

Miranda Denise Adams

Queen Of Bonfire



Amidst the falling tears and a sea of maroon and white, a young lady's vibrant smile that had become so synonymous with the university she loved can never be forgotten.

Miranda Adams, a 19-year-old sophomore majoring in biomedical science, wore her school colors with pride. In fact, Miranda was so determined to attend Texas A&M that she applied to no other college.

She had become a vital part of a Tradition so important to Aggieland, and Miranda had a burning desire to be somewhere near Bonfire's stack every spare minute she had away from her classes.

Her involvement with Bonfire even earned her the nickname, "Queen of Bonfire." She served as the co-chair of a committee planning Bonfire and all of the campus activities that would revolve around the celebration leading up to the A&M-UT football game.

Miranda embraced her campus life and academic courses with the same abundant devotion and enthusiasm she gave to her family and to her church. Both were important to her.

Her personality, perhaps, was best underscored by a note from Sarah Finchum, placed on the memorial fence that surrounded Bonfire site.

Sarah had written: "I didn't know Miranda very well, but from her coming into class last year and talking to all of us little sixth graders like she knew us all—I can almost be positive that she was the best person I could ever hope to know."

In the final moments of her life, according to friends, Miranda Adams was doing what they had come to expect of her. She was working hard and having fun at the heart of activities that were important to her and to her university.

That she was at the stack did not surprise anyone. What Miranda's Santa Fe High School principal remembered most

about her was that she was a tireless worker.

As Melissa Blair, her high school anatomy and physiology teacher recalled, "Miranda was fantastic, energetic, intelligent. I couldn't keep up with her. And if I'd tried, all the other students would have been left behind."

Miranda's high school principal, Gary Causey, said, "She was the kind of student every principal wishes all of his students were like. She was friendly and outgoing."

The daughter of Kenneth and Carolyn Adams, and sister of Greg and Mark Adams, Miranda graduated from Santa Fe High School in 1998. As a member of the student body, Miranda began to exhibit the same loyalty, dedication and leadership that would one day honor her name and presence at Texas A&M.

An honor student, she played the saxophone in her high school marching band, was active on the student council, serving as vice president during her senior year and was a member of the math and engineering clubs. Miranda graduated in the top two percent of her class, earned membership into the National Honor Society and received a Presidential Fitness Award.

Miranda's vision of the future had already been firmly established. She loved to babysit and wanted to share her love for children by one day becoming a pediatrician.

David Tessmann, senior pastor at Peace Lutheran Church in Texas City, had known Miranda for three years and witnessed first hand her diligent and faithful involvement in the church group.

"Her faith was very important to her," Tessmann said. "She loved life and loved to be involved in life. She gave herself to life. You couldn't hold her down."

Rick Rigsby, one of her professors at Texas A&M, remembered Miranda well, pointing out, "She would want you to fight, to finish and to keep the faith. That's not only scriptural, that's the Aggie Spirit." 🐾