

Integrating Liberal Arts and the Sciences at AWRI
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The Outreach and Education Program at the Annis Water Resources Institute (AWRI) reaches over 6,500 people per year with cruises on the W.G. Jackson and the D.J. Angus research and education vessels and the AWRI education classroom. The majority of program participants are in Grades 4 through 8. Students experience “hands-on” science onboard the vessels and they study policy implications, especially as related to invasive species in the Great Lakes. In the classroom, students perform a play on invasive species, make models, and draw pictures to help them learn about this and other issues. Their knowledge can be translated into action as they help to spread the word about the relationship of these invasions to the integrity of the Great Lakes.



5th Grade students performing the invasive species play.

AWRI staff often teach GVSU courses in the Biology Masters degree program as well as in other areas. We were recently involved in a non-major and general education course in Integrated Science that draws from a diverse audience in CLAS. Science 225, Integrated Life Science for K-8 Teachers serves pre-service teachers whose emphasis isn't science. One of the assignments developed for this course by Drs. Chris Dobson and Steve Burton relates to a Michigan Science Standard which is: “show how science concepts can be illustrated through creative expression such as language arts and fine arts.” Examples of student work included poetry, songs, collages, books, games, clay models, and posters. Students were able to express themselves in a multiplicity of ways as they translated science concepts into their field of interest.



Science 225 Student Projects