

BC remembers the life of senior Mary Kaye Waldron

By Diana Pisciotta
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During her first full day on the Boston College campus in the winter of 1992, Mary Kaye Waldron walked through the

Dustbowl with a newfound friend amidst a never ending chorus of "Hi, Mary Kaye." Waldron's new friend turned to her and asked how she could possibly know all these people on her first day on campus. Waldron smiled and responded, "I met them all last night."

As BC chaplain Greg Zlevor told this story, over 1000 friends and family of Mary Kaye Waldron gathered to celebrate her life and mourn her death. They smiled with tears in their eyes. Waldron, a BC senior, died on ~~Friday~~ ^{Friday} day, April 15, after a six and a half year battle with cancer.

"Mary Kaye was one of those people that you could never walk 10 feet without seeing someone else she knew," said Ed McLaughlin, A&S '95. "It's like Greg said yesterday...you are known as Mary Kaye's friend — which is fine with me."

Friends find it difficult to sum up Waldron in just a few words, but the adjectives most often used to describe her are enthusiastic, selfless, bubbly, caring, genuine and radiant. Almost all agree that her concern for others and positive attitude drew people to her.

"She was so openly friendly. Even if she didn't know your name, she would always say hi, always make the effort," said two of Waldron's roommates, Colleen Adams, A&S '95, and Jennifer Carloni, A&S '95.

"You could know her for a short time or since high school and you still knew the same Mary Kaye," said one acquaintance.

"No matter how sick she was, she wanted to know about you and how you were doing," said Colleen Keough, SOE '95. "No problem was too small if it was relevant to you, and even though she faced some pretty



Senior Mary Kaye Waldron, manager of the basketball team and mod resident, died April 15.

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big problems, she never belittled anything you were going through."

"She never complained. She was not angry or bitter. She was so accepting of where she was at," Zlevor said.

"She taught us a lot about life and living," said one friend.

"I remember going to a semi-formal, and when I walked into our room Mary Kaye and my roommates had just had a huge food fight—there was spaghetti sauce all over the walls," Adams said. "She was on a friend's shoulders and said 'come on in', and she pulled me toward her and we started dancing."

One of Waldron's physicians, David Fisher, said Waldron was always attentive and questioning with regard to her treatment, and BC was never very far from her mind.

"After explaining to her about this new type of drug she would have to take, not the first, but maybe the third or fourth question she asked was, 'Can I still drink beer.'"

According to friends,

Waldron never let her health problems slow her involvement at BC — joining the Salt and Light company and managing the men's basketball team.

"She never let her illness stop her from anything. She made an effort not to let it stop her," Carloni said.

"She would miss class before she would miss a basketball practice, and she would almost never miss class," Carloni said.

"Some days she would bop in and others it would be more of a struggle, but she was always there," said Assistant Basketball Coach Rick Boyages. "She was a great example for the players, and there was no better motivation for them but to take a cue from Mary Kaye's approach to life."

Fisher recalled a time when Waldron snuck away to a basketball game in Florida shortly after receiving some very intense treatment. "Her mother told me later that she was afraid that since the game was being televised I would see her in the stands."

This year Waldron received the Power award, the first female ever to do so. "It is an

award of character, leadership and spirit. Mary Kaye had a great heart, and she was a great competitor," Boyages said.

"When I think of BC, I think of the Jesuit spirit and sports, and Mary Kaye embodied both of those things," said a friend.

"You try to describe her, and

you can't because she is so unique," McLaughlin said. "In the last two years I have known her, my life has changed immeasurably. She has taught me strength, courage and how wonderful life can be."

"Mary Kaye, you never wanted to be remembered as any-

thing but ordinary, but you couldn't help being extraordinary," said Eileen Rooney, SON '95.

Any students interested in establishing a memorial for Mary Kaye are welcome to attend an organizational meeting at 7 p.m. Weds. in the McElroy lobby.