

St. Mary's College graduate killed during bicycle trip for cancer

Posted by [Dick.Myers_Editor](#) On 06/15/2014

Jamie Roberts, a staff member and assistant coach in the Catholic University Athletics Department, was killed Friday in an accident while riding her bike across country in support of cancer research. Roberts was the assistant sports information director and an assistant coach of CUA's women's basketball team for the past three years.

She was travelling in Scott County, Kentucky with a group affiliated with the Ulman Cancer Fund when she and another rider were struck by a truck traveling along U.S. 25 N. The group of five cyclists had stopped while Roberts changed a tire on her bike according to a report by the Georgetown News-Graphic. Roberts was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident. The other rider sustained non-life-threatening injuries.

CUA Athletic Director Sean Sullivan said Roberts will be remembered for "her caring nature, considerable warmth, subtle sense of humor, and consistent thoughtfulness."

"It came as little surprise to anyone who knew Jamie when she quietly revealed how she had taken up the daunting challenge of riding her bike some 4,400 miles from Baltimore to Portland to contribute to improving the quality of life for others," Sullivan said. "With little fanfare, she took on this remarkable physical and emotional quest because she felt as though others were in need and she could help. She also displayed these selfless qualities each and every day we were fortunate enough to work with her."

Roberts, was a native of Rockville, Md. She graduated in 2011 from St. Mary's College of Maryland where she majored in economics and excelled as a three-sport athlete. She played lacrosse, and was captain of the soccer and basketball teams. She was a member of the Capital Athletic Conference All-Academic Team and was named to the All-CAC Second Team for her outstanding contributions on the basketball court.

"Jamie was an incredible mentor to our young women and friend to us all," said Matthew Donohue, CUA's head women's basketball coach. "In typical Jamie fashion, she was spending her summer dedicating herself to assisting others who have been dealt some very challenging life hurdles."

Donohue said Roberts focused on player development and academic monitoring. "She worked with our girls on the court to help them build their fundamental skills, while also working with them off the court to connect them with peer tutors, academic workshops, and the like," he said.

Roberts is survived by her father, Robert; mother, Eveline; brother, Will; and sister, Julia. Information about funeral arrangements is not yet available.

In a message to athletic department staff and members of the women's basketball team, the CUA athletic director wrote: "In moments such as these, we find strength in our faith and sense of community. These are two