

# Dream the Impossible Dream: My Journey to the Stars

*Dr. Mercedes Richards*



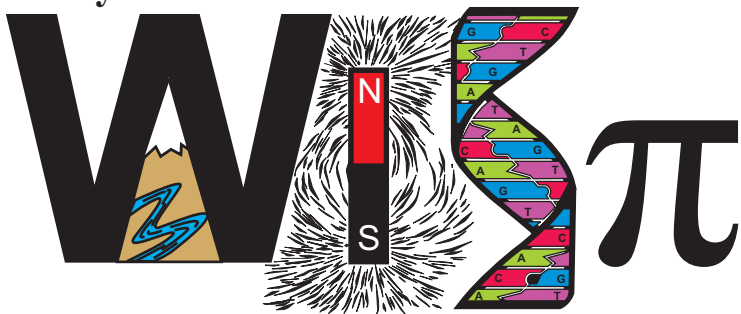
## Please Join Us to Hear

**Dr. Mercedes Richards - Pennsylvania State University**  
**Monday January 26, 2009, 7-8 pm**  
**Boehm Science Building Room 145**

Born on the tropical island of Jamaica, Dr. Mercedes Richards earned her doctoral degree at the University of Toronto and is now a professor at Penn State University, but her eyes are set on a subject light years away from here! Dr. Richards is astrophysicist who studies pairs of stars called binary stars – solar systems that have *twin* stars. Although these twins are the same age, one star always matures faster than its twin, literally sucking the life out of the smaller star by force of gravity. The gas flowing between stars can have speeds of over a million miles per hour!

Dr. Richards was one of the International Astronomical Union members to vote on a new definition of planets at the historic meeting that led to the “demotion” of Pluto to the status of “dwarf planet.” Dr. Richards was awarded a Musgrave Gold Medal - the highest academic honor awarded by the Government of Jamaica – for her groundbreaking discoveries in astronomy and has published over one hundred research articles in prestigious international scientific journals.

**Everyone is welcome!**



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