



## Amanda Diane Raffenaud

September 17, 1980 - April 3, 2023

Amanda Diane Raffenaud, 42, of Casselberry, FL passed away Monday, April 3, 2023. She was born September 17, 1980, in Winter Park, Florida, the daughter of Jerry Wayne Waddell and Diane Hutcheson Chavis.

She married James Raffenaud in 2000 and was widowed in 2016. They have two beautiful, brave boys - James Caspian (22) and Luke Pierre (17). Of all the roles Amanda played, she most cherished her role as mom to Jimmy and Luke. They were the loves of her life.

Amanda grew up in Central Florida, graduating from the Master's Academy (1999) and from the University of Central Florida (2004) with a Bachelor's degree in Health Services Administration. She continued on at UCF and subsequently earned her Master's degree in Health Services Administration (2006) and her Doctorate in Public Affairs (2018).

Through teaching, research, administration, and service, Amanda served in multiple roles in the higher education community at both UCF (2004-2016) and AdventHealth University (2016-2023). She also taught at Rollins College, Valencia Community College, and Brown University. In the midst of teaching, Amanda published in peer-reviewed journals, contributed to many healthcare administration textbooks, and delivered countless podium and poster presentations, all in the name of advancing the field with meaningful research

findings. In April 2016 she was awarded the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award at UCF. Most recently, she was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor at AHU in 2021.

Throughout her educational and professional pursuits, Amanda's greatest joy was rooted in her deep passion for educating and supporting students in their personal growth and professional development. She prioritized the well-being of her students, recognizing that their mental, emotional, and spiritual health were critical to their success. Amanda saw service as an essential part of her ministry and work, embracing her role not just to teach but to inspire and guide students to become compassionate and engaged members of their communities. Her dedication to these values made Amanda a truly exceptional educator and mentor.

As impressive as Amanda's educational and career accomplishments are, they are dwarfed by the beautiful, miraculous ocean of love she built around her boys. Her nurturing care and attentive support for Jimmy and Luke never waned, even in the face of overwhelming and unthinkable challenges. To know Amanda and her boys, and to see how she cared for them, was to witness the purest, fiercest, warmest, truest love that has ever been and ever will be.

Amanda somehow also had an incredible surplus of love and care that she shared generously with her expansive community of family and friends. To know Amanda was to be loved by Amanda - and to be loved by Amanda was to know a deep, abiding love. Amanda's community reciprocated by showering her and her family with love a thousand times over in a million different ways, both material and intangible. Every single meal delivered, text message sent, ride offered, hand held, card written, and moment shared is a testament to how important Amanda was to her people, and how important her people were to her.

After her cancer diagnosis in December of 2018, Amanda made it her mission to live even more fully - to chase life and joy, especially alongside her boys. The life pulsing through her was undeniable and contagious; unarguable evidence that Jesus brings beauty from ashes. She kept her “eyes up,” believing that God was still writing the most beautiful story - and she is still teaching us to do the same.

In addition to her boys and parents she is survived by her sister Katie Sanders (Travis) and nephew Henry; her sister Jessica Waddell Tabor (Luke); her sister-in-law Danielle Hudson and her children, Averie, Zachary, Faith, and Grace; her in-laws, Patsy Grannan (Mike) and Pierre Raffenaud (Marcella); along with many beloved aunts, uncles, and cousins.

She is preceded in death by her paternal grandparents, Wayne and Octavia Waddell, her maternal grandparents; Everett and Ellen Hutcheson; her uncle, Charlie White; her aunt and uncle, Nancy and Tom Burgiss; her step-mother, Sheryl Waddell; and her most loyal pup, Leo.

Amanda’s Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, April 15, 2023, at 10:30 am at Grace Church - 2300 Pembroke Drive in Orlando.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the causes close to Amanda’s heart:

METAvivor

Joining the chorus of the metastatic breast cancer (MBC) community - Amanda always said, “Stage 4 Needs More” - teaching us that only 5-10% of research dollars go to stage 4 breast cancer research. METAvivor, a volunteer-led, non-profit organization, exists to sustain hope for those living

with stage 4 metastatic breast cancer, funding vital research to help improve the longevity and quality of life for MBC patients. Please visit <https://bit.ly/donatemetavivor> and select, in the pink box, "In memory of." If you would like the family to be made aware of the gift, please include [RememberingAmanda2023@gmail.com](mailto:RememberingAmanda2023@gmail.com) for the recipient's email.

#### AdventHealth University

The Amanda Raffenaud Memorial Scholarship will provide an opportunity for AHU students to continue their studies despite hardships and challenges they face. The scholarship continues to demonstrate Amanda's legacy of selfless giving and commitment to guiding and inspiring students to achieve their professional goals. Please visit <https://bit.ly/donateAHU>.

# Tribute Wall

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“ Amanda was a great friend of mine in Elementary school. Jimmy was also a friend of mine in High School. She was always kind to me at Northland Church, and at Lake Orienta, I fell out of touch after High School but my condolences to the family and her young sons.

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**Jimmy** - August 21, 2024 at 12:15 PM