Testing the Water in New Ways: Improving Sampling Techniques through Summer Fellowship

Water quality can vary greatly from suburban to urban areas as well as across different socioeconomic regions. By expanding and improving water sampling techniques, communities can better understand and address issues of water quality. The Rock River Coalition of Wisconsin has organized "Testing the Water: A Paddle and Probe Adventure" to help create a fuller understanding of these issues throughout the entire community. Environmental Science major Michael J. Smith, Integrated Science and Business major Karl Brandstaetter, and faculty advisor Eric Compas of the Department of Geology and Geography have received a Fellowship in Community Based Research for their contributions to this effort.

Their findings will help to educate the public. "They'll be testing to make sure that we get really good, accurate information that will tell a good story," explains Suzanne Wade, of the Rock River Coalition. Without the work of the UW-Whitewater students this summer, Wade says, it is difficult for the county to create that story. With current testing methods, collectors have to stop every mile to do physical collection, resulting in disjointed information: "It's like reading a chapter and jumping to the next chapter," Wade says. "We don't know what's in between."
Additionally, by testing a new, novel device based on water conductivity, the students will help establish a means of testing water quality to gain "substantially more data for the same amount of effort," says Compas, filling the critical gaps in understanding water quality. "If effective, this could potentially mean a change in the ways we have volunteers collect water quality samples."

Smith and Brandsteatter are excited by this opportunity, and by the continued conversation and interest of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. "We had adopted the Bluff Creak site to monitor," remarks Brandsteatter. "But now we'll be able to get more specifics, more correlation, and more samples from the entire stream," he explains. "A higher intensity," adds Smith. "It's exciting that the DNR really wants to know and wants us to do this, and that these techniques might then be used by the DNR," he remarks. His excitement echoes Wade's: "The implication for this project is even more than this county."

Fall Gardening Workshops Follow Summer Garden Tours

UW-Whitewater's beautiful campus was explored this summer during four public garden and landscape tours. During July and August, sustainability coordinator Wes Enterline led participants through the campus prairie and preserve, flower gardens, organic vegetable garden, and the Upham Greenhouse, describing the plants that make up the landscapes and the efforts made to restore and sustain the green areas of campus. Each of the four tours filled to capacity, and participants reported that they enjoyed seeing new parts of campus and learning tips for their home gardens.

Though the tours are over for the year, gardening lovers can still continue learning. Five workshops are scheduled for the year, and will cover a wide variety of topics from fairy gardens to growing vegetables from seed. The first two workshops take place in October and will focus on plant propagation and landscapes of Israel. These workshops are offered for a minimal fee and registration is required. Sign up today!
Fall Fairhaven Lecture Series

Twelve lectures are scheduled for the Fall Fairhaven Lecture Series, *Standing the Test of Time*. Lectures in the series will explore the traditions, institutions, natural wonders and artifacts that endured in a time of constant change. Faculty presenters from all four colleges on campus will be joined by a well-known arborist, a television executive, and an expert from the University of Nebraska to give talks that are free and open to the public. Topics for the series range from classical music and ancient trees to the Latino tradition of Quinceañeras and the values of the Amish and Mennonites. Lectures are held every Monday afternoon at 3:00pm during the semester at Fairhaven Senior Services in Whitewater.

Can't attend? Lectures are recorded and can be viewed anytime online. Nearly 70 lectures on topics from the Americans with Disabilities Act to Walmart's meteoric rise can be found on the Fairhaven Lecture Series [website](http://fairhavenlectureseries.org). Select lectures are also broadcast on Wisconsin Public Television's [University Place](http://wpt.org/programs/university-place) program. WPT has selected six UW-Whitewater lectures to air in regular rotation, allowing viewers from all corners of the state access to the information in this valuable UW-Whitewater tradition.

Celebrating Another Successful Summer of Camps and Conferences

This summer, [Continuing Education Services](http://ces.uw-whitewater.edu) (CES) supported nearly 7,000 people through their athletic and music camps, academic and professional conferences and other events coordinated by CES. Over 90 events for youth, were hosted by CES between June and August. Wow!