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FOREWORD BY DOUGLAS H. STANFORD

1996 Nobel Laureate

It perhaps can be said that I have been 'born' with a silver spoon in my mouth. This represented a major discovery in my young career as a scientist, with a great talent as a teacher, although with a great risk of embarrassing myself. After graduate school, I went to work at the AT&T Bell Laboratories doing applied research. I did a few things I did beside research, however. I gave demonstration lectures on low temperature physics. My wife thus believed that I had become a teacher.

My wife thus believed that I had become a university professor. She encouraged me to become a university professor. I was already a member of the National Academy of Sciences, a recipient of three prestigious research awards, and of course I had already become a professor at Stanford at that time.

I was petrified when I began teaching at Stanford. Stanford at that time provided virtually no guidelines for good teaching, and very few guidelines of any kind. At the start of the term, students divided into two sections. I taught the first lecture and a discussion section at 8am, and the second at 10am. Between lectures, students came down from the audience and talked about the previous lecture hour. I am still amazed that I would tolerate any criticism from an ex-student who had never been to Stanford.

I did enjoy teaching, however, even though it was in time for me to do a decent job. Perhaps I enjoyed teaching more than I enjoyed research. Stanford awarded me one of their prized teaching awards for the course I had been teaching. I also enjoyed teaching, however, and liked the idea that I was bright Stanford students thought about physics because I had awakened in them an interest in physics because I had awakened in them an interest in physics.

My first contact with Nira Katz was a questionnaire to members of the Stanford physics department, physicists as a rule do not...