



Obituary: Tyler J. Johnson

Tyler James Johnson, age 30, mathematician, physicist, photographer, and mountaineer, was killed from a fall due to an avalanche while on a solo expedition in the Corsican mountains of France, December 26, 2009. He was born June 2, 1979 in Ingham County, Michigan, to James and Patrice (Weddon) Johnson and preceded in death by his maternal grandparents (Edward and Willah Weddon) and paternal grandfather (Kenneth G. Johnson). Tyler is survived by his parents (Dansville, MI), sister Kelsey Johnson (Philadelphia, PA), grandmother Winnifred Johnson (Stockbridge, MI) and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Tyler graduated from Downingtown High School, PA, as an Advanced Placement scholar, skateboarder, martial artist, filmmaker and inaugural president of the Physics Club. He completed a Bachelor of Science degree in physics from the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, as one of two Presidential Merit Scholars and was published in scholarly journals for research in both theoretical physics and artificial intelligence. Tyler, who spoke fluent Chinese and French, traveled extensively throughout the US, China, and Australia. During the past six years in Corsica, he befriended dozens of people, hiked nearly all 214 summits greater than 2000 meters, and co-founded Solaria, a non-profit association that designs solar technology to power affordable, easily-constructed stoves for residents of third-world countries.

Services will be held at the United Methodist Church in Stockbridge, MI at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 30, 2010. The family will receive friends at a fellowship reception following the service. All are welcome. In addition, people are invited to view and comment on the memorial blog, <http://www.tylerjohnsonmemorial.wordpress.com>. Tyler will be remembered for his kind and friendly nature, leadership, creative passion, independence, optimism, and idealistic vision of how things should, and could, be. Donations in his memory may be made to Solaria.