

**GETTING STUDENTS (AND YOURSELF)  
PREPARED FOR CLASS**

**or**

**HOW I GOT TO KNOW MY 200 STUDENTS  
(ALMOST) OVERNIGHT**

**Eric Mazur**

University of British Columbia  
21 May 1999



Large lectures are a given...



# *Background*

but large lectures...

▶ are impersonal

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- ▶ focus on information transfer

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but large lectures...

- ▶ are impersonal
- ▶ focus on information transfer
- ▶ don't necessarily address students' needs

# *Strategy*

- ▶ **Move some of the information transfer out of the classroom**

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- ▶ **Move some of the information transfer out of the classroom**
- ▶ **Web based reading assignment**

# *Strategy*

**Use assignments to:**



# *Strategy*

**Use assignments to:**

- ▶ **get to know your students!**

# Strategy

Use assignments to:

- ▶ get to know your students!
- ▶ find out what needs to be “lectured” on

# *Strategy*

**Reading assignment:**

# *Strategy*

**Reading assignment:**

- ▶ **2 questions on content**

# Strategy

## Reading assignment:

- ▶ 2 questions on content
- ▶ 1 feedback question

# Strategy

## Reading assignment:

- ▶ 2 questions on content
- ▶ 1 feedback question
- ▶ graded on effort

# *Strategy*

**Feedback question:**

**“Please tell us what you found most difficult or confusing. If you did not find anything difficult or confusing, please tell us what you found most interesting.”**

## *Problem (with a nice solution!)*

What do you *do* with all this information?



# Problem (with a nice solution!)

## SQL-based “notebook” project

Physics 1a Reading Assignments  
Process Feedback

**Brian Chan**  
11/03/98 11:03:07 PM  
Total responses seen: 8

I was a little bit confused as to the relation between a centripetal force and static frictional force (as in the case of the cube on the turntable). The answer in part B says that once the static frictional force reaches its maximum, the cube will fly off. Does this mean that the centripetal force is strictly contained in the static frictional force?

[NOTEBOOK](#) | [EMAIL](#) | [ALL ANSWERS](#)

**Alvin Cabrera**  
11/03/98 12:06:19 AM  
Total responses seen: 0

The discussion of centripetal force was interesting. I guess "centrifugal force" does not exist, that?

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**Cinthia Guzman**  
11/03/98 11:51:03 AM  
Total responses seen: 3

# *Benefits*

- ▶ **better use of classroom time**
- ▶ **connects names and faces**
- ▶ **additional student-faculty interaction**

## **Funding**

**National Science Foundation**

**For a copy of this talk and  
additional information:**

**<http://mazur-www.harvard.edu>**