

Arts panel honors 44 with prizes

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NEW YORK — Radio humorist Garrison Keillor, novelist E.L. Doctorow and 43 other artists, writers, composers and architects have been recognized by the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters.

The academy bestowed \$500,000 in awards, fellowships and scholarships on the winners at an annual ceremony Wednesday at its Harlem headquarters.

The Medal for Spoken Language was given to Keillor, whose new radio series, *American Radio Company of the Air*, follows his successful *A Prairie Home Companion* series.

Doctorow won the Howells Medal, given once every five years for the best work of American fiction, for *Billy Bathgate*.

The academy's gold medals for history and architecture, bestowed once every six years, went to historian C. Vann Woodward and architect Kevin Roche.

The award for distinguished service to the arts went to Paul Engle, co-founder of Iowa's International Writing Program and founder of the Writer's Workshop.

Steven Holl won the Arnold W. Brunner Memorial Prize in Architecture.

The Witter Bynner Prize for Poetry, given to an outstanding young poet, was bestowed on Jacqueline Osherow. The Award of Merit in Sculpture was given to Joel Shapiro.

The Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction went to Allan Gurganus for *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All*.

The institute and the academy were chartered separately by acts of Congress in 1913 and 1916, respectively. They merged in 1976.

The ceremony also included the induction of five new members into the academy by novelist John Updike, chancellor of the academy. They are painter Helen Frankenthaler, novelist William Gaddis, novelist and literary critic Elizabeth Hardwick, literary critic Alfred Kazin and poet James Merrill.

Academy membership is limited to 50 people elected from the 250-member Institute of Arts and Letters.