



PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY WEEKLY CALENDAR

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WEEKLY CALENDAR

April 11, 2011

Departmental Colloquium

Thursday, 3:40 PM, April 14, 2011
109 Nicholson Hall

"The Physics of Movies"

Chad Young
Nicholls State University

Host: Bradley Schaefer

• *Refreshments served at 3:15 PM in 232 (Library) Nicholson Hall* •

The film industry captures the minds of most students today. Americans spend one-half of their leisure time watching television, and students may often neglect their studies to catch the latest episode of *Desperate Housewives* or the new release of *Harry Potter*. Science teachers are challenged to compete with these seemingly unconquerable forces.

One alternative to battling the influence of multimedia in its onslaught against the scientific minds of our youth is to embrace these monsters and tame them. By relating what the students know best (who kissed who in *Walk the Line*) with what they know least (thermodynamics, e.g.), teachers form connections in the minds of their students that will last for many years.

I will demonstrate a method employing clips from popular movies to learn physics. I will show movie clips from several different areas of physics, examine the particular clips in light of those physical principles, and discuss how to use the clips in the classroom'.