



She isn't losing her grandpa to dementia.

HOSP
BUFF
Where hope

The Buffalo News

Saturday, March 24, 2007

Home > Latest Local News

Effect of 2005 bike accident proves fatal in Main St. crash

Driver's body stiffened, pushing on gas pedal

By Jay Rey NEWS STAFF REPORTER

Updated: 03/24/07 7:00 AM

A bicycle accident in Italy during the summer of 2005 left Stefano A. Moran- Guiati with a traumatic brain injury and doubts from doctors that the City Honors graduate would even survive. Not only did he live — he thrived.

He graduated cum laude from the University at Buffalo and went on to teach Italian at Buffalo State College, holding dreams of one day returning to Italy, a country he loved.

His life came to a tragic end Friday. Moran-Guiati, 23, of Ashland Avenue, died of injuries suffered in a horrific accident Thursday night on Main Street.

The crash appears to have been triggered by a seizure, an unexpected effect from his brain injury less than two years ago.

“It was definitely related,” said his father, Andrea Guiati.

Moran-Guiati was driving east on Main Street just after 7 p.m. Thursday when he complained about shortness of breath, a friend who was in the car told the family. His body stiffened, pushing down on the gas pedal.

The BMW accelerated off the right side of Main Street, striking a light pole, concrete parking bumper and a tree before stopping on a grassy area in front of Bennett High School.

He later died in Erie County Medical Center.

After Moran-Guiati's 2005 injury, doctors told Andrea, and his wife, Prish, that their son may have to take epilepsy drugs if serious symptoms arose, Guiati said.

Until Thursday, none did.

“None whatsoever,” Guiati said Friday.



Stefano A. Moran-Guiati was hit by a car while bicycling in Florence, Italy, in 2005.

Moran-Guiati, a 2001 graduate of City Honors High School, was a UB student serving as an intern at a U.S. consulate in Florence, Italy, in 2005 when he was struck by a car while riding a bicycle.

After three brain surgeries, days in a drug-induced coma and six weeks in an intensive care unit, Moran-Guiati pulled through and returned to Buffalo in late August 2005.

“He was strong-willed,” his father said. “He fought, and he fought, and he made it.”

“He literally walked out of the hospital,” said his aunt, Diane Moran. “It was a miracle.”

The young man’s death Friday was particularly personal for many people in the community, who followed his recovery from the brain injury two years ago.

At that time, people held prayer vigils and sent e-mails back and forth to check on his status, said Janet Ramsey, dean of University College at Buffalo State College, where Andrea Guiati is a professor of modern and classical languages.

They cheered Moran-Guiati from afar when he regained consciousness.

“We all felt very much involved since his accident two years ago,” Ramsey said. “I think two years later, people were pretty much feeling, ‘Great, life is back to normal.’ ”

Moran-Guiati had been tested after his 2005 accident, but there were no lingering symptoms other than an occasional headache, his aunt said.

He went back to UB, still weak and 40 pounds lighter, but graduated in May 2006 with a 3.3 grade-point average and a bachelor’s degree in aerospace engineering.

After graduation, Moran-Guiati sought employment in Italy — where he held citizenship and his father is a native — but was unhappy with the job prospects and returned to Buffalo, family said.

Fluent in Italian, Moran-Guiati filled in as an Italian instructor at Buffalo State until this year, when he taught two introductory classes of his own.

He took a graduate course at night, loved soccer and was still close to his friends from City Honors.

He was remodeling a home on the West Side with his mother, his aunt said, and was eager to move in within a matter of days.

Besides his father and mother, Moran-Guiati is survived by a younger brother and sister.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo, 695 Elmwood Ave.

jrey@buffnews.com

© 2007 The Buffalo News. The information you receive online from The Buffalo News is protected by the copyright laws of the United States.

The copyright laws prohibit any copying, redistributing, re-transmitting, or re-purposing of any copyright-protected material.