



Michael Foreman (left) and his older brother Matt Foreman.

Throughout the past week students, faculty members, staff members and family have mourned the loss of James Michael Elzar Foreman. A memorial was held on Sunday at Lea Funeral Home in Raleigh, Foreman's hometown.

Last spring, Foreman took medical leave from school for the rest of the semester after he was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and was involved in a serious car accident. Bipolar disorder, also known as manic-depressive illness, is characterized by extreme shifts in a person's mood.

His mother, Margaret Foreman, described Michael as selfless, caring and very passionate.

"He met no strangers," she said. "He had the warmest, most genuine smile and he was so personable." This sentiment is shared by many who knew Michael.

"He was always bright and awake and always seemed to cheer people up, even at 8 a.m. in our college writing class," freshman Michael Boglovits said.

Foreman was a communications major and had a passion for film and editing. In middle and high school he made videos instead of posters or handouts for projects in many of his classes. He also made several videos for former North Carolina Chief Justice Fry, a close friend of the family.

While in middle school, instead of asking for CDs or clothes like most kids, he asked his mother for software to teach himself how to take and edit video.

Foreman became Director of Operations for all film and broadcasting at William G. Enloe High School in Raleigh.

He received much recognition for his academic, athletic and musical achievements. He attended elementary, middle and high schools for gifted students, and played cello, piano, organ and trumpet. He also played JV basketball, but quit when he was discouraged by the violent competitiveness his teammates displayed. He "didn't sweat the small stuff," his mother said.

She stressed the importance of community service in Foreman's life. He was involved in programs in middle and high school for which he had to do community service at soup kitchens and elderly homes, which he always looked forward to.

"He believed that life is about trying to make a difference in this world," she said. "He always cared about the downtrodden, the less fortunate, the people in need."

From helping his counselors at his YMCA after school program clean up sports equipment to fixing his teachers' computers, Michael was constantly helping others.

“He had a lot of great things planned for the world and for his own life. He kept me motivated and thinking good thoughts,” Boglovits said. “He empowered us to try to make a difference in the world.”

Foreman was a very spiritual person, and his mother said that his faith guided him in a lot of the things he did with his life.

“We mourn for our own loss, but Mike fulfilled his journey,” Margaret said. Foreman’s mother emphasized that he did more for others in his 19 years than many do in a lifetime.

A scholarship fund in Michael’s name has been set up. Contributions can be made by making checks payable to Elon University for the James Michael Elzar Foreman Scholarship Fund.

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