Amie lives on in my heart and the hearts of others. I know I will never forget her. She was a truly exceptional person - friendly, loving, caring. She really did light up a room when she walked in, and everyone just loved her. She is still missed every day, by me and I know by so many others.

-Kristi (Samuelson) Redenius-

"The best way to keep a friend is not to give her away. Good luck in the future!

-Amie Titus-
Dear Alumnae, Family, & Friends:

The year 2008 marks a very important year for the Epsilon Omicron chapter of Delta Zeta; it is the 10-year anniversary of the untimely death of our sister, Amie Titus. Amie was killed in an alcohol-related accident just before her senior year of college at Western Illinois University. Amie was an amazing woman, and her spirit lives on in our chapter and at the university. In remembrance, I assembled this tribute to Amie. Many of you were good friends with her, and I hope that this tribute will serve as a reminder of the happiness she brought to so many lives. For those of you who never had the opportunity to meet Amie, I hope that this story will allow you to get to know her and understand the amazing person that she was.

In the Light of the Flame,

Jennifer Fredrick

In Memory of Amie Elizabeth Titus

Amie Elizabeth Titus had an amazing smile that lit up a room. She was the kind of little girl that all other little girls want to be: truly beautiful, inside and out. Born January 21, 1977 in Indianapolis, Indiana, Amie was the oldest of three children, including a younger brother and sister. Her parents, high-school sweethearts Steve and Terri Titus, are still married to this day. Amie loved spending time with her family.

A 1995 graduate of St. Charles High School, Amie was a member of the school’s Drill Team for two years. St. Charles Drill Team coach Kari Batka remembers Amie as one of the most beautiful girls she ever coached. When Amie graduated from high school, she opened a new chapter in her life, attending Western Illinois University as a business marketing major. She continued her dance career in college, serving as both a member and the co-captain of the Wranglers Pom Squad, now known as the Westernettes.

"Amie loved to DANCE and had a GREAT sense of humor… She was adored by her family and her memory and spirit for Drill Team has and will live on due to her loving memory!"

~Kari Batka~
Delta Zeta first became a part of Amie’s life in the fall of 1996 when she was selected to be a baby turtle. Amie really stood out during her new member period. It was easy to tell she loved Delta Zeta and valued the sisterhood. Kristen (Duffy) Mallett, chapter president at the time, saw the sparkle in Amie and had to have her as her “little sis.” They did endless study hours together, danced at the Delta Chi Holiday Exchange, and lived it up at formal the spring before Kristen graduated. Amie served as our chapter treasurer her junior year.

Amie had an amazing personality. She was outgoing, confident, and not afraid of anything. She was a true and loyal friend. Amie would make herself available at the drop of a dime for long talks and tried to keep those around her positive. Amie knew what it was to be a great sister and represented the Delta Zeta sisterhood well.

Amie also had a sassy side - she knew what she wanted in life and how to get it. Her best friend Kara (Brunett) Barker, said Amie was a girly girl and probably the worst to go shopping with. If you asked her which shirt she liked better, she would say “just get both!”

She had planned to live with close friend Kristi (Samuelson) Redenius her senior year. They talked about deeming the hall closet the “shoe closet.”

Amie was extremely organized, to the point of being anal. Her clothes were color coordinated, but it didn’t stop there: they were even separated by season. At the time, Amie was probably the only girl who had a toolbox.

“Amie was having the time of her life before the accident. Always moving, always going, everyone’s friend, all the boys loved her, working at the bar, going to most of her classes, and living a life that most people would really envy. Amie was one of a kind, the absolute best.

—Kara Beck—

Kristen (Duffy) Mallett, chapter president at the time, saw the sparkle in Amie and had to have her as her “little sis.” They did endless study hours together, danced at the Delta Chi Holiday Exchange, and lived it up at formal the spring before Kristen graduated. Amie served as our chapter treasurer her junior year.
Amie was very religious and spent a lot of time at First Baptist Church of Geneva, where she was very involved. She went on several mission trips to Central America, and helped build a children’s orphanage in the Dominican Republic. Her father, Steve Titus, said, "Amie just came back glowing. She just adored working with children. Her love for them was overwhelming." Amie’s ultimate goal in life was to be a mother, and she had a great start: she was changing the lives of many under-privileged boys and girls. She would have made a great mom.

The summer before Amie passed away, she was hired a college intern at Sears’ home office in Hoffman Estates, where she decided she wanted to become a buyer. She also made it down for Greek Weekend, where she and several other Delta Zetas spent part of the weekend running to all the fraternity houses in search of turtle sandboxes stolen from the Delta Zeta deck.

On July 25, 1998, Amie and her good friend David traveled to St. Louis for a wedding. The two went out for dinner and a few drinks. A few drinks turned into a few more, and before they knew it, it was time to return to their hotel. David made a quick decision: he felt that he could drive safely to the hotel. The two were headed south on northbound Interstate 55 when the car David was driving hit another vehicle head-on. Amie and two passengers in the other car were killed. David was the only survivor that horrific night.

A parent’s worst nightmare is losing a child, and that nightmare came true for Steve and Terri Titus. Amie’s death was hard for everyone who knew and loved her. Some, including Kristi (Samuelson) Redenius, felt at ease knowing that Amie’s presence was with them and that she was in a better place. Amie is up in heaven, organizing and putting make-up on the angels.

In memory of Amie, Delta Zeta has created the Amie Titus Scholarship Fund which provides scholarships to the outstanding women in the chapter. The goal is to have a self-sustaining fund. If you would like to help the chapter by making a donation, please contact Jennifer Fredrick at jenniferrose1986@yahoo.com.

She was my very best friend and I had a hard time facing the fact that she was gone. Things would happen and I wanted to tell her so bad, but I couldn’t. I had many dreams about her after she passed, it was so comforting. I can tell that she has accepted that she has left this world, but when things like this come about, I know she is just reminding people of who she was and to not forget about her.

-Kara (Brunett) Barker-

You couldn’t have asked for a better kid than Amie. She just sparkled.

~Steve Titus~