Fall 2009 Wulff Lecture

Tuesday, November 17, 2009 4:00–5:00 pm Room 10-250 **Reception immediately following**

Nature Inspired Materials Science

Professor Michael F. Rubner

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The Wulff Lecture is an introductory, generalaudience, entertaining lecture which serves to educate, inspire, and encourage MIT undergraduates to take up study in the field of materials science and engineering and related fields. The entire MIT community, particularly freshmen, is invited to attend. The Wulff Lecture honors the late Professor John Wulff, a skilled, provocative, and entertaining teacher who inaugurated a new approach to teaching the popular freshman subject: 3.091 Introduction to Solid State Chemistry.



More and more, materials scientists are looking to nature to find clues to create highly functional materials with exceptional properties. The fog-harvesting capabilities of the Namib Desert beetle, the iridescent colors of the hummingbird, and the super-waterrepellant abilities of the lotus leaf are a few examples of the amazing properties found in the natural world. This lecture explores synthetic mimics to the nano- and microstructures responsible for these properties with many potential applications.

