

February 15, 2012

To whom It May Concern:

I discovered the genius of Dr. Peter Weatherall three years ago while searching for a song about DNA on Youtube.com. I am a professor of science education and teach pre-service education students pedagogical strategies and science at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, New Jersey, USA. My three hour long classes stress the use of technology and engineering in elementary, middle and high school. I try to incorporate accurate science resources in both my elementary and secondary science methods classes. Weatherall's music is very aesthetic but more importantly conveys science topics accurately in a joyful manner.

Students who plan to teach younger classes generally have avoided science for varied reasons. Most have taken the required general science course but feel inadequate to teach science. Peter's music provides these reluctant learners with both the content knowledge and confidence to teach science. In addition, those students with a major in science tend to want to teach science in the manner in which they themselves learned science and using Peter's music helps them remember that these 14-18 year old students are indeed still children. Perhaps it is best to say, Peter Weatherall's music helps them to embrace the child within themselves.

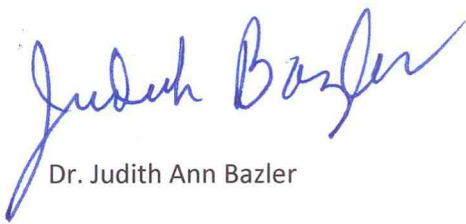
One of Peter's DVD titles is Simple Science. His music, even though to the lay person may seem to be simple, is complicated in its accuracy. He embraces the new national initiatives of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). His stories always answer the question, "why do I have to learn this?" His music is memorable to the point that when I play his DNA song and require my students to "sing along", they email me over the next week that they find themselves singing "hip, hip, hooray, for DNA" all during the day and cannot get the song out of their head.

In addition to teaching the required science method's courses, I also follow my students into classes in order to assess their science teaching in their student teaching, capstone experience. It gives me great joy to observe a class of twenty-four, sixteen year olds singing "hip, hip, hooray, for DNA".

When Peter asked whether I would write a recommendation for him for his search for a job, I thought about where does he fit? He has a background of a doctorate in Philosophy and an undergraduate degree in both philosophy and chemistry. He has experience in academe, informal science, and basic education. He has spent a decade or two designing, writing, and performing science. Where does he "fit". In my mind, I too am an oddity. My undergraduate degree is in Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics with a doctorate in Science Education. Even though I then followed a traditional path, teaching science to pre-service teachers, I also took a leave and started my own hands' on science museum called the SMART Discovery Center. I was able to meld my love of teaching with my love of

science using my graduate students to design and build science exhibits in this museum. I believe my strength is one based on the diversity of my career. I believe that Dr. Weatherall's strength is in the diversity of his career choices. His fit is similar to mine. I could envision Peter teaching students how to teach science in either a University, a museum, or on his own "Mr. Wizard" science television show. In my opinion, Dr. Weatherall indeed "has it all", the degree, the passion, and the knowledge to lead people in the correct direction in learning science. If there was a current opening at Monmouth University in Science Education, I would encourage Peter to apply. Taking all of his strengths into account, I highly recommend Dr. Weatherall for either a University, Museum, or Television job. His creativity, passion and strong background in science makes him an excellent candidate.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Judith Ann Bazler

Full professor of Science Education