



Christopher David Breen

Always An Aggie

Christopher Breen graduated from Texas A&M in 1997 with a degree in agriculture development, but he still felt a close attachment to a University that had played such an important and significant role in his life.

Memories of the Aggie Spirit inspired by Bonfire were engraved deeply in his heart.

And, in 1999, Christopher returned again to campus to help with Bonfire planning, then stayed around to make sure it was built. He had experience. He had spent so many long, arduous hours working on so many Bonfires before.

He knew his knowledge as a former Brown Pot would be extremely beneficial to those who might be involved with Bonfire for the first time.

Christopher Breen was on hand to help select the next generation of Red Pots for Bonfire.

Christopher Breen was not afraid to give of himself.

He was a leader, the kind that marched proudly with the Corps of Cadets.

He was at Texas A&M again simply because he sincerely felt that he was needed. Christopher Breen would never turn his back for any reason on responsibility.

Said Dr. Christine Townsend, a Professor of Agricultural Education who had been his Academic Adviser. "Christopher was here both as a Former Student and a former Bonfire participant."

When he felt that it was his duty to be at Aggieland, Christopher Breen was always there.

That would be his legacy.

Classmates, more than anyone else, understood why Bonfire was so important and inspirational to him.

One pointed out, "Every time another fall semester rolled around, you could tell that Bonfire was his life. Christopher took care of things. He kept the guys in order."

According to Dr. Townsend, Christopher had been a good student who had a passion for the outdoors, spending several summers in college working as a canoe guide for the Boy Scouts in Minnesota.

He was always looking for an opportunity to immerse himself in a wilderness camping experience.

As Terry Schocke, a director at the Boy Scouts Northern Tier High Adventure Base in Ely, Minnesota, remembered, "Christopher had a good sense of humor and just a real happy nature."

For Dr. Townsend, it was difficult to see such potential, such promise, end so young.

She pointed out, "We know our students, and it makes it doubly sad. I know what Chris looks like, and I know his sparkling eyes. He was a great guy."

At Anderson High School in Austin, Christopher Breen had been an honor student who learned the rigid lessons of self discipline and self sacrifice by playing football for the Trojans.

The youngest of six children, Christopher was the son of Dr. Jack and Marion Breen. Dr. Breen is Chairman of the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin.

Wanda Neathery is a family friend who had known Christopher since he had been a child in the Westover Hills area of Austin. To her, he was a young man with a wonderful personality, a caring individual who never showed anger.

"He was easy going," she said. "He knew how to handle stress. He always would try to work out something instead of getting mad."

According to Neathery, Christopher's brothers and sisters had all become physicians, attorneys and professionals. "They all made something of themselves," she pointed out, "and Christopher was going to be just like them." 🐾