

**What: U of M to award Chris Jenkins business degree posthumously**

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### **U OF M TO AWARD CHRIS JENKINS BUSINESS DEGREE POSTHUMOUSLY**

MINNEAPOLIS/ST.PAUL--The University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management (CSOM) will award Chris Jenkins his bachelor of science in business degree posthumously.

"Chris exemplified the educational values of the scholarship, leadership and involvement with others," said University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks. "I have no doubt Chris would have gone on to be a shining star in his professional life, and a continuing source of pride and pleasure to his family and friends. His death is a wrenching loss to the entire university community and to society."

Jenkins, a CSOM student since 2000, disappeared in November and his body was recently found. He was expected to complete his bachelor's degree with an emphasis in marketing in May. Jenkins' sister, Sara, will accept the degree at the May graduation ceremony in honor of her brother. Sara graduated from CSOM in 2000 and their parents, Jan and Steve, also graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1974 and 1975 respectively.

"We were surprised and delighted by the honor," said Steve Jenkins, Chris' father. "It is a true indication of the person Chris would have become. We hope Sara's presence at the graduation is a continued healing process for the students and volunteers who came to our aid in our time of need."

This is the first time CSOM has awarded a posthumous degree to an undergraduate or graduate student, according to their recent records. The graduation ceremony will take place at 6 p.m. Sunday, May 18, at Northrop Auditorium, 84 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis.

"Chris' achievements, both academically and personally, are illustrative of the qualities we value in our students," said Carlson School Dean Larry Benveniste. "Conferring his diploma posthumously is our way of paying tribute to this promising young man." □