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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Alumnus Ben Gutenberg '07 passes away from injuries sustained in a Nov. car accident in Virginia**

ROCHESTER, N.Y., NOV. 28, 2007... The McQuaid Jesuit family mourns the loss of one of its own. Ben Gutenberg, 18, a member of the Class of 2007 and a freshman at the College of William and Mary, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 27. Ben had been hospitalized at the Medical Center of Virginia in Richmond since a single car accident on Interstate 295 on Nov. 10. Ben and two other freshmen, all members of the fencing team, were driving with fencing coach Pete Conomikes to a tournament in Philadelphia when the accident occurred. Conomikes, who was driving, was killed in the accident. The other passengers have been released from the hospital.

Ben was in a deep coma from the accident and suffered severe head trauma. Over the last two weeks, doctors have worked diligently to revive him. Despite every effort, the damage and trauma Ben sustained proved to be too severe.

"It is obviously a tragedy for Ben's parents, Lisa and Jeff and his sister, Laurel," said McQuaid Jesuit President Bill Hobbs. "Ben was a tremendous young man with a great passion for fencing and a love of language; his loss deeply saddens the entire McQuaid Jesuit family."

Members of the McQuaid Jesuit and William & Mary communities have set up Ben Gutenberg memorial web pages on the Internet social utility site, Facebook, which include touching remembrances of Ben. During the last two weeks, McQuaid Jesuit students have prayed for Ben and his family during morning prayers. The school also notified more than 3,000 alumni via email to ask for prayers for Ben.

Funeral arrangements are pending. School officials will hold a memorial service for Ben and his classmates at McQuaid Jesuit during the traditional college Christmas break.

McQuaid Jesuit is a private, Catholic college preparatory school for young men in grades 7-12. It is named for the first Catholic Bishop of Rochester, the Most Rev. Bernard J. McQuaid. The school's mission is to foster the development of the spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional and aesthetic talents of young men through personal concern for each student, competitive educational programs, a distinctive Jesuit spirit, and a formative sense of community. McQuaid Jesuit offers financial aid to students in grades 7-12 who qualify academically, but don't have the financial resources to attend.