



## E-Newsletter | September 2012

### Nobel Laureates

With the recent passing of Elinor Ostrom, the first woman to receive the Nobel Prize in Economics, we decided to highlight female Nobel Laureates this month. In addition to Elinor Ostrom, we feature Toni Morrison, Rosalyn Yalow, and Jody Williams.

Political economist and Indiana University Distinguished Professor Elinor Ostrom received the 2009 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences for her groundbreaking research demonstrating that ordinary people are capable of creating rules and institutions that allow for the sustainable and equitable management of shared resources over the long term. This includes pastures, woods, lakes and other bodies of water, as well as fisheries.

Among Ostrom's many awards and honorary degrees, in April she was selected as one of Time magazine's 100 for 2012. Ostrom's Nobel Prize funds were donated to Indiana University. You will be also interested to discover that she was the first in her family to go to college.



Toni Morrison



Rosalyn Yalow

Yalow was honored for her work as the co-discoverer of radioimmunoassay, an extremely sensitive way to measure insulin and other hormones in the blood. The technique invigorated the field of endocrinology. It also made possible major advances in diabetes research and in the diagnosis and treatment of hormonal problems related to growth, thyroid function and fertility. The daughter of parents who had not finished high school, Yalow entered Hunter College in New York City as their first physics major. After many trials and much rejection, she later earned her PhD in nuclear physics. She told interviewers that she had known from the time she was 8 years old that she wanted to be a scientist. This was in an era when women were all but prohibited from science careers. During high school, she wanted to pursue a chemistry career but changed her direction to physics after reading Eve Curie's biography of her mother, Marie Curie.

The 1997 recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize was Jody Williams. As a child she saw injustice when her deaf brother was tormented by schoolchildren. As a teenager, she joined peace protests against the Vietnam War. In 1991, Williams became involved in an effort to ban landmines worldwide. She embraced this campaign, becoming its chief strategist and writing a book detailing the long-term effects of landmines. In December 1997, 122 countries signed a treaty banning landmines. Her Nobel Prize citation included these words: "There are those among us who are unswerving in their faith that things can be done to make our world a better, safer, and more humane place and who also, even when the tasks appear overwhelming, have the courage to tackle them. . . . You

The first African-American woman to receive a Nobel Prize, writer Toni Morrison was the recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1993. She is renowned for works such as *Song of Solomon*, *Jazz*, and *Beloved*, for which she won a Pulitzer Prize in 1988. The Nobel Prize citation described her as an author "who in novels characterized by visionary force and poetic import, gives life to an essential aspect of American reality". Morrison is known for her ear for dialogue and her representations of Black America. In 2012, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

The second woman to receive the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, Rosalyn

arms technology that strikes quite randomly at the most innocent and most defenseless."

We salute these amazing women on whose shoulders we all stand.

**Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America**

**Charlotte S. Waisman and Jill S. Tietjen**

**[www.herstoryatimeline.com](http://www.herstoryatimeline.com)**

8547 E. Arapahoe Rd, PMB J189  
Greenwood Villiage, Colorado 80112

