

ABOUT NADINE BARLOW

I was born in La Jolla, CA, and grew up about 40 miles north of San Diego in San Marcos, which at that time was a small rural community (today its one of the fastest growing cities in the country). I became interested in astronomy during a 5th grade field trip to the Palomar College Planetarium and my Dad gave me my first telescope a year later. I also gained an appreciation for geology during our annual family vacations, when we would travel across the country by car and stop off at many of the national parks and monuments. Because of these interests, I majored in astronomy and minored in geology/chemistry at Palomar Community College (San Marcos, CA) and later at the University of Arizona (UA) (Tucson). During my last semester at UA, I took a planetary geology course and fell in love with the subject since it combined my interests in astronomy and geology. I took 20 months off after receiving my Bachelor of Science degree in Astronomy during which time I taught astronomy and assisted with planetarium shows at Palomar College, but then went back to UA to pursue the graduate program in Planetary Science. It was during graduate school that I became involved in research on martian impact craters.

After I received my PhD, I moved to Houston, TX, for a post-doctoral position at the Lunar and Planetary Institute followed by a National Academy of Sciences National Research Council Assistantship at NASA Johnson Space Center. I also taught astronomy and planetary geology courses part-time at the University of Houston Clear Lake (UHCL). I realized that I enjoyed both teaching and research and decided to pursue an academic position at a University where I could combine the two pursuits. After my post-doctoral positions ended, I moved to Orlando, FL, where I started the astronomy program at the University of Central Florida (UCF) and served as the first director of the UCF Robinson Observatory. I spent 6.5 years in Orlando, but grew homesick for the spectacular geology and dark night-time skies of the west. In 2002 I accepted an assistant professor position at Northern Arizona University (NAU), so my two cats and I packed up and moved to Flagstaff that August. I received tenure at NAU in 2006 and was promoted to Professor in 2012. I am currently the Director of the NAU/NASA Space Grant Program and an Associate Director of the Arizona Space Grant Consortium. I became Associate Chair of the NAU Department of Physics and Astronomy in Fall 2010.

In my free time, I enjoy hiking, watching movies, baseball (I'm an Angels fan from WAY back, but also cheer on the Diamondbacks), working on my yard, baking, reading (science, history, archeology, nature, some science fiction, some fantasy (such as Harry Potter and the Mists of Avalon series) and mysteries), and getting together with friends. I am grateful that I get the opportunity to travel all over the world for both business and pleasure—experiencing other cultures, learning the history of other places, and admiring nature's beauty around the world make me appreciate all that our home planet has to offer.



Me at an exposure of impact melt from the Vredefort Dome Impact Crater, South Africa, August 2008