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**Author and Cancer Survivor Receives Prestigious Heinz Award
Hailed as ‘the New Rachel Carson,’ Dr. Sandra Steingraber Links Toxic Chemical
Exposure to Diseases**

PITTSBURGH, September 13, 2011 – Teresa Heinz and the Heinz Family Foundation today announced Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D., an ecologist, as well as an author and advocate for the environmental health movement, as a recipient of a \$100,000 Heinz Award. Dr. Steingraber is currently a scholar in residence at Ithaca College in Ithaca, N.Y.

After being diagnosed with bladder cancer as a sophomore in college, Dr. Steingraber discovered an apparent cancer cluster in her hometown in Illinois. Armed with the belief that it was caused by industries lining the region’s river valley and the widespread use of pesticides on farms in the area, Dr. Steingraber dedicated her career to shedding light on the links between cancer and environmental contamination.

“Dr. Steingraber brings attention to the effects of chemical contaminants on human health,” Teresa Heinz, chairman of the Heinz Family Foundation, said today. “Through her personal story, writings and public speaking, she powerfully communicates the environmental links to cancer and other health problems and points us to meaningful ways to address these challenges.”

Since publishing her first book in 1995, Dr. Steingraber has made her scientific story accessible to broad audiences. In her book *Living Downstream*, which was made into a full-length feature documentary in 2010 and shown in 70 cities, she wrote, “From the right to know and the duty to inquire flows the obligation to act.” Dr. Steingraber urges the government to act more aggressively to protect us and describes how there is currently more evidence linking the widely-used herbicide atrazine to cancer than there was linking PCBs to cancer when they were banned in 1979.

“I have seen firsthand the devastating impact that toxic chemicals can have on children and young adults. Rates of specific cancers have risen as our exposures to specific contaminants have increased. There is a there there,” said Dr. Steingraber. “The vast majority of chemicals on the market haven’t been tested for safety, so we’re literally in the midst of a massive human experiment.”

In her 2011 book, *Raising Elijah: Protecting Our Children in an Age of Environmental Crisis*, she speaks as both a scientist and mother of two young children who cherishes them while searching for ways to protect them from toxic chemicals and the consequences of climate change. Dr. Steingraber has recently been speaking out about the controversial process of extracting natural gas from shale known as fracking, calling it “the environmental issue of our time.”

Dr. Steingraber has been invited to lecture at universities and medical schools including Harvard, Yale, Cornell, Columbia, and the Woods Hole Research Center. She has also testified in front of the European Parliament and before the U.S. President's Cancer Panel, and served on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' National Action Plan on Breast Cancer.

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. Steingraber and nine others are recognized for their significant efforts benefitting the environment. This year's awards total \$900,000.

In addition to Dr. Steingraber, 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*
- **Joan Kleypas, Ph.D.**, National Center for Atmospheric Research, Institute for the Study of Society and Environment (Boulder, Colo.) *For conducting breakthrough research on the impacts of environmental change on coral reefs and engaging both scientists and policymakers*
- **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*

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, 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 or the recipients, including photographs, visit www.heinzawards.net.

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