



## Rebecca Allen

July 22, 2008

Family, friends and colleagues knew Rebecca Anne-Emily Gumtow Allen as a friendly competitor in sports and a gentle soul, as a conscientious worker and an avid cyclist, as a person with ambition and a great friend, as a volunteer for charity and an advocate for environmental awareness. Rebecca, 32, died Tuesday when she was struck by a car while on a bike ride in her hometown of Fort Collins. She was wearing a helmet, reflective clothing and was in the bicycle lane. Born in Sheboygan, Wisc., on June 23, 1976, Rebecca was a graduate of Howards Grove High School. She then worked for Lear Manufacturing and decided to attend college at University of Wisconsin-Sheboygan. She transferred to Colorado State University in 2000 and received a bachelor's degree in 2002, specializing in television news and video communication. Rebecca was in the top 10 percent of College of Liberal Arts graduates, which brought cum laude distinction. She also was selected an outstanding graduate of the Department of Journalism and Technical Communication. Later, she worked for Recycled Cycles and found the person whom she would marry. "I will forever thank my lucky stars that I walked into that bike shop that day, because that day forever changed my life," Rebecca told her family. "Since that day, the mountains stand taller, the skies look bluer and the sun shines brighter, for that was the day I met Gregory." Rebecca married Gregory Douglas Allen on June 6, 2004. She is survived by husband, Gregory; parents, Gene and Maris Gumtow; in-laws, Bruce and Lesley Allen; brothers, Dave Gumtow Michelle and Jon Gumtow Liz; sister, Sherryl Herr

Mark; sister-in-law, Nicole Chavez Greg; brother-in-law, Christopher Allen; nephews, Joshua Gumtow Amanda, Jared Gumtow Teresa, Bradley Gumtow and Andrew Gumtow; nieces, Jennifer Gumtow, Royce Chavez and Madyson Rhodes; great nephew, Peyton Gumtow; and great niece, Jasmine Gumtow. Also surviving are many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. She was preceded in death by a brother, Steven, and both sets of grandparents. From her sister, Sherryl, these words: "To my baby sister -- Thank you for being the best little sister anyone could ask for. Thank you for making me proud. Thank you for always coming home to visit. No matter how much time there was between phone calls or visits, nothing could get between our eternal, unbreakable sister/friend bond. Thank you for all the memories, especially the best 4th of July just a few short weeks ago. Love you and miss you always." She loved animals, especially cat, Martha. She was a volunteer for river cleanup in Colorado and she rang the bell for Salvation Army for many years in Sheboygan. Rebecca enjoyed camping, hiking, snowboarding, gardening, landscaping, and cycling. She was a participant in the Green Movement and politely urged colleagues to "think green," including making a habit of recycling of materials and biking to work whenever possible. Her message was heard and several people now think green, and will continue those thoughts in her memory. Prior to joining the CSU Department of Journalism and Technical Communication during summer 2007 as undergraduate administrator, Rebecca had worked for the CSU Benefits office and the CSU Instructional Services office, then was a writer with Sierra Trading Post in Cheyenne. Rebecca had enrolled in graduate school classes at CSU and planned to earn a master's degree to enhance her career as an advisor. Rebecca was a great friend to colleagues in the JTC Department at the university. She was a stellar employee whose wonderful spirit made it easy for colleagues to ask for her help concerning university procedures and academic advising. Students realized she would spend whatever time necessary to help them with planning and scheduling. In her year as undergraduate program administrator she made a dramatic impact on the department. Rebecca loved

her job and took a personal interest in helping hundreds of students, devoting her full effort to assist each individual. A Celebration of Rebecca's Life will be held at 1 p.m., today at the C.S.U. Oval, Southeast Corner, Entrance to the Oval is on Howes St. off of Laurel. Memorial contributions can be made to the Rebecca Allen Memorial Television Alumni Scholarship in care of the Colorado State University Foundation. Friends may send condolences to the family at [bohlenderfuneralchapel.com](http://bohlenderfuneralchapel.com). Friends may send condolences to the family at [bohlenderfuneralchapel.com](http://bohlenderfuneralchapel.com).