

The Science Constellation Model

The Science Alliance Network

The Science Expeditions Campus-wide Open House

Making a Whole Campus a Destination for Exploration



The Science Constellation Model at UW-Madison

In 1998 we (Zinnen & Smith) first proposed the possibility of a major on-campus venue that could welcome the public every day in an organized way to come experience science as exploring the unknown.

The idea imagines a way to connect people to places & programs scattered & spangled all across our 930 acre campus.

The focus is on helping visitors view the 20+ “boutique” science venues as a Constellation of Science resources comprising a Destination for Exploration.

The university’s strength is not in interactive exhibits. Rather, the university’s strength is in large numbers of interactive scientists, both researchers & outreachers. The Science Constellation model leverages that strength.

The Science Alliance Network

The UW Science Alliance is an informal network of outreachers. We meet weekly during the academic year on Mondays at 10 am. We began meeting in spring 2003. About 10-15 people participate in the meetings

UW Science Alliance members keep connected through meetings, through working together on science outreach events, through our weekly *Science Alliance Updater* email newsletter (currently 766 subscribers), through the science.wisc.edu portal, and through social media.

Science Expeditions Campus-wide Open House

The UW Science Alliance grew out of the planning committee that organized the first annual UW Science Expeditions campus open house in April 2003. As such, Science Alliance is a vine that grows on the trellis of Science Expeditions. The vine is the key thing, for it serves all year round.

In spring 2015, the 13th Annual UW Science Expeditions welcomed over 3,000 visitors to 20 campus venues over three days.

As an Open House, UW Science Expeditions isn’t just about its three-day run; it’s about connecting visitors to the people, places & programs in UW science outreach 365 days a year.

The campus is an amazing place. It is also a maze. Our job is to provide more of the amazement, and less of the maze. Constellations help people see patterns in scattered resources and thereby to navigate those resources.

Collaborations with over two dozen venues & programs, and synergy provided by the Campus and Visitor Relations’ program in orchestrating field trips, help make it easier for K12 groups, families, adult learners and any other groups to plan and schedule visits to campus year round.

We continue to ask:

How can we best organize, fund, facilitate, staff & evaluate the science outreach enterprise at UW-Madison?

How can we share here on campus, as well as in communities, the mindsets and skill sets of science as ways of probing the unknown and of inventing the future?

Every Wisconsin citizen is already a co-owner of UW-Madison. Every 4th grader who buys a candy bar, clothes or a computer game is also a co-funder of the university by virtue of the sales tax. In welcoming people to their land-grant campus, how can we better engage learners of all ages—our co-owners & co-funders—in the research enterprise of this public university?

What If?

*What if learners of all ages viewed & used their public land-grant research university as a Destination for Exploration where they could experience science as exploring the unknown?

*What if public land-grant research universities projected themselves to the public as Destinations for Exploration?

*What if national funding agencies recognized research university campuses as places for informal learning on a par with museums, science centers, zoos, aquariums, botanical gardens and the like?

*Did you know that the 2009 National Research Council report entitled “Learning Science in Informal Environments: People, Places, and Pursuits” does not recognize university campuses as a place for informal science learning?

The Opportunity

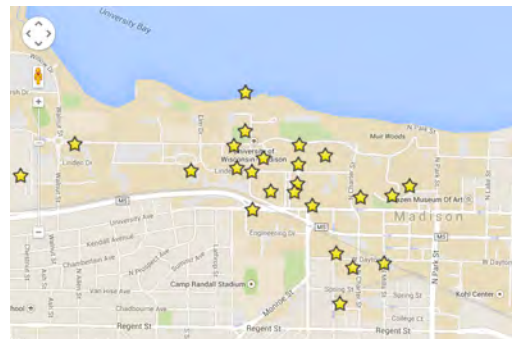
*Madison, Wisconsin is a city of science. While it has a zoo, a botanical garden and an arboretum, it does not yet have a science museum or a hands-on science center.

*Madison is home, however, to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the 4th largest campus by R&D budget in the US.

*Is there a way that the many people, places and programs of a research campus can be viewed & used as a Constellation of Science Venues?

*Might such a Science Constellation model complement the science museum model and the public science center model as Destinations for Exploration?

*Might your university campus be a Science Constellation?



- Alexis Entomology Gardens** | 608-776-2101 | 4205 Belmont Drive, Madison, WI
- Alexis Traffic Collection** | 608-262-3162 | 1300 Linden Drive, Madison, WI
- Archives** | 608-265-5872 | 1207 Terrace Highway, Madison, WI
- Babcock Hall (Babcock Plant)** | 608-262-2700 | 1300 Linden Drive, Madison, WI
- Babcock Hall (Babcock Store)** | 608-262-3043 | 1300 Linden Drive, Madison, WI
- BioTech Outreach Program** | 608-265-2420 | 425 Henry Mall, Madison, WI
- Botanical Garden** | 608-262-2231 | 430 Linden Drive, Madison, WI
- Botany Department** | 608-262-2231 | 430 Linden Drive, Madison, WI
- Clark Agricultural Research Station** | See website for current contact information
- Class Center** | 608-265-8500 | 1815 Linden Drive, Madison, WI
- D.C. Smith Greenhouse** | 608-262-3844 | 1375 Linden Drive, Madison, WI
- Edging Library** | 608-262-2020 | 710 Highland Avenue, Madison, WI
- Evans Family Laboratory** | 608-262-2000 | 1100 University Avenue, Madison, WI
- Genetics Museum** | 608-262-2432 | 1213 West Dayton Street, Madison, WI
- Historical Markers & Signage Locations** | UW-Madison, Madison, WI
- Imperial Physics Museum** | 608-262-3898 | 1110 University Avenue, Madison, WI
- James Research Collection** | 608-262-0108 | 1830 Linden Drive, Madison, WI
- Laboratory Natural History** | 608-262-2076 | 1100 University Avenue, Madison, WI
- Madison Institute for Research** | 608-318-4300 | 330 N. Orchard Street, Madison, WI
- Madison Plant at Mineral Science** | 608-890-1978 | 1110 Linden Drive, Madison, WI
- New Technology Research and Education** | 608-845-4881 | 1361 County Highway M, Verona, WI
- Nuclear Reactor Laboratories** | 608-262-3392 | 1513 University Avenue, Madison, WI
- Prime Center Learning Center** | 608-269-7024 | 1221 Capital Court, Madison, WI
- Ruth Davis Design Gallery** | 608-262-8815 | 1300 Linden Drive, Madison, WI
- Sears Plant** | 608-262-4791 | 1100 University Ave., 1100 South Park Drive, Madison, WI
- Space Science Engineering Center** | 608-265-4700 | 1225 N. Orchard Street, Madison, WI
- Steinbock Memorial Library** | 608-262-1372 | 150 Babcock Drive, Madison, WI
- Town Center** | 608-318-4300 | 330 N. Orchard Street, Madison, WI
- University Shuttle Gardens** | 608-262-2237 | 800 Memorial Drive Road, Madison, WI
- Watershed Center** | 608-262-1827 | 1100 Highland Avenue, Madison, WI
- Wildflower Observatory** | 1421 Observatory Drive, Madison, WI
- West Madison Agricultural Research Station** | 608-262-2237 | 8152 Mineral Point Road, Madison, WI
- Wisconsin Institute for Discovery** | 608-318-4399 | 330 N. Orchard Street, Madison, WI
- Wisconsin Institute for Discovery** | 330 N. Orchard Street, Madison, WI
- Wisconsin State Herbarium** | 608-262-2792 | 430 Linden Drive, Madison, WI
- Zoo/Insect Museum Gardens** | 1710 North Mills Street, Madison, WI



Authors

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