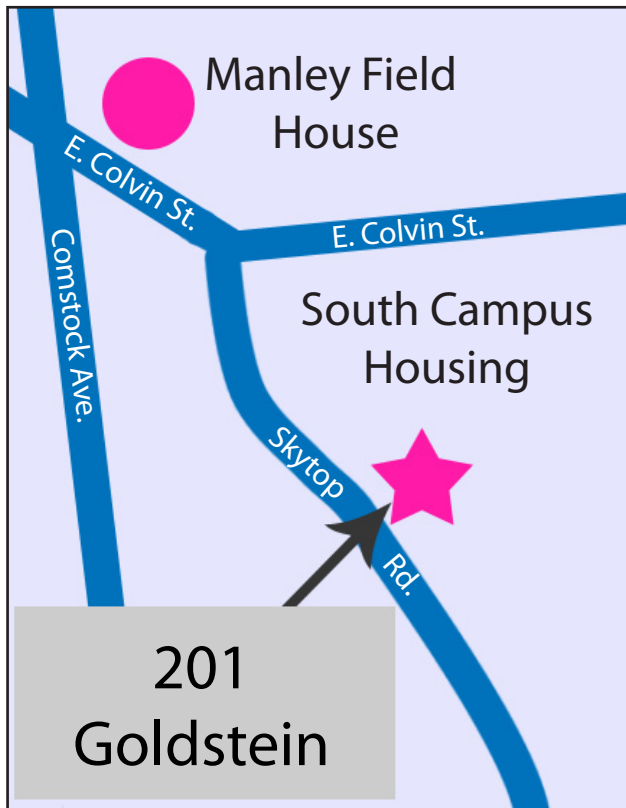# The Life of James Clerk Maxwell

Tuesday February 12 • 6 pm
Goldstein Student Center
Room 201

Light refreshments will be served.

James Clerk Maxwell stands shoulder to shoulder with Newton and Einstein, yet even those of us who have spent decades working with Maxwell's equations are almost totally unfamiliar with his life and times. This presentation, from the viewpoint of a microwave engineer, draws on many sources in providing an understanding of James Maxwell himself. What was Maxwell like as an infant? What was the tragedy at eight years old that profoundly influenced his life? What unique means of transportation did young Maxwell use to escape a cruel tutor? What memorable event occurred on his first day of school? When did he publish his first papers, and what were they about? What did Maxwell have to do with the rings of Saturn? Why did he lose his job as a professor? Why did he have a hard time getting another job? What was his wife like? What is Maxwell's legacy to us? The answers to these questions provide insight into Maxwell the person and add an extra dimension to those four simple equations we have studied ever since.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR James C. Rautio (S'77–M'78–SM'91–F'00) received his B.S.E.E. degree from Cornell University in 1978, his M.S. from the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, in 1982, and his Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering from Syracuse University in 1986. Dr. Rautio, an IEEE Distinguished Lecturer ('05-'07), is the founder and CEO of Sonnet Software, one of the world's leading high frequency electromagnetic analysis software packages. Sonnet Software has been recognized as one of the fastest growing privately held companies in the US, and remains a leader in the Microwave and RF industry.

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