

**IGERT Inquirer
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Week of September 5, 2005**

Ethics course is complete

As most of the WSU-IGERT fellows know, over the summer the program offered an eight-week ethics course. This course was offered to fellows to stimulate interest in issues dealing with ethics. Similar to last month, we are asking that fellows who took this course complete this survey and send it to Doris King.

1. Do you feel this course made you think about this topic more than before?
Yes No (Delete the incorrect response)

2. Did you disagree with some of the materials presented in the course?
Yes No (Delete the incorrect response)

3. Did you feel that the instructors were knowledgeable of the subject matter?
Yes No (Delete the incorrect response)

4. What was the best part of the course?
Yes No (Delete the incorrect response)

5. What was the worst part of the course?
Yes No (Delete the incorrect response)

6. Do you feel that this course accomplished its purpose?
Yes No (Delete the incorrect response)

7. How many sessions did you feel were inappropriate?
1 2 3 More than 3 (Delete the incorrect responses)

Again, those fellows who enrolled in this course, copy the survey put in your responses and e-mail them to Doris.

August Social Event

The Second Annual WSU-IGERT Picnic was held, again this year, at Stoney Creek Metropark in conjunction with a number of other research groups associated with the program's PI Vipin Chaudhary. The event was at the traditional area, Winter's Cove.

The day was pleasant and the event was well attended. Those who could not attend missed a day filled with activities, good conversation and food. WSU-IGERT hopes to offer a similar event next summer during either the first or second weekend in August. Hence, everyone has little less than a year's notice. Each year the event gets better and

better. In 2006, we know this trend will continue. Pictures of this event are posted on the program's website. A "thank you" goes out to all those who attended or supported this event.

A Little Something About Allergies

Not all allergies are caused by what's outside. The dust in your house contains potential allergens that can affect you year-round. **Which of the following is not a source of house dust?**

- a. cockroaches**
- b. mattresses**
- c. laundry detergents**
- d. all of these contribute to dust**

House dust is produced indoors from several sources, including disintegrated stuffing from mattresses, pillows, quilts, and upholstered furniture. Human skin scales, animal dander, parts of cockroaches and other insects, saliva, molds and mildew, bacteria, viruses, and pollen are all also sources. Additionally, the mixture can include tobacco smoke, cosmetic powders, baby powder and powdered laundry detergents, aerosols such as air fresheners, and cleaning products with strong odors.

House dust also contains microscopic dust mites. These mites, which live in bedding, upholstered furniture, and carpets, thrive in summer and die in winter. In a warm, humid house, however, they continue to thrive even in the coldest months. The particles seen floating in a shaft of sunlight include dead dust mites and their waste products. These waste products, which are proteins, actually provoke the allergic reaction.

Waste products of cockroaches are also an important cause of allergy symptoms, particularly in some urban areas of the United States. Recent studies have found the proteins in cockroach saliva are particularly allergenic but the body and droppings of cockroaches also contain allergenic proteins.

Answer: d

Some preventative measures

- Use a dehumidifier or air conditioner to maintain relative humidity at about 50% or below.
- Limit the spread of food around the house and especially keep food out of bedrooms. Keep food and garbage in closed containers. Never leave food out in the kitchen.
- Mop the kitchen floor and wash countertops at least once a week.
- If possible, replace wall-to-wall carpets in bedrooms with bare floors (linoleum, tile or wood). Have someone else do the vacuuming or use a vacuum cleaner with either a double-layered microfilter bag or a HEPA filter to trap allergens that pass through a vacuum's exhaust.
- Eliminate water sources that attract insects, such as leaky faucets and drain pipes and even condensation from high humidity. Plug up crevices around the house through which cockroaches can enter. Use bait stations and other environmentally safe pesticides to reduce cockroach infestation.
- Use a damp mop or rag to remove dust. Never use a dry cloth since this just stirs up mite allergens.
- Purchase an air filter to clean out pollens, molds and dust.

- Minimize clutter, book collections, and bric-a-brac, which collect dust. Use closed cabinets and bookcases instead of open shelving.
- Buy washable curtains instead of heavy draperies or blinds.

Retrieved at: <http://www.weather.com>

WSU-IGERT Seminar Series

As we approach the beginning of the school year, the WSU-IGERT weekly seminar is scheduled to start in mid-September. This year the seminars have been moved up in terms of the starting time. These seminars provide attendees an opportunity to meet each other, refine communication skills by presenting their research or a related topic, enhance the concept of interdisciplinary studies, exchange views relative to the presented topic, and develop a sense of community.

While the topics are not generally decided early enough to publish in the Inquirer, the names of the WSU-IGERT fellows are given below along with the tentative dates of their presentations, see below.

DATE	PRESENTER
9/16/05	JAMAL ALHIYAFI
9/30/05	JULIA EIZENKOP
10/14/05	TBA
10/28/05	JP WALTERS
11/11/05	JASON CARAVAS
12/2/05	ARATI DIXIT
12/16/05	YUGANG XIAO
1/13/06	JAMAL ALHIYAFI
1/27/06	JULIA EIZENKOP
2/10/06	CRISTINA PILUSO
2/24/06	JP WALTERS
3/10/06	JASON CARAVAS
3/24/06	ARATI DIXIT
4/7/06	YUGANG XIAO
4/21/06	MICHAEL CATO

All seminars will be held in State Hall room 313 from 12:00 – 1:00P.

Pre-college Outreach: ACT Preparation Workshops

2005 marks the third year WSU-IGERT has offered fellows a chance to volunteer in the area of community outreach with the Office of Minority Student Initiatives Department of Chemistry Wayne State University (Initiative). The Initiative will hold a series of workshops designed to assist pre-college student with their preparation with the American College Test (ACT) to be given October 22nd.

This program overviews four parts of the ACT, which are English, Reading Comprehension, Science Reasoning and Mathematics. The attendees, primarily students from the Detroit Public School System, come to campus on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. Participants are given instructor on content, test taking strategies, pre and post tests, and homework.

WSU-IGERT, in the past, have provided assistance in grading as well as limited lectures in the ACT areas of Science Reasoning and Mathematics. Additionally, the fellows interact with pre-college students interested in pursuing degrees in science, mathematics, engineering and technology.

September Social

The WSU-IGERT faculty and staff is looking to celebrate the promise of the successes of its fellows in the coming school year by gathering with the program fellows in the a September Social. Fellows will be notified of he place and time of this event.

WSU-IGERT Website

Since the beginning of the Wayne State University version of the IGERT program there has been a website. The development of this website serves as a record of Wayne's program as well as provide information to both current and potential fellows.

The site is constantly developing where anything that one wants to know about the program can be accessed. Clearly, the fellows, staff and faculty have worked hard to make contributions in the area of high performance computing and simulation. The sie has much to offer to (not only) future fellows, but to those currently associated with the program. If you get a minute feel free to browse the site and provide comments in terms of things you would like to see or components you feel need to be developed. WSU-IGERT prides itself on continually assess every aspect of its program. You can view the website at: <http://igert-hpc.wayne.edu/index.html>

WSU-IGERT Calendar

Labor Day	September 5 th
Fall Semester Begins	September 6 th
ACT Prep Begins	September 6 th
Recruitment & Retention Committee Meeting	September 14 th
WSU-IGERT Seminars Begin	September 16 th
Recruitment & Retention Committee Meeting	September 28 th

Solicitation

Anyone who has "items of interest" to share with the rest of the group is encouraged to send a note to Doris King so that the information can be submitted or the issues can be addressed. We are especially looking to inform fellows about various activities such as additional seminars, workshops, and conferences that would enhance their research experience.

The *Inquirer* looks to not only inform, but to become a vehicle to be used by faculty, staff, associates, supporters and fellows to improve the overall program. Hence, we welcome any feedback that may arise from this text. All views will be evaluated and posted.

Inquirer Statement

The *Inquirer* was originally designed as part of the WSU-IGERT Summer Internship program. This document's main purpose was to inform readers about policies and issues related to this summer project. Clearly, communication was vital to the development of an effort such as the WSU-IGERT Internship program. With the success of the *Inquirer*, it was decided that the format of the *Inquirer* would be changed to a monthly, year round component. Moreover, it was decided that the scope of this document would be changed to reflect the activity of the WSU-IGERT program in high performance computing and simulation in its entirety. Thereby, evolving into a resource that can be used by a larger audience.

With this in mind, the *Inquirer* will target text that introduces its readers to the highlights of some of the accomplishments of its members. It would also inform readers about the structure of WSU-IGERT program. The *Inquirer* will look to become a feedback mechanism relative to policy, course work and most importantly promoting the concept of "Interdisciplinary research."

Next Month's Inquirer

Articles will be presented with a focus on WSU-IGERT plans for the academic 2005-06 school year. In October, we hope to publish fellow profiles. If any significant event or issue arises the *Inquirer* would like its readers to use this text as a reliable source. The *Inquirer* plans to report on the results on the ethics survey. Lastly, another article will be presented that addresses health issues.