

Subject Specialist's Background Information

(in alphabetical order)

Karen Bejin, Science: Karen Bejin recently retired from the Eau Claire Area School District after serving as an elementary teacher and middle school teacher for 29 years in Eau Claire and Fontana, Wisconsin. In addition to writing science curriculum within the Eau Claire and Fontana School Districts, Karen has been active at the state and national levels with teacher workshops and trainings. She has participated in state science organizations, including board member and president of Wisconsin Elementary and Middle Level Science Teachers and is on the board of directors for Friends of Beaver Creek Reserve, a local Nature Center. Her experiences include a January trip to Alaska as a JASON Project teacher-argonaut, and a three week Arctic study at Toolik Lake Field Station in Alaska. Karen received her BS in Elementary Education, grades 1-8, from University of Wisconsin, Whitewater, and Master's Degree in Education with an emphasis in science and technology from the University of Wisconsin -Eau Claire.

Donna Friedeck, Language and Social Studies: Donna Friedeck is a practicing K-5 Reading Specialist for the Eau Claire Area School District. Donna began her career 25 years ago teaching elementary school. She has experience teaching second, third and fourth grade. Upon receiving her master's degree she taught elementary education students for seven years at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Once again the elementary children called and she returned to the Eau Claire School District to teach Title One reading. Donna has experience writing curriculum, developing and implementing grants and developing and implementing intervention programs that help children learn to read and write. She left Title One programming to become a Reading specialist. She provided staff development programs to the teachers at the Chippewa Valley Montessori School in Reading and Language Arts. Donna received her undergraduate and graduate degree from the University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire.

Sarah Hassebroek, Art & Math: Sarah grew up in a small town in Iowa, where she grew to love education as a volunteer teaching ELL to both adult and children. Sarah received her B.A. in Spanish and a minor in Anthropology at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, South Dakota. She traveled to Chao, Peru, and participated in an archaeology dig. She also traveled to Europe with the band and played in Monaco and in France. Sarah received her Masters of Education with Montessori and Spanish specialties at St. Catherines College in St. Paul, MN. She taught in the Eau Claire Area School District at Chippewa Valley Montessori as a lower elementary teacher and Spanish teacher for three years. She is currently a lower elementary teacher at World Learner School in Chaska, MN.

Cheryl Lange, Ph.D., Special Education Assessment Tools: Dr. Lange has over 20 years experience in education and related fields. Her experience is broad-based and includes classroom teaching positions in regular and special education, program development, coordinating projects examining post-school outcomes of students with disabilities, and graduate level teaching. Dr. Lange served as principal investigator and co-director for a research project funded by the US Department of Education examining outcomes for students participating in Minnesota's school choice options. She completed her doctorate in Educational Policy and Administration at the University of Minnesota in 1995 and has since served as a consultant to several public, private, and non-profit organizations. Dr. Lange has published articles, research reports, and book chapters on educational policy issues and has presented at numerous national conferences in education, mental health, special education, and education reform.

Julie Loga, Math: Julie received her Bachelor of Science degree in early childhood education from the University of Wisconsin- Stout and is working on her Master of Science in Montessori education at St. Catherine's University in St. Paul. Julie has received training in First Steps, SOAR, Restitution, Brain Research, Team Building, Words Their Way Reading Program, Writers Workshop, and Six Traits Writing Program. Before teaching in the Children's House at Chippewa Valley Montessori Charter School, she was a tutor at Sylvan Learning Center, a pre-school teacher in Eau Claire, and worked in retail in the private sector.

Stephanie Rowe, Health: Stephanie Rowe is a practicing middle school health instructor for the Eau Claire Area School District for the past 16 years. She earned her undergraduate degrees in school health education and physical education from the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse and Master of Professional Development with an emphasis in critical thinking from the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire. Brain compatible learning, critical thinking and standard-based assessment are several of Stephanie's philosophical foundations. She serves as a presenter and consultant regarding many educational topics. Stephanie is an adjunct faculty for the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire, University of Wisconsin - La Crosse and St. Mary's University of Minnesota.

Tamara Sharp, Curriculum Consultant: Tamara Sharp is an educational consultant with Cooperative Educational Service Agency #11 in Wisconsin where she works extensively with curriculum and instruction. Her familiarity with the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards and her background in curriculum design facilitated our project goal of aligning Montessori curriculum with the Wisconsin standards. Tamara received her bachelor's degree in English and Secondary Education from the University of Illinois (Champaign-Urbana, IL) and her master's degree in reading from Northern Illinois University (DeKalb, IL).

Anne Sheridan, Music: Anne Sheridan is a Nationally Board Certified Teacher in her 15th year of teaching elementary music. Anne's career began in a K-6 school in Grand Forks, ND where she received a master's degree in Elementary Education. She then accepted a job in Eau Claire, WI teaching K-5 music. Her job duties include teaching K-5 general music, 1st-2nd-3rd grade multiage music, 4th-5th grade multiage music and 4th and 5th grade after school choirs.

Along with teaching music, Anne was a technology mentor from 1996 to 2000. This program helped her to develop technology skills, music technology skills and also gave her time to develop new units and lessons. She enjoys one-on-one and group training and the opportunity to mentor other teachers who were in the program. Because of these experiences she has become a teacher of after-school technology classes for the Eau Claire Area School District.

Anne completed her Administrators license in May of 2007 and is currently finishing her Director of Special Education and Director of Curriculum and Instruction licenses.

Stephanie Taylor, Foreign Language: Stephanie Taylor recently completed her undergraduate work with her major in Spanish education. Stephanie served as secretary to the Charter School Administrator for the Eau Claire Area School District. She was able to learn about the core curriculum of the Montessori School through her work on the dissemination grant and her general dealings with the Montessori Charter School. She is currently teaching Spanish for the Menomonie School District.

Paul Wagner, Physical Education: Paul Wagner recently retired from the Eau Claire Area School District after serving as an elementary teacher and elementary physical education specialist for 32 years. Paul has vast experience writing physical education curriculum, teacher elementary physical education, assisting with workshops for teachers in Wisconsin and Minnesota, and providing consultant services to the Chippewa Valley Montessori School. Paul received his undergraduate degree in physical education and health at Winona State University and an elementary teaching degree and master's degree at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire.

Hjordy Wagner, ITLS & Grant Coordinator: Hjordy Wagner recently retired from the Eau Claire Area School District after 33 years of service. She served in several roles over her career: elementary and middle school media specialist, district media coordinator, district strategic planner, and district community relations coordinator. She was involved in many local and state boards and committees including serving on the board and as president of the Wisconsin School Public Relations Association (WSPRA). She is currently managing the dissemination grant for the Chippewa Valley Montessori School and the Service-Learning Grant for the Eau Claire Area School District. She continues to be active in WSPRA and local committees in the Eau Claire community.

Tamara Sharp, Curriculum Consultant: Tamara Sharp is an educational consultant with Cooperative Educational Service Agency #11 in Wisconsin where she works extensively with curriculum and instruction. Her familiarity with the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards and her background in curriculum design facilitated our project goal of aligning Montessori curriculum with the Wisconsin standards. Tamara received her bachelor's degree in English and Secondary Education from the University of Illinois (Champaign-Urbana, IL) and her master's degree in reading from Northern Illinois University (DeKalb, IL).