

Department of Physics & Astronomy

S. Town Stephenson Distinguished Lecture

PUBLIC LECTURE

Friday, March 25, 2016 • Noon
Abelson, Room 201

Dr. Eric Mazur

Balkanski Professor of Physics & Applied Physics, Harvard University

Confessions of a Converted Lecturer

I thought I was a good teacher until I discovered my students were just memorizing information rather than learning to understand the material. Who was to blame? The students? The material? I will explain how I came to the agonizing conclusion that the culprit was neither of these. It was my teaching that caused students to fail! I will show how I have adjusted my approach to teaching from passive lecturing to active engagement in the classroom and how it has improved my students' performance significantly.



Eric Mazur is the Balkanski Professor of Physics and Applied Physics and Dean of Applied Physics at Harvard University. He is well known for his research in laser science and photonics as well as his innovations in undergraduate education. His Stephenson Lecture will focus on the latter. In education, he is best known for implementing several teaching methods that markedly increase the “active learning” part of his instruction. His early focus was on the instructional strategy for teaching called peer instruction. His book, *Peer Instruction: A User's Manual*, provides details on this strategy. In addition he is the author of *Principles and Practice of Physics* aimed at effective integration of Concepts with the often highly emphasized tasks of Problem Solving.

Professor Mazur is highly recognized for both his scientific research and instructional innovation, including the Minerva Prize for Advancements in Higher Education in 2014.



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Questions? Contact J.T. Dickinson at jtd@wsu.edu