



# Sustainability Perspectives

Spring 2018

All talks in this series take place on Mondays at **12:20PM**  
in the **deWitt Lecture Room** (Zabriskie 106).

## February 5 **Sustaining Culture to Sustain the Community: The Case of Easter Island**

**Carl Lipo**, professor, Anthropology, co-founder, Sustainable Communities Program, *Binghamton University*  
**Pamela Mischen**, associate professor of Public Administration, *Binghamton University*

Contrary to popular belief, Easter Island was sustainable before humans arrived. While extensive deforestation occurred, the island reached a new sustainable equilibrium until Europeans arrived. Catastrophic depopulation resulted, but the island has since rebounded. Modern day Easter Island faces different sustainability challenges as a global tourist destination. Learn about Easter Island's long struggle to maintain its culture and sustainability through self-governance. Learn how the three "Es" of sustainable communities (economy, environment, and equity) are inherently intertwined with culture and governance.



## February 12 **Preservation: How History Sustains Us**

**Andrew Roblee '11**, cultural resources specialist, *Environmental Design and Research*

Historic preservation is the merging of education, community planning, and real estate, and is just one of the many "children of history" that has the power and ability to make a difference in the world. Far from the mission of the *Mount Vernon Ladies Association*, historic preservation in 2017 aims not only to preserve memory and place, but also to encourage environmental sustainability, support urban revitalization, protect rural spaces, and to repurpose vacant properties of every shape, size, and function.



## February 19 **Climate Change, Careers in Green Buildings, and What More You Can Do**

**Ian Shapiro**, trainer, *Climate Reality Project* and founder, *Taitem Engineering*

Climate change is already happening. Come hear the latest update from Al Gore's *Climate Reality Project*, as well as learn about careers in the green building field, and what you can even do at home and at school/work.



## February 26 **Making an Impact with Sustainable Supply Chains**

**Patricia Donohue**, Sustainable Supply Chain Program Manager, *New York State Pollution Prevention Institute*

What are the elements of supply chain sustainability and a circular economy? How can we reduce our environmental impacts while becoming more efficient with resources and reducing costs? It is possible! She will share concepts and case studies.



## March 5 **Municipal Sustainability in Ithaca, NY**

**Nick Goldsmith**, Sustainability Coordinator, *City of Ithaca*

Nick will give an overview of sustainability efforts in Ithaca, explain current sustainability initiatives such as the Green Building Policy and the Electric Vehicle Program, and discuss municipal planning efforts that led to Ithaca becoming certified as a *Climate Smart Community* by the NY Department of Environmental Conservation.

**CANCELLED - WILL BE RESCHEDULED TO FALL 2018**



## March 26 **Opening More Sustainable Doors (and Windows)**

**Deb Callahan '85** is the chief executive officer of the *National Fenestration Rating Council*, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that serves the public by providing energy performance ratings for the energy performance of windows, doors, and skylights. NFRC works closely with the building industry, code officials, manufacturers, laboratories and other not-for-profit organizations. Learn about the NFRC's origins during the 1980s energy crisis, its current role in green building, and why efficient doors and windows matter.

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## April 2 **Sustainability in State Parks**

**Michael Wise**, director of Energy and Sustainability, *NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation*

**Fred Bonn**, regional director, *Finger Lakes Parks*

The duo will explain their work to ensure that our state's public park system continues to flourish and thrive. Among the initiatives discussed will be the park systems' effort to "green" their transportation fleet.



## April 9 **Roots and Fruits: The Foundations and Evolution of a Sustainable School**

**Barb Post '78** and **Alyssa Binns Gunderson**, educators, *Peachtown Elementary School*

*Peachtown Elementary School* is a model for sustainable organizations. Founded in 1990 and built on a heterarchical model, *Peachtown* is an exemplar of social, economic, and environmental sustainability. Now in its 28<sup>th</sup> year, this small and unique school located on the Wells College campus has evolved to include the logical next step in environmental sustainability with a zero waste program.



## April 16 **Sustainability and Our Food**

**Meg Lowe**, sustainability coordinator, *Syracuse University*

**Zainab Pixler** and **Andrew Greenwald**, students, *Syracuse University*

Industrial agriculture has wreaked havoc on our ecosystems and changed the way we think about food. What if there was a better way that nourished the environment and its inhabitants? Explore how a more sustainable approach to food can encourage the health of the planet and all who live in it.



## April 23 **The Future of Reproductive Rights in an era with CRISPR**

**Jonathan Mills '18**, Sustainability major, *Wells College*

The gene editing tool *CRISPR* has become a phenomenon that gives individuals the opportunity to essentially "pick and choose" what characteristics they would like their child to have. Using this technology, population diversity is significantly reduced. Questions to consider include: Who would be able to use this technology if it became more mainstream? Why is there a fascination with control? What does this mean for our overall population? John encourages you to think about these questions as our society slowly becomes more dependent on technology advertised to make our lives "a little easier".



## April 30 **Long-term changes in Mountain Ecosystems – Human-Landscape Interactions**

**Jana Müllerová**, deputy head, GIS and Remote Sensing department, *Institute of Botany, Czech Academy of Sciences*

Dr. Müllerová's research specialty is vegetation ecology, focusing on plant-environmental interactions and spatio-temporal vegetation changes, and human influences on vegetation and landscapes. She has been Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the University of Colorado at Boulder; her Wells appearance is supported by the *Fulbright Outreach Lecturing Fund*.



All *Sustainability Perspectives* series talks are free and open to the public.