

It was less than a year-and-a-half ago that we gathered to celebrate Jane's retirement. This is far too soon. At Jane's retirement, several people mentioned how much they appreciated Jane's talk at Opening Convocation in 2010. Those who had not known Jane well were especially impressed by the warmth and humor that came through. We in Trexler Hall were lucky enough to see that daily. Jane was passionate about doing things the right way, which meant a full range of agreeing and disagreeing, stomping and laughing.

To pick out one word, Jane might be the most **thoughtful** person I have ever known. This is true in the social sense of asking how things are going, remembering past issues and asking for updates. She was there for us at talks, marriages, funerals, and births; many simple acts of kindness that make a big difference. She was also thoughtful in the sense of thinking about everything. Everything. Paper plates and plastic cups at department receptions are wasteful; written proposals are to be grammatically correct, logically consistent and unambiguous; granola bars are *not* good for you.

Jane and I had a curious semi-annual tradition. I always have that moment near the end of a semester when some students ask unfortunate questions or fail to answer simple questions and the most logical explanation at that stressful time is that I haven't taught them a thing all semester. Jane and I often hit that wall at the same time, and it was wonderful therapy and reassurance to see that Jane, an award-winning teacher, had similar issues. Here's the important part: by the next time I saw Jane she was full steam ahead, planning the next semester when she and her students would be better. I believe that Roanoke College's most impressive characteristic is a willingness to honestly identify flaws and then work to improve. We are rarely self-satisfied, we rarely give up; we are often working on the next great thing. I'm not sure how such a culture emerges, but it must have a lot to do with having a few Janes around who embody the attitude and inspire others to adopt it for themselves.

I want to share one story with you. This story goes back several years, when Bill Ergle was chair of the department, and Jane had a string of visits to Bill's office to get some task accomplished. After one too many visit, Bill huddled with our secretary and printed out a piece of paper with a horizontal line and some writing on it. They then taped the paper to the wall outside Bill's office, so that the horizontal line was clearly above the top of Jane's head. The text on the paper (inspired by amusement park rides) read, "You must be at least this tall to complain." We all kept an ear out for Jane's next visit to the second floor, and lurked in the hall as Bill pointed out the sign to her. She just looked at the sign, did an about face and went back upstairs. We were, quite naively, surprised that she gave up without a word. Somebody said, "If we'd known it was going to be that easy we would have done it years ago." Which is when Jane reappeared, carrying a stool which she planted beneath the sign, stepped onto the stool, raising her head above the horizontal line, and let us have it.

There are several aspects of this story that are significant. One is how funny the guys in Trexler are. At least we think we are. Kidding can be a great way to bond and ease tensions, but there are times when jokes have too much of an edge to them, and I'm sure that as the only woman in the bunch our jokes were often not so funny to Jane. I can't speak to the challenges of being in the minority gender, but Jane was fully professional dealing with bad jokes and students who are accustomed to male authority figures.

A different aspect of the story requires some literary license. I don't know for a fact what Jane was pestering Bill about, but having served a term as chair I can take a good guess. Jane was a trouble-maker: she always knew students who wanted to take classes that were scheduled at the same time, and she would work to find a class schedule to accommodate all student wishes. I suspect that she actively prodded students to want to take these classes: with this class you could get a minor or a second major; that class would be great preparation for a possible career in such-and-such, and so on. I suspect that many students' majors and minors, and probably some careers, came into existence because Jane took the time to find out about a conflict and then removed it.

The final aspect of the story that I want to mention has to do with the chair's office. Jane was chair of the department for eight years, during which she worked herself way beyond the call of duty to try to get things right. When I followed her as chair, I imagined daily visits from Jane pushing me way beyond the call of duty. But it didn't happen: she gave sound advice when I asked, she let me know when I was being lazy or sloppy with details, and she gave me space when I needed to work something out myself. Given her high standards and how far short I must have fallen, she was remarkably patient with me. Jane was an excellent mentor.

Jane's life was good and significant. I, like many others, am a much better person for having known her. I have much to thank Jane for: her integrity and attention to detail, her relentless pursuit of getting better, her kind acts, her humor and tolerance for my humor, her devotion to students, and her guidance. Several people posted on Facebook or communicated in other ways moving remembrances. I've asked a few of you to share brief versions of your thoughts or those of others who could not be here.

Thank you, Dr. Ingram, for showing me that women can succeed in mathematics.

Thank you, Jane, for leading our department by word and deed.

Thank you, Dr. Ingram, for pushing me to be better than I thought I could be.

Thank you, Jane, for mentoring me as a young faculty woman in Trexler Hall.

Thank you, Dr. Ingram, for being a great friend to your students.

Thank you, Jane, for caring enough to plant your size five flats on my trouser butt when I needed it.

Thank you, Dr. Ingram, for holding the bar high for yourself and your students.

Thank you, Jane, for resolutely maintaining the highest of ethical standards.

Thank you, Dr. Ingram, for always having an open door to students.

Thank you, Jane, for dedicating yourself selflessly to others.

Thank you, Dr. Ingram, for everything you taught me.

Thank you, Jane, for being a strong, capable, trustworthy woman.

Thank you, Dr. Ingram, for not letting me stop at good enough when I could do better.

Thank you, Jane, for being a superb role model.