

Matthew Gregory Gwaltney met an untimely death along with 31 other members of the Virginia Tech academic community on Monday, April 16, 2007.

Matthew was born Dec. 11, 1982, to Karen P. Gwaltney and Gregory Gwaltney Jr. He was preceded in death by his paternal grandmother, Frances G. Gwaltney; and two aunts, Kathy G. Huffman and Kimberly D. Poindexter.

He is survived by his parents; his stepmother, Linda Gwaltney; his grandparents, Granville G. Gwaltney Sr. and Lee and Donez Poindexter, formerly of Franklin; aunts, uncles and cousins, Cynthia G. Rowe and Gerard with Jonathan and Katelyn, and Kelly P. Amidon and Michael with Rhiannon. Survivors also include his mother's friend, James M. Clay.

Matt loved his family dearly and freely expressed his devotion through words and deeds. He was a graduate of the Thomas Dale High School, Class of 2001. He received a bachelors degree in civil engineering from Virginia Tech, magna cum laude, in 2005.

At the time of his tragic death, he was weeks away from completing his graduate degree in civil and environmental engineering. Among the awards and recognition he had received during his academic career were: National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society at Thomas Dale, and acceptance into Chi Epsilon, Tau Beta Pi, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Phi Eta Sigma, Golden Key International Honor Society, and Phi Kappa Phi at Virginia Tech.

His professional goal was to improve human awareness and education about environmental issues so people would be proactive in protecting and improving the environment and quality of life. Sports, all sports, were his avocation. He was a sports statistical marvel, providing copious amounts of information at every opportunity, any bit of minutiae one might seek about the sports world was at his command. The Atlanta Braves, Chicago White Sox, and Chicago Bulls led his list of favorite professional teams. Needless to say, Virginia Tech and other teams of the ACC were his favorites. He was a Hokie throughout every fiber of his being from the day he received his letter of acceptance and began to coax his family into the "Hokie Nation."

Matt played basketball and baseball at Thomas Dale. He continued to play pickup basketball to take a break from academia. He was an avid, dedicated team member and his cheerful disposition and determination to win brought him many lasting friends including Elijah Alexis, Nick Anders, Brad Byerson, Matt Green, Vernon Hamilton, Russell Krupp, Travis Kugler, Kevin McCain, and Sarah Radford.

The family received friends at Thomas Dale High School on Sunday, April 22, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Funeral services were held at Southside Church of the Nazarene, 6851 Courthouse Rd., Chesterfield, Va., on Monday, April 23, at 11 a.m., followed by interment at Sunset Memorial Park in Chester, Va.

Contributions may be made to the Matthew G. Gwaltney Memorial Fund at First Market Bank, 3107 Boulevard, Suite 16, Colonial Heights, VA 23834. The fund will be used to establish scholarships at Thomas Dale High School and Virginia Tech.

Funeral arrangements by the Colonial Heights Chapel of the E. Alvin Small Funeral Home & Crematory, 2033 Boulevard. Condolences may be registered at www.ealvinsmall.com.

The Franklin Press, 27 April 2007