Sixteen area students who were part of Whitman College’s popular WISE (Whitman Institute for Summer Enrichment) program this summer returned to campus on Saturday, October 17, to be part of a series of activities, including the chance to learn more about the study of Biology.

Whitman students Hadley DeBree, Taylor Montminy and Lauren Bolkovatz offered reflections on some of the joys and challenges of studying science, while the 8th and 9th grade students enjoyed observing and drawing cultures of paramecium, mold, earthworms and more. Michelle Shafer, Lab and Imaging Coordinator, organized the afternoon in the Biology lab.

WISE is a pre-college program that aims to introduce local middle school students to college life, in order to generate excitement about pursuing a college education. Students with demonstrated academic promise who would be first-generation college students or from families with low incomes are selected from the local community to attend the program each summer.

This past August, students attended a lecture by Dayle Smith, Assistant Professor of Physics, as part of the three-day program.
Visiting assistant professor of chemistry Nathan Lien and nine Whitman students from the Chemistry Club spent the afternoon of October 17 assisting 28 local Boy Scouts earn their merit badge in Chemistry. This badge is typically difficult to obtain, since access to a lab can be limited. The group built Cartesian divers, performed the Mentos geyser experiment, and explored the activity series of metals.

**Upcoming Events in Science Outreach**

**Saturday, November 21**, Middle School Science Teachers will attend a morning workshop on “Emerging Viruses,” with presentations from Jim Russo, Department Chair of BBMB, and Michelle Shafer, Lab Coordinator for BBMB. This is part of a workshop series funded by the HHMI grant. The next workshop, titled “The Chemistry of Water,” will be presented by Frank Dunnivant, Associate Professor of Chemistry, on Saturday, January 23.

Do you have outreach activities you would like to see added to the newsletter? Do you have ideas for outreach activities, but need help pursuing them? Contact Mary Burt, HHMI Science Outreach Coordinator, at burtmb@whitman.edu or 509-522-4441.
Chemistry Open House

Deb Simon, Senior Lecturer in Chemistry, organized a wide variety of fun lab activities for parents, siblings and students as part of Family Weekend on Saturday, October 24. Attendees could choose from a range of activities, from wearing color-changing nail polish to making “snow” out of polyacryamide (the stuff in baby diapers). Parents admired the lab facilities, while attendees of all ages enjoyed some “hands-on” Chemistry.

Planetarium Visits

Andrea Dobson, Associate Professor of Astronomy and General Studies, added two more shows this year to her popular Planetarium Show of the Heavens. Even with six shows on the Saturday of Parent’s Weekend, there were still rows of parents and students waiting in hopes of an extra ticket!

Andrea and her students conduct around 75 shows a year, including many of the third grade classes in the area schools.

Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.

—W. B. Yeats
Karen Smith, Chemistry Lab Coordinator, along with her assistant (and son), Alex, visited Ms. Jackley’s second grade classroom at Davis Elementary on the afternoon of October 14. They made slime, used golden rod paper as a pH indicator and investigated the properties of carbon dioxide and dry ice.

“Equipped with his five senses, man explores the universe around him and calls the adventure Science.”

—Edwin Powell Hubble