

Thank you for coming to our first Montana Tech Public Lecture of Fall 2013. We are delighted to welcome to Montana Tech Dr. Sylvester James Gates, Jr., of the University of Maryland, College Park. Jim and I have known each other for nearly 20 years, sharing a few adventures in science—mostly involving students from age 10 through graduate school.

Jim was born in Florida, got interested in science and space as a 4-year-old, and narrowed in on physics by the time he was eight. After high school, he attended MIT—his dream school, earning bachelor's degrees in both physics and math, followed by a Ph.D. in physics. He has collaborated with such big names as Richard Feynmann and Steven Hawking en route to becoming simultaneously a world-leading theoretical physicist specializing in string theory, and a public figure in demand and frequently featured on Nova and other science-intensive TV programs. Frequently mistaken for Morgan Freeman, Jim claims never to have been in the movies. His wife is a medical doctor and they have a pair of twins—a girl and a boy—both now juniors at the University of Maryland—one majoring in Biology and the other pursuing a dual major in mathematics and physics.

Jim serves on President Obama's President's Committee of Advisors on Science & Technology (PCAST), and in a ceremony earlier this year, he was awarded the prestigious National Medal of Science. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Gates to campus for his very timely talk with the puzzling and unpronounceable title of "The ABEGHHK'tH Revolution."

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