Poly News

POLY Becomes Site of JHU Environmental Project

Recently, Mr. Sam Small, a graduate student in Computer Science at Johns Hopkins University visited Poly to begin a joint research opportunity involving wireless networks. Poly will be the first phase of the project, which will include JHU, Cal State LA, Tufts University, and Native American schools in Minnesota. This project is funded by Project BIGSTEP (Broader Impact for Graduate Students Transferring Engineering Principles) at the JHU Whiting School of Engineering and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The inter-disciplinary relationship that exists between computer science, engineering and biology in deploying environmental sensor networks is a new and exciting affiliation. The BIGSTEP program will encourage K-12 students to pursue science and engineering careers through interactive participation in cutting-edge research.

By late February, 20 remote sensors will be deployed in Poly's Environmental Garden between Dehuff and Burkert Halls by students in Mr. Marinelli's AP Environmental Science class to monitor ambient light levels, soil water pressure, and soil temperature. Data will be collected continually and made available on the Internet through graphic simulations developed by Cal State LA students.

Following a successful deployment of the BPI prototype, a similar network will be deployed in rural Minnesota at reservations in Red Lake and Bemidji. These additional data sets will give students the opportunity to perform comparative analysis and classify environmental trends in disparate geographical regions.

For continual project updates, check out the blog at

http://hinrg.cs.jhu.edu/poly