

The 16th Heinz Awards



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Environmental Journalist Receives Prestigious Heinz Award *The New Yorker's* Elizabeth Kolbert's curiosity educates thousands of readers.

PITTSBURGH, September 21, 2010 – Teresa Heinz and the Heinz Family Foundation today announced Elizabeth Kolbert, a groundbreaking environmental journalist devoted to educating the public about environmental issues, as a recipient of a Heinz Award. She currently lives in Western Massachusetts.

Ms. Kolbert's unique ability to communicate complex information generates intense public interest, grabs national attention and has inspired a movie. Her investigations have gone beyond traditional reporting, even raising a hive of bees in her backyard to better understand their habits and explain them to her readers for a story about their mysterious disappearance.

The Heinz Awards, in their 16th year, honor Ms. Kolbert and nine other winners for their outstanding response to environmental issues, including Ms. Kolbert's exceptional global reporting to provide clear coverage in the mass media and educate readers on her findings. She decided to cover global warming after visiting a research station on Greenland, where glaciologists were drilling a core through ice two miles deep. She was so struck by the evidence of climate change that she decided to write a series of articles on the subject, which took her to remote villages in Alaska, as well as back to the top of the Greenland ice sheet.

"There is so much important research on global warming being conducted these days. What I've tried to do as a journalist is introduce that work to a wider audience and to help people understand the ways we are changing the planet and the repercussions this will have," said Ms. Kolbert.

The Heinz Awards annually honor the late U.S. Senator John Heinz's long-standing commitment to the environment. This year's awards, totaling \$1 million, recognize individuals who are addressing global change caused by the impact of human activities and natural processes on the environment.

"Elizabeth Kolbert makes complicated scientific material accessible to a wide range of readers," said Teresa Heinz, chairman of the Heinz Foundation. "She conveys the critical story of our changing planet with wit and wisdom."

In addition to writing for *The New Yorker*, Ms. Kolbert authors books, is frequently invited to speak at universities and serves as a guest editor for other publications. Her three-part series on global warming, "The Climate of Man," won the 2006 National Magazine Award for Public Interest and the 2005 American Association for the Advancement of Science Journalism Award. Her next book about mass extinction is scheduled for publication in 2012.

In addition to Ms. Kolbert, the 16th Heinz Awards are honoring the following individuals:

- **James Balog**, Extreme Ice Survey (Boulder, Colo.) *For his dramatic use of photography to document the devastation of global warming*
- **Terrence Collins, Ph.D.**, Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh, Pa.) *For using “green chemistry” to detoxify hazardous chemicals and training the next generation of scientists*
- **Gretchen Daily, Ph.D.**, Stanford University and the Natural Capital Project (Stanford, Calif.) *For her achievements demonstrating the financial value of natural ecosystems*
- **Richard Feely, Ph.D.**, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (Seattle, Wash.) *For his extraordinary efforts to identify ocean acidity as global warming’s “evil twin”*
- **Cary Fowler, Ph.D.**, Global Crop Diversity Trust (Rome, Italy) *For establishing the Global Seed Vault to conserve genetic diversity of the world’s food plants despite climate change*
- **Lynn Goldman, M.D.**, George Washington University (Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, Md.) *For promoting regulation of dangerous chemicals and expanding citizens’ right to know about pollution in their communities*
- **Michael Oppenheimer, Ph.D.**, Princeton University (Princeton, N.J. and New York, N.Y.) *For assessing the impacts of global warming and air pollution, and working for policies to prevent future harm*
- **Daniel Sperling, Ph.D.**, University of California, Davis (Davis, Calif.) *For advancing sustainable transportation policies and accelerating the transition to low-carbon alternative fuels nationwide*
- **Frederick vom Saal, Ph.D.**, University of Missouri (Columbia, Mo.) *For uncovering health problems linked to the chemical BPA*

About the Heinz Awards

The Heinz Family Foundation, one of the Heinz Family Philanthropies, began as a charitable trust established by the late U.S. Senator John Heinz. His widow, Teresa Heinz, established the Heinz Awards in 1993 to honor and sustain the legacy of her late husband.

Nominations for the Heinz Awards are submitted by invited experts, who serve anonymously. Award recipients are selected by the board of directors for the Heinz Awards upon recommendation by a blue-ribbon panel of jurors.

In addition to the \$100,000 award for their unrestricted use, recipients are presented with a medallion inscribed with the image of Senator Heinz on one side and a rendering of a globe passing between two hands on the other.

The Heinz Awards will be presented at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. on November 15.

For more information about the Heinz Awards, Heinz Family Foundation or the recipients, visit www.heinzawards.net.