CHESTNUT HILL, MA (8-11-06) -- Rose DeMaio, who worked at Boston College for 33 years and served as secretary to the University Historian, died Aug. 9. She was 82.

DeMaio began work at Boston College in 1972 in the Treasurer's Office. She also worked in the Controller's Office and Student Accounts before becoming secretary in 1983 to then-University Historian Charles Donovan, SJ. She continued working in that position until her retirement last year.

"BC was more than just a job to her and she loved every minute of it there," said her son Rick, '84.

"She regarded BC as her second family, in every sense of the word," said Thomas O'Connor, who was appointed University Historian after Fr. Donovan passed away in 1998.

"She seemed to know everybody, and everybody seemed to know her." If someone from the carpentry shop came up to fix something in the office, as soon as they came in it was 'Hi Rose, how are you?' And she'd say, 'Sit down, tell me how you are, how's your wife, is she feeling better?'” O'Connor said. “She felt at home with everyone: faculty, administrators, staff and students."

O'Connor said DeMaio preferred using her typewriter to a computer, and always insisted that her title be "secretary" even as terms like "administrative assistant" or "executive assistant" became in vogue.

"She felt that being known as a secretary was something in which you could really take pride," he said.

DeMaio was a lifelong resident of Newton. A passionate Red Sox fan, her interests also included theater, cinema and gourmet cuisine.

"When she went out to a new restaurant, she could give a spoon-by-spoon description of the experience," O'Connor said. "All these things she did with a lovely Italian grace."

DeMaio leaves her son, Rick, his wife, Laura, ‘86, and their two children, Stephen and Angela.

A wake will be held this Sunday from 4-8 p.m. at the Eaton Funeral Home, 1351 Highland Ave. in Needham; the funeral will take place on Monday at 11:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Church, 1350 Highland Ave. in Needham.

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