

Academy Inducts 227th Class of Members

From Jessye Norman's extemporaneous rendition of "American the Beautiful" to Rodney Brooks's vision of robots capable of advancing understanding of human intelligence, the Academy's 227th Induction Ceremony was a celebration of the extraordinary achievements of its newly elected Fellows and Foreign Honorary Members. On Saturday, October 6, 2007, 579 Fellows and guests attended the event. Coming from across the country and as far away as Israel, the participants included physical and biological scientists, humanists and social scientists, writers, performers, filmmakers, architects, philanthropists, and government and corporate leaders (see pages 62 – 79 for descriptors of the new members).

In his opening greeting, President of the Academy **Emilio Bizzi** remarked, "By electing you to membership, the Academy honors you, but you, in turn, honor the Academy by strengthening our mission to engage in critical thinking that will lead to constructive action on issues that concern all of us." Recalling the Academy's historic tradition, Chief Executive Officer **Leslie C. Berlowitz** noted that at a time when our founding members were creating the Academy, they were also waging a war for independence and establishing the institutions of the new nation. "The Scholar-Patriots who built the Academy were busy people too," she said. "They were nineteenth-century multitaskers who found time to advance their own professional careers, while engaging in scholarship and statesmanship for the public good. We are indebted to them for their service to the nation and to the Academy, and we look to you to build on their legacy."

The speakers at this year's ceremony considered many challenges confronting our society, focusing on the need to bring greater knowledge, deeper understanding, and a broader perspective to long-standing as well as emerging issues. MIT robotics professor and iRobot Corporation's cofounder **Rodney Brooks** set the development of humanoid robots in the context of man-machine relationships in history, while Princeton University molecular biologist **Bonnie Bassler** considered the need for new antimicrobial therapies at a time when bacterial infections, once thought to be treatable, are emerging in new, virulent forms.

University of California, Berkeley's law school dean **Christopher F. Edley, Jr.** discussed the future of the civil rights movement, urging those involved to combine their "secular, technocratic strategies with a recommitment to the discourse of values and even to the tactics of spiritual engagement." By exploring the roles of interactions and relationships, President of the University of Chicago **Robert Zimmer** demonstrated how the structure of mathematics, music, and university leadership – seemingly disparate subjects – can be more effectively understood.

Prize-winning architect **Billie Tsien** observed that in an era of eye-catching, trophy buildings, we need to look inside, to examine the



President Emilio Bizzi '80 (MIT) and Secretary Jerrold Meinwald '70 (Cornell University) congratulating new member Lily Jan '07 (University of California, San Francisco). Chair of the Academy Trust and Vice President Louis Cabot '58 (Cabot-Wellington, LLC) is in the background.

"interior life that defines both the building and the human being . . . to appreciate what touches people, what comforts them, what makes memories." An advocate of arts education in America's schools, opera and concert artist **Jessye Norman** stated that "art makes each of us whole by insisting that we use all of our senses, our heads, and our hearts; that we express with our voices, our hands, our bodies, as well as our minds." (See pages 7 – 14 for the full text of the speakers' remarks.)

The afternoon Induction Ceremony followed a morning orientation session at which leaders of Academy studies and research projects described their work, examining such topics as the well-being of the humanities; academic freedom; the future of the media in America; the resurgence of nuclear power worldwide; Internet safety and security; the independence of the judiciary; and the evolving role of science, engineering, and technology in today's world. (The orientation talks appear on pages 15 – 24.) Throughout their presentations, the speakers emphasized that the Academy seeks to assess all sides of difficult problems, to conduct long-term analyses of American and international policy choices, and to further scholarship as the basis for thoughtful action. As Academy Librarian **Robert C. Post** put it, "The Academy is multidisciplinary and it is nonpartisan. It can serve as an honest broker for matters of intense and intractable public controversy." ■