

Participant Biographies

McCormick Foundation

**McCormick Ethnic Media
Conference: Strategies for Growing
the Sector**

June 20-21, 2008



ANTHONY ADVINCULA

Anthony D. Advincula is a New York-based editor and writer for New America Media, the first and largest association of ethnic and community media in the country. Prior to NAM, he was the communication director and managing editor for the Independent Press Association-New York, where he managed and executed press conferences, editorial training and membership outreach, as well as co-edited *Voices That Must Be Heard*, IPA's online publication. From 2001 to 2005, Advincula was the editor-in-chief of *The Filipino Express*, an English-language national weekly, and a correspondent for the *Jersey Journal*. He also won several journalism awards for his investigative and in-depth reporting on education, housing, labor and immigration issues. In 2003, he was a fellow of the *New York Times* and IPA's Ethnic Press Fellowship. He attended the University of the Philippines, Harvard University, and Columbia University, where he was last year's recipient of the Charles H. Revson Fellowship.

CRISTINA AZOCAR

Dr. Cristina L. Azocar is a member of the Upper Mattaponi Tribe. She is the director of the Center for Integration and Improvement of Journalism (CIJ) and an assistant professor of journalism at San Francisco State University where she teaches classes on diversity in journalism. Azocar earned her doctorate in Communication Studies at the University of Michigan in 2001.

Her research and teaching focuses on portrayals of people of color in the news. She received her master's degree in Ethnic Studies and her bachelor's degree in Journalism from San Francisco State University. Dr. Azocar's interest in diversity in the news media spans almost fifteen years, and began with her concern about negative representations of Native Americans. She has conducted more than 100 presentations, workshops, talks and panels on the intersection of diversity and journalistic practice and has published in academic and professional journals. Dr. Azocar served as secretary and treasurer and now as president of Native American Journalists Association, the California Society of Newspaper Editors on the ex-officio journalism education seat, the Grade the News citizens' advisory board, the Sequoyah Research Center's American Native Press Archives and the Women's Media Center. She also serves on the Task force for Diversity for the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication and on the executive board of the Multicultural Research Division of the Broadcast Education Association. In 2005 she received the Distinguished Service to Journalism Education from the Journalism Association of Community Colleges and was honored as a Local Hero by KQED for Native American Heritage Month.

Azocar is on the scholarship selection committees for Univision, the Native American Journalists Association and the Journalism Association of Community Colleges. In 2005 she was a National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Emmy judge for the Community Service award. Currently, Dr. Azocar is interested in implementing programs and conducting research centered on journalism education in order to achieve greater diversity in the nation's newsrooms. Azocar coined the term the *4 R's of the journalism pipeline* to define the focus journalism education: Recruitment, Retention, Revitalization and Research.

LUIS BOTELLO

Luis Botello is a Senior Program Director at the International Center for Journalists. He is responsible for the identification, implementation and development of all ICFJ projects for Latin America and the Caribbean and of Monitor and Evaluation. He also conducts a variety of training programs and conferences. Botello previously served as morning newscast producer, host and television reporter for Televisora Nacional in Panama, where he covered assignments in Colombia, the United States and Europe. He is a member of the board of directors of the Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas at the University of Texas at Austin and the Latin American Journalism Center (CELAP) in Panama City, Panama. He received a Fulbright Scholarship in 1988 and a fellowship to Louisiana State University's Manship School of Mass Communication in 1997. He has a B.A. in journalism and a master's in mass communications from Louisiana State University. He is a native Spanish-speaker, fluent in English and proficient in Portuguese.

THOM CLARK

Thom Clark is co-founder and president of the Community Media Workshop. Since 1989 the non-profit Workshop has trained thousands of organizations in communications strategy and how to use media more effectively. The Workshop operates an extensive website for journalists and community activists www.newstips.org, and annually hosts the Midwest's premiere Making Media Connections conference. It publishes a comprehensive media guide, **Getting On The Air, Online & Into Print: A Citizen's Guide to Chicago-Area Media & Beyond**; a Newstips sheet for Chicago-area reporters, editors and producers; and news blog aggregator for www.npcommunicator.org. He teaches in the graduate journalism program at Columbia College Chicago, where the Workshop is housed, and is producer and host of the weekly *Community, Media & You* on Chicago's CAN TV cable channel 21. For fifteen years, he has been a rotating host on WNUA-FM's weekly *City Voices*. He has also served as chair of WTTW public television's Community Advisory Board, the Progressive Communicators Network leadership committee, NPO Assists executive directors group, and as a consultant to the Benton Foundation.

Clark has worked for over 30 years in Chicago's nonprofit sector. He was development director for Voice of the People in the Uptown neighborhood during its 1970s transition from a tenant advocacy group to a housing development and management corporation. He was a co-founder and the first executive director of the Chicago Rehab Network and served for six years as the editor of an award-winning monthly, *The Neighborhood Works*, published by the Center for Neighborhood Technology. For six years, he operated a free-lance photography and newsletter business that served over two-dozen nonprofit clients. He is a member of the Society of Professional Journalists/Chicago Headline Club, the Publicity Club of Chicago, the Black Public Relations Society, the Illinois Education Association, United for Peace, and the St. Nicholas Church Peace & Justice Committee.

SANDY CLOSE

Sandy Close is executive director of the Bay Area Institute/Pacific News Service. After graduating from UC Berkeley in 1964, Sandy moved to Hong Kong and worked as the China editor for the *Far Eastern Economic Review*. Back in the U.S., she founded the *Flatlands* newspaper, a raw voice of the inner city communities of Oakland, California. In 1974, she became executive director of the Bay Area Institute/Pacific News Service, helping to develop it into one of the most diverse sources of literary voices and analytical ideas in the U.S. news media. In 1991 she founded YO! (Youth Outlook), a collaboration between writers and young people, and in 1996

she cofounded "The Beat Within," a weekly newsletter of writing and art by incarcerated youth. In 1996 she also founded New California Media, a network of over 75 ethnic news organizations collaborating to produce a weekly TV show, an awards program, and an inter-ethnic media exchange and website. In 1995, Sandy received a MacArthur Foundation "genius award" for her work in communications. In 1997 a film she co-produced- "Breathing Lessons: The Life and Work of Mark O'Brien"- won the Academy Award for best short documentary.

NANCY DAY

Nancy Day is chair of the Journalism Department at Columbia College Chicago, the largest arts and media college in the world. In her nearly five years as chair, the enrollment has grown to more than 700 undergraduate and 40 graduate students from culturally and economically diverse backgrounds. Two 2008 graduates were honored with the only national student award in any medium by Investigative Reporters and Editors earlier this month in Miami. Day also supervises two grant-based projects, Columbia Links for Chicago Public School teachers and students(funded by the McCormick Foundation) and Chicago Talks, an online urban news service. (www.columbialinks.org; www.chicagotalks.org)

Day is a former reporter and/or editor for the Associated Press in San Francisco and Los Angeles; the Chicago Sun-Times, the San Francisco Examiner and other newspapers. Her freelance work has been published in the Los Angeles Times, the Boston Globe and numerous magazines, including People, Family Circle, Stanford, Harvard, Lawyers Monthly and Nieman Reports. She was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard and a Fulbright Fellow in Russia. Before her move to Chicago, she was an associate professor of journalism at Boston University.

JON FUNABIKI

Jon Funabiki is a Professor of Journalism at San Francisco State University. He is the founding director of the university's Center for Integration and Improvement of Journalism, which developed model programs to improve news media coverage of ethnic minority communities and issues. He joined the university after an 11-year career with the Ford Foundation, one of the world's leading philanthropic institutions, where he was Deputy Director of the Media, Arts & Culture (MAC) Unit and was responsible for the Foundation's multimillion-dollar grantmaking strategies on news media issues.

He is a former reporter and editor with *The San Diego Union*, where he specialized in U.S.-Asia political and economic affairs. Reporting from Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan, the Philippines and throughout the U.S., he covered news stories and developed in-depth series on Asia's emerging democratic movements, economic giants and social trends.

A graduate of San Francisco State University, Funabiki was awarded the John S. Knight Professional Journalism Fellowship at Stanford University, the Jefferson Fellowship at the East-West Center of Honolulu, a National Endowment for the Humanities Professional Summer Fellowship at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and was a visiting scholar at the Center on Politics and Public Service at the University of California, Berkeley.

Funabiki serves on the boards of the Center for Investigative Reporting, the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and the Insight Center for Community Economic Development.

FRANK HERRON

Frank Herron oversees the journalistic work of the New England Ethnic Newswire (www.ethnicnewz.org). He teaches in the political science and communication studies departments at University of Massachusetts Boston. In addition, he is director of the university's Center on Media and Society. He has a master's degree in media studies from Syracuse University and a bachelor's degree in history from Cornell University. He worked as an editor and staff writer for more than 18 years at The Post-Standard newspaper in Syracuse, N.Y., and taught news writing as an adjunct instructor at Syracuse University's Newhouse School of Public Communications for 13 years.

MARK HORVIT

Mark Horvit is the executive director for Investigative Reporters and Editors, a professional organization of journalists headquartered at the University of Missouri Journalism School. He came to Missouri from the Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram, where he was the projects editor. An investigative reporter and editor, Horvit previously has worked at the Panama City (Fla.) News Herald, the Corpus Christi (Texas) Caller-Times, The Houston Post, the Columbia (Mo.) Daily Tribune and The Charlotte (N.C.) Observer. As IRE's executive director, Horvit supervises 12 full-time staff members; runs IRE's renowned professional programs, publications and Web site; and oversees the \$1.4 million budget, fund-raising campaigns and the more than \$3 million endowment fund.

BRANT HOUSTON

Brant Houston is the Knight Chair in Investigative & Enterprise Reporting at the University of Illinois. At Illinois Houston teaches investigative journalism and advanced reporting and works on programs for mid-career journalists, with a special interest in international and ethnic media. He took his post after serving more than a decade as the Executive Director of Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE), at the Missouri School of Journalism, where he also was a professor. He has taught investigative and computer-assisted reporting to both students and working journalists in more than a dozen countries. Before coming to Missouri and IRE, he was an award-winning investigative reporter for 17 years at several newspapers including The Hartford Courant and the Kansas City Star. He is a co-author of "The Investigative Reporter's Handbook" and author of three editions of "Computer-Assisted Reporting: A Practical Guide."

SALLIE HUGHES

Sallie Hughes is an Associate Professor in the Journalism Program of the School of Communication, University of Miami. She received her PhD in Latin American Studies from Tulane University in December 2001 after working for a decade in U.S. mainstream, U.S. bilingual, and Mexican newspapers. She is the author of *Newsrooms in Conflict: Journalism and the Democratization of Mexico* (Latin American Series, University of Pittsburgh Press, 2006) and a co-author of the work in progress *Miami: Transnational Living in a Global City*, under contract from The Latino Studies Series of Lynne Rienner Publishers.

JEREMY IGGERS

Jeremy Iggers (jeremy@tcmediaalliance.org) recently ended a 20+ year career with the Minneapolis Star Tribune to become executive director of the Twin Cities Media Alliance, the non-profit organization that publishes the Twin Cities Daily Planet (www.tcdailyplanet.net), a local news website that combines original reporting by citizen journalists with the best of the neighborhood and community press. TCMA also offers citizen journalism classes and media skills workshops, and holds public forums on media issues. Iggers has a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Minnesota (1993); his doctoral thesis on the ethics of journalism was published as *Good News, Bad News: Journalism Ethics and the Public Interest* (Westview Press, 1998).

RALPH IZARD

BROOKE LIU

Dr. Brooke Liu's research examines how government organizations manage communication during crisis and non-crisis situations. Her research has been published in the *Journal of Public Relations Research*, *Public Relations Review*, and *Natural Hazards Review*. She also is the author of the book *Playing Politics: Why the U.S. Government Inadequately Communicates Spanish-language Disaster Information*. Liu teaches courses in public relations, government communication, and crisis communication. Prior to joining the College of Communication in 2007, she was an assistant professor of public communication at American University. Liu holds a Ph.D. in mass communication from the University of North Carolina, a master's in journalism from the University of Missouri, and a bachelor's in Spanish and anthropology from Washington University. She is an active public affairs volunteer for the American Red Cross.

GORDON MAYER

Gordon Mayer is Vice President of the Community Media Workshop. He has worked as a writer and reporter, communications consultant and director and has managed nonprofit agencies' programs. Since starting at Community Media Workshop in 2005, Gordon has increased custom workshop collaborations and helped to broaden the Workshop's scope from the Chicago area to a more regional focus. His training and coaching of nonprofits on communications-related issues have produced headlines on NBC Nightly News and in *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *USA Today* as well as coverage on-line and in trade papers and local and regional media. He speaks French and is studying Spanish, and maintains CMW's blog, *The Nonprofit Communicator*, at www.communitymediaworkshop.org/npcommunicator.

VICTOR MERINA

Victor Merina is a Senior Fellow at the University of Southern California Annenberg Institute for Justice and Journalism and special projects editor for ReZnet News, a Web site that reports on Native American issues and indigenous people. A former investigative reporter at the *Los Angeles Times*, Merina was a member of the paper's special projects team that was a 1997 Pulitzer Prize finalist for a week-long series on homicides in Los Angeles County. He has organized and led writing workshops from South Dakota to South Africa and was a keynote speaker at this year's Global Inter-media Dialogues in Bali, Indonesia. Merina was a Fellow at The Poynter Institute for Media Studies and the Freedom Forum Media Studies Center and a

Teaching Fellow at the University of California Graduate School of Journalism. He also created a course on “Reporting Across Cultures, Writing About Differences” for the Poynter Institute’s online learning program, News University.

STEVE MONTIEL

Steve Montiel is director of the Institute for Justice and Journalism, established with Ford Foundation funding at the University of Southern California’s Annenberg School for Communication in 2000 to strengthen news coverage and commentary about justice issues. He began his journalistic career in 1967 at The Arizona Daily Star, and later worked at The Associated Press in Salt Lake City, Los Angeles and San Francisco, the Vietnam Bureau of Pacific Stars and Stripes and Los Angeles Times. A co-founder of the Robert C. Maynard Institute for Journalism Education, created in 1977 to increase racial and cultural diversity in news media, he served as the institute's president for 12 years beginning in 1988. He was deputy press secretary for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games, campaign press secretary for Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley in his successful 1985 re-election race and Vice President for Communications of the Amateur Athletic Foundation (recently renamed the LA84 Foundation), created with surplus funds from the 1984 Games.

HAYG OSHAGAN

Hayg Oshagan was born in Beirut, Lebanon and immigrated to the United States with his parents and family in 1975. He attended the University of Pennsylvania for his BA, and received his doctorate in Mass Communication from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He has taught at Stanford University, at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and is currently an associate professor in the Communication Department at Wayne State University in Detroit, where he is also Director of Media Arts and Studies.

Hayg Oshagan’s research is on the effects of the mass media. His many articles explore the ways in which the media influence perceptions and frame debates. He has published widely in communication journals and also in political science and psychology journals. His current work is on media representations of minorities, on issues of social diversity and on the role of ethnic media in society. He lives in Michigan, is very active in Armenian community affairs, is editor of the [Armenian Review](#), is a member of the Board of Directors of AEJMC, and is also chair of the Commission on the Status of Minorities at AEJMC.

TERRY PASTIKA

Terry Pastika joined the Citizen Advocacy Center (Center) as a community lawyer in 1999 and became the Center’s executive director in 2001. Founded in 1994, the mission of the Center is to build democracy for the 21st Century by increasing the citizenry's capacities, resources, and institutions for self-governance. Ms. Pastika educates and trains individuals, community groups, journalists and public officials in how to use open government laws and organizing strategies to successfully resolve issues of public concern and to ensure public access to government. Ms. Pastika has worked with more than 100 community groups throughout the Chicagoland area and regularly speaks at conferences and law schools in the areas of municipal law, election law, and the First Amendment.

Ms. Pastika was part of the team of Center community lawyers that received an award for “Most Innovative Advocacy” in the Chicagoland region and has been a guest speaker at the John F. Kennedy School of Politics at Harvard University. Ms. Pastika has also been a recipient of OMB Watch's Public Interest Rising Star Award for her work to increase citizen participation and for leading a new generation in the pursuit of social justice. Ms. Pastika has published four articles in the DuPage County Bar Brief on issues related to the Freedom of Information Act, the Open Meetings Act, and DuPage County Procurement Processes. Ms. Pastika was graduated from Marquette University in 1992 and Creighton University School of Law in 1997. She is a member of the California, Nebraska and Illinois Bar.

SUSAN PHILLIBER

Dr. Susan Philliber has more than 30 years of experience in evaluating programs of various kinds. Along with her husband and partner, William Philliber, she founded Philliber Research Associates more than 20 years ago after a career in academe and appointments at Florida State University, the University of Utah, the University of Cincinnati and Columbia University. Dr. Philliber holds a Ph.D in sociology and has evaluated programs for the McCormick Foundation for some 10 years. She also evaluates journalism programs for the Knight Foundation. Dr. Philliber directs an organization of some 35 employees, located in various cities in the United States.

JUANA PONCE DE LEON

A former IPA Ethnic Journalist Fellow, Juana Ponce de Leon was founding editor-in-chief of Siete Cuentos Editorial, the Spanish-language imprint at the independent NY publishing house Seven Stories Press, where she launched the series *Esta en tus manos*, to bring important information to Latino immigrants in partnership with *El Diario La Prensa*, the largest Spanish-language newspaper in New York City. At Siete Cuentos, she published *Nuestros Cuerpos, Nuestras Vidas*, the Spanish-language edition of the seminal feminist health book, *Our Bodies, Ourselves*, written up in the latest *Nation* magazine. She served on the New York State Council on the Arts Literature Panel (2000-2003). Previously, she was the founding editor of *LS*, the literary supplement for New Mass Media newspapers, a small chain of independent newspapers in Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York, which reached 2.3 million readers. She edited several literary collections, including *Our Word is Our Weapon -- Selected Writings of Subcomandante Marcos*, and *Dream With No Name -- Contemporary Cuban Fiction*. She also co-edited an anthology of community testimonies entitled *In Search of Common Unity* for Friends of United Nations. In April 2007, she received a Certificate of Recognition from Mayor Michael Bloomberg for outstanding contributions to improving the lives of immigrant New Yorkers. NYCMA was also the recipient of a certificate of recognition from the Municipal Art Society of New York in 2006. *Voices That Must Be Heard* received the UTNE Journalism Award for Best Online Political Coverage for 2006.

SILVIA RIVERA

PETER SCHEER

Since June 2004 Peter Scheer, a lawyer and journalist, has been Executive Director of the California First Amendment Coalition, a nonprofit public interest organization dedicated to

advancing freedom of speech, more open and accountable government, and public participation in civic affairs. (<http://www.cfac.org>).

The Coalition's activities include strategic litigation to enhance First Amendment rights, free legal consultations and educational programs for ethnic media, bloggers, journalists, and others, legislative oversight of bills affecting access to government and free speech, and public advocacy through writings and talks.

Recently, the Coalition was instrumental in organizing the legal defense of wikileaks.org, an innovative whistleblower website that was silenced by a federal judge's order in early 2008. Also this year, the Coalition launched a novel initiative to challenge China's censorship of the internet as a violation of treaties enforced by the World Trade Organization. And the Coalition is the lead plaintiff in a closely-watched test case concerning public access to government databases.

Scheer received his JD degree from Harvard Law School, where he was a member of the Harvard Law Review. He practiced law in Washington, DC, both in the U.S. Justice Department and in private practice. A partner in the Washington, DC firm of Onek, Klein & Farr and general counsel to the National Security Archive, Scheer has argued cases in most of the federal courts of appeal and in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Scheer was editor and publisher of The Recorder, a daily legal newspaper in San Francisco, publisher of Legal Times, a Washington, DC-based weekly on law and lobbying, and CEO of callaw.com and law.com. He has received both the Eugene S. Pulliam and James Madison awards for First Amendment advocacy. Scheer's articles on First Amendment and other legal and political issues have appeared in numerous publications, both print and online.

MIKE SMITH

Mike Smith is executive director of the Media Management Center at Northwestern University.

The Center conducts executive education for newspapers, television, magazines, business-to-business, advertising, cable and Internet-based companies. In addition through the auspices of its Readership Institute, the Center conducts research into the information needs of media consumers.

Smith is also a professor of media management and chairs the media management major that leads to an MBA degree at Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management.

FEDERICO SUBERVI

Dr. Federico Subervi is professor and director of the Center for the Study of Latino Media & Markets, School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Texas State University. Since the early 1980s, he has been conducting research, publishing and teaching on many issues related to the mass media and Latinos in the U.S.

He is the editor and author of *The Mass Media and Latino Politics. Studies of U.S. Media Content, Campaign Strategies and Survey Research: 1984-2004*. NY: Routledge.

Subervi was also instrumental in the launching of *Latinitas* magazine and the organization now serving 18 schools in the Austin area. He is currently conducting research assessing the diversity of Latino-oriented media in Central Texas, and analyzing policies and practices of emergency communication directed to non-English-speaking populations in Texas and Illinois.

JOHN TEMPLE

John Temple is an assistant professor and interim associate dean of the P.I. Reed School of Journalism at West Virginia University. He is a former staff writer for the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, the Greensboro (N.C.) News & Record and the Tampa Tribune. In 2002, he earned an MFA degree in creative nonfiction writing from the University of Pittsburgh. Temple also is the author of two narrative journalism books: *Deadhouse: Life in a Coroner's Office* (2005, University Press of Mississippi) and the forthcoming *The Last Lawyer: A Death Row Attorney's Toughest Case*. He has co-directed several j-school projects and is in the planning stages of a project in which journalism students will produce multimedia packages and do multimedia training for rural weekly newspapers in West Virginia.

VIVIAN VAHLBERG

Vivian E. Vahlberg is Managing Director of the Media Management Center at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. She directs many of the Center's educational programs, research projects and publications for news media executives, with a particular emphasis on digital media. Media Management Center brings to news media executives not only its own extensive knowledge of media businesses but also the expertise of two outstanding Northwestern University schools: the Kellogg School of Management and the Medill School of journalism and integrated marketing communications. She joined the Center in 2006 as Director of Digital Media and was promoted to Managing Director in 2007.

Prior to joining the Center, she was President of Vahlberg & Associates, a consulting firm; Director of Journalism Programs for the McCormick Tribune Foundation, where she managed investment of more than \$70 million in journalism grants and programs in the U.S. and Latin America; Executive Director of the Society of Professional Journalists; Vice President of the National Press Building Corporation; Assistant Washington Bureau Chief for the *Daily Oklahoman*, *Oklahoma City Times* and *Colorado Springs Sun*; and Adjunct Professor of Journalism at the Medill School of Journalism. She was the first woman president of the world-renowned National Press Club in Washington, D.C., and is an inductee of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame.