

Bernadine (Bernie) Bonn — 1978 ACS Scholarship

Bernie attended University of Portland and graduated in 1979 with a BS in Chemistry and Mathematics. She was the first generation in her family to attend university and the ACS scholarship was immensely helpful during her final year at UP.

After UP, Bernie worked as a research assistant at OHSU in the Pharmacology Department and then Surgical Oncology. In addition to doing chemical analyses, she developed a continuing interest in non-parametric statistical methods. When the closure of the Surgical Oncology research program was announced, she completed the requirements for an Oregon Teaching License. She thoroughly enjoyed teaching Chemistry and Math at Beaverton High School for 6 years. While working on her Master's in Teaching, she enrolled in Aquatic Chemistry at Oregon Graduate Institute because it was the only graduate level chemistry course available locally and taught at a time that a working teacher could attend. By the next year, Bernie was enrolled in the Environmental Engineering program at OGI. She completed her PhD in 1992.

Since that time she has been combining her interests in environmental sciences (especially water resources issues) and public education. Bernie has taught a variety of chemistry and environmental science courses as adjunct faculty at local universities. She worked as a hydrologist for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for 8 years, where she did investigations concerning water quality in the Willamette and Tualatin Rivers. While at the USGS, she developed an interest in developing innovative methods to display and communicate scientific data to diverse audiences. She left the USGS to work for municipal government (Clean Water Services) on wastewater and stormwater management issues. She is now partially retired, but continues to do consulting work on water resource issues.

Bernie married Stewart Rounds (who she met at OGI) in 1989. They enjoy traveling, working in their edible landscaping, and day hiking. Bernie is also an avid sewist.

