Officers of the Academy and members of the Council and Trust dedicated the Stephen D. Bechtel, Jr. Auditorium in the Academy’s Cambridge headquarters at a ceremony on Saturday, October 6, 2007, on Induction weekend.

Chair of the Academy Trust and Vice President Louis W. Cabot paid tribute to the generosity of Fellow Stephen D. Bechtel, Jr. and his foundation to the Academy. “For over a decade, both Steve and the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation have made a series of generous gifts and grants to help with strategic planning, to advance our projects and studies, and to refurbish our national headquarters. Steve has a special understanding of the way this institution, which brings together people from every field and discipline, serves America and the world.”

Members of the Bechtel family attending the dedication included Mrs. Bechtel, her grandson Eric Dachs, son-in-law Alan Dachs, and daughter Lauren Dachs, President of the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation. In her remarks, Mrs. Dachs noted, “On behalf of my father, we are delighted to be here for the dedication and to celebrate the excellent work of the Academy. It has been an honor to partner with the Academy and we look forward to continuing our support.”

Stephen Bechtel is Chairman (retired) and a Director of Bechtel Group, Inc., and Chairman of the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation. He served as a director on the boards of several major corporations, including General Motors and IBM. Presidents Johnson, Nixon, and Ford each appointed him to presidential committees and commissions. The recipient of numerous industry, academic, and professional society awards, Mr. Bechtel served as chairman of The Business Council, The Conference Board, Inc., and the National Academy of Engineering. He was Vice Chairman of the California Council for Science and Technology Task Force in 2006, advising the Governor of California on increasing the state’s talent pool by improving K-12 science and mathematics education. Elected to the American Academy in 1990, he has served on membership committees and provided major support for a project initiative in science, engineering, and technology as well as for capital improvements to the Academy’s headquarters. The American Academy is grateful for his continuing interest and his extraordinary support for projects and programs.