



Lauren Ashley McCain

Lauren Ashley McCain, a tribal member of the Choctaw Nation, was a freshman from Hampton, Va., majoring in international studies. Calling Virginia Tech “almost heaven,” she loved the entire campus community.



Lauren strived for excellence in her studies, but as much as she cared about learning, she cared about people more. She had a quirky sense of humor and a love of life that she shared with everyone. Her smile was bright and cheered those around her.

She had many interests and was active in several organizations.

Lauren combined her love of music with her daily workouts and runs. She was involved in intramural soccer and women’s flag football and loved the German language and culture.

Active in Campus Crusade for Christ, New Life Christian Fellowship, and Bridges International Ministries, Lauren cared deeply about the international community and participated in campus ministries that reached out to international students. She spoke often of her desire to travel, to study abroad, and to one day live and work in another country and share her love of Christ. She viewed everyone as uniquely valuable, and purposefully invested herself in those she met.

Lauren loved God and had faith that her savior Jesus Christ had placed her at Virginia Tech with a mission and a purpose: to touch those she met with His love and to glorify Him. Her Christian faith is revealed in her own testimony: “I don’t have to argue religion, philosophy, or historical evidence because I *know Him*. He is just as real, if not more so, as my earthly father.”

Daniel Patrick O’Neil

A scientist and an artist, Daniel Patrick O’Neil of Lincoln, R.I., was working on a master’s degree in environmental engineering.

Daniel earned a B.S. in civil engineering from Lafayette College, discovering his interest in the environment as an EXCEL Scholar. His 2005 studies of storm-water runoff and the effects of urban development on flooding led to his decision to pursue hydrology as a career. He worked as a junior engineer at Pare Engineering in Lincoln during the summer and over Christmas break 2006-07. At Virginia Tech, he worked as a teaching assistant in civil and environmental engineering.

Daniel loved music, theater, and politics and was active in drama productions and variety shows. At Lincoln High School, he competed on the cross-country and track teams and played music with his friends.

At Lafayette, he continued his involvement in art and sports, was vice president of the Arts Society, and was a member of the Marquis Players acting group. He lived in the Arts Houses, where he was an advisor and played guitar and piano, and he performed at block parties and reunions.



Daniel also liked running, Red Sox baseball, Hokie football and basketball, backpacking, biking, skateboarding, and traveling. He spent a semester in Brussels, Belgium, studying engineering, art history, languages, and culture and recently returned to visit his host family. He traveled to most Western European countries and planned to live in Dublin, Ireland, after graduation.

Daniel was exceedingly loyal to his friends and family, and his friends plan to produce a CD of his music as a fundraiser. Twenty-five of his songs can be heard at www.residenthippy.com/music.htm.