Contemplative Pedagogy and the Transformation of Education
Professor Daniel Barbezat, Amherst College

Friday, February 7, 2014
11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Crystal Room (Alumnae Hall)
Register at: https://sheridan.brown.edu/index.php?eventID=7504

Every act we undertake cultivates something -- essentially there is no such category as “extra-curricular.” Each opportunity, each action forms our character, while affecting all of those around us. Higher education, through the use of modes like contemplative pedagogy, can create the environments for us to inquire and challenge what is most deeply meaningful so that we integrate our learning into meaningful action.

This session will explain what we mean by “contemplative pedagogies.” We will discover the ways in which first-person critical inquiry can cultivate better discernment and attention in students, provide the means for deepening their understanding of the material they are studying, and foster environments to inquire about and live meaningfully. We will see how contemplative pedagogy can be a powerful way in which we can work together to reclaim the transformative nature of education.

Dr. Daniel P. Barbezat is Professor of Economics at Amherst College. He is also Executive Director of the Center for Contemplative Mind in Society, which serves as the national hub for contemplative teaching and learning in higher education. The Center is committed to the positive transformation of the higher education system by supporting the use of contemplative/introspective practices to create engaged learning environments. Dr. Barbezat has lectured and led workshops on contemplative learning and pedagogy throughout the United States and Canada. His latest book (co-written with Mirabai Bush), Contemplative Practices in Higher Education: Powerful Methods to Transform Teaching and Learning, will be released this winter by Jossey-Bass.