

Research Review

OFFICE OF THE VICE PROVOST FOR RESEARCH ♦ PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Office of the Vice Provost for Research

The Discovery Learning Center

by Wilella Burgess

Purdue's Discovery Park provides a setting for the cutting edge interdisciplinary research necessary to approach today's complex problems. Understanding how people learn is one of those complex societal issues. Calls for major reform in science education emphasize the need for scientific literacy among all Americans and for changes in how science education is accomplished. It is not enough for today's graduates to simply know about things; they must have acquired the *skills and habits of the mind* that make it possible to *identify which information is worth knowing*, then *synthesize* and *apply* that knowledge across dynamic contexts, often working in diverse teams. They must look across disciplinary boundaries, drawing on content, language, principles, and methodologies associated with multiple domains to address real-world problems.

The Discovery Learning Center (DLC) focuses on the learning process by bringing together teachers, learners, and researchers to explore new, sometimes futuristic technologies, pedagogies, and strategies relevant to the learning environment. Faculty and students from all University schools who have an interest in exploring new ideas and technologies will find the Learning Center a welcoming and supportive site.

Because of its unique locale in Discovery Park, the DLC will be positioned to contribute to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) learning. Through collaborations with the other centers, it will provide opportunities for faculty, students, and pre-service and in-service teachers to gain new skills, to learn new techniques, and to participate in the excitement of discovery. The DLC is currently accepting members to its Affiliates Program, which seeks to foster and enhance communication among teachers, learners, and researchers to improve teaching and learning.

A database of Affiliates' names, expertise areas, and interests will facilitate contact between investigators and the formation of interdisciplinary research and learning teams. Affiliates will be informed of research and learning initiatives within the DLC and of intra- and extra-mural funding opportunities. Ultimately, Affiliates will benefit from the shared resources, including flexible laboratory, classroom, meeting, and office space in the DLC in Discovery Park.

The DLC will provide professional staff, administrative assistance, and related resources for multi-investigator research proposals. Other benefits will include access to:

- Leadership for center and program grants
- Flexible classroom and laboratory space where new technologies and pedagogies can be tested
- Meeting and office space for interdisciplinary learning projects
- Assistance with faculty recruiting in interdisciplinary learning areas

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Wilella Burgess is the center coordinator for Discovery Learning Center.

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PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

*Purdue University
Showcase for Excellence*
**Dynamics of
Interdisciplinary
Research Projects
at Purdue
University**

November 13, 2003
10:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
East and West Faculty Lounges
Purdue Memorial Union

This is a very special seminar and luncheon hosted by *Excellence 21* for the President's Office. This seminar is open to anyone interested in conducting interdisciplinary research at Purdue University. A great line-up of speakers is planned for the seminar with remarks by Provost Sally Mason and Interim Vice Provost for Research Chip Rutledge.

Please register by November 10th for this complementary seminar and luncheon. Seating is limited. Reserve your space by contacting Ms. Kathie Cochran, E-mail: kacochran@purdue.edu. ♦

Office of the Vice Provost for Research

**Fall 2003
Brown Bag Seminars
for Animal Users**

Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m.

The final two Brown Bag Seminars for this fall feature bird handling and sanitation practices. Investigators, technicians, students and post-docs are encouraged to attend.

November 11 Stewart Center 209 **Animal Facility Sanitation Practices** —
Dr. Sandy Amass, Purdue University

December 2 Stewart Center 209 **Restraint and Handling of Birds** —
(Video) University of California, Davis ♦

The Discovery Learning Center

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- Seed grants for learning research
- Information about major grant initiatives and opportunities for participation
- Opportunities for input of ideas and directions into new grant initiatives
- New research facilities as they are developed
- Information about other researchers and research initiatives

To apply for Affiliate status, please complete the Affiliate Application form available at the Discovery Park Web site (<http://www.purdue.edu/discoverypark>) and follow the membership/affiliateship link.

If you have any questions, please contact: Margaret Rowe, Co-Director; Discovery Learning Center; Hovde Hall, Purdue University; West Lafayette, IN 47907; E-mail: mmrowe@purdue.edu ♦