

Memorial Resolution for Bette Eileen (Brown) Barnes

Bette Eileen Barnes passed away on December 6, 2016 at the age of 92.

She was born on April 4, 1924 and spent her childhood in Michigan. She received an undergraduate degree from Kalamazoo College and her Master's in Zoology from UW-Madison. She worked at UW-Madison for 36 years retiring as a Senior Lecturer from the Department of Physiology in 1991.

Throughout her career and life, Bette was a champion of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) careers and women in the workplace. She was a life-long member of Sigma Delta Epsilon (Graduate Women in Science) and served in many capacities both at the national level and at the UW-Madison chapter. As a member of GWIS, Bette became involved with Expanding Your Horizons (EYH), a conference to kindle girl's interest in STEM careers that began in the 1950's as a semester long experience for high school girls and is today a single-day experience for middle school girls. Bette was an active participant in all aspects of the program, keeping it going single handedly during the 1980s.

In the workplace, she chaired the University's Sexual Harassment Policy Committee for two years in the 1970's and also the Committee on Women's Issues in the Medical School. She helped open the first childcare facility on campus with Mary Rouse.

Upon retirement, Bette sustained her involvement in GWIS and EYH. She volunteered in the public schools and continued to serve on community boards and church committees.

We were fortunate to work with Bette for about a decade when we first began our careers at UW-Madison. Our paths crossed due to a mutual interest in women in STEM. Although retired nearly a decade at that point, Bette was persistent, outspoken, and a tireless advocate. It was easy to imagine how she had persevered for so many years in a career dominated by men. The work that Bette championed lives on today through the work of WISELI, EYH, GWIS, the Committee on Women in the University and other programs on campus. Her work in these areas continues to be carried on by new generations of women and men.

Submitted by Heather Daniels, Secretary of the Academic Staff, and Cheryl Redman, Biotechnology Center