



## Gwen Bortner's Biography



Gwen Bortner is a Craft Yarn Council Certified Teacher, teaches knitting at venues throughout the country, has been published in a variety of knitting magazines and is the lead designer for her business, Knitability, LLC.

Gwen first learned to knit when she was 6 years old, but it really took hold while attending University of the Pacific. While completing her degree in computer science and higher mathematics, she worked part-time at the local yarn shop, teaching, designing and assisting customers. After graduation, Gwen followed the career path directed by her degree finally culminating a position in Kansas City where she headed up the information technology group as a Vice President for Birch Telecom, Inc.

Gwen's continuing love of fiber and knitting, in particular, was a hallmark in her life. So in the summer of 2001, Gwen gave up her executive career and founded Knitability, LLC and [www.knitability.com](http://www.knitability.com) was opened for business.

Education is probably the most important component of the Knitability business plan as all efforts focus on the company motto of "Taking Knitters to the Next Level". Gwen's passion is teaching and enjoys every opportunity she has to share her love of knitting with others. Whether teaching through the local community education program or at a national knitting convention, meeting new people and sharing the love of knitting is one of her greatest joys.

Gwen is pleased her first book, *Entrée to Entrelac*, has been released to resounding accolades. This is the first book to be published in nearly two decades dedicated solely to the often misunderstood technique of entrelac. A variety of projects, both large and small, explore the surprisingly large range of fabrics and shapes this fascinating technique can create. Gwen's vast teaching experience allows her to translate her in-depth knowledge of entrelac, into clear, concise, effective instructions making the technique attainable for any knitter who is interested in learning about entrelac. Discussion of not only the how, but the why help empower knitters of all levels to take lessons learned from entrelac and apply them to other projects and techniques.

Gwen's teaching philosophy can be summed up in the following quote, "I provide very few absolutes in the classroom. Although I may have a preference, experience has shown that "my way" is rarely the only way and being inclusive is so much more inviting. My mantra is "knitting is fun" and if class isn't fun, then I am not doing my job."

