



the stars
challenge

Patterns in Nature
Winter 2013



It was our pleasure to pilot this newest, interdisciplinary Stars Challenge enrichment course. We consider ourselves lucky to interact with talented educators on a regular basis. We welcomed the opportunity to network and coordinate the talents and expertise of teachers such as Mr. David Fusco, Ms. Erin Colfax, Mr. John Bartlett and Ms. Lois Lyons for our Stars students.

Mr. Roche and Ms. Gross



Opening night began with introductions, brainstorming, and the start of friendships among the "J" team – the "REBZ" - and Doctor Lime (MD LM)



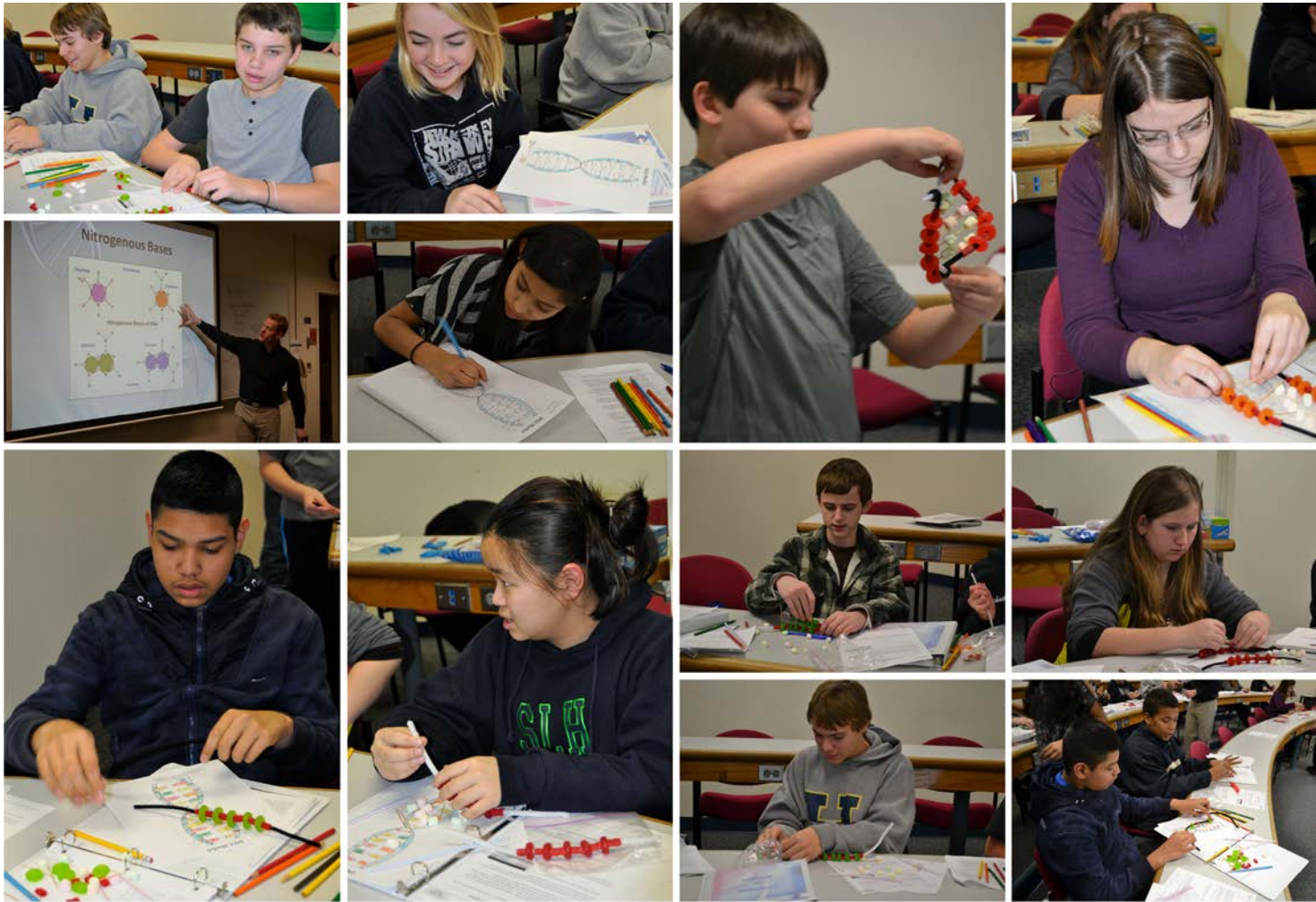
Participants then played and preyed as they speculated about patterns involving natural selection.



Our first guest lecturer, Mr. Fusco, challenged students with his initial presentation that focused on adaptations involving coloration.



...a perfect follow-up to patterns involving natural selection.



Mr. Fusco was back with dandy candy models of DNA. It was hard to put them together without taking a bite out of the delicious sweets but the final product was delectable!



The second part of the night centered around an awesome experiment where we extracted nucleic acid from strawberries and bananas. It was messy and wet and tons of fun!



How are science and poetry connected? Mrs. Colfax spent the evening with us helping us compose science poetry using our powers of observation, quantitative, and qualitative data.



Slippery, slimy, and 21 feet long! A 20 ft. snake skin, fossils, amber, and pine cones, scientific data and field notes, became poetry in our participants' notebooks.



Who knew that goldfish crackers could teach you about citizen science? "Fishing" for goldfish was a way to learn about the tragedy of the commons and citizen science.



Our participants showed no hesitation when it came to tessellation with Mr. Bartlett!



0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8.....Fibonacci found all around!



Ms. Lyons is one of the few people allowed to perform demo's involving Mr. Roche.



Students explored patterns involved with the chemistry of water on molecular and macro levels.



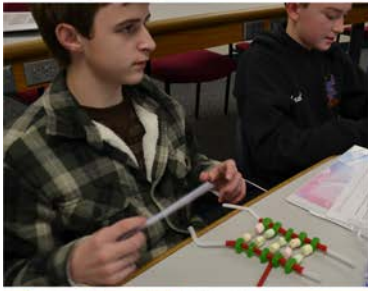
Poricy Park provided a perfect setting for our final session that challenged powers of observation...



... creativity, perception, interpretation ...



... and artistic expression in the form of eco-art.





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The Stars Challenge at Monmouth University