IGERT fellows reach out to different disciplines, into community

IGERT fellows (from left) Dan Kasper, Glenn Catlin and Sarah Mastroianni set up the hydrogen-powered model car before taking it to the College School to show students.

The IGERT initiative may provide a peek into the future at UD: multidisciplinary programs and research initiatives play a key role in the school's new strategic plan. The program is nearing the end of the five-year grant provided by the NSF, but UD officials are hoping their grant will be renewed, or that some of the initiatives can be continued.

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Students apply to IGERT in the process of seeking admission to graduate programs. On top of course work, the students come together for a journal club, outreach program, and classes about fuel cells; solar hydrogen and renewable energy systems; solar energy systems; energy sustainability; and economics and policy.

"Economics and policy was totally outside my comfort zone, but I was so glad I took the class," said IGERT fellow Cory Budischak, an electrical engineering major. "When most people begin deciding what to take, no adviser in their right mind would tell them to take economics, but now I understand what's behind new legislation in energy policy."

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