

ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS

Dr. Stephen Pont is a founding pediatrician and the medical director for the Texas Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Childhood Obesity at Dell Children's Medical Center. The Center includes a tertiary care pediatric weight management clinic and a 10-week family based group program in addition to education, advocacy and research activities. Dr. Pont also serves as the medical director for Children's/Austin Independent School District Student Health Services. Dr. Pont serves on multiple local, state, and national childhood obesity related committees and councils, including with the Texas Department of State Health Services, the Texas Department of Agriculture, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Pont has authored multiple research and professional publications regarding childhood obesity and is very excited to have the opportunity to work with you all. www.dellchildrens.net/healthyliving

Professor Bob Paterson specializes in land use and environmental planning at the University of Texas. He has completed more than 40 projects over the past 17 years, and was a recipient of a Faculty Fellow in Social Science Research Applied to Hazards and Disasters award through the National Science Foundation. Recent and on-going research projects include grants and contracts with the Hogg Foundation, the Lincoln Institute for Land Policy, Texas Department of Transportation, and the Meadows Foundation. Professor Paterson teaches graduate level courses in Plans and Plan Making, Environmental Impact Assessment, Sustainable Brownfield Redevelopment, Natural Hazard Mitigation, Doctoral Research Design, and Public Policy Dispute Resolution. He has served on numerous state and regional planning advisory boards and task forces and was a co-Founder of the Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project. Presentations at academic and professional conferences in the past three years include: the Congress for New Urbanism, Sustainable Land Development, the UT Sustainability Summit, the International Joint Congress of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, and the International Social Science Conference. Dr. Paterson's two most recent research projects are focused on better understanding local sustainability efforts in the US and providing better metrics for Sustainable Brownfield Development.

Stephen Oliver, The American Institute of Architects Austin brings a passion for excellence in urban design and architecture to his work as principal at OPA Design Studio. Stephen has a unique and in-depth understanding of the larger context of best national design and planning practice as well as local city planning in which projects are successfully defined and completed. He focuses on contributing to the visioning of Austin in his roles as OPA Design Studio Principal and as Past President of the American Institute Architects Austin, former chair of the AIA Austin Regional and Community Design Committee Chair, a member of Urban Land Institute (ULI) and the Airport Boulevard City of Austin Taskforce. In addition he has been a proponent of sustainable practices as Architect in charge of the design of Holiday's Inn first green hotel in San Antonio, as well as Covered Bridge Village and Fiore. He recently completed design and construction of Raider Park, a mixed use high rise in Lubbock, and the Star Charter School in North Austin.

Dr. Talia M. McCray is an assistant professor at the University of Texas in Austin. She specializes in transportation access equity issues of disadvantaged populations and explores how the built environment impacts the quality of life for low-income populations. At the center of her research is the exploration of innovative data collection methodologies which capture the “why” of travel demand and unsatisfied demand. Often she utilizes GIS to organize and analyze data taken from focus groups and the self-mapping of individual activity spaces. Her work has taken her to South Africa to model the socio-economic and environmental factors that affect prenatal care for women living in rural South Africa and to Quebec City, Canada, where she analyzed the challenges of using public transportation to access discount shopping for low-income women. Recent work includes studies that have both a research and outreach focus in analyzing the activity patterns of low-income youth in Providence, RI. Current projects include completing an environmental analysis of Capital Metro transit bus stops and analyzing travel behavior data of students at Huston Tillotson University to determine the degree to which inadequate routes and perceptions of personal security affect ridership. Dr. McCray’s newest work involves an analysis of travel behavior with respect to race and socio-economic factors in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. Dr. McCray earned her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, in urban technological and environmental planning, specializing in transportation planning. Her MS is from Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, in electrical engineering. She graduated with high honors from Bennett College (BS mathematics) and North Carolina A&T State University (BS electrical engineering), both in Greensboro, NC. Dr. McCray teaches in the areas of transportation social equity, accessibility, planning for megaregions, public health and the built environment, and quantitative methods.

Marissa Duswalt is a Registered Dietitian committed to reversing the national food and obesity crises. As one of twenty-five scholars chosen by the Madeleine Albright Foundation, she currently serves as a Truman Albright Fellow in the Office of the Secretary at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where she conducts nutrition outreach for the First Lady’s *Let’s Move* initiative to reverse childhood obesity within a generation. As a nutrition professional, she serves in USDA’s Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships to carry out the President’s goal to *End Hunger by 2015*. She works to engage the nation’s most food insecure populations with access to USDA’s food and nutrition assistance. In 2009, she was selected as a Harry Truman Scholar from Texas for her commitment to public service and her federal legislative proposal strategizing policy solutions to address childhood obesity. Her background in community work includes a focus on serving communities in food deserts, nutrition education and outreach, and improving school food service. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Plan II Honors Program and a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition with Honors at The University of Texas at Austin, graduating Phi Beta Kappa as a College of Natural Sciences Dean’s Honored Graduate and a Plan II Honors Distinguished Graduate. She completed her certification as a Registered Dietitian through UT’s Coordinated Program in Dietetics. Marissa lives in Washington, DC, where she volunteers as a cooking class instructor for the *Kids Eat Right* program and helps coordinate canned food drives for USDA’s Combined Federal Campaign. She was born and raised in Rosenberg, Texas, where her family emigrated from Mexico. She enjoys cooking, running, and serving at her local church.