

NOVA: POISONED WATER an Evening with WKAR

Learn more about this free screening event at wkar.org

May 23, 2017 • 7 p.m. • Flint Institute of Art

Premieres Wednesday, May 31, 2017 at 9PM/8C on PBS (check local listings)

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PANELIST BIOS



PAULA S. APSE - MODERATOR
Senior Executive Producer, NOVA, and
Director, WGBH Science Unit, WGBH Boston

Paula Apse began her work in broadcast typing the public broadcaster WGBH Boston's daily logs, a job, she notes, that is now mercifully automated. While at WGBH-FM, her next move, she developed the award-winning children's drama series *The Spider's Web* and served as an on-air radio news producer. She then joined WGBH's pioneering science documentary series *NOVA*, producing, among several other programs, *Death of a Disease*, the first long-form documentary about the worldwide eradication of smallpox.

Moving to WCVB, the ABC affiliate in Boston, she became senior producer for medical programming, working with Dr. Timothy Johnson. She then spent a year at MIT as a Knight Science Journalism Fellow until she took over the leadership of *NOVA*, where she is now senior executive producer and director of the WGBH Science Unit.

She is a recipient of the Bradford Washburn Award from the Museum of Science, Boston; the Carl Sagan Award, given by the Council of Scientific Society Presidents; the American Institute of Physics Andrew Gemant Award; and the Planetary Society's Cosmos Award, among many others. She has served on the board of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, the Brandeis University Sciences Advisory Committee and the International Documentary Association.



ELIN BETANZO
Director, Safe Drinking Water Research and Policy Program at the
Northeast-Midwest Institute

Elin Betanzo specializes in water quality and water infrastructure issues. Elin spent nearly 10 years at the Environmental Protection Agency in the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water developing and implementing regulations under the Safe Drinking Water Act, and serving as the National Tribal Drinking Water Coordinator.

She also was a hydraulic engineer and water planning manager at the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission where she led water system master planning and hydraulic modeling. Elin holds a Master of Science in Environmental Engineering and a Water Quality Management Certificate from Virginia Tech and her undergrad degrees from Carnegie Mellon University. In 2014 she was appointed to the Federal Advisory Committee on Water Information.



JULIA CORT
Deputy Executive Producer, NOVA

Julia Cort has more than 25 years of broadcast experience as a producer, writer and director. Since joining the WGBH Science Unit in 1991, she has contributed to more than 80 films, including *Making North America*, *The Fabric of the Cosmos*, *Smartest Machine on Earth* and *Chasing Pluto*. In the pursuit of a story, Cort has traveled deep underground to investigate the hunt for dark matter, been blindfolded and led to secret diamond-making factories, waded into leech-infested swamps and attempted to re-create the technological feats of ancient Egyptian engineers.

She is a recipient of the George Foster Peabody Award, the National Academies Keck Communication Award, the AAAS Science Journalism Award, the American Institute of Physics Science Writing Award, the National Association of Science Writers Science in Society Award and the News & Documentary Emmy.

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JEFFREY W. DWYER
Director, Michigan State University Extension

Jeff Dwyer was named director of Michigan State University (MSU) Extension on April 1, 2016, after serving as interim director from January 1 to March 31, 2016. Before his appointment as director, Dwyer became familiar with MSU Extension through its outreach in his hometown and through his role in the College of Human Medicine as one of the driving forces of the MSU Extension Health Research Team.

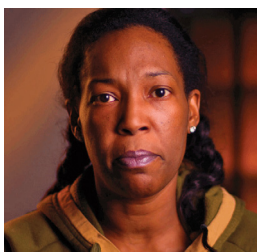
At the College of Human Medicine, Dwyer served as senior associate dean for research and community engagement, and professor in the Department of Family Medicine. While serving as senior associate dean, Dwyer worked with a talented staff of colleagues to facilitate multi-site collaboration, establish university-community linkages, develop and monitor research opportunities for students, recruit scientists and establish the infrastructure needed to sustain a statewide research network in the 21st century. Before joining MSU, Dwyer was the founding director of the Institute on Aging and a tenured professor of medicine at the University of Florida from 1999 to 2003. He was the director of the Institute of Gerontology and professor of sociology at Wayne State University from 1993 to 1999. Dwyer is excited to lead an organization that he has witnessed making a difference in many people's lives.



MARC EDWARDS
Charles Lunsford Professor of Civil Engineering, Virginia Tech

Marc Edwards is the Charles Lunsford Professor of Civil Engineering at Virginia Tech, where he teaches courses in environmental engineering, applied aquatic chemistry and engineering ethics. His research group aspires to pursue science as a public good, through laboratory work on practically important but underfunded topics such as corrosion in buildings and opportunistic premise-plumbing pathogens—that work laid the groundwork for investigative science uncovering the 2001-2004 D.C. lead crisis and the 2014-2016 Flint water disaster.

Time Magazine dubbed Edwards “The Plumbing Professor” in 2004 and listed him among the four most important “innovators” in water from around the world. The White House awarded him a Presidential Faculty Fellowship in 1996. His paper on lead poisoning of children in Washington, DC, due to elevated lead in drinking water, was judged the outstanding science paper in environmental science and technology in 2010. In 2013, Edwards was the ninth recipient (in a quarter century) of the IEEE Barus Award for “courageously defending the public interest at great personal risk,” and in 2016 he was named among the most influential people in the world by Time, Fortune, Politico and Foreign Policy magazine.



GINA LUSTER
Flint Resident, Mother, and Activist

Gina Luster is a Flint resident, mother and activist. She is a staff organizer at Flint Rising, a project of the Advocacy Fund, working to ensure that people directly impacted by the crisis are building organizational and leadership capacity to fight for justice for Flint.



VEO LUSTER
Flint Resident, Principal, Luster's Contracting

Veo Luster is a Flint resident and has spent his career working on water distribution infrastructure. He never expected to find himself in the center of the disastrous water crisis, but now he is experiencing the devastation first hand, as his grandchildren were poisoned by the contaminated water. Luster is now working with crews to help find and replace Flint's corroded pipes.



LLEWELLYN "LLEW" SMITH
Producer and Director

For 30 years, the documentaries of Peabody and duPont Award-winner Llewellyn Smith have explored a range of social justice topics, including race relations and racial identity, American slavery, Reconstruction, health inequities, civil rights, community organizing and childhood trauma in impoverished neighborhoods.

Smith was an executive producer for the PBS series *Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?* (2008)—a look at how social and economic conditions determine health and longevity. He directed the film *Herskovits at the Heart of Blackness* (2010), examining the consequences of race identity politics. In 2012 Smith directed and produced *Gaining Ground: Building Community on Dudley Street*. The film follows community organizing and community building efforts over a two-year period in the Boston neighborhood where he grew up.

For NOVA, Smith served as director/producer of *Forgotten Genius* (2007), a biopic on the science of pioneering African-American chemist and civil rights activist Percy Julian. The Emmy-nominated film received the American Association for the Advancement of Science Award (AAAS), the National Science Writers Award and the National Academies of Sciences Communications Award. Smith was series editor for *American Experience* from 1987-1995 and was an associate producer for the groundbreaking series *Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years*. Other credits include *Africans in America: America's Journey Through Slavery* (1997), *Jubilee Singers: Sacrifice and Glory* (1999), *Race: The Power of an Illusion* (2003) and *Wounded Places: Confronting Childhood PTSD in America's Shell-Shocked Cities* (2015). He directed the Emmy-nominated *American Denial* (ITVS, 2015), a look at the historical impact of unconscious bias in American life.

Other filmmaking honors include The George Foster Peabody Award, The Council on Foundation's Henry Hampton Award, the Alfred I. du-Pont Columbia Award, The John O'Connor Film Award of the American Historical Association, The Eric Barnouw Award, The Hollywood Black Film Festival Best Documentary Award, multiple Writer's Guild nominations and other honors.



KELLY THOMSON
Producer

For over 10 years, Kelly Thomson has produced and edited award winning films with a focus on race, religion and social equity for PBS including the award-winning *UNNATURAL CAUSES*, *RAISING OF AMERICA* and *COMING OF AGE IN AGING AMERICA*. She most recently produced *AMERICAN DENIAL* which was nominated for a 2016 News & Documentary Emmy. She is currently directing her second feature documentary, w.t. *SHAYKHA*, which unveils female leadership in Islamic mysticism. Her first independent documentary feature, *SAVAGE MEMORY*, screened at festivals, museums and universities across the globe. Kelly also recently directed/produced the independent short film 'What Makes Science True?' which was broadcast on NOVA's DigiDocs platform.



LEEANNE WALTERS
Flint Resident, Mother, Water Activist, Citizen Scientist

Walters is a Flint resident turned water activist and citizen scientist who helped expose the lead contamination of Flint's drinking water supply by leading citywide water sampling and protest efforts as well as bringing in U.S. EPA and Virginia Tech experts to provide scientific evidence.

In February 2016, she testified in front of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the U.S. House of Representatives on the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), State of Michigan and the federal U.S. EPA's role in creating and prolonging the Flint water crisis.

She is also the recipient of the 2016 PEN/Toni and James C. Goodale Freedom of Expression Courage Award, the 2016 Health Policy Heroes Award and the Champion of Children Award. She is a dual citizen of Flint, Michigan, and Norfolk, Virginia, where she lives with her husband and four children.

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