



The Science Integration Institute Newsletter

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Science Integration Institute is to conduct and support research and educational activities which use the process of science, and the insights gained about the universe by modern science, as tools to aid individuals in constructing realistic and meaningful views of their role in the universe.

Science Integration Conference 2000

The big event for this year was our first conference on science integration. The theme for this year's conference was "What is the role of physical science in the development of personal worldviews?" Thanks to the involvement of all the participants, the weekend was filled with lively discussion and insights to build on as we expand our programs. For more on the conference, including summaries of some of the discussions, go to our web site at:

www.scienceintegration.org/conference.html

Special thanks go out to Claudine Kavanagh and Carly Riter for handling the administrative details, and to Jeff Lakin and Maya Lessov for videotaping the talks. Also thanks to all our speakers, who set the stage for valuable discussions.

At the Institute

Here's an update on other recent activities:

Workshops

The workshops are proving to be a valuable component of implementing our mission. They bring people together to explore a specific topic

from science and discuss ways of understanding the topic and its implications in daily life. Most importantly, they're a fun way to gather and talk about how weird our universe really is!

The current catalog of workshops available can be found at:
www.scienceintegration.org/wkshp.htm

Reflection Questions

Jacob and Todd have put together some survey and self-reflection questions to help you think about your connections to science and the rest of the universe. Links to these questions are on our main web page,
www.scienceintegration.org.

E-mail Listserv

The email discussions continue to be interesting. Send us ideas for quotes of the week...Todd's starting to run out!

Science Integration Book

Todd is finishing up a little handbook to pull together many of the ideas we've been discussing: an introduction to the value of science in personal worldview-building, examples of what it would be like to connect to science in this way, etc. Look for a draft available for your feedback early next year.

FAQ

As a follow-up from the conference, Claudine has been working on a "frequently asked questions" page for the web site. The idea is to continue refining our goals and programs by answering questions about what we are (and what we are *not*). Imagine trying to describe SII to a friend: What questions might

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you expect them to ask?

If you have questions to suggest, please send them to faq@scienceintegration.org and we'll incorporate them into the FAQ page.

Plans for the Next Year

The expansion plans for 2001 all stem from the core goal of using insights from science to help develop personal worldviews. Here is a sketch of our plans for the next year, organized around three branches of the core goal:

Public support/community building

- Continue expanding the workshop offerings.
- Add some longer courses (10 weeks) for more depth on some subjects. In the works are cosmology, quantum theory, and technology and society courses planned to begin in late summer 2001.
- Offer more informal discussion events to gather and talk about recent articles or science integration - related topics. We'd also like to link these discussions more to the e-mail listserv, so those far from Portland can participate.
- Complete the "Science Integration Central" page of the web site. The goal is to have a clearinghouse of scientific information and ideas which you can access from a variety of backgrounds and starting points, in support of your own search for meaning.

Professional support/community building

- Continue the annual conference on science integration.
- Expand the web/e-mail forum to include more focused themes on a regular basis (an electronic version of some of the great conference discussions).
- Visiting scholar program to bring in associates from outside Portland to teach workshops or portions of courses.

Research

Much work is needed to help uncover new insights and clarify connections between existing insights. We've somewhat neglected this area in the push to get educational programs set up, but we'll return to it more aggressively this year. Some of our early brainstorming is on the Web:

www.scienceintegration.org/research.htm

Get Involved!

I'd like your input on how you'd like to be involved, either as a volunteer or through paid contracts for projects that fit within the SII framework. Don't be shy about proposing something and saying you'd need X dollars to cover expenses or a stipend or whatever. I'm interested in getting an idea of what people want to do, and what resources would be needed to implement these ideas. This will help target grant writing and fundraising efforts where they'll have the most impact.

Here are some possibilities to consider:

- ◇ Teach a workshop or part of a class - especially if you're outside the Portland area, and would like to try offering a SII workshop in your area. We can set things up so you can make use of the SII framework and do the registration, etc. through our web site.
- ◇ Give a public lecture. I know we have a wide variety of science specialties represented among you. Let me know if there's something exciting in your field that you'd like to share.
- ◇ Write an article discussing an "in the news" topic in your area of expertise.
- ◇ Suggest references or help design a piece of the Science Integration Central web page.
- ◇ Anything else you think helps tie science to people's daily lives and awareness.

Thanks!

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