



Ribbit, Croak, Plop: Citizen Scientists Collect Data on Frogs

What happens when a field biologist from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater collaborates with a talented group of 4th and 5th graders? A lot of learning, that's what!

Last March, Dr. Bruce Eshelman (Biological Sciences) presented a unique opportunity for students, administrators, and educators to join a project which supports 21st Century learning objectives in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) areas. The project, titled RIBBIT - Reaching Interests Beyond Boundaries Inquiry Trips, recruited upper level elementary school students to act as citizen scientists and help address environmental concerns of global significance.

The project provided students with increased experience asking and answering scientific questions, which augmented their science literacy and increased their knowledge of amphibians. "Students applied what they already knew to new scientific information," noted Eshelman. The RIBBIT group, comprised of UW-Whitewater student volunteers and Whitewater Unified School District students and staff, identified local frog species by their calls and reported their findings to Frog Watch USA. The RIBBIT group was the youngest group of reporters in the country and several students were featured in the November issue of *Ask* magazine, an internationally-distributed publication on science inquiry for youth.

Dr. Eshelman was awarded a UW-Whitewater Education Outreach grant from the School of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education to work on the project. The RIBBIT [website](#) has information on the final student projects, photos, and relevant links for students. Eshelman hopes to expand the project to other school districts in the second year of the program, as well as reach out to more students interested in science.



Upcoming Events

[Cougar Ecology & Verification Workshop, December 1 & 2](#)

[Winterim begins January 2](#)

[Fall Baseball Clinics](#)

Related Links

[Graduate School](#)

[Summer Session](#)

[Winterim](#)

[Credit Outreach](#)

[Workshops and Training](#)

[Camps and Conferences](#)

[Fairhaven Lecture Series](#)

[Domestic Travel Study](#)

[Partners in Education](#)



All photos courtesy of the RIBBIT program.

UW-Whitewater Faculty Members Discuss Election 2012

Community members from Whitewater and beyond gathered on Monday afternoons at the [Fairhaven Retirement Community](#) for presentations by faculty speakers on a variety of issues surrounding the 2012 election. Current and emeriti faculty from political science, communication, marketing, economics, geography and geology, and sociology offered lectures on the issues that concern the electorate the most. Topics included sustainability, Citizens United, convention speeches, television advertising, and, of course, the economy.



One highlight of the Series was the talk Dr. Carol Scovotti (Marketing) delivered live from halfway across the globe. Using WebEx, she spoke with audience members from Cologne University in Germany where she is a Fulbright Scholar. Dr. Scovotti revealed her findings on German perspectives on the U.S. elections and answered questions from participants who were amazed at the technology that brought her into the room.

Nearly 700 people attended the eleven lectures for the series, which has long been a popular outreach service provided by UW-Whitewater. Videos of each lecture from the fall series, as well as those from past series, can be found at the Fairhaven Lecture Series [website](#). Next semester, the Fairhaven Series will feature new faculty and community business leaders speaking on relevant issues. The theme for the spring series is "Food for Thought." Stay tuned for a listing of titles for the spring, and join us Monday afternoons, won't you?



Kids Flip for GymHawks Gymnastics Program

When members of the UW-Whitewater gymnastics team expressed interest in offering a developmental gymnastics program for kids, they didn't expect it to be as popular as it has become. The [GymHawks](#) program just completed its first full year of providing youth gymnastics classes. The program began last fall and continued through the spring and summer. Camps and Conferences hopes to continue to offer this program once each semester in the future, providing a total of five sessions per year.

GymHawk classes are taught by current and former members of the defending National Champion UW-



Whitewater
Gymnastics

Team, led by former Warhawk gymnast Allison Annala. Children as young as 18-months-old can participate in parent-tot classes, with classes offered for every age and ability, up to those with advanced tumbling skills. One-on-one and semi-private lessons and GymHawk birthday parties are available, and all classes, lessons, and parties are held in the newly renovated gymnastics gymnasium - one of the best Division III facilities in the Midwest. New this fall is a small competitive team program where girls compete against kids from all over Wisconsin and Illinois.



"Our numbers are much higher than we could have expected, with more than 100 participants in each of the summer and fall sessions" says Tracy Chynoweth, Director of Continuing Education

Services. "Allison is doing a great job coordinating the program, and the members of the gymnastics program have proven to be fantastic teachers, emphasizing introductory skill development and really helping the participants build a foundation for future gymnastics." Annala echoes these sentiments, stating "We are extremely proud of this program and all of the growth we have had over the last year. The kids are having a blast, and so are all of the coaches!"

