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# Dixon's death ends Faulkner trial

## Apparent suicide under investigation by SBI

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News Editor

Former UNCW student Curtis Dixon died December 9, 2004 from injuries sustained by an attempted suicide before standing trial for the murder of former UNCW student Jessica Faulkner.

Dixon apparently attempted suicide at the Polk Youth Institute where he broke away from guards and jumped head-first, falling three stories, from a staircase.

Dixon was in critical condition before he was removed from life support, and died shortly after.

Since Dixon's death, Chancellor DePaolo has released a statement regarding the details of the Jessica Faulkner case that were previously unavailable due to federal privacy laws.

DePaolo explains how Dixon was admitted to UNCW despite inaccuracies in his application and transcripts.

James Dixon, Curtis Dixon's father and Executive Assistant to the Chancellor at UNC Charlotte, faxed Dixon's transcripts to Special Assistant to former Chancellor Leutze, Mark Lanier.

All transcripts indicated that Curtis had been home schooled for



Photo by Wilmington Star-News

his entire high school career and achieved a 1070 on his SAT's.

Only after Faulkner's slaying did authorities begin to discover the inaccuracies in these documents.

After an investigation it became

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*-Chancellor DePaolo*

apparent that not only had Dixon not been home schooled for his entire high school career but he also attended the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and had been convicted of a misdemeanor larceny – all of which were falsified on his admissions documents.

Chancellor DePaolo has addressed the problem about inaccuracies in admissions applications.

"As a result of the information

we obtained about the discrepancies in Curtis Dixon's admissions application, I asked for a review of our admissions procedures and decided to implement immediately an additional question designed to explain any gaps in an applicant's academic history," DePaolo explains.

She adds, "I also established two campus task forces to review education and safety at UNCW.

The campus task forces provide recommendations to help establish accuracy and honesty on all applicants' admissions documents by implementing information-checking and information-sharing between educational institutes.

"The only consolation I can bring from this catastrophe is to make UNCW better informed about issues such as stalking, potentially dangerous relationships, and campus safety. Not even the best background checks can entirely and utterly eliminate the risk of a potentially dangerous student being enrolled. But becoming a model for campus safety is what we must aim for, to bring good from the tragedy of young lives cut so tragically short", said DePaolo.

**Former UNCW student Curtis Dixon enters the courtroom in chains. He attempted suicide on Dec. 7 rather than stand trial on the charge of murder. He was taken off life support Dec. 9.**

**April 2003** – James E. Dixon III contacts UNCW to ask if his son can still apply for admission. It will later be found that several parts of the application, including Curtis Dixon's prior criminal record, were falsified.

**Fall 2003**  
Jessica Faulkner and Curtis Dixon meet. They lived on the same floor of Cornerstone Hall.

**January 2004**  
Dixon changes his class schedule to attend four of his five classes with Faulkner. He also signs up for a university-sponsored trip to Belize with Faulkner.

**Spring 2004** Faulkner talks about Dixon with her parents. She refers to him as "creepy" and "a stalker." She tells them that she would rather handle the situation by herself.

**May 4**  
Faulkner, Dixon and mutual friends have a small going-away party in Dixon's room. Everyone but Dixon leaves the room by 11:00PM.

Dixon contacts Faulkner via instant message and invites her back to his room, supposedly to give her a present.

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