Photography student dies in head-on collision

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St. Edward's University student, Emily Palmer-Dunham, died in the early morning hours of Oct. 23 in a car accident on MoPac Boulevard.

Robert Murphy Jr. also died in the accident when Palmer-Dunham, 26, drove her Honda Civic southbound on the northbound lanes of the highway and hit Murphy's Chevrolet Malibu head on.

Murphy, a 48-year-old man and father of three was the manager of the command and control center of FreightWatch International, an Austin-based security company. He was pronounced dead after being rushed to St. David's Round Rock Medical Center, according to the Austin Police Department.

Palmer-Dunham was estimated to be traveling up to 80 mph and was pronounced dead at the scene at about 12:52 a.m. on Oct. 23.

She was a native of Iowa and a senior studying Photocommunications. Palmer-Dunham was in her final semester.

"Emily always made her own way," Stephen Dunham, her father, said. "She was not really a joiner. She was quite unique."

During this difficult time, Dunham said his family feels "incredibly blessed to be surrounded by so much love and support."

A fellow Photocommunications student, Senior Brittany Laurent, described Palmer-Dunham's work as "both refined and complex."

"Emily's photographs, much like her, have always resonated in me a strong sense of sincerity," Laurent said. "She was a beautiful woman with an eye and spirit for the like."

According to her obituary from Gay & Ciha Funeral and Cremation Services in her hometown Iowa City, Iowa, Palmer-Dunham was born in Milwaukee, Wis., to Stephen Dunham and Donna Palmer.

Before moving to Austin, Palmer-Dunham lived in Iowa City where she studied cello at the Preucil School of Music, graduated from City High School in 2005 and attended the University of Iowa for three years.

Palmer-Dunham's immediate family includes her father Stephen Dunham, her stepmother Lora Morgan Dunham, her grandmother Dorothy Dunham and her stepbrother Benjamin Morgan. Her mother, three grandparents and her uncle preceded her in death.

Bill Kennedy, associate professor of Photocommunications, described Palmer-Dunham as a bright light and an inspiration.

"Emily was a very talented photographer with a bright discrimination | 3

Student witnesses Egypt differently than the media portrayal

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If you go to your average news source right now and search for Coptic Christians, another name for Egyptian Christians, one is likely to find hundreds of images of burned churches, shops and homes.

You will find literature on how they have been attacked, persecuted and their communities maimed under a Muslim majority.

Yet St. Edward’s Senior Matthew Aragones just returned from Egypt and has a different story.

“The media has yet to show the willingness of Muslims and Christians to seek reconciliation between each other.”

-Matthew Aragones

from what he described as a ‘pilgrimage’ to go visit the Coptic Christians, an Eastern sect of Christianity that has been in Egypt since 50 A.D. He was part of a church group whose goal was to “be present” with these communities knowing that before any help could be provided or missionaries planned, first they had to listen to their stories.

After spending a week going around the country to Suez and Cairo to Coptic monasteries in the desert as well as meeting with different people to understand the issue, he explained that the...