

Gordon Watts got his Ph.D. in 1994 from University of Rochester, and joined the University of Washington (Seattle) faculty in 1999 after a post-doc at Brown University. He has worked on the AMY experiment (Tristan), the CDF and DZERO experiments (Tevatron), and the ATLAS experiment (LHC). He has worked on the $t\bar{t}$ discovery, on the single top discovery, and a handful of exotics searches, including lepto-quarks and hidden valley searches. During this time he has run the b-tagging group at both DZERO and ATLAS. He has also run university-wide committees. He has previously served on the Fermilab User's Committee, which included outreach activities as well as lobbying congress. His current focus is on ATLAS, working on hidden valley searches and b-tagging. He is also has a smaller effort working on data preservation at DZERO.

US institutions bring a lot to the table. The people and resources are advantages that increase the US' value to CERN and the experiments, making the collaboration stronger and more fruitful for all parties. They allow US researchers and students to participate in hardware and physics analysis they might not otherwise be able to. It is important to maintain the people and funding so that the US can continue to participate at its current level. This is especially time critical now as design and construction for upgrade projects are decided. Universities are strong collaborators in these projects and funding levels need to be kept from falling further. At the same time the national labs – Fermilab, BNL, and also SLAC – bring strengths and resources to the table that would be otherwise unavailable and their viability must be kept and expanded as best possible. This will involve internal outreach, something an organization like USLUO is well suited to.

US collaborators doing research at the LHC means having to deal with remote collaboration, extensive travel, and time zone differences. Building stronger ties between US institutions and collaborators at CERN is crucial to overcoming these issues. G. Watts is based on the West coast with his students and post-docs located at CERN, and so feels these issues acutely. The USLUO is a good place to work on these issues across experiments.

Finally, there is the issue of outreach to US local politicians – addressing the issue of funding for all science. G. Watts has worked on this previously both when he was associated with the Fermilab User's Committee and afterwards, and looks forward to participating again.