Physics Department Seminar

Friday April 1st, 2011

11:00 am in PhSc 108

Get in the Swing!

The Physics of Baseball Bats

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Abstract:

Why is a baseball bat shaped the way it is? Of course, physics plays a decisive role. Using principles from basic Newtonian Mechanics such as center-of-mass, rotational inertia, center-of-oscillation, center-of-percussion, and standing waves, you can understand the effectiveness of a bat during the ball-bat collision. You have probably heard of the "sweet spot," but after this presentation, you'll know why it is so very sweet.

This talk was originally given at the National Science Teachers Association Meeting in San Francisco before an audience of K-12 teachers. So, extensive mathematics and deep physical insight are not required and, in fact, could be an impediment. There will even be some fun hands-on activities!