

Previous Mayborn Stars – 2009



Paul Theroux, one of America’s literary lions, has produced more than 47 books of travel writing, short-story collections, novels, criticism and children’s literature. Theroux is widely acclaimed as the nation’s most renowned travel writer - the quintessential explorer with an instinct for noticing the odd, compelling detail. Nobel Prize-winner Nadine Gordimer calls Theroux “a large, lively, outrageous talent.”

Readers depend on his uncompromising, sometimes brazen reportage, his witty, acerbic asides and the tremendous breadth of literature he brings to his work. Theroux received the American Academy and Institute of Arts Letters Award for literature in 1977, the Whitbread Prize for his novel *Picture Palace* (1978), and the James Tait Black Award for *The Mosquito Coast* (1982), which was also nominated for the American Book Award along with his earlier travel book *The Old Patagonian Express: By Train through the Americas* (1979). His novels *Saint Jack*, *The Mosquito Coast*, *Doctor Slaughter*, and *Half Moon Street* have been made into films. And his short-story collection, *London Embassy*, was adapted for a British mini-series in 1987. With the publication of *The Great Railway Bazaar: By Train through Asia*, and continuing with *The Old Patagonian Express*, Theroux established himself as America’s foremost travel writer. Other travel books by Theroux include *The Kingdom by the Sea*, *Sailing Through China*, *Riding the Iron Rooster*, and *Dark Star Safari, Overland from Cairo to Cape Town*, a revisit of Africa and his Peace-Corps past 40 years earlier.

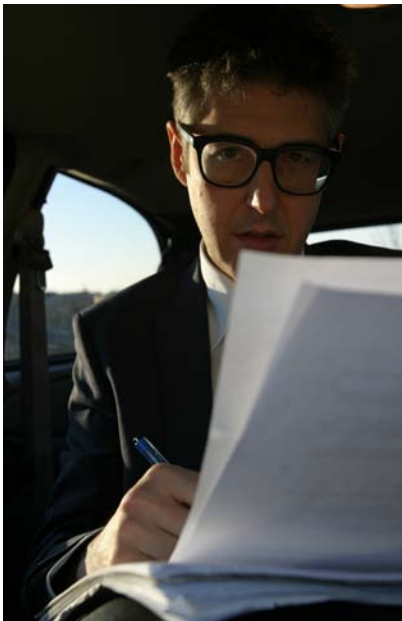
Born in Medford, Massachusetts, Theroux began his travels in earnest after graduating from the University of Massachusetts in 1963. He joined the Peace Corps in Malawi, Africa. Theroux eventually ended up teaching English at the Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, where he met and befriended the distinguished writer V.S. Naipaul. The bitter disintegration of their close relationship was chronicled in Theroux’s *Sir Vidia’s Shadow* (1988). Theroux has also authored two children’s books, seven short-

story collections, and has published nonfiction in a variety of magazines, including *TIME*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *The New Yorker*, *GQ*, *Talk* and *Esquire*.

Paul Theroux, one of America's literary lions, who has more than 47 works of travel writing, short-story collections, novels, criticism and children's literature. A lecture ticket can be purchased for \$60 to hear Paul Theroux on Friday evening of the conference. See Fees in the menu on the left.

See Theroux on The Charlie Rose show:

<http://www.charlierose.com/view/interview/4614>



Ira Glass is the host and producer of the public radio program [*This American Life*](#), which is heard on more than 500 public radio stations each week by over 1.7 million listeners. Under Glass's editorial direction, [*This American Life*](#) has won the highest honors for broadcasting and journalistic excellence, including the Peabody and DuPont-Columbia awards, as well as the Edward R. Murrow and the Overseas Press Club awards. *The American Journalism Review* declared that the show is "at the vanguard of a journalistic revolution." It has won critical acclaim and attracted continuous national media attention over the years. In 2001, *Time* magazine named Glass "Best Radio Host in America." The podcast of the program is the most popular podcast in America most weeks. Glass's devotion to journalistic excellence is showcased in [*The New Kings of Nonfiction*](#), a collection of narratives he chose as exemplars of the best new masters of nonfiction storytelling. The New York Times calls Glass "a journalist but also a storyteller who filters his interviews and impressions through a distinctive literary imagination, an eccentric intelligence, and a sympathetic heart."

Glass began his career as an intern at [National Public Radio](#)'s network headquarters in Washington, DC in 1978, when he was 19 years old. Over the years, he worked on nearly every NPR network news program and held virtually every production job in NPR's Washington headquarters. He has been a tape cutter, newscast writer, desk assistant, editor, and producer. He has filled in as host of *Talk of the Nation* and *Weekend All Things Considered*. A feature film, [Unaccompanied Minors](#), based on a story from the radio show was released by Warner Brothers in December 2006. The show has put out its own comic book, three greatest hits compilations, a paint-by-numbers set, a "radio decoder" toy, and a DVD, which was created with cartoonist Chris Ware.

In March 2007, the television adaptation of [This American Life](#) premiered on Showtime to great critical acclaim and in 2008 won two Emmy awards: Outstanding Nonfiction Series and Outstanding Directing for Nonfiction Programming.

Ira Glass, host and producer of the nationally renowned public radio program, *This American Life*, and anthologist of *The New Kings of Nonfiction*, a collection of the best new masters of nonfiction storytelling. All conference attendees receive admission to the event with Ira Glass as part of registration. For the public wanting to purchase individual tickets to the event with Ira Glass, tickets cost \$100 each and includes dinner, lecture, Q&A session, and book signing. Books may be purchased following the lecture. See Fees in the menu on the left.

For more about the show go to <http://www.thisamericanlife.org/>



Alma Guillermoprieto, Latin American correspondent for the *New Yorker* and the *New York Review of Books*, is widely acclaimed for her incisive grasp of the mysterious mixture of culture and politics that shape the region. Guillermoprieto, who has written about Latin America for more than 20 years, was born in Mexico. She covered the insurrection against Anastasio Somoza in Nicaragua for *The Guardian*. She broke the story of the massacre at El Mozote for *The Washington Post*. For *The New Yorker*, she wrote about the connection between politics and garbage in Mexico and about the bonds that link Brazilians to the heroes of their telenovelas, among other topics. In *The New York Review* she has written extensively about the work of Peruvian novelist Mario Vargas Llosa and of Mexico's subcomandante Marcos, and about current events in Cuba.

Guillermoprieto's book *Samba*, an account of the year she spent with the impoverished carnival-makers of Brazil, was nominated for the 1990 National Book Critics Circle Award. *The Heart That Bleeds* and *Looking for History* are collections of her essays

from *The New Yorker* and *The New York Review of Books*. Her latest book, *Dancing With Cuba: A Memoir of the Revolution*, is a vividly-painted portrait of herself as a young dancer growing disillusioned with the broken promises of the Revolution.

Guillermoprieto received a 1985 Alicia Patterson Fellowship, the 1992 Latin American Studies Association Media Award, and the 2000 George Polk Award for her series on Colombia, first published in *The New York Review*. In 1995, she was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship. She was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2001.

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Other nationally-known writers and editors

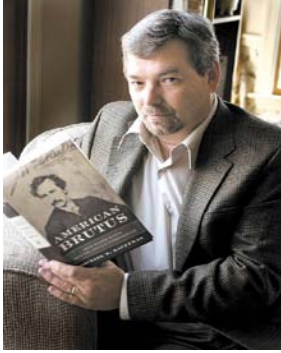


Roy Blount Jr. is widely regarded as one of the nation's wittiest writers. A contributing editor of *The Atlantic Monthly*, he is the author of twenty-one books, ranging from the first woman president of the United States to what barnyard animals are thinking. His most recent book, *Alphabet Juice*, showcases the master wordsmith at his best: transforming linguistics into something hilarious. His *Long Time Leaving: Dispatches From Up South* (Knopf), won the 2007 nonfiction award from the New England Independent Booksellers Association. Blount has come a long way since working as a reporter and columnist for *The Atlanta Journal*. He is a panelist on NPR's *Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me*, a columnist for *The Oxford American*, the president of the Authors Guild, a member of PEN and the Fellowship of Southern Authors, a New York Public Library Literary Lion, a Boston Public Library Literary Light, a usage consultant to the American Heritage Dictionary. His first book, about hanging out with the Pittsburgh Steelers, *About Three Bricks Shy...And the Load Filled Up*, was named one of the ten best sports books ever by Jonathan Yardley of *The Washington Post* --and just recently called, by Adam Gopnik in *The New Yorker*, "the best of all books about pro football." The late Norman Mailer said of his second book, *Crackers*, "Page for page, Roy Blount is as funny as anyone I've read in a long time," and *Time* placed Blount "in the tradition of the great curmudgeons like H.L. Mencken and W.C. Fields." Garrison Keillor said in *The Paris Review*, "Blount is the best. He can be literate, uncouth and soulful all in one sentence." *The New Yorker* described his one-man show at the American Place Theatre as "the most humorous and engaging fifty minutes in town." Blount has appeared on *A Prairie Home Companion*, *CBS Morning Show*, *Tonight Show*, *David*

Letterman Show, *Good Morning America*, *Today Show*, *Larry King*, *Politically Incorrect*, and in a series of TV spots for the NBA starring Bill Murray, which he helped Murray create. He's also written for *Esquire*, *The New York Times*, *Atlanta Magazine*, *Inside Sports*, *The Soho News*, *Men's Journal*, *Conde Nast Traveller*, *The San Francisco Examiner* and *Spy*. His essays, articles, stories, verses and even drawings have appeared in 166 different periodicals including *The New Yorker*, *Gourmet*, *Playboy*, *Vanity Fair*, *GQ*, *Life*, *TV Guide*, *Vogue*, *Rolling Stone*, *National Geographic*, *Antaeus*, *Smithsonian* and *Organic Gardening*; and in 174 books. Blount wrote the screenplay, *Larger Than Life*, starring Bill Murray, the lyrics of a song Andie MacDowell sings in *Michael*, and an HBO fairy tale, *The Frog Princess*. Blount's written two one-act plays produced at the Actors Theatre of Louisville. As a journalist, Blount has covered the Civil Rights Movement, the Ku Klux Klan, Elvis's funeral and about every president since John F. Kennedy. He has jumped out of a plane, scuba-dived with sharks, ridden a dolphin in the Florida Keys and sung on stage as a member of the authors' rock band Rock Bottom Reminders with Bruce Springsteen and Stephen King.



Julia Reed is a contributing editor at *Vogue* and *Newsweek*, where she writes the magazine's Food and Drink column. Her latest book, *Ham Biscuits, Hostess Gowns, and Other Southern Specialities*, takes the reader on a lively and very personal tour of the culinary—and social—South. She is author of *Queen of the Turtle Derby and Other Southern Phenomena* and *The House on First Street, My New Orleans Story*. Her nonfiction book, *The House on First Street*, was inspired when Reed went to New Orleans in 1991 to cover the reelection of former governor Edwin Edwards. She became, as her publisher noted, “Seduced by the city's sauntering pace, its rich flavors and exotic atmosphere,” and “was never entirely able to leave again. After almost fifteen years of living like a vagabond on her reporter's schedule, she got married and bought a house in the historic Garden District. Four weeks after she moved in, Hurricane Katrina struck. With her house as the center of her own personal storm as well as the ever-evolving stage set for her new life as an upstanding citizen, Reed traces the fates of all who enter to wine, dine (at her table for twenty-four), tear down walls, install fixtures, throw fits and generally leave their mark on the house on First Street.”



Michael W. Kauffman, a journalist and narrative historian, takes a full-immersion approach to telling a story. As historian William C. Davis once wrote, “no one has studied [John Wilkes] Booth longer or more in depth than Michael W. Kauffman, a well-known figure and voice of reason in the field of Lincoln assassination studies.” For thirty-five years, Kauffman has been a fixture at assassination-related symposia, tours, and news events. He has written numerous articles on the subject, and his bus tours of the John Wilkes Booth Escape Route have made him “legendary,” according to *The Washington Post*. Kauffman has rowed across the Potomac where Booth rowed, leaped to the stage in Ford’s Theatre, and burned down a tobacco barn almost identical to the one in which Booth was cornered and killed. His research has taken him to hundreds of locations throughout the U. S., Canada, and England, and for a time he even took up residence in Tudor Hall, the Booth family home in Maryland. “No one has studied [John Wilkes] Booth longer or more in depth than Michael W. Kauffman,” says historian William C. Davis. Widely regarded as a voice of reason in the field of Lincoln assassination studies, Kauffman’s writings have been published in *Civil War Times*, *the Washington Post*, *American Heritage*, *Blue and Gray*, and the *Lincoln Herald*, among others. He has lectured throughout the United States, and has appeared in more than twenty television and radio documentaries, including programs on A& E, The Learning Channel, the History Channel, National Geographic Channel, and the Discovery Channel. When anything assassination happens, Kauffman has usually been the driving force behind it. He was one of three researchers to lay the remains of conspirator Louis Powell in his Florida grave, and having discovered the grave of conspirator Edman Spangler, he led the drive to mark the site with a suitable monument. When two of Booth’s relatives filed suit to open the assassin’s unmarked grave opened for identification, Kauffman was subpoenaed by both sides as an expert witness. Kauffman is the editor of Samuel B. Arnold’s *Memoirs of a Lincoln Conspirator*, and more recently (2004) he wrote *American Brutus: John Wilkes Booth and the Lincoln Conspiracies*, which was named by the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and several other media outlets as one of the best non-fiction books of 2004. *The Wall Street Journal* recently named *American Brutus* one of the five best books ever published on political violence. It received the Walt Whitman Award, given by the North Shore Civil War Roundtable of Long Island, for the best Civil War-related book of the year, and was the basis of a two-hour special on the History Channel.



Gordon Grice is a popular nature writer from rural Oklahoma. Yet unlike most nature writers, Grice doesn't always consider creatures of nature sublime, majestic and awe-inspiring. In *The Red Hourglass: Lives of the Predators* and his forthcoming *Deadly Kingdom*, readers might think they're reading Stephen King. Grice describes the bite of the black widow (red hourglass) spider as lethal far beyond what is necessary to kill insects, its normal prey. He writes that the black widow can slay mice, frogs, snakes, cats, dogs and humans. In the red hourglass, Grice concludes that "the analytical mind finds an irreducible mystery, a motive-less evil in nature." Grice has written for *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *Discover*, and others.

Stephanie Elizondo Griest has mingled with the Russian Mafiya, polished Chinese propaganda, and belly danced with Cuban rumba queens. These adventures inspired her award-winning *Mexican Enough: My Life Between the Borderlines*. Part memoir, part journalistic reportage, *Mexican Enough* gives fresh insight into the ever-evolving story of immigration and assimilation. Growing up in a half-white, half-brown town and family in South Texas, Griest struggled with her identity, rejecting her heritage in her youth, only to find it again as an adult. *Mexican Enough* is the story of epiphanies learned from marching with rebel teachers in Oaxaca, investigating the murder of a prominent gay activist, and sneaking into a prison to meet with indigenous resistance fighters. Every page of *Mexican Enough* showcases Griest's journalist's eye for compelling detail. So do her other books, *Around the Bloc: My Life in Moscow, Beijing, and Havana*; and the guidebook *100 Places Every Woman Should Go*. As a National Correspondent for *The Odyssey*, she once drove 45,000 miles across America in a Honda Hatchback named Bertha. She has won a Hodder Fellowship to Princeton, a Richard Margolis Award for Social Justice Reporting, and a Lowell Thomas Travel Journalism Gold Prize. Griest graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Texas in 1997.



Roger Thurow has been a *Wall Street Journal* foreign correspondent for 20 years. His career at the *Journal* began in Texas in 1980 working with another *Journal* reporter, George Getschow, covering the Hunt brothers and the crash of the silver

market. He was based in South Africa from 1986 to 1991, an assignment during the brutal last gasp years of apartheid that ignited a passion for writing about humanitarian and development issues. His reporting has taken him to more than 60 countries, including two dozen in Africa. Over the last four years, Thurow and another Journal writer produced a stream of page-one stories in the Journal that have broken new ground in our understanding of famine and food aid. Their stories on the 2003 famines in Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and Swaziland were a finalist for the 2004 Pulitzer Prize in international reporting. The series, Anatomy of Famine, was praised by the Pulitzer board for "haunting stories that shed new light on starvation in Africa and prompted international agencies to rethink their policies."



Michael Hall has written so many narratives about men sent to prison on false charges that his editor at Texas Monthly has dubbed him the "patron saint of lost causes." But his work has hardly been a lost cause. Hall won two 2001 Katy Awards: one for Best Reporter Writing Portfolio and one for Personality Profile/Interview for his July 2001 story "[Lance Armstrong Has Something to Get Off His Chest.](#)" He won a Texas Gavel Award in 2003 for his story about capital punishment, "[Death Isn't Fair.](#)" which was also nominated for a National Magazine Award, and he won Philbin awards from the Dallas Bar Association for feature writing in 2005 and 2008. Hall's narratives have appeared in *The Best American Magazine Writing*, *The Best American Sports Writing*, *The Best American Nonrequired Reading*, and *Da Capo Best Music Writing*. Before joining Texas Monthly in 1997, he was an associate editor of Third Coast Magazine and the managing editor of the Austin Chronicle. He has written for Trouser Press, the New York Times, Men's Journal, and the Austin American-Statesman. He also plays guitar and sings in the Savage Trip, an Austin psychedelic pop band.



Bill Minutaglio's work has been compared to Tom Wolfe, Hunter Thompson, Mark Twain and Herman Melville. He's a former contributing writer to Tina Brown's magazine TALK, and his work has appeared in The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, Esquire, Details, Outside and many other publications. Minutaglio's nonfiction books have been widely acclaimed. Esquire magazine called *City on Fire: The Explosion That Devastated a Texas Town and Ignited*

a Historic Legal Battle, one of the greatest tales of survival ever told. The book was optioned, on release, by actor Tom Cruise. The Washington Post said it was "a terrific nonfiction work that has the narrative force of an adventure novel." The Texas Observer said the book was "one of the finest books ever written about Texas." Another Minutaglio opus, *First Son: George W. Bush & The Bush Family Dynasty*, was called "excellent" by The New York Review of Books, "masterly," by The Economist, and "great" by director Oliver Stone (who cited the book in interviews about his movie "W"). Another nonfiction book, *The President's Counselor: The Rise to Power of Alberto Gonzales*, was called "fascinating" by The New York Times; "brilliant" by the San Antonio Express-News and "chilling" by The San Francisco Chronicle. Minutaglio's biography of journalist Molly Ivins is tentatively set to be published by PublicAffairs in 2009. A collection of his narrative journalism, called "In Search of The Blues" and centered on African American life in Texas, is tentatively set to be published by the University of Texas Press in 2010. A graduate of Columbia University, Minutaglio worked at the three largest newspapers in Texas, winning numerous awards, including ones from The National Association of Black Journalists, The National Conference of Christians and Jews and The University of Missouri.

John Parsley is a Senior Editor at Little, Brown and Company, acquiring narrative nonfiction that focuses on science and natural history, history and current events, music, sports, business, food, and humor. He started his career at Henry Holt's Times Books, and later moved to Thomas Dunne Books, where he edited a number of bestsellers. They include Alan Weisman's *The World Without Us*, which remained on *New York Times* bestseller list for six months. The book was *Time* and *Entertainment Weekly's* #1 nonfiction book of 2007. He also edited Stuart Taylor and KC Johnson's *New York Times* bestseller *Until Proven Innocent*; and bestselling novels by Oakley Hall and John Hamamura. Current and forthcoming books he's editing include Joe Nick Patoski's biography of Willie Nelson; journalist Lauren Weber's history of thrift; Robin Hemley's memoir about childhood do-overs; *Yes Man* author Danny Wallace's memoir about tracking down his oldest friends; biologist Bill Streever's natural history of cold; Sam Kean's history of the periodic table; and David Sloan Wilson's look at how evolution works within one small city. Parsley is editorial director of the online magazine, lostmag.com, which has published nonfiction by writers including Mary Roach, Robert Sullivan, Tom Bissell, Floyd Skloot, John Falk, Rebecca Solnit, Alan Huffman, and Wayne Curtis.



Susan Warren is Texas Bureau Chief for The Wall Street Journal in Dallas. A Houston native, she graduated from the University of Houston and worked for her hometown papers, the now-defunct Houston Post and the Houston Chronicle, before

joining the Wall Street Journal in 1994. As a reporter, she's covered events and subjects ranging from the 1991 Persian Gulf War to the oil and gas industry. She's also been a frequent contributor to The Wall Street Journal's well-loved "ahed" column, the front page feature that takes readers away from the daily news into unexpected and delightful corners of the world. Warren's 2007 nonfiction book, *Backyard Giants*, was inspired by one of those stories about giant pumpkin growers. A kind of agricultural thriller, the book chronicles the ups and downs of the 2006 season as a cadre of obsessed gardeners competes to grow the biggest pumpkin in the world.



Allen Mondell and Cynthia Salzman Mondell are founders of **Media Projects, Inc.**, a non-profit video production and distribution company. Together, they have produced over 35 documentaries about historical subjects and social issues. Their films have won numerous national awards and have been selected for prestigious screenings in the United States and abroad. Some have received specialized theatrical distribution and have aired on PBS and national cable networks. *A Fair to Remember*, a social history of the great State Fair of Texas, had its premiere on public television station KERA in Dallas and recently received a Texas Emmy. In early 2008 they completed *The Monster Among Us*, a documentary about the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe today, and are just finishing *A Reason To Live*, a documentary about depression and suicide among young adults 15-24 years old. Another of their films, *Sisters of '77*, documenting the story of the first federally funded National Women's Conference in Houston in 1977, aired nationwide in 2005 on the award-winning public television series, Independent Lens. Highlights from the body of their work include: *Films from the Sixth Floor*, six films about the life, death and legacy of President John F. Kennedy; *West of Hester Street*, a docu-drama about Jewish immigration through the port of Galveston in the early 1900s; *Make Me A Match*, a warm-hearted look at the trials and tribulations of Jewish matchmaking in contemporary society; *Funny Women*, a short film celebrating 50 years of women comedians in American television; and *Who Remembers Mama?*, an emotional look at the economic and legal problems confronting middle-aged, divorced homemakers. Together they have received such notable awards as four CINE Golden Eagles; a Bronze CINDY; three Telly Awards; a Silver gavel from the American Bar Association and recognition award from the Dallas Metro Association for Outstanding Contribution to the Dallas Metro Association Counseling Profession. Allen Mondell has worked in films and television as a writer, producer and director for 40 years. He began his career as a newspaper reporter in Baltimore in the mid-sixties and then went to work for Westinghouse Broadcasting in Baltimore (WJZ-TV) as a writer/director of documentary films. Allen spent five years at KERA-TV in Dallas as a writer, producer and director of documentaries and special programs. He taught in the Peace Corps in West Africa after graduating from Williams College. He serves on the

Board of the Dallas Producers Association. Cynthia Mondell is past president of Women In Film – Dallas and past president of the Board of New Day Films, a nationally known independent film cooperative based in New York City. She was an artist in residence at the University of Texas at Dallas, a member the Texas Jewish Historical Society.

Cynthia's film, *Louie, Louie: A Portrait in Parkinson's*, is the personal journey of her family's struggle to cope with their father's 30-year battle with the debilitating effects of Parkinson's disease.



Dianne Solís is a senior writer at the *Dallas Morning News*, reporting on immigration. Her stories have probed the lives of a Honduran family split by deportation, a retiree who crusades against immigration, the victims of identity theft, and Guatemalans who endure low wages and dangerous working conditions in the Texas meatpacking industry. Solís has also written about the rise of drug cartels in Mexico, violence against migrants along the Guatemalan-Mexico border and deportees who have been forcibly sedated with powerful psychotropic drugs. She formerly covered immigration for *The Wall Street Journal* from the Journal's Houston and Mexico City bureaus, and has written for public radio and television. Solís, a Nieman Fellow at Harvard, was raised in the San Joaquin Valley of California where all her grandparents settled after fleeing the violence of the Mexican Revolution.



Alfredo Corchado, Mexico City Bureau Chief for the *Dallas Morning News*, covers U.S. policy in Latin America, with a special focus on Mexico and bi-national issues like migration and drug trafficking. Corchado has also written extensively about Cuba, having traveled the island on numerous occasions leading up to the opening of *The Morning News*' fulltime Havana bureau – one of the first bureaus for an American print media outlet. From 2000 to 2003, Alfredo was based in *The Morning News*' Washington, D.C. bureau, where he covered binational issues, or what editors called "the Mexico within and the Mexico abroad." Before joining *The Morning News*, Corchado worked for the *Ogden Standard-Examiner* in Ogden, Utah, *El Paso Herald-Post* and the *Wall Street Journal* in its Philadelphia and Dallas bureaus. Late in 2003, Mr. Corchado began his coverage of a string of unsolved killing of women in the border town of Ciudad Juarez, across El Paso, Texas, uncovering the role of drug cartels in some of these killings. He also discovered another startling story: An informant of the U.S. government took part in the killing - under orders of the powerful Juarez drug cartel - of suspected

drug traffickers whose bodies were buried in the backyard of a home in Ciudad Juarez. His reporting led to an internal U.S. inquiry and the removal of heads of the Immigration Customs Enforcement agency. In 2005, his reporting on drug violence led him to the Nuevo Laredo-Laredo border and the discovery of crimes committed in Texas cities under the order of Mexican drug cartels and the paramilitary group known as the Zetas. His reporting in Mexico has led to several death threats. His work also earned the Dallas Morning News a finalist award from the Center for Public Integrity in Washington. Corchado is a 2007 Maria Moors Cabot winner awarded by the University of Columbia. He is a 2009 Nieman Fellow at Harvard University. Corchado was born in Durango, Mexico and migrated legally to the United States at the age of six. He calls the border home.

Joy Sewing knew, even as a child, she would become a journalist. Now, as the Houston Chronicle's fashion and beauty writer, she covers current trends and issues - from the lack of models of color on runways to the meager clothing options for plus-size teens. She has interviewed noted designers and fashionable celebrities, from Oscar de la Renta to Sean "Diddy" Combs. In 2007, her work was honored by Houston Community College and Fashion Group International. Other honors include the National Press Foundation's Spanish Language Fellowship in which she lived in Mexico, and the Case Media Fellowship focusing on Latin American studies. Her freelance articles have appeared in People, Money, Town & Country, Vibe, Heart & Soul, Crisis and Shape magazines. Sewing also worked as a copy editor at the Kansas City Star and the New York Post. A Houston native, Joy is a lifelong fitness enthusiast and a former competitive ice skater and professional coach.



Michael J. Mooney writes about the people and places that populate the unseen margins of our society. A former Mayborn Scholar and student of George Getschow's, he once took a series of prostitutes out on "all American" dates to places like the bowling alley, miniature golf course, and ice cream parlor, and wrote about the horrifying stories that comprise their daily lives. During his reporting, he has lived in a bed bug-infested homeless shelter for addicts, interviewed the last sexual surrogate in Florida, crashed with depraved college Spring Breakers, and mingled with real life blood-drinking vampires. While at *The Dallas Morning News*, he carved out a beat that consisted of punk-rock evangelicals, gay rugby players, stand-up comedy, classical music, and a Klingon prom. He won 2008 Florida Press Club awards for Best Sports Writing and Best Health Writing, as well as honors from the Society of Professional Journalists and the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association. In 2006 Mooney won the Hearst Newspapers Nonfiction Award for Literary Excellence for a story about the improbable dreams of the women working in a rundown Fort Worth strip club. "Royal

Flushed," a story Mooney wrote about the pains of becoming a "professional" poker player, will appear in the 2009 edition of *The Best American Sports Writing* edited by Leigh Montville; and a narrative published in *D Magazine*, "The Day Kennedy Died," will appear in this year's edition of *The Best American Crime Reporting*, edited by Jeffrey Toobin. Mooney is a staff writer at *New Times*, a Village Voice Media alt-weekly based in Fort Lauderdale.



Ashley Harrell is a staff writer at the SF Weekly, a Village Voice Media newspaper based in San Francisco, California. She writes long-form investigative and human interest non-fiction about whatever she can find, often gravitating toward the poor and the passionate, the sick and the strange. She's won national and state awards, and just recently her story about drunk, horny South Florida teenagers on a Bahamas party cruise won first place in the feature writing category of the Society of Professional Journalist's Awards of Excellence. In 2007, her story regarding a failed nude protest won first place for writing in the California Newspaper Publishers Association Better Newspaper Contest. The story was published in the Point Reyes Light, a Pulitzer Prize-winning 4,000-circulation based in rural Northern California, where Harrell worked for six months after completing a masters in journalism at New York University. She's also worked as a reporter for New Times Broward-Palm Beach, Newsday, and the Boca Raton News, and has freelanced for Penthouse. Harrell believes strongly that the tools of fiction writers can and should be adopted by non-fiction writers, and insists on starting short story reading clubs wherever she goes.