

Stephen Heppell

Nice people organising conferences often ask for a short bio, so here is one (but promise you won't use all of it!):

Professor Stephen Heppell is director of ULTRALAB, Anglia Polytechnic University's learning technology research centre in Chelmsford which has an enviable global reputation for creativity, innovation and common sense - "eyes on the horizon, feet on the ground"!

Recent media coverage:

"...when I finally spotted him, Stephen Heppell didn't look at all like I imagined. This geek of geeks, this net-head of all times, this revolutionary who is yanking the British education system out of its Victorian slumber and shaping it for the digital information age, surely it couldn't be this genial fellow before me with his whitening Father Christmas beard and Hush Puppy fashion sense"

Design Magazine (1999)

"Professor Stephen Heppell, the UK's leading on-line education guru"

Channel 4 TV 1999

"The man who is singlehandedly doing more than any other to enlighten government thinking on the use of computers in schools... and who sits on more government committees, task forces and think tanks concerned with technology than almost anyone else"

Times Educational Supplement 1999

Projects:

Ultralab is at the heart of the UK's largest and most innovative projects in ICT and learning: Schools OnLine with the DTI, Tesco SchoolNet 2000 (currently Guinness Book of Record's "World's largest Internet learning project"), Learning in the New Millennium with Nortel (Europe's longest running Internet learning project), the ETui project (funded by the EU's ESPRIT initiative) to invent an intelligent learning toy for 4-8 year olds, the on-line pilot for the University for Industry (with the IPPR), Notschool.net a virtual school for phobics, truants, the excluded and the many others outside of formal educational institutions (again with the DfEE), CreativeNet with the Design Council, the NetSprite project with Whipps Cross Hospital, (and helping the InterCollege project that followed it), supporting two Education Action Zones, and much much more.

Most recently a long term collaboration with Oracle in the US has produced the innovative Oracle Millennium Project (think.com) - a set of learning community tools for up to 100 million children. The tools are currently at the heart of projects run with the Arts Council, the Design

Council, Young Engineers and a string of LEAs and US projects, as well as providing the infrastructure for notschool and Talking Heads.

With the DfEE, Ultralab is building a virtual college of leadership for every head teacher in the UK, with (and for) the DfEE using the Oracle / Ultralab software. The first tranche of up to 2,000 heads have been issued with their free multimedia laptops already.

Other current or recent project partners include Dorling Kindersley, the Victoria and Albert Museum, Park Avenue, the World Health Organisation, Pearsons and many more.

#### Committees and Task Forces:

Stephen sits on David Blunkett's DfEE Standards Task Force (chairing the Standing Working Group on ICT), Chris Smith's DCMS Creative Industries Task Force, the DCMS Internet Policy Committee, the DTI's Foresight 2020 Education Task Force, advises the "Learn" zone team in the Millennium Dome, is a board member of the Scottish Council for Educational Technology and of Mental Health Media and continues to be influential in government ICT policy making. He chairs the multimedia jury for the Royal Television Society and sits on both the BAFTA Interactive Entertainments Committee and the Department of Culture Media and Sport's working committee in Internet policy futures for the Cinema, Music, Radio and TV industries.

In the recent past Stephen was a member of Chris Smith's parliamentary Information Superhighway Policy Forum and later of Dennis Stevenson's committee producing the influential "Information and Communication Technology in UK Schools" report that defined Labour's ICT schools policy and Ofcom's general service provision committee.

#### Media

Stephen has a long list of TV appearances including Newsnight, Equinox, Horizon, Tomorrow's World, the News in addition to many series like "Help your child with computers at home", "The Multimedia Business" or Channel 4's "Things to Come" (where his vision of the school of the future was well received) and appearances on BBC Knowledge, Silicon.com and other digital networks. National radio appearances include Today, World at One, You & Yours, Straw Poll, Education Matters and The Big Byte. Stephen is a regular contributor to Radio Essex. He writes regularly for the popular press: broadsheets, weeklies and tabloids, and has written many chapters in books and journals. Most recently Stephen has appeared in a series of five programmes about children, ICT and learning for Channel 4.

Stephen also sits on the BBC's Independent Advice Panel on BBC Online and is currently working with the BBC, Channel 4, BSkyB and ITV on a variety of projects focussing on the future of TV in a digital age.

#### Sport:

Stephen is passionate about sailboat racing. He races his own boat and was coach to the UK's International Mirror Class World Championship squad in 1997 (in Canada - they won ) and 1999 (in South Africa - they lost!). He sits on the Royal Yachting Association's Race Training Committee responsible for the pathway between Junior / Youth sailing and the Olympic squad..

Other:

Stephen remains a teaching professor too; he still both lectures and supervises students. He is currently external examiner for the ICT in Education masters degree in Trinity College Dublin.

Through Ultralab Stephen act as consultant to a broad spectrum of organisations: broadcast media, retail, finance, publishing, telecommunications and, of course, learning and eLearning.

His chair in Information Technology in the Learning Environment has been partly supported by Apple Computers since 1986 and he is an Apple Master.