

# THE HEIGHTS

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## Gilfeather Receives Waldron Award

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HEIGHTS EDITOR

On April 17, 1996, almost a year to the day that Mary Kaye Waldron, BC '95, died of cancer, her family, roommates, friends and teachers joined to celebrate her life and to honor one of BC's most talented professors.

The inaugural award was presented to Sister Maryalyce Gilfeather, S.N.D., assistant dean for the School of Education. The honor will annually be given to an outstanding faculty member "who has demonstrated a continuing commitment to the values and ideals of BC."

Sister Maryalyce, who advises the School of Education Senate and Honors Program, was "extremely humbled and com-

pletely overwhelmed" by the honor.

The dinner and reception, held in the Heights room, was attended by approximately 150 people. Guests included The Waldron family, members of UGBC, members of the men's basketball team (of which Mary Kaye was the manager), and faculty and administrators who were fortunate enough to have known her.

Paula Norbert, a BC chaplain, and Mary Kaye's father, Jim Waldron demonstrated the spirit and determination of Mary Kaye and Sister Maryalyce by speaking about their compassion for people, positive attitudes and incredible courage.

"Mary Kaye taught us great lessons. She taught us not only

how to die with grace [although she did that], but also how to live life to its fullest... To Mary Kaye Waldron, the world had no limits, or none that she couldn't surmount," Norbert said.

Jim Waldron also spoke of the memory of his daughter and of his pride in the presentation of the award to Sister Maryalyce Gilfeather.

"When I found out they were presenting this award in Mary Kaye's honor, I thought to myself, 'I have to meet this person. I have to know what she's like and it took me five seconds to discover Sister Maryalyce is truly a gift to Boston College,'" Waldron said.

The award was the inspiration of former UGBC President Bill Lyons and UGBC Vice Presi-

dent of University Issues Peter Kennealy earlier this year.

"The Mary Kaye Waldron Award is an important way of showing what the students value at this University. UGBC has been involved in the debate over valuable teaching versus increased research and we thought this would be a positive way of demonstrating what students value in a teacher and Sister Maryalyce seemed like a clear choice for exemplifying Mary Kaye's spirit," Lyons commented.

All speakers of the evening agreed the similarities in ideals between Sister Maryalyce and Mary Kaye Waldron should be an inspiration to those fortunate enough touched by the two powerful women.