

mentor to her colleagues for the development of teaching methods using collaborative learning and critical thinking skills. In her last semesters here as she battled cancer and endured the radiation and chemotherapy, she rarely missed a class. She was determined to continue teaching, and I think she worked even harder than ever to be sure her students were well served. Becky was someone you could count on, as a colleague and as a friend. She enriched my life personally and our professional lives here at WCC in many ways."

WCC's dean of development, "B" Townes, stated about Mann, "Becky, Pete and I began teaching at Wilkes Community College together. She was a devoted mother and she and Pete always brought their children to activities and events at the college. I was privileged to serve with her in the early days on an informal committee that conceptualized at meetings here at the college the idea for a footpath along the Yadkin River. In more recent years, Becky has kept the spirit alive and the Yadkin River Greenway Council is a vibrant organization because of her involvement and leadership."

Petro Kulynych of Wilkesboro remembered Becky Mann as having an even temperament and as a friend. He engaged Becky as the "ghost writer" for his personal autobiography that he is writing for his family. "It was hard for me to accept that she would no longer be working with me on this project," stated Kulynych. "I have lost a dear friend in Becky Mann."

In addition to her work in education, Mann was also a successful author. Her book, Walking Raleigh/Durham, was published in 2001 by the Glove Pequot Press. She worked on this project for about two years, drawing all of the maps herself, as well as taking most of the photographs. Mann co-authored Essay Writing: Methods and Models, a freshman composition text.

Mann was active in her professional field and as a community leader. She served as chair of the North Carolina Department of Community College's Conference of English Instructors, a member of the National Council of Teachers of English, a member of the Southeastern Conference on English in the Two-Year College, a member of the North Carolina Writers Network, and a member of the American Association of University Women. She served as a member of the Wilkes Public Library Book Club, a member of the Independent Reading Association, a member of the board for Friends of the Library, and a member of the Wilkes County Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee. She was a co-founder and served on the Council Board of Directors for the Yadkin River Greenway and as public relations committee chair. She was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church where she served as clerk of the vestry and as a member of the choir.

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### **Becky Mann's Dream Lives on in Wilkes County** **By "B" Townes**

Friends of Becky Mann at Wilkes Community College and throughout the community were saddened by her death on March 18 at North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem. She fought a valiant battle against the cancer that eventually claimed her life. She enjoyed her family and friends, teaching, and living in Wilkesboro until the last moments of her life. Becky will be sorely missed by those whose lives she touched.

Becky Mann had a vision that one day she could walk from W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir through the Wilkesboros to Smoot Park, traveling along the Yadkin River. She sought the opportunity to walk in the footprints of our forefathers along the river's edge, away from the hustle and bustle of the vehicular traffic that we have become accustomed to for transportation. She dreamed of being able to take a spur trail from the Yadkin River Greenway to Wilkes Community College, where she spent most of her career as a lifelong educator. She was delighted to see recent developments in construction of the spur trail up the Reddie's River, and she looked forward to being able to cross the Yadkin River on a footbridge. She often daydreamed about leading groups, including school children, to experience and appreciate the beauty of nature along the river. She delighted in knowing that people would have the opportunity to see a great blue heron in its element. Becky had a goal to see the Yadkin River Greenway completed in her lifetime. Although her untimely death made this impossible, we have the opportunity to share Becky's vision by supporting the efforts to complete the current and future phases of construction of the trail.

Greenways, by their very nature, promote a healthier lifestyle for everyone. The young and old alike, including infants in strollers, bikers, hikers, and those who are wheelchair bound and otherwise handicapped, will find the trail easily accessible. Links and trailheads at the Wellness Center, River's Edge Park (soccer and ball field complex), Smoot Park, the YMCA, and W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir will further promote health and wellness for citizens and visitors.

Becky's family has requested that gifts and memorials be made to the Yadkin River Greenway Council, Inc., PO Box 191, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659.

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