

The 16th Heinz Awards



**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 21, 2010**

**Contacts: Jeff Krakoff
(412) 394-6653
Kim O'Dell
(412) 497-5775**

Photographer Receives Prestigious 2010 Heinz Award James Balog uses dramatic photography to document global warming.

PITTSBURGH, September 21, 2010 – Teresa Heinz and the Heinz Family Foundation today announced James Balog, an environmental and nature photographer, as a recipient of a Heinz Award. Mr. Balog is on the forefront of advanced methods to document the rapid depletion of ancient glaciers around the world with photographic imagery. He is acknowledged for his unique techniques and creative ability to capture images for pioneering scientific studies. He currently lives in Boulder, Colorado.

The Heinz Awards, in their 16th year, honor Mr. Balog and nine other environmental innovators.

In the course of photography assignments in 2005 and 2006, Mr. Balog was stunned to see that an extraordinary amount of glacier ice was vanishing with shocking speed. Features that took centuries to develop were being destroyed in just a few years or even a few weeks. These observations became the catalyst for the Extreme Ice Survey (EIS). Using materials from his local hardware store, Mr. Balog and his team adapted 39 Nikon cameras to take photos each hour of daylight at 22 glaciers in Greenland, Nepal, Iceland, Alaska and the Rocky Mountains. NASA recruited Mr. Balog to give presentations of EIS results at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in 2009.

“It is hard to see the effects of changing climate,” said Mr. Balog, “but when ice melts people intuitively know what that means. Melting glaciers are the most visually dramatic manifestations of climate change on the earth today. If everyone could hear the story the ice is trying to tell us, there’s no way we would be having an argument about whether humans are causing climate change. We are.”

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. Mr. Balog has played an invaluable role in the understanding of climate change and its impacts on the planet.

“With groundbreaking photographs, James Balog documented how dramatically global warming is transforming our planet,” said Teresa Heinz, chairman of the Heinz Family Foundation. “Mr. Balog worked in treacherous conditions to capture evidence that people otherwise wouldn’t see. He provided scientists with vitally important insight on the mechanics of glacial retreat.”

The 125 pound camera systems are embedded in mountains and resist extreme weather conditions as they capture up to 8,000 images each per year. The images are then edited into time-lapse videos to reveal transformation of the planet and to provide valuable information to glaciologists and other scientists.

Mr. Balog's love for the outdoors, graduate education in earth sciences and innovative approach to photography has earned him the reputation as one of the world's elite nature photographers.

In addition to Mr. Balog, the 16th Heinz Awards are honoring the following individuals:

- **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*
- **Elizabeth Kolbert**, *The New Yorker*, (Williamstown, Mass.) *For her groundbreaking environmental journalism and devotion to informing readers*
- **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.