

William Roane

January 2, 1947 - January 7, 2023

William Roane, known as Bill, 76 of Staten Island, New York passed away on Saturday, January 7, 2023.

Born Thursday January 2, 1947, Bill was the son of the late William and Margaret Roane.

Bill was born and raised in Staten Island, NY. After graduating from Saint Peter's High School, Bill attended the College of Staten Island where he received a B.A. in Psychology in 1987. He furthered his education, obtaining a M.A. in Psychology from Hunter College of the City University of New York in 1994 and a M.Ph. in Environmental Psychology from the Graduate School and University Center, City University of New York. He was a part of the CUNY Graduate Fellowship, made the Dean's List multiple times, was awarded by the Psi Chi National Honor Society in Psychology, and was presented with the Outstanding Student Award for Service from the College of Staten Island.

Beginning in 1988 and throughout his career, Bill worked on research projects that evaluated, designed, and proposed housing programs for low-income residents and seniors with a focus on developing optimal shared housing environments for the residents of the New York city Metro Area. He then became a Board Member for the Staten Island Center for Independent Living.

Bill worked as a Tenured Lecturer at the Borough of Manhattan Community College for most of his professional career. He was loved by his students and faculty alike. Serving as an active member and chair of the Vassar College transfer program, Bill provided transfer opportunities for BMCC students to Vassar College through a summer placement program housed at Vassar. Every year, Bill advised and assisted students in their applications and the majority were accepted into the summer program. Several of these students were also offered a full scholarship to Vassar College. On the morning of 9/11, Bill was teaching in the BMCC building closest to the World Trade Center. He immediately calmed and led his class down the many flights of stairs and out of the building to safety as debris fell from the sky. Bill always put others before himself, giving his all to his students and the community.

Bill served the Richmond Senior Services Board (SSB) as a board member in 1991, elected Secretary in 1992-93, and Vice President from 1993-1996. He then served as the President of the Board. During these years, Bill devoted his energies to fund raising for Project Share, a rental housing program for elderly residents of Staten Island, and project development and fundraising for Marie's Place, an enhanced housing facility. He also served on the Board of Directors at the College of Staten Island, as well as being a Committee Member for the Alumni Association, where he was active in program planning and fundraising. Bill was also a member of the American Psychological Association, Environmental Design Research Association, and the International Association of People-Environment Studies.

Bill was recognized for his accomplishments, receiving many awards and accolades along the way. He was awarded the Alumni Association's Leadership Award from the CSI and the Who's Who in American Universities and Teachers for his work at BMCC. In 2010, Bill was presented with the Mildred Porretta Award for Community Service to the Richmond Senior

Services Board (SSB) for his service to the board since 1991, as well as his service on other local not-for-profit boards.

Bill was a selfless person, always lending a hand and helping others out. He touched countless lives throughout the years and will be deeply missed by all those that are blessed to have known him.

Bill is survived by his cherished sister, Madeline Comba, his loving niece, Susan Lopez and her husband Doug, his loving nephew Andrew Comba, and his adored grand-nephew, Luis Lopez.

A Memorial Mass will be held on Saturday, January 14th at 10AM at St. Lawrence Roman Catholic Church, located at 109 Laurence Pkwy, Laurence Harbor, NJ 08879.

In lieu of flowers consider making a donation in Bill's memory to:
The William M. Roane Scholarship for Exploring Transfer Summer Program at Vassar College

Checks payable to BMCC foundation Inc.

Borough of Manhattan Community College
Room F1330
199 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.HegartyScaliaFuneralHome.com

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

JAN 14. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Lawrence Roman Catholic Church
109 Laurence Parkway
Laurence Harbor, NJ 08879

Tribute Wall



“ *William Roane*

October 05, 2023 at 11:16 AM



“ *I cannot remember any conversation we had when he did not make me laugh , or at least put a smile on my face. I will miss his wonderful sense of humor. He was a man of serious accomplishments, but he never seemed to take himself too seriously. BMCC and the world is a better place for having known you, Professor Roane.*

John - January 18, 2023 at 12:06 PM



“ *Bill was one of the most positive individuals I ever met. You knew the day was going to be off to a good start if you had the good fortune to run into him upon arriving in the office! The stories he would tell were amazing... I still remember the one about how he spent an entire afternoon drinking in a bar with Lou Reed. Who else can say that? Even better were the stories he told about his students, who he clearly loved so dearly. It was a love greatly returned. His commitment to them was an inspiration, and it is tremendously sad and disheartening to know I will never have the pleasure of sharing moments with him at work. You were among the best Bill!*

Erik Freas - January 16, 2023 at 04:23 PM

PP

“ I enjoyed each and every one of our chance meetings and chats on the Staten Island Ferry. Bill was a great conversationalist and he always made me laugh heartily. He enjoyed the profession and helping students realize their dreams. Much love and light to all who loved and learned from him. Nidia Pullés-Linares, Modern Languages Department

Prof. Nidia Pullés-Linares - January 15, 2023 at 08:42 AM

DD

“ Bill was my mentor at BMCC and a great friend of mine for the past 10 years. When I was first hired in 2012, Bill was a trusted resource that I could go to when I had a problem. I spent countless hours listening to the amazing stories he used to tell and the wisdom he passed on. A common theme of these stories was how much he really loved his family and friends.

Every day when Bill came to work he would stop to see Gail Mansouri in her office, and they would just tell stories, laughing the whole time. Bill would always have a big smile on his face, and when Gail got up to leave for the day, Bill would ask her, "Another half day, Gail?" This used to crack me up every single time.

When my father died, Bill was very empathic. We had some long talks that helped me process the profound loss I was experiencing. Bill had such a positive perspective on life and genuinely cared about your suffering.

I said goodbye to my friend last week. It was a painful experience, and I will miss him greatly. May God comfort those of us left behind, as Bill transitions to eternal life. We shall be reunited in the Kingdom of Heaven one day.

----Dan DePaulo

Dan DePaulo - January 14, 2023 at 12:26 AM

JL

“ I first met Bill through my work at the College of Staten Island where he was a loyal and dedicated alumnus, first serving on the Alumni Association board and then on the Friends of CSI Board, where he was always helping to promote the College and do a world of good for our students. We quickly bonded - as he did with so many-and shared many an irreverent laugh at college events. His presence and great generosity of spirit livened up many events and he could always be found huddled with students to learn more about them and their experiences. He truly taught and touched so many lives with his wisdom and great wit. I am so grateful for the gift of his friendship, his hearty laugh, and his smiling Irish eyes. May the road rise up to meet you, dear Bill, and may you rest among the green fields of paradise. My sympathy to Bill's family and wide circle of friends and colleagues.



Jennifer S Lynch - January 13, 2023 at 10:05 PM

MM

“ Bill was such a special person. I had the privilege of working with him when he was a student at the College of Staten Island and President of their Student Government. He devoted countless hours of service to the constituents he served. He was always thoughtful, kind and considerate of everyone he came into contact with. All of his interactions with others were sincere and had that special lighthearted, humorous and fun character that was Bill. He left a mark on CSI and so many that knew him that will live on beyond his days in this world. Condolences to his family and friends. Rest in heavenly peace Bill. I know you are looking down on all of us and can hear your laugh as you tell us things will be ok.

Marianne McLaughlin - January 13, 2023 at 08:07 AM

SB

“ Bill was funny, irreverent, always helpful, and extremely kind even to those he did not call friends.

He loved his students and teaching. Even at the end, knowing he may not survive his last surgery, his plans were all about how he would come back to teach a class or two at BMCC as soon as he was well again.

On a personal level, he was my strongest support at BMCC. Someone I relied on both personally and professionally. His passing has left a hole in my heart no one will ever be able to fill.

Two days before his surgery he wrote to me, "love ya for eternity." I love you for eternity, my friend. And beyond!

Sangeeta K Bishop - January 12, 2023 at 11:28 PM

JW

“ Bill was my colleague, but mostly my dear friend since 2000 when we became office mates. Bill made me feel welcomed to the department and was always there when needed. During these years we became best friends and shared many experiences both in and outside of the college. He was an amazing person and friend and he will be forever in my heart.



The world was a better place because of him. He is very missed.

Janice Walters - January 12, 2023 at 07:07 PM

FM

“ *Bill was such a wonderful friend and colleague.
He will be missed.*



Freda McClean - January 11, 2023 at 07:55 PM

BR

“ Professor Roane was a true humanitarian that touched my life with immense kindness, concern, and a deep-friendship. He always encouraged me to keep pushing through my life with sincerity and concern. He was my friend and I believe that our connection was not only based upon a spiritual connection, but also based upon truth and honesty. He was the first professor that I ever took when I enrolled at BMCC at thirty-four-years-old. I didn't finish college at that time due to personal issues but years later I returned and there he was once again advising me to finish what I started so long ago. I graduated in 2020. And that wouldn't have been possible without his wisdom and guidance. We met for lunch a few times during Covid and kept in touch and I feel as though he was my Morrie. I will never ever forget him and he never forgot me either as I always received birthday cards, Easter, Christmas cards, and was always interested in my animal rescues as he loved animals just as much as did. I took his death and dying course and it was so intense and ironic now. I rescued a cat after the course and named him “Ross” after Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, Bill loved her work and he suggested that be my newest cats name. I did just that!! To say that I am heart-broken is an understatement but not only for me, for the rest of the world especially his family as they've lost the best of the best. I called him “Stoic one” as he never asked for any help when I offered any assistance to him on numerous occasions. He too loved working with the elderly as I do. I hope he's having his bologna sandwich and a coke which was a favorite of his. He even gave me his Corned Beef and cabbage recipe for Saint Patrick's Day. I'll find that and make it a ritual. He had an infectious laugh and was such a good sport and light-hearted about so many things. I will miss you so much Stoic one. May God keep you in his loving arms and Bless your family always. Heaven has certainly earned a guardian angel and so have we. Rest easy, my friend, I'll be looking for signs. 🦋❤️🦋❤️🦋❤️
Brigitte——-



Brigitte Cuesta Rutigliano - January 10, 2023 at 09:57 PM

BR

"Dance in all the galaxies."

Brigitte Cuesta Rutigliano - January 10, 2023 at 09:59 PM

DO

"Bill was a neighbor and friend who never put on airs and was always down to earth despite all his accomplishments. He was never one to complain even when his medical issues seemed overwhelming. Rest In Peace, dear Bill."

Doreen & Jerry O'Leary - January 10, 2023 at 07:47 PM

JG

"Bill was a tremendous advocate for students. He was, when my sister returned to college, her favorite professor and when Bill found out she was my sister he was thrilled. Our epic car trips to Vassar were something you could make. a movie about. He loved getting out of the car on Route 218 on the side of Storm King Mountain and then stopping at Stewarts for ice cream. He was also a hoot at commencement when his friend trustee Persile would show up and they would be sitting together having a ball while the senior administrators looked on with discomfort. Bill was truly larger than life and he had a real love for the students that he had no problem expressing."

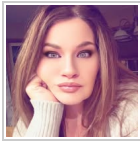
John Gallagher - January 10, 2023 at 06:44 PM

ED

"Bill was such a wonderful breath of fresh air! His contribution to CUNY was invaluable."



Eleanor Drabo - January 10, 2023 at 05:25 PM



“ I am absolutely heart broken. Bill is an amazing human being. I spent many an evening ferry ride as we commuted home to Staten Island trading teaching stories and sharing life events. He was always prepared with a bit of wisdom and a chuckle or two. He will be forever missed. I feel so lucky to have known him. Rest in peace, sweet Bill. My prayers are with his family.



Catherine Nealand-Cammilleri - January 10, 2023 at 04:53 PM



“ CSI & CSI Foundation, Inc. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William Roane.



CSI & CSI Foundation, Inc. - January 10, 2023 at 04:48 PM



“ BMCC-Social Sciences. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William Roane.



BMCC-Social Sciences. - January 10, 2023 at 04:47 PM



“ This is so heartbreaking. I still remember taking the SI ferry with Will after a long day at work. He was the most amazing man. I enjoyed talking to him and will miss him dearly. What a loss! With Love, Justyna CD Program Counselor BMCC.

Justyna Jagielnicka - January 10, 2023 at 04:39 PM

NL

“ I am so sad to hear this news. My name is Nicole Leach, and I am the Assistant Director in the Office of Accessibility at BMCC. Professor Roane was just the most wonderful man. His smile would light up a room. His kindness was contagious. He touched so many students. I am so proud to have known him. xoxo

Nicole Leach - January 10, 2023 at 04:08 PM

WC

“ With Sympathy, From the Friends of CSI. purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of William Roane.



With Sympathy, From the Friends of CSI. - January 10, 2023
at 03:58 PM