

Strategic Initiatives Summit One

SUSTAINING THE PLANET, POWERING THE WORLD

Faculty Presenters (in order)

DON WORSTER, Joyce and Elizabeth Hall Distinguished Professor of U.S. History, is the author of two recent prize-winning biographies: *A Passion for Nature: The Life of John Muir* and *A River Running West: The Life of John Wesley Powell*. He has also written eight other books, is regarded as one of the pioneers of environmental history, and is a past president of the American Society for Environmental History. Research interests include the frontier and the U.S. West and the history of conservation and environmentalism. His academic background includes a Ph.D. degree from Yale University.

JOY K. WARD, Associate Professor, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, studies climate change issues and holds a courtesy appointment in Environmental Studies. Her research involves understanding plant responses to past climate and carbon dioxide changes in the geologic record, as well as plant responses to climate change scenarios predicted for the future. She holds a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, an NSF CAREER award, and the Thelma and Edward Wohlgemuth Faculty Scholar Chair for early-career faculty. Her academic background includes a Ph.D. degree from Duke University.

A. TOWNSEND PETERSON, University Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Curator, Biodiversity Institute, works in the fields of species distribution, biodiversity informatics, and disease geography. With KU colleagues, he directs the world's most active program of sampling bird diversity, with work ongoing in 21 countries. In the field of disease geography, he introduced the concept of ecological niche modeling as a means of reconstructing the geography of species that participate in disease transmission, such as Ebola, monkeypox and avian influenza. His academic background includes a Ph.D. degree from the University of Chicago.

STACEY SWEARINGEN WHITE, Associate Professor, Urban Planning, also serves as Associate Director of the Environmental Studies Program and Director of Academic Programs for the Center for Sustainability. Her primary research interests are in the areas of environmental planning and policy. Areas of emphasis include innovation diffusion, environmental policy implementation, public participation in environmental planning, social conflict over land use, water quality, and campus sustainability. She is currently a co-PI on the EPSCoR project examining Kansas farmer land use decisions. Her academic background includes a Ph.D. degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

SUSAN STAGG-WILLIAMS, Associate Professor, Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, works in reaction engineering, materials and energy balances, and catalysis/ surface science. She has an active research program for the production of alternative fuels, including synthesis gas and bio-based fuels. She is co-originator and director of the KU Biodiesel Initiative, which converts used cooking oil from the campus dining services into high-quality transportation fuel. She is also the leader of the 25-member “Feedstock to Tailpipe[®]” research team, which looks at sustainable feedstocks for the production of next generation liquid fuels. Her academic background includes a Ph.D. degree from the University of Oklahoma.

GEORGE BITTLINGMAYER, Wagon Distinguished Professor of Finance, focuses on the effect of public policies on financial markets, business investment, and mergers and acquisitions. His recent work includes a study of the effect of oil-price shocks on financial markets. He has served as a founding co-director of the Center for Research on Entrepreneurial Activity, funded by the Kauffman Foundation, and he founded and was a visiting economist at the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, where he analyzed the effects of pending mergers in the petroleum and chemicals sectors. His academic background includes a Ph.D. degree from the University of Chicago.

BALA SUBRAMANIAM, Dan F. Servey Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering and Director, Center for Environmentally Beneficial Catalysis, has primary research interests in the development of sustainable processes for fuels and chemicals. He is internationally known for his research in these areas, and is among the national leaders in promoting sustainability in the chemicals and energy industries. He is currently president of the International Society for Chemical Reaction Engineering, and is the co-founder of CritiTech, Inc., a successful KU start-up company located in Lawrence. His academic background includes a Ph.D. degree from the University of Notre Dame.

JUDY WU, University Distinguished Professor of Physics and Astronomy, directs the NSF EPSCoR Kansas Center for Solar Energy Research, an interdisciplinary team of 29 researchers from KU, Kansas State, and Wichita State. Her Thin Film and Nanoscience Group at KU works actively at the interface between nanoscience and material science/physics, and has received extensive federal and industry funding. She specializes in nanostructured materials and devices for various electronic and opto-electronic applications, and holds five U.S. patents, with two more pending. Her academic background includes a Ph.D. degree from the University of Houston.

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