

LYNN MARGULIS

EVOLUTION: AN UNAUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY OF OUR SYMBIOTIC PLANET

*The big trouble in biology
is directly related to big trouble
in our social structure and its priorities.*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2007

LECTURE: 4:00 P.M.

RECEPTION: 5:30 P.M.

Lynn Margulis is Distinguished University Professor in the department of geosciences at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1983, she received the Presidential Medal of Science in 1999 from President Clinton. The Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., announced in 1998 that it will permanently archive her papers. A faculty member at Boston University for 22 years, she was 2005–2006 president of the Sigma Xi scientific research society.

Her publications span a wide range of scientific topics, including original and revolutionary contributions to cell biology and microbial evolution. She is best known for her theory of symbiogenesis, which challenges a central tenet of neodarwinism and argues that inherited variation, significant in evolution, does not come mainly from random mutations.

She is also acknowledged for her contribution to James E. Lovelock's Gaia theory, which posits that the earth's surface interactions among living beings, sedimentary rocks, soil, air, and water created a vast ancient self-regulating system.

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