

ARIEL FENSTER

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EDUCATION

Degree	University	Subject	Year
Licence ès Sciences (B.Sc.)	Paris	Mathematics, Physics & Chemistry	1966
Diplome d'Études Approfondies (M.Sc.)	Paris	Theoretical and Physical Chemistry	1967
Ph.D.	McGill	Physical and Inorganic Chemistry	1972

AFFILIATIONS

Chemical Institute of Canada

American Chemical Society

Quebec Association of Science Teachers

AWARDS

Polysar Award for Outstanding Chemistry Teaching presented by the Chemical Institute of Canada, 1982

Catalyst Award for Excellence in Chemistry Teaching presented by the US Chemical Manufacturers Association, 1989

C₃ Award for Outstanding Contribution to Chemical Education presented by College Chemistry Canada (*Inaugural Award*), 1990

McNeil Medal for the Public Awareness of Science presented by the Royal Society of Canada, (*Inaugural Award*), 1992

Beppo Award for Communicating Science to the Public, presented by the "Conseil de Developpement du Loisir Scientifique du Québec", 1993

Raymond Gervais Award for Exceptional Contributions to Science Education, presented by the Quebec Association of Science Teachers, 1999

Michael Smith Award for the Promotion of Science in Canada, presented by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, 2005

EXPERIENCE

1999 - Founding Member, Office for Science and Society, McGill University

1982 - Senior Adjunct Professor, McGill University

1985-2003 Chemistry Professor, Vanier College

1974 - 1984 Chemistry Professor, Dawson College

PUBLICATIONS

More than 20 publications on chemistry and chemical education.

PUBLIC SERVICE

2002 - 2011 Member of the Board "Society for the Promotion of Science and Technology"

2000 – 2004 Member of the RCMP Forensic Laboratories Services Advisory Board

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Over the last three decades developed an extensive programme, offered both in English and in French to bring the relevance and enjoyment of science to the public.

Public Lectures

Created over 60 different lectures on topics of general interest. Titles range from "The ABC's of Vitamins" to "Science and Art: Facts and Fakes." This has led to over 1 000 presentations, to a variety of groups, of all ages and different backgrounds. The lectures have reached an estimated total audience of well over a hundred thousand.

Exhibitions

Developed lectures and demonstrations for the following exhibitions in Montreal:

1. UNESCO pavilion of the Montreal exhibition "Man and His World". These attracted over 80,000 people during two summers (1980 and 1981).
2. Expotec-95 "La Chimie en Fête" at the Old Port in Montreal. The exhibition had a total attendance of over 370,000 during its 5 months run making it the largest event of its kind ever.
3. Summer of 2002 "Cooking with Science," a series of activities on the science of food at the Montreal Science Centre. The programme attracted over 18,000 visitors during its 10 days run.

Special programmes

In 2001, introduced at McGill a series of monthly lectures on science aimed at Secondary V francophone students. The programme developed in cooperation with the "Commission Scolaire de Montréal" is now attracting more than 300 students a year.

Starting in 2003, developed a similar programme for the intellectually challenged students from "Summit School" in Montreal.

Radio and television

Has appeared over 400 times on TV and radio to discuss health, environmental and technology related topics. Among the recent offerings:

Has also been a regular contributor on the following shows:

1. "Nutrition Report", CFCF Television
2. "Daybreak", CBC Radio
3. "Dominique Poirier" RDI
4. "L'Épicerie"

In addition, has developed science segments for a number of children's television programmes including:

1. "Capitaine Cosmos", T.V.A.

2. "Le club des 100 Watts", Télé Quebec
3. "L'inférieure machine du docteur V", Radio Canada
4. "Science Friction", Télé-Québec
5. "Macaroni Garni", Télé-Québec

In 2004-2005 was the science contributor on Radio-Canada's health show "37.5⁰". The daily show, seen on television across Canada had an audience of *ca.* 100,000.

Was also seen on the Discovery channel for the 10 part series "What's that all about" which dealt with the science behind everyday things (i.e. microwaves ovens, adhesives, plastic bags, etc.) The show was also shown in French on Canal D under the title "Fallait-y-penser." A new 10 part series "What's that all about-2" has been now been completed and will be shown starting July 2006 in English and January 2007 in French.

World of Chemistry courses

In 1981 introduced (with Dr. Harpp and Schwarcz) the course "The World of Chemistry" at McGill University. Today, there are four *different* courses: Part I: "Food and Water", Part II: "Technology", Part III: "Drugs and Cosmetics" and Part IV: "Environment". These courses are offered to both science and non-science students and are also open to the general public as part of Continuing Education. Since the inception in 1981 of "The World of Chemistry" courses, well over 15,000 students and members of the public have had given the opportunity to learn about the application of science in everyday life.

McGill Office for Science and Society

Dr. Fenster is (with Dr. Harpp and Schwarcz) one of the founding members of the "McGill Office for Chemistry and Society." The Office who in of 2003 became the "McGill Office for Science and Society" is dedicated to disseminating up-to-date information in the areas of food, food issues, medications, cosmetics and health topics in general. This information is specifically directed towards the public, educators and students. The approach makes use of radio, television, the press, private consultations, public lectures, the classroom and the Internet.