

The Betty Coffey Award Challenge

Betty was born in Buffalo, NY, and earned a degree in mathematics from Daemon (formerly Rosary) College. She and husband Jerry, also a math major, became parents of a daughter, Bridget and a son, Dennis. Betty taught high school math near Rochester while Jerry earned his Ph.D. in linguistics at SUNY Buffalo. Motivated by a love of hiking and the outdoors, they came to Bozeman, where Betty earned her M.S. in computer science in 1966.

Award recipients include:

- 1986, Paula Petrik
History & Philosophy
- 1988, Lynda Sexson
History & Philosophy
- 1998, Melody Zajdel
English
- 1999, Adele Pittendrigh
Letters & Science
- 2000, Mary Murphy
History & Philosophy
- 2001, Sharon Hapner
Cell Biology & Neuroscience
- 2002, Michelle Maskiell
History & Philosophy
- 2003, Joan Henson
Microbiology
- 2004, Christian Sarver
VOICE Center
- 2005, Wendy Stock
Agricultural Economics/
Economics
- 2006, Kay Chafey
Nursing
- 2007, Christiana Stoddard
Agricultural Economics/
Economics
- 2008 Heidi Sherick
College of Engineering
- 2009 Susan Kollin
English

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The Betty Coffey Award honors the memory of an outstanding teacher and pioneering professor at Montana State University. Betty Coffey taught computer science in the College of Engineering from 1977 until her death in 1984, and was distinguished as the first woman ever to achieve tenure in the College. The award was created in 1986, and recognizes her considerable contributions to faculty development, teaching excellence and women's equity at MSU.

Each year the Women's Studies Committee seeks nominations of faculty and staff who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in incorporating women's perspectives into the curriculum or developing academic programs that contribute to the elimination of persistent barriers to women's success at MSU. The award winner is honored at both the Women's Studies reception and the University Honors banquet.

Between 1986 and 2008, thirteen women have been recognized with Coffey Awards, including faculty from the Colleges of Letters & Science, Agriculture, Nursing and Engineering. Several award winners have received the award for creating innovative courses that introduce students to women's issues from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. Other winners have been the instigators of important programs on campus that provide opportunities for women students to gain access to traditionally male disciplines and to broaden their educational and career opportunities.

The Betty Coffey Award was initiated through generous memorial gifts from friends and colleagues. Now we seek to raise the Award fund to fully endowed status, ensuring that those who contribute to the significant advancement of women at Montana State University will continue to be honored by this annual recognition.

Our Request

- We ask you to consider a meaningful gift towards raising the fund's endowment to \$25,000.

Challenge Gift

- A \$5,000, two-to-one challenge gift has been committed.
- Additional gifts or pledges totaling \$10,000 will meet this challenge and fully fund the Award.

Ways to make a gift to the Coffey Award Fund

- Write a check to make an outright gift
- Make a pledge, payable over up to five years
- Establish a payroll deduction
- Your gift will be fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law



To make a gift, or for further information, please contact Anne Bryan, Director of Development, College of Letters & Science, at 994-2092 or abryan@montana.edu.



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