoctoral scholars and junior faculty members, the 2002–03 program included Associate Scholar **Andy Zelleke**, who received his J.D. from Harvard Law School and his Ph.D. from Harvard Business School. He analyzed the influence of cultural, historical, market, and political forces on the structural leadership and governance of prominent American and British corporations, in association with the Academy’s project on corporate responsibility.

David Hollinger, the Preston Hotchkis Professor of American History at the University of California, Berkeley, joined the program as a Senior Scholar in

spring 2003. He is developing a history of the effects of demographic and social changes on the humanities in the past half-century, as one of the research projects under the Academy's Humanities and Culture Initiative.

The program was enthusiastically received by the inaugural group of Visiting Scholars. Historian **Andrew Jewett** found the scholarly community at the Academy to be a rich source of inspiration. "There was considerable overlap between my project and those of two other scholars," he says. "Three of us are studying what could be called 'interwar cultural modernism,' with two of my colleagues looking at it from the perspectives of literature and the visual arts. All of the Visiting Scholars welcomed the opportunity to present their work at our research seminars. In addition, I learned a great deal from Academy project directors and Fellows about the importance of clearly articulating my arguments for a broader audience."

Economist **Eric Bettinger** cites the freedom to write, apart from teaching and other academic responsibilities, as one of the greatest benefits of residence at the Academy. As a result of conversations with his fellow Visiting Scholars, he is developing a paper on the influence of adjunct and part-time faculty teaching on students' success rates. "It was good to be among such a variety of researchers at the Academy," Bettinger says, echoing sentiments expressed by the others. "Just our lunchtime and hallway conversations gave me ideas and perspectives I might never have had."

"And the Academy itself is amazing," notes literary scholar **Jay Grossman**. "It rewards and believes in our work as scholars."

Looking back at the past year, the chair of the VSP, **James Carroll**, observes that the program has proved to be "a mutually rewarding experience for scholars and Academy members who have worked together to make it a success. When these scholars came to the Academy, they were already accomplished in their own right. Many have held teaching posts and written articles for professional jour-

nals. The Academy is making every effort to help them realize their full potential with a program that balances their need for free time with opportunities for interaction and exchange with a broader community.” Carroll himself, in addition to serving as VSP chair, spent the year conducting research for a history of the Pentagon.

The Academy’s University Affiliates—a group of forty-one colleges and universities from across the country—provide support and guidance in advancing the goals of the VSP. The Annenberg Foundation, the Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation, and the Esther Haar Scholarly Exchange Program have also awarded grants to fund the VSP. In expressing the Academy’s appreciation for the work of those involved, President Spacks said, “We are deeply grateful to these institutions, to all the Fellows of the Academy who have served as advisors and reviewers for the program, and to James Carroll and Leslie Berlowitz for making this new initiative a reality. The presence of these young men and women is a valuable reminder of the importance of nurturing new scholarship at a time when there are few fellowship opportunities available for social scientists and humanists. We are confident that this new initiative we have undertaken will lead to accomplishments that enhance and strengthen the intellectual community and the wider public it serves.”

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