Corinne Jeannine Schillings



July 1, 1977 - March 6, 2004

These are the places that made Corinne who she was... and that she loved.



Born July 1, 1977, Corinne grew up in the southern Chicago suburb of **Homewood, Illinois**, with her dad Denny, mom Karen, and two years older sister Denise.



Beginning in kindergarten she attended **Churchill Elementary School** and then moved on to **James Hart Junior H.S.**, where she was in Squad. Corinne also worked during summer vacations from Purdue University.

band (oboe) and captain of the Pompon in the Homewood school district office



In 1995, Corinne graduated from **Homewood-Flossmoor High School** (where her father, Denny, taught European History). While at H-F she was a member of numerous clubs, the school band, a cheerleader, and the Pompon Squad's captain.

After high school she attended **Purdue University**, graduating in December 1999 with a B.A. in Linguistics (majoring in Italian, minoring in Spanish, and studying Portuguese and French). While at Purdue she was a member of **Alpha Gamma Delta** sorority (as was her sister Denise), and lived in the sorority house beginning her sophomore year.



During her Junior year at Purdue, Corinne studied in Florence, Italy for a semester in 1998. While in Florence



she met the love of her life **Andrew Rochelle**, also studying through one of Purdue's programs. (Even though they both attended Purdue, they had to go to Italy to meet!)



As much as Corinne loved Florence, she wanted to live in another Italian city also, so she returned the following year for a semester of study in **Milan**, **Italy**, where she lived with five Italian roommates, none of which spoke

English. But that was what she different regions of Italy (along with what it was really like to be Italian.



wanted, roommates from the five distinctively their individual dialects) so she could find out

After graduating from Purdue, in January 2000, Corinne moved to Washington, DC to become an executive assistant at the **National Italian American Foundation**. Here she was able to utilize her skills in the Italian



language and culture, often being the go-to person on important calls to Italy. While there she helped plan the annual meeting and fundraiser for the Foundation, working with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Scalena (who sent her flowers), and the famous

Italian opera singer Luciano Pavarotti (who was guest of honor for the annual event).

Corinne's first apartment in the DC area was in **Alexandria**, **Virginia**, on Van Dorn St. Every day she took the Metro to work downtown – catching it at the Pentagon Station, a very tragic place on September 11, 2001!





After a little over one year at NIAF, Corinne took a new position, becoming an executive assistant at the **CATO Institute**, a Washington, DC think tank. Soon, she moved into the web department and became Web Master of their site, continuously updating and maintaining the homepage and all its sub-pages.

In the summer of 2003, Corinne moved to a new apartment in **Arlington, Virginia**, overlooking the **Iwo Jima Memorial** and adjacent to **Arlington National Cemetary** – every evening, from the Cemetary, she could hear "Taps" at sundown, a tremendously moving experience. Her apartment looked directly over the Potomac River to the city of **Washington, DC** – what a view!





Always wanting to learn, in the Spring of 2003, she was accepted into the International Studies Masters degree program at **George Mason University** in Fairfax, Virginia. With the intent of working for the World Bank, she began taking Russian language classes, also. Ever the realist, her dad Denny said, "you realize it's not even the same alphabet?" Corinne's

response was, "I've learned the alphabet already, and my Russian instructors only write and speak in Russian... I'm fine!"

Though a world class linguist, and transplanted to Washington, DC, Corinne was still a mid-western, small-town girl, through and through. She loved coming home to dad, mom, Denise and Homewood. She especially loved the **City of Chicago** and was the biggest Christmas devotee there could be. Every year she would come home at

CityofChicago

Christmas to help mom make 225 dozen Christmas cookies (many of which she took back to Washington), and to visit downtown Chicago with its decorations and windows.