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Ocean Scientist Receives Prestigious Heinz Award
Dr. Joan Kleypas Provides Groundbreaking Evidence of Climate Change's Impacts on Coral Reefs

PITTSBURGH, September 13, 2011 – Teresa Heinz and the Heinz Family Foundation today announced Joan Kleypas, Ph.D., a marine ecologist and geologist and leading world researcher on the effects of climate change on coral reefs, as a recipient of a \$100,000 Heinz Award. At the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo., Dr. Kleypas has received national and international recognition in scientific and policy circles for her groundbreaking research about how changes in temperature and ocean acidification have impacted coral reefs and their relationship to the whole earth system.

Now in its 17th year, the Heinz Awards honors visionaries who have made extraordinary contributions to the environment, a life-long area of commitment for the late U.S. Senator John Heinz. Dr. Kleypas and nine others are recognized for their significant efforts benefitting the environment. This year's awards total \$900,000.

“Dr. Kleypas’ dedication to uncovering the devastating impact acidification has on coral reefs and her decades-long research has highlighted the roles the reefs have in the marine system,” Teresa Heinz, chairman of the Heinz Family Foundation, said today. “This information is an essential tool for policymakers and non-scientists alike.”

Dr. Kleypas was inspired to become an ocean scientist by her brother’s love for the sea as well as Jacques Cousteau’s television programs. In March, she organized the first multi-agency National Ocean Acidification Principal Investigators Workshop, where more than 100 scientists from around the country gathered to discuss current research trends.

After spending years in Australia studying the Great Barrier Reef while she was a Ph.D. student, Dr. Kleypas took her studies to the National Center for Atmospheric Research in 1993. She built a computer model to research the hypothesis that coral reef growth releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. However, as she continued her research, it became more apparent that the coral reef ecosystem was much more affected by climate than the other way around. At the 8th International Coral Reef Symposium, Dr. Kleypas led the field by publishing a summary of the likely effects of carbon dioxide-induced acidity on coral growth and in 1999 she co-authored the paper “Geochemical Consequences of Increased Carbon Dioxide on Coral Reefs,” which awakened the science community in the United States to the seriousness of the problem.

“Climate change has driven us into a modern ‘Noah’s Ark’ period where we need to find ways to conserve ecosystems,” said Dr. Kleypas. “The current plight of coral reefs, these masterpieces of nature, tests our passion to save them. If we can’t save this ecosystem, then what in the world will drive us to save others?”

Delivering testimony before Congress on the threat of ocean acidification to marine ecosystems, Dr. Kleypas helped to ensure the passage of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2009.

Not only does Dr. Kleypas advocate the reduction of worldwide carbon emission, she also investigates ways to bolster coral reef health so that they can withstand climate changes. Widely regarded for her ability to communicate the message of ocean change to broad audiences, she received the Aldo Leopold Leadership Fellowship at Stanford University in 2008.

In addition to Dr. Kleypas, the 17th Heinz Awards are honoring the following individuals:

- **John Luther Adams**, Independent Composer (Fairbanks, Alaska) *For his musical compositions that invite us to hear the whole world as music*
- **Richard Alley, Ph.D.**, The Pennsylvania State University (University Park, Pa.) *For his polar ice discoveries that showed abrupt climate change is possible and for engaging his students, policymakers and the public*
- **Janine Benyus**, Biomimicry Institute (Missoula, Mont.) *For inspiring us to look to nature's engineering for solutions to our biggest challenges*
- **Ian Cheney and Curt Ellis**, Wicked Delicate Films, Truck Farm and FoodCorps (Brooklyn, N.Y.) *For using humor and innovative programming to engage people about sustainable food*
- **Louis J. Guillette, Jr., Ph. D.**, Medical University of South Carolina (Charleston, S.C.) *For being a leader in the field of hormone disruption and the impact chemicals have on wildlife*
- **Nancy Knowlton, Ph.D.**, National Museum of Natural History (Washington, D.C.) *For broadening the understanding of ocean biodiversity and the impacts of humans on marine life*
- **Nancy Rabalais, Ph.D.**, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (Chauvin, La.) *For her pioneering research of severe oxygen depletion in the Gulf of Mexico and commitment to reduce water pollution through education and public policy*
- **Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D.**, Ithaca College, (Ithaca, N.Y.) *For highlighting the link between toxic chemicals and diseases through her written work, as well engaging the public as a cancer survivor*

About the Heinz Awards

The Heinz Awards annually recognize individuals creating and implementing workable solutions to the problems the world faces through invention, research and education while inspiring the next generation of modern thinkers. While this year the awards focus singularly on the environment, winners were chosen who address the intersection of the environment with one of

the other award categories recognized in many previous years, including arts and humanities, human condition, public policy, technology and the economy.

The Heinz Family Foundation 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 or the recipients, including photographs, visit www.heinzawards.net.

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