

SPEAKERS

John Petersen '88 is a “systems ecologist” by training, which means studying flows of energy, cycles of matter, and control mechanisms operating in complex systems. At Oberlin, much of his research has focused on understanding the role that communication and feedback control play in both ecological and social systems. From a practical perspective, his group of faculty and student collaborators have been developing real-time feedback display technology for buildings, organizations, and whole cities with the goal of engaging, educating, motivating and empowering resource conservation and pro-environmental and pro-community thought and action. Work currently centers on the Environmental Dashboard (www.environmentaldashboard.org), a technology and approach for promoting systems thinking, sustainability, and resilience within communities. The project team collaborates closely with K-college educators, business leaders, government and non-profit organizations. The city of Oberlin serves as a pilot of this technology. Several student collaborators have gone on to careers that build on this work. Together with former students, he cofounded Lucid Design Group, whose software is now used to track energy and water use in thousands of buildings, across the US and Canada. Recently the Oberlin team started Community Hub, which is developing a suite of communications and feedback technology to expand this work to other communities.

Linda Arbogast, Sustainability Coordinator with the City of Oberlin, is originally from a farm in northern MN where her extended family remains. She has a BA in psychological services and an MIA in International Administration. Linda worked in health and education sectors in South and Southeast Asia for over seven years. More recently she served as a Peace Corps Country Director in Guyana South America where she started the first environmental program for Peace Corps/Guyana. Linda worked for three years at Oberlin College where she developed a program to connect Oberlin College students to the local community through working in non-profits and the local schools. She then served as Executive Director of Oberlin Community Services, a non-profit offering emergency assistance to Lorain County residents, for seven years. She has been in her current position, Sustainability Coordinator with the City of Oberlin, for nearly seven years. She is married with three children. The family owns and operates an organic pick your own blueberry farm in Brownhelm township (10 miles north of Oberlin). Linda is passionate about the environment and strives to make a planet that is sustainable for her children and yours as well as the other species with whom we share our world.

Gregory Jones has been, since 2013, an Energy Advocate for POWER (Providing Oberlin with Efficiency Responsibly See: www.poweroberlin.org) with years of experience in evaluating buildings for air leaks, insulation gaps, indoor pollution, energy efficiency and more. He's been an instructor at the Everblue Training Institute as a whole house Air Leakage Control Installer Instructor teaching air sealing techniques. Since 2008, POWER has helped Oberlin homeowners, renters, and apartment owners reduce their energy consumption. The result is lower bills with improved year-round comfort, a better environment, healthier homes, and increased property values. POWER, through Mr. Jones, provides free home inspections with the availability of free energy audits with a certified energy specialist. Further assistance is provided for navigating available programs to help with finances and facilitating communications with qualified contractors.

Sami Singleton is a Senior Environmental Studies Major with a path in Urban Design. She's worked extensively on the Environmental Dashboard at Oberlin. According to her Linked In profile, she is looking forward to possibilities for post-graduate work as a Communications Manager · Urban Designer · Community Development Coordinator · Community Outreach Coordinator.

Josette Apple is a senior at Oberlin College with a major in Environmental Studies with a passion for communications and urban sustainability. Josette has worked alongside John Petersen and other Oberlin students on the Environmental Dashboard. She is also a Social Media Intern at Coblrshop, an online shoe repair company that emphasizes repair as a means to be more sustainable. She's "deeply passionate about environmentalism and is eager to pursue a career in communications and sustainability related fields."

Christopher (Chris) Norman is the Oberlin Sr. Director for Energy and Sustainability. He comes to Oberlin College and Conservatory with a long history in environmental non-profit work, focusing on sustainable land use, project management, conservation, and collaborative solutions. With his degree from the Honors Tutorial College at Ohio University, he worked for seven years as Organic Farm Manager for the National Audubon Society at Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm. After finishing his Master of Urban Planning, Design and Development at Cleveland State University, Chris organized the second Northeast Ohio Food Congress and co-founded the Summit County Food Policy Coalition, while serving as Executive Director of Crown Point Ecology Center. Recently, during his more than eight-year tenure at the Akron Zoo, Chris served on the executive committee of the Association of Zoo and Aquarium's Green Scientific Advisory Group, led the development of the Zoo's Conservation Strategic Plan, and oversaw construction of Pride of Africa and Wild Asia exhibits. While at the Zoo, he facilitated the establishment of the Summit for Sustainability Alliance (SoSA), a cross-sector professional group in Summit County to promote sustainable actions, using the UN SDGs as the organizing framework. A native of northeast Ohio, Chris lives in Fairlawn with his spouse Kathleen and their children Joseph and Peter.

MODERATOR

Walt Galloway (Oberlin '69) served in the Peace Corps in Ethiopia and Eritrea, 1969-1971. Retired June 30, 2012 after 38 years of environmental research, and various forms of training, facilitation, and organization development; working since 1974 with the EPA Office of Research and Development as a chemist, environmental scientist, facilitator, change agent, and manager. Mostly did the work he enjoyed most, working with local governments, citizens, and fellow research scientists on how to truly succeed in Community Based Environmental Protection. He is the current Chair of the Oberlin EnviroAlums group.

ORGANIZERS Paul Safyan '68, Dave Tempest '72, Susan Buck'72