Awards Ceremony
National Press Club
Washington, D.C.
December 4, 2009
Global Media Awards

The Population Institute's Global Media Awards are designed to encourage greater media coverage of population and development issues. The awards honor those who have contributed to creating awareness of population problems through their outstanding journalistic endeavors. The awards serve to encourage editors, news directors, and journalists to acquire a more in-depth knowledge of population issues and to stimulate high standards for journalism on global issues.

A Message from the President

This year marks the Population Institute’s 30th Annual Global Media Awards. For three decades this awards program has been recognizing journalists, commentators, editorial cartoonists, filmmakers, and other media practitioners for accurate, fair and thought-provoking reporting on issues relating to population, family planning, and reproductive health. During that time, the world has made significant advances in reducing fertility rates, improving reproductive health, and elevating the status of women. But despite those advances, the need for this awards program is as great as ever.

While fertility rates continue to decline in many parts of the world, high fertility rates in many parts of sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia are contributing to unacceptable levels of maternal mortality, jeopardizing prospects for reducing severe poverty, and adding stress to the environment.

Despite the pledges that were made at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, Egypt, fifteen years ago, donor assistance for family planning fell from $723 million in 1995 to $338 million in 2007. In some of the poorest developing countries, per capita assistance has fallen by 75 percent or more. Also, the status of women in developing countries continues to suffer due to sexual violence, early childhood marriage, female genital mutilation, and a lack of access to reproductive health services.

But it’s not just women who are suffering. Mother Earth is also ailing. Over the past 30 years, the world’s population has grown by 1.6 billion people, and unless donor nations step up their support for family planning, world population by mid-century could grow by another 2.5 billion. As evidence by climate change and growing resource scarcity, the world may not be able to support that increase.

The winners of the Global Media Awards, past and present, are to be congratulated for helping to raise public awareness regarding these critical issues.

Best Wishes,

William N. Ryerson
President, the Population Institute
Featured Keynote Speaker

The Honorable Timothy E. Wirth

Timothy Wirth is the President of the United Nations Foundation and the Better World Fund. Both organizations were founded in 1998 through a major financial commitment from Ted Turner to support and strengthen the work of the United Nations.

Wirth began his political career as a White House Fellow under President Lyndon Johnson and was Deputy Assistant Secretary for Education in the Nixon Administration. In 1970, Wirth returned to his home state and ran successfully for the U.S. House of Representatives in 1974. He represented Denver suburbs in Congress from 1975-1987. Wirth was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1986 where he focused on environmental issues, particularly global climate change and population stabilization.

Following these two decades of elected politics, Wirth was national Co-chair of the Clinton-Gore campaign, and served in the U.S. Department of State as the first Undersecretary for Global Affairs from 1993 to 1997.

Prior to entering politics, Wirth was in private business in Colorado. The son of teachers, he was a scholarship student and graduate of Harvard College, served as a Harvard “Baby Dean” after graduation, and received a Ph.D. from Stanford University. The recipient of numerous awards and honorary degrees, he also served as a member of the Harvard Board of Overseers. He was recently honored as a Champion of the Earth by the United Nations Environment Programme. Wirth is married to Wren Wirth, the President of the environmentally oriented Winslow Foundation; they have two grown children and four grandchildren.

Awards Presented by

Rahul Singh

Rahul Singh received his undergraduate degree at St Stephens, Delhi University, and attended Kings College, Cambridge for higher studies, graduating with History Honors. At Cambridge he was President of the India Society. Mr. Singh has held various positions in the press including; Assistant Editor at the Times of India and first Editor of the Indian Reader’s Digest. Mr. Singh also helped to set up the Hindi version of the Reader’s Digest, Sarvottam. Singh has worked as Resident Editor of the Indian Express and Editor of the Indian Post and Sunday Observer. In 1991, Mr. Singh became a consultant to the United Nations, for whom he wrote the book Family Planning Success Stories: Asia, Africa, Latin America. This book discussed 12 countries all over the world that have had successful population control programs. In 2001, Singh went to Dubai for a year as Editor of the Khaleej Times. At present Mr. Singh is writing three books for Penguin, apart from writing for various newspapers. Singh also serves as President of the Board of Trustees for DKT India, serves on the Advisory Board for World Literacy of Canada, and Trustee to the K.C. Mahindra Education Trust, which gives scholarships to Indian students going to school abroad. Rahul Singh is also Chair of Population Institute’s Global Media Awards program.
Best Book
Michelle Goldberg

Best Article or Series of Articles
“Population & Sustainability” in Scientific American
Robert Engelman

Best News Service
The Associated Press

Best Online News Service
Optimum Population Trust: News Watch (United Kingdom)
Accepted by Simon Ross, Blog Editor

Best Radio Show
EarthSky: A Clear Voice for Science
Accepted by Lindsay Patterson, Producer and Ryan Britton, Managing Partner

Best Film or Miniseries
Earth Days
Accepted by Robert Stone, Earth Days Director

Best TV Show
To the Contrary with Bonnie Erbé
Accepted by Bonnie Erbé
Winners

**Best Editorial Cartoon**
The Local Government Chairman
Francis Umendu Odupute (Nigeria)
Accepted by Carol Deans-Worrell and Ian Worrell

**Best Print Editorial**
“The Other War in Afghanistan” in the *Los Angeles Times*
Malcolm Potts

**Best Online Commentary or Blog**
*New Security Beat*
Environmental Change and Security Program
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
Accepted by Geoff Dabelko, Director

**Best Serial Drama**
*Neighbors*
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for Communication Programs (Uganda)
Accepted by Barbara Katende and George Gikunda

**Media Outreach Award**
*John Feeney*
Global Population Speak Out
Best Book

The Means of Reproduction: Sex, Power, and the Future of the World by Michelle Goldberg, an investigative journalist, is being honored with the Best Book award. The book explores the global battle over women’s reproductive rights, looking at the evolution of the conversation over the years.


Excerpts from the award-winning The Means of Reproduction: Sex, Power, and the Future of the World

“More than a third of girls worldwide are married off before they reach adulthood, often to much older men. Early pregnancy taxes their bodies; girls under fifteen are five times more likely to die during pregnancy and childbirth than women in their twenties. Obscenely high rates of maternal mortality are a global scandal, taking more than half a million women each year, 99 percent of them in the developing world. One in twenty-six women in Africa will die of pregnancy related causes.”

“A massive investment in women’s education, birth control access, and income generation would lessen the danger that the world’s population would outstrip the planet’s resources. Efforts to simply help women have the number of children that they want would make a huge difference.”
Robert Engelman of the Worldwatch Institute will be honored with the award for Best Article or Series of Articles for his article “Population & Sustainability,” which appeared in *Scientific American*. The article summarizes the current state of world population and its linkages to sustainability and climate change, while also discussing the likelihood of slowing global population growth.

After graduating from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in 1976 with a fellowship, Robert Engelman traveled for nearly a year in Latin America, where he reported for the Associated Press and several U.S. newspapers. He later returned to Central America as a reporter for *The Kansas City Times*. Robert’s conversations with women and men in villages and shantytowns, and his up-close views of denuded forests, ill health, poverty, and violent conflict inspired a deep interest in the link between natural-resource scarcity and the steady growth of populations.

Equally striking for Robert were the women who shared with him their wish to wait as long as possible before having more children. After another dozen years as a newspaper reporter, Robert followed a growing conviction that the link among women’s lives, population and the environment was central to the world’s biggest challenges and took a job directing research for a non-profit focused on population and family-planning policy. Traveling to different countries, he conducted the interviews and heard the stories that enliven the pages of *More: Population, Nature, and What Women Want*.

Robert is now Vice President for Programs at the Worldwatch Institute, a globally focused environmental research organization based in Washington, DC, where he provides strategic direction for the Institute’s research and programs. He has written extensively on population’s connections to environmental change, economic growth, and civil conflict. He was founding board chair of the Center for a New American Dream, a non-governmental organization working to make U.S. consumption of energy and natural resources a sustainable model for the world. He has served on the faculty of Yale University as a visiting lecturer, and his writing has appeared in *Nature*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.

Excerpts from Robert Engelman’s award winning article “Population & Sustainability”

“Population growth constantly pushes the consequences of any level of individual consumption to a higher plateau, and reductions in the individual consumption can always be overwhelmed by increases in population. The simple reality is that acting on both, consistently and simultaneously, is the key to long-term environmental sustainability. The sustainability benefits of level or falling human numbers are too powerful to ignore for long.”

“Slower population growth that leads to eight billion people in 2050 rather than to the currently projected 9.1 billion would save one billion to two billion tons of carbon annually by 2050, according to estimates by climate scientist Brian O’Neill of the National Center for Atmospheric Research and his colleagues. The subsequent savings in emissions would grow year by year afterward—while the billion-plus fewer people would need less land, forest products, water, fish, and other foodstuffs.”

“Bringing population back into the public conversation is risky, but the world has come a long way in understanding that the subject is only one part of most of today’s problems and that “population control” can’t really control population. Handing control of their lives and their bodies to women—the right thing to do for countless other reasons—can. There is no reason to fear the discussion.”
The Associated Press will be awarded Best News Service for its news and analyses of events occurring around the world that can have an impact on the high fertility rate in some of the world’s poorest countries and the effects that the growing population can have on the environment.

The Associated Press is the backbone of the world’s information system serving thousands of daily newspaper, radio, television, and online customers with coverage in all media and news in all formats. It is the largest and oldest news organization in the world, serving as a source of news, photos, graphics, audio and video.

AP’s mission is to be the essential global news network, providing distinctive news services of the highest quality, reliability, and objectivity with reports that are accurate, balanced and informed. AP operates as a not-for-profit cooperative with more than 4,000 employees working in more than 240 worldwide bureaus. AP is owned by its 1,500 U.S. daily newspaper members.

Excerpts from the Associated Press’s award-winning articles

“Population Growth Contributes to Emissions Growth”
December 12, 2008

“With the world’s population expected to reach more than 9 billion by 2050—three times what it was in 1960—researchers argue that slowing population would make it easier to solve the climate crisis.”

“The developing world would oppose introducing population into the mix on the grounds that it would hold them accountable on a problem they blame on the West. The Vatican along with Catholic and Muslim countries, meanwhile, are opposed over fears population policies would increase support for abortion and birth control.”

“US Targets Population Growth, Urges Women’s Power”
April 23, 2009

“The U.S. ambassador, Melanne Verveer, said President Barack Obama’s decision to contribute $50 million to the U.N. Population Fund for family planning, an increase of more than 100 percent over the last U.S. contribution, in 2001, ‘will send an unambiguous signal to the world that the U.S. supports the Cairo Platform for Action.’”

“Clinton, now Secretary of State, told a conference of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America in Houston last month, ‘that reproductive rights and the umbrella issue of women’s rights and empowerment is going to be a key to the foreign policy of this administration.’ She stressed the link between women’s rights and democracy.”
The Optimum Population Trust (OPT) will receive the award for Best Online News Service for their blog “Optimum Population Trust: News Watch.” The blog contains not only OPT’s press releases, but excerpts from news stories and links to those stories that are related to the causes, consequences, and remedies of population growth.

The news watch scans the news using feeds, alerts, and compilations and selects the most significant population related items. It then provides them via the website, RSS feeds, and Twitter. Items include source links and are reported without comment. Active since March 2008, the site posts around three items a day and receives up to 5,000 visits a month from all five continents.

In seeking to indicate the links between the causes, components, consequences and cures of overpopulation, the site covers biodiversity, climate change, conflict, environmental despoliation, health, pollution, population trends, migration, resource depletion, family planning, teenage pregnancy, and women’s rights. Priority is given to items of international significance and those with a scientific basis.

Visitors are encouraged to post comments on specific items and can search for past items by recency, month, topic, or free text. They can print items and share them with others through email and links to social networking and bookmarking sites.

The site also provides links to population related official reports, educational materials, opinion poll results, books, videos, international days and over sixty other news sources and blogs.

Recent posts from OPT’s News Watch award-winning online news service

“Global Warming Science Alarming, Say Climate Experts” BBC News

“African Conflicts Spurred by Warming” New Scientist

“Oceans Absorb Less Carbon Dioxide as Marine Systems Change” Worldwatch

“Liberia: The New War is Rape” IRIN

“East Antarctic Ice Sheet May be Losing Mass” BBC News

“Migration v Aging Population – A Tricky Trade Off” BBC News

“US Funding Revamps African Contraceptive Drive” AFP
**Best Radio Show**

*EarthSky: A Clear Voice for Science*

*EarthSky: A Clear Voice for Science* will receive the award for *Best Radio Show* for their series of weekly interviews with scientists around the world. Their interviews have included a series of interviews with population experts addressing a range of population related issues.

Producer Lindsay Patterson and Managing Partner Ryan Britton are accepting the award for Best Radio Show on behalf of *EarthSky: A Clear Voice for Science*. EarthSky is a new media company advocating science as a vital tool for the 21st century. EarthSky reaches people by radio and internet – in English and Spanish – 15 million times every day. It features the voices of the world’s leading scientists talking about how scientific research and insights relate to greatest challenges and discoveries of our times. Lindsay Patterson was part of a team that produced the population-focused podcasts included in the entry for the Global Media Awards. She interviewed the scientists and wrote the scripts for the broadcasts. She has been part of EarthSky’s production team and a voice on the radio show since 2007.

---

**Excerpts from the award-winning *EarthSky: A Clear Voice for Science***

“The world is still on course to have 9 billion people by 2050 that is in contrast to nearly 6.8 billion people today. If we really get to 9 billion after that we might not change very much. It may stay between 9 and 10 billion for the rest of the century … Fertility is highest in the developing world, but the birth rate there is declining and the decline is expected to continue.”

“Scientists believe climate change may force people in environmentally stressed regions to migrate. We could see drying to a degree that agriculture is no longer tenable so people have to move out of those areas [sub-Saharan Africa].”

“In the mid 20th century, scientific advances in agriculture dramatically increased food production. These advances also staved off widespread famine, and allowed the world's population to grow. But a new study suggests that food production isn't increasing as rapidly as it once was – a trend that could potentially exacerbate hunger around the world.”

“The world is bursting at the seams. We have nearly 7 billion people and they are on the search for enough food, water, and energy to meet their needs and make economic progress. But when you add it all up, we are already a globally unsustainable world society…Malthus's specter, his warning continues to loom large and I think we have to take seriously the question of how we make the food supply, the population, and the earth’s ecosystems work compatibly and sustainably.”
Earth Days will receive the award for Best Film or Miniseries. The film looks at the history of the environmental movement from its early post war beginnings in the 1950s to the publication of Silent Spring to the first Earth Day in 1970 and the action that followed. The film pays special attention to the early links between the environmental and population movements.

Robert Stone is a multi-award-winning, Oscar and Emmy-nominated documentary filmmaker. Born in England in 1958, he grew up in both Europe and America. After graduating with a degree in history from the University of Wisconsin/Madison, he moved to New York City in 1983 determined to pursue a career in filmmaking. He gained considerable recognition for his first film, “Radio Bikini” (1987) which premiered at Sundance and was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Feature Documentary. Multi-tasking as a producer, director, writer, editor, and sometimes cameraman, he has over the last 20 years developed a steady international reputation with a range of unique and critically acclaimed feature-documentaries about American history, pop-culture and the mass media. His more recent and perhaps best-known work includes “Guerrilla: The Taking of Patty Hearst” (2004), which premiered at Sundance (under the title “Neverland”) and went on to become one of the most highly acclaimed theatrical documentaries of the year. His latest film is the documentary feature “Oswald’s Ghost” (2007) for which Entertainment Weekly cited Stone as “one of our most important documentarians.” He continues to create personally crafted high-end documentary films from his home in the Hudson Valley of New York, where he lives with his wife Melissa, an artist, and their two sons.

Excerpts from the award-winning Earth Days

“If the people really understood that in the lifetime of their children they are going to destroy the quality of the air and water all over the world, they would do something about it. But it is not well understood.”

“Civilizations have crashed repeatedly in the past. We have for the first time a global civilization that is doing what many of those other ones did, building a huge population and abusing its environment without any thought to the consequences.”
Bonnie Erbé is host and executive-in-charge of the PBS program, *To the Contrary*. This award winning news analysis program airs nationally on 240 PBS stations each week. As host of the program, Ms. Erbé leads discussions with well-known women journalists and commentators on a variety of significant social issues including presidential and congressional politics, family and medical leave, women in the workplace, the environment, health care, Supreme Court decisions, and gun control. Ms. Erbé won the 2008 Conference Board’s Work Life Leadership Council Media Award for “her dedication to illuminating today’s workplace issues on PBS’ *To The Contrary* and in her PBS documentary 9 to 5 No Longer and in her Scripps Howard Newspapers column.” She won the Council on Contemporary Families 2008 Media Award for Outstanding Broadcast Coverage of Family Issues for the documentary. *TTC* was one of five finalists for a GLAAD anti-defamation award in 2007 and won two 2006 Clarion Awards from Women in communications for Best TV Talk show. *TTC* also won 1994, 1995, 1998 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2006 EMMA awards from Radcliffe College and the National Women’s Political Caucus for overall excellence, the 1994, 1996 and 2006 Clarion Award from Women in Communications for Best TV Talk show and earlier Gracie Awards or top honors from American Women in Radio and Television in 1997, 1999, 2004, & 2005. *TTC* also won the prestigious ICI Education Foundation award in 2000 for Personal Finance Reporting as well as the 2001 New York State Society of CPA’s award for a series Ms. Erbé produced on women and pensions.

Excerpts from the award-winning *To the Contrary with Bonnie Erbé*

“A common recollection of aging population activists is the night in 1973 when TV broadcasters announced that the 1972 U.S. fertility rate had reached zero population growth. Most people thought that meant the U.S. population problem was over. In fact, because of what demographers call population momentum, it takes up to 70 years after the replacement level fertility rate is reached for a nation to stop growing. On top of that, there was a huge increase in immigration levels starting in the 1970s.”

“As environmentalists deserted the U.S. population issue, so did the news media. Forty years ago coverage of the U.S. population problem was featured regularly on the front pages of newspapers, magazine covers, on books, and on the nightly TV news. Within a few years, it disappeared.”
“The Local Government Chairman,” an editorial cartoon in the Nigerian Observer newspaper by Francis Umendu Odupute, will be honored with the award for Best Editorial Cartoon. This cartoon depicts the struggle Nigeria has had in getting political leaders to acknowledge that population growth has had many significant consequences. This is especially important since Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa.

Francis Umendu Odupute was born on 20th May, 1970, in Eziawa town, Orsu Local Government Area of Imo State, Nigeria. He received his B.A. and MFA degrees in Fine Arts (Painting) from the University of Benin, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria. He is a cartoon journalist and the head of the Cartoon section, editorial department of The Nigerian Observer Newspaper in Benin City, Edo State.

Francis has been cartooning for the media since the early 1990s, with his first editorial cartoon debuting on The Nigerian Observer editorial page in February, 1994. He is a creative writer with many published features articles and reports to his credit. Also a studio artist– cum–art journalist and is the owner of Francodus International Communications (FIC), an Art, media and publishing firm in Benin City. Francis is also the founder and president of the Beautiful Feet International (BFI) Ministry, a 10-year old development and gospel-focused faith-based organization registered in Nigeria.
Malcolm Potts is a Cambridge trained obstetrician and reproductive scientist. He is the first holder of the Fred H. Bixby endowed chair in Population and Family Planning in the School of Public Health, Berkeley, and has developed the Bixby Center with a team of young experts. He is co-director of the Berkeley International Group (BIG) with Dr. Julia Walsh. While he was the first Medical Director of the International Planned Parenthood Federation for a decade, he introduced family planning methods into scores of developing countries. As CEO of Family Health International (FHI), he launched the first large scale studies of maternal mortality, which helped start the worldwide Safe Motherhood Initiative. He has published ten books and over 200 scientific papers. His recent books include *Queen Victoria’s Gene* and *Ever Since Adam and Eve: The Evolution of Human Sexuality*. His most recent book is *Sex and War: How Biology Explains War and Terrorism and Offers a Path to a Safer World*.

Excerpts from Malcolm Potts award-winning editorial “The Other War in Afghanistan”

“There are two wars going on in Afghanistan. One is to defeat the Taliban, and that war is not going well. The other is to liberate women, and that war has hardly begun. If the first war is won but the second is lost, Afghanistan will turn into a failed state—a caldron of violence and misery, home to extremism and totally outside the Western orbit of influence.”

“Currently, Afghanistan is one of the worst places in the world to be a woman, and—as is the case everywhere women’s rights are nonexistent or in decline—the birthrate is high. Afghan women have an average of about seven children, and the population has been doubling about every 20 years. Today it is 34 million. According to U.N. estimates, by 2050 it could reach a staggering 90 million. That rapid population growth and the demographics that go with it drive most of Afghanistan’s worst problems.”

“Unless women are given the freedom to choose whether or when to have a child, by 2050 there will be millions more angry men age 15 to 25 in Afghanistan. If only a tiny percentage are potential insurgents or suicide bombers, no Western army, however large and however strongly backed at home, has the slightest chance of prevailing.”

The New Security Beat helps advance the discussion of global population issues by offering informed, evenhanded analysis of reports and current events and intelligent, thoughtful commentary by experts in the fields of demography, international development, and family planning and reproductive health.

From September 1, 2008, to August 31, 2009, the New Security Beat published more than 60 posts about international population issues and their links to the environment, international development, foreign policy, and peace and conflict. This year, the number of visits has more than doubled over the previous year. The New Security Beat reached almost 25,000 unique visitors this year, including individuals from more than 180 countries.

“A new survey of Pakistani youth shows why the country is Exhibit A for taking seriously the potent combination of demography and lack of education and employment. Funded by the British Council, the survey shows how Pakistan’s ‘youth bulge’ can be both threat and opportunity.

If it is coupled with investment in education and employment, the large youthful population can be a dynamic force: the much-heralded ‘demographic dividend.’

But without effective investment, a ‘demographic disaster’ is more likely. The survey found that 1 in 4 young people are illiterate and only 1 in 5 have full-time jobs. Only 15 percent believe their country is headed in the right direction. Their faith is placed in their religion, not their government.”

“Despite these strong connections, the mainstream media has been reluctant to write about population growth, which (Andrew) Revkin called the ‘ultimate incremental story.’

‘We, I think, are guilty to some extent, in the media, of not paying adequate attention to this part of the whole issue,’ he said, partly because there is the perception that ‘we kind of solved that problem. But, again, just run those numbers: Nine billion people does not solve the climate problem and it has to be considered in every stage of assessing solutions to the climate problem.’”
Best Serial Drama
Neighbors (Uganda)

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for Communication Programs will receive the award for Best Serial Drama for Neighbors, a radio serial drama focusing on population and family planning in Uganda. Neighbors is a short serial drama whose storyline illustrates the problems of having a large family and the advantages of a small planned family.

Neighbors was developed by The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health’s Center for Communication Programs (CCP) as part of a national communication campaign implemented by the Uganda Ministry of Health in partnership with Health Communication Partnership-Uganda (HCP), a project managed by CCP and funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Neighbors was produced in six languages and carried on 12 radio stations over a 6-month period this year.

With an average of seven children per woman, Uganda has one of the highest fertility rates and population growth rates in the world. The radio mini-series was designed as an innovative way to communicate Uganda’s population crisis to men. Neighbors revolves around the lives of two key characters: Bernard (who has planned his family and has few children) and Fred (who has not planned his large family). Using humor, the drama depicts the problems faced by a man with many children and the relatively stress free life of a man with a small family.

Excerpts from Neighbors

“What I mean is that if you had fewer children it is not so expensive to provide health care.”

“Do you find it hard to feed your children three meals each day? Do you think the situation will be better if you have fewer children?”

“Having a small family and using family planning doesn’t make you less of a man. It makes you more of a man as you can provide for your family adequately...Plan a small manageable family for a better life”

Mama Frank: “Can you imagine that seven boys fighting over such a small piece of land?”

Mama Eric: “That’s why my husband and I planned our family. We didn’t want to get into such a situation.”

Mama Frank: “You didn’t want?”

Mama Eric: “No, we decided on three children.”
John Feeney will be honored with the *Media Outreach Award* for his contribution to educating the media and the public regarding population growth and its public policy implications through the Global Population Speak Out.

John Feeney is an environmental writer and activist. After graduating from the University of Colorado at Boulder, John obtained a Ph.D. from the California School of Professional Psychology at San Diego. During the ’90s he segued into a career as a professional poker player before moving with his family to Iowa in search of the classic small town life of American lore.

Soon, though, residential development threatened to turn the Feeneys’ small town into one more example of suburban sprawl, nudging John to take his first step into environmentalism as an anti-growth activist. His research inevitably led him to broader issues including the central role played by the size and growth of the human population in driving global ecological crisis. Frustrated that few writers or activists were willing to tackle the subject, he ventured to add his voice to the small ranks of those who do.

Most often writing has been John’s activism. In the summer of 2008, however, he began brainstorming ways to break down the media silence surrounding overpopulation. The result was the 2009 Global Population Speak Out, a project bringing new and returning voices to the population issue and aimed specifically at weakening the taboo against public discussion of overpopulation.

**Excerpts from the award-winner John Feeney for the Global Population Speak Out**

“Our global ecological plight is worsening rapidly. Arguably, a planetary ecological collapse is already underway. Witness the Sixth Mass Extinction, melting ice caps and glaciers, dying coral reefs and an array of other severe, interrelated problems.

Despite valiant efforts from countless international sustainability advocates, many agree we are already well into overshoot of Earth’s capacity to sustain us. This imperils not only other species and ecosystems, but humanity’s own sustainable future.”

“Media coverage of these problems is terribly insufficient.

Particularly under-reported is the fundamental link between the size and growth of the human population and environmental degradation. It is no comfort that the rate of global population growth has slowed in recent years; both our sheer numbers and the scale of our activity are already far beyond Earth’s sustainable limits.”
Thank you to the Judge’s of the 2009 Global Media Awards...

**Earl Babbie** is Emeritus professor of Behavioral Sciences at Chapman University and author of *The Practice of Social Research* and *The Basics of Social Research*, among other textbooks and scholarly works. He serves as a pro-bono research advisor to PMC and as a board member of the Population Institute. He received an A.B. from Harvard College and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Linda Bales Todd** is the Director of the Louise & Hugh Moore Population Project for the General Board of Church & Society (GBCS) of The United Methodist Church. Population concerns, specifically those related to women and children, are the focal point of Linda's portfolio. Her work includes education and advocacy on reproductive health and family planning, domestic violence, HIV & AIDS, human sexuality and genetics. Historically, the Population Institute was founded by Rev. Rodney Shaw, a former staff person of GBCS.

**Geoff Dabelko** is Director of the Environmental Change and Security Program (ECSP), a nonpartisan policy forum on environment, population, health, and security issues founded in 1994 at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. He is also an adjunct professor at the Monterey Institute of International Studies. Geoff has held prior positions with the Council on Foreign Relations and Foreign Policy and served as a lecturer at Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service.

For the past 18 years, he has facilitated dialogue among policymakers, practitioners, journalists, and scholars grappling with complex links among environment, population, development, conflict, and security. His current research focuses on environmental pathways to confidence-building and peacemaking, with a special emphasis on managing transboundary fresh water resources. Geoff is principal investigator for ECSP’s “Navigating Peace: Forging New Water Partnerships” initiative.


Geoff is a member of the UN Environment Programme’s Expert Advisory Group on Environment, Conflict, and Peacebuilding, co-vice chair of the Scientific Committee of the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP), contributing editor to *Environment*, member of the editorial board of Global Environmental Change, member of the Board, Wilton Park USA Foundation, member of the Board of Experts, Center for Unconventional Security Affairs at the University of California, Irvine, member of the International Advisory Board, Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy, Salve Regina University, and a member of the advisory board of , and its PBS “Journey to Planet Earth” television series initiative.

**Janet Edmond** is the Director of Population Environment at Conservation International in Arlington, VA. Ms. Edmond has more than 20 years experience in international health, environment and development in more than 10 countries. Since January 2004, Edmond has provided global leadership, as well as technical and financial oversight of CI’s population, health and environment (PHE) portfolio. She currently serves as Deputy Director for the USAID-supported $5 million BALANCED project (2008-2013), promoting and advancing (PHE) approaches worldwide. Edmond also directed CI’s $3.85 million PHE program, the USAID-funded Healthy Families, Healthy Forests project and the Meeting Population and Conservation Needs in Mexico’s Selva Lacandona project, supported by the David and Lucille Packard Foundation. She has a Masters in Public Health (MPH) from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. From 1999-2003, she managed RH/FP, MCH and HIV/AIDS projects on the USAID-funded Partners for Health Reform plus Project. Edmond’s environmental experience includes seven years with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF-US) and the Environmental and Energy Study Institute in Washington, DC.
Robert Engelman is Vice President for Programs at the Worldwatch Institute, a globally focused environmental research organization based in Washington, DC. Bob provides strategic direction for the Institute's research and programs and is a specialist in issues of population, reproductive health, global public health, climate change, and food security. Prior to joining Worldwatch, Bob was Vice President for Research at Population Action International, a policy research and advocacy group in Washington, and directed its program on population and the environment. He has written extensively on population's connections to environmental change, economic growth, and civil conflict.

A former newspaper reporter specializing in science and the environment, Bob has served on the faculty of Yale University as a visiting lecturer and was founding secretary of the Society of Environmental Journalists. Bob serves on the boards of the Center for a New American Dream, the Population Resource Center, and the Nova Institute.

Duff Gillespie is a Professor at The Bill and Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health, Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Before joining Johns Hopkins in February 2004, Duff Gillespie was a Visiting Scholar at the David and Lucille Packard Foundation. Prior to the Packard Foundation, he was Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Global Health Bureau at USAID, the most senior career position in the Agency. He has worked in the population and health field for 33 years and was the Director of USAID’s Office of Population for seven years. Dr. Gillespie received the Arthur Flemming Award in 1997 for pioneering operations research on community-based primary health care delivery systems. He was a recipient of Presidential Rank Awards in 1988, 1990, and 2001. He received the Administrator’s Distinguished Career award from USAID in 2004.

Nancy Pendarvis Harris for three decades, has played a leadership role in the development and management of international family planning/reproductive health, maternal-child health and development programs and in influencing health policy. Since 1981, she has directed large worldwide programs. Early work at the grassroots level and extended residences in developing countries give her a keen understanding of the context in which service delivery and advocacy programs must operate. Her large professional network and proficiency in languages enables her to communicate effectively with policy-makers, program managers, governments and private voluntary agencies. From her position as a Vice President of JSI, Harris has been able to shape policy and strategy to meet the changing needs of health programs around the world. She also serves on the board of Partners for Development and Management Strategies for Africa and on numerous advocacy and professional committees and working groups.

Jeff Meer is Director of International Advocacy for Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA). In this capacity, he conducts PPFA’s advocacy in Washington on international reproductive health issues. Prior to this, he had been Director of External Relations for CHF International, a major international development nonprofit based in the United States. For five years, he was Executive Director of the US Association for UNHCR, which raises funds and awareness about the UN Refugee Agency. Mr. Meer was also founding program officer for peace and security at the UN Foundation, a philanthropy created by media executive Ted Turner. Before entering the nonprofit world, he had been a Foreign Service Officer with the US Department of State for more than 11 years, serving in the People’s Republic of China and Germany. At the outset of his career, Mr. Meer was a journalist and editor with Psychology Today and Readers Digest magazines. He is the author of Drugs and Sports (Chelsea House, 1983).

Gary Merritt taught social research methods in university before joining USAID in 1974 and has mostly worked with USAID since. He began public service in the Office of Population as a research scientist involved in basic bio-medical research and social science.
After six years of fostering research for improving family planning and primary health care delivery systems, he joined the U.S. foreign service in 1979 to help re-open USAID/India where he led in establishing programs in bio-technologies, population census, and social marketing, including radio and TV programs that led to production of the most popular TV soap opera nationwide. In the mid-1980’s he helped forge Kenyan teamwork, including social marketing and media productions that led, soon after in that decade, to one of the most rapid fertility declines so far recorded at the national level. He subsequently was chief of USAID/AFR/PHN where he led development of USAID’s first Africa HIV/AIDS prevention and control program. He then served on the Nigeria/Liberia desk and in those countries, as Program Director at USAID/Niger, and as Senior Advisor at USAID/Senegal.

Since 1999, Gary has worked with USAID, UN, and foundations as a contractor in Albania, Cote d’Ivoire, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, and elsewhere. His publications include cost-effectiveness analyses of foreign assistance in family planning. He has dedicated much of the past two years to launching the USAID Alumni Association with the aim of strengthening USG overseas assistance policies and programs.

Deborah Mesce is the Population Reference Bureau’s program director for international media training. Since joining PRB in 2000, she has been organizing programs and finding opportunities to work with journalists in developing countries to increase and strengthen their media coverage of reproductive health and other population-related issues. Her journalism background includes more than 20 years with The Associated Press, first in Connecticut and later in Washington, D.C., where her assignments included covering health and welfare issues at the Department of Health and Human Services, in Congress, and in the courts. In 1998, she was awarded a Knight International Press Fellowship, based in Beirut, Lebanon, where she taught at a university and trained Lebanese journalists. She received her B.A. in communications from the University of Vermont.

Judy Oglethorpe is Managing Director of People and Conservation in World Wildlife Fund US. For several years she managed WWF’s population-health-environment program, and also works on livelihoods, governance, gender, conflict, and community adaptation to climate change. Previously she was Executive Director of the Biodiversity Support Program, a USAID-funded consortium of WWF, The Nature Conservancy and World Resources Institute. She has 14 years of experience in Southern and East Africa where she worked on forest and wildlife conservation; community-based natural resource management; ecotourism development; environmental impact assessment; institutional development and training. She has a Masters degree in Environmental Management from the University of London and a Bachelors degree in Ecological Science from the University of Edinburgh, UK.

Emily Pontarelli is the Population Institute’s program associate. She is a graduate of Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She graduated with a degree in International Business and Marketing. During her time at Drexel she was able to take advantage of their co-op program and worked as a Marketing Assistant for Dechert LLP, a large international law firm in Philadelphia. There she worked with the Public Relations manager to develop media lists and write the firm-wide newsletter. During her time at Drexel she was able to study abroad in Brussels, Belgium, where she interned for a UK Member of Parliament on the Environmental Committee. The topics she worked on included genetically modified organisms and stem cell research. Before coming to Population Institute, Emily worked for a small insurance adjusting company.

Steve Sinding served as Director of the USAID Office of Population from 1983 to 1986, following field assignments as a population officer in Pakistan and the Philippines. From 1986 to 1990 he was the Director of USAID’s Mission to Kenya. Following a 20-year career at USAID, Dr. Sinding served for a year a Senior Population Advisor to the World Bank and then moved to the Rockefeller Foundation as Director of the Population Services Program. From 1999 to 2002 he was a Clinical Professor of public health at Columbia University, and in 2002 became Director General of the International Planned Parenthood Federation in London. He retired from IPPF in 2006, and is now a Senior Fellow at the Guttmacher Institute and an international consultant.
**Robert Walker** is the Executive Vice President of the Population Institute, where he directs the organization’s advocacy and public education activities, including its work on issues related to health, economic development, sustainability and the environment. Prior to joining the Population Institute in February 2009, Mr. Walker was President of the Population Resource Center. He formerly was the Executive Director of the Common Cause Education Fund, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization working to promote open, honest and accountable government.

He also served for three years as President of Handgun Control, Inc. and the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence, and four years as Legislative Director at Handgun Control, where he led the lobbying campaigns that led to the successful passage of the Brady Law and the federal assault weapons ban. Prior to his work for Handgun Control, Mr. Walker worked for a total of 14 years on Capitol Hill, including five years as a legislative aide to Rep. John B. Anderson and six years as Legislative Director to Rep. Mo Udall, the Chairman of the House Interior Committee. He also served for two years as Legislative Counsel for the American Association of Retired Persons.

Mr. Walker received his B.A. in Economics from Rockford College and his J.D. from the University Of Illinois School Of Law. He attended the University of Sydney in Australia under a Rotary graduate fellowship.

**Jennie Wetter** is the Population Institute’s program manager. Before working at PI Jennie was an editorial policy intern at the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation (RNRF). At RNRF she worked on various renewable resource issues and the foundation’s journal, the *Renewable Resources Journal*. Jennie also spent time working on two of RNRF’s Congresses, one on Emerging Water Contaminants, which looked at issues such as pesticides, pharmaceuticals and personal care products, fire retardants like polybrominated diphenyl ethers, and nanotechnology. The other congress was on environmental science issues facing the U.S. Congress and natural resources agencies. Jennie earned her BA at University of Wisconsin, where she majored in Biological Aspects of Conservation and had the opportunity to study abroad in Kimana, Kenya, examining human-wildlife conflict around the Kimana Community Wildlife Sanctuary. Jennie also received a Masters degree from American University’s School for International Service in Washington, DC, where she majored in Global Environmental Policy, focusing on international environmental and development issues. Jennie wrote her thesis in the emerging field of environmental peacemaking looking at the peace building potential of peace parks, using the Greater Limpopo Peace Park in Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe as her case study.

**Tim Williams** is Senior Evaluation Advisor to John Snow, Inc. (JSI) since 1998, and currently Principal Investigator to the MEASURE Evaluation Project. He has over 22 years experience in monitoring and evaluation, applied research, and management of reproductive health and HIV/AIDS programs in developing countries. His focus areas of work have included adolescent sexual and reproductive health, quality of care of family planning programs, family planning supply chain logistics, and programmatic/financial sustainability, always with the aim of building host-country capacity in monitoring and evaluation approaches and use of information for program improvement. Before joining JSI, he held research and evaluation positions at the International Planned Parenthood Federation/Western Hemisphere Region, Association for Voluntary Surgical Contraception (now EngenderHealth), and PROFAMILIA (IPPF affiliate) in Colombia. He lived and worked for one year in Kenya and two years in Colombia, and has worked in 30 countries worldwide. He holds Masters degrees in Economics and Environmental Management from Yale University.
Congratulations

to the winners of the

The Population Institute’s

30th Global Media Awards
The Population Institute (PI) is an international non-profit (registered 501(c)(3) organization) that seeks to promote universal access to family planning information, education, and services. Through voluntary family planning, we strive to achieve a world population in balance with a healthy global environment and resource base. PI was established in 1969 and is located on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.

PI’s mission is to provide essential leadership to promote voluntary family planning and reproductive health services and increase awareness of the social, economic, and environmental consequences of rapid population growth. PI works actively to educate policymakers, policy administrators, the media and the general public about population issues. PI also recruits and trains tomorrow’s population activists, and national membership networks to address population issues. Our programs advance population education and activism. The Institute promotes both international and U.S. support for voluntary family planning programs.