



## Bridget A, Kilroy

June 19, 1952 - July 16, 2020

Bridget Ann Kilroy

Bridget Ann Kilroy was born in Bethesda, MD in 1952. She passed away on July 16, 2020. Her parents were Edward P. Kilroy and Katheryn Macool Kilroy. She lived her early life in Cleveland, OH, before attending Ohio State, and the Universities of Montana and Washington, receiving her PhD. in Speech Communication from the latter in 1992. She taught a wide variety of university courses at the U. of WA, U. of Montana and U. of Pittsburgh, before accepting a permanent position at LaRoche College, where she taught until 2011, when early-onset Alzheimer's Disease required her to retire early. In addition to her academic work, Dr. Kilroy was also an active participant in the feminist, environmental, anti-war and social justice movements. She also contributed to research on Alzheimer's Disease by choosing organ donation. She was married for 29 years to William Fusfield, a professor emeritus at U. of Pittsburgh. She is also survived by her sisters, Kati Kilroy of Minot, ND, and Betsi Kilroy Ericksen of Vienna, VA. Professional services trusted to D'ALESSANDRO FUNERAL HOME and CREMATORY LTD., Lawrenceville. [www.dalessandro ltd.com](http://www.dalessandro ltd.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Bridget A, Kilroy*

January 13, 2023 at 04:43 PM



“ *My sincere sympathy Bridget's husband and family. Like the other two colleagues who wrote a remembrance, i also taught with Bridget at La Roche. I remember her for her free spirit. Her background in dance was evident; she danced through life.*

*As a member of the the Promotion Committee, I vividly remember her portfolio required for promotion to Associate Professor. Most of us do not have a chance to really see our colleagues in action, and our paths did not often cross enough that I knew her passion for the environment, which I shared. In reading her explanation of how she teaches communication and the extensive research into environmental justice, I remember being not only impressed, but also seeing in her a kindred spirit.*

*Bridget was a good taser and a fine colleague. I, along with many others, were saddened at her early retirement, and more so for the reason. I will keep her family in my prayers and make a donation in hr honor. May she rest in peace.*

*Sister Rita M Yeasted, SFCC, Ph.D.  
English Department  
La Roche University*

**Sr. Rita Yeasted** - July 20, 2020 at 01:43 PM

BE

*Bridget truly lived her love of the environment. She found lovely clothing at second hand stores as a way of recycling, and used the cost savings to splurge on organic food. Even in late stage dementia, she loved to "break out" of her memory care center with family or friends to walk in nature and admire the beauty surrounding her. May you remember Bridget as you practice your environmentalism.  
Betsi and Kati - Bridget's sisters*

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**Betsi (Kilroy) Ericksen** - July 21, 2020 at 09:54 AM

“ I remember Bridget as a kind & creative person and a colleague who I felt sure would become a close friend, as we worked together at La Roche College. Our fields of expertise were very different: her's communication, mine biology. Thus, we didn't work closely on a regular basis, but I always looked forward to visiting with her & bouncing ideas off of her when we met at campus-wide faculty or social events.

The great gift of kindness she gave me was on a day when I suffered from severe neck & upper back muscle tension and a migraine headache. After the crowd dispersed following a faculty meeting, she approached me and noted that I clearly was in pain. She said she could help, if wanted her to, with massage. I lay down on one of long tables in the room and she worked magic on my neck, head and back. I don't know how long she stayed to care for me, but I would guess it was close to half an hour. When she finished, my acute pain was gone. By the next morning I felt fine. I'm not yet sure how much of the healing was from the physical manipulation of the massage and how much was from her kindness, compassion and just the healing of touch.

We never did get to create our Core course combining dance, communication and biology, but we had a lot of fun talking about the possibilities. Do you know about honey bees and their elaborate social structure? How they communicate through different dances? When one scout finds a good food source, she returns to the hive and "tells" the rest of the worker bees what direction and how far to go from the hive to find the food, based on the duration and pattern of the dance she does. There is more, but this is about Bridget, not honey bees. Bridget could see the potential for creating a course that focused on the commonality of our disciplines and valued how we might get students to think in a more integrated, interdisciplinary way.

Sadly, by the time I recognized our potential friendship and reached out to Bridget to share non-work-related conversation, she was out

*on medical leave. Some weeks later, when I called again, I realized she was out indefinitely. Then we learned that she would not be back.*

*I am fortunate to have known her for as long as I did. Maybe I'll still make that biology-communication-dance interdisciplinary course one day.*

*May you dance in peace, Bridget.*

*Gail Rowe, Ph.D.  
Professor of Biology  
La Roche University*

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**Gail E Rowe** - July 20, 2020 at 01:16 PM

BE

*Your entry has brought tears to my eyes. You have experienced the essence of Bridget! Please do inspire your students with the bee dance.*

*Sincerely,  
Betsi (and Kati) Bridget's sisters*

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**Betsi (Kilroy) Ericksen** - July 21, 2020 at 09:19 AM

JF

*“ I remember Bridget well as a fellow faculty member at La Roche College. She actually helped hire me and for that I am forever thankful to her. She was an excellent educator and champion of our students. To her family and friends, I send you my condolences and prayers for healing. Dr. Jean Forti, Professor, La Roche University.*

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**Jean Forti** - July 20, 2020 at 12:16 PM

BE

*We 're so glad that Bridget recognized your potential. Thank you for your kind thoughts.*

*Kati and Betsi (Bridget's "little" sisters)*

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**Betsi (Kilroy) Ericksen** - July 21, 2020 at 09:08 AM

IF

*When we were both in graduate school in Missoula, I shared Bridget's home. She was often thoughtful of me even with her busy schedule and social life. She cooked wonderful meals, for which she earned my complete, undying friendship. Once I came home to find my 2 Samoyeds missing. Bridget had let them out of the house (no fence) and forgot about them because she had company. It took me hours to find them, ultimately on a hillside next to the freeway! Bridget said, I just wanted to help. And I replied, Bridget, that kind of help could end our friendship. She never did that again in our 35+ years of friendship!*

*Because we have not lived in the same place at the same time since Missoula, our relationship has involved occasional gatherings and trips far and wide. She came to visit us several times in Mexico. We went to Guatemala and Peru together. My first trip to New York City was with Bridget. We stayed at her cousin's place in Brooklyn. In the last ten years when we would get together, I would tell her stories of her life that I knew or shared. That would make her smile.*

*I am fortunate that my memories of her go back to earlier days. I am so sorry for Bill, Betsi, Katie and their families, and Regina, of course, who were there for Bridget in the last several years of decline. May you all rest easy knowing she loved you and was grateful for all you did for her.*

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**Irene Finley** - August 02, 2020 at 12:11 PM