



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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EIGHT FORTY-EIGHT HOST STEVE EDWARDS TAKES LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR PRESTIGIOUS KNIGHT-WALLACE FELLOWSHIP Chicago Public Radio's Gabriel Spitzer and Alison Cuddy to Fill in as Hosts

[CHICAGO, IL] – Steve Edwards, host of *Eight Forty-Eight*, Chicago Public Radio's weekday morning newsmagazine, is one of 13 American journalists selected for the University of Michigan's Knight-Wallace Fellowship for the 2007-2008 academic year. Edwards will take a ten-month leave of absence from Chicago Public Radio beginning August 17 to study how Latino immigrants reshape American politics, economics and culture.

In his absence, Gabriel Spitzer will host *Eight Forty-Eight* Monday through Thursday each week and Alison Cuddy will host on Fridays. During the week of August 20-24, *Eight Forty-Eight* will feature encore segments with Spitzer, Cuddy, and Richard Steele. Spitzer's first day hosting will be August 27; Cuddy's will be August 31.

Gabriel Spitzer is a reporter at Chicago Public Radio, covering transportation issues and breaking stories. Prior to joining Chicago Public Radio in April 2006, Spitzer worked as a reporter, host and associate producer at the Alaska Public Radio Network, where he received numerous awards. He has contributed stories to *Morning Edition*, *All Things Considered*, *Marketplace*, *Living on Earth* and *Latino USA*. His print work has appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Sacramento Bee* and the *Anchorage Daily News* in Alaska.

Alison Cuddy is project coordinator for *Chicago Matters: Beyond Borders*, the year-long series examining immigration experiences in the region. Cuddy has also coordinated the station's 2006 mid-term election coverage, produced the station's live coverage of election night returns, and developed a series exploring political engagement among area citizens. Cuddy conducts interviews and produces segments for *Eight Forty-Eight* and has been a guest host on *Hello Beautiful!* Cuddy joined Chicago Public Radio in August 2001 as associate producer for the nationally-syndicated program *Odyssey*.

Eight Forty-Eight airs weekdays at 9 am and again at 8 pm on Chicago Public Radio, WBEZ 91.5 FM. *Eight Forty-Eight* has been named "Best Public Affairs Program" by *Chicago Magazine* and "Best Morning Radio Program" by *Newcity Chicago*.

Chicago Public Radio is a community-supported, non-commercial public service broadcasting institution, broadcasting throughout Chicago and surrounding regions. From news and public affairs to arts and culture, the station's eclectic and distinctive selection of internationally, nationally and locally produced programs reflects the diversity of the community it serves. Chicago Public Radio programming is available at WBEZ 91.5 FM Chicago, WBEQ 90.7 FM Morris, W217BM Elgin and chicagopublicradio.org. Vocolo is available at WBEW 89.5 FM Chesterton and Vocolo.org.