



SIGMA PI SIGMA MEMBER MARIANNE DYSON'S *HOME ON THE MOON* WINS PRESTIGIOUS AIP SCIENCE WRITING AWARD

Author Marianne Dyson's book, *Home on the Moon*, has been selected to receive the 2004 American Institute of Physics (AIP) Science Writing Award in the children's category. This award consists of a \$3,000 cash prize, an inscribed Windsor chair, and a certificate. The National Geographic Society will also receive a certificate of recognition as the publisher of the book. Dyson will receive the award at the 2005 American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) Winter Meeting in Albuquerque, NM, on January 10, 2005, from Vice President of the Physics Resources Center, Dr. James H. Stith.

Inspired by the Apollo moon landings which she watched as a child, Marianne Dyson knows firsthand that space motivates kids to achieve. Determined to make a career for herself in space, she was the first woman in her family to graduate from college, earning a degree in physics cum laude from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. It was here that she became a member of Sigma Pi Sigma in 1997. She attended graduate school in Space Physics and Astronomy at Rice University, planning to become an astronomer. However, a year into her studies, she took advantage of an opportunity to work for NASA, and became one of the first 10 women flight controllers. She left NASA to raise her children and now shares her passion for space with audiences of all ages through writing and presentations.

The AIP Science Writing Award is the second major award that Dyson has received. Her first book, *Space Station Science*, won the 2000 Golden Kite Award for best non-fiction children's book of the year from the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI). Originally published by Scholastic, a fully updated new edition of *Space Station Science* is now available in paperback from Windward Publishing.

Dyson spoke about using space to inspire kids, and then autographed copies of *Home on the Moon* and *Space Station Science* on Saturday, October 2, 2004, at an area Barnes & Noble store.

A frequent contributor to *Odyssey* magazine, Dyson is also the author of *Homework Help on the Internet* (Scholastic 2000), *The Space Explorer's Guide to Stars & Galaxies* (2004, book 8 of Scholastic's Space University book club series), and short stories in *Girls to the Rescue Book 7* (Meadowbrook, 2000) and *Eat My Martian Dust* (Baker, 2005).

Dyson does the annual program book for the Rotary National Award for Space Achievement Foundation, serves on the Board of Directors of the National Space Society, is an active member of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America and the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, on the Board of Directors of the JSC Chapter of the NASA Alumni League, and is a member of the Houston chapter of the Mars Society. She is currently coauthoring a history of 20th century astronomy and space for Facts on File, and is studying for her black belt in the Korean Martial Art of Kuk Sool.

Marianne Dyson lives in Houston, TX, with her husband, Ted, who is a volunteer pilot with the Coast Guard Auxiliary and works for NASA. Her oldest son, Tom, is a senior in Mechanical Engineering at Texas A&M, and her younger son, Scott, is a Rotary International Exchange student attending high school in Taiwan. Her father, Tom Jakmides of Canton, OH, is deceased, and her mother, Joanne Wildey, lives in Chapel Hill, NC.

BOOK LIST:

The Space Explorer's Guide to Stars & Galaxies (Scholastic, 2004);
Home on the Moon (National Geographic, 2003);
Homework Help on the Internet (Scholastic, 2000);
Space Station Science (Scholastic, 1999 – OP, 2nd edition, Windward, 2004)

Marianne Dyson's profile and photos are online at: www.mariannedyson.com/aboutauthor.html

Reviews and images of the cover of *Home on the Moon* are online at: www.mariannedyson.com/hotmreviews.htm

Previous AIP Science Writing Award winners are listed at: www.aip.org/aip/writing/winchild.html.

Please contact Marianne with any questions or to schedule an interview:

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