

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

**Monthly Goals:**

The primary objectives for the outreach office for March 2015 focused on: 1) Undergraduate Research Day; 2) spring break science at Hedberg Public Library; and 3) planning for Earth Day and Children's Center events in April.

**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 3-5<sup>th</sup> graders
    - Two weeks hiatus for UWW and Delavan spring breaks
- WI Stormwater Management (Elementary/Middle School)
  - Coordinating outreach for MSA Professional services on behalf of local municipalities in the Rock River basin
  - Implemented surface and ground water hands-on activities at elementary level (3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> grade, Hedberg Public Library)
  - Meetings with student Rachel Terracina to discuss goals (quantitative components) and curriculum standards for scale-up to middle school level
- WI Stormwater Management (Teachers)
  - Coordinating summer workshop for K-12 teachers with MSA Professional services
    - Funded by grant to MSA
  - Will meet July 14-15 at UWW
  - Syllabus development complete
  - Instructors include Anna Courtier, Jason Valerius (MSA), Becky Binz (MSA), and Nancy Sheehan (Rock River Coalition)
  - Linda Nortier will facilitate course credit approval and registration (1 credit)

- Undergraduate Research Day (March 18, 2015)
  - Attended planning meeting for Undergraduate Research Program members and associates
  - Coordinated visit for approximately 30 high schoolers from Whitewater High School
  - Lunchtime panel with high school students plus Anna Courtier, Steven Girard (Chem), Noah Padgett (Math student), David Sackett (Bio student), and two “Warhawk Ambassador” students
    - Catering provided by Admissions
  - Presented overview of undergraduate research and guidelines for attending poster session
    - Recommended posters for high schoolers to attend
    - Suggested conversation starters with undergraduates
  - Facilitated high school attendance at poster session for one hour
  - Judged 3 posters in math/physics/computer science and 2 posters in geography/chemistry

*Feedback from WWHS teacher: The students had a fantastic time, and really thought it was cool to hear from the students during lunch, and to walk around the poster session and talk with the presenters. It was also a great experience, and a challenge for them to have the courage to walk up and ask people about their research and ask questions about what they say, carrying on a conversation. In fact, several students told me that they would have liked to have more time at the poster session, which surprised me, because I thought it might even be a little too much to hold their attention the whole time. Thanks again for such a great time, and I hope students will continue to be able to come in the future!*

- Dendrology project at Whitewater High School
  - Assisted ecological biology class with tree coring project on school campus
    - Provided equipment on loan from Geography dept and helped student groups with the activity
    - Student assistants Allie Sheen and Rachel Terracina also assisted
    - Students in this class also attended the Undergraduate Research Day program on campus
- Earth Day planning (April 22, 2015 – Elementary)
  - Reviewed event plans with student assistant Allie Sheen
  - Coordinated Birds of Prey schedule with Wes Enterline
  - Developed activity outlines and supply lists
  - Communicated with LINC elementary teacher Danyelle Callahan for field trip information (Approx. 110 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> graders will come to the event)

- 2015 Science Detectives Camp
  - Hired student assistants and coordinated faculty and student payroll with Camps & Continuing Education staff
- UWW Children's Center Science Night (April 24)
  - Continued activity planning for 5 senses theme
  - Contacted Marsha Goodell and Patti Filipiak to begin room reservations
- Spring Break Science Program at Hedberg Public Library, Janesville
  - Tuesday, March 31, 1-2:30p
  - Approximately 30 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders attended
  - Developed and led age-appropriate activities based on water, wind, and sun on the library grounds
- Summer Library Programs – Science Activities
  - Continued planning for summer programs in Whitewater, Fort Atkinson, and Milton
    - 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
- Lake Geneva School District Science night
  - Tuesday March 17
  - Coordinated request for UWW faculty/staff to share demonstrations as a part of the school district's science night
    - Goal was to have a University presence to get students thinking about science at the college level
  - Paul House, Steve Sahyun, and Peter Jacobs prepared demonstrations and attended the event
- *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
      - ESL class sessions taught in English
    - Team meeting to discuss previous observations and planning for spring workshop, April 17

- NSF-CSEDI
  - Computer/compiler updates with research student Brandon Behnke
  - Met with Ed Garnero at Arizona State University to discuss data, programming, and event analysis
  - Reviewed applications for student position at University of Maryland, Summer 2015
    - Selection to be finalized April 2015
  
- Math-Science Partnership meeting
  - Met with Linda Nortier and Liesl Gapinski (UWW) and teachers/administrators from Lake Geneva and Genoa City Districts
  - Discusses MSP solicitation and program requirements as well as potential for collaboration
  - Decided not to submit a proposal at this time
  
- Strategic Initiatives grant (pre-proposal submitted January 2015)
  - Invited to submit full proposal
  - Coordinated planning with Elisabeth Harrahy, Jonah Ralston, and Dan Halversen (Fort Atkinson High School)
  - Full proposal not submitted because UWW suspended RFP due to budget concerns
  
- State of Wisconsin Surface Water grant
  - Submitted December 2014
  - Awarded March 2015
    - With Suzanne Wade (UW Extension, Lead), Eric Compas, Greg Farnham, Patricia Cicero
    - Current vision: UW-W students would paddle along the Rock River, taking water quality measurements and making public presentations geared for middle/high school audiences
    - Funding for comprehensive planning of a summer (2016) outreach program
      - Planning meetings, community/sponsor talks, equipment testing/pilot projects

*Conferences, Committees, and Service*

- UW-W Ad hoc general education (Ellen Davis, Chair)
  - Continued email discussions on gen ed goals for lab science courses, impact on general education, and potential for a signature assignment

- NSF Proposal Review
  - Submitted proposal review for NSF-Geophysics, Program Officer Robin Reichlin
- edTPA Collaborative Meeting
  - Met with Jessie Dugan, Robin Fox, Jessica Bonjour, Steve Sahyun, and John Frye to discuss portfolio requirements for science education students
- Science Alliance Meeting
  - Met with alumni to discuss their ideas, experiences and priorities with respect to CLS and outreach goals
- Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers Conference
  - March 6, Wisconsin Dells
  - Attended lectures, workshops, and activity demonstrations to learn more about best practices and effective outreach strategies

### *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