

September 29, 2009

The UMD Science Education Seminar Presents...

Tiffany Sikorski

Investigating the role of inconsistencies during students' self-designed experiments

1:15pm – 2:45pm

Physics Toll Building, room 4208

ABSTRACT: As part of a project on developing learning progressions for scientific inquiry, I am currently exploring ways to identify and describe students' responses to inconsistencies. In this talk, I will present video of group of 4th grade students carrying out a series of self-designed experiments involving puddle evaporation. The students make some surprising observations, for example, that cold water evaporates faster than warm water, and that twice as much water does not take twice as long to evaporate. I'll seek your help in making the case that the students' responses to these findings are qualitatively different.