

**Prayer for Chase Heger
Convocation
November 26, 2006
By D'Esta Love, University Chaplain**

There are times in the life of every family or community when we pause to give thanks as we have just done during our Thanksgiving break. There are also times when we pause to remember and to mourn the loss of family and community members. I am certain that many of you are aware of the tragic death of Chase Heger, a freshman journalism major from Laguna Niguel, California, who was killed in an automobile accident on PCH the weekend before our Thanksgiving break. The funeral service for Chase was this past week, but we wanted to take this time to remember Chase and offer a prayer for his family and particularly for his brother Chad, who is a senior at Seaver College.

We also want you to know that there will be an informal gathering at 8pm this evening in the Faculty Dining room for any of you who would like to participate in a time of open sharing and prayer. A scrapbook is being prepared to present to the Heger family in tribute to Chase's time as a Pepperdine student. If you have something to contribute, please feel free to bring it. As part of the gathering tonight Chad Heger will share some memories of his brother, Chase. If you would like more information about this event, please contact the Dean of Students Office. It is tonight at 8pm in the Faculty dining room, which is in TCC next door to the Fireside Room.

We also want to acknowledge that Seaver students Taylor and Zach Zienart recently lost their younger brother, Grant, also in a tragic accident. He was a sophomore in High School in Houston, Texas. Taylor and Zach have been with their family and have now returned to Malibu and we want to include them in our prayer as well.

Let's begin with a short moment of silence.

Our father in heaven—full of grace and tender mercies-- our hearts are heavy today as we mourn the tragic loss of these young men so full of life and full of promise for the future. We struggle to find the words to express our grief, but we turn in faith to you and beseech you, loving father, to draw near to these families in their grief. Stay with them, comfort them, heal their wounded hearts, sustain them by your mercy, and give them precious memories of their dear sons that they might hold them close and treasure them for a lifetime.

We pray today for all who mourn the loss of Chase Heger—for his friends who are here and the faculty who were blessed to know him. We pray for Chad as he returns to his studies. May he draw strength and comfort from those who offer their love and support. Speak words of comfort and peace to his heart and give him strength for each day.

We pray for Taylor and Zach as they resume their studies, while mourning the loss of their brother, Grant. In your mercy grant them peace and sustain them by your grace.

We pray for our community. May we be instruments of your loving concern, your comfort, and your healing love as we minister to and mourn with Chase, and Taylor and Zach. Bless them and their families and bless all who are in need this day of your loving care.

In the name of your dear son, who died that we might live, Amen