

## Featured Presenters

### **Bill Becker**

William Becker is former Executive Director of the Presidential Climate Action Project, an initiative (PCAP) at the University of Colorado's Wirth Chair to help the next President of the United States take decisive action on global warming within the first 100 days in office.

Prior to launching PCAP in January 2007, Bill served for 15 years at the U.S. Department of Energy – the last 10 as the director of DOE's Central Region. He is a national expert on sustainable development and has worked throughout his career with disaster-stricken communities – from New Orleans to Thailand -- to help them plan “sustainable reconstruction.”

Bill's first career was journalism, starting as a 19-year-old war correspondent in Vietnam, where he won the Bronze Star Medal for his writing and photography in combat. As publisher of a weekly newspaper in rural Wisconsin in the late 1970s, he conceived a pioneering project in which the floodprone community of Soldiers Grove, Wisconsin, relocated to higher ground and built the nation's first solar village. More recently, Bill organized four “national leadership summits” in 2006-2007 to develop a sustainable development action plan for the United States. PCAP is an outgrowth of the summits.

During his diverse career, Bill has been a reporter and photographer for the Associated Press; editorial writer and columnist for the Wisconsin State Journal in Madison, WI.; associate director of the Wisconsin Energy Extension Service; research director for the Wisconsin State Senate; executive assistant to the Wisconsin Attorney General; and Counselor to the Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration in Washington, DC. In his federal career, he served under three Presidents and five Assistant Secretaries for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

Bill's work has been featured in a number of books and in the television documentaries *River Town* and *Solar Town USA*. He has published several books about sustainable community development. His most recent book, *The 100 Day Action Plan to Save the Planet*, was published last October by St. Martin's Griffin in New York.

### **Mike Bohn**

Mike Bohn, CU athletic director came to Colorado in 2005 from San Diego State University, where he left an indelible imprint in just 18 months as the Aztecs' director of athletics. Prior to that he served five years as athletic director at the University of Idaho

Bohn prepared for his career goal of becoming a Division I athletic director entirely in the state of Colorado, his adopted “native” state despite being born in Illinois; he moved to Colorado with his family when he was 1-year old.

He worked at the Air Force Academy for nine years advancing from an intern to assistant athletic director.

From 1992 to 1995, Bohn served as Director of Marketing for the College Football Association, the precursor to the current Bowl Championship Series that consisted of six major football conferences encompassing 67 universities.

He then moved on to Colorado State University, where he spent the next three years (1996-98) as an associate athletic director for the Rams.

He earned his bachelor’s of arts degree from the University of Kansas in 1983, where he was recruited as a quarterback and also played baseball. He then graduated with a master’s degree in sports administration from Ohio University in 1984. He graduated from Boulder High School where he lettered in football, basketball and baseball. He is married to the former Kim Zeren, and the couple has two grown children, Michaelyn and Brandon.

### **Dr. Geoffrey Chase**

Dr. Geoffrey Chase, currently the Dean of Undergraduate Studies at San Diego State University, attended Ohio Wesleyan University, where he received the BA in English in 1971. He also holds an MAT from Miami University (Ohio) and the AM in English from Boston College. After receiving his PhD in American literature from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1981, he taught for 11 years in the School of Interdisciplinary Studies at Miami University of Ohio. While at Miami, he served as a Fulbright Scholar in Turku, Finland (1990-1991).

Dr. Chase joined Northern Arizona University in 1992 as the Director of English Composition. While at Northern Arizona University, Chase also served as English Department Chair, Dean of Liberal Studies, and as the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies. At NAU, he revamped the composition curriculum to give it an environmental focus and became a leader of the Ponderosa Project, a faculty development project aimed at helping faculty from throughout the university integrate issues of environmental sustainability into their courses. The Ponderosa Project, based on the assumption that the curriculum is the purview of the faculty, has become a model faculty development project that has been introduced to faculty on more than 120 campuses.

In 2004 he co-edited, with Peggy Barlett, *Sustainability on Campus: Stories and Strategies for Change* which was published by MIT Press. From 2005 – 2008 he served on the Executive Committee for the American Conference of Academic Deans (ACAD)

and currently as President of the Board for the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). Dr. Chase lectures widely on sustainability in higher education and, with Peggy Barlett, offers workshops on institutional change and sustainability. Currently, he is helping lead AASHE efforts to integrate sustainability into college and university curricula.

## **Jayni Chase**

A deep-seated awareness that everything has a natural origin and a driving recognition of the limits to growth has motivated Jayni Chase as a tireless advocate for conserving and protecting the available resources on this earth. Acting on the belief that positive environmental change must begin with the education of our children, Jayni founded the Center for Environmental Education in 1988. For eleven years the Center operated out of Antioch NE Graduate School in Keene, NH. In 2008, it moved to Unity College in Unity, Maine.

Jayni created The Center in order to provide K -12 teachers and students with the resources and materials necessary to build strong environmental education in our nation's schools. The Center has grown into one of the strongest and most vital outreach programs for educators world-wide, distributing resources and curriculum materials, connecting educators through careful and informed networking and providing consulting services free of charge.

In 1995 Scholastic published Jayni's book, *Blueprint for a Green School*, a compilation of over 7,500 sources of environmental information, resources and ideas for schools that want to 'Go Green.' From food service to cleaning materials, curricular references to accurate environmental information, the book empowers teachers and students, administrators, architects and maintenance crews to build healthy and conservation-minded schools.

Jayni has served on numerous Boards, including, Friends of the Earth, the Antioch New England Institute, Mothers & Others for a Livable Planet, Global Green USA, Californians Against Waste and The Coalition for Clean Air. She served a two-year term 2002-2003 as the Chair of the Board of Directors of Friends of the Earth and in 2004 she was awarded an honorary degree in Environmental Studies from Antioch New England Graduate School for her work in the field of environmental education. Her extensive awards include recognition from the National Resources Defense Council, The Environmental Media Association, the Crittenton Center, Women For, the Rainforest Alliance, the U.S. Environmental Film Festival and she shared the Celebrity Fight Night Humanitarian Award of 2005 with her husband, Chevy Chase. In 2004 and 2005 Jayni received the Audubon Women in Conservation Award and the Thorne Ecological Institutes Environmental Award respectively.

Jayni credits her husband Chevy and their three daughters, Cydney, Caley and Emily, with providing the force behind her dedication to environmental health, safety and education.

### **Praween Dayananda**

Praween Dayananda is the Campus Field Coordinator for the National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology Program. Praween works with NWF's Campus Ecology team to inspire students, faculty and administrators in colleges and universities across Texas and California to take on the global warming challenge and supports them in their efforts to make campuses model sustainable, mindful and compassionate communities. Praween is also a representative and field coordinator for the Energy Action Coalition, an organization that is at the forefront of a growing US youth climate movement demanding a bold new clean energy economy. As a member of the Coalition, Praween has helped organize two youth climate conferences, including the first-ever national climate conference, the 6000 strong Power Shift 2007 conference in Washington DC and the Re-Energize Texas Summit in Austin, Texas. He is currently involved with planning for the Power Shift 2009 conference to be held in Washington DC from Feb 27 to March 2. In addition, Praween helped run Energy Action's Power Vote campaign in Texas, a non-partisan campaign to elevate global warming and clean energy solutions in the elections.

Praween began his global warming work at Pomona College in Los Angeles, California, where he was co-coordinator of the Pomona Campus Climate Challenge group and also a student representative on the President's Advisory Committee on Sustainability. Praween graduated from Pomona in 2007 with a BA in Economics. Prior to attending college and working in the US, Praween lived in Sri Lanka and Nepal where he spent his childhood and school years.

### **Angie Fyfe**

Angie Fyfe is the Greening Government Program Manager for the Governor's Energy Office. Her position was created by Governor Bill Ritter's April 2007 Executive Orders concerning the greening of state government. The Executive Orders call for state employees to take a position of leadership to reduce the environmental impact of state government operations. Angie works closely with state agencies, colleges, and university to help them achieve the greening government goals.

Prior to joining the Governor's office, Angie managed projects for the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, including the first state-owned building in Colorado to earn the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design® (LEED) certification from the U. S. Green Building Council.

Angie is a LEED Accredited Professional and graduated from the University of Colorado with a degree in Finance. She is a graduate of the National Renewable Energy Laboratories 2008 Energy Executives Program.

In addition to her state government experience, Angie has worked in a large corporate environment and as an entrepreneur.

### **Thomas Gonzales, Ed.D.**

New Mexico conservationist and Colorado native, Thomas Gonzales Ed.D., is Chair of the National Wildlife Federation Board of Directors.

An avid fly-fisherman, Tom divides his time between Santa Fe and Cedaredge, Colorado, near Grand Junction. After retiring as president of Front Range Community College in Westminster, Colorado, Tom moved to Santa Fe and is now a consultant to several community colleges as part of the "Achieving the Dream" project. The project is focused on improving the academic performance of underserved students during their community college experience, especially students of color.

Tom's conservation roots go back to his childhood in Telluride, Colorado, where he learned the importance of respecting nature. As the grandson of a sheepherder, Tom was taught the balance between taking what you needed, but always giving back to the land. He knew early on that living in the remotely beautiful high country of the San Juan Mountain Range was a privilege not shared by many, a privilege to be appreciated.

Tom was first elected to the NWF Board of Directors in 1993. After serving several years as an NWF Endowment Trustee from 2002-2004, Tom returned to the Board and the Executive Committee in 2004.

Tom holds degrees from Colorado State University and the University of Northern Colorado. He received his Doctorate of Education from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

### **Alice Madden**

Just last month, Alice Madden became Governor Ritter's Climate Change Coordinator. She had just completed her 8th year as a state representative and served as the house majority leader since 2004. She is a recognized champion of the "New Energy Economy," affordable health care, and protecting civil liberties. For the last year, she has served as a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress on climate change.

Alice could not have stronger CU bona fides: She got her undergrad at CU Boulder, her law degree at CU Law in '89, got engaged at a CU football game (the only game they won that year), and her house district includes the CU campus.

## **Richard Preston**

Richard Preston is the author of seven books, including *The Hot Zone*, *The Cobra Event* and *The Demon in the Freezer*, which are his “Dark Biology” series. He is a regular contributor to *The New Yorker*. His books have been translated into more than 30 languages, and he’s won numerous awards, including the American Institute of Physics Award and the National Magazine Award. He’s also the only person who isn’t a medical doctor ever to receive the Centers for Disease Control’s Champion of Prevention Award for public health. An asteroid is named “Preston” after him. (Asteroid Preston is a ball of rock three miles across. It may slam into Mars or the Earth some day, creating an explosion similar to the one that wiped out the dinosaurs.) He’s the brother of bestselling author Douglas Preston. He got hooked on climbing trees, resulting in the book, *Wild Trees*.

Richard Preston lives outside New York City with his wife, Michelle, and their three children.

His latest book is *Panic in Level 4: Cannibals, Killer Viruses, and Other Journeys to the Edge of Science* - a collection of some of his classic *New Yorker* articles (greatly expanded and updated, with an introductory essay describing how he inadvertently blew open his space suit while inside an Army Level 4 Ebola lab).

## **Jerome Ringo**

As president of the Apollo Alliance, Jerome Ringo represents more than 17 million people across the country and has been endorsed by the AFL-CIO and 22 international labor unions. The Apollo Alliance is a coalition of labor, environmental, national security, civil rights, and business leaders fighting to make America independent from foreign energy in 10 years. The Apollo Alliance is a broad coalition of major national environmental organizations, more than 50 businesses, and the support of more than 100 organizations in the nation’s states and cities.

Jerome Ringo came to the Apollo Alliance in 2005 as a dedicated champion of environmental justice and vocal advocate of clean energy. He has first hand experience of the challenges we face after working for more than 20 years in Louisiana’s petrochemical industry. More than half of that time was spent as an active union member working with his fellow members to secure a safe work environment and quality jobs. Louisiana’s petrochemical industry focuses on the production of gasoline, rocket fuel, and plastics – many of which contain cancer causing chemicals. As he began observing the negative impacts of the industry’s pollution on local communities – primarily poor, minority communities – Ringo began organizing community environmental justice groups. Ringo’s experience organizing environmental and labor communities and his drive to further diversify the environmental movement bridges many of Apollo’s partners to

create a broad based coalition to provide real solutions for our energy crisis. In 1996, Ringo was elected to serve on the National Wildlife Federation board of directors and, in 2005, Ringo became the chair of the board. In so doing, he also became the first African-American to head a major conservation organization. Ringo was the United States' only black delegate at the 1998 Global Warming Treaty Negotiations in Kyoto, Japan, and represented the National Wildlife Federation at the United Nations' conference on sustainable development in 1999.

*Ebony Magazine* named Jerome Ringo one of the most influential African Americans for 2006 in its April issue. Jerome Ringo was also highlighted in the May issue of *Urban Influence Magazine* as one of the Top Ten African American Influences in the country. Ringo is a member of the Green Group, a member of *Newsweek's* Environment and Leadership Council, and serves as an official advisor to the Sundance Channel's *The Green*. In 2007, Ringo was invited to serve on the National Parks and Conservation Association board.

Jerome Ringo is also an associate research scholar – Yale University, an author, and lecturer. He currently teaches Environmental Justice at University California Santa Barbara, others.

Boards he sits on include: Al Gore's Climate Advisory Panel/National Wildlife Federation/National Parks and Conservation Association/Florida A & M University School of the Environment/Sundance Channel *The Green*/*Newsweek* Magazine Advisory Panel on Climate Change.