The APS staff moved quickly to create and enable virtual meetings—most using Zoom—to continue regular scholarly events and essential business meetings. We have conducted well-attended public seminars and research conferences. Brown bag presentations and writing workshops have also been conducted virtually. We have decided that the Fall APS Meeting will be held virtually from November 11 to 13 with all sessions beginning late enough in the day to accommodate Members on the West Coast. Regularly updated information about the Society’s programming is available online at https://www.amphilsoc.org/virtual-offerings.

We have conducted well-researched policies and practices, APS facilities again opened to staff but not to the public. Under current regulations, work from home is still encouraged and practiced by most staff. However, the Conservation lab has reopened, and installation of the Museum exhibition has been completed. Dr. Franklin: Citizen Scientist will not be open to the public until at least April 2021. However, work is now underway to create a high-quality video of the exhibition that will be accompanied by narration and activities for both school children and adults.

For the first time since 1956, the Society passed a public resolution, which was addressed to the leaders of the U.S. House and Senate.
The APS and Equality

Members and staff at the American Philosophical Society paused to reflect on our past and think about our future as the nation reckoned with racial injustice in the wake of the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Born in the midst of a society enmeshed in slavery, the APS’s history is inextricably entwined with race, slavery, and, later, pseudoscientific ideas that supported and perpetuated racist beliefs and practices. Many early APS Members were slaveholders themselves, most notably the Society’s long-serving President, Thomas Jefferson.

Indeed, throughout the early 19th century, the Society published flawed treatises that used race as a way to explain and justify inequalities among people, and it elected Members whose accomplishments rested on claims of scientifically established differences between races. One need look no further than the recently reissued 1843 edition of the Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society to see the ways in which the Society served as a conduit for such ideas. In a volume that otherwise celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Society’s founding, the Society published two papers that APS Executive Officer Robert M. Hauer (APS 2005) described in the foreword as “egregious for their patently racist content.” The authors were two APS Members, Benjamin Banneker, a mathematician, physicist, and astronomer.

While many pioneering Black scientists and thinkers made contributions that equaled those of APS Members, people such as Benjamin Banneker, George Washington Carver, and W. E. B. Du Bois, to name a few, it took the Society over 200 years to elect American political scientist, sociologist, and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Ralph Bunche (APS 1950) as its first Black Member.

Still, as with the country itself, there is another side to the story, perhaps best embodied in the Society’s founder, Benjamin Franklin. A slaveholder for a large portion of his adulthood, Franklin became an outspoken abolitionist later in life, notably serving as the founding president of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society, the first such organization of its kind in the United States. Throughout the 19th century, the Society’s membership continued to include antislavery advocates. When the Civil War broke out, the Society expelled Matthew Fontaine Maury and William Lynch because they joined the Confederacy; the only time the Society has ever taken such an action.

And while the Society promulgated ideas based in scientific racism, it also embraced other ideas—ideas that were, in some measure, outside of the mainstream of their day. Indeed, the Society’s history is replete with Members who bucked popular scientific and intellectual trends that emphasized racial and gender determination. Today the papers of Franz Boas (APS 1903), one of the founders of modern anthropology, are one of the jewels of the Library. Boas rejected eugenic ideas that stressed biological sources of racial and ethnic differences. Such ideas were prominent in his day, and one of their leading advocates was Charles Davenport (APS 1907), whose papers are also housed in the Library. Boas, instead, argued that culture was more important than biology to explain differences between peoples. He even directly refuted the earlier arguments made by APS Member Samuel George Morton, a position chronicled in a 2008 APS publication, Franz Boas and W. E. B. Du Bois at Atlantic University, 1906. The Society today has embraced the ideals of inclusion, diversity, equity, and access in much of what it does and, more importantly, what it endeavors to do in the future.

The APS membership is striving to achieve a balance of gender, race, ethnicity, and geographical location among its goals. Of current Resident Members, 246 (29 percent) are women, 44 are Black (5 percent), 33 are Asian (4 percent), and 2 are Native American. Of 28 Resident Members elected in April 2020, 6 are Black, 3 are Asian, and 13 are women. The Society’s Officers and Council also reflect this aspiration. Currently, the President of the Society is Linda Greenhouse (APS 2001), the first woman elected to that position. The Officers of the Society include three Vice Presidents who are either a woman or person of color. The Council includes two other Black Members and 13 women Members. Diversity is an important aspect of committees that influence and determine the future of the Society. The Chair and another member of the six-person Committee on Nomination of Officers are Black and three members are women. Women are in leadership positions as Chairs of each of the five Class Committees on Membership.

APS Meetings, one of the central activities of the Society, have addressed issues of race, economic inequality, and social justice. Among these was a 2015 panel that examined Reconstruction’s failure to address the damage wrought by slavery and racism and how those “injuries of the past carry into the future”; a November 2016 talk on “How to Achieve..."Does anyone suppose that any woman in all the ages has had a fair chance to show what she could do in science?”—Maria Mitchell. Mitchell was a renowned astronomer, discoverer of Comet 1847 VI, and professor at Vassar College. After the APS elected Princess Dashkova in 1789, it took 80 more years for the APS to elect another woman. In 1869, the APS elected three more women, including Mitchell.

It took the Society over 200 years to elect its first Black Member, Ralph Bunche, in 1950. Bunche was an American political scientist, academic, and diplomat who received the 1950 Nobel Peace Prize. The problem persistst 75 years later: Black Members compose only 5 percent of membership; increasing Black representation among its Members remains a concern and priority of the Society.
Notably, under the leadership of Martin Leveti (APS 2010), the Library launched an initiative to return digital surrogates of its Native American linguistic and ethnographic data to Native American communities. This is a natural extension of the Library in its appropriate use of such material, the Library established an advisory board composed of scholars, APS Members, Indigenous communities, and institutions. The Library has since the Library is taking advantage of the opportunities afforded to us not handling over 190,000 visitors to a real-life exhibition, the Education Programs Department has been working on updating offerings and modernizing to match the digital needs of our audiences. These updates and modernizations include programs like Career Chats, Editing the Declaration, A Malignant Tale, and APS at Home.

Career Chats aligns with Pennsylvania and Philadelphia educational standards focused on career education and career readiness. After developing closer ties with the School District of Philadelphia and participating in multiple outreach opportunities at schools, like career fairs and in-school programming, the Education staff wanted to keep the conversation on museum, library, and archive careers going. The program features conversations with the Head of Education Programs and APS staff members on their careers, education, and real-world experiences. The conversations are recorded and then uploaded to the Society’s YouTube channel for viewing.

Among the objectives of the program is the hope that by providing examples, representation, and real conversations on these career trajectories for students, we can increase the diversity of our respective fields—which are still too often dominated by white men.

Editing the Declaration is inspired by one of the many collaborations the department has had with the Museum of Pennsylvania focused on career education and career readiness.

Suffice it to say, the program also takes on a new relevance during a pandemic in our own time. Research into how to better discuss the harsh realities of loss from such a time is currently being conducted, with a focus on trauma-informed pedagogy. The staff is working on how to best make the hands-on, experiential program we created into a virtual offering for schools starting in Fall 2020. By adding the lesson materials to our website, we now invite non-school-based groups to take part in the learning provided to us by that collection.

In keeping with the spirit of our free, hands-on programming for intergenerational audiences, the webpage APS at Home was launched in the spring. APS at Home is a hub for the activities that so often provided an accessible and friendly window into the Society. Typically led and created by either the Museum Managers or the Museum Education Coordinator, these activities reflect themes or objects in the exhibitions. These activities can expand to reflect APS collections more broadly. Now clustered into categories like “art,” “history,” “science,” and “interdisciplinary,” the activities can fit whatever needs a parent or caregiver might have in the home. APS at Home activities are still provided free of charge, are easy to download, and try to feature household materials.

The Education Programs Department always seeks to serve our audiences in the best, most accessible and equitable, ways possible. A pandemic and relearning with the realities of white supremacy are now pushing the department to continue and adapt to what work in times we have done, are doing, and plan to do. We hope you are able to take advantage of these new offerings and activities!

Michael Madeja,
Head of Education Programs
Addressing Racism in Dr. Franklin, Citizen Scientist

When I started at the APS, my directive was to be lead curator of an exhibition on “Benjamin Franklin and science.” From the start, incorporating slavery and racism into the narrative was a priority. After all, the science of human difference was an important debate in the 18th century, and slavery affected all areas of early American life. I knew it would be difficult to find stories in the Franklin Papers about slavery that related directly to science. Luckily, my co-curator Emily A. Mangus was also dedicated to this task. The exhibition became Dr. Franklin, Citizen Scientist. We dedicated a section of the exhibition to the science of human difference titled “ Observations on Humankind,” which explicitly addressed structural racism.

The events of 2020 have given the exhibition, which ran from 2020 until at least April 2021, a new urgency. Here, I want to highlight three important debates in the 18th century. The Franklin exhibition became a space where people can reflect not just on Franklin and his colleagues, but on their own biases, which have been shaped by society and have roots in the 18th century.

Franklin used it as a venue to publish three articles himself, including the 35-page essay on “sundry Maritime Observations,” which included a detailed account of the Gulf Stream. The essays highlighted the “best” of American science and intended to show the world that Americans were engaged in the latest scientific debates. APS Member John Morgan, doctor and co-founder of the medical school at the College of Philadelphia, published an essay titled, “Account of a molotly coloured, or py Negro Girl and Mulatto Boy, exhibited before the Society in the Month of May, 1784, for Their Examination.” The essay includes a very detailed account of the bodies of Adelaide and Jean-Pierre, two 2-year-old enslaved children with vitiligo. They were studied by natural philosophers for the same reason as people with albinism. The APS and the Royal Society thus participated in the exploitation of enslaved people in the name of scientific research.

These two Transactions from the Royal Society and the APS will be on display in Dr. Franklin, Citizen Scientist, allowing visitors to see for themselves how cultural institutions participated in these unethical practices. The resulting studies would lend scientific support to pro-slavery arguments and include the foundation for scientific racism that emerged in the 19th century. They also shed light on Deborah Franklin and how enslaved people were mistreated and used by white scientists.

We wanted Museum visitors to reflect not just on Franklin and his colleagues, but on their own biases, which have been shaped by society and have roots in the 18th century. On display in the exhibition is a 1763 letter that provides a glimpse into how Franklin confronted his own prejudices. Upon observing students in the Brax School for Black children in Philadelphia, Franklin wrote that he now had “a higher Opinion of the natural Capacities of the black Race, than I had ever before entertained...it will not undertake to justify all my Prejudices, nor to account for them.” This letter appears with several other documents that address Franklin’s changing racial biases throughout his lifetime.

This letter provided the inspiration for an irregular installation that encourages people to reflect on their own prejudices. Franklin is often remembered as an abolitionist, but he took almost a lifetime to become one. Despite writing the abovementioned letter in 1763, he did not make a clearly antislavery public statement until 1772. Franklin was a slaveowner for far longer than he was an abolitionist. APS Head of Education Programs Michael Madriga directed the development of a framed poster that will ask visitors a series of questions alongside information about Franklin’s changing behaviors and attitudes toward slavery.

When Dr. Franklin, Citizen Scientist does open to the public, I hope it provides an honest and thought-provoking interpretation of Franklin’s participation in the science of human difference. I hope the exhibition becomes a space where people can reflect and be inspired to change society for the better. The first step is acknowledging the past.

Janine Yorimoto Boldt, 2018–2020 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Curatorial Fellow

Like many institutions, the Library & Museum has had to adapt to the unexpected this year.

There was growing excitement for our planned 2020 exhibition, Dr. Franklin, Citizen Scientist, as it was going to be the first exhibition mounted under this new configuration. The Center for Digital Scholarship developed an impressive digital project that complemented the exhibition.

Education staff planned to incorporate this project into their programming so it could reach more classrooms. Our Scholarly Programming Department collaborated with the exhibition’s curators to develop several programs meant to promote their contributions. By all accounts, we were more than ready for the exhibition to open on April 3, 2020. Of course, none of this happened, and, indeed, none of it will happen until at least April 2021.

Nonetheless, when the Society shuttered its offices, we saw an opportunity for innovation, adapting to these unexpected circumstances so that the Society could continue to serve its mission “to promote useful knowledge” in this new environment.

Our collections staff began a series of remote cataloging projects that will improve both descriptions of and access to our materials. One of the highlights of this work is a complete re-cataloging of all past APS Meetings videos. We hope that this new video platform will make it easier for people to find and use these videos, especially teachers and students. With our archivists and catalogers working diligently to update our finding aids and improve our records, it feels strange to say, but I believe our collections will be in a stronger position when we reopen.

The highlight of our virtual offerings was our symposium held in June, “Evidence: The Use and Misuse of Data.” Though scheduled far before the pandemic’s onset, it proved timely because we could have imagined what the first of the fall in 2019. The keynote presentation, featuring APS Members Richard Shiffrin, Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Stephen Stigler, and Linda Greenhouse, drew almost 400 viewers.

For a better allocation of space, and draft a new working arrangement allowed us to brainstorm future exhibition topics, and we began to host virtual programs. Our online programs have been a smashing success, regularly surpassing the attendance numbers of our in-person events and allowing us to connect with many APS Members, APS friends, former fellows, and researchers who live far from Philadelphia.

In total, the 5-day symposium ended up attracting over 1,500 individuals. All videos are now posted online, and the APS Digital Repository will produce an anthology of the papers that were presented.

With Dr. Franklin, Citizen Scientist practically completed but delayed for at least a year, the Museum staff began researching ways to create a virtual tour so people could experience the exhibition online. To support both this project and several others, the Society applied for and received a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) CARES grant. Despite there being over 2,300 applicants, the NEH could only award 317 grants. Our success is a testament to the ingenuity and dedication of our staff, as well as a sign of the strength of our collections and Museum program.

The Museum’s virtual tour will allow visitors from around the world to walk through our gallery and learn about science in the age of the Enlightenment. Indeed, we hope that our experience this year might lay the foundation for developing virtual tours for all of our future exhibitions. Such tours provide a great way to preserve the work online and disseminate it to a wider audience for a longer period of time.

All the while, Library & Museum staff have continued to make headway on important ongoing projects and launched several new ones with an eye toward a future in which we can all once again return to work. Our collaboration with the David Library of the American Revolution (DLAR) continues to gain steam. In February, we accepted over 8,000 volumes and 9,000 reels of microfilm from their collections. Thanks to the efforts of our catalogers and archivists working remotely, the David Library is already ready for researchers as it was going to be the first David Center fellows in the coming year.

In anticipation of the 250th anniversary of 1776, and with the establishment of the David Center well underway, the Library & Museum took the lead in organizing a multi-institutional project entitled “Revolutionary City: A Portal to the Nation’s Founding.” Our hope is that over the next several years, we will digitize all Revolutionary-era manuscript material at the APS, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and Library Company of Philadelphia and create a shared digital repository that houses all of these items. The long-term goal is to create a platform by which other, smaller archives can contribute their material as well.

We applied for and received an Institute of Museum and Library Services National Leadership Grant to pilot the technology and test this project’s feasibility. Finally, there was one major project that we continue to pursue; the installation of compact shelving in the Library. Space for new collections is tighter than ever, and the shutdowns may provide an opportune time for us to make such major renovations to the Library’s space. With this addition, we will be able to bring the Museum’s artifacts back into Library Hall and create additional room for our continued acquisitions of important material.

As always, I welcome any thoughts or ideas you have. Please feel free to email me at librarian@amphilsoc.org.

Patrick Speen, Librarian and Director of the Library & Museum


For more information on the Library & Museum’s collections, please visit library.amphilsoc.org.
Conservation Department Donates PPE to Philadelphia

I, 1,200+, 57. 40. 24. 207. 12

I talked and decided the best approach would be for me to collect the PPE from the APS and store it in my car until he and I could coordinate the exchange. On March 26, I was able to deliver the PPE out to an auxiliary warehouse set up in Northeast Philadelphia. Lieutenant Millward was the epitome of the friendly, coolheaded, and knowledgeable firefighter I’ve experienced over my years here in Philadelphia, and I really wanted to give him a hug once the transfer was complete. Also (as we both lamented), we are hackers, but not now. The elbow bump had to suffice. And so, finally, the supplies were delivered. Finally, I say, although only a week had passed since Anisha hatched the plan. It was a week that felt like an eternity.

Anne Downey, Head of Conservation  

From the Publications Department

The PRODUCTION of APS PRESS publications has continued despite the restrictions created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The APS offices closed in early March, and our work moved to a work-from-home status. Outside vendors also worked from home, so work was able to proceed. Although production and printing initially were delayed until printers reopened, normal operations have resumed.

Recent issues of the PROCEEDINGS of the American Philosophical Society can be found on the Current Publications section of the APS website. Print copies of the journal mail to subscribers and scholarly institutions and are available to Members upon request. Proceedings, Volume 163, Number 3 includes an article by David S. Tietel (APS 2007), “Separation of Powers and Statutory Interpretation: A Battle Hidden in Plain Sight,” which won the 2020 Henry Allen Poe Prize.

Three APS Members have authored recent Transactions of the American Philosophical Society books. Claudia Vita-Finzi (APS 1997), Madelyn Leopold, and Penelope Vita-Finzi collaborated to edit A Life for Water: A Memoir, a selection of informal essays by Luna Bergere Leopold (APS 1972) written over the course of her long career. Vita-Finzi (APS 2002) finished L Bundle Calendars of the Pre-Columbian Maya, the work she and her late husband, Harry Kit Ewing, worked on after the printing of Astronomy in the Maya Codices (Memoirs, Volume 265, 2011). Lionil Gossman (APS 1996), who has published several other works with the Society, wrote Spreading the Word: Scottish Publishers and English Literature 1750–1900. A fourth recent publication, scheduled to print in early 2021, is Benjamin Franklin, Swimmer: An Illustrated History by Sarah Pomeroy (APS 2014). The APS Press accepts scholarly manuscripts of virtually any length for the Proceedings, but we are especially interested in short pieces of 1,000 words or less, or even a single idea. Other APS-related publications that will print within the next year are collections of papers from conferences sponsored or co-sponsored by APS. Upcoming books include The Art of Revolutions, The Spirit of Discovery in the Age of Jefferson, The Past, Present, and Future of the APS, and The Power of Maps, The Politics of Borders. Papers from additional conferences are scheduled to be reviewed and discussed by the Committee on Publications. Additional Transactions of the American Philosophical Society has published more than 200 books since its founding, and the American Philosophical Society has published more than 300 books and pamphlets since its founding in 1743. Important works include The Spirit of Revolutions, the first major work to argue for the inevitability of revolution, and The Spirit of Discovery in the Age of Jefferson, the first major work to argue for the importance of exploration and discovery. The APS Press also publishes the American Philosophical Society’s journals, which are available online through JSTOR, the online scholarly library. The site contains material from the time Benjamin Franklin printed the first issue of the APS in 1771 and is a valuable resource for researchers and scholars. The 2019 Yearbook is on the Members Only website. Print copies of the yearbook, as well as print copies of the 2019 Member Directory, were mailed to the APS in July once APS offices were reopened.

Proceedings of the International Symposium on the Future of Learned Academies printed a special issue of the APS Yearbook. Copies of the book were mailed to conference participants and sponsors. This work followed last year’s publications, Patrick Spero’s (APS 2019) The Other Preposterous: Thomas Jefferson and the American Philosophical Society and John Van Horn’s (APS 2005) Two Chips Off the Same Block: Benjamin Franklin and Benjaming Franklin. The Library Company and Philosophical Society and the Saga of Their 275-Year Relationship. Please note that manuscripts may be submitted electronically or in print. Committee on Publications meetings have continued virtually, and, as always, we encourage submissions in all scholarly disciplines.

Mary McDonald, Director of Publications
Colonial Virginia Portrait

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portraits of which I am aware are included subjects painted before ca. 1776. All extant Virginia or featuring colonial Virginia portraits with a documented history in open-access, interactive database of oil Culture, Institute of Early American History & in collaboration with the Omohundro colonialvirginiaportraits.org. Developed launched this year and is available at www.

Mellon Postdoctoral Curatorial Fellow Launches Colonial Virginia Portraits Project

THE COLONIAL VIRGINIA PORTRAITS project launched this year and is available at www. colonialvirginiaportraits.org. Developed in collaboration with the Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture, Colonial Virginia Portraits is an open-access, interactive database of oil portraits with a documented history in Virginia or featuring colonial Virginia subjects painted before ca. 1776. All extant portraits of which I am aware are included in the database, as well as portraits that are presumed lost but are documented in archival sources. Museums, historic sites, archives, and private owners have generously provided more than 350 images to use on the site. Users are able to browse through portraiture based on family surnames, artist, decade of creation, historic locations associated with the painting, and attributes of the portrait (e.g., size of canvas, props, gender of the subject, etc.). Most of the subjects are colonists, though some portraits feature family, friends, and officials from England or elsewhere. My research into individual portraits resulted in several new sitter identifications and artist attributions, which are included in the database.

Most of the database was compiled when I was researching for my dissertation on the social functions of portraiture in colonial Virginia. The field of American art history has largely ignored the early South, and very little scholarship exists on colonial Virginia portraiture. I was interested in understanding trends in portraiture over time, particularly in relationship to the development of a plantation society, and began collecting all references to colonial Virginia portraits. By the time I defended my dissertation in 2018, I had about 500 individual portraits in a personal database. These portraits spanned 150 years of colonial history and allowed me to discuss the construction of kinship, gender, race, social status, and political ideologies through portraiture, as well as better understand both transatlantic and local cultural exchange. The Omohundro Institute provided a platform and programmers who could develop the website. I spent most of 2019 preparing the data, obtaining permission to reproduce images, and working with developers to design the site.

Since the project launched in February 2020, I have been able to add several new entries to the database. A few of these I discovered on my own as I continued my research. In other cases, individuals reached out to generously share portraits from their private collections or smaller historic sites. I plan to continue adding new entries as I uncover new information. The digital format of Colonial Virginia Portraits has made it easier to visualize relationships between portraits and see trends in portraiture over time. Hopefully, the site will bring more attention to early southern art and assist and inspire other researchers who are interested in early American visual and material culture.

Janine Yorimoto Boldt, 2018–2020 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Curatorial Fellow


6 APS President Linda Greenhouse gave the Society’s annual reading of the Declaration of Independence, followed by a reading of Tracy K. Smith’s poem “Declaration” screened by Kyle Roberts.

7 APS Executive Officer Robert M. Hauser and APS G/FTED alumni David Silverman, Christopher Blissdale, and Ephraim Isaac at a November 2019 APS salon supper. Photo by Alexis Anderson.

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Class 1: Mathematical and Physical Sciences

Ernest J. Moniz, Cecil and Ida Green Professor of Physics and Engineering Systems Emeritus, Special Advisor to the President, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; CEO, Energy Futures Initiative; Co-Chair and CEO, Nuclear Threat Initiative; Former U.S. Secretary of Energy

James M. Moran, Senior Scientist, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory; Donald H. Menzel Professor of Astrophysics Emeritus, Harvard University

Sidney Nagel, Stein-Freiler Distinguished Service Professor, James Franck Institute, Enrico Fermi Institute; Department of Physics, University of Chicago

Monica Olvera de la Cruz, Lawyer

Taylor Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, Professor of Chemistry, Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering, Professor of Physics and Astronomy, Director of the Center for Computation and Theory of Soft Materials, Deputy-director of the Center for Bio-Inspired Energy Science, Northwestern University

Eva Tardos, Jacob Gould Schurman Professor of Mathematics

Class 2: Biological Sciences

Jeanne Altmann, Eugene Higgins Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Emerita, Princeton University

Scott Vernon Edwards, Alexander Agassiz Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Curator of Ornithology, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University

David Ginsburg, Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute; James V. Neel Distinguished University Professor, Departments of Internal Medicine, Human Genetics, and Pediatrics, Life Sciences Institute, University of Michigan

Carl H. June, Richard W. Vague Professor in Immunotherapy, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Director, Center for Cellular Immunotherapies, Director, Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Venkí Ramakrishnan, Group Leader, MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology; Fellow, Trinity College, Cambridge; President, The Royal Society, London

Class 3: Social Sciences

Mahzarin R. Banaji, Richard Clarke Cabot Professor of Social Ethics, Department of Psychology, Senior Advisor to Dean, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University; External Faculty, Santa Fe Institute

Joyce Chaplin, James Duncan Phillips Professor of Early American History, Harvard University

Alondra Nelson, President, Social Science Research Council; Harold F. Linder Chair, School of Social Science, Institute for Advanced Study

James C. Scott, Sterling Professor of Political Science, Professor of Anthropology, Professor of Forestry & Environmental Studies, Yale University

Alan Taylor, Thomas Jefferson Foundation Chair in American History, University of Virginia

Class 4: Humanities

Caroline Astrid Brizelius, Anne Murnick Cogan Professor Emerita of Art and Art History, Duke University

Angela N. H. Creager, Thomas M. Siebel Professor in the History of Science, Princeton University

Catherine Gallagher, Ida May and William J. Eggers, Jr. Professor Emerita, University of California, Berkeley

David Tracy, Andrew Thomas Greeley and Grace McNichol Greeley Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Catholic Studies, Professor Emeritus of Theology and the Philosophy of Religion, University of Chicago Divinity School and the John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought

David Wellbery, Director, Center for Interdisciplinary Research on German Literature and Culture, Larry T. and Margaret Deffenbaugh Carlson University Professor, Germanic Studies, John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago

Class 5: The Arts, Professions, and Leaders in Public and Private Affairs

Elizabeth Alexander, Essayist, Poet, President, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Marin Alsop, Music Director, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra; Chief Conductor, Vienna Radio Orchestra, Ravinia Festival; Director, Graduate Conducting Studies, Peabody Institute, Johns Hopkins University; Conductor of Honor, São Paulo Symphony

Louise Henry Bryant, Chair Emerita, Founded, Getty Conservation Council, J. Paul Getty Trust

Lonnie Bunch III, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution

Carla Hayden, Librarian, Library of Congress

Goodwin Liu, Associate Justice, California Supreme Court

David W. Oxtoby, President, American Academy of Arts and Sciences; President Emeritus, Pomona College

André Watts, Pianist; Jack I. and Dora B. Hamlin Endowed Chair in Music, Distinguished Professor of Music, Indiana University

International Members

Lia Addadi, Professor, Department of Structural Biology, Dorothy and Patrickorman Professorial Chair, Weizmann Institute of Science

Maribel Fierro, Research Professor, Institute of Languages and Cultures of the Mediterranean (ILC), CSIC (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas)

Eva Schlotthauer, Professor of Medieval History, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, President of the German Historical Association

John James Skehel, Emeritus Scientist, UK National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR); Emeritus Scientist, Francis Crick Institute

Ewine van Dishoeck, Professor of Molecular Astrophysics, Leiden Observatory, University of Leiden; External Scientific Member, Max Planck Institute Extraterrestrial Physics; Scientific Director, NOVA

Robert-Tony Watson, Former Professor and Director, Tyndall Center for Climate Change Research, University of East Anglia
Paul Alivisatos was awarded the American Chemical Society’s 2021 Priestley Medal. • Danielle Allen received the 2020 John W. Kluge Prize for Achievement in the Study of Humanity from the Library of Congress. • Frances Arnold was named to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences by Pope Francis. • Ruzena Bajcsy received the 2020 National Center for Women & Information Technology Pioneer in Technology Award. • Kamaljit Bawa received the 2019 UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Conservation on behalf of the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, which he founded. • Gordon Baym was awarded the American Physical Society’s 2021 Medal for Exceptional Achievement in Research. • Mina Bissell received the 2020 Canada Gairdner International Award. • Nicholas Cann was awarded the Royal Irish Academy’s Cunningham Medal. • Anne Case was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences. • Vinton Cerf was a member of the National Academy of Sciences. • Jonathan Culler was elected a fellow of the British Academy. • Amit Chakker was elected a fellow of the British Academy. • Jean Dalibard was elected an international member of the National Academy of Sciences. • Peter B. Dervan was named a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors. • Rita Dove received the W. E. B. Du Bois Medal from Harvard University’s Hutchins Center for African and African American Research. • Catherine Dulac was awarded 2021 Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences. • Cynthia Dwork was awarded the Richard W. Hamming Medal from the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. • Kerry Emanuel received the BBVA Foundation’s Frontiers of Knowledge Award in the Climate Change category. • Kerry Emanuel was elected a Royal Society foreign member. • Sandra Faber was awarded the Royal Astronomical Society’s Gold Medal. • Sir Alan Fersht was awarded the Copley Medal of the Royal Society. • Harvey Fineberg was named chair of the Standing Committee on Emerging Infectious Diseases and 21st Century Health Threats at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. • Elaine Fuchs received the 2020 Canada Gairdner International Award. • Howard Gardner received the 2020 Distinguished Contributions to Research in Education Award from the American Educational Research Association. • Fabiola Gianotti was appointed to her second 5-year term as head of CERN. • Ruth Bader Ginsburg received the National Constitution Center’s Liberty Medal. • Laurie Glimcher was named to the Stand Up To Cancer Scientific Advisory Committee. • Jane Goodall was awarded the 2020 Tang Prize in Sustainable Development. • Corey Goodman received the 2020 Gruber Neuroscience Prize. • Annette Gordon-Reed was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello. • Annette Gordon-Reed was named a University Professor, Harvard University’s highest faculty honor. • The Society for Classical Studies has created the Erich S. Griswold Prize to honor Erich S. Griswold. • Jennifer Higham received a 2020 Classical Grammy Award in the Best Contemporary Classical Composition category. • A recording of Jennifer Higham’s Persuasive Concerto was inducted into the National Recording Registry. • Eric Horvitz was appointed Microsoft’s first ever Chief Scientific Officer. • Wade Joamison received the Nashville Public Library Literary Award. • Shirley Ann Jackson received the 2019 Joseph A. Burton Forum Award. • Kathleen Hall Jamieson was awarded the National Academy of Sciences’ 2020 Public Welfare Medal. • Kathleen Hall Jamieson was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences. • Carl June was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences. • Peter Katzenstein received the 26th Johann Skytte Prize in Political Science. • Linda Kerber was named the American Council of Learned Societies Charles Haskins Prize Lecturer for 2020. • Philip Kitcher was awarded the 2019 Nichols Rescher Medal for Systematic Philosophy from the University of Pittsburgh. • The Harvard Graduate School of Education has created an endowed professorship in honor of Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot. • Richard Meserve received the 2019 Ehrumonher Medal from the American Nuclear Society. • Robert J. Miller was named the Willard H. Pedrick Distinguished Research Scholar at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. • Giulio Nerio was elected a fellow of the British Academy. • Susan Neumam was elected a fellow of the Royal Society. • Margaret Sander Prize from Deutsches Haus at New York University. • Stuart Orkin was awarded the King Faisal Prize in Medicine. • Stuart Orkin was awarded the 2020 Harrington Prize for Innovation in Medicine. • Tim Palmer was elected an international member of the National Academy of Sciences. • James Peebles was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics. • Fernando Pereira was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. • Thomas Piketty was elected a fellow of the British Academy. • Mary Robinson was elected an honorary fellow of the British Academy. • The National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy are naming a new observatory after Vera C. Rubin. • James C. Scott received the Social Science Research Council’s 2020 Albert O. Hirschman Prize. • David Shulman was elected a fellow of the British Academy. • Kathryn Sikkink was elected a fellow of the British Academy. • Ruth Simmons was appointed to the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas’ Houston Branch board of directors. • Sonia Sotomayor was awarded the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Law. • Marc Tessier-Lavigne received the 2020 Gruber Neuroscience Prize. • The American Meteorological Society has created the new Warren Washington Research and Leadership Medal in honor of Warren M. Washington. • Warren M. Washington received the 2020 Niemann Prize for Science in the Public Interest. • Steven Weinberg was awarded the 2020 Special Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics. • Patricia Wright was named the Hermann Family Endowed Chair in Conservation Biology at Stony Brook University.

We therefore ask you to consider a bold initiative to re-energize education in this country as an essential part of the recovery from our current national emergency. This effort draws inspiration from the National Defense Education Act of 1958, a successful legislative initiative to support education in response to a clear international challenge.

WHEREAS, Factual evidence and fact-based decisions are the foundation of the nation’s strength and growth, and whereas, the promotion of education emphasizing the natural and social sciences, analytical thinking, and fact-based decision-making is essential for the nation’s welfare, it is

RESOLVED, That Congress enact a “National Defense Education Act for the 21st Century” to support at all levels the education of America’s youth in science, history, analytical thinking, and the primacy of facts as the foundation of the nation’s future health, general well-being, and security.

Linda Greenhouse, President For the Council of the American Philosophical Society

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted many deficiencies in the preparedness of our country for dealing with a world-wide disaster. The nation’s medical, public health, and emergency infrastructure was unprepared for the many and multilevel challenges. While we can point to many contributing factors, in this letter we wish to speak from the American Philosophical Society’s history—particularly the commitment of our founder, Benjamin Franklin, to the promotion of “useful knowledge.”

The effort to curb the spread of this disease has confronted Americans with drastic, life-altering changes in individual and collective behavior. While based on the best available medical and scientific expertise, these changes have been difficult for many to understand and accept, leaving the public vulnerable to the spread of erroneous and erroneous information. Rather than the deliberative, logical and analytical thinking that the country urgently needs, we find a disturbing skepticism toward evidence-based policy-making; a reluctance to accept and apply scientific knowledge; and a lack of familiarity with the relevant lessons of history, including long-part and more recent pandemics.
A Word about the Penrose Association

A planned gift offers a way for you to establish a lasting legacy at the American Philosophical Society through a substantial contribution that may not be possible during your lifetime. The Society gratefully recognizes those who have named us as a beneficiary in their wills, made us the beneficiary of a retirement account or insurance policy, or established a charitable trust or annuity as members of the Richard A. F. Penrose, Jr., Association. For more information about planned giving options and tax benefits, and to discuss how you would like your gift to be used, please contact Linda Jacobs at 215-440-3434 or ljacobs@amphilsoc.org.

November 2019 Awards


Karl Spencer Lashley Award: Wolfram Schultz, in recognition of his discovery of reward-predicting signals carried by dopamine cells in the midbrain and their critical role in reinforcement learning.

Patrick Suppes Prize in Philosophy of Science: Peter Godfrey-Smith, in recognition of his book Other Minds: The Octopus and the Evolution of Intelligent Life.

Thomas Jefferson Medal for Distinguished Achievement in Social Sciences: Jane Goodall (APS 1988), in recognition of her pathbreaking, decades-long research on chimpanzees in Tanzania; her long-term efforts to understand and illuminate the behavior of chimpanzees, including the nature of their family life, emotions, tool use, aggression, and utilization of their environment; and her ongoing commitment to protect these primates. This significant work has been universally acknowledged and rightfully celebrated.

Upcoming Meetings of the American Philosophical Society

*Wednesday evening–Friday afternoon November 11-13, 2020
Thursday–Saturday April 22–24, 2021
Thursday–Saturday November 11-13, 2021

*The Society’s November 2020 Meeting will be held virtually. For information regarding required pre-registration for these sessions, please contact westcott@amphilsoc.org.

The APS Library & Museum’s APS at Home program provides activities and crafts for homes and classrooms. Along with other art, history, science, and interdisciplinary activities and experiments, the Education Department created coloring sheets with images from our Digital Library, including this one. You can find them at https://www.amphilsoc.org/aps-at-home.