Winifred W. Doane
Genetics Collection

1929-2022

The Winifred Walsh Doane Genetics Collection consists of books from Doane’s personal library. They were donated to the Arizona State University Center for Biology and Society by Dr. Doane’s family in 2022. The collection includes a number of books on genetics.

Doane received her doctorate in zoology/genetics from Yale in 1960, in a climate that was just starting to open up to women in science careers. Her research, which employed cutting-edge technology, led to the discovery of a number of genes in the fruit fly, Drosophila melanogaster. Key among her discoveries were the control genes for tissue-specific expression of the Amy genes (amylase) and adipose, the first obesity gene found in fruit flies. These studies transported her onto the Genetics Study Section review panel for the National Institutes of Health, which strengthened her career, and translated into significant federal funding during her years at Yale and later at ASU.

Doane was at the forefront of her field in 1977, when she (and her fly mutants) came to ASU’s then Department of Zoology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Doane estimated that, during her 21 years at ASU, she taught genetics to more than 2,500 undergraduate students, advised 280 undergraduate students, and served as research advisor and mentor for 44 undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral trainees. She was also the founder and first president of the Central Arizona Chapter of the Association for Women in Science, and a founding council member of the ASU Emeritus College, which was established in 2004. Doane was a AAAS Fellow and published more than 120 research papers and book articles related to her work.

Though she officially retired in 1998, Doane left an indelible mark on the science community in Arizona and ASU, as well as nationally and internationally, through her students and contributions to the field which she studied for more than half a century.

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