



UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Department of Mathematics
and Applied Mathematical Sciences



Applied Mathematics and Scientific Computing Seminar

Location: **Lippitt Hall 402**

Time: Thursday, April 18, 2024, **2:00pm**
(refreshments at 1:50 p.m.)



Exciting Eigenvectors: Seeing is Believing

by **Dr. D. Steven Mackey**, Professor Emeritus
Department of Mathematics, Western Michigan University

Abstract: There is a simple, inexpensive, easy-to-build, and easy-to-operate device that can be used to demonstrate the physical reality of eigenvectors. In this talk I will show you that device, and discuss some of its properties. By the end of the talk, everyone should be able to say – “*I have seen an eigenvector.*”

All are welcome, including undergraduate and graduate students as well as faculty.

Note to Students: The mathematics of this device involves a differential equations model, and some linear algebra, so some basic familiarity of those two things would be helpful, e.g., MTH 215 or MTH 362.

Note to Faculty: To make mathematics tangible to the students one often needs to take their interests into account. This talk might provide some ideas on how one can attempt to include in-class hands-on demonstrations to support students’ learning and understanding.