

Abstract Submitted
for the TSS09 Meeting of
The American Physical Society

Introducing New Undergraduates Into a Research Group Through Use of a Wiki¹ PHYLLIS WHITTLESEY, RAMON LOPEZ, UT Arlington — In a large research group it can be difficult to communicate fundamental group-specific concepts and data collection procedures to new or inexperienced members. Our research group utilizes a type of website called a wiki, which allows members to update and change content quickly and easily. A page on our group's wiki details fundamental concepts in the space physics research group, oriented at incoming undergraduate researchers, including a detailed description of what each of the most-used data sites is used for and a step by step procedure on how to use each one. The nature of the wiki as a dynamic and member-edited project means that descriptions and procedures can be revised and updated as new data sets become available. Our efforts include weekly meetings with the new undergraduates to explore these concepts and frequently-used data websites until these new members have learned enough to understand their assigned research projects. Our group has successfully incorporated undergraduates as early as their freshman year into the research group on scientifically significant research projects using these methods.

¹This material is based upon work supported by CISM, which is funded by the STC Program of the National Science Foundation under Agreement Number ATM-0120950.

Robert Bruntz
UT Arlington

Date submitted: 02 Mar 2009

Electronic form version 1.4