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Chapman University to Honor Joplin Tornado Victim Will Norton

ORANGE, Calif., May 29, 2011 Chapman University will remember Will Norton, the incoming freshman film major from Joplin, Missouri who died in the May 22 tornado that struck that city, with a memorial event in his honor this August during fall orientation week, Chapman President James L. Doti announced today. President Doti also said that Nortons name will be inscribed on the Wall of Student Honor in the Chapman University Columbarium (www.chapman.edu/chapel/columbarium.asp).

The 18-year-old budding filmmaker had been accepted into Chapmans highly competitive Dodge College of Film and Media Arts as a film production major, and would have started classes when the fall semester begins this August. During the EF5 tornado that devastated Joplin on May 22, Norton, who was driving back home from his high school graduation with his father, was pulled out of the sunroof of their vehicle by the force of the storm. After a days-long search, his body was finally discovered in a pond near where the vehicle had flipped.

In spite of fading hopes that Will would be found alive, the finality of his loss was truly tragic, said President Doti. The fact that he will not be joining our university this August means that our learning community has lost a vibrant and original spirit. The hearts of everyone in our Chapman community go out to Wills family and friends in this time of immeasurable loss.

Further details of the memorial event and Wall of Honor inscription will be released as plans are finalized.

ABOUT CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

www.chapman.edu

Chapman University, founded in 1861, is one of the oldest, most prestigious private universities in California. Chapmans picturesque campus is located in the heart of Orange County one of the nations most exciting centers of arts, business, science and technology and draws outstanding students from across the United States and around the world. Known for its blend of liberal arts and professional programs, Chapman University encompasses seven schools and colleges: Wilkinson College of Humanities and Social Sciences, George L. Argyros School of Business and Economics, Lawrence and Kristina Dodge College of Film and Media Arts, Schmid College of Science, College of Performing Arts, School of Law and College of Educational Studies. Named to the list of top universities in the nation by U.S. News & World Report and the Princeton Review, Chapman University enrolls more than 6,000 undergraduate, graduate and law students.