

Lawrence University

LUX

Faculty Award Citations

University Archives

2022

Honorary Degree Award Citation for Jeffrey Collett

Lawrence University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://lux.lawrence.edu/facultyawards>

© Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives at Lux. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Award Citations by an authorized administrator of Lux. For more information, please contact colette.brautigam@lawrence.edu.

Jeffrey A. Collett

JEFFREY A. COLLETT, over the past 27 years you have taught in all areas of Lawrence University's Physics curriculum, sharing the beauty of physics with students and, along the way, also sharing the transformative effects of a liberal arts education—effects that you yourself experienced.

A first-generation college student from a farm in southern Minnesota, you studied Physics and Mathematics at St. Olaf College, graduating *magna cum laude*, with departmental distinctions. You went on to graduate study in Physics, first at the University of Minnesota, then at Harvard University, where you earned the M.A. and Ph.D., completing a dissertation thesis on the X-ray scattering of liquid crystal thin films.

In 1984, following postdoctoral research at IBM's Thomas J. Watson Research Center in New York, you began a career in industry in the application business systems division of IBM in Rochester, Minnesota. Remembering the transformative effect of your own undergraduate education, you took the leap into teaching after eight years at IBM, joining the Department of Physics, Astronomy, and Engineering Science

at St. Cloud University. Eager to return to the liberal arts setting of your youth, you came to Lawrence University in 1995, and have been a valued member of our faculty ever since.

In addition to teaching almost every Physics course in the University's catalog, you have also contributed regularly to *First-Year Studies*, offering guest lectures on Galileo's *Siderius Nuncius* and Richard Feynman's *The Character of Physical Law*. From your initial interest in the use of X-ray diffraction to study liquid crystal systems, your research has expanded into quantum mechanics, with a recent focus on investigating strategies for controlling and manipulating the quantum states of individual atoms. You have invited students to work in your research lab nearly every year of your tenure here, including during the pandemic summer of 2020.

Jeff, in recognition of your many contributions to Lawrence and its students, I am pleased to award you the degree of Master of Arts, *ad eundem*, on the occasion of your retirement from the faculty.

June 12, 2022