Keynote address, and Environment and Justice Panel

Joshua Farley, is a renowned ecological economist working to integrate social, human, and natural capital into the way the world views economics. He is a Fellow of the Post Carbon Institute and the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics and, a Professor in the Community Development and Applied Economics faculty at the University of Vermont. With economist Herman Daly, Joshua co-authored the foundation textbook Ecological Economics: Principles and Applications, 2nd ed. Island Press (2010). He holds degrees in biology, international affairs and economics. Joshua has received several Fellowships and has spent considerable time abroad. He has served as program director at the School for Field Studies, Centre for Rainforest Studies in Far North Queensland Australia, as Executive Director of the University of Maryland International Institute for Ecological Economics, and as adjunct faculty and licensed examiner at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill. He recently returned from a Fulbright Fellowship in Brazil, where he served as visiting professor at the Federal Universities of Santa Catarina (UFSC) and Bahia (UFBA). His broad research interests focus on the design of an economy capable of balancing what is biophysically possible with what is socially, psychologically and ethically desirable. More specifically, his research focuses on mechanisms for allocating resources under local control and national sovereignty that generate global public goods, developing trans-disciplinary case study approaches to environmental problem solving as an educational tool, ecological restoration of rainforest ecosystems, economic globalization, and the valuation and finance of restoring natural capital.

Health and Justice Panel

Dr. Robert Kraig Executive Director Citizen Action of Wisconsin (PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison; M.A. University of Georgia; B.A. University of Pittsburgh)

Over the past 14 years, Robert has played a significant role in the Wisconsin public policy arena. Robert is a leading strategist in the Wisconsin progressive movement, and is especially known for developing innovative approaches to promote health care reform. Robert is leading in the development of new progressive communications models which are more effective and fully integrate traditional organizing with earned, social, and new media strategies. Robert frequently appears in Wisconsin media. He has also appeared on major national media outlets such as Fox News, MSNBC, Al Jazeera, Democracy Now, and many syndicated radio programs, and has been quoted in national newspapers and magazines such as the New York Times, Washington Post, The American Prospect, The Atlantic, and Mother Jones. In October of 2011 Robert was one of the recipients of the Citizen Leadership Award from the Campaign for America’s Future. In January of 2009 Families USA, the national organization for
health care consumers, presented Robert with its "Consumer Health Advocate of the Year Award." Also in 2009, the Wisconsin State Assembly gave Robert a special citation for his work in promoting health care reform in Wisconsin. In 2007 Kraig shared, with his colleague Matt Brusky, the "Progressive Innovation Award" from the Ballot Initiative Strategy Center. He is also a policy expert, authoring eleven reports on various aspects of the health care crisis, and speaking throughout the country on reform legislation. Robert earned a Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, holds a B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh, and an M.A. from the University of Georgia. He is the author of several major academic articles on American political rhetoric and a well-regarded book, Woodrow Wilson and the Lost World of the Oratorical Statesman (Texas A&M Press). The book topped a Wall Street Journal list of the five best books on presidential rhetoric. From 1999-2005 he was the Wisconsin Political Director for SEIU, where he helped develop and win the passage of several policy innovations which enabled over twelve thousand low-wage workers to form unions. He grew up in Oak Park, Illinois, and has lived in Wisconsin since 1989.

Dr. Amy DeLong is a family physician and Ho-Chunk tribal member who has worked at the Ho-Chunk Nation House of Wellness Clinic for over seven years. She received her Bachelor’s of Science from the University of Michigan, completed medical school at the University of Minnesota and completed her training in family medicine at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis, MN. She earned her Master’s in Public Health in the maternal child health track while completing an adolescent health fellowship through the University Of Minnesota Department Of Pediatrics. As a Native physician who is doing primary care and public health for her own Native American community, Dr. DeLong brings an understanding of health and justice issues from that unique perspective.

Cindy Haq is a champion for primary health care, community and family medicine, and socially accountable medical education within the US and abroad. She has provided full spectrum family medicine and has designed and led medical educational programs in rural Belleville, Madison and Milwaukee WI, and in Pakistan, Uganda and Ethiopia. She trains family medicine residents, provides care for families, the uninsured and homeless, and leads the Training in Urban Medicine and Public Health (TRIUMPH) program for UW medical students in Milwaukee, WI.
Arthur Taggart has been the Executive Director of the Epilepsy Foundation Heart of Wisconsin since 1991. He was named Executive of the Year at the Epilepsy Foundation national conference in October 2003. Mr Taggart has been Chair of the Coalition for Wisconsin Health, a membership-based organization dedicated to affordable health insurance for all Wisconsin residents. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Mr Taggart speaks regularly on epilepsy, seizure first aid, and on issues affecting people with chronic health conditions. He has presented at statewide at forums on health care access and health care reform issues.

E. Shedden Farley has been the owner of ESF Construction in Fort Collins Colorado since 1985. He holds a degree in history from University of Colorado. Shedd is a member of Green Remodeller Assn. and incorporates sustainable building in his custom home and remodeling building projects. In 2006 he received the Larimer County Building Department Award: Outstanding Professionalism Through the Construction Process, and is a highly respected carpenter and contractor in the Fort Collins area. As a small business owner, he faces the same issue of obtaining affordable health care coverage that millions of business owners face across the country and brings a consumer’s perspective to the healthcare coverage debate.

Rebecca Farley is Director of Policy and Advocacy for the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare, where she monitors legislation and Federal regulations related to health reform, health information technology (HIT), and mental health parity, providing timely information and technical assistance to members. In this role, Ms. Farley serves as Managing Editor of the Public Policy Update newsletter and primary blogger at MentalHealthcareReform.org. In her role as Director of Policy & Advocacy at the National Council for Behavioral Health, Rebecca Farley builds bridges between Congress and communities – educating mental health and addiction providers about trends and explaining to lawmakers why we need strong public policies that support recovery. She also empowers grassroots advocates to connect with their elected officials and speak up for behavioral health.

Before joining the National Council, Ms. Farley did policy analysis and advocacy on issues related to child and family health at the state and federal level. She also served as Clerk of the Joint Committee on Finance in the Wisconsin State Legislature and spent time directing research and outreach in the Denver-area Latino community as part of a campaign to eliminate disparities in health care.
Tillman Farley is currently the Medical Services Director of Salud Family Health Centers, a migrant/community health center with clinics across north and northeast Colorado. He moved to Colorado from far west Texas where he spent three years directing a federally qualified rural health clinic. Prior to that he was in private practice in upstate New York. Dr. Farley did his residency in family medicine in Rochester, New York after graduating from the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Dr. Farley is interested in integrated primary care and health disparities research, particularly as it applies to immigrant populations. Dr. Farley has implemented a variety of successful (and some not so successful!) integrated care models in practices in New York, Texas, and Colorado. He has lectured widely on integrated primary care.

Food and Justice Panel

Jack Kloppenburg is a Professor in the Department of Community and Environmental Sociology at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. He is the Director of the GreenHouse Residential Learning Community and is affiliated with the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies and the Agroecology Program. His research has involved study of the social impacts of biotechnology, the emergence of managed grazing networks in Wisconsin’s dairy industry, and the global controversy over access to and control over genetic resources. In his work on the “foodshed,” he has envisioned the emergence of a sustainable food system founded on local/regional food production, regional reinvestment of capital, local job creation, the strength of community institutions, and direct democratic participation in the local food economy. He is currently excited by the potential of the growing movement for “food sovereignty” and by the possibilities of applying “open source” principles in the biosciences. He is a founder and board member of the REAP Food Group, a non-profit organization working for a just and sustainable food system.
Janet Parker Since 2009, Janet has helped launch the Farley Center Farm Incubator, which provides land, shared equipment, training and marketing support for beginning farmers including many immigrants. She is active in peace and justice activism, urban gardening and gleaning, and plays saxophone with the Forward Marching Band. She holds a masters degree in land resources from the Nelson Institute at UW-Madison.

John E. Peck grew up on a 260 acre farm in central Minnesota, has a B.A. in Economics from Reed College and a PhD in Land Resources from UW-Madison. He has been the Executive Director of Family Farm Defenders for the last decade, and is also a part-time instructor of Economics and Environmental Studies at Madison College. His graduate research focused on community-based management of common property resources in Zimbabwe. He attended the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and participated in global justice events surrounding the WTO meeting Seattle in 1999, as well as FTAA meetings in Quebec in 2001 and Miami in 2003. He has been part of solidarity delegations to Ainaro, East Timor in 2005 and Oaxaca, Mexico 2008, and also participated in the 2007 Nyeleni Food Sovereignty Conference in Selengue, Mali, the Fifth Conference of La Via Campesina in Maputo, Mozambique in 2008, as well as the 2009 U.N. Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Harvey M. Jacobs, Ph.D., is on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he holds a joint appointment as Professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies. Prof. Jacobs has been at UW-Madison since 1984, and has served as Chair of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning (1995-1998) and director of the University’s Land Tenure Center (1999-2002). Prof. Jacobs is also Visiting Professor in the Department of Geography, Planning and Environmental Studies at Radboud University Nijmegen, Netherlands.

Prof. Jacobs is the editor of Private Property in the 21st Century: The Future of an American Ideal (Edward Elgar, 2004) and Who Owns America? Social Conflict Over Property Rights (University of Wisconsin Press,
1998), and the author or co-author of over 100 professional articles and essays, of which over 30 focus specifically on the social and legal aspects of property rights. Internationally Prof. Jacobs has worked and lectured in Albania, Canada, France, Italy, Kenya, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Taiwan, Trinidad, Tunisia and Zimbabwe.

Most generally, Prof. Jacobs is interested in how societies define property, and the policy structures they develop to manage the relationship between private and public rights in property.

More complete information about his teaching and research program can be found on the web at: http://urpl.wisc.edu/people/jacobs/.

Gina Wilson. Since May 2007, Gina Wilson has served as Director of Agency Services and Programs for Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin. Gina has more than twenty-five years of experience in nonprofit management, community organizing and creating partnerships with public and private organizations, primarily those committed to ending hunger. Throughout her career, she has focused on outreach efforts and revenue development to increase participation in programs that assist underserved, diverse populations. As a Board member of the Wisconsin Alliance of Information and Referral Systems, Gina acts as liaison to the 2-1-1 Wisconsin Board. She holds a master's degree in Social Work from West Virginia University and is an AIRS-certified information and referral specialist.

Environment & Justice Panel

Patty Loew, Ph.D., is a professor in the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Life Sciences Communication, documentary producer, and former broadcast journalist in public and commercial television. A member of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe, Dr. Loew is the award-winning author of Indian Nations of Wisconsin: Histories of Endurance and Renewal, which won the Wisconsin Library Association's 2002 Outstanding Book Award, and Native People of Wisconsin, which won the 2003 Best Juvenile Non-fiction Award from the Wisconsin Writers Council. A second edition of Indian Nations was published in summer 2013. A new book, Seventh Generation Earth Ethics is scheduled for publication in spring 2014. Her documentary, “Way of the Warrior,” which received the 2008 Unity Award from the Radio and Television News Directors Association, aired on PBS stations across the country in the fall of 2007.
Carl Sack is a social and environmental justice activist and grad student living in Madison, WI. He is a graduate student in Cartography and currently active in union organizing and efforts to stop the Penokee open-pit iron mine. He is a staff and board member of the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice and works with Madison Action for Mining Alternatives.

John Welch, is Solid Waste Manager for Dane County and was previously the County's Recycling Manager. He has a BS from UW Madison in Civil & Environmental Engineering and is a registered PE in Wisconsin. He and his staff oversee operations of: one active and two closed landfills; a newly opened Construction & Demolition recycling transfer station; three compost sites; a year-round Household Hazardous Waste facility; a landfill gas-to-energy system; and a landfill gas-to-vehicle fuel system. Recent projects include a community manure digester, a food digester feasibility study, beginning operation of a new C&D transfer station, shingle recycling, and e-waste collection events. In addition, he has been heavily involved in the County's fleet conversion to compressed natural gas (CNG) and development of its bioCNG program, which converts landfill gas to CNG vehicle fuel.

Madeleine Para, recently left her job as a four-year-old kindergarten teacher in the Madison school district to work as the national Program Director for Citizens Climate Lobby. She has organized CCL chapters around the state and the Midwest, and is also a founder and past co-coordinator of the Madison chapter of 350.org. She lives and works in Madison at Arboretum Cohousing in a small apartment overflowing with people and pets.
Call to Action

John Nichols, a pioneering political blogger, has written the Beat since 1999. His posts have been circulated internationally, quoted in numerous books and mentioned in debates on the floor of Congress.

Nichols writes about politics for The Nation magazine as its Washington correspondent. He is a contributing writer for The Progressive and In These Times and the associate editor of the Capital Times, the daily newspaper in Madison, Wisconsin. His articles have appeared in the New York Times, Chicago Tribune and dozens of other newspapers.

Nichols is a frequent guest on radio and television programs as a commentator on politics and media issues and has been featured in several documentaries. Nichols is a prolific and astute author which historian Howard Zinn said: "At exactly the time when we need it most, John Nichols gives us a special gift--a collection of writings, speeches, poems, and songs from throughout American history--that reminds us that our revulsion to war and empire has a long and noble tradition in this country."

With Robert W. McChesney, Nichols has co-authored the books It's the Media, Stupid! (Seven Stories), Our Media, Not Theirs (Seven Stories), Tragedy and Farce: How the American Media Sell Wars, Spin Elections, and Destroy Democracy (The New Press), The Death and Life of American Journalism (Nation Books) , Uprising: How Wisconsin Renewed the Politics of Protest, from Madison to Wall Street (Nation Books)and most recently Dollarocracy (Nation Books). McChesney and Nichols are the co-founders of Free Press, the nation's media-reform network, which organized the 2003 and 2005 National Conferences on Media Reform.

Of Nichols, author Gore Vidal says: "Of all the giant slayers now afoot in the great American desert, John Nichols’s sword is the sharpest."

Mary Bottari is Center for Media and Democracy's (CMD) Deputy Director and also the Director of CMD's Real Economy Project and BanksterUSA. She served as a Senior Analyst in Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch. Center for Media and Democracy is a non-profit investigative reporting group. The reporting and analysis focus is on exposing corporate spin and government propaganda. They publish PRWatch, SourceWatch, and BanksterUSA. Prior to joining CMD she worked for the Ralph Nader-founded organization Public Citizen, and former Democratic Senator Russ Feingold of Wisconsin.