

For more information about the Institute for Problem Solving, please feel free to call the Director of the Institute, Dr. Edwin F. Meyer at 440-826-2495 or e-mail to him at emeyer@bw.edu

Who should attend... Does your child view a difficult problem as an unpleasant task or an exciting challenge? If it is the latter, we invite him/her to apply for the 2011 Summer Problem Solving Institute at Baldwin Wallace College.

The class is designed for bright, enthusiastic students from ages 12-17. The week long Institute runs from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from June 20th through June 24th. Students will work independently and in teams to solve a variety of interesting and challenging problems. Dr Meyer is a veteran teacher of summer camps and teaches problem solving at B-W in both the Honors program and in the graduate business program.

The purpose of the Institute is to develop the students' critical thinking and problem solving skills. In the past, the course has been a hit with both students and their parents.

About the Instructor – Dr. Edwin F. Meyer received his Ph.D. in Physics in 1988 from Case Western Reserve University. From 1989 through the summer of 2000 he worked as a research scientist for Imperial Chemical Industries. While at ICI, Ed's primary job was solving problems at chemical production plants around the world. He also became a recruiter, and traveled to colleges around the country to recruit fresh talent. During his job interviews he would challenge the candidates to solve problems and was frequently disappointed. "Too often, the candidates wanted to impress me with their knowledge," Ed says, "I don't care what they KNOW, I want to know what they can figure out." He strongly believes that too often children are given answers to remember rather than problems to solve. "Children need to struggle with challenging problems. It's great practice for life." In 2000, Dr Meyer quit his position as a research scientist and became a Professor of Physics at Baldwin-Wallace College. He quickly developed an Honors course called Problem Solving. This course is a student favorite and has been featured on Channel 5 News. He has taught his problem solving course in New Zealand while on sabbatical and he teaches a focused version of the course in the graduate business program at Baldwin-Wallace. Ed has taught numerous summer camps for talented and gifted students from ages 12 through 17.

About the Class – This class will develop not only mental strength, but mental stamina. There will be individual work and group work. Topics will include: Risk Management, Pattern Recognition, Operations Research, Logic, Probability, Physics, Geometry and a large variety of puzzles including Rubik's Cube. Also included will be modules on data interpretation including aggregation bias and non-transitive rankings. The course will run from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from June 20th – 24th.

A few actual comments taken from course evaluations of B-W honors students:

- Finally, a class that teaches you how to think! I loved it!!
- Best class I've had at BW. This was the only class that I actually enjoyed coming to everyday.
- This was, by far, the best class that I have EVER taken. I not only would recommend it to everyone, but I would change my name and identity to take it again.
- This was an unbelievable class for any range of majors. The professor is challenging, but very motivating. Problem Solving is a class that should be taken by all honors students, not only because of the challenge, but for the benefits in the real world. Thank you Problem Solving!
- The material definitely challenged me in a way that an honors class should. Although the subject matter at times was difficult, Dr. Meyer did a great job of creating a nice, relaxed atmosphere that put me at ease and helped facilitate my own learning. Dr. Meyer encouraged you not to focus on grades (a great piece of advice for honors students) and instead focused on learning and thinking hard.
- "Already I have found myself in situations in which I can apply what I have learned."