

## VIRGINIA TECH

# Anniversary of shooting marked with memorials

By Kristen Johnson  
Features Editor

One year ago today, 32 people were murdered by a senior's shooting spree on Virginia Tech's campus.

Kevin Granata and G.V. Loganathan were two of the slain innocents who graduated from Purdue.

"Everything I have heard about them is nothing but amazing," said Rachel Holloway, head of the Department of Communication at Virginia Tech and a Purdue graduate. "Their students absolutely think the world of them."

Loganathan, born in India, received his Ph.D. in civil engineering from Purdue in 1982. He started working in Virginia Tech's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in 1981, and has been honored with countless awards and achievements.

"He would never do anything without completely doing research on it. He had to be perfect in everything," said Usha Loganathan, his wife. "Even in the classroom he had to be prepared. He would try to correctly pronounce each and every student's name before class even started."

She said he loved gaining more information through reading about topics such as biology, economics and world wars. Outside of reading, he treasured spending time with his wife and two daughters.

"He always made sure that even if he couldn't come back home when the kids were home, he would call to make sure they were home and OK," she said. "Before he would even start working, he would call for at least one minute. He did that every day."

John Perumpral, who was the department head of Biological Systems Engineering before his retirement, knew Loganathan for more than 25 years through Virginia Tech and through their common birth country.



AP Photo

Virginia Tech's vice president for university relations, Larry Hinker, visits the memorial at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., April 23, 2007. Today marks the one-year anniversary of the tragedy.

According to Perumpral, also a Purdue graduate, Loganathan was modest to the point of being suspected of keeping his numerous awards in his office closet instead of displaying them on the walls.

"He was an outstanding teacher, and that is something I came to know much later," Perumpral said. "The dean of engineering used to publish a list of outstanding professors based on student evaluations, and his name was consistently on that list every semester. The students really respected him."

The second Purdue graduate lost on April 16, 2007, was Granata. He was born in Toledo, Ohio, and earned his master's degree in physics from Purdue in 1986. He has three children with his wife, Linda, who he met while on the crew team at Purdue.

>> See MEMORIAL, Page 2

## >> MEMORIAL

FROM PAGE 1

He began working at Virginia Tech in 2003 and was a professor in the Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics.

"I knew him very well. He was a good man, a good husband, great father, and an exceptional scientist," said Dr. Ishwar Puri, the head of Granata's department. "He was a firm yet gentle person."

On the day of the shootings, Granata heard gunfire ensuing on the floor beneath his office, so he brought a nearby classroom of students into his own office where they could be locked in safely. He then went to investigate the chaos with another professor and never returned.

"In the matter that he fell was a call to service and without care of his own life, with humility," Puri said. "He teaches us the power of sacrifice. He reiterates the mission we have as professors - that it is essentially to serve students."

Puri said Granata operated with the highest standards of integrity in both his personal life and in his scientific life.