

UW-Whitewater Science Outreach
Monthly Report, Anna Courtier
February 2015

Monthly Goals:

The primary objectives for the outreach office for February 2015 focused on: 1) continued activity/event development and planning for elementary, middle school, and high school audiences, focused on Spring 2015 events; 2) the Fort Atkinson Science Fair event; and 3) Science Discovery Day event.

Accomplishments:

Events and Planning (Goals: Reach elementary, middle, and high school audiences)

- Delavan CLC – After school program (Elementary)
 - Curriculum planning with student assistant Rachel Terracina
 - Activity development, testing, and implementation
 - Continued programming for 3-5th graders
 - Adjusted curriculum to students' skill level and classroom dynamics

- WI Stormwater Management (Elementary/Middle School)
 - Coordinating outreach for MSA Professional services on behalf of local municipalities in the Rock River basin
 - Conference call with Becky Binz and Jason Valerius (MSA), and Rachel Terracina (UWW)
 - Implemented surface and ground water hands-on activities at elementary level (3rd -5th grade, Delavan group)
 - Reviewed curriculum standards and programming goals for scale-up to middle school level
 - Target for preliminary lesson is 3/31

- Earth Day planning (April 22, 2015 – Elementary)
 - Reviewed event plans with student assistant Allie Sheen
 - Contacted UWW student orgs to find out level of interest in designing and running activities

- Science Discovery Day planning and event (February 27, 2015 – High School)
 - Coordinated field trip with Delavan-Darien High School math and science teachers
 - 27 students and 2 teachers will attend
 - Contacted faculty to discuss scheduling and participation
 - Frye, Nawash, Pelzel, Naber and House presented demonstrations/activities
 - Chan and Courtier led student groups (in addition to two teachers from Delavan-Darien High School)
 - Coordinated schedule with Science Academy staff
 - Coordinated bus arrival and parking with Visitor Center
 - Arranged schedule and divided students into groups
 - 4 groups of 6-7 students plus 1 adult leader
 - Set up catering for 40 people (UC 259A)
 - Funding for bus and catering from Seth Meisel due to Science Academy participation

Science Discovery Day Schedule				
Note: Each group will have 6-7 high school students and one adult				
Group Leader:	Courtier	DDHS	Chan	DDHS
Time	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
11:20	Arrive on Campus (Anna Courtier will meet bus at parking lot)			
11:30-12:20	Lunch & Science Academy Presentation (All) University Center Room 259A			
12:30-12:55	Weather Lab Dr. Frye Upham 102	Plasma Physics Dr. Nawash Upham 161A	Microbiology Dr. Pelzel Upham 202	Solution Chemistry Dr. Naber Upham 244
1:00-1:25	Chemical Reactions Dr. House Upham 247	Microbiology Dr. Pelzel Upham 202	Plasma Physics Dr. Nawash Upham 161A	Weather Lab Dr. Frye Upham 102
1:30-1:55	Plasma Physics Dr. Nawash Upham 161A	Chemical Reactions Dr. House Upham 247	Solution Chemistry Dr. Naber Upham 244	Microbiology Dr. Pelzel Upham 202
2:00	Return to Bus (Student Rachel Terracina will guide across campus)			

- Fort Atkinson Regional Science Fair (K-12)
 - Events Saturday February 21 and Tuesday February 24 at Hoard Museum in Fort Atkinson
 - Essay judging 2/12
 - Assisted with coordination of judging 2/21, with George Clokey
 - 60 projects were judged by ~35 people, primary UWW faculty and students
 - Anderson, Sahyun, Bonjour, Naber, House, Hanger, Paneru, Yavuzcetin

- Assisted museum staff with classroom field trips to view projects on Tuesday 2/24
- Science Writing Conversations
 - Coordinated with Linda Nortier to connect UWW science faculty with high school teachers and administrators from Judah, Monticello, and Albany
 - Paul House and Anneke Lisberg met with high school representatives via teleconference
 - Very positive interactions on both sides, will use as a model for future conversations with other high school groups
- 2015 Science Detectives Camp
 - Coordinated with Continuing Education for brochure development and budget
 - Met with camp faculty to discuss logistics and topical programming
- UWW Children's Center Science Night
 - Invited to assist with a family science night on 4/24 for the UWW Children's Center participants and their families
 - Met with Children's Center staff to discuss event goals
 - Follow up on 3/4
 - Met with outreach assistant Allie Sheen to discuss event planning
 - 5 Senses Theme
- Darwin Day
 - February 12
 - Submitted press release and advertised on Facebook
 - About 150 people attended lecture by Anneke Lisberg
 - In the future, speakers will alternate local vs national every other year
 - Move lecture to daytime for a local speaker to increase student attendance?
- In-School Demonstrations
 - Contacted by Purdy Elementary School 2nd grade teachers to set up demonstrations for 3 classrooms
 - Activities related to liquids and density tied in with the current solids, liquids, and gases curriculum

- Summer Library Programs – Science Activities
 - Met with children’s librarians in Whitewater, Fort Atkinson, Milton, and Janesville
 - Extension of previous programming at Milton Library by Alisa Hass
 - Science programming will be done 1-2 times at each library for ages ranging from kindergarten – teenagers
 - John Ejnik will coordinate a chemistry demonstration for 100 students at Hedberg Library in Janesville
 - Programming for other libraries will be coordinated by Courtier
 - Centered on reading program theme of “Every hero has a story”
 - Choose hands-on activities inspired by the work of famous scientists from different disciplines
 - Coordinate with library staff to feature books on these topics and the scientists themselves during/after the events

- *Grant Efforts*
 - Wisconsin Improving Teacher Quality activities
 - 3 teacher/classroom observation sat Turtle Creek Elementary School in Delavan
 - Focus on student engagement, use of science notebooks
 - Session taught in both English and Spanish (4K class was entirely Spanish)
 - 3 post-observation coaching session
 - Continued observations in 3rd-4th quarters this year
 - Team meeting to discuss previous observations and planning for spring workshop, April 17

 - NSF-CSEDI
 - Computer/compiler updates with research student Brandon Behnke
 - Wrote position announcement for summer internship
 - Distributed to UWW math, physics, geology, and computer science students

Webpage

- Facebook
 - Advertised for on-campus lectures
 - Darwin Day, Contemporary Issues, Chemistry on the Silver Screen, Geological Society of Whitewater
- Updated Science Outreach webpage
 - New blog post (“After-school science”)
 - Posted previous monthly activity reports
 - Coordinated with Matt Baier to require user/password authentication on the page so that only UWW faculty/staff can view the reports
 - Future reports will be posted after in-person meetings at the Dean’s office to go over outreach activities and planning

Committees and Service

- UW-W Ad hoc general education (Ellen Davis, Chair)
 - Email discussions on gen ed goals for lab science courses, impact on general education, and potential for a signature assignment
- Fort Atkinson Community Foundation
 - Asked to serve on two scholarship committees related to STEM
 - Met with Foundation director Sue Hartwick to discuss program
 - Scholarship applications due 2/2015
 - Review and meetings will be March-May 2015

Teaching

- Geology 498: Independent Study
 - Supervising student Cynthia Gempeler (art major)
 - Project will develop brochure for a self-guided tour of science across campus
- Geology 301: Environmental Geology
 - Developing lectures, case studies, and in-class activities
 - 24 students
 - Teaching MW 11-12:15p