



The Swartz Foundation

# Seventh Annual Swartz Foundation Mind/Brain Lecture

Probing  
the  
Mysteries  
of the  
Mind

## The Synaptic Self: How Our Brains Become Who We Are

**Joseph E. LeDoux, Ph.D.**

Professor of Neural Science and Psychology and  
Director, Center for the Neuroscience of Fear and  
Anxiety, New York University.

★ Recently featured in *Newsweek*  
and *Discover* magazines ★

**Monday, March 31, 2003 • 4:30 P.M.**

Staller Center for the Arts, Main Stage  
Stony Brook University



**J**oseph E. LeDoux is the Henry and Lucy Moses Professor of Science and Principal Director of the Center for the Neuroscience of Fear and Anxiety at New York University. He is the author of two popular books on neuroscience topics, *The Emotional Brain: The Mysterious Underpinnings of Emotional Life* and *The Synaptic Self: How Our Brains Become Who We Are*. He is an alumnus of Stony Brook University, earning a Ph.D. in Psychobiology in 1977.

LeDoux has spent the past 20 years studying the neurobiology of emotion. He has chosen to work in the fear system of the brain. From a scientific standpoint, fear is now the best-understood of emotional systems, thanks in part to LeDoux's effort. Many of the most common psychiatric disorders that afflict humans are emotional disorders, and many of these are related to the brain's fear system, including phobias, panic attacks, post-traumatic stress disorder, and obsessive compulsive disorder. The best way to understand how the fear system works is not to chase the elusive brain mechanisms of fearful feelings, but instead to study the underlying neural systems that evolved as behavioral solutions to problems of survival. To learn more about LeDoux and his work, visit the Swartz Foundation Web site at [www.swartzneuro.org](http://www.swartzneuro.org) and follow the links.

The Swartz Foundation sponsors the Mind/Brain Lecture Series in cooperation with Stony Brook University. For further information about the Swartz Foundation, please visit our Web site or call (631) 632-4179.

**STONY  
BROOK**  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

**FREE PRESENTATION • INTENDED FOR A GENERAL AUDIENCE**