

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

Monthly Goals:

The primary objectives for the outreach office for January 2015 focused on: 1) continued activity/event development and planning for elementary, middle school, and high school audiences, focused on Spring 2015 events; 2) in-school elementary demonstrations; and 3) hiring and training new student staff members.

Accomplishments:

- *Events and Planning* (Goals: Reach elementary, middle, and high school audiences)
 - Faculty Meetings
 - Attended Biology, Chemistry, and Geography/Geology faculty meetings to discuss upcoming outreach events and potential faculty participation
 - Met with Bob Benjamin to discuss activities with the Physics department (departmental meeting time conflicted with previous commitments)
 - Decided to put outreach reports online for faculty/staff access for anyone interested (coming online in February)
 - Delavan CLC – After school program (Elementary)
 - Curriculum planning
 - Activity development, testing, and implementation
 - Began 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 (MSA)
 - Implemented surface and ground water hands-on activities at elementary level (3rd grade)
 - Trained science outreach assistant Rachel Terracina on Enviroscapes and curriculum development
 - Scale-up to middle school level

- Earth Day planning (April 22, 2015 – Elementary)
 - Coordinated with Wes Enterline about Earth Day programming and scheduled Birds of Prey show to be part of grade 2/3 LINCS field trip
 - Discussed involvement of UWW student orgs in designing and running activities
 - Trained science outreach assistant Allie Sheen on event organization, planning, and lesson development
 - Met with Jay Craggs (Rooms and Reservations) and reserved rain-date locations in UC

- Science Discovery Day planning (February 27, 2015 – High School)
 - Invited students from Delavan High School who are also interested in the Science Academy summer program to attend the event
 - Coordinated with Delavan science, math, and tech ed teachers to find relevant student groups
 - Rescheduled to February 27 due to Delavan school calendar
 - Contacted faculty to discuss scheduling and participation
 - Coordinated schedule with Science Academy staff
 - Reserved UC space

- Fort Atkinson Regional Science Fair (K-12)
 - Monthly meetings to plan for February 2015 event
 - Serving as Essay Chair and will assist with judging for George Clokey
 - Did in-class demonstrations for every classroom at Luther Elementary in Fort Atkinson
 - With George Clokey (kindergarten) and Steve Sahyun (5th grade)
 - 13 classrooms and approximately 300 students

- UW-W Writing Initiative Workshop (High School Teachers)
 - Coordinated by Linda Nortier
 - January meeting to discuss workshop agenda, break-out sessions, and science in argumentative papers (middle school)
 - Teacher workshop planned for July 2015

- 2015 Science Detectives Camp
 - Confirmed faculty participation (Bonjour, Curran, Frye, Kapfer, and Sahyun)
 - Wrote camp summary for brochure development

- Darwin Day
 - February 12
 - Wrote press release and submitted to MMR for approval
 - Coordinated with parking services for free parking (without permits) in Lots 7 & 9 during the event
- *Grant Efforts*
 - Wisconsin Improving Teacher Quality activities
 - 1 teacher/classroom observation at Turtle Creek Elementary School in Delavan
 - Focus on student engagement, use of science notebooks
 - Session taught in English with support in Spanish
 - 1 post-observation coaching session
 - Each teacher to be observed again in 3rd-4th quarters this year
 - Team meeting to discuss previous observations and planning for spring workshop, April 17
 - Portals of Discovery
 - Met with Catherine Chan to discuss potential funding directions
 - Considering private foundations as support for funding
 - Focus on mentoring high school students and career/college readiness in STEM
 - With Eric Brown, Catherine Chan, Kerri Wrinn, (UW-Rock County) and Petra VandeZande (Whitewater High School)
 - NSF-CSEDI
 - Hired student Brandon Behnke (Physics) for research programming
 - Discussions with Univ. Maryland collaborators re: hiring UWW student to work at UMD in the summer (10 weeks)
 - Computer/compiler updates
 - Strategic Initiatives Grant: Scientist-in-Residence Program
 - Project would pair a UW-W biologist and public policy expert to lead activities in science/social studies classes at a local high school
 - With Linda Nortier, Jonah Ralston, & Elisabeth Harrahy
 - Collaboration Fort Atkinson High School (Principal Dan Halversen)
 - Wrote and submitted pre-proposal to ORSP
 - Budget \$8,784
 - Received confirmation of complete submission
 - Feedback expected late February 2015

Student Hiring and Training

- Hired and trained Allie Sheen and Rachel Terracina as Science Outreach Assistants
 - Target workload = 5-10 hours per week

Media

- Interview with Margaret Plevak, Walworth County Today
 - Discussed impacts/programming of science outreach program and benefits to the community from the University

Committees and Service

- UW-W Ad hoc general education (Ellen Davis, Chair)
 - Met to discuss common curriculum and gen ed goals for lab science courses, impact on general education, and potential for a signature assignment

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