I was very excited to be invited to the Bioeyes Symposium at Notre Dame because I had heard such wonderful things about it from a friend who attended last year. Being a teacher in South Bend, we teach science using hands-on activites. The students love being called future scientists, and the bioeyes is a perfect example of how the students can improve their observational and critical thinking skills, with working together . I learned how many of the activites can be extended into different subject areas. What third grader wouldn’t like to hear how they each developed from a cell, and how humans and zebrafish are alike.? The whole subject of DNA is fascinating, and I’ll definitely do the activity with a sugar cookie for the cell, showing the nucleus with a peanut butter cup, and the organelles using raisins and grapes. I am sure my students will be so excited, they ‘ll be researching more on their own! Thanks for the additional websites, and help with the activites. I can’t wait to teach this unit.

The modern biology lab was far too advanced for me, as I have never taken a biology lesson in my life! I was quite lost, but luckily had a partner who knew what she was doing. I did learn about pipettes (elementary biology) and was quite amazed at the complexity of all of the experiments. The DNA was more interesting for me.

The Facility Lab Tours was awesome! I had no idea that such research was taking place at Notre Dame, and am excited at the thought of possible cures for diseases like mascular degeneration and other eye ailments. The young medical student at the Hyde Lab was so patient with our group, explaining his research projects. and showed us how they dissect cells from the eyes of the zebrafish. The Radiation Center was fascinating too – I had no idea that such a thing existed at the University. M. Moor

M