

**ELIZABETH PERRY THOMAS**  
**PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND**

**Education:**

1995 Ph.D., Biology; Awarded with Honors, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona.  
Dissertation: *Evolutionary Ecology of Amphipods in Xeric and Mesic Environments*

1990 M.A., Teaching of Biology with Arizona Licensure in Secondary Education, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona

1983 B.A., Biology, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire

**Professional Experience:**

2010–present Dean of Work and Service-Learning, Sterling College, Craftsbury Common, Vermont; supervise delivery of a comprehensive work-learning-service program; collaborate with representatives from six other colleges in the federally-funded Work College Consortium to coordinate assessment of work and service-related outcomes.

2008–present Affiliated Faculty, M.A. Online Program, Union Institute & University, Montpelier, Vermont; advise students in the Education concentration; teach research methods online using eCollege; collaborate with M.A. Faculty in evaluating learner progress toward meeting UI&U Outcomes & Competencies.

2007–2009 Director/Faculty Chair, Vermont Master of Education Program, Union Institute & University, Montpelier, Vermont; advised learners pursuing licensure in science education; supervised staff and faculty responsible for coordination and delivery of the Master of Education Program; facilitated marketing activities, in collaboration with marketing services and the Admissions Department; served on University-wide committees: Assessment Coordination Team, Self Study Steering Committee, and President's Council; represented program directors and deans on the Human Resources Committee of the Faculty Council.

2003–2007 Dean of the College, Sterling College, Craftsbury Common, Vermont; practiced systems-thinking by anticipating long-term consequences of decisions and involving community members directly affected by a given decision in the decision-making process; supervised Dean of Students, Dean of Work, Learning Support Services, Career Resource Center, and the Faculty; managed instructional budget, including faculty salaries and benefits; promoted incorporation of technology across campus by securing funding for hardware and donations of software; supported faculty teams ensuring compliance with standards of the Association of Experiential Education and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

1998–2007 Faculty Member, Sterling College, Craftsbury Common, Vermont; developed and taught courses in the natural and social sciences as Sterling expanded from a two-year to a four-year college; teaching responsibilities included Ecology, Genetics, Statistics and Research Design, Systems Thinking, Environmental Science, and Conservation Biology; coached juniors preparing capstone project proposals and served as the primary advisor for capstone projects in Conservation Ecology.

## **Research Experience:**

2007–Present Collaborate with Institutional Research Directors from across the Work Colleges Consortium; articulate research goals and activities related to the integration of work, service, and learning; supported by a grant to the Consortium of Work Colleges from the Kellogg Foundation.

2002–2005 Participated in development and application of a model for investigating the relationship between work and learning on college campuses, Work Colleges Consortium; with a team of staff and students from Sterling College, conducted a mixed methods investigation of the culture of work; compared findings with teams from five other Work Colleges; funded by a grant to the Work Colleges Consortium from the Lumina Foundation.

1999–2004 Watershed Monitoring Using Biological Indicators, Sterling College; collaborated with U.S. Geological Survey and University of Vermont in paired watershed study on Mt. Mansfield; developed and implemented low-impact monitoring methodology; funded by grants to E.P. Thomas from the Vermont Monitoring Cooperative and the Sterling College Work Program.

## **Community, Civic, and Professional Services:**

2008–present President, *Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds* (term ends 2012).

2006–present President of the *Lake Eden Association*, Eden, Vermont (term ends 2010).

2007–2008 Member, Board of Directors, *Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds*.

2007–2008 Mentor for local middle school science teacher, *Craftsbury Academy*, Vermont.

2001–2003 Member, Board of Directors, *The Center for Northern Studies*, Wolcott, Vermont.

2000 Outreach sponsor of first place high-school student/teacher team at the Annual *HELIX/EPSCoR* Poster Contest for research project titled “Is the Wild Branch getting wilder?”

### Grants Received Since 2005

2006 Gladys Brooks Foundation. \$100,000 to support scholarship fund for Sterling College students from rural Vermont.

2005–2006 R.B. Annis Educational Foundation. \$45,000 to equip environmental science laboratories at Sterling College, including equipment to support: (1) new course in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), (2) Plant Science course (a laboratory investigation of genetically modified crops using polymerase chain reaction), and (3) Integrated Chemistry and Physics course (Vernier probes interfaced with computers).

## **Awards and Recognitions:**

1997 Phoenix Suns *Arizona Educator Award*

1994–1998 Elected Member of *Phi Delta Kappa* Professional Education Fraternity

1991–1994 *Patricia Roberts Harris* Graduate Fellowship

## SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

### Scholarship of Discovery:

#### Journals

Thomas, E.P., and G. Wohlford. 2008. Collaborative research projects across Work Colleges. Technical Report for the Kellogg Foundation.

Thomas, E.P. 2005. Lessons from Sterling College *in* B. Raps and D. Jacobs, Editors. *Work, Learning, and Belonging at the Six U.S. Work Colleges: Results of the Work Colleges Consortium Collaborative Research Project 2002 – 2005*. Technical Report to the Lumina Foundation.

Magoon, E., H. Peters, J. Carrien, A. Heidorn, and E.P. Thomas. 2000. Biological monitoring of subalpine streams on Mt. Mansfield, Vermont Monitoring Cooperative Proceedings.

### Interdisciplinary Scholarship:

#### Contributed Workshops, Papers, and Posters Since 2000

2009 Invited Presenter. What we know about Work College outcomes and how we know it. Work-Learning Symposium. Berea, Kentucky.

2007 & 2008 Mapping complexity. Annual Conference of the Northeast Organic Farmers Association. Amherst, Massachusetts.

2006 Long-term water quality monitoring. Annual Conference of the Northeast Organic Farmers Association. Amherst, Massachusetts.

2005 & 2006 A model for investigating the relationship between work and learning at a small liberal arts college. With Amelia Gardner, Sterling College Junior. Western Association of Student Employment Administrators. Anaheim, California. Also presented at the Northeastern Association of Student Employment Administrators. Burlington, Vermont.

2004 Using the tools of systems thinking to analyze agricultural innovations in Scandinavia and Japan. Annual Conference of the Northeast Organic Farmers Association. Amherst, Massachusetts.

2004 Training stewards of the northern forest through experiential learning: classroom and field approaches. With an interdisciplinary team from Sterling College and The Center for Northern Studies. Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment. Crawford Notch, New Hampshire.

2002 Reflection as an integral step in the experiential learning cycle. North American Alliance for Green Education. Boulder, Colorado.

2001 Macroinvertebrates and diatoms as bioindicators in headwater streams of Mount Mansfield. Vermont Monitoring Cooperative. Burlington, Vermont. Invited poster presentation.

2000 A low-impact method for sampling macroinvertebrates in subalpine streams. Vermont Monitoring Cooperative. Burlington, Vermont. Invited poster presentation.

### **Scholarship of Teaching and Learner Guidance:**

#### Selected Thesis/Capstone Projects Advised

2009 Dezotell, Maria. Yes we can! Best strategies for teaching secondary science to students in general education and to those with severe and multiple disabilities, using Multiple Intelligences Theory. Thesis, M.Ed. Program, Union Institute & University.

2009 Green, Rebecca. One approach to implementing a standards-based, student-centered, high school science curriculum in a traditionally structured school. Thesis, M.Ed. Program, Union Institute & University.

2008 Murphy, Karen. Focus on the learner: Helping high school biology students achieve meaningful learning through constructivist, brain-based approaches. Thesis, M.Ed. Program, Union Institute & University.

2008 Hoyt, Crystal. Ocean literacy in the middle-school classroom. Sponsor: The Lloyd Center for the Environment, Dartmouth, Massachusetts.

2008 Fournier, Kathy. Sea turtle conservation: a community-based approach. Sponsor: The Lloyd Center for the Environment, Dartmouth, Massachusetts.

2007 Vollmer, Hannah. Genetic diversity within and among populations of *Diapensia* in New England. Sponsor: Appalachian Mountain Club.

2007 Fisher, Caleb. Habitat requirements of Rusty Blackbirds. Sponsor: New Hampshire Audubon.

2006 Westling, J.D. Comparison of the impacts of till and no-till corn production on local water quality in Orleans County, Vermont. Sponsor: Vermont Natural Resources Council.

2006 Wilson, Tim. Development of a monitoring program for invasive buckthorn species across a multi-use landscape. Sponsor: Franklin Pierce College, Rindge, New Hampshire.

2005 Harper, Anna. Articulation of a leatherback sea turtle skeleton and development of related educational programs. Sponsor: The Lloyd Center in Dartmouth, Massachusetts.

2004 Austin, Robin. Incorporation of a nature trail into an environmental education curriculum. Sponsor: Albany (Vermont) Community School.

2004 McLean, Susan. How practical are constructed wetlands in northern New England? Sponsor: The Global Living Project.

2003 Augsberger, Nick and Adam Lewandowski. Does geomorphology predict stream macroinvertebrate diversity in subalpine streams on Mt. Mansfield? Sponsor: Vermont Monitoring Cooperative.

2002 Magoon, Erin. A comparison of macroinvertebrate diversity between West Branch (of Waterbury River) and Ranch Brook on Mt. Mansfield. Sponsor: Vermont Monitoring Cooperative.

2001 Carrien, Jim, Matt Dolski, Sydney Flowers, and Holly Peters. Ecological restoration of Cass Brook, a stream heavily impacted by cattle grazing in Craftsbury, Vermont. Sponsor: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Rev. 4/10