Extremely massive stars emit prodigious stellar winds driven by the radiative force of their enormous luminosities. Such winds play a key role in determining how these stars evolve and how they shape their galactic environment. In massive binaries the collision of winds from the two stars produces a strong standing shock between the stars which generates a wide range of observable, variable phenomena from the radio to hard X-rays. These phenomena serve as diagnostics of the mass loss process and as test-beds for the theory of strong astrophysical shocks. This talk will review our current understanding of wind-wind collisions in the most massive stars and discuss recent advances in our understanding of the two most important colliding wind binaries.

TIME: 4:00-4:50 pm, Thursday the 28th of October 2010
(refreshments: 3:45pm)
PLACE: 101 Corcoran Hall, GWU
725 21st Street, N.W. (Between G and H Streets)
METRO STATION: GWU/FOGGY BOTTOM (BLUE & ORANGE LINES)