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BROCKTON

Crash kills student about to graduate

By Matt Rocheleau | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT MAY 19, 2013

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A 21-year-old Brockton man died in a car accident in Connecticut one day before he was scheduled to graduate from Fairfield University, school officials said.

Deandre Lawton died early Saturday morning from injuries suffered in a one-car accident in Fairfield, according to a statement from the university.

Lawton was scheduled to graduate on Sunday at the Jesuit university's 63d annual undergraduate commencement, where about 860 diplomas were awarded, officials said.

He was enrolled in the Charles F. Dolan School of Business, school officials said.

“The tragedy has shaken the entire community and all are profoundly saddened by the loss of a valued member of the Fairfield family,” the university’s statement said. “All in the Fairfield community are invited to prayer for Deandre, his family and friends.”

Fairfield police said in a statement that a 2009 Ford Fusion that Lawton was driving crashed into a tree near North Benson Road at the main entrance to the university’s campus at about 4:30 a.m.

Lawton was taken to Bridgeport Hospital, where he was pronounced dead, the police statement said.

The accident was under investigation.

Campus officials, including counseling services staff, ministry, and residence life workers, were made available to help students and others cope with Lawton’s death.

The university’s statement said plans are being arranged for prayer and memorial services.

About 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students attend Fairfield University.

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at matthew.rocheleau@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](https://twitter.com/mrochele).

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