About the Stuart A. Northrop Distinguished Lecture Series

Launched in 2016 through a generous donation by Bill Lovejoy (UNM Alumnus and former student of Dr. Northrop), the Stuart A. Northrop Distinguished Lecture Series honors former EPS professor and Chair Dr. Stuart ‘Stu’ Alvord Northrop. Dr. Northrop’s contributions to the UNM Department of Geology during his long tenure as Chairman (1929-1961) were profound. He laid the foundation of the present department, including the creation of the MS and PhD programs and the construction of the department’s building, which now bears his name. He was a kind and generous scholar and teacher, always ready to share his vast knowledge of New Mexico geology. The legacy he has left his students, colleagues, and the State of New Mexico is a large one. We look forward to using this newly-created lecture series as a venue to showcase the type of research and enthusiasm for seeking knowledge that was emblematic of Dr. Northrop himself.

About Bill Lovejoy (UNM MS)

Dr. Bill P. Lovejoy is Professor Emeritus of Biology at Georgia Southern University who influenced generations of students with his own teaching and research. Lovejoy was born in a small Ohio town coming from four generations of coal miners and became a first generation college graduate. After serving in the Navy, he attended Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio, where he majored in geology. A month later he boarded a bus for Albuquerque and UNM where he earned a master’s degree in geology. Lovejoy worked as a geologist for Shell Oil Company in Midland Texas, then after six years enrolled at OSU to pursue a Ph.D. in zoology. Lovejoy has had three interesting and satisfying careers: geologist, biologist, and teacher. We are pleased that he can be here at UNM for the inaugural Stuart A. Northrop Distinguished Lecture.

The University of New Mexico
Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences
& Institute of Meteoritics
PRESENTS THE
3rd ANNUAL STUART A. NORTHP DISTINGUISHED LECTURER:
DR. MEENAKSHI WADHWAA
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
"FIRE AND WATER ON VESTA: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE EARLIEST VOLCANISM AND ORIGIN OF WATER ON ASTEROIDS"

Friday April 12, 2019
3:00 p.m.
Speaker Biography

Meenakshi Wadhwa is a researcher and educator interested in the time scales and processes involved in the formation and evolution of the Solar System. Her research group is best known for developing novel methodologies for high precision isotope analyses and application of high resolution chronometers for constraining the time scales of processes in the early Solar System (particularly accretion and differentiation of planetesimals and the terrestrial planets). Other areas of her research focus include 1) the sources and distributions of extinct radionuclides (such as 26Al and 60Fe) in the solar nebula; 2) the formation and evolution of crust-mantle reservoirs on Earth, Moon and Mars; and 3) the abundance and origin of water and other volatiles on rocky bodies in the Solar System. Wadhwa received her doctorate from Washington University in St. Louis, and was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of California at San Diego and then curator at the Field Museum in Chicago before moving to Arizona State University in 2006. She is currently Director of the Center for Meteorite Studies and Professor in the School of Earth and Space Exploration at ASU. She is a recipient of the Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Award (2015), the Guggenheim Fellowship (2005) and the Nier Prize of the Meteoritical Society (2000). Asteroid 8356 has been named 8356 Wadhwa in recognition of her contributions to meteoritics and planetary science.