

Sheila Potter

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Through teaching, I hope to foster the same sense of inquiry that informs my life, preparing students not only to keep pace with the world as it evolves, but to engage with it as creative problem-solvers and analytical thinkers, driving the process of change itself.

- *Lab Coordinator; Author of course manual; 4th year Zoology; University of Guelph*
- *Project Manager, Lead Instructional & Graphic Designer - award-winning CD ROMs*
- *Lead Instructor; Curriculum Designer for national in-service teacher-training programs*
- *Instructor of pre-service teachers in Acadia School of Education*
- *Owner/Director of Blue Chair Designs - an instructional, web and graphic design company*
- *Key-note speaker at technology in education conference for secondary students & teachers*

EDUCATION

B.Ed. Secondary Science & Technology from Acadia University, 2001

B.Sc. Hons. Biological Science from the University of Guelph, 1994

TEACHING, EMPLOYMENT and OPPORTUNITIES

Presenter, Scientists in School

I guide grade 7 students through a 2.5 hour activity-based session entitled, Engineering Challenges. Students work in teams to explore several key concepts from the Ontario science curriculum's engineering unit while creating & testing hypotheses and applying their knowledge of engineering principals.

Owner & Design Director

www.bluechairdesigns.com

Since founding Blue Chair Designs in 2005, I have developed learning objects; interface designs, newsletters and pamphlets; written educational content, and built websites. Please visit some of my recent work at: **LINKS:** www.borealbirds.ca & www.moraineforlife.org

For a sample of one of my learning objects, please see: **LINK:** www.moraineforlife.org/explore/timeline.htm

Workshop Leader, Instructional and Graphic Designer

At the Acadia Institute for Teaching and Technology (AITT), for Jennifer Bolt; 1999-2003:

Lead Instructor and Curriculum Designer:

- The Clarica Scholars Program, and The GE Leaders Initiative brought teams of teachers, students and administrators from across Canada and the state of Maine for a week-long workshop series, to learn about best practices in technology integration using a project-based approach.
- Camp Multimédia was a 4-day workshop series catered for teachers in the Acadian School Board, and taught in French.
- Teaching and Learning in a Mobile Computing Environment was a 2-day workshop series held in Toronto for teachers from various Ontario laptop schools.

Co-Instructor in the School of Education:

- IT & Education: I co-designed & instructed this project-based course for pre-service teachers.
- Independent study, Instructional Design: I supervised 5 second-year education students & their projects, over 12 weeks.

TEACHING, EMPLOYMENT and OPPORTUNITIES (cont'd)

Founder & Coordinator

www.familieshare.org

Since 2003, Families Share has worked in cooperation with several charitable organizations to supply over 350 care packages to local families in need. One of our goals is to give sponsoring families an opportunity to help that goes beyond giving money, involving children in charitable activity that demonstrates their power to help.

Project Manager, Multimedia Developer

Dr. Paul Hebert, U of G; Sept. '97- Jan. '99

I lead a team to produce the Amphibians, Reptiles, and Mammals of the Great Lakes CD-ROM. In addition to designing the interface and graphics, I researched and wrote content. I wrote a teachers manual to accompany the CD when it was sold to the Toronto Board of Education. I also worked on various other multimedia projects (see CD-ROM Publications).

Research Biologist

Dr. Paul Hebert, 1-year contract, 1996

Working with a team of researchers, I identified and made collections of microcrustaceans from the Great Lakes. I compiled and wrote information on the natural history of the invertebrates of the Great Lakes. I also created a morphological key to species of the benthic Cladoceran Family, Chydoridae which I illustrated with micrographs taken from my collections.

Laboratory Instructor, Courseware Designer, Scientific Illustrator

U of G; 1994/95

I assisted in the instruction of the Mammalogy laboratory (a 4th yr zoology course), prepared a 30-45 minute pre-lab lecture each week, and helped to set and mark exams.

Concurrently, I designed and produced a digital course manual that was presented in 13 chapters on diskette using WordPerfect Envoy, CorelDraw. The course manual was used by approximately 100 students/semester for eight semesters. It is still in use on CD-ROM.

Interpretive Naturalist

Dr. Alan Watson, Arboretum, U of G; Spring '95

I gave biology instruction, performed puppet shows, arranged educational activities, and conducted nature hikes for school children in JK- grade 6.

Program Director of French House

Student Housing Services, U of G; '93-'94

Part of Guelph's residence system, French House is one of 3 Living Learning Centres.

I supervised 50 residents, hired and supervised one resident assistant, devised and presented educational programming to encourage learning of French language and culture.

Mentor Program Coordinator

Volunteer; Fall, Winter '92-'93

I conceived, designed, organized, and administered a unique program for the College of Biological Science. The program initially involved 180 student mentees and 40 professor mentors. The program was later administered by a committee and involved more than 300 mentees.

Research Biologist

Field-seasons, '94, '92, '91

For Dr. Ron Brooks of the University of Guelph, I researched the reproductive biology of painted, snapping and wood turtle populations in Algonquin Park.

For Dr. Mark Ridgway of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, I collected data on the interactions of various fish species in lake ecosystems in Algonquin Park.

For the Metro Region Conservation Authority I worked on the rehabilitation of Toronto's Black Creek.

AWARDS and CERTIFICATES

- Nova Scotia Technology Educators Association Scholarship; 2000
- Pirelli International Award: excellence in educational science multimedia for the ARM CD
- AMTEC award of excellence: best secondary educational CD for the ARM CD
- Sony Prize: best post-secondary educational CD for Introduction to Aquatic Environments
- University of Guelph: Leadership Award, College of Biological Science, 1991, '92, '93
- Highschool: Senior Art Award; Certificate of Bilingualism; MVP, Track Team
- Lifesaving: Royal Lifesaving: Red Cross First Aid, Bronze Cross, Heart Saver A

PUBLICATIONS

CD-ROM (all under Hebert, P.D.N. (ed). CD-ROM. Department of Zoology, University of Guelph.)

1999. The Great Lakes Faunal Atlas: Amphibians, Reptiles and Mammals.

1998. Great Lakes Explorer: Biodiversity.

1997. The Great Lakes Faunal Atlas: Birds of the Great Lakes.

1996. Introduction to Aquatic Environments.

PAPER

2007 Plant it and They Will Come, an article about organic gardening with children, Peterborough Kids April/May issue **LINK:** www.peterboroughkids.com/articles/pk17_gardening.html

2002 Lessons Learned: The Partnering of Students with Teachers and Administrators to Achieve Effective Implementation of Technologies, Society for Integration of Technology in Education (S.I.T.E.) conference proceedings

LINK: www.sheilamacleodpotter.com/resources/AITStudentPartnering.htm

1992 Burt, Country Connections; wrote and illustrated an article about the turtle

ecology project in Algonquin Park, Ontario. **LINK:** www.sheilamacleodpotter.com/resources/Burt.pdf

SELECTED WORKSHOPS and PRESENTATIONS

2008 Delivered 1-hour presentation on the History of Technology Integration in schools as keynote speaker at George Briggs Tech. Symposium, and at Trinity College School

2008 Invited speaker at Peterborough Health Unit staff professional development day; delivered 1-hour presentation on the effects of pesticides in the environment.

2007 Invited by S.E.L. township council to represent the environmental perspective on an expert panel at a public meeting concerning the creation of an anti-pesticide by-law.

2006 Organized a public meeting for Lakefield and area residents with several guest speakers & delivered a presentation on the effects of pesticides on the environment.

2002 Presented a poster (see publications, above) at The Society for the Integration of Technology in Education Conference in Nashville, Tennessee

1999, '00 Teaching with Adobe Photoshop; Technology Teachers of Nova Scotia Conference

1998 No Snorkel Required; The Educational Computing Organization of Ontario

1995, '96 Using Multimedia, Graphics, and Cartoons to Enhance Teaching; Invited speaker at University of Guelph Teaching Support Services' Design Café

References available upon request.