



Dorothy Dee Billenstein

February 27, 1921 - September 17, 2010

Dorothy Dee Billenstein, PhD., 89, of Fort Collins, died September 17, 2010 at her home. Dee was born February 27, 1921 in Easton, Pennsylvania to Fred and Corinne Billenstein. Dee lived in Fort Collins since 1961, moving here from New York. She was an Associate Professor at CSU in the Anatomy Department for generations of students. She won numerous awards for teaching excellence. During the Polio epidemic she worked as a Physical Therapist in Warm Springs, Georgia. Dee enjoyed the outdoors, wildlife, new experiences, camping, kayaking and cross country skiing. Dee traveled extensively in Colorado starting in the 1940's during a trip with her parents and continued throughout her life. She enjoyed nature, her cabin in Minnesota, rock hounding in Colorado and Wyoming, Siberian Huskies, and drives to Pawnee Buttes in the spring. Her home was a wildlife sanctuary to all wildlife including deer and especially birds. Survivors include her close friends, Tina Anderson, Linda Fitzgerald, Heather Heafer, and Chuck Minks. No service is planned. Memorial contributions can be made to Larimer County Humane Society or Rocky Mountain Raptor Program in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive St., Ft. Collins, CO 80524.

Tribute Wall

CH

“ Ah, Dee.... I was wondering why I hadn't heard back from you for a while. You were a wonderful mentor, friend and neighbor when I lived across the road from you as a student at CSU. My memories of our dinners together, walks and then my visits from Santa Fe over the years will always be cherished. You always welcomed me, unannounced. What an inspiration. I will always cherish you.

Christine Herman - September 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ I, too, was a student of Dr. B and became a friend over the years. I worked in the anatomy lab as an assistant in the mid-1960's and learned some valuable lessons about the human body and the respect for it--no matter the condition. I loved to hear her laugh and recognized her by that just a month ago in a restaurant. It was a blest encounter. May all who knew her continue to cherish her memory by remembering her many lessons, enjoying each day and living life to the fullest. Special thoughts to Tina.

Linda Graham Heil - October 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ To fulfill my P.E. degree in the mid-1960's, Dr. B allowed me into an OT human anatomy class. I was then fortunate enough to be a lab assistant with her while in grad school. She was one of my favorite teachers. May her many friends find comfort and peace in the days ahead.

Jean Lohse Helburg - September 29, 2010 at 12:00 AM

FG

“ Great lady and great friend Dee inspired my efforts to become a medical illustrator, the only profession I was capable of. Her influence and the encouragement of her peers in the department of Anatomy at CSU in the '70's are still expressed in the illustrations I prepare today.

FD Giddings - September 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Our dental office always loved having Dee come in. We knew that there would be a story and a chuckle during her visits. We all will fondly remember her "Getting old isn't for sizzies" advice!

Sue Miller - September 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ In 1968 I was a lab assistant in Dee's gross anatomy class for occupational therapy students. She gave me the start that I needed and from that, an understanding of the importance of mentoring. Hearing of her passing makes me think fondly of her yet once again...

Steve Mack - September 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ Dr. Billenstein influenced generations of students. She made a lasting influence in my life as I know she did many others. My very best to Tina.

Barbara Ketcham - September 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ We met Dee and her dog Rusty in Gould cross country skiing several years ago. This led to several other chance encounters in the mountains and in town over the years. Such an inspiring, independent and full of surprises woman! In tribute to her spirit, Lou Abbott and Mark Rohrer

Lou Abbott - September 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ I had Dr. Billenstein for Head and Neck as an undergraduate in 1986. What a great class. I remember her as dedicated, funny, and as a professor that you just felt comfortable with - like you were in good hands because she was so experienced and knowledgeable. To this day, I can chuckle out loud at a dry joke she made one day in class. I am an Associate Professor now at CSU and can say that Anatomy during that era at CSU was one of my favorite and formative experiences, in part due to her influence. Brian Tracy

Brian Tracy - September 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Dr. Billenstein was my professor of Anatomy of Head & Neck in 1983 at CSU. That was one of my most favorite classes! I still talk about it today. Dr. B. helped us understand that the cadavers we were working with had a second chance and that they were our teachers. Because of her class, I have decided to donate my body to science. She made a big impact on me. I am so sorry to hear of her passing and your loss.

Janice Hopple Clack - September 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ I will always remember Dee's warm and welcoming smile. She was very humble; yet, she had a strong mind and spirit that I admired. She lived life the way she wanted - right up until the end. Those of us who knew her can only be happy for her and hope we can all be so fortunate. God bless you, Dee.

Joanne Schlafer - September 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ I met Dee 21 years ago and greatly enjoyed knowing her. She was an inspiration to all. Not many people knew this, but she trained to be a pilot in WWII. What a trail blazer! I will miss her greatly.

SARAH GABBAY, PhD - September 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ She left her imprint on all of us who knew her, including me. It was an honor to know her. In her memory, Glenda Bell

Glenda Bell - September 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ I still remember very fondly the first time I ever met Dr. B. It was the first day I went to work in the office of the Old Vet Hospital, she was such a wonderful person, who knew her anatomy and love to teach others even if you weren't a student. I know how much she loved her home on the top of the mountain overlooking Fort Collins. I am sure that she will be greatly missed by her many friends.

Phyllis hayworth - September 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM