

Student Killed At UConn Remembered With Love

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STORRS -- As police continued their search on Monday for the motorist who struck and killed a UConn freshman early Saturday, family members issued a plea for the driver to come forward.

"You have taken our precious daughter from this world," the parents of Carlee A. Wines said in a written statement released by police. "We pray and beg for you to now take responsibility."

Wines, 19, was struck at 1:49 a.m. by a white or light-colored Ford SUV or pickup truck as she was in the crosswalk on North Eagleville Road near the Chemistry Building on campus, police said. She was critically injured by the impact and died early Monday at Hartford Hospital.

In an effort to track down the driver, police said, they are conducting an extensive investigation and have talked to thousands of people.

"Hundreds of vehicles were stopped during a Saturday night into early Sunday morning police informational roadblock," said Robert S. Hudd, UConn Chief of Police.

Family and friends Monday were reeling from the loss.

"We are living through a parent's worst nightmare," her parents, Pam Wines and Steven Wines, said in the statement. "For those who ever met our daughter, Carlee, even for a second, knew that she was a special young lady and that in some way [she] touched each and every one of their hearts."

Corey Schwitz, Wines' boyfriend, said Monday that he was planning to spend the rest of his life with her.

"She was the best girl, she told you she loved you every single day," said Schwitz, who talked to Wines daily and had done so hours before the hit-and-run. "And you knew she always meant it."

Last year at Valentine's Day, Wines decorated his bedroom with chocolates, candies and pictures of the two of them together, said Schwitz, who attends Bucknell University in Pennsylvania

The two were friends since they were 11 growing up in Manalapan, N.J. A shaken Schwitz said they always had fun together.

"She made everyone around her feel so good," said Schwitz.

He also said Wines loved and admired her mother.

According to Wines' personal online profile, she loved dancing, running and playing Super Nintendo. She also liked Spiderman, "Everything '80s" and eating chocolate-covered Oreos. Her favorite books included "To Kill a Mockingbird" and "The Giver."

She was a member of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority studying pre-kinesiology at UConn.

She worked as a waitress at a delicatessen in her hometown of Manalapan and would return to the job when she was on school breaks. Her co-workers there said Monday that Wines was always upbeat and energetic.

"She was a lovely girl, inside and out," said Cindy Mannon, who worked with her at the restaurant.

John R. Saddelmire, vice president for Student Affairs at UConn, said no on-campus memorial services have been scheduled.

Police are asking anyone with information about the incident to call 860-486-4800. Any information could be helpful, said Maj. Ronald Blicher of UConn Police.

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