



March 8, 2008

To whom it may concern:

I want to recommend, in the strongest possible terms, David Chameides to be considered as a guest speaker at your university. Having just brought Dave to Chico State, I can attest to the fact that he is a clear, energetic, thought provoking, and most importantly, convincing speaker.

Dave spoke to an over-capacity crowd of 300 people on the importance of engaging in conservation and on ways in which students, regular people, can actually conserve in their daily lives. The two-hour talk, including power point presentation and questions, was masterfully conducted, informative, and entertaining. The feedback so far is that students and faculty loved the forum. Dave went into careful depth explaining to us the science behind oil consumption, and because of the incisive manner in which he laid out the ethical issues involved in fulfilling our responsibilities to future generations, he had an immediate impact on his audience. More than any other point, he drove home the idea that college is about the importance of thinking hard about why we decide to do what we do---and that indecision of any variety is itself still a choice. He had a particularly noteworthy influence on those either not initially disposed to agree with him at the outset of his talk, or those required to be in attendance for a class in which they are currently enrolled. Dave is interested in protecting the environment, but the way in which he presses this topic represents a perfect microcosm for what students are supposed to be doing in college: thinking about how well they are presently living their life, and whether or not they could be living it better. This is what Scott McNall, our University's former provost---and now director for The Institute for Sustainable Development---had to say about David Chameides in a memo that this week went to the president of the university:

David Chameides gave an exceptional presentation, "Chasing Sustainability." It was attended by close to 300 people, with many others turned away. The talk was designed for a college-level audience, was inspirational, and left most students with the feeling that they needed to act, and that they could do so in positive ways. (He was very careful not to make the talk a "political" speech.) I wondered whether or not we could have a freshman convocation in which we bring him, or somebody like him, back to get the students started on a positive note. Such convocation would introduce them to the values of the university, would help them understand that they make choices all the time, and that their choices have important environmental consequences.

And, from a professor who attended the event:

The student feedback regarding his presentation was overwhelmingly positive. I'd like to share some of their comments with you:

- He explained complex issues so simply, anyone could have understood it.
- He made it all seem simple. What I liked most were his positive and easy solutions.
- I liked that he brought visuals, such as the plastic and his own water canteen.
- His power points were very nice and easy to follow.
- He was funny and kept me interested his entire speech. The time went fast!
- I'm really glad that I went, even if I had to.

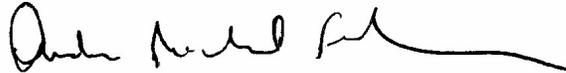
- He reiterated everything that we are learning in class.
- He didn't preach about his own lifestyle, he made it about us. I was pleasantly surprised.
- He is the best speaker I have ever attended at Chico State, and I have seen many!

The students that attended were graduating seniors. They resoundingly agreed that David Chameides should be a regular speaker on campus. Please do invite him back to campus.

Having directed our university's Center for Applied and Professional Ethics for five years, and having brought well over 100 speakers to campus, I can attest to the claim that Dave was the most impressive guest I've ever hosted, so much so that the President and current Provost of our university are currently thinking about how Dave might be the convocation speaker to all of the incoming freshman in the fall of '08. Please don't hesitate to contact me by email at aflescher@csuchico.edu or by phone at 530-898-5534 if I can be of any further service in clarifying for you my thoughts about Dave.

Warmest regards,

Andrew Flescher
Former Director, Center for Applied and Professional Ethics
Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Flescher", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.