

**2008 FUNDERS FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE GULF COAST  
TRANSFORMATION PANELISTS  
and MODERATORS**

**IVYE ALLEN** is President of the Foundation for the Mid South, a regional community foundation serving Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The Foundation funds programs and initiatives that focus on serving children and families, education, and economic development. Since its inception in 1990, the Foundation has leveraged its grant making to bring in more than \$150 million to the region. Allen's early work experience was in finance and marketing positions in Fortune 100 corporations. Her nonprofit experience includes serving as Director of Fellowship Programs for the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and Chief Operating Officer for MDC Inc.

Allen is a Trustee/Director for the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation and Grantmakers for Education. Her education includes a Ph.D. in social policy from Columbia University; an M.S. in Urban Affairs from Hunter College; an M.B.A. in marketing and international business from New York University; and a bachelor's in economics from Howard University. She is a life member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. and the National Black MBA Association and is a member of the Mississippi Women's Forum, Association for Public Policy and Management, and Urban Affairs Association.

**ROBIN BARNES** is Senior Vice President for Seedco Financial, where she oversees the organization's regional activities in Louisiana. Louisiana programs include a \$29 million small business assistance program for businesses affected by Hurricane Katrina, a \$2.5 million small business loan fund in Baton Rouge, and the Southeast Louisiana Fisheries Assistance Center in Plaquemines Parrish. In addition, Barnes sits on the Seedco Financial Alabama Policy Advisory Board. Formerly, she was a Senior Vice President for Seedco where she conceived of and implemented Seedco's capacity building and technical assistance programs. Barnes oversaw the technical assistance component of Seedco's \$45 million small business recovery program following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. She also was responsible for opening and launching Seedco's Birmingham, Alabama, and Memphis, Tennessee, offices.

Prior to joining Seedco, Barnes was the Director of Development for the Momentum AIDS Project in New York City, the first Director of Development at New York Cares, and an Associate Director of Development at the Guttmacher Institute. Barnes has a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a master's of public administration from the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University. Although originally from New York City, Robin Barnes now calls New Orleans home.

**JAINEY BAVISHI** is the Equity and Inclusion Campaign Director at the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation. She is responsible for coordinating and managing the

development and operations of a regional advocacy campaign to hold the federal government accountable for its promises to address poverty and inequity in the Gulf Coast region.

Bavishi has been involved in recovery and rebuilding efforts in the Gulf Coast since January, 2006. Prior to coming to LDRF, she provided research support to the Gulf Coast Funders for Equity on a project to create a funding collaborative to support effective and trusted community-based groups that lack nonprofit status. She also served as the Field Research Co-Coordinator and Funding Liaison for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Bavishi has also spent considerable time working abroad. She created advocacy materials for a campaign to start daycare centers in communities below the poverty line in Cuttack in Orissa, India, an area that had been struck by a super cyclone in 1999. She has also worked in Cape Town, South Africa and Havana, Cuba.

Bavishi is originally from Charlotte, North Carolina. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy Studies and Cultural Anthropology from Duke University and her Master of City Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**CAROL BEBELLE** (a.k.a. Akua Wambui) is a native New Orleanian and a proud product of the New Orleans Public School System. She is currently the Executive Director of Ashé Cultural Arts Center. Bebelle received her B.A. in sociology from Loyola University and her M.Ed. in education administration from Tulane University. She spent nearly twenty years in the public sector as an administrator and planner of education, social, and health programs. In 1990, she embarked on her path of independence, which started with establishing Master Plan Development Associates (MPDA), a private consulting firm that offered planning, development, and grant-writing services to human service programs and initiatives. Her clients were nonprofits, health, social, education, arts, cultural, religious programs, entrepreneurs, and artists.

Bebelle is a published poet whose work has appeared in several anthologies and journals over the years. In, 1995, she published a volume of her work entitled *In a Manner of Speaking*. Her work also appears in the anthology *From a Bend in the River*, edited by Kalamu Ya Salaam, and *Sisters Together*, edited by Nancy Manson and Debra Gould. In 1998, Carol Bebelle and Douglas Redd founded Ashé Cultural Arts Center, a pivotal strategy and force for the revitalization and transformation of Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard, formerly known as Dryades Street. On this boulevard in Central City, the community has created a vision for a cultural corridor with African and Caribbean culture as the theme. Bebelle and Redd have become active members of the Central City community and the organizations at work to develop that community and its vision.

**KELLIE BENTZ** is Executive Director of Hands On New Orleans. She is a graduate of the College of Charleston with a B.A. in corporate communications and business

administration. Bentz started Hands On New Orleans as a disaster response project of Hands On Network following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Over the past year Hands On New Orleans has become an independent affiliate of Hands On Network and Bentz officially accepted the Executive Director position this past year. She currently serves as the Vice President of the Board of Directors for Louisiana Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster and is a member of the Advisory Council for the New Orleans Kids Partnership.

Prior to coming to New Orleans, Kellie Bentz worked with the Hands On Network national office, working with the Director of AmeriCorps Alums to launch the alumni organization for AmeriCorps. She became the President of the Atlanta Chapter of AmeriCorps Alums while serving on the AmeriCorps Alums national strategic planning committee. Her interest in service was sparked during her term as an AmeriCorps Team Leader for the Hands On Atlanta school-based program. Bentz's background includes business development, event planning, project management, marketing, and strategic planning in both nonprofit and for-profit organizations.

**TERESA BETTIS** is the Executive Director of the Center for Fair Housing and has been with the organization for over nine years. She has over sixteen years of experience working with the public in various capacities. She is an advocate for justice and a community activist, with a desire to speak for those who do not have a voice. She has been involved at various levels in community advocacy, most recently after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. She has worked over the last three years with Alabama communities trying to rebuild following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

She currently serves on the boards of a number of non-profit organizations: Serenity Care, Inc., a recovery program for men; Emma's Harvest Home, Inc., a recovery program for women; and DASH (Dependable, Affordable, Safe, Housing), a non-profit organization for homebuilding and community organizing. She is currently serving on the following committees: Mobile County Katrina Housing, Community Foundation of South Alabama: Regional Housing Initiative for Community Development and Advocacy, Alabama Black Caucus Housing Strategy & Equitable Development, and the Alabama Low Income Housing Coalition Steering Committee.

**XAVIER BISHOP** is mayor of Moss Point, Mississippi. A native Chicagoan, Mayor Bishop graduated from St. Xavier University with a degree in political science. He began his career in the telecommunications industry as a manager with the Bell Telephone System, and later spent twelve years operating his own home remodeling business. Deciding to trade nine months of winter for nine months of summer he moved to Mississippi, the state where his mother was born. Seeking to make his newly adopted home of Moss Point an even better place to live, he ran for public office, becoming the city's twenty-fourth mayor. The mayor and his wife, Jaimee, have a son named Micah.

**GRETCHEN BONFERT** has worked in the natural resources field for 25 years, including seven years as an environmental consultant and 10 years in Illinois state government, where her positions included serving as Assistant to the Governor for Natural Resources. She joined The McKnight Foundation in 2000 and in 2003 became director of its Environment Program. Two-thirds of the program's resources are dedicated to restoring the Mississippi River, working within the 10-state corridor from Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. Restoring coastal Louisiana has been a priority for the river program since its inception in 1991; better river management is the key ingredient for restoration.

**LORNA BOURG** is Cofounder, Executive Director, and President of Southern Mutual Help Association. She holds a B.S. and M.S. in psychology and is a graduate of University of Wisconsin's Extension Service Program: Community Organization, Community Development, Communications and Program Design. Bourg has nearly forty years experience working for economic and environmental justice in Louisiana low-wealth communities and has extensive experience in the housing and construction industry. Bourg serves as an advisor to foundations and public policymakers on issues of housing, economic and human development, and public policy.

Bourg served as Commissioner on the Midsouth Commission to Build Philanthropy; on U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Louisiana Advisory Committee; Cofounder and first President of Sustained Excellence Alliance Corporation (SEACorp); Fannie Mae Foundation Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Senior Executives Program; Fannie Mae Foundation Fellow James A. Johnson Community Development Fellowship, Inaugural Class; Cofounder and currently Treasurer of Southern Mutual Financial Services Inc., a Certified Development Financial Institution. She is also a MacArthur Fellow.

Bourg led Southern Mutual Help's response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita by establishing a Rural Recovery Task Force and Rural Recovery Fund. Under Bourg's leadership, the Southern Mutual Help Association received the Rural LISC Pioneer in Excellence Award, the National Community Reinvestment Coalition National Achievement Award, the Independent Sector Leadership Award, and the Fannie Mae Foundation Sustained Excellence Award.

**CHERYLLYN BRANCHE** is a veteran educator with thirty years serving at both the elementary and secondary school levels. Articulating a direct, positive approach has served her as teacher, counselor, assistant principal and in her present position as school principal at Benjamin Banneker Elementary and Middle School in New Orleans, Louisiana. Branche believes that education is a noble profession requiring an unselfish commitment to all children. As such, she is driven by an unwavering support for the most underserved populations in New Orleans, public school children. Branche is driven to attracting cohesive staffs; building supportive community, business and parental

alliances; and utilizing all available resources to improve the educational conditions within her school community.

Branche currently serves as a Turnaround Specialist for Recovery Schools in New Orleans in partnership with the state of Louisiana and the University of Virginia along with the additional role of mentor principal to new principals in her district. Church, civic, social and educational boards provide balance in her life along with James W. Baker III, her husband.

**KYSHA BROWN ROBINSON**, Executive Director of Central City Renaissance Alliance (CCRA), has participated with the Alliance since its inception. During her tenure as project coordinator of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Making Connections - New Orleans initiative, Robinson supported the Central City Resident Fellows program, a key component of the 18-month community planning process out of which CCRA was borne. After her Making Connections work, Robinson was tapped by the Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations (LANO). She became the first Regional Director for LANO's New Orleans office. In December 2007, Robinson signed on as the first executive director of CCRA.

Robinson is an accomplished poet and a publisher. As a partner in Runagate Press, her work was acknowledged by New Orleans' Times Picayune, which named Runagate's 1999 title, "From a Bend in the River," one of that year's top 10 local titles. Robinson was recognized by Gambit Weekly with its 40 Under 40 Award, recognizing New Orleans' outstanding achievers. She is a graduate of the New Orleans Regional Leadership Institute and a member of the New Orleans Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

**MARCO COCITO-MONOC** came to the Greater New Orleans Foundation (GNOF) in 2007 from Baltimore, where he was President and CEO of the Southeast Community Development Corporation (SECDC), one of the oldest and most respected CDCs in the country. During his tenure at SECDC, Cocito-Monoc increased the organization's housing counseling capacity to meet the needs of the area's rapidly growing Latino population by doubling its staff and creating a subsidiary entity that could serve the entire region. Prior to his stint in Maryland, he was Director of Economic Development for the city of Covington, Louisiana. Before that, Cocito-Monoc did economic and community development work in Hammond and Houma, where he directed the former's Downtown Development District and the latter's Main Street program.

Marco Cocito-Monoc earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in political science from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and his doctorate in history from the University of Cambridge in England, where he was also a research fellow at Magdalene College. As Director of Affiliate Programs at GNOF, he is responsible for focusing the grant-making efforts and increasing the capacity of its newly created community

foundations in St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes. He also facilitates dialogue about economic and community development with partner organizations throughout the region.

**FLOZELL DANIELS Jr.** serves as the President and CEO of the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation (LDRF), “Louisiana’s Fund for Louisiana’s People.” He is responsible for leading the foundation’s progress in its mission to strategically attract and invest resources in Louisiana toward an equitable and inclusive recovery. Prior to this appointment, Daniels led Tulane University’s state and local intergovernmental relations operation. He was directly responsible for recommending and implementing policies that impact Tulane’s interactions with state and local policy-making bodies, such as the state legislature, the Mayor’s Office, the City Council, and the Louisiana Board of Regents, as well as special projects with the private sector and nonprofit community. Prior to his nine-year tenure at Tulane, Flozell spent three years as a policy analyst, grant administrator, and community liaison for the City of New Orleans Division of Federal and State Programs and Office Administration.

Flozell Daniels earned a master’s of business administration from Tulane University’s Freeman School of Business with a concentration in management and special interest in organizational behavior; he received the Levy-Rosenblum Institute for Entrepreneurship Public Service Award upon graduation. He finished his undergraduate degree in biological sciences from the University of New Orleans and was involved in materials science research for more than six years with the USDA Southern Regional Research Center in New Orleans. As an active UNO alumnus, he was awarded the Marcus B. Christian Community Service and Leadership Award. In addition, Daniels has certifications in grantsmanship, project management, audit compliance, and professional contract development/management. Daniels currently serves as chairman of the Urban League Board of Directors and is a director with Associated Catholic Charities of New Orleans. He has also served as a board member of Great Expectations Foundation Inc., serving as chair of the Planning and Evaluation Committee.

A New Orleans native, Flozell Daniels happily resides in the New Orleans area with his wife and their two children.

**BRENDA DARDAR-ROBICHAUX**, Principal Chief, United Houma Nation (UHN), was born October 15, 1958, in the bayou community of Golden Meadow, Louisiana. Her mother and father are Houma who were not allowed to attend public schools and were limited to a seventh-grade education by the policies of segregation in effect at that time. Dardar-Robichaux was the first child in her family to be allowed to attend public school, and she was her family’s first high school graduate. She is the granddaughter of Ernest Dardar, a well-respected tribal leader and spiritual healer (*traiteur*).

Shortly after her graduation from high school in 1976, Dardar-Robichaux began working for the Indian Education and Supportive Services Program of the Lafourche Parish School Board, where she presently serves as Director/Cultural Resource Specialist.

She began serving on the Tribal Council of the United Houma Nation in 1992. In 1997, she was elected Chairwoman of the 16,000-member Nation, and in 2002, she attained the position of Principal Chief of the Houma Nation.

Under her leadership in both Indian education and tribal government, the UHN has enjoyed unparalleled growth, a cultural resurgence, and international recognition. Dardar-Robichaux and the Houma Nation have hosted members of the French senate, French aristocracy, and French naval attachments as well as tribal leaders of many Nations. Dardar-Robichaux was presented a medal by the French government, making her the first Medal Chief of the Houma Nation in more than three hundred years.

Her willingness to confront the injustices against Indian people from the classroom to the state capital is well established, and she has gained a reputation as being an outspoken and dauntless advocate for minority issues.

Dardar-Robichaux is a board member of the Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana and initiated the development of the Louisiana Indian Education Advocacy Committee. She serves on the Board of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation and is an officer and member of numerous other boards and organizations. She is married to Dr. Michael Robichaux and the mother of three children, Josh, Jason, and Felicite.

**PAM DASHIELL** is President of the Holy Cross Neighborhood Association. A resident of the Holy Cross neighborhood in the Lower Ninth Ward, she has worked for years on issues such as opposing the proposed widening of the Industrial Canal and lobbying for hurricane protection and equity for the Holy Cross/Lower Ninth Ward community. Dashiell is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the Holy Cross/Lower Ninth community through working for green and equitable rebuilding, infrastructure upgrade and conservation, and restoration and rehabilitation of the beautiful families and houses in that community. She is working in partnership with many organizations focused on making the Lower Ninth Ward a model of green and sustainable rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina.

**THOMAS DAVIS**, a University of Alabama graduate, completed a commissioned tour of duty in the United States Air Force before returning to Mobile in 1971. He worked as Chief Administrative Officer of First Southern Federal Savings and Loan Association (now Regions Bank) for twelve years. He became the first full-time employee at the Mobile Community Foundation (now the Community Foundation of South Alabama, known as CFSA), initially as the Development Director in 1984, then Executive Director in 1985 and President in 2008.

Community Foundation assets have grown from \$3 million to over \$58 million during the past twenty-three years under the volunteer leadership of the board of directors and Tom Davis. Tom competed and successfully won recognition as one of six community foundations in the country for the Kresge Foundation's Partnership to Build Community

Capital Foundation assets increased by \$10.5 million during three phases over six years. Charitable funds have also increased in number from 60 to over 375 along with significantly increased grant making; CFSA has granted over \$48 million since its beginning. Currently the Ford Foundation is providing a second two-year capacity building grant to continue developing a community economic development (CED) leadership initiative along with a CED grant-making portfolio.

**MICHELLE DEPASS** is a Program Officer in the Community and Resource Development Unit of the Ford Foundation. DePass leads the Foundation's work in the area of Environmental Justice and Healthy Communities. She is a lawyer and policy analyst who has worked with environmental and justice organizations, the academy, labor and city and state government. She received her bachelor of the arts in political science from Tufts University, her law degree from Fordham University School of Law, and a master of public administration from Baruch College School of Public Affairs. She has taught federal environmental law and policy at the City University of New York, developed a job-training program for disadvantaged youth on superfund waste sites, and for five years served as Executive Director of the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance. In this position she assisted communities and community organizations in their negotiations with government agencies, implemented advocacy campaigns and co-organized the Northeast Environmental Justice Network. Subsequently she served as Assistant to the City Manager of San Jose, California, advising on environmental policy matters, and then served as the Environmental Compliance Manager for the San Jose International Airport. DePass is a board member of the Environmental Grantmakers Association, the Center for Constitutional Rights, and *Grist* magazine.

**NORRIS "DARYN" DODSON IV**, born in Washington, DC, graduated from Duke University with a degree in public policy. After witnessing the devastating impact of subprime mortgage lending on his community, Dodson joined the Center for Responsible Lending in 2002, where he organized an effort to stop the repeal of the New Jersey Home Ownership Act, with the goal of saving homeowners over \$200 million per year in unnecessary interest and fees.

Dodson graduated from Stanford Graduate School of Business, where he earned his M.B.A. in 2007. After graduation, he moved to New Orleans and joined the Idea Village, an economic develop organization. He spearheads an initiative that leverages the skills of business school students to accelerate the growth of entrepreneurial ventures. This effort has engaged more than \$1 million professional services and resources from 225 M.B.A. students to date, including those from Harvard, Stanford, MIT, and Tulane. Daryn Dodson currently serves on the board of the Sojourner Truth Charter School.

**Dr. NORMAN FRANCIS** is President of Xavier University of Louisiana. The longest-serving university president in the United States, he has led the nation's only historically black Catholic university since 1968, guiding Xavier University of Louisiana's growth in

both size and dimension. During his tenure, Xavier has more than doubled its enrollment, broadened its curriculum, expanded its physical campus, and strengthened its financial base. The school is nationally recognized for its academic excellence, particularly in the sciences, where it ranks first nationally in the number of African American students earning undergraduate degrees in biological and physical/life sciences. Xavier has the only College of Pharmacy in New Orleans. Xavier is also first in the nation in placing African American students into medical schools. Francis, often cited for his involvement in the community and his work on the national, state, and local levels to improve education, was named among the hundred most effective college and university leaders in a poll of his peers. An advisor to five presidential administrations, he recently served as Chair of Governor Kathleen Blanco's Louisiana Recovery Authority, an agency that oversees the state's recovery efforts in the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which devastated large portions of Louisiana in 2005.

Norman C. Francis earned his B.A. from Xavier in 1952 and a J.D. from Loyola University (New Orleans) in 1955. He is the recipient of thirty-nine honorary degrees.

**NANCY FREEMAN, LCSW**, is the Executive Director of the Institute of Mental Hygiene, a private foundation working toward improved mental health for underserved children and their families. The foundation has two major initiatives: improving the quality of childcare and helping to make comprehensive mental health services available in schools. A clinical social worker by training, Freeman has over thirty years of experience working on behalf of children. She is a member of the Board of Grantmakers for Children Youth and Families. She is a graduate of Boston University's School of Social Work and has advanced training in clinical work with children from the Yale Child Study Center.

**KAREN GADBOIS** is the founder of Squandered Heritage, an organization that has documented and cataloged the demolition of homes after Hurricane Katrina. Her work uncovering the failed demolition policies of the City of New Orleans has resulted in a federal lawsuit against the city for the illegal demolition of private homes. Her work has been featured in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and on CNN with Anderson Cooper. She lives in the Carrollton neighborhood with her husband, the artist Jon Schooler, and their daughter, Ida.

**SALIN GEEVARGHESE** is the Senior Associate for Neighborhood Development at The Annie E. Casey Foundation. Before joining the Foundation, Geevarghese served in the senior management of The Harwood Institute for Public Innovation as Project Manager for its efforts to build relationships between communities and public schools, public agencies and engagement, building catalytic organizations, and led the institutionalization of the Institute's growing community strength work in Flint, MI. He has been a management consultant with TCC Group, co-leading its corporate practice, developing strategies and programs to enhance the effectiveness of nonprofit, foundation

and corporate clients such as the Foundation Center, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Wachovia Foundation, the Prudential Foundation, Habitat for Humanity-NYC, and the National Urban League. He has also served as the Associate Director-Grantmaking for the BellSouth Foundation in Atlanta, as an Associate with the Tennessee law firm Witt, Gaither & Whitaker, P.C., and as a legal consultant with the Oklahoma State University Foundation.

Geevarghese has consulted widely on open records laws, public education issues, civil rights and equity issues, community development, and civic engagement efforts. He has served on numerous nonprofit boards, including presently with L'Arche USA and Parents for Public Schools. Recognized for his leadership by the Casey Fellows Program and the Harry S Truman Scholarship Program, in 1999, he was named one of the 10 most outstanding leaders in Atlanta and, in 2000, was named to the Hull Leadership Program, recognizing the next leaders in philanthropy.

He received a J.D. from the University of Cincinnati College of Law, where he was a Chapin-Thomas Scholar, and his B.S. from the University of Tennessee where he was a William E. Brock Scholar. He, his wife Asha, and son Sanjay live in Columbia, MD.

**LINETTA GILBERT** serves as a Senior Program Officer at the Ford Foundation specializing in programming and grantmaking related to community philanthropy and civic culture in the US and abroad. In this role, she leads the Community Philanthropy, Race and Equity in the American South Initiative, and the US-Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership. She also serves as the key Ford staff for the Foundation's investments in the Gulf Coast region of the US.

Her experience includes over fifteen years of work in Washington, DC helping to shape curricula as well as national credentialing opportunities for staff of early childhood education and human development programs. In New Orleans, Louisiana, Gilbert served as the Director of Social and Tenant Services at the Housing Authority of New Orleans; was a founder of Louisiana's state child advocacy organization, Agenda for Children; and served as Vice President for Programs at the local community foundation where she worked closely with non profits, donors and potential donors developing relationships between those groups and helping them to understand the value of giving in the New Orleans region. Later, she served as a Lead Consultant to the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Neighborhood Transformation "Making Connections" Initiative.

In addition to serving on many other boards, Gilbert is currently on the board of the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation.

**ASHLEIGH GILBERT GARDERE** is Vice President of Community Relations at Chase Bank for southern Louisiana. Gardere is responsible for managing the firm's philanthropic activities and coordinating Chase's community development efforts to support the region's development. Gardere previously served as Director of Policy &

Resource Development, then Chief of Staff for the City of New Orleans' Mayor's Office of Economic Development. Prior to that, she spent 8 years in various strategic planning and policy development roles supporting the work of local and national nonprofit organizations with community development-oriented missions, including Enterprise Corporation of the Delta/HOPE Community Credit Union, Center for Community Change in Washington, DC and F.B. Heron Foundation in New York. A New Orleans native, Gardere earned a bachelor's degree in metropolitan studies from New York University and a master's degree in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

**MONIQUE HARDEN** is the codirector of Advocates for Environmental Human Rights (AEHR), a nonprofit public interest law firm in New Orleans that she cofounded with attorney Nathalie Walker in 2002. Harden provides legal counsel and advocacy support to organized communities and has contributed to important environmental justice victories that have protected people from the damaging health and environmental burdens of industrial pollution. AEHR provides innovative human rights litigation and a broad range of public advocacy to defend the human right to a healthy environment.

On behalf of African American residents in Mossville, Louisiana, Harden and the AEHR legal staff filed the first ever human rights petition seeking reform of the United States environmental regulatory system. The petition was filed with the Organization of American States Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in March 2005. Harden also coordinates international coalitions of community organizations advocating for human rights and environmental justice. Since Hurricane Katrina, Harden has been advocating for the human rights of displaced Gulf Coast residents, which includes the right to return to healthy and safe neighborhoods. Her achievements in environmental justice and human rights have been featured in televised and print news, as well as books, magazines, and documentaries.

**J. MARTEZ HILL** was named Deputy State Superintendent of Education for Mississippi on March 1, 2006. In his current position, Hill provides overall leadership for the department's policy development, support services, and internal operations.

A Georgia native, Hill obtained a Bachelor of the Arts in Political Science from Emory University, in Atlanta, GA (May 1993). He attended Duke University Sanford Institute of Public Policy in Durham, NC, as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow and received a Master of Public Policy (May 1996).

From 1997-2003, Hill served as a Policy Analyst in the Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget. He led a staff that was responsible for developing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the Governor's recommended budgets and policies for the Department of Education, Board of Regents, Professional Standards Commission, Student Finance, and Department of Early Care and Learning. From 2003 to 2006, he served as Policy Director for the Georgia State Department of Education, where he advised Georgia State Superintendent of Schools and State Board of Education on state

and federal policy and budget matters, drafted rules and regulations for adoption by the state board, and developed the department's strategic plan and performance measures for the governor's annual budget report.

As a Mississippi resident, Hill has continued his commitment to community development as an active member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and the youth ministry of his church. He serves as a board member of the following organizations: The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Deputies Leadership Commission Executive Committee, SouthEastern Regional Vision for Education (SERVE)/ Regional Education Laboratory – Southeast, Mississippi Learning Institute (MLI) and the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and Museum.

**ERLIN IBRECK** is the Director of Grantmaking Strategies at the Open Society Institute (OSI), where she has worked since 1996. Before being promoted to this position in 2005 she was the Director of Youth Initiatives for eight years, overseeing a portfolio that included the national Urban Debate Program, the Youth Media Program, and a New York City–focused school reform initiative. In her current position she coordinates and oversees the Strategic Opportunities Fund, a fund set up to respond more rapidly and flexibly to emerging challenges and current opportunities to impact specific open society issues. Funding is directed toward countering policies that threaten open society and democracy, as well as support for the maintenance of independent institutions that are critical to the functioning of an open society. Ibreck also helps develop special projects and initiatives, the most recent of which were OSI's Katrina-related organizational grants as well as the Katrina Media Fellowship.

Prior to OSI, Ibreck was a program officer at the Aaron Diamond Foundation in New York City, working on early childhood and youth development programming. Other positions have included an appointment in the Mayor's Office under Mayor Koch as Deputy Coordinator of the Office of Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting Services, and Deputy Executive Director at the East Harlem Block Schools. She has also worked extensively in the United Kingdom in the criminal and family courts as a court-appointed social worker and guardian *ad litem*.

Erlin Ibreck was born and raised in East Africa. She attended Bristol University in the United Kingdom and came to New York City to attend graduate school at Columbia University's School of Social Work.

**NECOLE IRVIN** joined the Foundation for the Mid South as a Program Officer in the spring of 2005, following five years in Washington, DC where she was the Government Relations Director of an international medical membership association. Her portfolio includes the Foundation's work in the areas of health and wealth.

Necole received her M.P.H. and J.D. degrees from Tulane University, and has a B.A. degree from Emory University. Her legal experience has focused on health, the

environment, and civil rights. She has provided legal staff work in private law practices and policy work on domestic and international human rights. She also served in the U.S. Peace Corps in North Africa.

**DEIRDRE JOHNSON BUREL** is the Director of Programs for the New Orleans Urban League. Her career embodies a fundamental commitment to the premise that education is the greatest tool to create economic equality. A first generation college graduate, she proudly holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley and a Masters of Public Administration from New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.

Her commitment to systemic education reform has been informed by her diverse professional experiences in education and policy. She has worked as a teacher, director of a Summerbridge program, served as a consultant/evaluator to several non-profits, and worked to develop and influence policy as a Policy Analyst as well as Policy and Research Director. She honed her work in education policy in Georgia in the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget and the State Department of Education. In her tenure with the League, she has birthed the Parent Information Center which helps empower parents in navigating school choice. She is currently cultivating a strategic partnership between the Urban League and a California-based non-profit to strengthen high school completion rates in New Orleans. She resides in uptown New Orleans with her husband, Dwight Burel.

**DERRICK JOHNSON** currently serves as State President for the Mississippi State Conference NAACP. Elected in 2004, he is the youngest state president in the country. He earned his J.D. from South Texas College of Law in Houston and a B.A. from Tougaloo College in Jackson, Mississippi. He serves on the boards of the Mississippi ACLU, Hope Community Credit Union, and on the Advisory Council of the Mississippi Economic Policy Center. In February 2008, he was elected to the NAACP National Board of Directors by the Association's board members. Additionally, Johnson was appointed by the Chief Justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court as a Commissioner to the Mississippi Access to Justice Commission.

Derrick Johnson served as a Fellow with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation in Washington, DC, working in the office of Congressman Bennie G. Thompson, and as a Fellow with the George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management Minority Fellowship Program. After completing law school, he joined the staff of Southern Echo Inc., a nonprofit organization located in Jackson, Mississippi. Serving as the Regional Organizer for Southern Echo, Johnson provided legal, technical, and training support for communities in six states across the South (Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Louisiana, Arkansas, and South Carolina). Derrick Johnson is trained in geographic information system management (GIS) and database management. He has provided redistricting services to municipal and county governments across the

state of Mississippi.

In response to the Hurricane Katrina devastation in Mississippi, Derrick Johnson was appointed to serve as Vice Chair of the Governor's Commission for Recovery, Rebuilding, and Renewal. He has become a leading voice for the equitable rebuilding for the working poor in the aftermath of the hurricane. Recently he successfully managed the Jackson Public School District bond referendum campaign that brought \$150 million in renovations and new schools to the Jackson, Mississippi area.

**NSOMBI LAMBRIGHT** is the Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Mississippi. Founded in 1969, this ACLU affiliate opened its Mississippi office to represent civil rights workers who were being jailed, beaten, and killed for participating in demonstrations. Under Lambright's leadership, the Mississippi ACLU carries out a program of public education, legislative activity, and litigation in the areas of voting rights, race and criminal justice, freedom of speech, and religion and reproductive rights.

Since Hurricane Katrina, the ACLU of Mississippi has represented survivors of the storm in criminal and school disciplinary cases. The ACLU also started a project called Access to Government to help Gulf Coast citizens hold local, state, and federal government accountable in building an equitable Gulf Coast. The Mississippi ACLU is also a founding member of the Mississippi Prevention of Schoolhouse to Jailhouse Coalition, working to end the over-incarceration of youth in Mississippi's training schools and to end unfair school policies and practices that criminalize students. One of its main projects involves reforming the state's criminal justice system to fight for more alternatives to incarceration, more rehabilitation services for drug offenses, full restoration of voting rights for people with felony convictions, ending racial profiling as a law enforcement tool, and ending the state's mandatory minimum sentencing law.

**CHRIS LEE** is the Executive Director of the J. L. Bedsole Foundation. He was born in Los Angeles, California, and received an undergraduate degree in business administration from George Washington University. In 1974 he was commissioned in the U.S. Navy and completed navy flight training. He had a twenty-two-year career with the navy and Coast Guard, flying both rotary-wing and fixed-wing aircraft; he also served as Director of Aviation Plans and Programs in Washington, DC.

Following retirement from the Coast Guard in 1994, Lee served in the Dow administration as Executive Director of Administrative Services for the City of Mobile for over eleven years. During this time he was also on the adjunct faculty for the University of South Alabama in the Department of Criminal Justice and Public Administration. Chris Lee holds a master's in management and human relations from Webster University and a master's in public administration from Harvard University.

**ELLEN LEE**, Interim President and CEO, brings vast experience to her role at GNOF. Prior to joining the Foundation, Lee served as Assistant Director of the Disaster Recovery Unit (DRU) within the State of Louisiana’s Office of Community Development. The DRU was responsible for administering over \$13 billion in federal funds following the devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Prior to going to work for the state, Lee served as the Deputy Executive Assistant for Neighborhood Development with the City of New Orleans. She oversaw the administration of \$30 million in federal, state, and local funds to address housing and community development needs in the greater New Orleans area. Lee was directly responsible for planning, development and evaluation of housing and community services for low- and moderate-income residents, the homeless and for people living with HIV/AIDS. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Urban League of Greater New Orleans, New Orleans Outreach, the NOCCA Institute, and the New Orleans Regional Leadership Institute.

Lee earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance and Master of Business Administration, both from the University of New Orleans. Lee is a native New Orleanian and is in the process of rebuilding her home in Gentilly.

**MARCUS LITTLES** has a background in nonprofit and philanthropic management, program and organizational planning, development, and assessment. The majority of his experience has been with community-based and youth development organizations, philanthropic institutions, community development corporations, and youth organizing groups. Littles is the Founder and Chief Executive of Frontline Solutions. Frontline Solutions is a social change consulting agency that helps nonprofits, foundations, community-based organizations, municipalities and corporations “do what they do better.” Their clients have included NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Junior Achievement International, Ford Foundation, Open Society Institute, Philadelphia Foundation, Solutions for Progress and a host of other both well-known and smaller community change organizations.

Previously, Littles worked as a consultant for TCC Group where he led several planning processes for nonprofit and philanthropic organizations, including the Coca Cola Foundation in Atlanta, the Martinsville (Virginia) Subcommittee for Education and Workforce Development, and the Ruth Mott Foundation. Prior to joining TCC, Littles served as a Program Associate in the Ford Foundation’s Community and Resource Development Unit. His primary responsibility was to provide programmatic and analytical support for three community development grantmaking portfolios totaling \$12 million in grants annually. Marcus has authored and contributed to more than twenty publications and articles. Littles holds a master’s degree in Public Administration from the University of Delaware’s School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy. He concentrated his studies in nonprofit management, community-based and youth development. Littles received a B.A. in Public Relations and Marketing from Auburn University.

**Dr. WILLIS LOTT** is the eleventh president of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, a ninety-six year old, multi-campus community college with eight locations serving 37,000 students in both credit and non-credit programs. Dr. Lott led the college in recovery from the nation's worst natural disaster caused by Hurricane Katrina, while also seeking support for the nearly 200 employees whose homes were destroyed or severely damaged. With an enrollment decrease of over 3,000 students in a single day following the hurricane destruction in 2005, Dr. Lott faced the challenge of a crippling budget deficit with a resolve to serve the local community in unprecedented ways and to seek state and federal recovery funds to help ensure the return to a better life for the residents on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Following Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Lott received a special appointment to the Mississippi Governor's Commission for Recovery, Rebuilding and Renewal. With over forty years of service in the educational community, Dr. Lott has been the recipient of the following awards: Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction presented by Phi Theta Kappa; State and National Educational Administrator of the Year; the Community College Alliance 2006 Leadership Award; and Regional Chief Executive Officer Award presented by the Association of Community College Trustees. Currently, he chairs the Federation of State Humanities Councils and the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges. He has served numerous professional organizations in various leadership roles. Dr. Lott, a leader with vision and compassion, faces each day with determination to *make a positive difference in people's lives*.

**Dr. DAVID MAURRASSE** is the President, CEO, and Founder of Marga Incorporated, a consulting firm providing advice and research on strategies to harness resources to address social issues. He has provided technical assistance to numerous organizations and has trained many students that have gone on to leadership positions in philanthropy and social service. Since 2000, Dr. Maurrasse has been on the faculty at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. He is currently an Associate Research Scholar in the School and a Strategic Advisor to the University's Earth Institute Urban Design Lab, which establishes partnerships with New York City community-based organizations to enhance architecture and the environment in the City.

At Columbia, he founded the Center for Innovation in Social Responsibility (CISR) which researched and promoted dialogue on the formation of partnerships involving corporations, higher education, philanthropy, and various other industries. Prior to Columbia University, Dr. Maurrasse was an Assistant Professor at Yale University (1995-2000), and a Senior Program Advisor at the Rockefeller Foundation (1998 -- 2000), where he managed a portfolio on community building and an initiative to further higher education/community partnerships.

A leading author, speaker, and researcher on the relationship between major institutions and their surrounding communities, Dr. Maurrasse's publications are all directed toward advancing new thinking about partnerships. *Listening to Harlem: Gentrification, Community and Business* (2006) explores the opportunities and challenges of urban

development as played out between longtime community residents and newly established businesses in Harlem. Growing out of his earlier work, *A Future for Everyone: Innovative Social Responsibility and Community Partnerships* (2004) examines corporate and institutional pathways for contributing to society. In 2001, Dr. Maurrasse laid the groundwork for his ideas about the role of partnerships in improving society with *Beyond the Campus: How Colleges and Universities form Partnerships with Their Communities*. This work focuses on the ways that institutions of higher learning and their surrounding communities have worked together to pursue common goals.

**Dr. JOE MAY** currently serves as President of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS). The LCTCS governs seven community colleges, two technical community colleges, and one technical college, with a total of fifty campuses across the state. The system provides educational programs and services each semester to approximately 59,500 students on fifty campuses statewide. The CTCS has an operating budget of \$285 million and employs over 4,500 employees.

During his career, Dr. May has provided leadership for successful organizations throughout the United States and abroad. His background includes serving in leadership roles in business organizations and both public and private colleges and universities. His experience ranges from serving as a counselor and a faculty member to his current position. In his role as the Senior Vice President for Best Associates (Higher Ed Holdings LLC), he provided operational leadership for new colleges in Illinois, Massachusetts, Panama, and Colombia, focusing on helping create a new community college system in Colombia. Serving as the System President for the Colorado Community College System, he provided leadership to over 116,000 students enrolled in thirteen colleges throughout the state. Prior to that he served as the president of Pueblo Community College. Before moving to Colorado, Dr. May held positions as the Dean of Instruction and Student Development at Danville (Virginia) Community College and at Vernon (Texas) College and was Dean of Student Services at Navarro (Texas) College and Assistant Professor of Education at Sul Ross State University, also in Texas.

Dr. May earned a doctorate in education at Texas A&M-Commerce and a master of education and bachelor of science from Stephen F. Austin State University, in Nacogdoches, Texas. He and his wife, Jeanne, have been married for thirty-three years; they have two children and one grandchild.

**Dr. HOWARD MIELKE**, a native of St. Paul, Minnesota, is currently a Research Professor in the Department of Chemistry and the Center for Bioenvironmental Research at Tulane University. He earned his undergraduate degree in biology, chemistry, and geography at Macalester College in St. Paul in 1963, then joined the Peace Corps for a teaching program in Malawi, Africa. He received his M.S. in biology and his Ph.D. in geography at the University of Michigan. He began urban geochemistry research in 1971 while teaching at the University of California, Los Angeles, and continued his urban studies at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Macalester College, and the

Center for Regional and Urban Affairs at the University of Minnesota.

Before Katrina and the flooding of New Orleans he was a professor of environmental toxicology at the College of Pharmacy, Xavier University of Louisiana. Dr. Mielke joined the faculty at Xavier University in 1988 and became the Principal Investigator of a multimedia study of metals in urban and rural New Orleans for the Environmental Health and Toxicology Research Program with the Minority Health Professions Foundation/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. In 2004 he became the Principal Investigator of a pilot project for a Housing and Urban Development Lead Technical Study to Xavier University entitled "Re-Cover New Orleans," whereby clean soils were brought into highly contaminated communities of New Orleans to reduce the potential for childhood exposure to lead and other toxins that had accumulated in the soil. After Katrina and the termination of the toxicology program at Xavier University he was invited to join the faculty of Tulane University as a Research Professor. In New Orleans his focus is on issues related to environmental health disparities from the accumulation of metals. As part of his activities he is involved in policy discussions that changed the regulations for house painting in New Orleans. His research has influenced policy for the removal of lead from gasoline and supported revised lead laws in Michigan, Louisiana, Canada, Mexico, Peru, the European Union, and Norway.

Dr. Mielke is a full member of the Society of Toxicology and a member of the board of the Society of Environmental Geochemistry and Health. In addition to his research interests, he is an avid traveler, camper, birder, and sings tenor with the Symphony Chorus of New Orleans. He is married to Tina Covington-Mielke, a teacher at the Charity School of Nursing.

**MARY JO MULLAN** is Vice President, Programs, for the F. B. Heron Foundation. The Heron Foundation supports wealth creation and preservation strategies through grants and investments in low-income communities. She currently serves as co-chair of the Gulf Coast Rebuilding Task Force for the New York Regional Association of Grantmakers. She was a founding steering committee member of the Asset Funders Network. She formerly served as co-chair of the board, member of the executive committee, and chair of the membership services committee for the Neighborhood Funders Group. She was a member of planning committees for several Council on Foundations annual conferences. Mullen was formerly the deputy director of an office of the federal district court charged with monitoring and improving conditions for inmates in New York City's jails. Prior to that she was a program officer for the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation. She holds a J.D. from the New York University School of Law.

**KATE NEVINS** has been the Executive Director at South Eastern Library Network (SOLINET) since 1994. Her previous experience includes positions at Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), the library at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York, and the Christiansted Public Library in the Virgin Islands. Nevins believes that libraries are stronger when they work together, and most of her career has been spent

in developing and supporting library cooperation.

Nevins has an ML.S. from the University of Wisconsin, a B.A. in Scandinavian Languages from the University of California—Berkeley, and an M.B.A. from Ohio University. She has served as President of the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies, the American Library Association division devoted to cooperation and state library programs, and on many library and association committees. This work has furthered her belief in the power of libraries sharing expertise, resources, and ideas.

**PAUL PASTOREK** was appointed Louisiana’s State Superintendent of Education in March 2007 by then-governor Kathleen Blanco. In January 2008, he was reappointed to the position by the board.

Paul Pastorek served on the State Board of Education and Secondary Education from 1996 to 2004, serving as president during his last three years on the board. On his departure from the board, Louisiana was noted as having the best rated statewide accountability program in the United States. After stepping down in 2004, Pastorek formed Next Horizon, a nonprofit organization that serves as a statewide think tank to connect Louisiana's education, government, business, and community leadership as a force supporting school improvement.

Paul Pastorek, an attorney, was licensed by Louisiana to practice in 1979 and joined Adams and Reese, then a New Orleans–based law firm. In February 2002, he was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as General Counsel to NASA. After two and a half years of service, he left NASA to return to Adams and Reese.

Paul Pastorek is married to Kathy Pastorek. They have three grown children, Ryan, Jeffrey, and Kaitlin.

**MICHAEL PIERCE** is a 1991 graduate of Tulane University where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management. While at Tulane, he excelled as a student athlete becoming Tulane’s All Purpose Yardage Leader and Pre-Season Heisman Trophy candidate in 1989 after having graduated from Murphy High School as the All-Time Leading Rusher three years earlier. Pierce went on to join the NFL’s Philadelphia Eagles as a free agent in 1990.

Pierce is Executive Director of the MLK Avenue Redevelopment Corporation (MLKARC). His primary responsibility is to develop and implement a comprehensive community and economic redevelopment program in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue community. Since its inception in 1993, the MLKARC has invested over \$7.7 million and constructed 110 new affordable housing units benefiting more than 300 low to moderate-income Mobilians. The MLKARC also has invested over \$1 million to develop commercial retail space along the MLK corridor. The MLKARC is presently

planning to invest nearly \$6 million to develop a 38,000 square foot retail center that will house a national chain grocer and other ancillary retail stores.

Pierce is also active in civic, community and religious affairs. He is chairman of the Board of Directors at Commonwealth National Bank. He also serves on the board of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, Mobile Touchdown Club, Mobile Arts & Sports Association, Rotary Club of Mobile, and is Chairman of the Under Armour Senior Bowl Hall of Fame Committee. Pierce is also the founding pastor of New Life Ministries.

Pierce is married to his wife, Daphne, and they have two sons, Michael, Jr. and Myles.

**AESHA RASHEED** is the founder and executive director of the New Orleans Parent Organizing Network. For years she has advocated for quality public education in New Orleans, focusing on the need for parent and community involvement in school reform. She created the *New Orleans Parents' Guide to Public Schools* to help parents better navigate public schools and empower themselves to judge school quality and advocate for excellent public schools. Prior to founding the Parent Organizing Network Rasheed was project manager for New Orleans Network, an information-sharing and collaboration hub for grassroots organizations in post-Katrina New Orleans. She spent five years covering public education for the *New Orleans Times Picayune*.

**MARY ROWE** has just completed a three-year association with the Blue Moon Fund, a charitable foundation based in Charlottesville, Virginia, but with long ties to the Gulf Coast region. Rowe's work focused specifically on fostering the diversity of urban responses to change, and the connections that bridge them. Her engagement in New Orleans began in October 2005. Since that time the Blue Moon Fund has invested in over two dozen initiatives, most of which emerged in the period that followed the breaching of the levees; although the initiatives vary in focus they share a common attribute: they are self-organizing and citizen-driven.

Mary Rowe has relocated to New Orleans to support the establishment of the New Orleans Institute for Resilience and Innovation. Prior to joining the Blue Moon Fund she was Director of Toronto-based Ideas that Matter, a convening and publishing program based on the work of Jane Jacobs.

**Dr. NICK SPITZER**, a folklorist, is a professor of communication and American studies at Tulane University, where he began as a Mellon fellow in 2004. He is an adjunct research professor in anthropology and urban studies at University of New Orleans. A Penn graduate, Dr. Spitzer received his Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Texas in 1986. His interests include Gulf Coast ethnography, cultural creolization, American vernacular music/culture, and public cultural policy. Spitzer is creator of *American Routes*, the weekly two-hour radio program devoted to vernacular music and culture, co-produced with Tulane and distributed by American Public Media. He has been

a commentator/producer for NPR's *All Things Considered* and *Fresh Air*, PBS's *Great Performances*, CBS' *Sunday Morning*, and ABC's *Nightline* and *Evening News w Peter Jennings*. Spitzer directed the film *Zydeco: Creole Music and Culture in Rural Louisiana* (1986), and has produced or annotated two dozen documentary recordings. He served as founding director of the Louisiana Folklife Program, and edited *Louisiana Folklife: A Guide to the State* (1985), and *Mississippi Delta Ethnographic Overview* (1979) for the National Park Service. Spitzer helped create the Folklife Pavilion at the 1984 World's Fair where he curated *The Creole State: An Exhibition of Louisiana Folklife* (1984-2004). He became senior folklife specialist at the Smithsonian (1985-1990) and artistic director of the *Folk Masters* concert/broadcasts from Carnegie Hall and Wolf Trap (1990-97) and the *Independence Day* concerts broadcast from the National Mall (1992-2001). In 2002 Spitzer lead a curatorial team for *'Raised to the Trade': Creole Building Arts of New Orleans* at New Orleans Museum of Art. He is co-editor of *Public Folklore* (1992, 2007) and co-author of *Blues for New Orleans: Mardi Gras and America's Creole Soul* (2006). A resident scholar at the School of American Research in Santa Fe and a Fellow of the American Folklore Society, Spitzer received the Benjamin Botkin Award in Public Folklore, an ASCAP-Deems Taylor Award for *American Routes*, and was named Louisiana Humanist of the Year in 2006 for cultural recovery efforts after the catastrophe. In 2007 Dr. Spitzer was a Guggenheim fellow working on traditional creativity in Louisiana Creole communities.

**PAM STEVENS** moved to New Orleans in early 2007 after more than fourteen years as a national grant maker in the youth development and education fields. Now as a senior consultant to national foundations such as the W. K. Kellogg, Kresge, and Wallace Foundations, as well as with New Orleans nonprofits, her focus is building healthy communities for families and youth. Stevens is the former Executive Director of Philanthropic Programs at Time Warner Inc. in New York, where she led the company's giving to after-school programs, youth media, and education. She previously worked for the Wallace Foundation and the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation in New York. Stevens was a board member of Grantmakers for Children, Youth and Families, the Partnership for Active Civic Engagement, and Corporate Voices for Working Families. She started her career as a social worker in Louisiana and Texas and has an M.S.W. from the University of Texas at Austin.

**VANNARITH "VANN" SUON** has served as the Vice President of the Cambodian-American Community for the last three years. In Hurricane Katrina's aftermath, the Cambodian community started a nonprofit organization to aid and assist Cambodians and American of Cambodian descent in times of disaster; to assist Cambodians in the process of integrating into a new culture and society in the United States; and to create opportunities for Cambodians and Americans of Cambodian descent to become more informed and educated. The nonprofit is organized to promote and maintain Cambodian culture through charitable, educational, religious, athletic, and historical activities.

**Rev. SAMUEL TOLBERT Jr.** has served as Pastor of the Greater Saint Mary Missionary Baptist Church since 1984. During his tenure the church has developed a wide array of holistic ministries to impact individuals, families, and communities. A graduate of Bishop College in Dallas, Texas, Rev. Tolbert also serves as General Secretary of the National Baptist Convention of America.

On August 18, 2005, he became President of the Louisiana Home and Foreign Mission Baptist State Convention Inc. (LHFMBSC). In that role he has led the Convention in collaborative efforts in response to both the devastations of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and to the human missteps in their, aftermath beginning days after Katrina's landfall. He continues to provide oversight of programs designed to provide pastoral care ministries, social service support, mental health counseling, child development services, and sustainable community redevelopment for survivors of the hurricanes.

Rev. Tolbert served as Commissioner for the Lake Charles Housing Authority from 1989 to 1993. He was elected to three four-year terms as a city council member for the City of Lake Charles, Louisiana, led the city to spend approximately \$25 million in infrastructure improvements within District A, and served as a member of the Board of Imperial Calcasieu Regional Planning and Development Commission (IMCAL).

**CARLTON TURNER** is the Regional Development Director for Alternate ROOTS, a regional arts membership organization based in the Southeast. Turner has been a member of Alternate ROOTS since 2001 and has served as the Louisiana/Mississippi representative for one year. He is currently working as the project director for UPROOTED: The Katrina Project. This project seeks to raise the voices of Katrina's survivors and connect them with all of America's marginalized citizenry. It is designed to be a catalyst for self-determined change in the Gulf Coast region and throughout the country.

Carlton Turner is also artistic director and cofounder, along with his brother Maurice Turner, of the performing group M.U.G.A.B.E.E. (Men Under Guidance Acting Before Early Extinction), a group composed of two brothers performing a blend of jazz, hip-hop, spoken word poetry, and soul music. M.U.G.A.B.E.E. has released two albums, *Earth Tones* (2002) and *World Domination* (2006). The group is currently touring a new play, *Batteries in the Killing Machine*, and is working on several new works, including a collaboration with Mondo Bizarro to create a two-year performance project on issues of race and racism in the United States. This work will premiere in the winter of 2009. Carlton Turner is on the board of the Network of Ensemble Theaters and on the planning committee for the Association of Performing Arts Presenters annual conference.

**Dr. LINDA USDIN** is the president of swamplily LLC. Dr. Usdin's work has focused on neighborhood development and community change. She has worked extensively in the neighborhoods of New Orleans, where she was born and raised, and throughout the Gulf Coast.

During the last ten years, Dr. Usdin has worked for local and national foundations as a program development and evaluation consultant. Most recently she has worked with the Ford Foundation, the Open Society Institute, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, and the Greater New Orleans Foundation. In addition, she has taught courses for the South Central Public Health Leadership Institute, the Centers for Disease Control, and Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, and has facilitated planning processes for groups such as the National Network of Public Health Institutes, the Louisiana Public Health Institute, and Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, New York.

Dr. Usdin graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. from Duke University, and has a master's degree in public health from the University of California at Berkeley and a Dr.PH. from the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. The focus of her academic work has been on the planning and evaluation of community development and change initiatives. In 2008, she wrote a monograph for The Alliance for Justice on foundations and advocacy.

**Rev. JOHN VAUGHN** currently serves as the program director for the Twenty-First Century Foundation (21CF) based in Harlem, New York City. The foundation's mission is to promote strategic black philanthropy, and it supports social justice work within the black community throughout the United States. Vaughn is responsible for overseeing the development, implementation, and evaluation of 21CF's grant-making and overall program work. Currently, he is providing leadership for two of the foundation's special initiatives—Black Men and Boys and the Hurricane Katrina Recovery Fund.

Before coming to 21CF, Rev. Vaughn served as the Executive Director of the Peace Development Fund (PDF). Located in Amherst, Massachusetts, PDF provides funding, training, and technical assistance for grassroots peace and justice organizing. In addition to general support grants for organizing, PDF provides integrated multiyear funding, training, and technical assistance in the areas of environmental justice, particularly those affected by different parts of the nuclear and chemical weapons cycle, criminal justice, and cross-border (U.S./Mexico) organizing.

From 1996 to 2000, Rev. Vaughn served as the Minister for Education and Social Justice at the Riverside Church in New York City. His responsibilities included overseeing the church's ministries with children, youth, young adults, adult education, social justice, social services, and small grants.

Rev. Vaughn has also served as the Director for Community Development at the Community Training and Assistance Center (CTAC) in Boston, the Executive Director of East Harlem Interfaith in New York City, the Action Assistant at the Riverside Church in New York City, and the Assistant Minister at the Hamilton United Methodist Church in San Francisco.

He received his undergraduate degree from Holy Cross College in Worcester, Massachusetts, and his master of divinity from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California. John Vaughn is an ordained minister within the American Baptist Churches. He is married to Rev. P. Kimberleigh Jordan, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. They are the proud parents of two sons, James Waverly and Caleb Brower.

**ALANDRA WASHINGTON** is a program director in philanthropy and volunteerism at the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. She is responsible for the conceptualization, design, planning, and management of a range of programs and activities related to the Foundation's efforts to unleash new resources for philanthropy and volunteerism. Her duties include seeking, developing, recommending, and administering a variety of projects and programs that fall within the Kellogg Foundation's goals and objectives.

Prior to joining the Kellogg Foundation in May 2002, Washington was chief executive officer of the Greater East St. Louis Community Fund (1997–2002). Earlier, she was executive director and community organizer for the New Spirit Organizing Office (East St. Louis, Illinois) (1994–1997); and facilitator/job counselor with Career Works Inc. (St. Louis, Missouri) (1993–1994).

Washington earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in public policy and administration from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, and she was a doctoral candidate at St. Louis University, where she studied organizational theory and development.

In addition, she has served as a director of the Metropolitan Association of Philanthropy, cochair of the St. Louis Nonprofit Services Consortium, and as a member of the East St. Louis Enterprise Zone Community Development Committee. She also has been involved with the East St. Louis Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

**MIA CHARLENE WHITE** has worked in social justice philanthropy for ten years, including at the Ford Foundation, the Robin Hood Foundation and the Ms. Foundation for Women. She brings national experience and local sensibilities to her consulting practice with funders and non-profits, with strong race and gender analysis. In addition to consulting, Mia is pursuing a doctorate in Urban Studies and Community Development from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she is currently a Presidential Fellow. Mia resides in Cambridge, MA with her husband and two children.

**REV. KEVIN WILDES** is the sixteenth president of Loyola University New Orleans. A member of the Department of Philosophy at Loyola, Wildes teaches undergraduate students each year. He holds advanced degrees in theology and in philosophy, and specializes in the field of bioethics. A published author and distinguished lecturer, Father Wildes serves as associate editor to a number of ethics and medicine journals and book

series and is a founding editor of the *Journal of Christian Bioethics*. Before he was named president at Loyola, Father Wildes was a member of the Department of Philosophy and a Senior Research Scholar in the Kennedy Institute of Ethics at Georgetown University.

An active member of the Greater New Orleans community, Father Wildes chairs the city's Ethics Review Board and was instrumental in appointing its first Inspector General. He also is a member of the New Orleans Business Council and serves on the national Board of Directors of Friends of New Orleans.

**CLAYTON WILLIAMS** is Director of the Health Systems Division at the Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI) in New Orleans. His career in health began in the emergency medical system of Chicago, followed by several years as director of programs at a community clinic on Chicago's West Side. Williams moved to New Orleans to pursue graduate studies at Tulane University in 1998, and with the exception of a one-year research fellowship with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, he has been in New Orleans ever since.

Clayton Williams holds a B.A. from Northwestern University and an M.P.H. from Tulane University's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. He is an alumnus of the National Public Health Leadership Institute and is currently a doctoral student at Tulane University in Health Systems Management. He serves as a technical advisor to Louisiana's Department of Health and Hospitals for Medicaid Reform and as a member of the Medical Home Committee of the Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum. He lives in the Uptown neighborhood of New Orleans with his wife, Amy, and two children.

**KATE WOLFORD** became president of The McKnight Foundation in December 2006. Prior to joining McKnight she spent 13 years as president of Lutheran World Relief, positioning LWR as a leader in sustainable rural livelihoods, fair trade, and advocacy on global development issues. Prior to LWR, Wolford worked extensively in Latin America and the Caribbean. Wolford chaired InterAction, a consortium of over 150 relief and development organizations, and Action by Churches Together, a global humanitarian aid alliance. She has M.A. in public policy from the University of Chicago, and an M.A. from the Divinity School of the University of Chicago.

**MICHAEL ZIEMAN** has served for the past thirty years in progressively responsible positions within the hospital industry. He is currently director of behavioral health services of a 445-bed medical/surgical facility and Administrator of Memorial Behavioral Health. For three months after Hurricane Katrina, his was the only psychiatric hospital left providing services in Harrison and Hancock counties in Mississippi.

Zieman is committed to a philosophy of customer service to patients, physicians, and employees and has a broad background in administration, planning and development,

construction, and implementation of hospital systems. All the hospitals he has managed have received three-year accreditation status with JCAHO and have excellent track records with CMS for Medicare Standards compliance. He has served on the Board of Governors of the Federation of American Hospitals and on the National Association of Private Psychiatric Hospitals Board of Trustees. He has been active in the national legislative arena, testifying before the United States Senate Armed Forces Committee on Manpower and Personnel.