

Mary Anna Thornton, Ph.D.

5400 North Black Oak Lake Road
Land O' Lakes, Wisconsin 54540
715-547-1115 (home) 715-617-6370 (cell)
maryanna.thornton@gmail.com

Teaching and Administrative Experience

Assistant Head of School, July 2009 – present, Conserve School, Land O' Lakes, Wisconsin, an independent boarding high school for high-achieving students. Emphasizes high academic standards, sustainability, outdoor activities, and technology. Transitioned to a semester school model in 2010.

Responsible for academics and residential life; faculty hiring, evaluation, and supervision; professional development; sustainability initiative; 1-1 laptop program; and educational technology. Ensure high quality of academic program. Step in as Acting Head in Head of School's absence.

Principal/Assistant Head of School for Academics, April 2003 – July 2009, Conserve School

Supervised all aspects of academic programs; responsible for faculty hiring, evaluation, and supervision. Taught information literacy, research methods, and psychology.

Academic Dean, June 2001 – April 2003, Conserve School

Directed start-up phase and implemented inaugural year of academic systems for new boarding high school focused on environment, ethics, and innovation. Directed educational technology coordinator and teachers in developing curriculum, creating online curriculum and assessment systems, and teaching with laptops, Smartboards, digital databases, and other online resources.

Assistant Head of School, July 1997 – June 2001, Quest Academy, Palatine, Illinois, a Pk-8 independent school for gifted/talented that emphasizes academic rigor, creativity, and joy in learning and that accommodates a variety of learning styles through differentiation.

Supervised all day-to-day school programs and staff.

Middle School Director, July 1996 – July 1997, Quest Academy

Middle School Co-Director, July 1993 – July 1996, Quest Academy

Supervised middle school staff and curriculum.

Middle School Language Arts and Social Studies Teacher, August 1992 – July 1996, Quest Academy

Developed interdisciplinary humanities curriculum; worked closely with math, art, and science teachers.

Education

Master of Arts in Educational Technology, August 2011

Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, GPA 4.0

Ph.D., Anthropology, December 1990

M.A., Anthropology, May 1985

Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois

Areas of interest: human development; psychological anthropology; medical anthropology

Dissertation topic: Social construction of reality in a community center

B.A., English Language and Literature, June 1983

University of Dallas, Irving, Texas

Academic Awards and Honors

NAIS/EE Ford Foundation Fellowship	2004-2005 – Fellowship for intensive training in educational leadership. Included leadership workshops and 360 degree evaluation
National Association for Gifted Children Professional Achievement Certificate	2002 – 2-year mentorship/portfolio program focused on differentiation techniques
State of Illinois Fellowship	1993 – To fund graduate study in education
Eleanor Fellowship	1990 – Support for dissertation completion through the Eleanor Foundation
Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities	1983-1989 – Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation (5-year, portable, tuition-plus-stipend fellowship to support doctoral studies)
Fulbright Teaching Assistantship	1983-84 – To Austria

Additional Teaching and Research Experience

Adjunct Professor, Graduate Instructor and Advisor, February 2011 – present

University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, Graduate Program in Residential Environmental Education

Through a cooperative program linking Conserve School with UWSP: Teach hybrid graduate course in curriculum design. Serve on the Graduate Fellowship Advisory Council for the UWSP College of Natural Resource's Graduate Fellowship in Residential Environmental Education (GFREE) program.

Mentor/supervise 12 current UWSP graduate students employed by Conserve School as residential life staff and outdoor education teachers.

Graduate Fellow Program Advisor, July 2009 – February 2011

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Mentored and supervised UWSP graduate students working as residential advisors and field instructors at Conserve School. Co-developed and taught a unit on curriculum development and assessment for the GFREE Practicum course.

Instructor, 1989 – 1992

Northwestern University, Evanston and Chicago, Illinois, Anthropology, Women's Studies

Oakton Community College, Skokie, Illinois, Biological Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology, Face-to-Face and Distance Education Courses

College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, Illinois, "Kids on Campus" 3-8th grade enrichment programs

Research Associate, 1987 – 1992

Northwestern University

Conducted social science research on factors affecting quality of life for elderly ethnic Chicagoans and on the impact of an educational program for disabled children.

Teaching Assistant, 1985 – 1986

Northwestern University, Biological Anthropology, Animal Behavior

Northwestern University Ethnographic Field School, Navajo Reservation, Chinle, Arizona

Taught research techniques, supervised undergraduate research projects, conducted research on risk-taking among Navajo rodeo riders.

Service on Accreditation Visiting Teams

Invited to evaluate the quality of school programs according to standards set by accrediting agencies.

North Central Association of Colleges and Schools

- Brookfield High School, Brookfield, Wisconsin (2012)

Independent Schools Association of the Central States

- The Principia School, St. Louis, Missouri (2002, 2009)
- Springer School and Center, Cincinnati, Ohio (2007)
- Armitage Academy, Kenosha, Wisconsin (2006)
- Countryside School, Champagne, Illinois (2000)
- Sycamore School, Indianapolis, Indiana (1998)

Selected Publications, Presentations, and Professional Affiliations

Presenter, *Real Work: Blending Sustainability, Service, and College/Career Prep*, February 2012 Green Schools National Conference, in collaboration with Joel Tolman of Common Ground Environmental Education Center.

Judge, *Flat Classroom Project*, December 2011, web-based global collaborative student video project See details on the awards presentation page at <http://fcp11-3.flatclassroomproject.org/Awards> and on the Flat Classroom Project Website at <http://www.flatclassroomproject.net/>

Focus Group Facilitator, *Education for Sustainability Workshop*, August 2011, and Member, *Education for Sustainability in Wisconsin Steering Committee*, 2010-present, Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education, College of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point.

Practitioner/Presenter, *Faculty Development and Renewal*, July 2004 and July 2005, Independent School Management Summer Workshop (3-day), Wilmington, Delaware (with Walker Buckalew and Simon Jeynes)

Presenter, *Conserve School: New Directions in Education*, 2004 Wisconsin Retired Educators Association Annual Conference, Wausau, Wisconsin

Facilitator, *ISACS (Independent Schools Association of the Central States) Annual Conference*, 2002 and 2003. Led short roundtable sessions throughout the ISACS conference designed to help participants apply information and insights from the conference to their own schools.

Presenter, *Meeting the Needs of Your Ablest Learners*, 2001 ISACS Annual Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio (with Marilyn Wallace)

Coordinator, *ISACS Middle School Heads Networking Group*, 2000-2001. Organized and facilitated thrice-yearly networking meetings for Chicago- and Milwaukee-area Middle School Heads. Planned school visits, led structured discussions on administrative and educational topics of interest to group members.

Presenter, *Differentiation and Parent Communication*, 1997-1999. Three workshops conducted at Illinois School District 29 and Armitage Academy, Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Published article, *The Total Teacher for the Total Child Understanding Our Gifted* Fall 1998 (with Marilyn Wallace)

Presenter, *Creative Children's Academy: A Special School for Gifted Children and Building Alliances with Parents of Gifted Children* (with Marilyn Wallace); 1998 NAGC (National Association for Gifted Children) Convention, Louisville, Kentucky