
DIVISION TWO

Teaching Awards Program. Division Two announces its 1995 program of awards for outstanding teachers of psychology. Please consider nominating a colleague for this award. There are many extraordinary teachers who are highly deserving of recognition for their teaching. The work of assembling and submitting the documentation of teachers' effectiveness may yield one of the few tangible benefits of their teaching. See the announcement of the Division's Teaching Awards Program in this issue for further details.

Contributions to The Fund for Excellence in the Teaching of Psychology. Division Two thanks the following contributors for their very generous support:

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Contributions of any amount are welcome! Please make checks payable to The Fund for Excellence and send to James H. Korn, Department of Psychology, Saint Louis University, 221 North Grand Boulevard, Saint Louis, MO 63103.

Endowment of the Margie Moffett Award for Excellence in High School Teaching

Wilbert J. McKeachie presented a gift of \$10,750 to the Fund for Excellence, which will be used to endow the Division Two award for excellence in high school teaching. The Executive Committee of the Division agreed with Bill's suggestion that the award be named for Mary Margaret (Margie) Moffett, who was a very special high school teacher. The following is based on a sketch prepared by Bill McKeachie.

Margie Moffett's application for graduate school at the University of Michigan read, in part:

I want to teach psychology [well] in the public high schools. To do this I need to be familiar with all branches of the discipline; my undergraduate major just is not enough.

Why should you accept me? *Not* because 20 years from now you'll be able to say, "Ah yes, the famous Moffett . . . studied here." High school teachers just don't make big splashes in the academic world, and I have no illusions about carrying on earth-shaking research while preparing for five classes a day. . . . But after I graduate you will know that at one high school in the country, at least, one or two hundred students a year are being exposed to "real" psychology.

The Admissions Committee at the University of Michigan gave her a rating of 5 on a 5-point scale.

Ms. Moffett went to Michigan and began work as a research assistant with McKeachie, observing and coding student-teacher interactions in psychology classrooms. She contributed to the development of the methodology in this project and to the analysis of the patterns of interaction that were observed. McKeachie said, "She was the spark for one of the most closely knit and effective research teams I've ever been a part of."

Despite a great deal of encouragement to stay on for a PhD, Margie maintained her intention to teach psychology in high school and left after 3 years to teach at Murray Road High School in Newton, Massachusetts. She taught well and found time to help write the third edition of the McKeachie, Doyle, and Moffett introductory psychology textbook and to serve on the APA Committee on Psychology in the Secondary Schools.

However, she lost her job when budget cuts hit the science program at Murray Road. Unable to find another job teaching psychology and science, she took a position on Cape Cod working 60 hr per week at a residential treatment facility for juvenile delinquents. Three years later she developed cancer. She died in 1981 at age 30. She loved cats, science fiction, Edgar Rice Burroughs, and psychology.