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Academy Honors Steven Pinker, Jane Kamensky, Gordon Wood, Richard Lindzen and Others at Library of Congress

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On November 4th, distinguished academics from across the arts and sciences gathered at The Library of Congress to award prizes for outstanding scholarship and welcome 57 new members into the American Academy of Sciences and Letters, a learned society promoting excellence in scholarship and intellectual courage in the arts, sciences, and learned professions. The Academy also awarded ten Barry Prizes for Distinguished Intellectual Achievement, each of which comes with a $50,000 prize, to recipients including Steven Pinker and Jane Kamensky; and it presented the Robert J. Zimmer Medal for Intellectual Freedom to **Dr. Richard S. Lindzen of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology**.

Pulitzer Prize and National Humanities Medal winner Gordon Wood, who had accepted an offer of Academy membership before he passed on earlier this year, was made a member posthumously during the ceremony. Other new Academy members include Pulitzer Prize winner Paul Moravec, two fellows of the Royal Society (G. Marius Clore and Shivaji L. Sondhi), four Guggenheim fellows, and two additional recipients of the National Humanities Medal (Andrew Delbanco and Harvey C. Mansfield).

"We are honored to award this year's Robert J. Zimmer medal to Dr. Richard S. Lindzen, who shares the legacy of intellectual freedom, courage, and integrity defined by previous recipients," said **Academy president Dr. Donald W. Landry**, M.D., Ph.D., of Columbia University. "While we share our esteem for excellence with fellow academies, our Academy is distinguished by an accent on intellectual courage. Richard Lindzen has demonstrated both in his more than fifty years in dynamical meteorology, drawing attention to scholarly questions about the validity of some climate models, even when that proved unpopular."

The Academy's **Robert J. Zimmer Medal for Intellectual Freedom**, named for the late president of the University of Chicago and a stalwart defender of academic freedom, is presented annually to an individual who displays extraordinary courage in the exercise of intellectual freedom. Previous recipients include Sir Salman Rushdie, Dr. Jay Bhattacharya and Dr. Paul McHugh. This year's recipient, Dr. Richard S. Lindzen, was honored on stage by Steven E. Koonin of Stanford University for his long career insisting on integrity in the collection of scientific data and the use of climate modeling technologies, even when doing so provoked intense professional pressure to compromise scientific standards.

The Barry Prizes, each of which is accompanied by a $50,000 award, are the Academy's marquee initiative to promote excellence in scholarship. The prestigious annual honor, open to scholars across diverse fields and disciplines, celebrates extraordinary achievement and unwavering commitment to excellence within the arts, sciences, and learned professions. Recipients are nominated by the members of the Academy and appointed by the board of directors.

2026 Barry Prize Recipients

Lara M. Buchak, Princeton University
G. Marius Clore, FRS, National Institutes of Health
G. Marcus Cole, University of Notre Dame

Farr A. Curlin, Duke University
Jesus Fernandez-Villaverde, University of Pennsylvania
Alexander B. Givental, University of California-Berkeley
Jane Kamensky, Harvard University
Bertha Kalifon Madras, Harvard University
Harvey C. Mansfield, Harvard University
Steven Pinker, Harvard University

In addition to these ten Barry Prize winners, who become Academy members upon receiving the award if they are not already members, the Academy **also invested fifty other scholars as members of the Academy.** A complete list appears below.

Other Scholars Invested as Academy Members on November 4, 2026

Russell A. Berman, Walter A. Haas Professor of the Humanities, Professor of Comparative Literature, Professor of German Studies, and Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University
Samuel L. Bray, Professor of Law and Walter Mander Research Scholar, University of Chicago
Rogers Brubaker, Distinguished Research Professor of Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles
John P. Burgess, James Henry Snowden Professor of Systematic Theology, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Jeff Cheeger, Silver Professor of Mathematics, New York University
Michael Clune, Professor, The Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society, The Ohio State University
Joseph Davis, Research Professor of Sociology, Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, University of Virginia
Andrew Delbanco, Alexander Hamilton Professor of American Studies, Columbia University
Lydia S. Dugdale, Dorothy L. and Daniel H. Silberberg Professor of Medicine, Columbia University
Laura B. Dunn, Marie Wilson Howells Professor, and Chair of the Department of Psychiatry, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Lee Epstein, Ethan A.H. Shepley Distinguished University Professor, Washington University
Richard A. Epstein, Laurence A. Tisch Professor of Law, New York University
Bruce Gordon, Titus Street Professor of Theology and Professor of Reformation History, Yale University
Justin Ryan Grimmer, Morris M. Doyle Centennial Professor of Public Policy, Stanford University
Allen C. Guelzo, Professor of Humanities, University of Florida
Yan Guo, L. Herbert Ballou University Professor of Applied Mathematics, Brown University
Russell Hittinger, Research Professor of Philosophy, Catholic University of America
James Davison Hunter, LaBrosse-Levinson Distinguished Professor of Religion, Culture and Social Theory, University of Virginia
Thomas Kelly, McCosh Professor of Philosophy, Princeton University
Anthony A. Kossiakoff, Otho S.A. Sprague Distinguished Service Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Chicago
Christopher B. Krebs, Gesue and Helen Spogli Professor in Italian Studies, Professor of Classics, and Professor by Courtesy of German Studies and Comparative Literature, Stanford University
Richard S. Lindzen, Professor of Meteorology Emeritus, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
John B. Londregan, Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Princeton University
Jonathan I. Lunine, Chief Scientist, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and Professor of Planetary science, California Institute of Technology

James W. Lynch, Professor of Medicine, University of Florida College of Medicine
Julia D. Mahoney, John S. Battle Professor of Law, University of Virginia
N. Gregory Mankiw, Robert M. Beren Professor of Economics, Harvard University
Wilfred M. McClay, Victor Davis Hanson Chair in Classical History and Western Civilization, Hillsdale College
Walter Russell Mead, Alexander Hamilton Professor of Strategy and Statecraft, University of Florida
Franziska Michor, Professor of Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology and Professor of Computational Biology, Harvard University
Terry M. Moe, William Bennett Munro Professor of Political Science Emeritus, Stanford University
Paul Moravec, University Professor of Music, Adelphi University
Evan D. Morris, Professor of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging, Biomedical Engineering, and Psychiatry, Yale University
David Neumark, Distinguished Professor of Economics, University of California-Irvine
Andrew J. Perrin, SNF Agora Professor of Sociology, Johns Hopkins University
Ronald K. Rittgers, Duke Divinity School Professor of Reformation Studies and Professor of the History of Christianity, Duke University
Gabriel Rossman, Professor of Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles
Catherine Salmon, Professor of Psychology, University of Redlands
Paola Sapienza, J-P Conte Family Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University
Walter Scheidel, Dickason Professor in the Humanities, Professor of Classics and History, Stanford University
O. Carter Snead, Charles E. Rice Professor of Law and Concurrent Professor of Political Science, University of Notre Dame
Shivaji L. Sondhi, FRS, Professor of Physics Emeritus, Princeton University
David N. Spergel, Charles Young Professor of Astronomy Emeritus, Princeton University
Brent R. Stockwell, William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Biological Sciences, Professor of Chemistry, and Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology, Columbia University
William R. Summerhill III, Professor of History, University of California, Los Angeles
Carl R. Trueman, Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies, Grove City College
T. Kyle Vanderlick, Thomas E. Golden, Jr. Professor of Chemical and Environmental Engineering, Yale University
Pramod Viswanath, Forrest G. Hamrick Professor of Engineering, Princeton University
W. Bradford Wilcox, Melville Foundation Jefferson Scholars Foundation Distinguished University Professor of Sociology, University of Virginia
Gordon S. Wood (1933-2026), Professor of History Emeritus, Brown University

The Academy also **appointed five early-to-mid-career scholars** of exceptional achievement and promise to a five-year affiliation with the Academy known as a “term membership”:

Musa al-Gharbi, assistant professor of communication and journalism, Stony Brook University
Gregory Conti, associate professor of politics, Princeton University
John Rhee, instructor of neurology, Harvard University
Matthias Truttmann, associate professor of molecular and integrative physiology, University of Michigan
Garrett West, associate professor of law, Yale University

About the Academy

The American Academy of Sciences and Letters promotes scholarship and honors outstanding achievement in the arts, sciences, and learned professions. It encourages the fruitful exchange of ideas within academia and society at large by sponsoring occasions for scholarly interaction and providing platforms for the presentation and dissemination of scholarship in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, mathematics, and engineering. An independent 501(c)(3) non-partisan organization, it offers public programming, supports promising young scholars, and promotes traditional liberal arts ideals and standards of intellectual excellence.

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