

Academy News

American Academy Welcomes New Members

On Saturday, October 9, 2004, the Academy inducted 202 new Fellows and Foreign Honorary Members into its 224th class. Over 600 Fellows and their guests attended events throughout the day, making this one of the largest induction ceremonies in the past decade.

President Patricia Meyer Spacks opened the morning orientation session at the House of the Academy by describing the mission of the 224-year-old society. The Academy, she said, “has both the mandate to advance knowledge and learning and the responsibility to address pressing problems facing contemporary society.” Vice President Louis Cabot spoke on the history of the Academy and the history of the new nation: “Even as this country’s founders were engaged in writing America’s Constitution, they were intent on creating the American Academy as an organization based on the idea that ‘individuals united together and frequently meeting for the purpose of advancing

the sciences, the arts, agriculture, manufactures and commerce may often times suggest such hints to one another as may be improved to important ends.’” Deputy Secretary Jerrold Meinwald urged newly elected members to participate in the Academy’s wide-ranging activities, from the nomination and election of members and formal and informal meetings across the country to projects and publications.

Adding her personal welcome to the new class, Executive Officer Leslie Berlowitz focused on the distinctive interdisciplinary, intergenerational, and interinstitutional aspects of the Academy’s programs. She pointed out “as a result of its unique convening power, the Academy can draw on individuals from diverse fields and professions to undertake long-term analyses of critical issues that inform and influence scholarship and public policy.” She then introduced a number of Fellows who are leading current Academy projects.



New Fellows Loren F. Ghiglione (Northwestern University) and Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. (Dreyfoos Group)

In the Science and Global Security program area, Neal Lane (Rice University) spoke about the Academy’s study on the Rules of Space, noting that “space policy has become a prominent and a very contentious public-policy issue,” with expanding commercial uses for space emerging even as the United States moves to militarize space in new ways. He noted that “policy decisions now being made will affect not only our national security but also our ability to compete successfully with other countries in the commercial uses of space and to collaborate with other parts of the world in the peaceful uses of space.”

David Clark (MIT) and Tom Leighton (MIT and Akamai Technologies) described a new Academy initiative, Securing the Internet as Public Space. Leighton observed that many of the current protocols and the technology still used by the Internet were designed over thirty years ago, when there were only several hundred users who “intended no harm” to one another and were primarily concerned with advancing functionality. It is

these protocols that now allow violations of privacy and criminal activity. Clark emphasized that the Academy’s interdisciplinary approach is critical to understanding “the tensions that live in a space of personal rights, the interests of large private-sector players, the rights of the state, and the reality of the global nature of the Internet.”

A second group of speakers discussed projects in the area of Social Policy and American Institutions, highlighting the Academy’s ability to convene both scholars and practitioners to address difficult issues. Linda Greenhouse (*The New York Times*) and Robert Post (Yale Law School) discussed the Congress and the Court project. Providing the background for the study, Greenhouse asserted that “as an observer of the Congress-Court relationship for more than a quarter century, I have never seen such a sharp deterioration in the interaction between these two branches of government.” Post outlined how the study evolved as tensions between the legislature and judiciary increased. Issues raised in earlier private conversations in-



New Fellows Yu Xie (University of Michigan) and Ann Beattie (University of Virginia)

volving members of Congress and the Supreme Court – a strategy that has now become ineffective – have led to scholarly studies on statutory interpretation and on the composition of the federal judiciary.

Reporting on the Academy project on Corporate Responsibility, **Gerald Rosenfeld** (Rothschild North America) stressed the importance of bringing together scholars and corporate leaders to assess the breakdown in values in American business. The project's initial publication, *Restoring Trust in American Business*, focuses on the role of “gatekeeper” professions, including regulators, auditors, and corporate directors, in upholding ethical standards. As an investment banker, Rosenfeld advocated that the investment banking community, which has “no specific set of behavioral rules,” should act now to adopt its own code of conduct.

Michael Kremer (Harvard University) described the work of the Academy's project on Universal Basic and Secondary Education that is evaluating the benefits and obstacles of achieving quality education for all children, aged six to sixteen. He focused on the increasing use of randomized trials, a tool used extensively in medicine, to as-

sess such low-cost education interventions as vaccination programs, increased use of textbooks, and the introduction of vouchers to allow poor students to attend private schools.

President **Patricia Meyer Spacks** (University of Virginia) provided an overview of the Academy's Humanities Initiative, which she cochairs. One aspect of the program centers on the development of comprehensive data on education and employment in the humanities – “an unimaginably complex effort” involving extensive collaboration among learned societies and representatives of many social science and humanities disciplines. The second part of the initiative, focusing on the history of the humanities, will result in two volumes. *Mapping the Humanities*, edited by Spacks, records disciplinary histories “of immense vitality, with each discipline's governing assumptions in constant flux and with new consensus repeatedly generated out of controversy.” *The Humanities and the Dynamics of Inclusion since World War II*, edited by David Hollinger (University of California, Berkeley), “explores social and cultural determinants that have helped shape a distinctly American version of the humanities in the twentieth century.”

To accommodate all who wished to attend, the afternoon Induction Ceremony was held in Harvard's Sanders Theater. The ceremony began with greetings from the Academy's officers. Members of the Academy Trust introduced the ceremony's speakers, including **Carl Phillips**, who read two poems: Frank O'Hara's “To the Harbormaster” and his own poem “Crew.” (Full texts of their remarks appear on pages 7 – 15.)

Steven Beckwith (Space Telescope Science Institute) voiced his concern about the “large and perhaps growing gap” between the “overwhelming intellectual bounty” of modern science and engineering, and the public understanding of basic science concepts. “It is troubling,” he said, “to see broad societal policies put in place by people with little understanding of and, in some cases, outright disdain for the scientific progress that has made our advance as a civilization possible.” He called on the Academy to “find ways to counter the anti-intellectual trends that undermine the greatest accomplishments of science” in the modern world and to make information about scientific progress accessible to “infect our fellow citizens with the love of intellectual achievement.”

Steven Hyman (Harvard University) discussed the special ethical, social, and political problems that accompany scientific progress in neuroscience. He traced disquieting scenarios that could arise from current research, such as brain scans that can reveal unconscious racial bias in their subject, or a society in which effective stimulant drugs set off an “arms race” in which “the already advantaged may gain even greater competitive advantages at school and at work by being able to stay awake longer, attend better, and remember more.” He urged continued “thoughtful engagement” on the implications of these concerns.

Diane Wood (U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit) asked the question “is there anything worthy of being called ‘law’ at the international level?” The rest of the world has often been more eager to affirm its importance – and its very existence – than has the United States. Reviewing the history of international law and some of its perceived recent setbacks, she concluded that international law is “becoming more rather than less important” in the face of new trends in commerce, crime, business, and security.



New Fellows Subra Suresh (MIT), Mary Cunningham Boyce (MIT), and S. Shankara Sastry (University of California, Berkeley)



New Fellows Ira Berlin (University of Maryland) and Gerald Schoenfeld (Shubert Organization, Inc.)

Representing the humanities and arts, Richard Brodhead (Duke University) considered the role that literature has played in his life. Reflecting on works by Shakespeare, Wordsworth, and Whitman, he marveled at “the power of someone else’s creation to give voice to my experience,” and even more, to give “access to a state of feeling . . . that I did not yet know from life.” So long as people need the understanding that such works can provide, he concluded, “the core activity of the humanities will not go away.”

The final speaker was Senator Paul Sarbanes (D-Maryland). He spoke about the recent crisis of trust in American business, which he said was caused by departures from the principle that

“full and timely access to information, free inquiry and debate, and reasoned discourse are indispensable to informed and responsible decision-making.” He described the history of the American regulatory infrastructure from the Security Acts of 1933 and 1934 to the 2002 Sarbanes-Oxley legislation.

The ceremony concluded with remarks by President Spacks, who recalled John Adams’s challenge to Academy members to “dare to read, think, speak, and write, with an emphasis on dare.” With the help of the newly elected members, she expressed the expectation that the Academy will continue “to provide leadership and wisdom for our nation.” ■

Class of 2004 Membership Profile

178 Fellows from 24 states

24 Foreign Honorary Members from 11 countries

The new class is drawn from 61 colleges and universities, 16 educational and research institutions, 3 cultural and artistic organizations, 17 businesses and corporations, 3 foundations and charitable organizations, and 2 government organizations.



Members of the Academy Trust provide stewardship and act as special advisers as the Academy strives to achieve its long-term goals.

Trust Members (left to right): Walter B. Hewlett (William and Flora Hewlett Foundation), Carl H. Pforzheimer III (Carl H. Pforzheimer and Co.), Michael E. Gellert (Windcrest Partners), Arthur Gelb (Four Sigma Corporation), Richard Meserve (Carnegie Institution of Washington), E. John Rosenwald (Bear Stearns Companies), and Peter Nicholas (Boston Scientific Corporation).

Missing: Louis W. Cabot, chair; Leslie Berlowitz, Emilio Bizzi, William T. Golden, John S. Reed.