

James Kakalios

Brief Biography

James Kakalios is the Taylor Distinguished Professor in the University of Minnesota's School of Physics and Astronomy. He received his Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Chicago in 1985; he worked as a post-doctoral research associate at the Xerox – Palo Alto Research Center; and then in 1988, having had enough of those California winters, joined the faculty of the School of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Minnesota. His research involves the synthesis and characterization of amorphous/nanocrystalline composite semiconductor thin films, and the study of voltage fluctuations in neurological systems.

In 2001 he created a Freshman Seminar class entitled: "Everything I Know About Science I Learned from Reading Comic Books" that led to his writing a popular science book **THE PHYSICS OF SUPERHEROES**. Published in 2005 in the U.S. and the U.K., it has been translated into six languages, and was followed by **THE AMAZING STORY OF QUANTUM MECHANICS** (2010) and **THE PHYSICS OF EVERYDAY THINGS: *The Extraordinary Science Behind an Ordinary Day*** (2017). He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society (APS) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and has served as the Chair of the APS Committee on Informing the Public and the Past-Chair of the APS Forum on Outreach and Engaging the Public. His efforts at science communication and public outreach have been recognized by a 2009 Regional Emmy Award, the 2014 AAAS Public Engagement with Science Award, the American Institute of Physics' 2016 Andrew Gemant Award and an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Lincoln (U.K.).