Academy Begins Yearlong Celebration of 225th Anniversary

“Cherishing Knowledge, Shaping the Future” sets the theme for the Academy’s 225th anniversary lectures and publications. Meetings will be held throughout the country to mark this special occasion, with a focus on the principles underlying the founding of the nation and the Academy – how they have been transformed throughout history and how they are interpreted today.

To inaugurate these events, Vice President and Chair of the Academy Trust Louis W. Cabot welcomed several hundred guests to a special program on April 21, 2005, celebrating the Academy’s historic mission and its accomplishments over three centuries. The evening began with Fellows James Carroll and Linda Greenhouse reading an August 1776 exchange of letters between John and Abigail Adams that foreshadowed the creation of the Academy. Members of the Council and Trust read from the Massachusetts Constitution and from the Academy’s Charter, acknowledged sister organizations established in the founding period, and spoke of the Academy’s work in science, social policy, and the arts and humanities.

Several speakers recalled the evolution of the Academy’s work over the past three centuries. Neal Lane (Rice University) called attention to the Academy’s ongoing concern with both pure research and the practical applications of science – from an expedition to observe an eclipse of the sun in the midst of the War for Independence to one of the first Darwinian debates in America in the mid-eighteenth century and the establishment of the field of arms control in the twentieth century. Robert C. Post (Yale Law School) traced the changing meaning of social welfare in the Academy from improving crop production in 1780 to a conference on the social impact of science and technology held two months before Pearl Harbor, a series of pathbreaking studies on race and poverty in the 1960s, and current studies on corporate and nonprofit accountability. Executive Officer Leslie Berlowitz considered humanistic study within the Academy, beginning with a focus on the language of the new nation and extending to the creation of important institutions in the humanities, particularly the National Humanities Center, and a study of the challenges facing the humanities in contemporary America.

Highlights of the evening included congratulatory remarks by Mary Maples Dunn, Co-Executive Officer of the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia; video tributes from Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Supreme Court Justice Stephen G. Breyer, U.S. Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman, and Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court; and musical performances by members of the Lydian String Quartet, Sergeant Dan Clark of the Massachusetts State Police, and the Lincoln Minutemen Fife and Drum Corps.

As Peter Nicholas, Chairman of Boston Scientific Corporation and Co-Chair of the Academy Trust, observed in his remarks at the celebration, “what is particularly exciting about the Academy is its ability to adapt its historic mission to ensure that we remain a vital resource for contemporary society. The Academy’s success is due to its capacity to use its traditions imaginatively, while always promoting constructive change.”
Order of Speakers

Readings from the Letters of John and Abigail Adams
James Carroll
Linda Greenhouse

Welcome and A Remembrance by John Adams
Louis W. Cabot

A Tribute to the Academy
The Honorable Margaret H. Marshall

Chapter 5, Section 2 from the Massachusetts Constitution
Cheryl Finley

The Charter of the American Academy
John S. Reed

A Tribute to Sister Organizations
Louis W. Cabot

Acknowledgment from the American Philosophical Society
Mary Maples Dunn

A Tribute to the Academy
The Honorable Samuel W. Bodman

The Academy’s Work: Science and Global Security
Neal Lane

A Tribute to the Academy
The Honorable Stephen G. Breyer

The Academy’s Work: Social Policy and American Institutions
Robert C. Post

The Academy’s Work: The Humanities and Culture
Leslie C. Berlowitz

A Tribute to the Academy
The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Allegro movement from the Divertimento in E Flat, K. 563
Members of the Lydian String Quartet
Introduced by Jerrold Meinwald

An Appreciation
Leslie C. Berlowitz

Proclamation from the White House
Jesse H. Choper

The Academy’s Future
Peter Nicholas

“America the Beautiful”
Sergeant Dan Clark

Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court

U.S. Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman

Senator Edward M. Kennedy

Supreme Court Justice Stephen G. Breyer
At a dinner honoring members of the Council and the Trust, President Patricia Meyer Spacks (University of Virginia) toasted the legacy and the promise of the Academy:

As President of the Academy, I want to celebrate the accomplishments of my forty-one predecessors. Beginning with merchant and astronomer James Bowdoin, they laid the foundation for an institution that has advanced change while remaining faithful to a 225-year-old mission celebrating the life of the mind in service to society. They never lost sight of the distinctive characteristics that define the Academy. We remain interdisciplinary, independent, reflective, pragmatic, and always aimed at promoting the common good.

Lest you think that presidents alone set the Academy’s course, let me assure you otherwise. My fellow officers, members of the Council and the Trust, the leaders of our research programs, and all those who work with us to advance our goals are critical to our success. Thinkers and doers, working under no academic or political pressure and with no collective preconceptions, join forces to develop fresh approaches to difficult problems. Just as we cherish knowledge, we cherish all of you who value the Academy’s past and inspire its future.
225th Celebration

Leslie Berlowitz (American Academy) and William T. Golden (New York, New York)

Robert C. Post (Yale University) and Michael E. Gellert (Windcrest Partners)

Members of the Lincoln Minutemen Fife and Drum Corps

Charles M. Haar (Harvard Law School) and Allan Robinson (Harvard University)
John Holdren (Harvard University) and Hugh Huxley (Brandeis University). Holdren spoke on “The Energy/Well-Being Nexus: Economy, Security, Environment” at a dinner following the program.

Banners of some of the sister organizations established in the founding period of the Academy.

Sergeant Dan Clark of the Massachusetts State Police

Carl H. Pforzheimer III (Carl H. Pforzheimer and Co.) and Father J. Bryan Hehir (Harvard University)
Record-Breaking Support for the Academy

William and Flora Hewlett Foundation Awards Academy $3 Million Grant

A $3 million capacity-building grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation will significantly strengthen the Academy’s research program, expand outreach, and build a more secure financial base. Plans call for increasing the number of projects with public policy implications, involving more Fellows and Visiting Scholars in this work, and broadening Academy activities across the country.

In acknowledging the award, Executive Officer Leslie Berlowitz noted, “This new grant will advance all aspects of our work, as we enhance our role as an independent, intellectual center for addressing pressing issues of our time. The Academy is extremely grateful to the President of the Hewlett Foundation, Paul Brest, and to the members of its board of trustees for recognizing the need and providing the critical support to realize the Academy’s ambitious goals.”

President Patricia Meyer Spacks added, “The Hewlett award represents a strong vote of confidence in the important work of the Academy. It will increase our ability to draw on the Academy’s unique assets—a distinguished membership, unparalleled convening power, and institutional independence—to sustain and strengthen a 225-year tradition of advancing scholarship and serving society.”

The Academy is the beneficiary of important new funds to support both its research program and the work of the Visiting Scholars. These gifts will help the Academy to initiate new projects on topics such as the governance of the Internet, corporate and nonprofit responsibility, higher education, and challenges to American science. Several of the grants will support the Visiting Scholars Program, now completing its third year.

Lead gifts have been received from:

- The Annenberg Foundation
- The Cabot Family Charitable Trust
- The Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation
- The Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Foundation
- The Charles and Suzanne Haar Fund
- The Esther Haar Scholar Exchange Program
- The National Endowment for the Humanities.

Annual Giving at New Level

Over the past year, the Academy reached two important milestones in its fund-raising efforts. Gifts and grants to support projects and programs totaled over $5 million, and the Annual Fund surpassed the $1 million mark for the fifth consecutive year, exceeding $1.25 million for the first time.

“Every gift is important to us,” emphasized Vice President and Chair of the Trust Louis W. Cabot. “The Academy relies on Annual Fund gifts to underwrite research projects and a growing schedule of programs across the country. We extend our deep appreciation to all of the Fellows, friends, and foundations who have helped us to exceed our goal again this year.”

Setting the pace in individual giving with leadership gifts were Leonore Annenberg, Stephen D. Bechtel, Jr., Louis W. Cabot, Lewis B. Cullman, William T. Golden, Walter B. Hewlett, Martin Lipton, Peter Nicholas, Carl H. Pforzheimer III, John and Cynthia Reed, and E. John Rosenwald, Jr.

The Academy is indebted to the co-chairs of the Development Committee, Louis W. Cabot and Robert A. Alberty, and to the Committee’s members—Jesse H. Choper, Michael E. Gellert, William T. Golden, Charles M. Haar, and Jack W. Peltason—for the dedication and hard work that has helped to make this year’s Annual Fund such a success.

A full list of all contributors to the 2004–2005 Annual Fund will appear in the Academy’s Annual Report, to be issued in fall 2005.
2004–2005 Visiting Scholars’ Appointments for the Coming Year

The Visiting Scholars Program was created to expand the Academy’s research by supporting the work of the next generation of scholars and investing in their professional development. Free of regular teaching and administrative responsibilities, postdoctoral scholars and junior faculty combine their independent research with participation in conferences, Stated Meetings, and informal gatherings.

Over the past three years, response to the program has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic. Participants welcome the opportunity to engage with Fellows in a “vital, stimulating atmosphere that spins off new insights, ideas, and projects, even as it encourages basic study, writing, and research.”

Eight Visiting Scholars completed their yearlong residency in Cambridge in May. Their new university and professional positions and the topics of their research at the Academy follow:

Christopher Capozzola:
Assistant Professor of History, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
Research: Uncle Sam Wants You: Citizenship and Obligation in World War I America

Cheryl Finley: Postdoctoral Scholar, Ford Foundation; Assistant Professor in the History of Art Department, Cornell University (on leave).
Research: Committed to Memory: The Slave Ship Icon in the Black Atlantic Imagination

Hsuan Hsu: Assistant Professor of English, Yale University.
Research: Scales of Identification: Geography, Affect, and Nineteenth-Century U.S. Literature

Christopher Klemek: Assistant Professor of History, Florida International University.

Matthew Lindsay: Associate at the Boston law firm, Foley Hoag.
Research: In Defense of “Racial Balancing”: Accounting for Inequality in the Post-Civil-Rights Era

Robert McDougall: Assistant Professor of History, University of Western Ontario.
Research: The People’s Phone: Rewriting the History of the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era

Asif Siddiqi: Assistant Professor of History, Fordham University.
Research: Science and Repression in the Twentieth Century: Revisiting Soviet Science

Lisa Szefel: Lecturer in History and Literature, Harvard University.
Research: The American Poetic Community: 1890–1920

Emory Joins University Affiliates

Emory University is the 42nd institution to become a member of the Academy’s consortium of University Affiliates—a group of colleges and universities from across the country that provide support and guidance for Academy research, including the Visiting Scholars Program and inter-university projects. The Academy is deeply grateful to President James W. Wagner of Emory and to the leaders of all the Affiliates for their confidence in the Academy’s efforts to support interdisciplinary research and to expand opportunities for postdoctoral scholars and junior faculty.

University Affiliates

Boston University – Aram V. Chobanian, Interim President
Brandeis University – Jehuda Reinharz, President
Brown University – Ruth J. Simmons, President
Columbia University – Lee Bollinger, President
Cornell University – Jeffrey Sean Lehman, President
Dartmouth College – James Wright, President
Duke University – Richard H. Brodhead, President
Emory University – James W. Wagner, President
George Washington University – Stephen J. Trachtenberg, President
Harvard University – Lawrence H. Summers, President
Indiana University – Adam W. Herbert, President
Johns Hopkins University – William R. Brody, President
Massachusetts Institute of Technology – Susan Hockfield, President
Michigan State University – Lou Anna Kimsey Simon, President
New York University – John Sexton, President
Northwestern University – Henry Bienen, President
Ohio State University – Karen Holbrook, President
Pennsylvania State University – Graham Spanier, President
Princeton University – Shirley Tilghman, President
Rice University – David W. Leebron, President
Smith College – Carol T. Christ, President
Stanford University – John L. Hennessy, President
Tufts University – Lawrence S. Bacow, President
University of California, Berkeley – Robert J. Birgeneau, Chancellor
University of California, Davis – Larry N. Vanderhoef, Chancellor
University of California, Irvine – Ralph J. Cicerone, Chancellor
University of California, Los Angeles – Albert Carnesale, Chancellor
University of Chicago – Don Michael Randel, President
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign – Richard Herman, Interim Chancellor
University of Iowa – David J. Skorton, President
University of Maryland – C.D. Mote, Jr., President
University of Michigan – Mary Sue Coleman, President
University of Minnesota – Robert Bruininks, President
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill – James Moeser, Chancellor
University of Notre Dame – Rev. Edward A. Malloy, President
University of Pennsylvania – Amy Gutmann, President
University of Pittsburgh – Mark A. Nordenberg, Chancellor
University of Southern California – Steven B. Sample, President
University of Texas, Austin – Larry R. Faulkner, President
University of Virginia – John T. Casteen, Ill, President
University of Wisconsin, Madison – John D. Wiley, Chancellor
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University – Charles W. Steger, President