



NEWS

MesaStateCollege
Office of Development
1100 North Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501-3122
Phone: 970-248-1868
Fax: 970-248-1076
www.mesastate.edu

For Immediate Release: April 7, 2009

Contact: Dana Nunn

970.248.1868

970.640.0421

2009 Aspinall Public Lecture - The Purple West: The Changing Rural West and How it Matters in U.S. Politics

Grand Junction - The November election brought extraordinary change to the rural west, with Democrats making gains in several of the states in the region. Now that there's been some time to sort all this out, it's a good time to see whether the explanations for this shift popular at the national level actually square with what's happening on the ground, here in the rural west.

Dr. William Chaloupka, the 2009 Aspinall Guest Lecturer at Mesa State College, will address that very subject in his free public lecture Thursday, April 9, at 7 pm in the recital hall of the Moss Performing Arts Center.

Dr. Chaloupka is a professor of political science at Colorado State University, where he has worked since 2002, serving as chair of the department from 2002-2007. He teaches political theory, environmental thought, and American politics. Prior to that, he taught environmental studies and political science at the University of Montana in Missoula, and previously taught at Ball State University and the University of New Mexico.

His books include *Everybody Knows: Cynicism in America* (1999), *Knowing Nukes: Politics and Culture of the Atom* (1992) and, co-edited with Jane Bennett, *In the Nature of Things: Language, Politics, and the Environment* (1993), all published by the University of Minnesota Press. Chaloupka was co-editor of the journal *Theory & Event* from 1999-2005. He is currently working on a book about environmental politics in the U.S., and co-editing a book of scholarly reactions to the "death of environmentalism" thesis.

The Aspinall Foundation was formed in January 1968 in honor of Congressman Wayne N. Aspinall. It provides various programs for educating and informing students and the public as well as promoting good citizenship by increasing interest and participation in good government, wise development and use of natural resources, careful land-use planning and other public affairs. The Aspinall Foundation also provides scholarships for deserving students.

###