

ONE SECOND

One Second, Everything Changes

Kids are in crashes for many reasons: inattention, drunk or distracted drivers. Some kill themselves, their friends, or others.

Many begin drinking in Middle School and early High School. Some get a second chance and don't take it, leading to tragedy.

This exhibit, through words and images, portrays youth who were put at risk in Western New York. It focuses on fateful events in a forensic style. As you tour and reflect, get to know their stories. They were brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, and above all, friends. They had everything to live for. The immortality of youth met a culture of the extreme...and in an instant, everything changed.

ONE SECOND

LEHIGH STATION ROAD, NEW YORK, CRASH TIMELINE | JULY 21, 2004



Matt's home in West Henrietta.



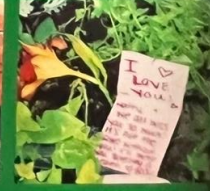
The Klasy Cat Tavern where Kristian was drinking the night of the crash.



The Lehigh Station Road stop sign where Matt stopped before the crash.



Matt's car post-crash.



Photograph of note left at Matt's grave.

Rush-Henrietta High School graduate, with multiple drunk driving incidents, kills Rush-Henrietta Sophomore.

Matt's dad agrees to change his curfew to 7 a.m.

Matt Kato Leaves his Henrietta house for a night out with friends.
8:15 p.m.

"We both looked and didn't see any cars and matt made a left onto Lehigh Station Road. We didn't see the car that was coming over the hill."
-Shawn Elliot interview, 6/20/08

Matt turns left.
8:52:40 p.m.

"Paul and Bernadette Kato get a call from one of Matthew's friends who saw the scene of the accident and saw Matthew's car." Democrat and Chronicle, 7/24/04, p. 4B

Parents notified.
9:05 p.m.

Matt is transported to Strong Memorial Hospital by Henrietta Ambulance #139 at 2:10. Both airbags were deployed.
-DMV-104 Addendum

Matt transported to hospital.
9:10 p.m.

Kristian transported to Strong by RIT Ambulance
9:34 p.m.

Kristian arrested.
10:48 p.m.

At 22:48 hours deputy Terwilliger arrests Kristian for DWI.
-DMV-104 Addendum

8:20 p.m. Matt picks up Shawn Elliot.

"Matt picked me up at my house just down the street, a mile away. We drove around to the Marketplace Mall. We were awaiting a call from our friend Tim, who was working at Sugar Creek on East River Road. We were going to go over to Tim's house."
-Shawn Elliot, interview 6/20/08

8:53 p.m. Crash

Vehicle #1 (driver Kristian A. Kemp in westbound on Lehigh Station Road at a high rate of speed. Vehicle #2 (driver Matthew Kato makes a left from Back Road onto Lehigh Station Road and is hit by Vehicle #1 (MV-104). Due to the force of impact, vehicle #2 maintains heavy damage to the driver side and is totally demolished.
-DMV-104 Addendum

"If the driver had just gone straight and stayed in his lane he wouldn't have hit Matt, but he said in the civil disposition that he aimed for my son. He was going over 80 mph."
Bernadette Kato, interview 6/20/08

9:07 p.m. Police arrive at the scene.

9:11 p.m. Patrol speak to Kristian Kemp.

"The driver was pale and sweaty. His speech was slurred and hard to understand. I asked Kemp how much he had to drink and he told me, '2 beers about an hour and a half ago.'
-RFD Department Addendum report MVA-Fatal, 04-11817 p.2

9:55 p.m. Matthew Kato pronounced dead.

"Dr. Shon Heister said he pronounced Matthew Kato dead at 21:55 hours. Matt Kato's injuries included, but were not limited to, a broken neck, collapsed left lung, crushed liver and spleen, and brain damage"
-DMV-104 Addendum

7/23/2004 High School mourns.

"Counseling for Rush-Henrietta students will be available today from 8 a.m. to noon in the counseling center at the school."
-Democrat and Chronicle 7/23/04

Photos credit: Matt's Home, Klasy Cat Tavern, and Lehigh Station Road stop sign: courtesy of Shawn Elliot. Crash photo: courtesy of Monroe County Sheriff's Office. Photos of note: courtesy of Bernadette Kato.

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Matt: An Artist



Matt's 10th grade biology project.

"Matthew was bright, friendly, and very creative. He loved art and showed a lot of skill at it."
- David Barlow (Matt's uncle)

"Matthew was a perfectionist when it came to his artwork. If it wasn't just so, he'd become very frustrated and would erase and re-do until he was satisfied. He was very detail oriented and it shows in this illustration he did for his science class. He was working with a girl as his lab partner. This girl had a lot of difficulty with her self-esteem and socially at school. Her peers were very hard on her. His teacher, Mrs. Sandbury, told us he was always very patient with her (the girl). She sometimes had him hold her books and purse while she organized or cleaned their area. Mrs. Sandbury said they looked so cute together. When it came time to do his illustration, Matthew watched his lab partner struggle with drawing a cricket, so he took the pencil from her and said, 'Let me take over from here.' His teacher was so impressed with the fine level of details depicted in his work that she uses a copy of it as an example to show her classes every year since. Mrs. Sandbury sees it as college level work." - Bernadette Kato

Photo courtesy of Bernadette Kato.

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Matt: A Best Friend



Matt and Shawn showing their blue tongues, from suckers they just finished!

"Yo Kato, what's going on man...You may not realize it, but you are my best friend, my brother, and a big help to me. Countless times this year when i have wanted to just drop out of school, you were there to tell me it's not worth it." - Shawn Elliott, Pre-Crash Letter to Matt

"On the day of the crash, summer was well under way. Shawn and Matt were both seventeen, enjoying life and looking forward to the coming school year. They would have been seniors. They were just 'chillin' together, as Shawn would say, driving around waiting for their friend Tim to call so that they could all hang out. It turned out to be the last time that Matt and Shawn would be together. Kristian Kemp's actions that day took one young man's life and left the other to grieve. There was the devastation at seeing his friend's lifeless body at his wake, recovering from injuries from the accident, and having to repeatedly recall painful details of the accident for the police, the district attorney and the grand jury."

- Debra and Robert Elliott, Sentencing Victim Impact Statement, 2/6/05

"Elliott states he suffered a lacerated spleen, an injury requiring stitches, broken ribs, among others."

- Rochester Police Department, RPD, Investigative Action Report, 8/10/04

"Most of all, Shawn Elliot deserves a heartfelt apology because Kristian killed his best friend, Matt,

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Matt: A Brother

"The night of the crash, I went to Matt in the hospital, and wished that all I needed to do was touch his head to resurrect him." - Paul Kato Jr. email, 1/23/05



The Kato Family at Christmas: Matt Kato, Paul Kato Jr., Paul Kato Senior, and Bernadette Kato.

"Shortly before he died, Matt and I walked into a friend's home, and my buddy Scott exclaimed, 'Look at the two of you, both you guys are wearing the same colored hat, the same type of clothes, and he's only an inch taller than you Paul! You guys are Peas in a Pod' Matt and I looked at each other and chuckled as Matt turned his hat to the left, instead of wearing it slightly cocked to the right like me, and we gave each other and then Scott a nod, almost to say, O.K. Now we're different."
- Paul Kato Jr. email, 1/23/05

Photo courtesy of Bernadette Kato

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School projects proposed

Local projects proposed by students and teachers. They would be presented to the school board.

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DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE

LOCAL & STATE

SECTION B

DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS
DEPT. OF EDUCATION

HENRIETTA, N.Y.

www.democratandchronicle.com

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2012

Maximum term in DWI death

Henrietta family not consoled after loss of 17-year-old son

By [Name]

Henrietta family members of a Henrietta teenager killed in a traffic crash last summer told a judge Monday how another driver's decision to drive drunk not only caused the teen's death but forever changed their lives.

Henrietta's Kato said her son, Matthew Kato, 17, who would have graduated this spring from Wash-Henrietta High School, was on his way home to help on his van when a 2004 Toyota MR2 Spyder sports car, driven by Kristian Kemp, 40, of Brighton, slammed into him on July 21.

test of 0.16 percent, twice the minimum level for DWI.

"I long to hear his laughter," she told Acting State Supreme Court Justice John Brunetti. "Now I'm only greeted by the deafening silence."

Kemp, who pleaded guilty last month to second-degree manslaughter, was sentenced to the agreed-upon maximum of five to 15 years in prison. He was convicted of DWI in 1987 and was originally charged with second-degree murder in this case.

Justice said he was "devastated by the senseless death of our son."

"My family has been devastated by the senseless death of our son."

He described his son as a gifted artist who "contributed to society for many years to come."

Matthew's father, Paul Kato, said he didn't think 15 years in prison is a fair exchange for his son's death.

"Justice would have been if (Kemp) hit a tree or telephone pole and killed himself, not our son," he said.

"My family has been devastated by the senseless death of our son. He was a wonderful son, and he would have contributed to society for many years to come."



Matthew Kato

"The prosecution admits that I feel terrible. I thought one thing that no school or textbook could... I saw pictures of the brother I never had. I thought that he would be my best friend for life."

Matthew's father, Paul Kato, said he didn't think 15 years in prison is a fair exchange for his son's death. "Justice would have been if (Kemp) hit a tree or telephone pole and killed himself, not our son," he said. "My family has been devastated by the senseless death of our son. He was a wonderful son, and he would have contributed to society for many years to come."

