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## **Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism Announces Winners of 2009 Maria Moors Cabot Prize for Outstanding Reporting on Latin America and the Caribbean**

NEW YORK, July 27, 2009 — The [Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism](#) today announced the 2009 winners of the [Maria Moors Cabot Prize](#) for outstanding reporting on Latin America and the Caribbean. Now in its 71st year — the oldest international award in journalism — the Cabot Prize honors journalists who have covered the Western Hemisphere and, through their reporting and editorial work, have furthered inter-American understanding.

The 2009 gold medalists are:

Anthony DePalma, correspondent for *The New York Times*;

Christopher M. Hawley, Latin America correspondent for *USA Today* and *The Arizona Republic*;

Merval Pereira, columnist for *O Globo*.

Yoani Sánchez, a blogger in Cuba, is awarded a special citation for her blog, *Generación Y*.

“This year’s Cabot winners exemplify both the finest traditional newspaper coverage of the Americas and the most daring use of digital journalism to break through barriers that have long obscured portions of the continent where a free press struggles to be heard and read,” said Nicholas Lemann, dean of the Journalism School.

Columbia University President [Lee C. Bollinger](#) will present the Cabot Prize gold medals and honoraria to DePalma, Hawley and Pereira at a dinner and ceremony on Wednesday, October 14, on Columbia’s Morningside Heights campus. Sánchez will be receiving a special citation. Excerpts from the 2009 award citations follow.



### **Anthony DePalma, correspondent for *The New York Times***

For more than two decades, readers of *The New York Times* have been privileged to look at the Americas through the many different lenses in the journalism toolkit of Anthony DePalma. A long-time foreign correspondent and author of compelling books, DePalma has focused on society, culture, politics, business and environment from the Arctic Circle to Tierra del Fuego. He was based both in Mexico and then Canada as the paper’s bureau chief. He traveled the Americas as a business correspondent. He has reported from Cuba. Armed with

curiosity, a deep intellect, a sense of humanity and an engaging writing style, he has produced books looking at the complex love-hate relationship between Cuba and the U.S. and showing how the weight of history and the push of increasing globalization have changed relations among Mexico, Canada and the U.S. DePalma stepped down from the *Times* last year, but continues to write and teach about Latin America. He has devoted a lifetime of journalism to promoting inter-American understanding. In fact, he embodies the very essence of the Cabot Prize and for that we honor him.



**Christopher M. Hawley, Latin America correspondent for *USA Today* and *The Arizona Republic***

Clearly in love with covering the Americas, Chris Hawley has managed to survive as one of a dwindling number of U.S. journalists still plying that beat. He does it in the best tradition of good narrative feature writing, which is particularly endangered by the current economic climate. For more than a decade, Hawley has consistently brought off-beat, well-written stories about Latin America and the Caribbean to U.S. readers. Even when he tackles familiar subjects, he still manages to find an original perspective, especially when covering Mexican migration. Hawley challenges himself by looking for deeper themes, while treating his subjects with dignity and sensitivity. He writes with empathy and skill. Based in Mexico, Hawley works for two Gannett papers, *The Arizona Republic* and *USA Today*. He started out as a cub reporter in Puerto Rico and was an editor on AP's international desk. Hawley gives his readers a better understanding of the region he covers, making him a worthy winner this year of the Maria Moors Cabot Prize.



**Merval Pereira, columnist for *O Globo***

For more than four decades Merval Pereira has excelled as an investigative reporter, regional bureau chief, editor, managing editor, columnist, foreign correspondent and radio and television commentator. A member of a generation of Brazilian journalists who started their careers in the adversity of a military dictatorship, he bravely resisted censorship as a young journalist. His stories on divisions among the ruling generals accelerated the country's return to democracy. Always a guardian of journalistic ethics and values, he successfully fought off the current democratic administration's attempt to set up a National Council of Journalism to "guide and discipline" the profession. As executive editor of *O Globo*, he successfully modernized the influential daily and raised its journalism standards. As a columnist, he has written balanced, well-informed, well-researched and elegant analyses of the difficult domestic and international political and economic challenges confronting Brazil. Never far from his roots as a reporter, he distinguished himself as recently as last year as a New York-based newspaper and television correspondent covering last year's U.S. presidential campaign. By highlighting similarities and contrasts between the continent's two most populous democracies, this recent work has significantly contributed to inter-American understanding.



### **Yoani Sánchez, blogger, *Generación Y***

Yoani Sánchez is an ordinary Cuban citizen using the Internet with extraordinary power. In barely two years, her weekly blog, *Generación Y*, has put the rest of the world in touch with Cuba — at least digitally. *Generación Y* does not repeat the battle of words which Cuba and the U.S. have hurled back and forth for five decades. Instead, it is a pitch-perfect mix of personal observation and tough analysis, which conveys better than anybody else what daily life — with all its frustrations and hopes — is like for Cubans living their lives on the island today. Sánchez, a 34-year-old philologist, pursues her craft with ingenuity, scarce resources and an enormous amount of guts — buying a few minutes here and there on one of the few internet-connected computers available to Cubans in Havana, quickly downloading and emailing her written and video comments to devoted supporters who post the blog in 15 languages. She has a loyal following of thousands around the world. For her courage, talent and great achievement in such a brief period of time, the Maria Moors Cabot board is proud to award Yoani Sánchez a special citation for journalistic excellence.

### **About the Maria Moors Cabot Prize**

Founded in 1938 by the late Godfrey Lowell Cabot of Boston as a memorial to his wife, the Maria Moors Cabot Prize is the oldest international award in journalism. Since its inception, 260 Cabot Prizes and 56 special citations have been awarded to journalists from more than 30 countries in the Americas. The prizes are administered by the Journalism School under the guidance of Josh Friedman, director of the Maria Moors Cabot Prizes and Lisa Sara Redd, program manager of professional prizes. The recommendations are made with the advice and approval of the Cabot Prize Board and are approved by the university's Board of Trustees.

Members of the 2009 Cabot Board are Arlene Morgan, chair and associate dean for programs and prizes at the Journalism School; Josh Friedman, director of the Maria Moors Cabot Prizes; David Adams, Latin America correspondent for the *St. Petersburg Times*; John H. Coatsworth, dean of Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs; Jose de Cordoba, senior special writer for *The Wall Street Journal*; Juan Enriquez-Cabot, great-grandson of Maria Moors Cabot and chairman of Biotechnomy LLC; Michèle Montas, chief spokeswoman for U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and former editor-in-chief of Radio Haiti-Inter; María Teresa Ronderos, director of *Semana.com*; Edward Schumacher-Matos, former chairman and editorial director of Meximerica Media and Robert F. Kennedy Visiting Professor at the David Rockefeller Institute for Latin American Studies at Harvard; Paulo Sotero, director of the Brazil Institute, Latin America Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; and Enrique Zileri, director of Peru's *Caretas* magazine. Five of the eight members of the Cabot Prize Board are Cabot medalists.

### **About the Graduate School of Journalism**

For almost a century, Columbia's [Graduate School of Journalism](#) has been preparing journalists in a program that stresses academic rigor, ethics, journalistic inquiry and professional practice. Founded by Joseph Pulitzer in 1912, the school offers master of science, master of arts and doctor of philosophy degrees.

## **About Columbia University**

A leading academic and research university, [Columbia University](#) continually seeks to advance the frontiers of knowledge and to foster a campus community deeply engaged in understanding and addressing the complex global issues of our time. Columbia's extensive public service initiatives, cultural collaborations and community partnerships enrich campus life. They help define the university's underlying values and mission to educate students to be both leading scholars and informed, engaged citizens. Founded in 1754 as King's College, Columbia University in the City of New York is the fifth oldest institution of higher learning in the United States.

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