



Dennis Murphy

MTATA Hall of Fame



Originally from Ovando, Dennis Murphy came to The University of Montana as a student after graduating from Ronan High School in 1970. He was a student athletic trainer under Hall of Fame athletic trainer Naseby Rhinehart.

"Murph" received his B.S. degree from UM in HPE with a specialization in athletic training and adaptive physical education in 1975. He has been a certified member of the National Athletic Trainers Association since 1975. He completed his masters degree in athletics and physical education at the University of Arizona in 1977.

After graduation he was the first athletic trainer employed at the Sports Medicine Clinic in Phoenix, AZ from 1976 to 1978. He served as an assistant athletic trainer and lecturer at the University of Arizona from 1978-80. He returned to UM as the Program Director of the athletic training education program and took over as Head Athletic Trainer in 1982 and is now in his 26th year.

Though Murphy was helped by student athletic trainers through out the years he was one of only two certified athletic trainers at UM from 1982 until 1995. He was mainly responsible for the mens sports, but has taken his turn covering women's soccer and basketball as well. Dennis has worked with many administrators, physicians, athletes and coaches during his time at UM and remembers fondly times with UM greats like Nasby Rhinehart and Dr. Rob Curry. He was at the first meeting of the MTATA in 1982 and also served as the MTATA president.

Murphy has taught numerous training-related classes since he began in 1980 and has been instrumental in educating students who have gone on to work in the field of athletic training all across the state and the nation. He has also been a guest speaker at sports medicine clinics and has written articles for athletic training publications.