12th ANNUAL LEWIS MUMFORD LECTURE

Co-Sponsored by:
Department of Geography and Planning
University Auxiliary Services
School of Social Welfare
Center for Social and Demographic Analysis

“Citizen Engagement, Community Development, and Fighting Poverty in the Era of the Tea Party”

Wednesday, October 19, 2011
6:00 pm

Performing Arts Center Recital Hall

Main Campus
University at Albany

Reception and Book Signing Immediately Following

Speaker:
John Atlas, J.D.

John Atlas, J.D., is a public interest lawyer, writer, and organizer. He is founder and current president of the National Housing Institute, publisher of Shelterforce magazine.

John Atlas’ book, Seeds of Change: The Story of ACORN, America’s Most Controversial Antipoverty Organizing Group, is the inside story about how ACORN built the most effective anti-poverty organization in the country by reinventing the field of community organizing. ACORN combined local neighborhood improvement with electoral politics, door-to-door membership recruitment, union organizing, and providing services. The book reveals how ACORN turned a local Arkansas group into America’s only national membership-based poor people’s association with the ability to win national campaigns to help the powerless. Among other things, ACORN stopped government officials from writing off New Orleans’ Lower Ninth Ward after Hurricane Katrina hit, won campaigns against corporate giants such as H&R Block and Household Finance Corporation to end their predatory financial practices, and successfully led a national movement to increase the nation’s minimum wage.