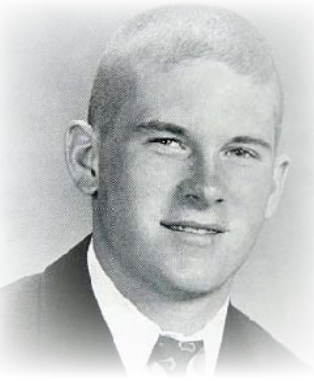




## Michael Pohle Jr.

Michael Pohle Jr., born in Newark, N.J., on Oct. 15, 1983, maintained a curiosity about everything around him and constantly ventured out to learn new things.

During Mike's early school years, he endured a painful experience—ridicule by others due to speech development issues—which he overcame and used to help shape himself into a wonderful and caring person.



Involved in various activities, Mike learned to play music, earned his black belt in karate, and participated in team sports. He played football and lacrosse at Hunterdon Central Regional High School in Flemington, N.J., and played lacrosse at Virginia Tech. In his honor, the team wore his initials on their helmets

when they played in the SouthEastern Lacrosse Conference tournaments in late April.

Mike would do anything for his teammates and his friends. He never lost his love for learning, either in the classroom or in life. He was set to graduate with a B.S. in biology at the 2007 Commencement.

Everyone who knew Mike will remember him for always helping people. He befriended those who felt they did not fit in or who were lost in the crowd with no one to turn to. It was instinctive for Mike to help; it was his calling.

That inner desire to learn as much as possible, be part of a team, and help as many people as he could are some of the key reasons he chose Virginia Tech. Whether it was his family, friends, classmates, teammates, the Phillies, the Buccaneers, or his beloved Hokies, Mike always looked out for them, as he still does.

That is how he would want to be remembered.

## Julia Kathleen Pryde

A dedicated environmentalist, Julia Kathleen Pryde of Middletown, N.J., chose biological systems engineering for both her 2006 B.S. and her master's degree. It was natural for her to care deeply for others, as evidenced by her trip to Ecuador and Peru to conduct research on water purity to help create a more sustainable form of agriculture that would help the poor.

She had planned to pursue a doctorate degree, become a professor, teach in college, and conduct research with a focus on creating pure water and sustainable agriculture in the Andes and Africa.

Julia, born on Sept. 7, 1983, was an avid swimmer, enjoyed soccer and softball, and had a great interest in music. A certified wild-land firefighter, she worked with the Student Conservation Association and was a member of a firefighting team deployed to fight fires in Arizona in 2005.



Julia conducted a restoration project with the Nature Conservancy of New Jersey and performed home assessments and GPS data collection for fire evaluation at the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation in North Dakota.

Julie was an officer of SEEDS (Seek Education, Explore, DiScover), an active supporter of those who resist the mountain-top-removal coal mining in Appalachia, and an active member of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers.

Warm and accepting, Julia was open to diverse people, ideas, circumstances, and challenges. She was kind, generous, and brave. She embraced challenges, whether academic, social, ethical, physical, economic, or spiritual, all with enthusiasm, and she placed herself on a path of new trials, always in pursuit of a better world and a better self.