



2012 Waynick Lecture

Thursday, April 12 - 8:00 p.m.

22 Deike Building

University Park, PA

Anousheh Ansari is co-founder, chairman, and CEO of Prodea Systems, providing innovative technology in many aspects of daily life.

Along with her brother-in-law, Ansari made a multi-million dollar contribution to the X PRIZE Foundation in May 2004, the 43rd anniversary of Alan Shepard's sub-orbital spaceflight. The X PRIZE was officially renamed the Ansari X PRIZE in honor of their donation. The Ansari Family's investment firm, Space Adventures, and the federal Space Agency of the Russian Federation have formed a partnership to create a fleet of suborbital spaceflight vehicles for global commercial use.

Ansari was born in Mashhad, Iran, and immigrated to the U.S. with her parents as a teenager. On Sep. 18, 2006, she became the first Iranian in space, lifting off on the Soyuz TMA-9 mission from Baikonur, Kazakhstan. She became the fourth self-funded space tourist and the first self-funded woman to fly to the International Space Station. Ansari does not consider herself a "space tourist," preferring the title of "spaceflight participant". During her eight-day stay on board the International Space Station, Ansari performed a series of experiments on behalf of the European Space Agency including:

☒ Mechanisms behind anemia;

☒ How muscle changes influence lower back pain; and

☒ Consequences of space radiation on ISS crew members and microbes at home on the space station.

She received her B.S. degree in electronics and computer engineering at George Mason University, Fairfax, VA; a master's degree in electrical engineering at George Washington University, Washington, DC; and is currently pursuing a master's in astronomy.