Babson crash ends in tragedy

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Tragedy hit close to home this past Tuesday, Apr. 24, when two Babson College students died in a car crash. At 11:15 p.m., Ishfaq Moinuddin '09 and Angad Sawhney '09 crashed into a large tree on Forest Street, less than a half-mile away from Babson’s campus. Moinuddin, the driver, was driving his Porsche Cayman well over the 30 mph speed limit and hit several trees before stopping at the last. The car immediately burst into flames on impact.

According to The Boston Globe, Moinuddin of Dhaka, Bangladesh, and Sawhney of Mahwah, N.J., were returning from a dinner off campus with other Babson friends. Those students returned in a separate car. The Wellesley Police determined that none of the students had been drinking or drag racing.

Speeding was not new to Moinuddin, who received a speeding ticket in the town of Wellesley this past February. This fault appeared insignificant, however, in light of the admiration of his fellow Babson students. Jeff Pfeffer '09 said that Moinuddin was well-liked by all his classmates. "He was in my math class. Ishfaq was quiet and reserved, but always really nice. He was a good student, didn't drink, and was just a nice person," Pfeffer said. Though Pfeffer only knew Sawhney through his resident advisor, he said, "Angad was always really nice."

The loss of Moinuddin and Sawhney struck the campus hard. Six hundred of the 1,700 Babson students attended the two remembrance ceremonies for Moinuddin and Sawhney the day after the accident. Additionally, many Babson students surrounded the tree into which the students crashed with white roses.

"I was really surprised," Pfeffer said, tearful-eyed. "I thought that it was really surreal. Especially since the Virginia Tech shooting just happened, I now have a greater understanding of what it is like to lose a classmate."

Pfeffer continued, "Every student on campus is really upset. A lot of people went to the two memorial services held the next day and some are going on the bus to New Jersey for Angad's service. We're just pretty shocked and sad."

Fortunately, the Babson administration reacted deceptively and compassionately to the tragedy. Classes were cancelled for the services. Also, the college is sponsoring the student bus to New Jersey for Sawhney's service.

The past few weeks have seen an unusually high number of teen deaths from speeding. In Leicester, about 40 miles from Wellesley, three teens died after their car similarly crashed into a tree. There is only one survivor, who remains in critical condition.

Although driving fatalities are at an all-time low, they remain a national epidemic. In 2002, the Federal Highway Administration stated that Massachusetts's roads claimed
Op-Ed

Wellesley must attain more visibility in addition to building green

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Students are quick to point out how Wellesley lacks environmental stewardship, but they do not acknowledge all of the environmental efforts that Wellesley does make. At the same time, how can students if they do not know what environmental efforts Wellesley has made in the first place? Contrary to popular belief, Wellesley College is supportive of environmental initiatives. In past years, in fact, Wellesley has been exceptionally open and receptive to ideas that students, faculty and staff have proposed to conserve energy and water. The major disconnect here is what students think Wellesley does and what Wellesley actually does confirms the need for Wellesley to raise the visibility of its sustainability efforts on campus.

The sustainability statement President Walsh adopted on behalf of the College this past spring, for example, shows Wellesley’s commitment to environmentalism: “Wellesley College considers environmental sustainability to be an important component of its core mission. As part of this commitment, the college will consider sustainability as a factor in all institutional decisions. Members of the Wellesley community have individual and collective responsibility for environmental stewardship.” Not many people, however, have seen Walsh’s commitment – or know that it exists.

People frequent places on campus without realizing that green decisions went into their design. The Lulu Chow Wang Campus Center is a prime example because the HANSA heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems operating in the Campus Center are among the most energy-efficient systems available. Wellesley even made history as the first college to install it. Additionally, Wellesley no longer uses drinking water to irrigate the Campus Center, athletic fields and Alumni Valley, among other places. Instead, water is supplied by Lake Waban to increase water efficiency.

Nevertheless, if Wellesley wants to affirm its commitment to the environment, Wellesley needs to do something prominent, attention-grabbing and exceptionally green. What better way to do so than to address the world's biggest drain on energy and water resources: inefficiently designed buildings.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, buildings account for over 39% of total energy use, 12% of total water consumption a whop-