

HISTORY OF THE MEMORIAL



Original Hokies United Memorial, April 2007

In the hours following the April 16 tragedy, the student-driven volunteer organization Hokies United placed 32 Hokie Stones on the Drillfield. The semi-circle of stones became a place to gather, to mourn, and to reflect, and the poignant display inspired today's memorial. As a community, we dedicate 32 engraved Hokie Stones in honor and in memory of the members of our Hokie family who lost their lives. Hokie Stone has long symbolized the foundation of Virginia Tech. Now, it also symbolizes our relentless spirit, our courage to move forward, and our determination never to forget.

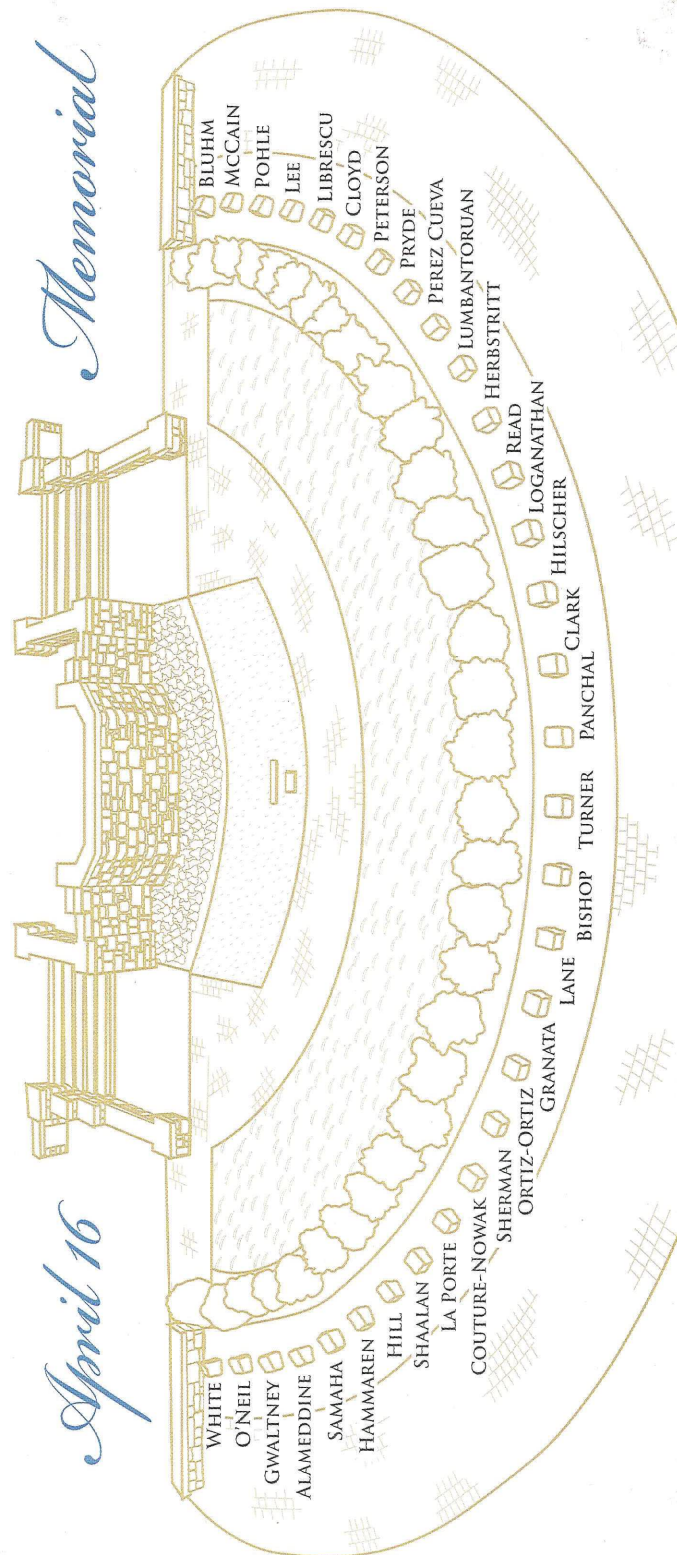
Two stone paths have been constructed to allow viewing of the stones and a memorial flower area at the base of the Reviewing Stand. A row of shrubs provides a backdrop to the stones between the pathways, and ground lighting illuminates the stones at night.

The current stones weigh 300 lbs. each. A single stone in the center of the memorial honors all the fallen and injured victims of that day.

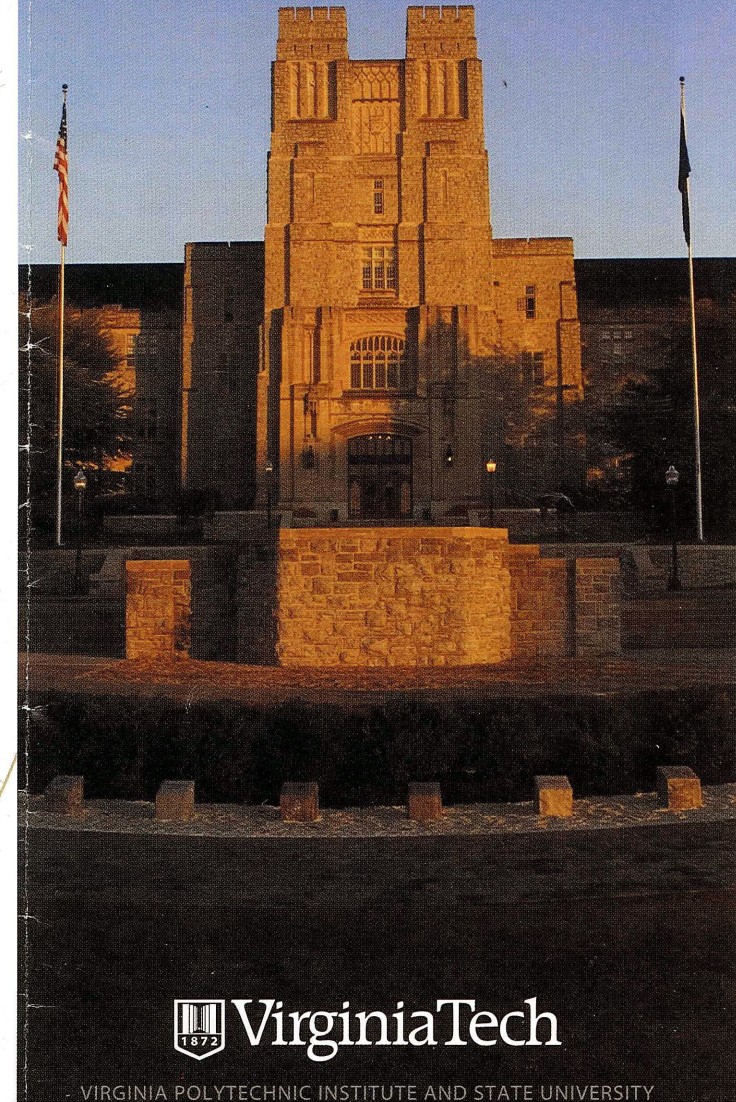
The short biographies that follow are presented in the order of the stones from left to right facing Burruss.



Virginia Tech is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution.
VT/1010/50M/110742/DS



April 16
Memorial
WE REMEMBER



 **VirginiaTech**

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

WE REMEMBER THEM

In the rising of the sun and its going down,
We Remember Them.

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,
We Remember Them.

In the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring,
We Remember Them.

In the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer,
We Remember Them.

In the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn,
We Remember Them.

In the beginning of the year and when it ends,
We Remember Them.

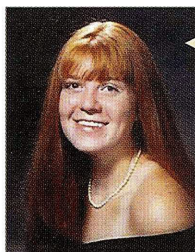
When we are weary and in need of strength,
We Remember Them.

When we are lost and sick of heart,
We Remember Them.

When we have joys and special celebrations we yearn to share,
We Remember Them.

So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are part of us,
As We Remember Them.

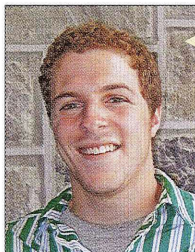
—from *Gates of Prayer*



B.A. International Studies,
German/Department of
Foreign Languages &
Literatures

NICOLE REGINA WHITE

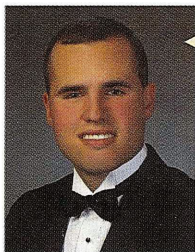
Smithfield, Virginia • 20 years old
Beloved daughter and sister. Loved God, people, and working with children. Always giving: an EMT in Smithfield; a volunteer at the local animal shelter, and at the battered women's center. A lifeguard and swimming instructor. Faithful member of Nansemond River Baptist Church. Dedicated to her family and friends. Always looked at other peoples' hearts, not their outward appearance.



M.S. Environmental
Engineering

DANIEL PATRICK O'NEIL

Lincoln, Rhode Island • 22 years old
Scientist, artist, guitarist, composer, budding civil and environmental engineer. Passionate about music, theater, and politics. Performed in dramas and variety shows. Played guitar and piano; traveled to most of Western Europe; planned to live in Dublin, Ireland. Liked running, backpacking, biking, skateboarding, and Red Sox baseball. Exceedingly loyal to his family and friends.



M.S. Environmental
Engineering

MATTHEW GREGORY GWALTNEY

Chesterfield, Virginia • 24 years old
Outstanding graduate student and skilled civil and environmental engineering teacher. Deeply concerned for our environment. Numerous academic achievements and honors. A master of sports statistics and trivia and a devoted Hokies fan. Avid high school basketball and baseball team member. Honest, generous, and intelligent. A valued role model and mentor.



B.A. English, French/
Department of Foreign
Languages & Literatures

ROSS A. ALAMEDDINE

Saugus, Massachusetts • 20 years old
Beloved son, brother, cousin, friend. English and French major. Computer builder, tournament winning gamer, support expert, beta tester. Loved rollerblading, movies, and all types of music, especially jazz. Pianist, vocalist, passion for performance. Creative, insightful, individualistic, compassionate. Enjoyed debate and voiced strong opinions. Loved life, cheering people up, and making others laugh.



B.A. Public and
Urban Affairs, French/
Department of Foreign
Languages & Literatures

REEMA JOSEPH SAMAHA

Centreville, Virginia • 18 years old
Exceptionally close to her parents and siblings; held lifelong friends. Traveled the Middle East; embraced her Lebanese heritage. Open, cheerful, creative, witty, but a serious student. Passionate member of the Contemporary Dance Ensemble, Hill and Veil Middle Eastern Dance Group, the Cedars of Lebanon Club, and the Melkite Greek Catholic Church. A Centreville resident; a citizen of the world.



B.A. International Studies,
French/Department of
Foreign Languages &
Literatures

CAITLIN MILLAR HAMMAREN

Westtown, New York • 19 years old
Contagious smile, eyes that sparkled. Made everyone feel like her best friend. Led many volunteer activities. A top fund-raiser for Relay for Life. Resident advisor in the Residential Leadership Community and a nationally recognized residence hall leader. A joyful participant in her sorority, Kappa Kappa Gamma. Loved riding horses, singing, and playing the violin. A teacher without trying.



B.S. Biological Sciences,
French/Department of
Foreign Languages &
Literatures

RACHAEL ELIZABETH HILL

Glen Allen, Virginia • 18 years old
Loved to read, especially novels and the Bible. An accomplished classical pianist. A goal-oriented freshman with plans for a Ph.D. in nanotechnology biochemistry. A beautiful, poised friend and leader. Enjoyed classic movies, playing volleyball, shopping for shoes, and hanging out with her parents. Always prepared and always diligent. Dedicated to glorifying God in all she did.



Ph.D. Civil Engineering

WALEED MOHAMED SHAALAN

Zagazig, Egypt • 31 years old
Loving husband and father. Central member of the Blacksburg Muslim community, known for his friendly wave and broad smile. A dedicated and passionate student of civil engineering, following in his father's footsteps. An academic and spiritual mentor to classmates; an older brother to many friends. "The simplest and nicest guy," said one, "I ever knew."



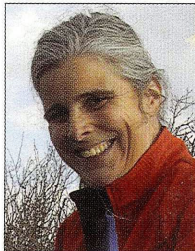
Day of Remembrance, 2008



B.A. Political Science,
French/Department of
Foreign Languages &
Literatures

MATTHEW JOSEPH LA PORTE

Dumont, New Jersey • 20 years old
Loved playing music; relished the challenge of the corps of cadets. Played tenor drum for the Highy Tighties. Member of the Southern Colonels, the cadet jazz band. Showed strength, stamina, and academic excellence. Mastered the Air Force Special Operations Preparation Team. Creative, considerate, mature. A cadet and a person with unlimited potential.



French/Department of
Foreign Languages &
Literatures

JOCELYNE COUTURE-NOWAK

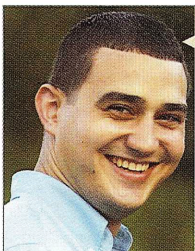
Blacksburg, Virginia • 49 years old
"Madame." Devoted mother and wife. Passionate, inspiring teacher of French. Lover of nature, filled with community spirit, dedicated to preserving her francophone heritage. Embraced a life filled with long family hikes in the forests and with flower-filled home gardens. Loved gatherings of friends and students; cherished her family. Brought joy to others through her own *joie de vivre*.



B.A. History,
B.A. International Studies,
French/Department of
Foreign Languages &
Literatures

LESLIE GERALDINE SHERMAN

Springfield, Virginia • 20 years old
An inspiring young woman who could "do it all" and excel. Loved photography, historical sites, museums, reading, running. Traveled to London, Jamaica, Argentina, Ecuador, and across America. Superior student; advocate and volunteer for the Special Olympics. Student supervisor in West End Market. Immeasurable integrity, courage, and strength. A gift to all who knew her.



M.S. Civil Engineering

JUAN RAMÓN ORTIZ-ORTIZ

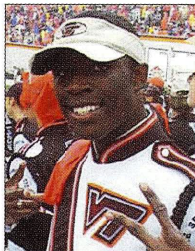
Bayamón, Puerto Rico • 26 years old
Research and teaching assistant in civil engineering. Played high school basketball, baseball, track and field in his native Puerto Rico; member of the National Honor Society. Loved music and God; played timbales in church. Dedicated, patient, and responsible. Passionate about civil engineering, his wife, family, and life. Lived with integrity, perseverance, and energy, as if each day were his very last.



M.S. Architecture

MINAL HIRALAL PANCHAL

Mumbai, India • 26 years old
Strengthened her family with childlike enthusiasm, infectious laughter, a kind heart. Passionate for architecture and the built environment. Focused on goals and dedicated to challenges. Loved swimming, painting watercolors, writing poetry, and reading modern fiction. Listened to Indian Western fusion music and soft rock. Radiated love and respect to friends and family. The apple of her parents' eye.



B.S. Biological Sciences,
B.S. Psychology,
B.A. English

RYAN CHRISTOPHER CLARK

Martinez, Georgia • 22 years old
"Stack" to his friends. Proud member of the Marching Virginians. School tutor and volunteer for numerous service organizations, food banks, and summer camps for the mentally impaired. Resident advisor; West End Market worker; advisor for the Residence Life Imaginarium program. Infectious smile and laugh. A collector of friends. Cherished by his family, band mates, and friends.



B.S. Animal and Poultry
Science

EMILY JANE HILSCHER

Woodville, Virginia • 18 years old
Much loved daughter, sister, and friend. Skilled horsewoman, animal lover, enthusiastic cook, and imaginative artisan. Wise beyond her years. Insisted on fairness in everything and wanted others to be happy. Member of Tech's Equestrian Team. Dreamed of becoming a veterinarian. Strong work ethic; a determined attitude. A sparkle in her deep blue eyes and her face always wore a smile.



Civil and Environmental
Engineering

G.V. LOGANATHAN

Blacksburg, Virginia • 53 years old
Beloved husband, dedicated father, committed to his family here and in India. A valued friend and colleague, kind, gentle, and wise. Accomplished scholar, one of America's most respected hydrology and water resources systems experts. Numerous teaching awards including Tech's prestigious Wine Award. Patiently taught the most difficult courses. "The best professor," one student said, "I ever had."



M.S. Biological Systems
Engineering

JULIA KATHLEEN PRYDE

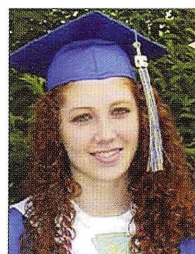
Middleton, New Jersey • 23 years old
Dedicated environmentalist. Explored water purity and sustainable agriculture in Peru and Ecuador. Avid swimmer, soccer and softball player. Certified wild-land firefighter deployed to fight wildfires in Arizona. Warm and accepting, open to diverse people and ideas. Embraced all challenges with enthusiasm. Always pursued a better world and a better self.



B.A. International Studies,
French/Department of
Foreign Languages &
Literatures

ERIN NICOLE PETERSON

Centreville, Virginia • 18 years old
Warm, magnetic personality, anchored by a sound moral compass. Lived joyfully and shared that joy with family and friends. Excelled in the classroom and on the basketball court. Co-president of EMPOWER, an organization that builds self-esteem in young minority girls. Adored her great grandmother, called her parents daily. Left a legacy of excellence, optimism, leadership, and love.



B.A. International Studies,
B.A. French/Department
of Foreign Languages &
Literatures

AUSTIN MICHELLE CLOYD

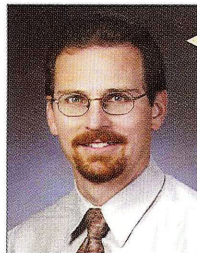
Blacksburg, Virginia • 18 years old
Lived life boldly and with purpose. Embraced new experiences; passionate volunteer with the Appalachia Service Project and as a children's day camp counselor. Loved reading, scuba diving, music, concerts, college basketball, travel, and adventures with friends. Brilliant mind, compassionate heart, and an iron will. An inspiration to those who follow her in service.



Engineering Science and
Mechanics

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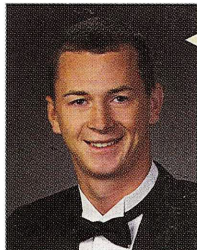
Blacksburg, Virginia • 76 years old
Dedicated to his family, his students, and his field. A Holocaust survivor, he was determined to become an engineer, despite the enormous challenges of World War Two and living in communist Romania. An internationally renowned aeronautical engineering educator and researcher, with a host of honors from many countries, he embodied profound courage throughout his life, even in its final moments.



KEVIN P. GRANATA

Blacksburg, Virginia • 45 years old
Committed to God, his family, education, and research. Distinguished scholar in biomechanics, specializing in movement dynamics. A prolific, visionary scientist who believed theoretical and empirical research could change the world. A true friend, colleague, and mentor. Offered help to others to the end of his life.

Engineering Science and
Mechanics, Biomedical
Engineering and Sciences



JARRETT LEE LANE

Narrows, Virginia • 22 years old
A fun-loving man, full of spirit, and a caring heart. A friend to all he met. Narrows High School valedictorian, Tech engineering scholarship winner. Excelled in academics, tennis, football, basketball, track. Loved being a Hokie and attending sports events. Joined Campus Crusade for Christ, interned for Tech's Site and Infrastructure Development Department. A serious student who lived to the fullest.

B.S. Civil Engineering



CHRISTOPHER JAMES BISHOP

Blacksburg, Virginia • 35 years old
Jamie. "Herr Bishop." Dearly loved husband, devoted son, gentle colleague, generous friend. Talented artist and photographer. Rigorous, fun-loving, no-nonsense, easy-going; passionate about the environment, nature, art, and teaching. Keen wit, contagious enthusiasm; avid hiker, film connoisseur, Braves fan. Convinced studying foreign languages was fundamental to understanding humanity.

German/Department of
Foreign Languages &
Literatures



MAXINE SHELLEY TURNER

Vienna, Virginia • 22 years old
"Max." Exceptional daughter, sister, granddaughter, friend. Warm, loving, brilliant, fun, with a contagious enthusiasm for life and an unwavering determination to excel. Graduating chemical engineer, Magna Cum Laude in Honors. Founding member and officer of Tech's chapter of Alpha Omega Epsilon, a sorority for female engineers. Officer of Virginia Tech's Tae Kwon Do club. Talented violinist. Avid swing dancer. Dedicated volunteer.

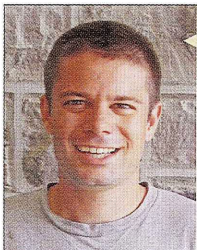
B.S. Chemical
Engineering, German/
Department of Foreign
Languages & Literatures



MARY KAREN READ

Annandale, Virginia • 19 years old
Deeply faithful in every aspect of her life. Relished being a big sister. National Honor Society; clarinetist in the Concert Band; member of Campus Crusade for Christ. Slated to be a Bible study leader for the coming year. Loved spending time with family and friends, going to the mountains, the beach, and the lake. Always happiest helping others. A sweet personality; a beautiful, constant smile.

B.A. Interdisciplinary
Studies, French/
Department of Foreign
Languages & Literatures



JEREMY MICHAEL HERBSTTRITT

Bellefonte, Pennsylvania • 27 years old
Loved to hike, kayak, bike, ski, and work on the family farm. A Penn State civil engineering honors graduate. Discovered the first West Nile virus-infected mosquito in Centre County, Pennsylvania. An avid runner, marathoner, and 50 mile relay racer. Passionate about life, family, and friends. Phenomenal friend, brother, son, and teacher.

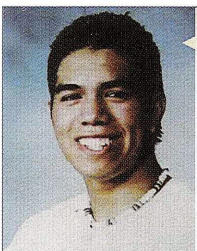
M.S. Civil Engineering



PARTAHI MAMORA HALOMOAN LUMBANTORUAN

Jakarta, Indonesia • 34 years old
"Mora." Hydrology Ph.D. student. Calm, caring, talented, always ready to help. Enjoyed football games, road trips, grilling saté for the international street fair, Indonesian politics, spiritual and intellectual discussions. A radiant, contagious smile; he cemented friendships. Patient, wise, compassionate. The son, grandson, nephew, cousin, uncle, husband, and father everyone should have.

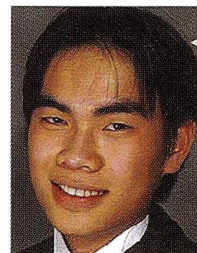
Ph.D. Civil Engineering



DANIEL ALEJANDRO PEREZ CUEVA

Woodbridge, Virginia • 21 years old
Came to Virginia from Peru with his family. Accomplished high school athlete; member of the National Honor Society. An international studies major who dreamed of bringing people together and making the world peaceful. Bought his mother a home; cared deeply for his family and his friends. A captivating smile and a role model to all who knew him.

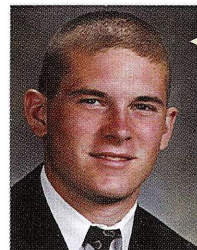
B.A. International Studies
French/Department of
Foreign Languages &
Literatures



HENRY J. LEE (HENH LY)

Roanoke, Virginia • 20 years old
Extremely bubbly. The young man with the open smile and zany personality. High school salutatorian, a Tech Dean's List student. Lover of computers; technical support for family and friends. Creative, interested in origami and photography, he liked to watch movies and hang out with friends. Ninth of 10 children, he loved his family and in return was treasured by them.

B.S. Computer
Engineering, French/
Department of Foreign
Languages & Literatures



MICHAEL STEVEN POHLE JR.

Flemington, New Jersey • 23 years old
Little Mike. Innate curiosity. Seeker of knowledge. Despite adversity, shaped himself into a wonderful, caring person. Musician, football and lacrosse player, karate black-belt. An instinctive helper, avid and joyful learner in the classroom and life. Completely selfless and giving; always looked out for his classmates, his teammates, the Phillies, the Buccaneers, the Hokies, and his family and friends.

B.S. Biological Sciences,
German/Department of
Foreign Languages &
Literatures



LAUREN ASHLEY MCCAIN

Hampton, Virginia • 20 years old
Tribal member of the Choctaw Nation. Cared deeply about people; strived for excellence. Quirky sense of humor; bright, cheerful smile. Liked intramural soccer, flag football, running, working out, and music. Devoted to Campus Crusade for Christ and praising Jesus. Saw everyone as uniquely valuable. Loved God, her family, and her friends. Hoped to travel abroad to share her faith – and has.

B.A. International Studies,
German/Department of
Foreign Languages &
Literatures



BRIAN R. BLUHM

Cedar Rapids, Iowa • 25 years old
Virginia Tech alumnus; bachelor's and master's degrees, civil engineering; specialty: water resources. Member, Baptist Collegiate Ministries and MotownSports. Civil engineering teaching assistant. Endless thirst for knowledge; interests wide-ranging. Loved God, as shown through his friendliness, kindness, warm smile, memorable laugh. Loved his family, his friends, Detroit Tigers, Virginia Tech, and its sports. Lived each moment.

M.S. Civil Engineering