Kevin P. Granata, Ph.D., 45, lost his life as a result of the tragic incident at Virginia Tech on April 16, 2007.

Dr. Granata was a professor in the Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics at Virginia Tech, a core faculty member in the VT-WFU School of Biomedical Engineering and Sciences (SBES), the chair of the SBES curriculum committee, and co-Director of the Musculoskeletal Biomechanics Laboratory. He was widely published and cited. His research interests included age and gender factors influencing neuromuscular control of balance and stability, occupational factors influencing risk of musculoskeletal load and instability, neuromuscular performance in voluntary and involuntary control and computational and robot simulation of balance and legged locomotion. His study in recent years of cerebral palsy drew on much of his expertise in these areas.

Prior to his appointment at Virginia Tech in 2003, Dr. Granata graduated with a Ph.D. from The Ohio State University in 1993. He held a full time appointment in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at the University of Virginia (UVA) from May 1997 to January 2003, when he took up his appointment at Virginia Tech. Since 2003 he had continued his orthopedic research at UVA as an adjunct faculty member.

In an interview with the Associated Press, Ishwar K. Puri, the head of the Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics, described Dr. Granata as one of the top five biomechanics researchers in the country working on movement dynamics in cerebral palsy.

He is survived by his parents, a brother, two sisters, his wife Linda and three children, Alex, Eric, and Ellen.

We will continue to invent the future through our blood and tears and through all our sadness ... We will prevail ... We are Virginia Tech.

-- Nikki Giovanni, University Distinguished Professor, poet, activist