SAIF Funding Topic:
Creation and Assessment of an Educational Computer Game for Solid Waste Management and Disposal.

Investigators:
Philip Parker – Civil and Environmental Engineering
Mike Rowe – Computer Science and Software Engineering

Major Activities supported by funding:

- Enhanced a 20 page formal proposal based on feedback from the UW System Solid Waste Research Program. This included doing a more detailed design of the project along with an accompanying schedule and budget.
- Met nearly every week during the summers of 2003 and 2004 to coordinate efforts, share ideas, and plan individual work assignments for upcoming weeks.
- Investigated NSF programs through the Internet and phone calls to various Project Directors. We have had difficulty finding an ideal match, but are still looking.
- Solicited private funding from the three largest solid waste collection and disposal companies. This activity included sending letter proposals and email to multiple individuals and offices of these companies. The outcome of this activity was an endorsement of the concept and pledge of support in reviewing the technical merits of our design and implementation by the Director of Engineering for Republic Services.
- We have researched the goals and funding for the 100 largest public foundations in the US. Based on this research we have identified the 12 most likely foundations to target for funding and have written letters to these foundations to be sent out by the start of the Fall semester.
- Based on the research on the 100 largest foundations we believe that they are more likely to fund centers for education and outreach rather than individual university research programs. Thus, we formed the Midwest Center for Environmental Education and Outreach at UWP for the purpose of broadening our appeal to attract private foundation funding. In addition, we have developed a Webpage, broaden the expertise of the center and our efforts by recruiting Dr. Tom Hunt from the School of Agriculture and Dr. Bill McBeth from the School of Education department to the Center.
- We have started a web page for the Center, which can be viewed in its preliminary stages at www.uwplatt.edu/~envirocenter.