

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

USC Annenberg's Institute for Justice and Journalism  
2009 Ethnic Media Fellowship

**“Urban Environmental Justice: Reporting the Full Story”**

### **MAY CONFERENCE PRESENTERS**

#### **Los Angeles**

**TOM ARVISO JR.**, a Navajo originally from Window Rock, Ariz., is the chief executive officer of the Navajo Times Publishing Company, Inc. and the publisher of the Navajo Times newspaper. He is a former board vice president and treasurer of the Native American Journalists Association's board of directors and is currently a member of the Arizona Newspapers Association's board of directors. In 1997, NAJA awarded Arviso its prestigious Wassaja Award for “extraordinary service to Native journalism.” In 1998 the Arizona Newspapers Association honored Arviso with the Freedom of Information Award. Arviso received a John S. Knight Fellowship in Journalism in 2000-2001 and studied newspaper management at Stanford University.

**LaRHONDA BOWEN** is president of Bowen & Associates, a management-consulting firm that specializes in communication and stakeholder engagement strategies. She is also Public Advisor for the South Coast Air Quality Management District. Bowen recently completed a book, “Power Surge: Winning against the Odds”, about Mirant Corporation's failed attempt to expand its San Francisco power plant. In 2007, the General Federation of Women's Clubs of California awarded her the prestigious Community Citizen Award in recognition of two successful international projects she initiated including one which raised funds for solar cooking and water pasteurization in war-torn areas of Africa. Bowen received her A.A. in Paralegal studies from Los Angeles City College, her B.A. in Liberal Arts from Norwich University and her Master of Fine Arts in creative nonfiction writing from Goucher College. In 2008 she completed training in investigative journalism at the USC Annenberg School of Journalism. She is a member of Investigative Reporters and Editors, the Sacramento Press Club, the California Writers Club, and the International Air Waste Management Association.

**ROBERT CABRALES** first became involved in environmental justice work at the age of 17, when he joined Communities for a Better Environment youth group while attending Huntington Park High School. Born and raised in Southeast Los Angeles, Robert was exposed to environmental injustices all his life. In 2001, Robert was a key community leader, working with CBE to defeat the Nueva Azalea power plant in South Gate. Since 2002, Robert has served as CBE's Southeast Los Angeles community organizer.

**MARLA CONE**, one of the nation's most experienced environmental journalists, reported for newspapers for 30 years, including 18 at the Los Angeles Times. At the Times, she was the senior environmental writer and pioneered a beat that focused on explaining scientific information on the risks that pollutants pose to public health, wildlife and ecosystems around the

world. Cone has been the recipient of numerous awards for her reporting. She has twice won the Scripps Howard Meeman Award for environmental reporting and served on the board of the Society of Environmental Journalists for nine years. Her book, "Silent Snow: The Slow Poisoning of the Arctic" was a finalist for the National Academies' Communication Award. In 1999, she was awarded a Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation, which is usually reserved for scientists, to explore contaminants that are spreading to the Arctic and endangering the people and animals of the far north. Cone was the University of California-Berkeley's first teaching fellow in environmental journalism, and she taught at the Graduate School of Journalism there for two semesters. She has a B.A. in Journalism and Political Science from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and now lives in Long Beach with her husband and son.

**BART CROES** is the Chief of the Research Division for the California Air Resources Board. He was the Public Sector Co-Chair for the NARSTO Executive Assembly, a former member of the National Research Council Committee on Research Priorities for Airborne Particulate Matter, and the Committee on Energy Futures and Air Pollution in Urban China and the United States, a joint collaboration between the National Academy of Engineering, National Research Council, Chinese Academy of Engineering, and Chinese Academy of Sciences. He has been a peer reviewer for the National Research Council, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and numerous journals, and received the Editors' Citation for Excellence in Refereeing from the Journal of Geophysical Research. Croes holds an M.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of California at Santa Barbara and a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the California Institute of Technology, and is a registered Professional Chemical Engineer in California.

**S. DAVID FREEMAN** is president of the Los Angeles Harbor Commission and serves as Deputy Mayor of the City of Los Angeles. The energy guru, known as the "Green Cowboy," has written a book telling the American people the truth about this country's dependence on foreign oil, dirty coal and dangerous nuclear power – what he calls the "Three Poisons." His new book, "Winning Our Energy Independence: An Energy Insider Shows How", delivers a wealth of facts on alternative energy and candid opinions with blunt straight talk. Freeman speaks from half a century of experience working in the energy industry and as a federal energy policymaker. Trained as both an engineer and a lawyer, he joined the Federal Power Commission during the Kennedy Administration and helped develop energy policy for Presidents Johnson and Nixon.

**JOHN FROINES** is a professor at the Department of Health Sciences, UCLA. Froines served as the Director of Toxic Substances at the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Deputy Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. He received a B.S. in chemistry from UC Berkeley (1963), M.S. in chemistry (1964) and Ph.D. in physical-organic chemistry (1967) from Yale University. He conducted postdoctoral research at the Royal Institution of Great Britain under Nobel Laureate, Sir George Porter from 1966-68. Froines is currently the Director of the Center for Occupational and Environmental Health. He is also the Director of the Southern California Particle Center and Supersite. He is Associate Director of the Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center and the Director of the UCLA Fogarty Program in Occupational and Environmental Health. Froines' area of expertise is toxicology and exposure assessment.

**SCOTT FRUIN** is assistant Professor of Research, Occupational and Environmental Health at USC's Keck School of Medicine. His research focuses on air pollution exposure assessment and includes field measurements in support of population-based, longitudinal health studies. Recently, he has been measuring neighborhood exposures near the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Fruin is also interested in strengthening the links between pollution measurements and health outcomes, such as adapting bioassay measurements of the biological activity of particulate matter for comparison to chronic health effects, including asthma and reduced rates of lung growth.

**ROBERT GOTTLIEB** is the Henry R. Luce Professor of Urban Environmental Studies at Occidental College and Director of the Urban and Environmental Policy Institute. He is the author and co-author of eleven books, including "Reinventing Los Angeles: Nature and Community in the Global City" and "The Next Los Angeles: The struggle for a livable city." He is also the editor of several MIT Press series and imprints, including "Urban and Industrial Environments," "Sustainable Metropolitan Communities Books," "Food, Health, and Environment," and "Food and Society Books." Gottlieb was the 1996 University of California Distinguished Wellness Lecturer and has received the award on two occasions for supervising the most outstanding student project from the American Institute for Collegiate Planners.

**WINSTON HICKOX** is a partner at California Strategies. He has worked as Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), special assistant for Environmental Affairs to Governor Jerry Brown and as an alternate to the California Coastal Commission. As Secretary of CalEPA, Hickox contributed to the implementation of some of California's most important environmental policy initiatives, including enactment of the "Pavley Bill" in 2002 that granted the California Air Resources Board authority to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light duty trucks, the Clean Beaches Initiative and the creation of the "Fuel Cell Partnership" established to advance fuel cell technology in California. He was asked by the Schwarzenegger Administration to chair The Market Advisory Committee (MAC) in 2007. The Committee's report is intended to advise The California Air Resources Board (CARB) regarding the use of market mechanisms such as Cap & Trade, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, in response to AB32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006.

**ANDREA HRICKO** is the director of the community outreach and education programs of the Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center (SCEHSC) and the Children's Environmental Health Center (CEHC), and serves as an associate professor in the department of preventive medicine in the Keck School of Medicine at University of Southern California. Hricko translates research findings into public health and policy initiatives. She served on the Goods Movement Action Plan (GMAP) Integrating Work Group (IWG) of the Schwarzenegger Administration and is currently a member of the U.S. EPA NEJAC (the National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee) Working Group on Goods Movement. She has taken leadership on a local/regional level as a member of the SCAG (Southern California Association of Governments) Goods Movement Task Force and an appointed member of the Implementation Task Force of the San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan (CAAP). Through these efforts and others, she has also created numerous partnerships with community-based organizations in Southern California and beyond.

**WILLIAM J. KELLY** has written on environmental and energy issues for 25 years. He is Southern California correspondent for California Energy Circuit, a weekly covering the energy industry. His articles also have been published in numerous publications. Kelly won the Rose Foundation's 2006 Meade Clean Air Prize for his articles in LA Weekly on air pollution. He was the lead writer on a team of journalists on a special issue of LA Weekly devoted to air pollution, which won a 2006 LA Press Club Award. He is author, with Chip Jacobs, of the book "Smogtown: the Lung-Burning History of Pollution in Los Angeles." Earlier, Kelly covered national environmental issues in Washington, D.C., for the employee-owned publishing company, the Bureau of National Affairs. He also has written and edited books on the environment, including "Home Safe Home," and several volumes published by BNA. After leaving Washington, he spent more than 13 years as press spokesperson and communications manager for the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the smog control agency for greater Los Angeles. He has a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University.

**JOHN KEMMERER** is Associate Director of EPA's Region 9 Water Division.

**JIM LENTS** is President of the International Sustainable Systems Resource Center. Lents has 27 years of experience directing air quality improvement and research programs nationwide. Over the course of his career, Lents has served as the director of the Blakely Center for Sustainable Suburban Development at UC Riverside, Executive Director of the South Coast Air Quality Management District, and the Director of the Colorado air pollution control program and the Chattanooga, Tennessee air pollution control program. He also helped to develop the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and the 1988 California Clean Act and served on four Presidential Commissions reviewing diesel standards, alternative fuels, automobile global warming emissions, and air quality standards. He served as the director of the Atmospheric Processes, Modeling, and Environmental Policy Laboratory for the University of California Center for Environmental Research and Technology. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency gave James Lents the Thomas W. Zosel Outstanding Individual Achievement Award, in recognition of his leadership in the field of air quality management.

**ROBERT J. LOPEZ** has combined an investigative reporting background with digital media skills to produce powerful multimedia projects for the Los Angeles Times. He and a colleague were the first Times reporters to shoot and edit original video footage, documenting how an L.A. street gang became a transnational criminal network. He has attended the Knight Foundation's Digital Media Workshop at UC Berkeley, as well as various workshops focusing on digital media and computer-assisted reporting. Lopez was part of a reporting team at The Times that won a Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the 1994 Northridge Earthquake. He also was part of a team of Times journalists that won an Overseas Press Club award in 2002 for a series of articles on Islamic terrorist groups. He has taught journalism workshops at the University of Hawaii and has been an adjunct faculty member at USC Annenberg's School for Communication. He is a graduate of the University of Hawaii.

**ENRIQUE MANZANILLA** is director of the EPA's Communities and Ecosystems Division, Region 9-Pacific Southwest.

**EILEEN McGURTY** serves as Associate Chair of the Environmental Sciences and Policy program at Johns Hopkins University. She received a Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and has worked extensively in community development and environmental planning. Prior to joining Hopkins, McGurty coordinated the Environmental Studies concentration for the international Liberal Studies degree program at Long Island University.

**MARTHA MENDOZA** is a National Writer for the Associated Press whose investigative reports have won numerous awards and prompted congressional hearings, Pentagon investigations and White House responses. She won a 2000 Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting, was a 2001 Knight Fellow at Stanford University and a 2007 Ferris Professor of Humanities at Princeton University. She is an IJJ Senior Fellow and teaches a news writing class and guest lectures regularly at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She has worked at the Madera Tribune, the Santa Cruz Sentinel and Bay City News Service, as well as the AP. She also is certificated in automotive and diesel mechanics and has a California teaching credential.

**ANGELA JOHNSON MESZAROS** serves as Director of Policy and General Counsel for the California Environmental Rights Alliance. She also serves as Special Advisor to South Coast Air Quality Management District Governing Board Member Joseph K. Lyou. Meszaros has nearly 15 years of experience working with communities and organizations on environmental justice issues in the Los Angeles region. Prior to joining CERA, she was a Research Associate at the University of Southern California's Sustainable Cities Program. She is currently co-chair of the Environmental Justice Advisory Committee on the Implementation of the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32); a member of the Land Use Subgroup of the California Climate Action Team; the Chair of the Board of the Economic Roundtable, a non-profit organization that conducts research and implements programs that contribute to the economic self-sufficiency of individuals and communities; and a member of the California State Bar. She holds both a degree in philosophy and a law degree from USC.

**STEVE PADILLA** is an assistant national editor with the Los Angeles Times, working with correspondents based throughout the country. Padilla has served in a variety of reporting and editing positions in his 22 years with The Times. He often serves as a writing coach and frequently lectures at colleges and journalism conventions on writing technique and style. Before joining The Times, Padilla was a reporter with the San Diego Union and founding editor of Hispanic Link Weekly Report, a national newsletter on Latino affairs. He earned his B.A. in history and print journalism from USC.

**MANUEL PASTOR** is a Professor of Geography and American Studies & Ethnicity at USC, where he directs the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE). He also co-directs USC's Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII). Founding director of the Center for Justice, Tolerance, and Community at UC Santa Cruz, Pastor holds an economics Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. In recent years, his research has focused on the economic, environmental and social conditions facing low-income urban communities in the U.S. Pastor also speaks and writes frequently on issues of demographic change, economic inequality, and community empowerment. His most recent co-authored book is "This Could Be

the Start of Something Big: How Social Movements for Regional Equity are Reshaping Metropolitan America.” In 2002, he won the Civic Entrepreneur of the Year award from the California Center for Regional Leadership.

**MOLLY PETERSON** is a reporter at KPCC. She came to public radio after law school, as an intern to Nina Totenberg during the Clinton impeachment hearings. In between, she worked at National Public Radio as a producer for *Morning Edition* and *Day to Day*, and at KQED reporting, producing, editing and directing *The California Report*. She studied international politics and the environment at Georgetown University. She has received several journalism awards.

**DAVID PETTIT** is a senior attorney and director of National Resources Defense Council’s Southern California air program. Pettit’s litigation and advocacy work focuses on air quality, public health and associated environmental justice issues in the most heavily polluted air basin in the United States. A 1975 graduate of the UCLA School of Law, he has more than 30 years of trial court and appellate experience.

**RACHEL POULAIN** is the Director of Outreach for California Newsreel, the country’s oldest non-profit documentary production and distribution center. Previously she worked for California School Health Centers Association where she advocated for school-based health care. She also worked at PolicyLink, identifying best practices to reduce health disparities. Poulain also teaches interdisciplinary courses at San Francisco State University, which bring public health and anthropology students together with cinema students to produce social justice documentaries.

**GERALD S. SECUNDY** is president of the California Council of Environmental and Economic Balance. Prior to joining CCEEB, Secundy served as Vice Chairman of the California State Water Resources Control Board; Board of Trustees of Prescott College, Prescott, Arizona, the Board of Lignetics; the Board of Governors of the Inner City Law Center; the Advocacy Committee of Pasadena Heritage; the Board of Las Familias del Pueblo and the Board of Jardin de la Infancia. He is a life-long member of the Sierra Club, Common Cause, and the American Civil Liberties Union. He has a degree from Harvard College and Columbia Law School.

**JESUS TORRES** has been a Community Organizer for Communities for a Better Environment for the past 6 years. In 2003, Jesus was successful in defeating televangelist Pat Robertson’s efforts in restarting a refinery in a low income minority community. Torres graduated from Los Angeles Harbor College in 1995 where he received an AA degree in Liberal Arts. He then transferred to California State Polytechnic University at Pomona (Cal Poly Pomona) where he studied Urban and Regional Planning in the School of Environmental Design. While at Cal Poly Pomona, Jesus Torres was the recipient of various awards and scholarships including the National Hispanic Scholarship Fund in 1995 and 1996. He was also a recipient of the first annual Hilda Solis Scholarship Award in 1997 and of the Presidents Future Scholars Scholarship in 1998.

**JOHN VANDEWEGE** has over 25 years experience as a video production professional. As the Sr. Video Journalist at the Los Angeles Times he played a major role in leading reporters and photojournalists to experiment with new methods of storytelling, such as interactive narratives and video reports, for a web audience. Vandewege has produced investigative video reports on

topics such as the emancipation of teenagers from the foster care system, the activities of the Gates Foundation in combating AIDS in southern Africa and the danger to public safety resulting from U-Haul's corporate policies. As a member of the team that won the Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Journalism, he produced several videos for the *Altered Oceans* series examining the global pressures that threaten to change the composition of the world's oceans.

**BARRY R. WALLERSTEIN** holds a Ph.D. in environmental science and engineering from the University of California at Los Angeles and M.S. and B.S. degrees in biological science from USC. He has two decades of experience in urban planning and environmental studies, with an emphasis in air pollution control and public policy development. He has been Executive Officer of South Coast Air Quality Management District for ten years. Previously in his career, Wallerstein held positions as an Environmental Control Administrator at Northrop and as a member of rule development staff at the California Air Resources Board.

**JANE WILLIAMS** formed the California Communities Against Toxins (CCAT), a collective of more than 70 localized groups working to curb pollution in their regions. By building the CCAT network on non-traditional alliances, Williams has been able to unite communities through a collaborative and cooperative social infrastructure. Led by Williams, members of CCAT have successfully stopped incinerators, landfills, industrial facilities and nuclear waste dumps from being built in communities where the health of children and community members would have been compromised.