



Melissa Wooden

December 17, 1978 - October 2, 2009

Melissa was born December 17, 1978 in Boulder, Colorado to Wendy K. Wooden and Lloyd A. Quist. In 1980, the family moved to Little Falls, MN where Melissa attended North Star Academy through 3rd grade. She then attended S.G. Knight Elementary School in Randall, MN for 4th grade. And Washington Middle School in Brainerd, MN grades 5-7. She completed 9th Grade in Little Falls and finished school at Minnesota State Academy for the deaf graduating in 1997. Melissa moved to Washington D.C. where she attended Gallaudet University, graduating in 2002 with a B.A. degree in studio art, minoring in art history and graphic design. She returned to Little Falls and was a free lance designer. Melissa was offered an interim instructor job at CLC in Brainerd teaching American Sign Language (ASL) for one semester. She then taught ASL at Brainerd High School and attended St. Cloud State University. She graduated from St. Cloud State University in May, 2008 with a B.S. degree in art education which enabled her to continue to teach at Brainerd High School. She was a extremely talented, respected and dedicated teacher whose influence on her students will last their lifetime. Melissa was an activist for the deaf community and was a member of the National Association for the Deaf, (NAD). She had a passion for art, especially painting, dance and anything to do with visual arts.

She enjoyed camping, camp fires, traveling, Coach purses, watching movies and wolves. Purple was her favorite color and she loved butterflies (because they are deaf). Melissa was in love and was going to be married next June to

the love of her life, and best friend, Jim. Next to Jim, her two sisters were very important in her life, but for that matter, her whole family, friends and students. Melissa is survived by her fiancé, Jim Kleinschmidt of Little Falls, MN; Mother, Wendy Anderson and husband Ron Woolery of St. Paul Park, MN; sisters, Amanda Wooden of Little Falls, MN and Tiffany (Paul) Okroi-Hendrix of Lone Tree, CO; step-brothers, Joshua Woolery of Lakewood, CO and A1C Matthew (Sara) Woolery of Dubai; grandmother, Ferne Anderson of Lakewood, CO; grandfather, Ron Wooden & companion, Shirley Molde of Little Falls, MN; great grandmother, Ruby Anderson of Little Falls, MN; father, Lloyd Quist of CO; uncles, Gy (Gen) Wooden and family of Wheatridge, CO and Randy Anderson of Golden, CO.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the family.

www.shelleyfuneralchapels.com

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 7. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

LeMieur Funeral Home of Little Falls
214 2nd Street SE
Little Falls, MN

Visitation

OCT 8. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

LeMieur Funeral Home of Little Falls
214 2nd Street SE
Little Falls, MN

Tribute Wall



“ *Melissa Wooden*

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *Melissa was one of the people who touch your life and leave it better, just by knowing her. I had the privilage of learning ASL from her and her enthusiasim in class was alot of fun. She was such a beautiful person inside and out. I remember having to leave the light on inside the car while driving her home from mentoring a family in Avon, so we could talk and she could read my lips. I will miss her wonderful spirit , beautiful smile and lovely graceful hands.##imported-begin##Doreen Munnell-Clark##imported-end##*

October 09, 2009 at 09:48 AM



“ *Hello Jim-You have been in my thoughts and prayers this week since I have heard about the accident. Melissa sounded like an amazing person and I'm very sorry for your loss. Connie##imported-begin##Connie (Pierzinski) Hillman##imported-end##*

October 09, 2009 at 09:36 AM



“ Wendy,
I was so sorry to hear of your daughter, Melissa's sudden death.
You must be devastated. I did not know her well ,but reading and
looking @ her pictures she was both beautiful inside and out. What I
do know ,is you are a loving and caring mother.
Please accept my sympathy "Gone to soon"
Affectionately yours,
Diane###imported-begin##Diane Vonderhaar###imported-end##

October 07, 2009 at 05:58 PM



“ My Sister Melissa was a beautiful person inside and out. Her
preserverence and positivity AMAZED me. She was always there
for me and everyone. She destroyed the mold when God made
HER! I love you and should of told you more how i felt about
you.###imported-begin##Tiffany Hendrix###imported-end##

October 07, 2009 at 03:41 PM



“ I was deeply saddened to hear about the accident. Melissa was an
outstanding student of mine at SCSU in Art Education. Each
semester I share the book that she wrote in my Elementary Art
class. She was very talented and I will miss her.###imported-
begin##Kathryn Gainey###imported-end##

October 07, 2009 at 03:40 PM



“ Amanda and Family,

At a time like this no words can express the sorrow and pain of a loved ones passing. I am so sorry for your loss. Please know my thoughts and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Sue Meyer##imported-end##

October 07, 2009 at 02:35 PM



“ Amanda, My thoughts and prayers are with you in these difficult days. Deepest Sympathy,
Diane##imported-begin##Diane Trigg##imported-end##

October 07, 2009 at 10:24 AM



“ Melissa was a good friend to me and my family, she will be greatly missed! My heart goes out to her family and especially Jim. You all are in my heart and prayers.##imported-begin##Misty M. Knox##imported-end##

October 06, 2009 at 08:20 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear about Melissa. I remember her from highschool and she was a very sweet and wonderful person. My thoughts and prayers will be with all of you.##imported-begin##Stephannie Knutson (Kathrein)##imported-end##

October 06, 2009 at 02:25 PM



“ Amanda, My deepest sympathy to you and your family. I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Gloria Thom##imported-end##

October 06, 2009 at 12:41 PM



“ Melissa, you were an amazing person and a wonderful friend. You always cared for everyone and the love you had for Jim was awesome to see. I'll miss your big smile and your generous heart. I miss our car rides to SCSU together or our talks after bar close. Hard to believe that the person with the biggest heart and the person that followed all the rules and looked out for everyone else is the one that gets taken away from us. I am so going to miss you in so many ways. I am so blessed to have known you and to have had you in my life.##imported-begin##Scott Gross##imported-end##

October 06, 2009 at 12:27 PM



“ My deepest sympathy goes out to Melissa's family, friends and fiancée, Jim. It seems the earth just couldn't contain the joy of her spirit and I'm sure the angels are rejoicing in her Heavenly homecoming.
Melissa radiated enthusiasm for every aspect of her teaching. It was very contagious and touched all of her students and colleagues. Her presence brightened our classrooms and our art office. She will be truly missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to all who mourn the loss of Melissa.
Beth Medin
One of Melissa's student teaching supervisors in the BHS Art Department.##imported-begin##Beth Medin##imported-end##

October 06, 2009 at 11:39 AM



“ Wendy, I wish there was something I could say that would help you get through this horrible tragedy you and your family are faced with. Melissa was so kind and sweet and just one of those people you enjoyed running into, especially if you were having a bad day. I don't think I ever saw Melissa without a big smile on her face. I will miss running into her at the truck pulls next summer. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. God has some big plans for your wonderful daughter.##imported-begin##Dina Wuellner##imported-end##

October 06, 2009 at 10:29 AM



“ Jim - we are so sorry to hear about Melissa. We always enjoyed her company when she would come over during hunting. She was such a beautiful person. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and Melissa's family. God bless you!! Julie & Greg Yourczek##imported-begin##Julie & Greg Yourczek (Fargo, ND)##imported-end##

October 05, 2009 at 08:43 PM



“ Dear Wooden Family,

I had the opportunity to get to know Melissa through the years we were dancers together at the Gallaudet Dance Company. She always had a smile and that chapstick! She will be greatly missed, and my thoughts and prayers are with the Wooden Family, and Jim.

Sincerely,

Ali##imported-begin##Alison Handfinger##imported-end##

October 05, 2009 at 08:31 PM



“ i knew her from gallaudet.. i did help her for cheerleading try out and she was doing good... she was a very positive person... i will miss you terribly and i will think about you a lot.. God Bless you, Melissa...

Claire##imported-begin##Claire (Rawlings) Kuhn##imported-end##

October 05, 2009 at 07:48 PM



“ I am so sad.... Melissa was my and Beth Medins student teacher for art at Brainerd High School in 2008. I will remember Melissa for her charm and her spunkiness. Students loved her patience and how she was willing to share her art, her deafness and her life. She was so excited about her wedding and the plans for it. Melissa truly loved life and she loved all her friends and family passionately. I will always remember Melissa running from south campus teaching sign language and coming to north Brainerd High School to student teach art. She always had her hat on, pulled way down with a scarve wrapped around. She did not like getting cold ears. Her Nose would always be bright red, but there was always that smile on her face. I feel blessed to have been a part of her life.....I wish her family peace and the "sign" for love. That was her favorite "sign" of all. I will think of her often.... and smile. Goodbye
Melissa.##imported-begin##Lea Anderson##imported-end##

October 05, 2009 at 07:18 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. Wendy, you and your family are in our hearts and prayers. May you be given peace and comfort from your higher power.##imported-begin##Sandy Marsh ##imported-end##

October 05, 2009 at 07:05 PM



“ My deepest sympathies go out to Amanda and her family.##imported-begin##Jen Flores##imported-end##

October 05, 2009 at 06:42 PM



“ Melissa....you will be missed by us all! I truly enjoyed our time dancing together on the Gallaudet Dance Company! You were an amazing performer and beautiful signer! I will never forget your lipstick/chapstick fetish and beautiful smile! To Melissa's family and fiance...I'm truly sorry for your loss! May she rest in peace and dance gracefully up in Heaven!##imported-begin##Kirstin Ostgaard-Gill##imported-end##

October 05, 2009 at 05:09 PM



“ Melissa Wooden, you are one beautiful lady and am so proud to say that I had a great memory of you while we were roommate in Gallaudet University. I would never forget you and your chapstick. You will not be forgotten and will always remembered. May you rest in peace. Love you always.##imported-begin##Regina Daniels##imported-end##

October 05, 2009 at 04:36 PM



“ Melissa and Amanda babysat for my kids when they were very little. We have lost touch with the family through the years. I have worked in the school district with Melissa for the last few years. We are very saddened and so sorry for your loss! Mary Nagel, Jarrod & Rachael Dukowitz##imported-begin##Mary Nagel##imported-end##

October 05, 2009 at 03:54 PM



“ Jim - we are all behind you and will do anything to support you during this difficult time. Let us know when and how we can help out. Know that all of us at Boart will be keeping you in our prayers.##imported-begin##Sandy Forss for Boart Longyear##imported-end##

October 05, 2009 at 03:54 PM



“ We were all so blessed to have had the opportunity to have Melissa in our lives. I am thankful and proud to say that she was a wonderful friend. I will remember her infectious laughter and beautiful smile. My thoughts and prayers are with both Jim and Melissa's families.##imported-begin##Beth Hamlin##imported-end##

October 05, 2009 at 03:53 PM



“ Amanda and Family - My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this time of great loss. Please accept my sincere condolences.##imported-begin##Bill Bretherton##imported-end##

October 05, 2009 at 02:29 PM



“ Melissa you were my hero; you were everything I wish I could be. You were the nicest person I have ever known. The world was a better place with you in it. You had a passion for teaching and LOVED your students. Please know that I loved you so much. I will miss you and I ache to be near you just one more time. I can't wait to hang out with you in heaven.

Love your sister Amanda##imported-begin##Amanda Wooden##imported-end##

October 05, 2009 at 02:27 PM



“ We're so sorry to hear of your loss of Melissa. She was a special person that made such a difference in so many lives. May you find comfort in all the well wishes, prayers, and support from your family and friends.##imported-begin##Robin, Mike & Dylan VanOss##imported-end##

October 05, 2009 at 01:40 PM



“ Veryy Sad about you Melissa!
I havent known you to long. But the time I have. was truely special. You are one of a kind. Ill Never forget you taking me and Ashley to DSW shoes. I had such a blast with you that weekend! thank you for all the great memories! You will NEVER be forgotten! Miss you Girl. x.o.x.o.##imported-begin##Amanda McClain##imported-end##

October 05, 2009 at 12:10 PM



“ Melissa will be deeply missed by those who know and love her. I have many memories of the good times when Melissa lived with Mande and I for a short time.##imported-begin##Deb Dotzler##imported-end##

October 05, 2009 at 11:02 AM



“ We r sad for her gone, but we have a wonderful memories w her being with me three years of transportation from faribault to little falls every weekend. She is a wonderful art, many many things y love watch her laugh y beautiful smile! God will find path for her to in heaven, Amen.##imported-begin##Krista M. Gonzalez (Kjeldergaard)##imported-end##

October 05, 2009 at 10:38 AM



“ I am grateful that I got to know Melissa when we both attended to Gallaudet at the same year, and be involved in Gallaudet Dance Company. Her smile has been always brighten up in the room, and she will be missed by all of us.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Melissa's family and friends.

Love

Vicki Campbell###imported-begin##Vicki Campbell###imported-end##

October 05, 2009 at 09:52 AM



“ Melissa real so sweet, real care, great smile, sure will be missed her! I still remmy good memorie with her at courage north, and other things. Peace in rest melissa. Missed u melissa!###imported-begin##Jessie gertken###imported-end##

October 05, 2009 at 09:44 AM



“ Wendy, JimK. and families: We are so sorry for your loss. What a beautiful young woman. She has touched many lives in her short life. Prayers and comfort for all of you.###imported-begin##Darren and Deb Colombe###imported-end##

October 05, 2009 at 09:33 AM



“ I'm sad to see her go so young. She got so bright future front of her when it was rip away from her. She was so cheerful and awesome to be around even on her bad day, she still smiling. I will miss her a lot..

Love, Crystal Christen (Johnson)###imported-begin##Crystal Christen###imported-end##

October 05, 2009 at 08:18 AM



“ 2I'm sorry for your loss. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.###imported-begin##Amy Miller###imported-end##

October 05, 2009 at 12:52 AM



“ Please accept my sympathy on Melissa's death. my thoughts are with you and your family. I am very deep saddened to hear of the terrible tragedy of Melissa's death and I still CANT believe that is happen to her. she is too young for it. We will miss you so much, you always so happy, fun, such a good friends with us. You will always be in my special heart!!! I know Melissa for many years since she is little girl. she is very sweet person ever I have met her with her Mother, Wendy. I know Wendy is very lovable to Melissa for many years. Wendy do care about DEAF community. I thanks for Wendy who took care of Melissa for all of her life.. I know Wendy is very tough time to deal with what Melissa have special Life for everyone. I always love you so much. I will not forget about you.

God Bless all of you. AMEN

JoAnne and family###imported-begin##JoAnne Eberhardt###imported-end##

October 04, 2009 at 11:52 PM



“ We will miss you and love you forever.....##imported-begin##Josh and Tanya Stumpf##imported-end##

October 04, 2009 at 11:18 PM



“ Thankyou for your smile, your positive attitude...I had so much fun dancing and hearing about your purses....im going to miss you!##imported-begin##Heather Hanson##imported-end##

October 04, 2009 at 11:06 PM



“ Please know the entire Weidenbach family is keeping your family in our thoughts and prayers, at the passing of Melissa. May you find peace with the memories you have of her. I so much enjoyed any time I saw her. I recently thought of her, and the help she gave me with face painting, at the School's Winter Wonderland, last December. But, that was the caring, giving person she was. Again, we are truly sorry of your family's loss. She is riding the rainbow, with the beautiful butterflies, now. JanMarie & family##imported-begin##Jan Weidenbach (family) Lincoln Elementary PTA President##imported-end##

October 04, 2009 at 10:03 PM



“ Although words can't justify the sorrow and pain you are feeling, please know that we are thinking of you and are so deeply saddened to hear of your dear loss. We will also remember Melissa's unforgettable smile and her memories will live on forever. She had a special way of connecting with people. Jim, we are here for you.##imported-begin##Anthony and Gail Miller##imported-end##

October 04, 2009 at 10:00 PM



“ *I am deeply saddened to hear of the tragedy of Melissa's death. She did her student teaching with me at Staples Elementary a year and a half ago. She was an extremely gifted teacher and artist. This is such a loss. I am so sorry.*##imported-begin##Kay
Martin##imported-end##

October 04, 2009 at 09:45 PM