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Drowned man was musician

North Central College student found in lake

By Joseph Sjostrom
Tribune staff reporter

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A man whose body was found in Lake Michigan over the weekend was a junior at North Central College in Naperville and a musician who performed with family and friends.

Bryan Guzman, 21, majored in sociology and minored in music at North Central, where he was a member of the college jazz ensemble. He also played with his brother, Daniel, a guitarist, in Hypnotist Collector, a band that played jazz, funk, blues, rock. He also played with his brother and their father, Richard, in a group they called Vital Capacity.

"He was a laid-back kid who had a lot of friends," said his mother, Alice Guzman. "He was a happy person with a very sweet personality."

"Watching those two brothers play together is what I'm going to miss most," said Richard Guzman, a professor of English at North Central College who also plays keyboard.

Guzman's body was pulled out of Lake Michigan by Chicago police just east of Soldier Field on Saturday morning, officials said. His death was caused by drowning, the Cook County medical examiner said.

Investigators were unable to determine how Guzman entered the water, but there was no apparent sign of intentional violence, a medical examiner spokesman said.

Richard Guzman said his son had gone to the lakefront to walk his girlfriend's dog.

He said Bryan Guzman was also involved with his oldest brother, Rick, and Rick's wife, Desiree, in organizing the Tolbert Refugee Assistance Fund to help refugee families settle in the Chicago area.

Bryan Guzman is also survived by another brother, Aaron; his maternal grandmother, Elsie Smiley; and by two stepbrothers, Josh and Mike Bonifas.

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Visitation is scheduled for 3 to 9 p.m. Thursday in the Friedrich-Jones Funeral Home, 44 S. Mill St., Naperville. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Friday in the Community Christian Church, 1635 Emerson Drive, Naperville.

jsjostrom@tribune.com

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