

Press Panel
November 3, 2005
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Paul Green Theater

Moderator- **Senator John Edwards**, *UNC, Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity*

John Edwards, director of the Center on Poverty, Work, and Opportunity, is a graduate of North Carolina State University and the School of Law at UNC-CH. He practiced law for 20 years and then served as a senator from 1998-2004. During his time in the Senate, he focused on ways to expand opportunity and move more people into the middle class. In his presidential and vice-presidential campaigns in 2004, he brought the nation's attention to the issue of poverty, and has carried that work forward to the Center. In addition to his work as director of the Center, Edwards holds an Alumni Distinguished Professorship and will deliver a series of lectures on domestic and foreign policy issues at the School of Law and for the University.

Katherine Boo, *New America Foundation*

Katherine Boo's intimate investigative reporting on how public policy shapes the lives and choices of the disadvantaged has received many of journalism's highest honors, among them a Pulitzer Prize for Public Service. Writing from within America's poorest communities, Ms. Boo has chronicled the impact of federal welfare reform on inner-city family structure, illuminated corruption and poverty-profiteering in public housing, health care and other social services, and mulled government marriage initiatives as an urban antipoverty strategy. She has studied how the rapidly changing terms of the American labor contract are undermining traditional assumptions of family stability and upward mobility, and exposed a systematic effort in the nation's capital to hide neglect-and-abuse deaths among mentally retarded wards of the state. In 2003, she was awarded a MacArthur fellowship to recognize and further her body of work.

A Washington D.C. native and summa cum laude graduate of Columbia University, Boo has worked as a writer and editor for *The Washington City Paper*, *The Washington Monthly*, and *The Washington Post*, where for a decade she was a member of the Outlook and Investigative staffs. She is currently a staff writer for the *New Yorker* magazine. As a New America Senior Fellow, she is writing about how changing economies, in the U.S. and elsewhere, have altered the infrastructure of opportunity for the aspiration-rich working poor.

Representative Publications:

“The Factory,” *The New Yorker*, Oct. 18, 2004.

“The Best Job in Town,” *The New Yorker*, July 5, 2004.

“The Churn,” *The New Yorker*, March 29, 2004.

“The Marriage Cure,” *The New Yorker*, Aug. 18, 2003.

“The Black Gender Gap,” *The New Yorker*, Feb. 1, 2003.

“After Welfare,” *The New Yorker*, April 9, 2001.

David Brooks, *New York Times*

David Brooks has been a columnist at *The New York Times* since September 2003. He has been a senior editor at *The Weekly Standard*, a contributing editor at *Newsweek* and the *Atlantic Monthly*, and he is currently a commentator on "The Newshour with Jim Lehrer." He is the author of "*Bobos In Paradise: The New Upper Class and How They Got There*" and "*On Paradise Drive : How We Live Now (And Always Have) in the Future Tense*," both published by Simon & Schuster. Mr. Brooks joined *The Weekly Standard* at its inception in September 1995, having worked at *The Wall Street Journal* for the previous nine years. His last post at the Journal was as op-ed editor. Prior to that, he was posted in Brussels, covering Russia, the Middle East, South Africa and European affairs. His first post at the Journal was as editor of the book review section, and he filled in for five months as the *Journal's* movie critic.

Mr. Brooks graduated from the University of Chicago in 1983, and worked as a police reporter for the City News Bureau, a wire service owned jointly by the *Chicago Tribune* and *Sun Times*. He is also a frequent analyst on NPR's "All Things Considered" and the "Diane Rehm Show."

Representative Publications:

"Pillars of Cultural Capital," *The New York Times*, Oct. 6, 2005.

"The Education Gap," *The New York Times*, Sept. 25, 2005.

"The Black Middle Class," *The New York Times*, Sept. 21, 2005.

"Katrina's Silver Lining," *The New York Times*, Sept. 8, 2005.

"The Storm after the Storm," *The New York Times*, Sept. 1, 2005.

"Good News About Poverty," *The New York Times*, Nov. 27, 2004.

Jason DeParle, *New York Times*

Jason DeParle is a senior writer at *The New York Times* and a frequent contributor to *The New York Times Magazine*. A graduate of Duke University, DeParle won a George Polk Award in 1999 for his reporting on the welfare system and was a two-time finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. He lives in Washington, D.C., with his wife, Nancy-Ann, and their two sons.

He has also written for *The New Republic*, the *Washington Monthly*, and *The New Orleans Times-Picayune*. A former Henry Luce Scholar, DeParle was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 1995 and 1998 for his reporting on the welfare system.

In his definitive book, *American Dream*, DeParle follows three women in one extended family as they deal with the effects of 1996's welfare reform policies.

Representative Publications:

American Dream: Three Women, Ten Kids, and a Nation's Drive to End Welfare, New York: Viking Press, 2004.

"Raising Kevion," *The New York Times Magazine*, Aug. 22, 2004.

"A Mass of Newly Laid-Off Workers Will Put Social Safety Net to the Test," *The New York Times*, Oct. 8, 2001.

“A War on Poverty Subtly Linked to Race,” (with Steven A. Holmes) *The New York Times*, Dec. 26, 2000.

“Bold Effort Leaves Much Unchanged for the Poor,” *The New York Times*, Dec. 30, 1999.

“Life After Welfare: One Child’s Story; For 2 Improbable Pals, a Few Notable Weeks,” *The New York Times*, May 25, 1999.

“Project to Rescue Needy Stumbles Against the Persistence of Poverty,” *The New York Times*, May 15, 1999.

Walton, Anthony, “‘American Dream:’ Welfare as We Knew It,” (Review) *The New York Times*, Sept. 26, 2004.

Sam Fulwood, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*

Sam Fulwood, III, is a metro columnist for *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*. Fulwood arrived at the Plain Dealer in 2000 to write a three-times-a-week column after serving time in *The Los Angeles Times* Washington Bureau and writing a 1996 memoir, "Waking From the Dream: My Life in the Black Middle Class". Fulwood has covered Congress, federal agencies, and domestic social issues, as well as the presidential campaigns in 1992 and 1996. In 1985, Fulwood covered apartheid South Africa for the *Baltimore Sun*. He has reported and edited for *The Charlotte Observer* and *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. Fulwood’s writings have appeared in *Essence*, *Emerge*, *Black Enterprise*, *Black Issues Book Review*, as well as on National Public Radio’s *All Things Considered*, PBS’s *Washington Week in Review* and numerous other Washington-based political talk shows. Fulwood has a bachelor of arts degree in journalism from the University of North Carolina. During the 1993-94 academic year, Fulwood was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University.

Representative Publications:

Waking from the Dream, New York, NY: Random House, 1997.

Full of It: Strong Words and Fresh Thinking for Cleveland, Cleveland, OH: Gray & Company, 2004.

“Poverty’s Ill Winds Hit Here as Well,” *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Sept. 20, 2005.

“Katrina Reveals Refugees Among Us,” *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Sept. 8, 2005.

“Where Have All the Poor Gone,” *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Sept. 1, 2005.

“Listen to the Children in Order to Save Them,” *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Feb. 19, 2005.

“Ending Poverty: Is There an Answer?,” *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Nov. 30, 2004.

“Living Moment to Moment Limits a Life,” *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Oct. 28, 2004.

David Wessel, *Wall Street Journal*

David Wessel is the deputy Washington bureau chief of *The Wall Street Journal*, and writes a weekly column called "Capital." He was chief economics correspondent for *The Wall Street Journal* in Washington, D.C., where he covered economic policy and the American standard of living. He previously worked in *The Journal's* Boston bureau and for *The Boston Globe*, *The Hartford Courant* and the *Middletown* (Ct.) Press. A graduate of Haverford College, Mr. Wessel was a Knight Bagehot Fellow in Business and Economics Journalism at Columbia University in 1980-81. He shared a Pulitzer Prize in 1984 for a *Boston Globe* series on the persistence of racial discrimination in employment in Boston.. With Bob Davis, Mr. Wessel is the co-author of *Prosperity: The Coming 20-Year Boom and What It Means to You* (Times Books, 1998), which argues that the American middle class will fare better over the next 20 years than it has over the past 20 disappointing years. Mr. Wessel lives in Washington with his wife and two children.

Representative Publications:

Prosperity: The Coming 20-year Boom and What it Means to You, New York, NY: Times Books, 1998.

"Small Government Rhetoric Gets Filed Away," *The Wall Street Journal*, Sept. 8, 2005.

"As Rich Poor Gap Widens, Class Mobility Stalls," *The Wall Street Journal*, May 13, 2005.

"The Future of Jobs: New Ones Arise, Wage Gap Widens," *The Wall Street Journal*, April 2, 2004.

"Gains in Fighting Childhood Poverty Reflect Economy, Tax Credits Growth," *The Wall Street Journal*, Feb. 9, 1998