

Tears for an angel



Grieving: Parents Wu Liping and her husband, He Fa Heng

Picture: Ella Pellegrini

Mourners pay tribute to a life cut tragically short

By CLAIRE HARVEY

BE generous and loving. Wu Liping taught her daughter. Listen before you speak; always act with dignity. In her short life, Mrs Wu's daughter did all those things and much more.

Yesterday, hundreds of mourners gathered to remember her as a bright, kind, beautiful young lady, a girl whose smile lit up the college where she studied and who always thanked her teachers at the end of each class.

In a three-hour ceremony at Sydney Olympic Park, Buddhist nuns sang blessings over the 18-year-old's white coffin, as diplomats, politicians and Chinese community members spoke of their grief over her horrific death.

At the centre of it all was the unspeakable suffering of Mrs Wu and husband, He Fa Heng. "She was our only daughter, such a motivated, intelligent, lovely, personable girl," Mrs Wu said in her eulogy, struggling to keep her sobs under control. "She brought so much joy to us during her short life; she was like an angel, who has always made us proud of her."



Loss: A cherished daughter

Weeping throughout the service, Mrs Wu patiently stood to exchange bows and embraces with her daughter's classmates and friends, themselves struggling to cope with the trauma of her alleged murder on October 25 in a violent home invasion.

Her boyfriend, a Korean student, 19, is in hospital.

He is recovering from multiple fractures he sustained when the



Sorrowful farewell: Yesterday's funeral for the murdered student

students tried to jump for their lives from their Waterloo balcony, after allegedly being sexually abused along with two other flatmates inside their apartment.

The most astonishing thing about yesterday's funeral was a complete absence of anger.

Instead, the mood was simple sorrow, as police detectives and diplomats shed tears alongside the multitude of students.

Mrs Wu thanked Chinese consulate staff and police, who have charged Brendan David Dennis, 26, with 21 offences, including murder and aggravated sexual assault.

"Thank you Sydney police for your efforts; I believe this criminal will be punished as he deserves," Mrs Wu said, adding even before her daughter's death, 2008 has been "such an unfortunate year". Mrs Wu lost her home and business in the May earthquake in Sichuan, China.

Through the service, Mr Fa did not cry; but as he watched his stepdaughter's coffin loaded into the hearse, he put his arm around his wife's shoulders and spoke softly to her as Mrs Wu nodded, clutching a tissue.

Their daughter, who cannot be named because of a court suppression order, was cremated after the service.

See the video of the funeral online at: sundaytelegraph.com.au

Experts whip up praise for wooden spoon

USEFUL KITCHEN TOOLS

1. Wooden spoon
2. Metal grater
3. Automatic food mixer
4. Stick blender
5. Food processor
6. Vegetable mill
7. Wooden spatula
8. Tongs
9. Y-shaped peeler
10. Mortar and pestle



By ELLE HALLIWELL

WOODEN spoons are the most useful kitchen tools invented, a panel of culinary experts has found.

The simple utensil outranked the metal grater and the KitchenAid mixer to top a list of the world's most useful cooking utensils.

Celebrity chef Jamie Oliver and food writer Tom Parker Bowles were among 33 foodies recruited by British magazine Waitrose Food Illustrated to decide which items made the cut.

The Bamix stick blender and the compact Magimix food processor rounded off

the top five useful gadgets. Function triumphed over form with the Philippe Starck-designed Alessi Juicy Salif lemon squeezer topping a list of most useless items. But Greekalicious cooking school founder Maria Benardis was surprised that the panel had shunned the garlic press.

"I can't live without my garlic crusher," she said. "I use a lot of garlic and I find it crushes it better than using a chef's knife."

Ms Benardis said the list reinforced the idea that people didn't need to overload kitchens with every new gadget on the market.

"I believe less is best," she said. "The only electrical items I have is a Bamix and a blender. Everything else is done with a good kitchen knife... important to have."

Freelance interior stylist Jo Carmichael said displaying practical items that were also beautifully designed made the kitchen more attractive to spend time in.

"The KitchenAid (mixer) is beautiful — it's something you wouldn't mind having on your bench and it's very useful," she said.

"The Alessi products? Not as functional as the basic things but they add fun and interest to your kitchen."

AND USELESS

1. Philippe Starck's lemon squeezer (below)
2. Garlic press
3. Bread maker
4. Egg poacher
5. Milk frother

