

# Academy News

## American Academy Inducts 225th Class of Members

Speaking to the over 500 members and guests assembled for the 2005 Induction Ceremony, new Fellow **Elena Kagan**, Dean of the Harvard Law School, pointed to the Academy's historic mission to bring together scholars and practitioners dedicated to the public good. "This must be," she noted, "because the Academy thinks that each can learn from the other, that those who think about the world and those who run the world both should want to make it better. And that the chances of doing so depend on the strength of their desires and the scope of their opportunities to work together."

The vision of the Academy's founders and its realization over 225 years was one of the principal themes of the Ceremony that honored 197 new Fellows and 17 Foreign Honorary Members from 26 states and 10 foreign countries. They included scholars, scientists, and artists as well as civic, corporate, and philanthropic leaders (see pages 42 – 56 for descriptors of the new members).

The daylong series of events began with an orientation session providing new members with an overview of Academy studies, the Visiting Scholars Program, and activities across the country. In welcoming remarks, President **Patricia Meyer Spacks** emphasized that the Academy looks to its members for new ideas and perspectives and urged the group to take an active part in the research program, governance, and election process. Introducing the leaders of current Academy projects, Chief Executive Officer **Leslie C. Berlowitz** noted: "Today, as 225 years ago, the Academy focuses its attention on those issues that are of deep concern to the intel-

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**New members Daniel Boyarin (University of California, Berkeley) and Alice Kessler-Harris (Columbia University)**

## New Mellon Grant for Humanities Indicators

For over 30 years, scientists have relied on the National Science Foundation's *Science and Engineering Indicators* for comprehensive statistics and information on science, engineering, and technology in the United States. Now, thanks to a generous grant of \$701,000 from the Mellon Foundation, the Academy will produce *Humanities Indicators*, an initial effort to create a comparable picture of the state of the humanities.

The *Humanities Indicators* will bring together empirical data on all aspects of the humanities, from primary and secondary education, to university teaching and research activities, to the libraries, museums, and historical societies where so many children and adults receive significant exposure to the humanities. It will include essays describing the trends and challenges revealed by this data. The *Indicators* will be made available on the Academy website. Academy Fellow **Norman Bradburn**, a nationally recognized researcher on survey methodology at the National Opinion Research Center and the University of Chicago, is overseeing data collection and analysis. Academy President **Patricia Meyer Spacks** is the codirector of the *Humanities Indicators* Project.

"The nation lacks a broad-based, quantitative analysis of the state of the humanities in the United States," noted Chief Executive Officer **Leslie C. Berlowitz** in acknowledging the award. "We don't have sufficient empirical data about what is being taught in the humanities, how they're funded, the size of the work force, and public attitudes toward the field. This is a key goal of the Academy's humanities program. The *Indicators* Project will be an important step in closing that fundamental knowledge gap for the benefit of scholars, policymakers, and the public at large."

This grant brings to fruition several years of preliminary work on humanities data. This work, which was supported by the Rockefeller and Hewlett Foundations, included planning meetings, conferences, surveys of data resources, and two Occasional Papers, *Making the Humanities Count: The Importance of Data* (2002) and *Tracking Changes in the Humanities: Essays on Finance and Education* (2006).