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### Why I Teach

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## Stephen Bricher '86

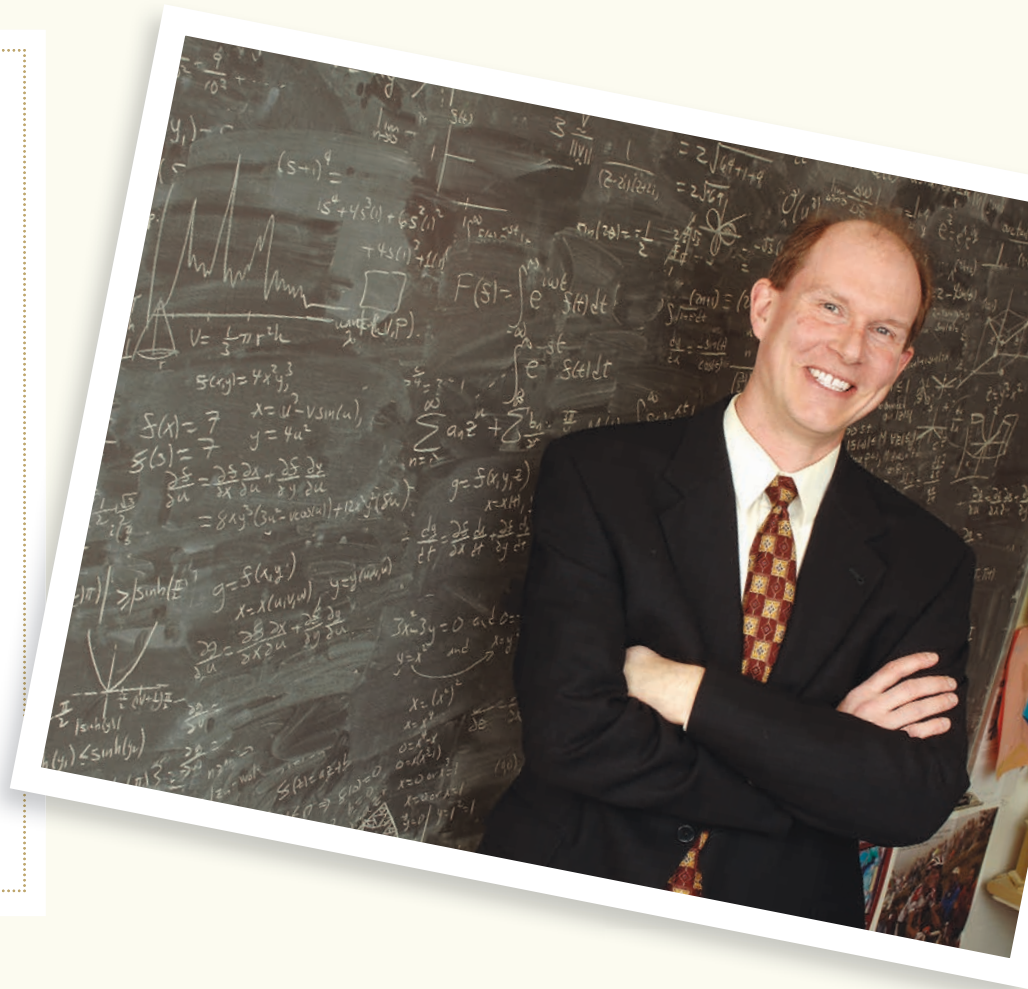
Professor of Mathematics

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**Academic interests:** Nonlinear-partial differential equations, which can be used to model a myriad of physical phenomena; has published several papers on mathematical problems related to combustion, and has presented his work at national and international mathematics conferences; collaborative research projects which have culminated in student presentations at national mathematical meetings; advises physics theses and often helps science students with their mathematical questions.



# Why I teach

As a student, I came to Linfield focusing on pre-engineering and taking lots of math and physics courses, which I really enjoyed. All was going as planned until the first nightly tutoring session I conducted for the math course, Differential Equations, my junior year. From that defining moment, I have loved the process of teaching, and I knew what would truly make me happy was to become a math professor at a small liberal arts college. The fact that it's Linfield is a dream come true! I continue to be excited, like my first tutoring session, to be able to be part of my students' learning process. I'm inspired by what our students can accomplish. For example, being able to master advanced

mathematical concepts, developing their own mathematical thought process, seeing connections between mathematics and other disciplines, as well as working with me on collaborative research projects modeling physical phenomena such as combustion processes, or the population dynamics of a terrorist organization. I'm honored to help my students to believe and see that they are capable of doing amazing things intellectually and socially. I feel truly blessed to be able to be part of our students' Linfield Experience. Yes, Linfield is indeed a powerful place, where dreams do come true!

– Stephen Bricher '86

