



Daniel Alejandro Perez

Daniel Perez, age 21, was a junior majoring in international studies. He was the son of Betty Cueva of Woodbridge, Va., and Flavio Perez of Peru.

Daniel left Peru with his mother and sister in 2000. In high school, he was active in sports and was a member of the National Honor Society. He graduated from C.D. Hylton High School with honors and attended two community colleges before enrolling in Virginia Tech in fall 2006.

Daniel could accomplish anything he put his mind to. He had a beautiful smile and was a great friend and a wonderful brother and son. He and his sister cared about their parents and wanted to see them happy. Daniel also enjoyed lavishing attention on his Bassett hound, Shiloh, and he displayed Shiloh's photo on his personal profile in an online social chat room.

He dreamed of being heard and making peace in the world and believed that God put everyone here to make a difference in someone's life. He loved to see his friends happy, and many of them viewed him as a role model. They said they were honored to have been able to call him "friend."

Daniel was nicknamed "Korki" because he acted goofy and did the most unexpected things. However, he always tried to make his parents and sister proud of him.

Wanting to bring people together and make the world peaceful led Daniel to choose to work in international services. He made his voice heard and encouraged the people around him to be better individuals. One of his friends says, "He was an amazing friend. I will never forget that."



Erin Nicole Peterson

Erin Nicole Peterson was born Aug. 17, 1988, in Fairfax, Va., to Celeste and Grafton Peterson. An only child, Erin was a dedicated "daddy's girl" whose parents considered her their "angel—their dewdrop from heaven."

Erin's early learning took place at Virginia's Appletree Private School and Merritt Academy. She graduated in 2006 from Westfield High School in Chantilly, Va., where she was a member of the National Honor Society. She excelled in the classroom and exhibited great skill on the basketball court, serving as team captain her senior year.

Last summer, after being nominated by her high school principal, Erin worked as an intern with Rolls-Royce North America Inc. At the company's invitation, she was to have returned as an intern this year.

Erin's personality was a wonderful blend of warmth and magnetism anchored by a sound moral compass. She lived a life that was filled with joy, which she freely shared with others. In return, she attracted the admiration and respect of her peers and the complete adoration of her family.

A certified homebody, Erin loved watching movies and staying in with her family. She adored her maternal great-grandmother and had profound respect for her parents, whom she called every night. Faithful and spiritual, she firmly believed in the power of prayer.

Erin entered Virginia Tech in fall 2006, majoring in international studies. She had recently been elected co-president of EMPOWER, an organization dedicated to building self-esteem and confidence in young minority girls.

While Erin's passing has left a gaping hole in the hearts of her family and friends, her spirit and her legacy of excellence, optimism, leadership, and love will live forever.

