

Remembering a Remarkable Student

by Cara Quackenbush

News Editor

Still reeling from the shocking and horrifying events that unfolded Sept. 11, Santa Clara was suddenly faced with the unthinkable: the loss of one of their own. A victim of United Airlines Flight 93, junior Deora Bodley was a dedicated daughter, student, community member, and friend to the many people whose lives she touched.

And she will be sorely missed.

Having spent the past three months working at the GAP, visiting relatives in Michigan, and spending time at her subleased house on Washington St., the San Diego native rounded out the summer by visiting a friend from high school in New Jersey.

But eager to reunite with her friends at Santa Clara and prepare for the year ahead, Bodley had her friend drop her off at the airport early in hopes of flying standby.

Meanwhile, as the rest of the nation watched their country being attacked, Bodley's friends sat together in an apartment 3,000 miles away hoping for the best, but fearing the worst.

The first time my heart sank was when they said [the plane] was going to San Francisco and I realized that it could have been any of us," junior Holli Ogle, a close friend of Bodley, said. "Then I realized it was coming from Newark."

When the airlines released the list of passengers from the crash site near Pittsburgh, Pa., later that afternoon, the group was in shock.

Half the time I still can't even believe its real, junior Bridget Madell, Bodley's roommate, said. Having Deora involved just brings this so much closer and it means so much more."

A Life of Public Service

Known widely around campus and throughout the community for her commitment to public service, Bodley, a French and psychology double major, appeared to be well on her way to a career in mental health and working with children.

Bodley's advisor, psychology chair Thomas Plante, noted that in a questionnaire she filled out during freshman orientation she cited "basketball and community service" as her favorite activity outside of school, and "school and community involvement" as the area of her life for which she was most recognized.

Considering the circumstances of her death, he is most struck by the irony of what she cited as her interests at the time. "She wrote 'not politics,' but 'issues of excellence and human character,'" he said.

She was always interested in how to apply psychology to helping others. She was very intrigued by the material and how it could be used in a practical way," psychology professor Rebecca Foote said, describing her former student as hardworking, thoughtful and intelligent.

Foote also remembered Bodley's decision to volunteer at the Julian Street Inn, a service center for homeless adults, through the Arupe Center for the duration of the class. She was surprised when she later learned that Bodley already had other community service commitments.

One of these other commitments was Bodley's part-time job tutoring children at St. Clare's school, a position that she held for two years. St. Clare principle Kathy Almazol remembered how respectful and natural she was with the children, and how they respected and adored her back.

Deora was 100 percent. She was extremely compassionate and seemed to understand when children were having a bad day. She seemed able to sense what they might need. I think that was one of the gifts she had," she said. "She was just one of the nice young people in the world who are making a difference because they are committed to something everyday."

Junior Ryan Lindow, Bodley's boyfriend, added that as a result of her experience at St. Clare's, she became especially interested in studying how to prevent certain problems from occurring during a child's development. According to him, Bodley hoped to one day develop a program to address parent-child relationships early on in order to avoid having to correct preventable problems later.

Words of Wisdom

Along with many of Bodley's friends, Ogle emphasized how naturally her dedication to psychology and to helping others carried over to her personal life. In particular, she recalled how Bodley told her that "it's not your past that matters, it's what you're doing about it now."

She was amazing. She helped me through a really rough time in my life and gave me comfort and strength and self-confidence," she said.

Sara Haley, another close friend, will always remember Halloween of her freshman year when she fell asleep with her bunny ears still on.

"I woke up to Deora kissing me and hugging me, because that's the kind of person she was - comforting and motherly. Whenever you were sad and lonely Deora was the perfect person to make you feel not alone," she said.

"Whenever I had problems I'd go to her. She was so down-to-earth and gave great advice," said Madell.

Lindow stressed that she wasn't just lending an ear to the people who confided in her, but she sincerely cared about everyone. He will also remember her as a model of how to live life everyday.

"She wasn't the kind of person who would wait a year or more to change or improve herself, she did it on a daily basis," he said. "She never made the same mistake twice."

Remembering Deora

Still devastated by her loss, friends and family have begun sharing their memories with others.

Her friends set up a memorial in front of the Mission in her memory and within hours it was filled with pictures, notes and candles. Some wrote words of condolence to each other while others thanked Bodley for the difference she made in their lives.

Over the past week the children of St. Clare's created their own memorial to Bodley, filled with pictures and memories written by the children including: "she made my life better," and "Deora made the sun brighter."

Ogle recalled being particularly moved by the words of the school's teacher when she visited the memorial.

"She said 'It can't be our Deora,'" Ogle said. "I mean I knew she was loved, and I knew I loved her very much, but I never realized how many people there are out there who feel exactly the same way."

In Bodley's memory, the psychology department is in the process creating a community service award in her name, which they hope to give out to one senior each year at graduation.

On Monday, the university held a prayer service in remembrance of those that perished in the attacks. Father Locatelli urged those in attendance to strive toward the kind of world that Bodley's parents wished for: "a heaven on earth where people of every language would be at peace with each other."

And tomorrow, the campus community is invited to her memorial service to be held at the Mission at 1 p.m.

While many things are being done to preserve Bodley's memory, Ogle urged others to remember her friend by the way she lived her life, rather than by the tragic circumstances of her death.

"Deora was not a victim. She wouldn't let herself be," she said. "She took an active role and was in control. She would never let bad things destroy her."

And while those who knew and loved Bodley may never be able to understand the horrific and tragic fate of Flight 93, one thing is certain: Deora Bodley will never be forgotten.

'I Ask Peace'

By Leslie-Ann Holt

TSC Staff

Bodley's parents say their daughter would have called for tolerance

More than 850 people attended last Friday's memorial service for Deora Bodley in the Mission Church. The service, which began at 1 p.m. and was presided by University President Paul Locatelli, S. J., celebrated the life of the 20-year old junior who was a passenger on United Airlines Flight 93 that crashed near Pittsburgh, Pa., on Sept. 11.

A press conference was held before the service in front of the Mission Church, next to the temporary memorial for Bodley. Her parents, Derrill Bodley of Stockton, Calif., and Deborah Borza of San Diego, Calif., spoke to local media about their daughter. Students gathered to hear what Bodley's parents had to say.

Bodley's mother described her as a young, vibrant and fiercely independent woman who was a leader.

"As an American, I refuse to let my daughter's death be in vain. My daughter made a difference everywhere she went. Let this be our call: to live our lives in such a way that makes a difference for all fellow man with no one left out, and let her light shine brightly for all people for all time," Borza said.

She read something her daughter had written in one of her journals: "People ask who, what, where, when, why, how? I ask peace."

Bodley's parents repeatedly called for peace and tolerance among all people, and said that was what their daughter would have wanted.

"Even if the perpetrators of the crime considered it an act of Holy War, we must not retaliate in kind, as if our cause allows us to destroy innocent lives. Justice is one thing, a complicated thing, but it is not retaliation," Derrill Bodley said.

At the service, Bodley's family and friends and other members of the community gathered to remember her and celebrate her life.

The service began with the singing of "Amazing Grace," and Bodley's friend, Holli Ogle, did the first reading.

The reading and the homily given by Father Locatelli were followed by tributes to Bodley.

St. Clare School Principal Kathy Almazol recalled how the students at her school adored Bodley. Second graders, the students Bodley worked closest with, sat on the right side of the altar and sang "Amazing Grace" again.

Junior Bridget Madell, Bodley's best friend, said she had learned a lot from Bodley and looked up to her.

"She was my rock, my heart, my best friend," Madell said.

Bodley's mother thanked the community for their thoughts and prayers, and encouraged people to carry on her daughter's spirit.

"Anything that you see in my daughter is in you. If you see a bright light, you are a bright light. If you see love, you are love. If you see Heaven on Earth, you are Heaven on Earth."

Bodley's father said his daughter taught him a lot about what it means to have strong relationships with people.

Toward the end of the service, all who had gathered hugged and shook hands with those around them -- a sign of the peace that Bodley's family urged everyone to seek.