

UW-Whitewater Science Outreach  
Monthly Report, Anna Courtier  
August, 2014

### **Monthly Goals:**

The primary objectives for the outreach office in August 2014 focused on: 1) networking and building relationships with collaborative groups within and outside of UW-W; 2) professional development; and 3) planning and activity development for upcoming events.

### **Accomplishments:**

- *Online Presence / Networking*
  - Re-establishing SEW-SENSE K-12 teacher network
    - Met with Steve Sayhun to discuss history
    - Added as list-serv manager
    - Emailed SEW-SENSE list and set-up teacher survey
  - Expanding Facebook network:
    - Highlight on Letters and Science Page
    - Online “shares” from current Facebook fans
    - “Likes” increased from 60 to 142
    - # of people reached per post = 983, 410, 755, 60
  - Website Development
    - Added keywords and descriptions to primary UW-W science outreach site
  
- *In-Person Networking / Meetings:* Goal – Learn history of past outreach events, successes, and barriers
  - Outreach Advisory Board: Bonjour, Curran, Frye, VandeZande
  - Education Outreach: Seth Meisel and Linda Nortier
  - Delavan Community Learning Center – Michelle Minton
  - NASCO
    - Sales leaders in Fort Atkinson (Kevin Hart and others)
    - UW-W faculty with some history of kit development
    - Kate Loftus, Advancement
  - Sustainability – Wes Enterline
    - Discussed Earth Day programming and campus garden opportunities
  - Physics
    - Bob Benjamin
    - Outreach overview at Physics Department Meeting
  - Whitewater High School
    - Petra VandeZande and Michelle DiFiore
      - Science Discovery Day, NSF Portals programs, Undergraduate Research Day, Individual classroom/field activities

- Other discussions with Juk Bhattacharrya (Geology), Tamara Hauck (Advancement), Amy Lutzke (Fort Atkinson Science Fair), Jolene Krahn (Outreach Assistant)
- *Proposals and Abstracts*
  - Submitted American Geophysical Union abstract (co-authors at Univ. Maryland – NSF CSEDI grant team)
    - “Using Seismic Discontinuities to Image Melt and Dynamics in the Sub-Continental Upper Mantle”
  - Wisconsin Improving Teacher Quality proposal re-submission
    - With Melanie Schneider, Matt Vick, Jessica Bonjour, John Frye
    - Due to UW-W August 28, 2014
  - National Science Foundation – Cooperative Studies of Earth’s Deep Interior
    - Revised and submitted UW-W request (matched dollar for dollar with original budget - \$70,005)
    - With Ron Fleischmann (UW-W)
    - Approved by program officer, pending at administrative level
- *Professional Development*
  - UW/UW-W Training Programs
    - Shop@UW
    - VoIP Phones
    - HR / Hiring Student Workers (with Lorenzo Jackson)
    - New staff technology training workshop
    - D2L workshop
    - Campus emergency procedures
  - Off-campus Development
    - Instructional Coaching workshop at Edgewood College
      - Preparation for observing K-12 teachers as part of WITQ grant
- *Events and Planning*
  - WITQ K-3 Teacher Workshop (August 4-8)
    - Observed and participated in several portions of teacher workshop led by Melanie Schneider, et al.
  - Wisconsin Science Festival
    - Proposals accepted by WSF headquarters
    - Edited details for UW-W events on main WSF website
    - Room reservations, equipment requests
    - Preliminary activity planning and development
      - Will continue with science outreach assistants when students are back on campus

- Delavan CLC – After school program
  - Curriculum planning
    - Activity development and purchase of elementary level science themed books to pair with hands-on activities
- College Connection
  - Coordinated College overview with Jessica Bonjour
- Fort Atkinson Pre-School and Childcare
  - Development of hypothesis testing and measurement activity with soap bubbles
  - Led activity with ~20 elementary-school age children (8/29)
    - Repeat activity with Delavan CLC students in fall/spring
- *“Ask me about science” stickers*
  - A key component that came out of the meetings with the Delavan CLC staff is the desire for communication between students, parents, teachers, and outreach staff, such that students see the science as an inter-connected topic and not just 45 minutes a week after school. I designed an “Ask me about science” sticker to give to kids in this program (and for use with other in-school activities), to encourage communication between students and parents.



- Outreach staff will also work to design activity summaries to send home with the students, and these will be developed in both English and Spanish.
- *Tentative 2014-15 Event Calendar*
  - The activities described above identified key events that have been successful in the past, along with logistical information on when/where events may best be held, and a tentative schedule of events was developed. Some of these events will be hosted by Science Outreach, and others are planned by other groups on campus with varying degrees of involvement from the Science Outreach office. Some dates/details may change, but the following table is a general outline of goals and events for the coming year.

## UW-Whitewater Science Outreach 2014-2015 Events Calendar

Contact Dr. Anna Courtier (courtica@uww.edu; 262-472-7161) to arrange additional individual in-class activities, typically offered at low- or no-cost.

Date	Event Title	Target Audience	Event Information
Monthly, TBD	SEW-SENSE Teacher Workshops	K-12 Educators *	Equipment demonstrations, teacher share sessions, science in the news highlights
Weekly, Mondays	Turtle Creek Elementary School Community Learning Center	Students, Grades K-2 (Fall), Grades 3-5 (Spring)	Weekly after school science programming
Ongoing, Upon request	Classroom demonstrations, School science nights	K-12 teachers, students, and families	Demonstrations and activities coordinated by outreach staff and UW-W faculty (Some fees apply for larger demonstrations/events)
9/24/14 11:30-1:00	Fall Undergraduate Research Day	Campus Community, Grades 10-12/AP	Poster sessions highlighting undergraduate research completed by UW-W students
10/17/14 8-10 pm	Wisconsin Science Festival: Astronomy Lecture	Campus Community, General public: Middle school – Adult	Astronomy lecture and public viewing, weather permitting (Coordinated through the Whitewater Observatory Lecture Series – contact Dr. Paul Rybski, rybskip@uww.edu)
10/18/14 9am-12pm	Wisconsin Science Festival: Passport to Science	Campus Community, General public: K-12 students/families	Greenhouse and observatory tours, hands-on science activities across the UW-Whitewater campus!
10/18/14	picoSpin NMR Spectrometer Teacher Workshop	High School Chemistry Teachers	Learn how to incorporate NMR technology into the classroom, how to use a portable NMR spectrometer, develop lab exercises
2/12/15	UW-W Darwin Day	Campus Community K-12 Classes Public	Hands-on evolutionary biology activities for all ages at the UW-Whitewater campus
2/20/15	Science Discovery Day	Prospective Students, Prospective Majors, 9-12 <sup>th</sup> grade classes and students	Hands-on activities, mini-labs, tours, meet and greets with professors and students (low cost for classes; free for prospective students)
3/18/15 12-3 pm	Spring Undergraduate Research Day	Campus Community, Grades 10-12/AP	Poster sessions highlighting undergraduate research completed by UW-W students
4/22/15 9-11 am	UW-W Earth Day	Campus Community, K-12 Students, General Public	Hands-on Earth Day activities and birds of prey show, for all ages at the UW-Whitewater campus
Summer 2015	Science Detectives Camp (Further information available Spring 2015)	Grades 3-8	Three full days of science camp, including biology, chemistry, geography/geology, and physics – all in the context of scientific investigation and detective work!

### Stay up-to-date online!

- Official UW-Whitewater Science Outreach webpage: <http://www.uww.edu/cls/scienceoutreach>
- Like us on Facebook! <http://www.facebook.com/uww.scienceoutreach>

\* Join the *Southeast Wisconsin-Science Educator Networking and Social Event* (SEW-SENSE) K-12 teacher network at <http://www.uww.edu/cls/scienceoutreach/teacher-resources>