



This is a printer friendly version of an article from the **The Journal News**.
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

Elmsford run-walk honors woman slain off campus in 2005

By [BRIAN J. HOWARD](#)
THE JOURNAL NEWS

(Original Publication: October 22, 2007)

ELMSFORD - Sarah Mullin and Kate McNamara looked around at the growing crowd around them and concluded this was exactly how their friend Lindsey would have had it.

The third annual 5K Run-Walk for PEACE OUTside Campus, the Lindsey M. Bonistall Foundation, was again a festive gathering that celebrated the memory of a vivacious young woman while raising money and awareness to keep college students safe. Bonistall was a 20-year-old student at the University of Delaware when she was attacked and killed by a stranger in her off-campus apartment on May 1, 2005.

"I feel like it's something everyone can relate to," said McNamara, a White Plains resident and 2005 Quinnipiac University graduate. "Everyone's been in college. It could happen to anyone."

A judge on June 6 sentenced Bonistall's killer, James Cooke Jr., to death. Her family established the foundation to promote safety nationwide.

"I think it's fitting," Mullin said. "It's for a great cause, and Lindsey was a great girl."

The foundation has chapters on six college campuses with two more on the way. It has created programs for Certified Off-Campus Housing and Living Off-Campus 101, which provides safety instruction for parents and students. There is also a Web site at www.peaceoutsidecampus.org.

Westchester County Victims Assistance Services had a table at the event, and the Elizabeth Gabrielle Butler Foundation staged an "Art Against Abuse" exhibit of original artworks.

As hundreds of runners and walkers lined up for the event, Lindsey's mother, Kathleen Bonistall, called it a "Lindsey-esque morning," alluding to the bright blue sky and slight autumn chill. Rep. Nita Lowey, D-Harrison, and White Plains Mayor Joseph Delfino flanked her and husband Mark Bonistall.

Detectives Andrew Rubin and Susan Arnitaje, who investigated Lindsey Bonistall's murder, took part in the walk. Rubin is a Scarsdale native.

Court Sports Westchester One has staged the event for 20 years but dedicated it to Bonistall's memory three years ago. Last year, it raised more than \$30,000, organizers said.

Cheerleading squads from Good Counsel Academy, where Bonistall attended, and Harrison High School, where her former teammate now coaches, performed before the race.

A contingent of more than a dozen honor students from Stepinac High School guided runners along the route.

"It really does hit me," said Sheldon Thompson, one of the guides, about the issue of campus safety. "Next September I'll be in college. You basically want to make sure everyone's safe."

Kathleen Bonistall, wearing a silver pendant bearing a black-and-white portrait of her daughter, greeted a steady stream of well-wishers with a smile and a hug.

"I tell people, if you didn't know Lindsey, this is as close as you will get to knowing Lindsey," she said.
