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Department of Physics and Astronomy
presents

Professor Sidney Nagel

Department of Physics, University of Chicago



2007 Vaden W. Miles Memorial Lecturer

Thursday, April 12, 2007
Science Hall, Room 1117
5045 Cass Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

Refreshments served at 3:30 p.m.
For additional information,
call (313) 577-2720

Physics at the Breakfast Table

Many complex phenomena are so familiar that we forget to ask whether or not they are understood. In this Lecture, I will discuss several familiar cases of effects that are so ubiquitous that we hardly realize that they defy our normal intuition about why they happen. The examples of poorly understood classical physics that I will choose can all be viewed at a breakfast table: the anomalous flow of granular material, the long messy tendrils left by honey spooned from one dish to another and the pesky rings deposited by spilled coffee on a table after the liquid evaporates. These are all non-linear hydrodynamic phenomena which not only are of technological importance but can also lead the inquisitive into new realms of physics.

SIDNEY NAGEL received his B.A. from Columbia University in 1969 and his Ph.D. in Physics from Princeton University in 1974. He was a Research Associate at Brown University before moving in 1976 to the University of Chicago, where he is currently the Stein-Freiler Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Physics and a member of the James Franck and Enrico Fermi Institutes. Professor Nagel is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the National Academy of Sciences. Professor Nagel has received numerous awards throughout his career, including the Oliver E. Buckley Prize from the American Physical Society, the Paul Klopsteg Prize from the American Association of Physics Teachers, and the Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

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