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Six Notable Americans to Share \$1.25 Million Heinz Awards

Range of human achievement honored with 13th annual awards from the Heinz Family Foundation

PITTSBURGH, September 12, 2007 – The Heinz Family Foundation, whose \$250,000 awards place them among the largest individual achievement prizes in the world, today announced the recipients of the 13th annual Heinz Awards, bestowed on six extraordinary Americans whose pioneering achievements have helped expand human understanding, spur innovation and enhance the world's capacity to sustain itself.

Presented since 1994 to honor the life's work of the late U.S. Sen. John Heinz, the \$250,000 Heinz Awards recognize remarkable contributions across a spectrum of activity – from the arts and the environment to technology and public policy.

The recipients in their respective categories are:

- **Arts and Humanities: Dave Eggers**, San Francisco, author and founder of the 826 Valencia writing laboratories as well as a publishing house for emerging writers
- **Environment (co-recipients): Bernard Amadei**, Ph.D., Boulder, Colo., engineer, professor and founder of Engineers without Borders - USA and - International; and **Susan Seacrest**, Lincoln, Neb., environmental advocate and founder of the Groundwater Foundation

- **Human Condition: David L. Heymann, M.D.**, Geneva, Switzerland, physician, an assistant director general of the World Health Organization and international public health advocate
- **Public Policy: Donald M. Berwick, M.D.**, Cambridge, Mass., physician, professor and health care reformer
- **Technology, the Economy and Employment: Hugh Herr, Ph.D.**, Cambridge, Mass., inventor, professor and pioneer in biomechatronics

“These recipients are an inspiration to anyone looking for proof that we as a people still have the capacity to work and invent and create our way past the great challenges of our times,” said Teresa Heinz, chairman of the Heinz Family Foundation. “In a world thirsty for magic, they are master magicians whose genius lies in blending a passion for their work with a deep concern for humanity. Exceptional though they are, they possess an everyday kind of power that comes from a source we all can tap – the simple willingness to share what we are good at with others who might benefit. We are proud to honor them and their triumphant spirit of excellence and generosity.”

Mrs. Heinz established the Heinz Awards through the Heinz Family Foundation of Pittsburgh in 1993 to honor and sustain the legacy of her husband, U.S. Sen. John Heinz, who died two years earlier. The awards recognize exceptional leadership and accomplishments in areas of special interest to Sen. Heinz. “The most important investments – and the most profitable,” he once said, “are investments in people.”

The following are synopses of this year’s recipients, by category:

Arts and Humanities: A novelist whose meteoric commercial and critical success has helped propel him into the worlds of philanthropy, advocacy and education, **Dave Eggers** is a true force of nature. Having burst on the literary scene with his autobiographical bestseller, *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*, before he was 30, Mr. Eggers has since enjoyed critical acclaim in both fiction and nonfiction, in particular, with his 2006 novel, *What is the What*, which was a finalist for the 2006 National Book Critics Award for Fiction. The novel, a blend of biography, fiction and journalism, recounts the

tragic story of Valentino Achak Deng, one of the Lost Boys of Sudan, whom Mr. Eggers came to know and whose heroic odyssey the author tells with authenticity and pathos.

But it is his infectious love of writing – together with an inspiring commitment to nurturing young literary voices – that provided Mr. Eggers the impetus to found 826 Valencia, a writing laboratory for children that has expanded from his home in San Francisco to five other U.S. cities. Founded in 2002 with monies from his book earnings, the centers offer free tutoring, English as a Second Language classes, writing workshops, summer camps, publication projects and other services to kids ages six to 18. In order to help emerging writers, Mr. Eggers also launched McSweeney's, a publishing house that produces his and other young writers' works. *McSweeney's* also is the name of the humor and literary quarterly that he publishes. For the compelling impact of his work, *Time* magazine named Mr. Eggers one of its "100 Most Influential People of the Year" in 2005.

Environment (co-recipient): A professor of civil engineering with an emphasis in geological engineering, **Dr. Bernard Amadei** has made a transforming impact on the quality of life in some of the world's poorest communities through the organization he founded – Engineers Without Borders - USA (EWB-USA). Launched with fellow faculty, professionals and students at the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2000, EWB-USA applies a combination of professional expertise and humanitarian compassion to remote areas of the world. With funds it raises itself, the organization takes on a range of sustainable engineering projects, such as those that provide clean water, sanitation, energy, shelter, education and telemedicine to villages in underdeveloped countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and North and South America.

Dr. Amadei first confronted the dire living conditions of some of the world's poverty-stricken communities in 2000 during a trip to Belize, where he was asked to examine the possibility of a water delivery system for San Pablo, a tiny Mayan village that had no electricity, running water or sanitation. Returning to Boulder, the professor recruited civil and environmental engineering students and a local civil engineering expert and set

about designing and implementing a water distribution system whose pump was fueled by a local waterfall and ultimately provided a steady flow of water to the town. Buoyed by the success of the Belize project, Dr. Amadei founded EWB-USA, which has since grown to 224 projects in 43 countries, 8,000 members and 235 established university and professional chapters. In 2001, he co-founded the EWB-International Network, now in 45 countries – including Rwanda, Kenya, India and Palestine.

Environment (co-recipient): A mother whose concern over the quality of drinking water propelled her to become a self-educated authority on groundwater, **Susan Seacrest** is the founder of the Groundwater Foundation, an organization that for more than a generation has been a driving force in improving the health of the nation's groundwater. Through nonpolitical advocacy that emphasizes education and leverages the power of personal relationships, the Groundwater Foundation has helped bring about a wave of reform, not only through the enactment of new laws but by eliciting voluntary changes in behavior by those involved in groundwater contamination. Ms. Seacrest's expertise in groundwater education earned her an Environmental Protection Agency appointment to the Children's Health Protection Advisory Council, two terms on the National Drinking Water Advisory Council and keynote speaking appearances at conferences around the world, including the United Nations.

Ms. Seacrest's unintended diversion into the realm of environmentalism began in 1985 when she learned that Nebraska's elevated leukemia and non-Hodgkins lymphoma rates might be linked to pesticides and nitrates in groundwater near her Nebraska home. Because her infant son was seriously ill at the time, she became alarmed that environmental degradation could be putting him and others at risk. As a result, she contacted a researcher at the University of Nebraska who challenged her to learn all she could about groundwater and what she discovered moved her to found the Groundwater Foundation. After the organization succeeded in helping reduce nitrate levels in Nebraska's High Plains Aquifer to safe levels through its education programs, its grassroots efforts quickly grew beyond the state's borders. Today, initiatives launched by the Groundwater Foundation – including its Groundwater Guardian program, Children's

Groundwater Festivals, G³ – Growing Groundwater Guardians program, Groundwater University and Awesome Aquifer Club – are educating students, public officials, business people, farmers and citizens from all walks of life about the fragile nature of groundwater.

Human Condition: The assistant director general for communicable diseases at the World Health Organization (WHO), **Dr. David L. Heymann** has brought urgency, clarity and foresight to bear in helping the world prepare for and respond to the threat of widespread infectious disease. Through his forceful and insistent leadership, Dr. Heymann has elevated WHO's role as a global clearinghouse of information on disease outbreaks around the world, a new important status for the U.N. agency and one that positions it as a first line of defense against both naturally occurring and deliberately caused biological threats. By overcoming both internal administrative hurdles and the considerable reluctance of some foreign governments to share disease-related information, his efforts have dramatically improved global disease surveillance systems and the rapid response to disease outbreak.

Prior to joining the WHO staff in 1988, Dr. Heymann spent 13 years in sub-Saharan Africa with the U.S.-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where he specialized in childhood immunizable diseases, malaria and diarrheal diseases of children, human monkeypox and the investigation of the first and second outbreaks of Ebola virus. While his initial work at WHO focused on AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, the recurring outbreak of Ebola in Africa in 1995 opened his eyes to the deficiencies in the handling of widespread disease outbreak, particularly its tracking and control. A year later, he accepted a request by the director general to set up an emerging infectious disease program, adopting the use of the Internet and other modern communications as well as a network of institutions across the globe capable of monitoring and responding to new outbreaks. As a result of this initiative, WHO is widely credited with coordinating the global containment of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), which struck mostly Asian nations in 2003, and addressing the subsequent threat of avian influenza or "bird flu."

Public Policy: A Harvard-educated physician, clinical professor of pediatrics and health care reformer, **Dr. Donald M. Berwick** has dedicated the past two decades to streamlining medical processes and improving an industry rife with inefficiency, errors and preventable deaths. As the co-founder and CEO of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, Dr. Berwick has provided critical leadership in trailblazing an array of reforms in how hospitals and medical practices care for patients – reforms that have resulted in a reduction in millions of incidents of medical harm that IHI estimates occur annually. As testament to the impact of his work, he was named last week as one of five recipients of the \$100,000 Purpose Prize, awarded annually by Civic Ventures.

Dr. Berwick began his career as a pediatrician at the Harvard Community Health Plan, eventually becoming vice president of quality-of-care measurement. After learning what he could from quality improvement leaders in other industries – including those at Bell Labs and Toyota – Dr. Berwick became convinced that health care could be transformed by embracing the same techniques. Over the next 20-plus years, he set about building the will for change among health care organizations, cultivating novel ideas for improving patient care and implementing these reforms. He co-founded the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), through which he launched the “100,000 Lives Campaign,” which encouraged U.S. hospitals to focus on improvements in care and evidence-based medical protocols in six areas. IHI estimates that the 3,000 participating hospitals avoided more than 122,000 unnecessary deaths during the 18-month campaign period. While this result cannot be attributed solely to IHI’s work, the campaign clearly contributed to overall improvement in hundreds of hospitals. Building on this success, Dr. Berwick and IHI launched the “5 Million Lives Campaign” in late 2006, expanding the focus to the 12 improvements designed to significantly reduce medical harm in U.S. hospitals.

Technology, the Economy and Employment: A double amputee whose pioneering work in the emerging field of biomechatronics has led to the development of new prosthetic innovations that merge body and machine, **Dr. Hugh Herr** has helped improve mobility and enhance the quality of life for physically challenged people around the world. The

holder (or co-holder) of numerous patents, including the Computer-Controlled Artificial Knee (commercially available as the Rheo Knee), the Active Ankle-Foot Orthosis, and the world's first Powered Ankle-Foot Prosthesis, Dr. Herr is advancing an emerging field of science that applies the principles of muscle mechanics, neural control and human biomechanics to guide the design of biomimetic robots, human rehabilitation devices and other technologies.

At age 17, Dr. Herr lost both legs below the knee in a mountain climbing accident, but returned to the classroom after a few years to earn an undergraduate degree in physics, a master's degree in mechanical engineering from MIT and a Ph.D. in biophysics from Harvard. Today, his work at the MIT Media Lab focuses on human amplification and rehabilitation systems – technologies that interact with human limbs, mimicking biological performance and amplifying function. While there was a time when leg prostheses hampered a wearer's mobility, Dr. Herr's breakthrough innovations are enabling leg amputees to walk at higher speeds with greater stability and lower metabolic energy. He predicts that in five to 10 years, leg amputees will be able to run faster and move with a lower metabolic rate than people with biological limbs. Given the high number of U.S. soldiers returning home with crippling injuries, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is funding a \$7.2 million research project being conducted by the Center for Restorative and Regenerative Medicine, a collaboration among MIT, Brown University and the Providence, Rhode Island VA Medical Center. This effort focuses on developing new technologies for amputees, specifically "biohybrid limbs" comprised of regenerated tissue, lengthened bone, titanium prosthetics and implantable sensors.

About the Heinz Foundation

The Heinz Family Foundation, one of the Heinz Family Philanthropies, began as a charitable trust established by the late Sen. Heinz in 1984. His widow, Teresa Heinz, created the Heinz Awards in 1993 as the primary activity of the foundation. In addition to the Heinz Awards, the foundation directs a grant-making program that is active in a wide range of issues, principally those concerning women's health and environment, health care cost and coverage, as well as pensions and retirement security.

Nominations for the Heinz Awards are submitted by an invited Council of Nominators, all experts in their fields, 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 each category.

Past recipients of the Heinz Awards include marine biologist Jane Lubchenco, inventor and founder of the student robotics competition FIRST Dean Kamen, environmental advocate Peggy Shepard, medical anthropologist Paul Farmer, artist and community activist Rick Lowe and Paul Anastas, a leader in the “green chemistry” movement.

In addition to the \$250,000 award for their unrestricted use, recipients are presented with a medallion inscribed with the image of Sen. Heinz on one side and a rendering of a globe passing between two hands on the other. The medallion symbolizes the partnership, continuity and values carried on to the next generation. The hands also suggest passing on the stewardship of the earth to future generations.

The Heinz Awards will be presented at a private ceremony on October 22 in Pittsburgh.

Additional information is available online at www.heinzawards.net.

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