

September 24, 2010 Program Speaker Biographies

Kevin J. Bell, President and CEO, Lincoln Park Zoological Society

Kevin J. Bell was born in New York City and grew up on the grounds of the Bronx Zoo, where his father was Curator of Birds. Kevin became a zoo volunteer at the age of 10, a part-time animal caretaker at 17 and a keeper at 20. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology at Syracuse University, New York, and a Master of Science degree in zoology at State University of New York, Brockport, New York. He was hired in 1976 as Curator of Birds at Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, Illinois; in 1992, was promoted to Assistant Director; and in 1993, was appointed Director. After the zoo was privatized in 1995, Kevin was also named President and CEO of the Lincoln Park Zoological Society, which manages and operates Lincoln Park Zoo.

An American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) member since 1976, Kevin has served on the Wildlife Conservation Management Committee. In 1996, he was chairman of the Privatization Task Force, which produced AZA's first reference book for member institutions contemplating a governance change. Mr. Bell was elected to the AZA Board in 2007 and assumed the role of Chair in September 2009. He also is a member of several species survival plan (SSP) and taxon advisory group (TAG) management groups and has published numerous articles in the *International Zoo Yearbook* and other zoo-related publications.

In 2006, Bell was elected to the Board of Visitors of the College of Arts and Sciences at his alma mater, Syracuse University.

Adam Davis, Senior Research and Teaching Associate, Project on Civic Reflection, & Board President and Co-Founder, Camp of Dreams

Adam Davis is currently the board president of Camp of Dreams, a non-profit organization providing year-round programming for underserved young people in Chicago. He is also Senior Research and Teaching Associate for the Project on Civic Reflection, in which capacity he has trained hundreds of facilitators to lead community and workplace discussions around the country. Davis is also the founder and lead facilitator of "Justice Talking," a national program for service and volunteer organizations; an instructor in The Odyssey Project, a college-level humanities program for low-income adults in Chicago; and the coeditor of *The Civically Engaged Reader, Hearing the Call across Traditions: Readings on Faith and Service* and *Talking Service: Readings for Reflection*. Davis has written for *The Common Review* and *The Chicago Tribune*, and he used to lead wilderness trail crews for the United States Forest Service.

Davis received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, his M.A. from Boston College and his B.A. from Kenyon College.

Michelle Sherbun, ACC, AELC, President, Merlin Solutions, LLC

Michelle Sherbun, ACC, AELC is President of Merlin Solutions, LLC, a full service management and leadership development firm dedicated to helping not-for-profit clients define and achieve success. A graduate of Indiana University and a certified leadership coach, she has been empowering individuals and not-for-profit organizations to reach their peak potential for nearly 30 years. With Michelle's help in creating cultures that positively impact all levels of the organization, the managers she works with become leaders who value self-sufficiency and sustainability, awareness and accountability, growth and profit, inspiration and innovation, and mutual success.

Caren Yanis, Executive Director, Crown Family Philanthropies

Caren Yanis joined Crown Family Philanthropies (CFP) at the beginning of 2009. As the first professional, non-family leader, her role includes managing organizational growth, developing staff, building communications structures, and engaging a large family constituency in strategic grantmaking.

Prior to joining CFP, Caren spent over eight years running Oprah Winfrey's philanthropies including Oprah's Angel Network (a public charity), the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy Foundation, and the Oprah Winfrey Foundation.

During her tenure with Oprah, Caren oversaw a series of projects that included: a public-private partnership with the South African government to build schools in rural areas, a recovery and poverty reduction project in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama that helped over 1,200 people get back into homes following Hurricane Katrina, and a web-based youth development project in schools across the U.S. and Canada.

Caren is member of the Donors Forum Board of Directors, an Ambassador for the Chicago Global Donor's Network, a President's Circle member of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, and sits on the Critical Impact Awards Committee at the Council on Foundations. She holds a degree in Broadcast Journalism from Emerson College in Boston and has a certificate from Stanford University in non-profit leadership.