

AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF ARTS & SCIENCES

The Heart of the Matter
Around the Country



COMMISSION ON THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Heart of the Matter
Around the Country



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Cambridge, Massachusetts

© 2015 by the American Academy of Arts & Sciences

All rights reserved.

ISBN: 0-87724-105-8

The views expressed in this volume are those held by the contributors and are not necessarily those of the Officers and Fellows of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences.

***The Heart of the Matter* is available online at www.amacad.org and www.humanitiescommission.org.**

Please direct inquiries to:

American Academy of Arts & Sciences

136 Irving Street

Cambridge, MA 02138-1996

Telephone: 617-576-5000

Email: aaas@amacad.org

www.amacad.org

Contents

- 5** Acknowledgments
- 7** Introduction
- 9** Members of the Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences
- 11** *The Heart of the Matter* around the Country
- 36** *The Heart of the Matter* around the World
- 40** Preamble to Master Teacher Corps Bill
- 42** Request from Congress for a New Study of the Nation's Language-Education Needs
- 44** Commission Member Activities

Acknowledgments

The Heart of the Matter: The Humanities and Social Sciences for a vibrant, competitive, and secure nation, the report of the American Academy's Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences, called on "parents, teachers, scholars, the media, and the public at large to join a cohesive and constructive national discussion" about the importance of the humanities and social sciences in American life. This document is proof that such a discussion has taken root and indeed has grown in communities and institutions across the nation.

It is also proof of the extraordinary commitment of the members of the Humanities Commission (see pages 9–10 for the complete list of members). This entire effort was propelled by their ideas, their enthusiasm, and their willingness to do the hard work of spreading the Commission's message. And the Academy gives special thanks to Cochairs Richard H. Brodhead, President of Duke University, and John W. Rowe, retired Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Exelon Corporation, for their steadfast leadership.

We also thank the members of Congress who recognized the need for a new conversation about the humanities and social sciences and called upon the American Academy to organize the Commission: Senators Lamar Alexander (R-Tennessee) and Mark Warner (D-Virginia) and Representatives Tom Petri (R-Wisconsin) and David Price (D-North Carolina).

Listed in the pages that follow are dozens of organizations that dedicated time and resources to *The Heart of the Matter* and its mission. We are grateful for their interest and collaboration, and we hope they have been as encouraged by the results as we have been. Several key partners have been essential to our efforts: the Association of American Universities, the Federation of State Humanities Councils, the state humanities councils, the National Humanities Alliance, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Many Academy staff have assisted in this important effort, including John Tessitore, Peter Kardon, Hilary Dobel, Erin O'Brien, Judith Polgar, Phyllis

Bendell, and Nathan Wolff. I also note the contributions of Leslie Berlowitz, who initiated this work.

Finally, the Academy gratefully acknowledges the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation—the primary funder of the Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences—and Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Jonathan F. Fanton

President, American Academy of Arts and Sciences

Introduction

When it first met in Chicago in 2011, the primary task before the American Academy's Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences was to devise a strategy for changing the public conversation about American education. For several years prior to the appointment of the Commission, most education debates privileged the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) disciplines over other fields of inquiry, occasionally to the detriment of the humanities and social sciences. Our Commission hoped to reassert the value of the full spectrum of intellectual endeavor and rebalance the scales.

We did not want to position the disciplines against each other in a new competition for shrinking governmental support; we had already seen enough of that approach in the national political discourse, and there are obvious reasons why the sciences should receive a larger share of available research dollars. Nor were we strictly interested in boosting the statistical profile of the humanities and social sciences—for example, by increasing the number of undergraduates who major in these disciplines.

We simply wanted to remind students, parents, teachers, researchers, and the public that their personal and professional lives, as well as the intellectual life of the nation, are deepened and strengthened by their daily interactions with the humanities and social sciences.

We wanted to remind all Americans that the humanities and social sciences—in a variety of ways, at a variety of levels, and for a variety of purposes—nurture a vibrant, competitive, and secure nation.

This publication is a record of our efforts, providing a small sample of the ways in which institutions and communities across the country have been encouraged and aided by our work. It is not an exhaustive list of our activities; rather, it is a collection of testimonies written by partnering organizations detailing their achievements following the publication of the Commission's report, *The Heart of the Matter*. The response to this report has been extraordinary and

encouraging, and we are grateful to every organization and individual who has helped to spread its message.

Ultimately, this document is proof of a large and growing community of people from all walks of life who recognize the importance of a broad education rich in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. We hope that the legislators who called for this report—Senators Lamar Alexander and Mark Warner and Congressmen David Price and Tom Petri—are pleased by just how much activity they initiated with their request. We appreciate their continued encouragement.

Richard H. Brodhead and **John W. Rowe**

Cochairs, Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences

Distribution Statistics of Publications from the Humanities Commission

The Heart of the Matter: The Humanities and Social Sciences for a vibrant, competitive, and secure nation

10,200 copies in print

208,974 unique downloads of PDF

The Heart of the Matter: Report Brief

6,000 copies in print

19,977 unique downloads of PDF (English)

2,753 unique downloads of PDF (Spanish)

7,033 unique downloads of PDF (Korean)

Humanities Report Card 2013

10,000 copies in print

7,312 unique downloads of PDF

Members of the Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences

Cochairs

Richard H. Brodhead, President,
Duke University

John W. Rowe, retired Chairman
and Chief Executive Officer,
Exelon Corporation

Members

Danielle S. Allen, Professor of Political
Science, Institute for Advanced
Study; Professor in the Government
Department and Director of the
Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics,
Harvard University

Kwame Anthony Appiah, Professor of
Philosophy and of Law, New York
University

Norman R. Augustine, retired Chairman
and Chief Executive Officer, Lockheed
Martin Corporation

Robert M. Berdahl, former President,
Association of American Universities

Leslie C. Berlowitz, Cambridge, MA

Robert J. Birgeneau, Chancellor
Emeritus, University of California,
Berkeley

Philip Bredezen, Jr., former Governor
of Tennessee

David Brooks, Journalist,
The New York Times

Louise H. Bryson, Chair Emerita,
J. Paul Getty Trust

Ken Burns, Director and Producer,
Florentine Films

Tom Campbell, Dean, Chapman
University School of Law; former U.S.
Representative from California

Francisco Cigarroa, former Chancellor,
University of Texas System; Head
of Pediatric Transplant Surgery,
University of Texas Health Science
Center at San Antonio

G. Wayne Clough, former Secretary,
Smithsonian Institution; President
Emeritus, Georgia Institute of
Technology

James Cuno, President and Chief
Executive Officer, J. Paul Getty Trust;
International Secretary, American
Academy of Arts and Sciences

Gerald Early, Professor of Modern
Letters, Washington University
in St. Louis

Karl W. Eikenberry, former U.S.
Ambassador to Afghanistan;
retired U.S. Army Lieutenant General;
Fellow in International Security,
Stanford University

Drew Gilpin Faust, President,
Harvard University

Roger W. Ferguson, Jr., President and
Chief Executive Officer, TIAA-CREF

Richard B. Freeman, Professor of
Economics, Harvard University

Dana Gioia, Professor of Poetry and
Public Culture, University of Southern
California; former Chairman, National
Endowment for the Arts

- Annette Gordon-Reed**, Charles Warren Professor of American Legal History, Carol K. Pforzheimer Professor at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, and Professor of History, Harvard University
- Anthony Grafton**, Professor of History, Princeton University
- Amy Gutmann**, President, University of Pennsylvania
- Emmylou Harris**, Musician/Songwriter
- Robert M. Hauser**, Executive Director, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences
- F. Warren Hellman** †, Cofounder, Hellman & Friedman LLC
- John L. Hennessy**, President, Stanford University
- Jill A. Hornor**, Director, Sound Postings, LLC
- Kathleen Hall Jamieson**, Professor of Communication; Director, Annenberg Public Policy Center, University of Pennsylvania
- Rev. John I. Jenkins**, President, University of Notre Dame
- Steven Knapp**, President, The George Washington University
- John Lithgow**, Actor
- George Lucas**, Producer, Screenwriter, and Director, Skywalker Properties, Ltd.
- Yo-Yo Ma**, Musician
- Carolyn “Biddy” Martin**, President, Amherst College
- Anthony W. Marx**, President, The New York Public Library
- James McNerney**, Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer, Boeing Company
- Eduardo J. Padrón**, President, Miami Dade College
- Carl H. Pforzheimer III**, Manager, Carl H. Pforzheimer and Co. LLC
- Earl A. “Rusty” Powell III**, Director, National Gallery of Art
- Hunter R. Rawlings III**, President, Association of American Universities
- John Sexton**, President, New York University
- Donna E. Shalala**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Clinton Foundation; former President, University of Miami; former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services
- David J. Skorton**, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution; former President, Cornell University
- David Souter**, former Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the United States
- Eric Sundquist**, Professor of English, Johns Hopkins University
- Billie Tsien**, Architect, Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects
- Charles M. Vest** †, President Emeritus, National Academy of Engineering
- John E. Warnock**, Chairman of the Board, Adobe Systems, Inc.
- Diane P. Wood**, Chief Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- Pauline Yu**, President, American Council of Learned Societies

† *Deceased*

The Heart of the Matter Around the Country

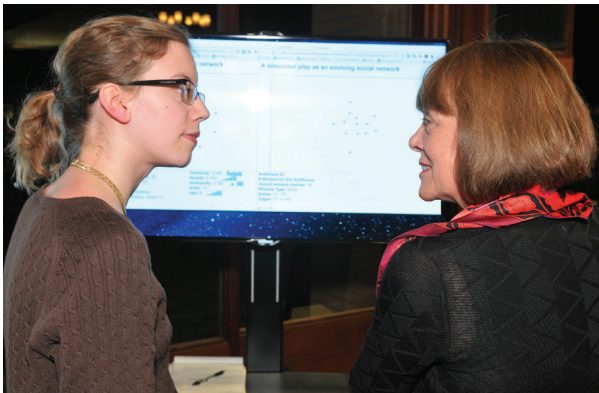


California

The Humanities in the Digital Age

Stanford, California

Inspired by the recommendations of *The Heart of the Matter*, “The Humanities in the Digital Age” explored the future of digital research and teaching. Moderator **Richard Saller** (Vernon R. and Lysbeth Warren Anderson Dean of the School of Humanities and Sciences and Kleinheinz Family Professor of European Studies, Stanford University) was joined by Stanford faculty members **Joshua Cohen** (Martha Sutton Weeks Professor of Ethics in Society and Professor of Political Science, Philosophy, and Law), **Michael A. Keller** (Ida M. Green University Librarian; Publisher, Stanford University Press and HighWire Press), **Franco Moretti** (Danily C. and Laura Louise Bell Professor and Professor of English and Comparative Literature), and **Elaine Treharne** (Roberta Bowman Denning Professor of Humanities and Professor of English, and, by Courtesy, of German Studies). Following the program, which took place at the Stanford Faculty Club, other faculty and students displayed their own work in a digital poster show. Video from this event is available at <http://www.humanitiescommission.org>.



Commission member **Louise Bryson** with a student from Stanford University at a digital poster show.

National Council on Public History Annual Meeting *Monterey, California*

This roundtable used *The Heart of the Matter* to spur a conversation with public humanists and public historians about the status of the humanities in society and in universities, challenging the report's assumptions and situating it within the history of the public humanities movement. The event was facilitated by **Briann Greenfield** (Executive Director, New Jersey Council for the Humanities), and the participants included **Nancy Conner** (Director of Grants, Indiana Humanities), **Ralph Lewin** (President and Chief Executive Officer, Cal Humanities), **Mary Rizzo** (Assistant Professor of Professional Practice and Associate Director of Public and Digital Humanities Initiatives, Rutgers University, Newark), **Benjamin Schmidt** (Assistant Professor of History, Northeastern University), and **Jamil Zainaldin** (President, Georgia Humanities Council).



Connecticut

Connecticut Humanities Council *Middletown, Connecticut*

In addition to a trustee meeting devoted to the subject, the Connecticut Humanities Council promoted the Humanities Commission website by linking to it in all web-based and email communications. In August 2013, the Council's executive director, **Stuart Parnes**, wrote an op-ed for the *Hartford Courant*, stating, "Until recently, we haven't heard much about the wisdom and vision also needed to guide Connecticut's families, communities and businesses forward. In June, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences presented a report to Congress called *The Heart of the Matter* which says continuing investment in the humanities and social sciences, in addition to STEM, is 'essential for the inventiveness, competitiveness and security of the American public.' The study of history, languages, arts, literature and ethics not only helps us navigate our complex lives, it provides real-world skills that we need to keep our society and our economy innovative, competitive and strong."



District of Columbia

Council of Independent Colleges

Washington, D.C.

The Heart of the Matter's publication coincided perfectly with activities for the Council of Independent Colleges' (CIC) national public information campaign to promote the liberal arts and the effectiveness of independent higher education. The campaign, "Securing America's Future: The Power of Liberal Arts Education," has used the report in a variety of ways to bolster its messages. For example, data from the report is included in both print and digital versions of a campaign media kit that will be used by CIC-member presidents and public relations directors to make the case both for their institutions and for the value of a liberal arts education. The report and accompanying video are also featured on the campaign website. The CIC's campaign publicizes research and data that dispel persistent and false stereotypes about independent colleges and liberal arts education, uses social media to disseminate information, and features prominent graduates of independent colleges and universities in all walks of life who connect their educational experiences in the liberal arts with their careers and personal lives.

Phi Beta Kappa

Washington, D.C.

Phi Beta Kappa launched its National Arts & Sciences Initiative in December 2013 in the conviction—echoed in *The Heart of the Matter* report—that higher education faces a crossroads. Aiming to strengthen support for the arts and sciences among policy-makers, the initiative is demonstrating that a broad-based arts and sciences education creates opportunity, drives ingenuity and innovation, and makes a strong investment in the nation. At a kickoff reception in Washington, D.C., Phi Beta Kappa honored Senator Lamar Alexander and Representative Rush Holt with the 1776 Award for their outstanding support of the arts and sciences in Congress. Since then, Phi Beta Kappa has convened awareness-raising events in Arizona and Massachusetts to demonstrate the real-world value of the arts and sciences in local communities and to present the Key of Excellence Award to exemplary programs whose innovative efforts

have engaged a broad, diverse public with the arts, humanities, and sciences: Arizona State University’s Project Humanities and the Massachusetts Cultural Council were the first two recipients. In the months to come, Phi Beta Kappa will bestow the Key of Excellence to several more organizations throughout the nation. The next phase of the Initiative will equip Phi Beta Kappa members with effective grassroots advocacy tools, including compelling stories and facts about the benefits of the arts and sciences, to reach out to policy-makers and persons of influence.

Humanities Working Groups for Community Impact Initiative *Washington, D.C.*

The Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences called on humanities organizations to “embrace a new commitment to collaboration and a new sense of mutual obligation.” In response, the Humanities Working Groups for Community Impact Initiative took aim to foster this commitment to collaboration among humanities organizations on local and state levels in order to increase the visibility and impact of their work. Under this initiative, the National Humanities Alliance Foundation (NHAF)—in collaboration with the Federation of State Humanities Councils—is enlisting representatives of humanities organizations such as colleges, universities, humanities councils, museums, libraries, historical societies, and archives, to form humanities working groups in one community in each state. These working groups will identify the key issues facing their communities and states and explore ways that humanities institutions, by joining forces, can become key actors in addressing them. The initiative is supported by a grant from the Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation.



At events in Washington, D.C., the Commission celebrated its work.



Florida

Florida Gulf Coast University

Lee County, Florida

At Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU), *The Heart of the Matter* initiated strategic planning and discussion among faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences. Faculty held two meetings to plan ways for FGCU to respond to the report's recommendations and created an electronic discussion board to continue the conversation. Faculty next prepared a proposal outlining a number of programming, educational, and curricular initiatives designed to enhance the reach of the humanities and social sciences at FGCU, both within the institution and out in the community, including K–12 outreach and humanities programming. The FGCU College of Arts and Sciences began implementing parts of the proposal in the 2014–2015 academic year.



Georgia

University of West Georgia

Carrollton, Georgia

The Heart of the Matter was the subject of discussion at the second annual “The Shape of the Humanities in Higher Education” symposium at the University of West Georgia (UWG). The symposium was sponsored by the College of Arts and Humanities, with generous support from the Federation of State Humanities Councils, the Georgia Humanities Council, the Georgia Public Library Service, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Panelists included **G. Wayne Clough** (former Secretary, Smithsonian Institution; President Emeritus, Georgia Institute of Technology), **Esther Mackintosh** (President, Federation of State Humanities Councils), **Rosanna Warren** (award-winning poet; Hanna Holborn Gray Distinguished Service Professor, University of Chicago), and **Robert Schaefer** (Professor of Political Science, University of West Georgia). This has become a signature event in the life of UWG and its larger community. The insight of the panelists into the issues raised in the report has shaped thinking about actionable steps toward educating UWG students and has shaped plans for future symposia. Video from this event is available at <http://www.humanitiescommission.org>.



Idaho

Idaho Humanities Council Distinguished Humanities Lectures and Dinners

Boise, Idaho

Rick Ardinger (Executive Director, Idaho Humanities Council) wrote a newspaper editorial about *The Heart of the Matter* that appeared in the *Idaho Statesman* and was subsequently reprinted in several other Idaho newspapers. The Council has shown *The Heart of the Matter* video three times as part of its annual Idaho Humanities Council Distinguished Humanities Lectures and Dinners in Boise (with historian **Nathaniel Philbrick**), Coeur d'Alene (with historian **Douglas Brinkley**), and Idaho Falls (with journalist and historian **Isabel Wilkerson**). A combined total of about eleven hundred dinner guests viewed the film at those events before the speakers made their presentations. The Council has also included a link to the video on its website.



Illinois

Chicago Humanities Festival

Chicago, Illinois

The publication of *The Heart of the Matter* has galvanized the Chicago Humanities Festival (CHF). It buoyed the organization as it approached its twenty-fifth anniversary and inspired members to convene the inaugural Chicago Humanities Summit in January of 2014. Working in collaboration with the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Modern Language Association, the CHF assembled two hundred national leaders (from provosts and deans to institute directors and faculty members) to engage in conversations about the present and future of the humanities. In sessions ranging from topics on the humanities' role in public education to relationship-building with other foundations, the CHF took the vision outlined in *The Heart of the Matter* and brainstormed ways to implement it throughout academia in the United States and beyond. Commission Cochairs **Richard Brodhead** (President, Duke University) and **John Rowe** (retired Chairman and Chief Executive



Left to right: WBEZ reporter **Alison Cuddy**; Commission members **John Rowe**, **Richard Brodhead**, **Diane Wood**, and **Don Randel**; MLA President **Marianne Hirsch**; and Commission member **Karl Eikenberry**.

Officer, Exelon Corporation) and Commission member **Diane Wood** (Chief Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit) were among the featured speakers. Video from this event is available at <http://www.humanitiescommission.org>.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign *Champaign, Illinois*

During the past year, the University of Illinois held the campus-wide discussion “Campus Conversation on Undergraduate Education,” which strongly engaged the spirit of *The Heart of the Matter*. Both the Director of the Illinois Program on Research in the Humanities (IPRH) and the Director of the Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory disseminated the report through the University’s electronic mailing lists. In the fall of 2013, **Gordon Hutner** (Professor of English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) and **Feisal Mohamed** (Professor of English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) organized the conference “A New Deal for the Humanities,” during which *The Heart of the Matter* was referenced repeatedly. In spring 2014, a keynote lecturer for the University of Illinois “Critical Inequalities” conference, **Didier Fassin** (James D. Wolfensohn Professor at the Institute for Advance Study), gave a lecture entitled “What is (a) Life Worth? Biogitimacy and Inequality.”

Both events drew upon the spirit of *The Heart of the Matter* in their concern for the value of the humanities and social sciences, as well as the relation between them.



Indiana

University of Notre Dame

South Bend, Indiana

Commission Cochair **Richard Brodhead** spoke at the Notre Dame Forum on the topic of “The Once and Future Liberal Arts.” The Forum was convened and hosted by Commission member **Fr. John Jenkins** (President, University of Notre Dame). In conjunction with Notre Dame’s ongoing undergraduate curriculum review, the 2014–2015 Forum considered the question, “What Do Notre Dame Graduates Need to Know?”



Kansas

Kansas Humanities Council

The Heart of the Matter: Humanities and Civic Life

Abilene, Kansas

William D. “Bro” Adams (Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities) was the featured speaker at *The Heart of the Matter* event at the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum and Boyhood Home in Abilene, Kansas. Guests at the event included poets, authors, cowboys, museum directors, faculty members, librarians, college students, and civic volunteers. Speaking to a full room of one hundred guests, Chairman Adams suggested that it was time for Americans to attend to “the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life,” as stated in the founding legislation of the National Endowment for the Humanities. His remarks segued into a screening of *The Heart of the Matter* short film and the distribution of the executive summary of *The Heart of the Matter* report. Facilitated by the Institute for Civic Dis-

course and Democracy (ICDD) at Kansas State University, audience members discussed and responded to the three core goals of the report: 1) to educate Americans in the knowledge, skills, and understanding they will need to thrive in a twenty-first-century democracy; 2) to foster a society that is innovative, competitive, and strong; and 3) to equip the nation for leadership in an interconnected world. Chairman Adams responded to key points in the report, including the importance of access to information, cultural literacy, and building momentum for the humanities.



Maine

University of Maine Humanities Center Maine Humanities Summit

Augusta, Maine

For its second annual Humanities Summit, the University of Maine Humanities Center (UMHC) focused on “The Humanities and Public Policy,” drawing extensively on policy goals and recommendations from *The Heart of the Matter*. The UMHC invited **John Tessitore** (Program Director for the Humanities and Education, American Academy of Arts and Sciences) to present on the topic alongside **Stephen Kidd** (Executive Director, National Humanities Alliance) and **Felicia Knight** (President, Knight Canney Group). The summit, held in the state capital of Augusta, was attended by members of the Maine humanities community as well as state legislators and the President of the University of Maine System.

University of Maine

Orono, Maine

The announcement of the Commission report coincided with the official launch of a fund-raising drive to support a new University of Maine Humanities Center (UMHC). Funds have been successfully secured through an active schedule of social gatherings (hosted by alumni and friends of the University) throughout the state, during which organizers have shown *The Heart of the Matter* short film and distributed Commission materials. Faculty—and

occasionally Academy and Commission representatives—have attended these meetings and presented their research as a starting point for a discussion highlighting the value and lifelong impact of a liberal arts education. In the first full year of operation, the UNHC has raised \$500,000 in gifts and pledges for its endowment. Ultimately, the UMHC will support teaching innovation, scholarly activities, and community engagement in the humanities.



Maryland

University of Maryland

College Park, Maryland

The Heart of the Matter contributed to an ongoing conversation about the value of an arts and humanities education at the University of Maryland (UMD) and provided a new context for discussions about humanities scholarship, teaching, and service. In December 2013, on the heels of the report's publication, UMD launched the Arts and Humanities Center for Synergy to further promote the need for intentional collaborations between the humanities and sciences and between academia and the public. Through the Center, Maryland has provided the larger UMD community with a series of public lectures that included Commission members **John Lithgow** (actor) and **Annette Gordon-Reed** (Charles Warren Professor of American Legal History, Carol K. Pforzheimer Professor at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, and Professor of History, Harvard University) and a series of research videos that bring the voices of humanities scholars to a larger audience. The Arts and Humanities Center for Synergy is now demonstrating the power of the humanities in addressing the pressing issues of our time through transdisciplinary research and socially active partnerships. Video from this event is available at <http://www.humanitiescommission.org>.

Center for Advanced Study of Language
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland

The Center for Advanced Study of Language at the University of Maryland convened a major international conference on language in English-dominant societies. “Languages for All? The Anglophone Challenge”¹ addressed the question of why more residents of predominantly English-speaking countries like the United Kingdom and United States are not learning second languages. Rather than reiterate the importance of language study, leaders and managers from government, business, and education were invited to lead a frank discussion of recent developments in language learning and teaching, including what has and has not worked, whether these developments were affecting their decisions to support learning a second language, and whether they expected any change in the future. Representatives of the British Academy and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences addressed these issues from the shared perspective of English-dominant societies. In this regard, the *Heart of the Matter* report became an important focus of discussion. These conversations led to the first joint American and British Academy collaboration, a conference held in June 2014 in London focusing on the topics of “soft power” and language.

1 Event cosponsors included some of the leading language organizations in the United States—the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), American Councils for International Education, the Defense Language Institute Foundation, Globalization and Localization Association (GALA), Joint National Committee on Languages–National Council for Language and International Studies (JNCL–NCLIS)—as well as the British Academy and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Speakers included University of Maryland President **Wallace Loh** and representatives from the American, British, and Australian Academies; Fortune 500 companies; the Department of Education; the Department of Defense; and school boards; along with researchers, school administrators, foreign language practitioners, policy-makers, and a former governor.



Massachusetts

American Academy of Arts and Sciences

Cambridge, Massachusetts

In the months following the publication of *The Heart of the Matter*, the American Academy released the *Humanities Report Card 2013*, an infographic representation of the state of the humanities (available at <http://www.humanitiescommission.org>). On the one-year anniversary of the release of the report, the American Academy introduced three new research tools for humanities scholars and policy-makers: a redesigned Humanities Indicators website (<http://www.humanitiesindicators.org>), featuring rigorous and easily searchable data; a newly developed online Data Forum to gather perspective and critiques for new data generated by the Indicators (<https://www.amacad.org/dataforum>); and *The State of the Humanities: Funding 2014*, a publication that displays the array of funding sources, large and small, that underwrite the humanities, and reveals the ongoing recovery of federal, state, and private support in the wake of the recession. In early April of 2015, the Academy released the second publication in the series, *The State of the Humanities: Higher Education 2015*, which provides a more balanced and evidence-based depiction of the health of the humanities on college and university campuses than is commonly reported.



Michigan

University of Michigan

Ann Arbor, Michigan

In May 2014, a conference entitled “The Liberal Arts and Sciences in the Research University Today: Histories, Challenges, and Futures” was held on campus as part of the Michigan Meetings series. The conference engaged a distinguished set of speakers from universities, philanthropic organizations, and the Association of American Colleges and Universities, several of whom directly referenced *The Heart of the Matter*. **Mary Sue Coleman** (President, University of Michigan) and Commission member **John Hennessy** (President, Stanford University) coauthored an op-ed piece for *The Washington Post* last

year in which they made the case for the immense value of a liberal arts education and the importance of those disciplines that deal most directly with the human condition.



Nebraska

Nebraska Humanities Council's Governor's Lecture Joslyn Art Museum

Omaha, Nebraska

Commission member and Pulitzer Prize-winning author and historian **Annette Gordon-Reed** spoke before an audience of eight hundred about *The Heart of the Matter* at the eighteenth annual Governor's Lecture held at the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha.

University of Nebraska–Lincoln Center for Digital Research in the Humanities

Lincoln, Nebraska

The Heart of the Matter drew immediate interest at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL) and in the UNL Center for Digital Research in the Humanities. In 2013–2014, the University's most prestigious lecture—the Nebraska Lecture—was delivered on the subject of the value of the humanities. The publication has also influenced the curriculum for the UNL graduate certificate in digital humanities. In 2014, two student teams created smartphone apps for the Humanities Nebraska Chautauqua (Nebraska's state humanities council) and a digital literary map of the state for the Nebraska Center for the Book. These projects extended *The Heart of the Matter's* influence from campus to public humanities in the state.



New Hampshire

International Humanities Summit

Dartmouth College

Hanover, New Hampshire

Thus far, responses to the *Mapping the Future* report published by Harvard University and *The Heart of the Matter* report published by the American Academy have been focused primarily on the humanities in the United States. Accordingly, the Dartmouth summit extended the conversation about the reports and their findings worldwide, inviting humanities scholars with global reputations and affiliations to join in formulating a response to the reports. Panel topics included “The Humanities Now,” “Re-Framing the Discussion: A Roundtable,” and “Prospects.” Panelists consisted of faculty from Dartmouth College; the University of California, Berkeley; Carleton College; University of Sydney; Duke University; the New School; and University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. Students were also involved in preparing for the summit and took part in its discussion sessions.



New York

New York University

New York, New York

The Heart of the Matter was used as the basis of a discussion with the New York University Board of Trustees at its January 2014 meeting. The discussion concentrated on the misleading criteria and false metrics currently used to measure the success of students educated in the humanities in general and in art history in particular. As part of a four-year investigation into the future directions of the fields of art history, archaeology, and conservation funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Academic Review Committee was convened to examine the special characteristics of advanced training in art history and the specific challenges and opportunities that training presents. Representatives from this committee have contacted the Deans of Arts and Sciences at leading universities with graduate programs in art history to better

assess the position of the humanities (art history in particular) at their universities. Conversations about the state of enrollment, majors, resources, and future plans revealed that art history is a very healthy and stable field that is in a natural process of evaluating its relevance to current concerns.

New York State Museum

Albany, New York

In an address before 325 people at the Clark Auditorium, Commission member David Souter declared that by supporting humanistic activities—as readers, as scholars, as policy-makers—“We are arguing for the survival of the United States as we know it.” Associate Justice Souter was the featured speaker at an event organized jointly by the New York Council for the Humanities, the New York State Library, the New York State Museum, and the New York State Archives.

Cornell University

Ithaca, New York

The release of *The Heart of the Matter* coincided with the arrival of the new Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences and the appointment of a curriculum committee charged with reviewing and reassessing the liberal arts curriculum. The report has been an important part of ongoing conversations with faculty about the creation of new types of humanities courses. With an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant, Cornell has been able to bring more traditional humanities scholars from literature and history into seminars with architecture students who are learning about urban environment design. Graduate students are learning how to incorporate online materials, including digital archives, into their own research and, importantly, into their future teaching as humanists. In partnership with the Atkinson Center for Sustainability, faculty are also bringing environmental sciences students into closer interaction with humanities fields such as history, literature, classics, history of art, and anthropology.



North Carolina

Duke University

Durham, North Carolina

The Heart of the Matter served to deepen the ongoing conversations at Duke University about the role of humanities research, practice, and performance in disciplinary and transdisciplinary arenas, especially through Humanities Writ Large, a five-year initiative supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Humanities Writ Large aims to strengthen the role of the humanities in undergraduate education by expanding research opportunities; supporting a Visiting Faculty Fellows Program; building Emerging Networks to shift humanities research toward broadly collaborative, interdisciplinary engagements; and creating the Humanities Labs, which are multi-year themed programs intended to foster interdisciplinary research that “vertically integrates” faculty, undergraduates, and graduate students in shared research projects. *The Heart of the Matter* also played a role in discussion of other undergraduate initiatives, including the move to integrate humanistic questions into the interdisciplinary themes of the Bass Connections program, the hiring of an academic advisor specializing in the humanities, and the promotion of humanities opportunities to prospective students.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

The 2013 Adams Lecture, an annual event sponsored by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-Chapel Hill) College of Arts and Sciences’ Program for the Humanities, directly referenced *The Heart of the Matter*. Professor **H. Holden Thorp** (Provost, Washington University in St. Louis; former Chancellor and Dean of Arts and Sciences, UNC-Chapel Hill), discussed the value and implications of the report in his lecture “From Salesman to Hamletmachine: The Need for the Humanities.” Senior Associate Dean for Fine Arts and Humanities **Terry Rhodes** represented UNC-Chapel Hill in a symposium at North Carolina State University to discuss *The Heart of the Matter*. In addition, North Carolina public radio station WUNC-FM’s signature news show “The State of Things” aired an interview with Commission member

Karl Eikenberry (former U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan; retired U.S. Army Lieutenant General; Fellow in International Security, Stanford University) discussing, among other topics, *The Heart of the Matter* report, in which he told host **Frank Stasio** he believes the humanities can provide an innovative approach to modern diplomacy. The audience for this episode was estimated at fifteen thousand public radio listeners.

The Heart of the Matter: A Call to Action in North Carolina *Raleigh, North Carolina*

Randy Woodson (Chancellor, North Carolina State University) and **Jeff Braden** (Dean of the Colleges of Humanities and Social Sciences, North Carolina State University) hosted a conversation between Commission member **Karl Eikenberry**, Congressman **David Price** (D-North Carolina), Commission Cochair **Richard Brodhead** (President, Duke University), and **Tom Ross** (President, University of North Carolina) to discuss *The Heart of the Matter*. Nearly two hundred North Carolina leaders from business and industry and from the government, education (K–12 and postsecondary), and nonprofit sectors joined in the conversation and asked the panelists questions. A coor-



Commission member **Karl Eikenberry**, UNC President **Tom Ross**, NC State University College of Humanities and Social Sciences Dean **Jeff Braden**, Commission Cochair **Richard Brodhead**, and U.S. Representative **David Price**.

dinating committee chaired by North Carolina State professors **Andy Taylor** and **Walt Wolfram** will continue the conversation with the goal of producing a set of recommendations on how to enhance awareness of the report and enact its recommendations in North Carolina. Video from this event is available at <http://www.humanitiescommission.org>.

**Humanities for Our Future:
Envisioning the Heart of Humanities Education
Wake Forest University**

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Wake Forest University, inspired by *The Heart of the Matter*, held “Humanities for Our Future: Envisioning the Heart of Humanities Education,” a panel discussion and open dialogue addressing the future of humanities education. Panelists included **Beverly Emory** (Superintendent, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Public Schools); **Michele Gillespie** (Presidential Endowed Professor of Southern History, Wake Forest University); **Corey Walker** (Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Winston-Salem State University; John W. and Anna Hodgin Hanes Professor of the Humanities, Wake Forest University); and **Paula Watkins** (Executive Director, North Carolina Humanities Council). **Rogan Kersh** (Provost and Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Wake Forest University) moderated the discussion. Provost Kersh solicited the panelists’ views on the tension surrounding curricula changes and funding cuts in humanities programs and departments, effective ways to promote and talk about the value of the humanities, and their vision for the future of humanities education. Approximately one hundred fifty people were in attendance, and about eighty attended a working dinner. The topics represented and discussed included: Exploring Community and Humanities Education Partnerships; The Future of the Humanities in K–12 Curricula; The Future of the Humanities in Higher Education; Exploring University Library and K–12 Collaborations in the Humanities; Exploring Collaborations in the Humanities Across Universities; The Role of Public Humanities; Humanities Education in a Digital and Multi-Media Age; Advocating for the Humanities; and The Humanities in Global Context.



Oklahoma

Oklahoma Humanities Council

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Commission member **Diane Wood** gave a public presentation on *The Heart of the Matter* in Oklahoma City. The event was cosponsored by the Oklahoma Humanities Council, Oklahoma City University, and the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. Facilitated by University of Oklahoma City President **Robert Henry**, Judge Wood gave insight into the formation and work of the report and her impressions of the importance of the humanities and social sciences to America. Held at the Oklahoma Judicial Center, the event was preceded by a free public reception.



Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Humanities Council

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Following the release of *The Heart of the Matter*, **Laurie Zierer** (Executive Director, Pennsylvania Humanities Council) penned an op-ed entitled “Humanities are the Heart of the Matter,” which was published under various headlines in several Pennsylvania newspapers, including *The Delaware County Times*, the *Lebanon Daily News*, *Penn Live* (the online addition of the *Patriot News*, Central Pennsylvania’s award-winning daily local news source), *TownHall.com*, and the *Pennsylvania Library Association Bulletin*. In addition, *The Heart of the Matter* was a key starting point for conversation during the Pennsylvania Humanities Council’s Humanities Town Hall Meeting with Congressman **Charlie Dent** (R-Pennsylvania). Copies of the report and executive summary were distributed to over fifty organizations and institutions ranging from libraries, universities, historical societies, and museums to arts centers, state arts agencies, and advocacy groups from the fifteen Congressional Districts.

University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The University of Pennsylvania's Society for Classical Studies published an entry on the American Philological Association (APA) blog entitled, "AAAS Report on Value of Humanities and Social Sciences." The entry credited the release of *The Heart of the Matter* report with launching "a national conversation about the importance of the humanities and social sciences to America's future." It provided links to the report, report brief, and companion film. The Penn Humanities Forum organized a roundtable discussion to discuss the report and the impact of government policies on the present and future of humanities. Participants included representatives from the School of Arts and Sciences Dean's Office, Office of Government and Community Affairs, and Association of American Universities. Invitees included the Forum's faculty and Penn's postdoctoral and graduate fellows.

Carnegie Mellon University

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

The Heart of the Matter inspired significant and sustained discussion among students and faculty on the Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) campus throughout the 2013–2014 academic year—an unexpected success at a university known for its strengths in technology education and research. In August 2013, orientation activities for CMU's incoming class focused on *The Heart of the Matter* report. Commission member **Karl W. Eikenberry** participated in a workshop on September 27th to discuss the report and exchange views on ways in which institutions of higher learning can further promote the studies of the humanities and social sciences. The one-hour roundtable was attended by a number of CMU department heads as well as undergraduate students. **Subra Suresh** (President, Carnegie Mellon University) presided over a series of symposia on critical education and research challenges affecting Carnegie Mellon and other U.S. research universities in celebration of his inaugural year as president. For the final symposium of the series, President Suresh invited Commission members **Norman Augustine** (retired Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Lockheed Martin Corporation) and **Hunter Rawlings** (President, Association of American Universities) to come to Pittsburgh to discuss

the report and its key recommendations. They were joined on the panel by four CMU humanities and social sciences faculty who commented on the intellectual opportunities that humanistic and social scientific thinking present to all students and described the distinctive cross-disciplinary approaches that have distinguished CMU’s humanities and social sciences disciplines in recent decades. About two hundred fifty students, faculty, and alumni attended this discussion. Video from this event is available at <http://www.humanitiescommission.org>. Additionally, as part of the John and Mary Lou Lehoczky Lecture Series in the Humanities and Social Sciences, **David Souter** (former Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the United States) delivered his lecture “The Heart of the Matter: The Humanities and Social Sciences for a Vibrant, Competitive, and Secure Nation,” to a standing room–only crowd in the McConomy Auditorium at Carnegie Mellon University.



Commission member **Hunter Rawlings** and CMU president **Subra Suresh** with CMU undergraduate **Hayley Rahl**.



South Carolina

University of South Carolina

Columbia, South Carolina

The Heart of the Matter has served as an important springboard for broad discussion of the purpose and value of the humanities and social sciences at the University of South Carolina's College of Arts and Sciences. During the academic year 2013–2014, the College's faculty, administrators, and alumni, along with community leaders, have engaged in an extended, thoughtful, and critical examination of the report's assumptions and findings. With *The Heart of the Matter* as a model, Arts and Sciences faculty continue to discuss the "grand challenges" that we face, including energy, the environment, health, education, and security. Discussions around the report have reaffirmed the College's belief that there is real strength when scholars across disciplines address challenges facing the humanities through a national conversation about the value of liberal education.



Utah

Utah Humanities Council

Salt Lake City, Utah

The Utah Humanities Council featured *The Heart of the Matter* in its twenty-fifth annual Human Ties awards program, reaching an audience of over one hundred. Additionally, the Council's website has included a link to *The Heart of the Matter* short film, preceded by a statement of the Council's new commitment to focus on community-driven public discussion of the humanities. Links to the report were also shared on the Council's Facebook page.



Virginia

Council of Colleges of Arts & Sciences

Williamsburg, Virginia

The Heart of the Matter resonated deeply with the Arts and Sciences deans in the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences (CCAS) and inspired a lively discussion of the report among the Board of Directors. With the intention to reinvigorate the role of humanities and social sciences akin to the way STEM subjects have been treated following the National Academies' 2007 report *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, the CCAS sponsored a forum at its 2013 Annual Meeting entitled "The Heart of the Matter: The Report from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and What We Should Do about It." Exploration of the report's recommendations has helped deans better articulate the case for the importance of the liberal arts in today's society. Over one hundred deans attended this breakout session, which led the Council to schedule a follow-up session for its 2014 annual meeting.

On November 7, 2014, the CCAS recognized the American Academy of Arts and Sciences with its 2014 Arts and Sciences Advocacy Award at its Forty-Ninth Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas. The CCAS Arts and Sciences Advocacy Award honors an individual or an organization that demonstrates exemplary advocacy for the arts and sciences, flowing from a deep commitment to the intrinsic worth of liberal arts education. In presenting the award, **Nancy A. Gutierrez** (President, Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences; Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of North Carolina at Charlotte), announced that the CCAS was honoring the American Academy for publishing *The Heart of the Matter* and for its long-standing commitment to recognizing outstanding scholars and sponsoring meetings, lectures, and informal gatherings to address critical challenges facing our global society. Gutierrez added that, with the issuance of this report and other initiatives such as the Humanities Indicators project, "the American Academy has launched national conversations, international projects, and agendas for universities throughout the country."

Federation of State Humanities Councils

Arlington, Virginia

The Heart of the Matter launched a conversation of tremendous value to those employed in the public and academic humanities. The Federation of State Humanities Councils has used the Academy's report to carry this conversation onto the pages of local newspapers and online publications, into large statewide events featuring prominent speakers, and into community discussions at the local library. The richness of the findings, recommendations, and reflections in the report ensures that conversation will continue for some time about the need for community members to work together to broaden public understanding of the role of humanities in everyday American life.



Wisconsin

University of Wisconsin–Madison

Madison, Wisconsin

The Heart of the Matter has helped the University of Wisconsin communicate the importance of the humanities to its stakeholders and has sparked ongoing conversations with advocates of the liberal arts and (especially) the humanities to develop new initiatives and appeal to donors. The Dean of Letters and Science has used the report in meetings and talks with parents, alumni, donors, and the wider public about the liberal arts. The report also fueled successful efforts to formulate and gain approval for an M.A./Ph.D. certificate in the Public Humanities, placing the University of Wisconsin at the leading edge of national (and international) efforts to broaden the scope and enhance the success of post-graduate opportunities for graduate students in the humanities. The university also hosted the panel discussion “What’s the Value of Humanities Research?” using *The Heart of the Matter* as a talking point and resource.



Wyoming

Wyoming Humanities Council

Laramie, Wyoming

One of the Wyoming Humanities Council's most opened email messages featured *The Heart of the Matter* video, which resonated deeply with the Council's constituency. The Council has used information from the short film in many discussions about and descriptions of the humanities. In June 2014, the Council brought together pairs of artists and scientists at a ranch-based retreat center for two weeks to work on exploring problems and ideas together. In order to gain a better understanding of this vital relationship and interplay between disciplines, the Council video-documented the process.

The Heart of the Matter Around the World



London, England

Broadening the Debate: How the Humanities and Social Sciences Can Help Us Address Global Challenges

The British Academy

London, England

The June 2014 joint conference of the American Academy and the British Academy examined the state of humanities research and education in an international context. It marked the first official collaboration between the two academies in a century and concluded a year in which both academies published major reports on the humanities and social sciences: the American Academy's *Heart of the Matter* report and the British Academy's *Prospering Wisely* white paper. The conference featured panel discussions, a well-attended public event on soft power, and a roundtable discussion cosponsored by the



Members of the American and British delegations at a joint event of the British and American Academies in London, June 2014.

British Academy and *The Guardian* as part of their ongoing collaboration “The Case for Language Learning.” The conference will inform a forthcoming British Academy white paper as well as several initiatives of the American Academy. Following the conference, leaders of the British Academy and American Academy discussed future collaborations, including more frequent correspondence on issues of mutual concern, scholar exchanges, and the possibility of biannual joint conferences. Video from this event is available at <http://www.humanitiescommission.org>.

Brunel University

London, England

Brunel University has used *The Heart of the Matter* to think about the kinds of answers that American institutions are formulating to meet the challenges facing the humanities disciplines and to look at how their research might mesh with activities in other countries. **James Knowles** (Professor of Renaissance Literature and Culture and Vice Dean of Research at the College of Business, Arts, and Social Sciences, Brunel University) shared the report with department heads in order to address the need to discover the language and arguments with which to talk to governments and funders—and even more centrally, wider communities—about what makes the arts and social sciences so essential to understanding and living in our societies. Brunel focused particularly on how important parts of our disciplines, such as aesthetic power and critical contemplation, can still have a role in this complex, sometime vertiginous, modern world.



Davos, Switzerland

Humanities in the Digital Age, Arts and Culture in Davos 2014

Davos, Switzerland

In an interactive session as part of the World Economic Forum's Arts and Culture symposium in Davos, Switzerland, panelists responded to the question "In an increasingly digital world, what is the future of the humanities?" by discussing the relevance of a liberal arts education and considering how to infuse the values of the humanities into the economy as well as engage digital narratives in designing the humanities curricula of tomorrow. The panel included Commission member **Drew Gilpin Faust** (President, Harvard University), **David M. Rubenstein** (Cofounder and Co-Chief Executive Officer, Carlyle Group; Cochair, Governors Meeting for Investors 2014), and **Wang Hui** (Professor of Modern Chinese Thought and Literature, Department of Chinese Language and Literature, Tsinghua University, People's Republic of China). Commission member **James Cuno** (President and Chief Executive Officer, J. Paul Getty Trust; International Secretary, American Academy of Arts and Sciences) served as moderator.



Sri Lanka

Seventeenth Deshamanya Professor Nandadasa Kodagoda Memorial Oration

Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

After delivering the Seventeenth Deshamanya Professor Nandadasa Kodagoda Memorial Oration, **Deepika Udagama** (Head of Department of Law, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka) elaborated on the role of the humanities in an article published online in the journal *Groundviews* entitled "We the People': Reflections on Governance and Civic Engagement in Sri Lanka." Citing *The Heart of the Matter* report, Udagama wrote, "I also do believe that liberal arts education widely held in high esteem in the U.S. has played a key role in advancing a democratic ethos within U.S. society. It is also worth noting that in *The Heart of the Matter: The Humanities and Social Sciences for*

a Vibrant, Competitive Nation, released in 2013, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences emphasizes the need to focus on and invest in education in the humanities and the social sciences in order to sustain civic engagement and democratic leadership in the U.S. while meeting modern challenges of all types. Sri Lankan policy-makers, on the other hand, keep reminding us of the futility of ‘arts education’ as arts graduates are not employable. What a narrow vision of life, society and our collective future!”

Preamble to Master Teacher Corps Bill

Excerpted below is the preamble to a bill introduced in October 2014 by Representative Rush Holt (D-New Jersey), based on a recommendation from *The Heart of the Matter* for a K–12 Master Teacher Program that would encompass all disciplines, expanding President Obama’s 2012 proposal for a STEM Master Teacher Corps. Much of the bill’s opening section is a direct quote of the introduction of *The Heart of the Matter*.

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION
H. R. 5704

To amend title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a Master Teacher Corp program.

Congress finds:

- (1) As stated in *The Heart of the Matter*, a report published by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, our need for a broadly literate population is more urgent than ever.
- (2) As citizens, we need to absorb an ever-growing body of information and to assess the sources of that information.
- (3) As workers, we need to adapt to an ever-accelerating rate of technological change and to reflect on the implications of these changes.
- (4) As members of a global community, we need to look beyond our borders to communicate and interact with individuals from societies and cultures different from our own.
- (5) As a nation, we need to provide an educational foundation for our future stability and prosperity—drawing on all areas of knowledge.
- (6) Good teachers matter. Students with highly skilled teachers can gain an additional year’s worth of learning compared to their peers in other classrooms. Moreover, having an effective teacher for three to four years in a row can erase the income-based achievement gap.

- (7) Attrition among new teachers is exceptionally high. As many as 50 percent of new teachers leave within their first five years teaching. Moreover, many of those leaving are the highly performing new teachers.
- (8) Short-term, in-service professional development has not been found to be effective. Rather, successful professional development is extensive, sustained, focused on content, and embedded in the day to day work of teachers.
- (9) Teacher induction and mentoring programs increase job satisfaction and retention among new teachers. Furthermore, research shows that additional young people would consider teaching if the profession offered more opportunities for advancement and collaboration.
- (10) Programs that provide teachers with opportunities to lead and grow, and to be recognized and compensated for their leadership, are key to keeping talented teachers in the classroom.
- (11) A Master Teacher Corps will provide schools a way to use their human capital to improve student achievement by providing their best teachers with an opportunity to share best practices and support other teachers.

Request from Congress for a New Study of the Nation's Language-Education Needs

Dear Dr. Randel and Dr. Fanton,

We write to request that the American Academy undertake a new study, proceeding from the excellent work presented in *The Heart of the Matter*, to examine the nation's current capacity in languages, and how a greater attention to language training can improve the education of a citizenry prepared to thrive in a multicultural society participating in a global economy and how such preparation influences international cooperation and diplomacy, trade and foreign investment, national security and the ability of all Americans to enjoy a rich and meaningful life.

English is no longer sufficient as a *lingua franca*—neither at home or abroad. The percentage of the world's population that speaks English as a first language is declining rapidly; if current demographic trends continue, only 5% will be native English speakers by 2050. At the same time, the ability to communicate in languages other than English has never been more important, as:

- American jobs and exports are more dependent than ever on foreign markets;
- The American population is increasingly multilingual;
- Americans are more engaged diplomatically and militarily around the globe than ever before; and
- Challenges like poverty and disease, and opportunities in scientific research and technological innovation, all require greater international understanding and cooperation.


The American Academy of Arts & Sciences has the ability to provide critical assistance in this effort by assembling education, business and policy leaders to examine the relationship between language learning and the nation's strength, competitiveness and well-being.

In order to assess the national impact of language learning, we request that the American Academy examine the following questions:

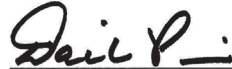
How does language learning influence economic growth, cultural diplomacy, the productivity of future generations, and the fulfillment of all Americans? What actions should the nation take to ensure excellence in all languages as well as international education and research, including how we may more effectively use current resources to advance language attainment?

Your answers to these questions will help Congress, the states and local communities design effective programs to ensure that America remains competitive and strong. We look forward to reviewing the results of your efforts.

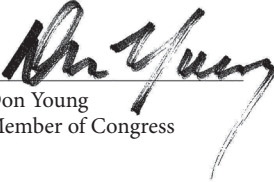
Sincerely,



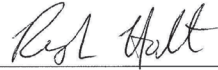
Leonard Lance
Member of Congress



David E. Price
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress



Rush Holt
Member of Congress

Commission Member Activities

November 2014

November 8, 2014, Karl Eikenberry (former U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan; retired U.S. Army Lieutenant General; Fellow in International Security, Stanford University) spoke at the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Chicago Humanities Festival, *Journeys*.

October 2014

On **October 29, 2014, David Skorton** (Secretary, Smithsonian Institution; former President, Cornell University) was interviewed by **Philip Kennicott** (Art and Architecture Critic, *The Washington Post*).

On **October 10, 2014, David Souter** (former Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the United States) delivered his lecture, “The Heart of the Matter: The Humanities and Social Sciences for a Vibrant, Competitive, and Secure Nation,” to a standing room-only crowd in McConomy Auditorium at Carnegie Mellon University as part of the John and Mary Lou Lehoczky Lecture Series in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

May 2014

On **May 12, 2014, Earl A. “Rusty” Powell** (Director, National Gallery of Art) was a featured speaker at an event for the University of Maine Humanities Center held in Washington, D.C.

April 2014

On **April 21, 2014, Hunter Rawlings** (President, Association of American Universities) and **Norman Augustine** (retired Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Lockheed Martin Corporation) spoke at Carnegie Mellon University as part of **Subra Suresh’s** (President, Carnegie Mellon University) inaugural Presidential Lecture Series.

March 2014

On **March 10, 2014**, **Francisco Cigarroa** (former Chancellor, University of Texas System; Head of Pediatric Transplant Surgery, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio) delivered the keynote address at the Annual Meeting of the National Humanities Alliance.

On **March 7, 2014**, North Carolina State University convened a symposium bringing together **Richard Brodhead** (President, Duke University), **Randy Woodson** (Chancellor, North Carolina State University), **Tom Ross** (President, University of North Carolina), **Karl Eikenberry**, and Congressman **David Price** (D-North Carolina) to speak with leaders in North Carolina government, industry, and philanthropy, as well as concerned citizens, about the importance of the humanities and social sciences in their state.

February 2014

On **February 27, 2014**, **Annette Gordon-Reed** (Charles Warren Professor of American Legal History, Carol K. Pforzheimer Professor at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, and Professor of History, Harvard University) participated in the University of Maryland's Worldwide lecture series and spoke about Thomas Jefferson and historical research.

On **February 24, 2014**, **John Rowe** (retired Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Exelon Corporation) addressed students at DePaul University.

January 2014

On **January 27, 2014**, seven Commission members (**Norm Augustine**, **Phil Bredesen**, **Richard Brodhead**, **Wayne Clough**, **Karl Eikenberry**, **John Lithgow**, and **Pauline Yu**) met with seven Senators in Washington, D.C., to discuss possible next steps. **Mark Warner** (D-Virginia) hosted the dinner; guests included **Lamar Alexander** (R-Tennessee), **Michael Bennett** (D-Colorado), **Al Franken** (D-Minnesota), **Amy Klobuchar** (D-Minnesota), **Saxby Chambliss** (R-Georgia), and **Sheldon Whitehouse** (D-Rhode Island).

On **January 23, 2014**, the Academy held a Stated Meeting on “Humanities in the Digital Age” at Stanford University, which was organized under the umbrella of the Commission. Speakers included Stanford University professors **Richard Saller** (Vernon R. and Lysbeth Warren Anderson Dean of the School of Humanities and Sciences and Kleinheinz Family Professor of European Studies), **Joshua Cohen** (Martha Sutton Weeks Professor of Ethics in Society and Professor of Political Science, Philosophy, and Law), **Michael Keller** (Ida M. Green University Librarian; Publisher, Stanford University Press and HighWire Press), **Franco Moretti** (Danily C. and Laura Louise Bell Professor and Professor of English and Comparative Literature), and **Elaine Treharne** (Roberta Bowman Denning Professor of Humanities and Professor of English, and, by Courtesy, of German Studies).

Also on **January 23, 2014**, **James Cuno** (President and Chief Executive Officer, J. Paul Getty Trust; International Secretary, American Academy of Arts and Sciences) spoke on a panel on “Humanities in the Digital Age” at the 2014 World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

On **January 9, 2014**, the Academy partnered with the Chicago Humanities Festival and the Modern Language Association (MLA) to host the Chicago Humanities Summit. The Summit, which was the first event of the MLA’s annual meeting, opened with a panel of Commission members—**Richard Brodhead**, **John Rowe**, and **Diane Wood** (Chief Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit)—who discussed the report and outreach efforts thus far (the panel was moderated by National Public Radio’s **Alison Cuddy**). Attendees also participated in a series of workshops based on report themes (including “How to be Heard beyond the Academy” and “How to Work with Your State Humanities Council”) before reconvening for a summation and “rally.”



Commission Member **Diane Wood** and Chicago Mayor **Rahm Emanuel**

The night before the Summit, the Academy held a dinner for Summit organizers, Academy Fellows, and other guests. During the dinner, **Karl Eiken-**

berry spoke movingly about American soft power and the importance of the humanities and social sciences in foreign policy. Chicago Mayor **Rahm Emanuel** welcomed the group during the cocktail reception. Earlier that afternoon, Commission members met with the editorial board of the *Chicago Tribune*.

November 2013

On **November 20, 2013**, **John Rowe** addressed students at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

On **November 18, 2013**, actor **John Lithgow** spoke at the University of Maryland as part of the Arts and Humanities Dean's Lecture Series. His talk included a performance set to music of his new children's book, *Never Play Music Right Next to the Zoo*, as well as an Actor's Studio-style question and answer session.

October 2013

On **October 31, 2013**, **Wayne Clough** (former Secretary, Smithsonian Institution; President Emeritus, Georgia Institute of Technology) spoke at an event at the University of West Georgia, organized in cooperation with the Georgia Humanities Council.

On **October 23, 2013**, **Richard Brodhead** (President, Duke University) delivered the Presidential Address at the 2014 College Board Forum.

Also on **October 23, 2013**, the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities organized an episode of the National Public Radio show "Action Speaks!" that was inspired by the Commission report; Governor of Rhode Island **Lincoln Chafee** was the featured panelist.

On **October 17, 2013**, the University of Maine held a fund-raising event in Portland based on the Commission's film and report. **Brian Naylor** (Correspondent, Washington Desk, National Public Radio), a University of Maine alumnus, was the featured speaker. Earlier in the day, **Brian Naylor**, **Jeffrey E. Hecker** (Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

and Provost, University of Maine), and **John Tessitore** (Program Director for the Humanities and Education, American Academy of Arts and Sciences) met with the *Portland Press Herald* editorial board, which resulted in the editorial “Our View: The Humanities Still Teach Marketable Skills.”

September 2013

On **September 12, 2013**, the first State Humanities Council event was held in Albany, New York, in cooperation with the New York Humanities Council, the New York State Library, the New York State Museum, and the New York State Archives. The event featured **David Souter** (former Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the United States), who addressed a crowd of three hundred people.



Left to right: Director of the New York State Museum **Mark Schaming**, New York State Deputy Commissioner for Cultural Education **Jeffrey Cannell**, Commission Member and retired Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court **David Souter**, New York State Archivist **Christine Ward**, Executive Director of the New York Council for the Humanities **Sara Ogger**, and New York State Librarian **Bernard Margolis**.

Op-eds by Commission members have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Time*, *USA Today*, *Austin American-Statesman*, and other major publications. Comedy Central’s *Colbert Report* and PBS’s *NewsHour* also covered the report. Multiple regional outlets of National Public Radio have aired interviews with Commission members.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Cherishing Knowledge, Shaping the Future

Since its founding in 1780, the American Academy has served the nation as a champion of scholarship, civil dialogue, and useful knowledge.

As one of the nation's oldest learned societies and independent policy research centers, the Academy convenes leaders from the academic, business, and government sectors to examine the critical issues facing our global society.

Through studies, publications, and programs on Science, Engineering, and Technology; Global Security and International Affairs; the Humanities, Arts, and Education; and American Institutions and the Public Good, the Academy provides authoritative and nonpartisan policy advice to decision-makers in government, academia, and the private sector.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Don M. Randel, *Chair of the Board*

Jonathan F. Fanton, *President*

Diane P. Wood, *Chair of the Council; Vice Chair of the Board*

Alan M. Dachs, *Chair of the Trust; Vice Chair of the Board*

Jerrold Meinwald, *Secretary*

Carl H. Pforzheimer III, *Treasurer*

Nancy C. Andrews

Louise H. Bryson

Ira Katznelson

Nannerl O. Keohane

Venkatesh Narayanamurti

Pauline Yu

Louis W. Cabot, *Chair Emeritus*

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS & SCIENCES

www.amacad.org

www.humanitiescommission.org



 @americanacad
www.amacad.org