

Academy Inducts 228th Class of Members

On October 11, 2008, more than 500 guests attended the Academy's 228th Induction Ceremony. The event celebrated the accomplishments of the Academy's 212 new members, who come from 20 states and 15 countries. Drawn from science, the arts and humanities, business, public affairs, and the nonprofit sector, the class represents 50 universities and more than a dozen corporations.

The Ceremony was preceded by a morning briefing, where new members learned about the Academy's research projects and their influence on public policy. Chief Executive Officer Leslie Berlowitz described the Academy's long history of promoting useful knowledge and anticipating emerging issues before their importance is widely recognized.

Several leaders of Academy projects described their work on a wide range of issues, including the federal funding of science; the global nuclear future; America's competing research, commercial, and military interests in space; the effects of corruption on an international scale; and U.S. policy toward Russia. The program also included presentations of studies on the impact of mass incarceration; the independence of the judiciary; communicating the role of the humanities and culture; educating the world's children; and security on the Internet. Throughout the morning, speakers expressed gratitude and pride in the Academy's capacity to bring fresh perspectives to seemingly intractable problems. Speaking about the Humanities Indicators Project, which is securing data on the humanities, Francis Oakley, President Emeritus of Williams College, declared, "All praise to the Academy not simply for taking the initiative on this project but also for demonstrating the tenacity needed to bring it to this preliminary conclusion."

President of the Academy Emilio Bizzi opened the formal Induction Ceremony by recalling the Academy's founding in the midst of the American Revolution and its role in bringing together scholars, civil leaders, merchants, and farmers to help shape the new nation. At the Induction Ceremony, Chair of the Academy Trust and Vice President Louis W. Cabot announced Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts as the recipient of the Academy's Scholar-Patriot Award in recognition of his tireless advocacy on behalf of health care, education, science, and learning (see page 5 for the award citation).

New Fellows representing the five classes of Academy membership touched on the opportunities and challenges of their work and its broader implications for society. James Simons, President and Founder of Renaissance Technologies, described his love of mathematics with its complex vocabulary. Peter S. Kim, President of Merck Research Laboratories, discussed his role in the search for an HIV vaccine, using it to illustrate the frustration and hope inherent in biomedical research.



Harvard economics professor Susan Athey discussed the role of search advertising platforms in the future of the economy. Representing the humanities, Emory University Provost, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, and professor of history and African American Studies Earl Lewis described how storytelling shapes our knowledge of the human experience. "The stories we tell, the stories we listen to, mark the humanities and the humanist interest in a lived experience. We are reminded that in stories we find answers to what makes us who we are."

The definition of a "good company" was explored by Indra Nooyi, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of PepsiCo. "What is the enduring achievement of business?" she asked. Her answer was that "companies must redeem a moral promise as well as yield a return on capital." They must recognize the inevitable link between business and society and combine what is good ethically with what is good commercially.

Together the speakers captured the promise of the Academy to combine thoughtful analysis with determined action.

At a symposium on Sunday following the Induction Ceremony, nine distinguished scientists and policy experts discussed the consequences of the growing reliance on nuclear power. The program featured panel presentations by Richard A. Meserve (Carnegie Institution for Science), Robert Rosner (Argonne National Laboratory), Richard Lester (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Scott Sagan (Stanford University), and Steven Miller (Harvard University). Sagan and Miller codirect the Academy's *Global Nuclear Future* project, which is generating a set of policy recommendations

New Fellows Reflect on Membership in the Academy

New members arrived at the House of the Academy in a state of anticipation, awaiting the morning orientation. Many vividly described the moment that news of their election arrived: the flurry of congratulatory phone calls and emails from colleagues followed by the deepening realization they would be joining a membership that included George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Albert Einstein, Marian Anderson, and T. S. Eliot, among so many others.

Richard Foster, a managing partner at Millbrook Management Group in New York, reflected on how the Academy's values resonate with his own. "The Academy provides us with a place to compare and contrast our mental models. I am really looking forward to being a member."

Many Fellows paused to study the framed letters of acceptance set along a wall in the atrium. Anne Walters Robertson, a music professor from the University of Chicago, was thrilled by the range of people represented by the historic letters. She was particularly moved when she found a beautifully handwritten letter by an earlier Fellow she considered one of the greatest teachers of music composition in the twentieth century, Nadia Boulanger.

"Election to the Academy is a great honor," said Pablo G. Debenedetti, a professor in engineering and applied science at Princeton University and an immigrant from Argentina. "It is a reminder of how great this country is."

While many Fellows were eloquent about the role of the Academy in preserving free inquiry and encouraging interdisciplinary scholarship, they said they were waiting for the day's presentations to ground them in the institution's specific programs and reports. "I am looking forward to finding out more about how I might contribute," said Alan M. Leslie, professor of psychology and cognitive science at Rutgers University.

The responsibility of the scholar to inform public discourse and play a larger role in society was a recurring theme among Fellows. "It is very interesting to see that the American Academy deals with such diverse topics," said Nikos K. Logothetis, a neuroscientist from Max-Planck-Institut für Biologische Kybernetik in Germany. He was particularly interested in an Academy project about educating the world's children.

Another source of excitement throughout the day was the simple pleasure of meeting exceptional people from such an array of backgrounds. "Although I was really interested in the presentations, particularly the ones on nuclear weapons and security on the Internet," said Jorge Durand, a professor of anthropology at the Universidad de Guadalajara, Mexico, "today is also an opportunity to meet people from diverse fields. The Academy is a unique place that brings us all together."

to ensure that the demand for civilian nuclear power does not result in a corresponding increase in nuclear proliferation (see pages 71 – 76 for the speakers' remarks).

As part of the symposium, the Academy awarded the Rumford Prize, one of the nation's oldest scientific awards, to **Sidney D. Drell** (Stanford Linear Accelerator Center), **William J. Perry** (Stanford University), **Sam Nunn** (Nuclear Threat Initiative), **George P. Shultz** (Stanford University), and **Henry A. Kissinger**, in absentia (Kissinger Associates, Inc.). **Stephen D. Bechtel, Jr.** (Bechtel Group), **Walter B. Hewlett** (William and Flora Hewlett Foundation), Academy President **Emilio Bizzi**, and Chief Executive Officer **Leslie Berlowitz** presented the awards in recognition of the recipients' ongoing efforts to reduce the global threat of nuclear weapons (see pages 6 – 7 for the award citations). In response, Drell, Perry, Nunn, and Shultz spoke about their decades of experience confronting the nation's most difficult national security issues and their work to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons (see pages 77 – 82 for their remarks).

Looking back on the weekend's events, **Jeffrey Victor Ravetch**, a new Fellow and the Teresa and Eugene Lang Professor at The Rockefeller University, noted, "I am delighted by the continuity the Academy presents. It provides an unbroken chain back to the founders of the country – and it encourages the integration of the arts and sciences, which is one of the underlying strengths of this country's democracy." ■