The Journey to the Bottom of the Energy Landscape

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Disordered materials, ranging from glasses to magnets to biomolecules, present us with complicated behaviors. These behaviors are guided in part by the rich ground state structure of heterogeneous systems. Finding these ground states in numerical models can be challenging, but getting there is at least half the fun: algorithms, phenomenological physics pictures, and important connections between computer science and physics show up on the way. Professor Middleton received a B.S. in Mathematics and Physics from Harvey Mudd College (1984) and attended graduate school at Cambridge University and Princeton University (Ph.D. 1990). He was employed as a researcher at the NEC Research Institute before joining the faculty of Syracuse University in January 1995. Professor Middleton was a recipient of the prestigious Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship.

TIME: 4:00-4:50 pm, Friday, November 10, 2006
PLACE: 101 Corcoran Hall, GWU
725 21st Street, N.W. (Between G and H Streets)
METRO STATION: GWU/FOGGY BOTTOM (BLUE & ORANGE LINES)