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On the morning of her 20th birthday, Arizona State sophomore Carol Kestenbaum was shot and killed along with a childhood friend Sunday.

As it was her birthday, college students did what they typically do on a friend's special day: they left messages on her personal Facebook.com account. Just after midnight, happy birthday notes started flooding in with well wishes.

“Welcome to the next decade of your life!!!” one friend wrote.

For 18 hours, friends and acquaintances left happy birthday messages. The last one was posted at 6:19 p.m. Carol had already been dead for nearly 14 hours.

According to police, Kestenbaum, 20, and her childhood friend, Nicole Schiffman, 20, were shot by 22-year-old Joshua Mendel, Sunday morning. The two arrived home at about 4 a.m., after a night of celebrating Kestenbaum's birthday. Police said that the gunmen appeared from behind a dark stairwell, and fired multiple shots at the girls, killing both. He then killed himself.

Investigators believe that Mendel tracked the girls to their home to confront Kestenbaum, because she did not approve of him dating a close friend whom she roomed with at ASU.

Toxicology tests will determine if Mendel was under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the attack, authorities say. The Maricopa County Medical Examiner began tests on Mendel on Monday and results could come as early as this week, Tempe Police Sgt. Dan Masters said.

Mendel, who was from Illinois, attended Collins College's Tempe campus. He did not have a criminal record, Masters said.

Masters said Mendel had two loaded guns with him. Kestenbaum appeared to have been shot first, with a gunshot to the head. Schiffman may have tried to run away, as she was shot in the upper body, Masters said.

Kestenbaum was majoring in early childhood education at ASU. Friends said Schiffman was visiting Tempe from Maryland to celebrate Kestenbaum's 20th birthday. Schiffman was a student at the University of Maryland, according to university spokeswoman Ellen Ternes.

A family friend reached at the Kestenbaum's home in Bellmore, N.Y. would not comment on the shooting. Schiffman's family could not be reached for comment. Mendel's family in Illinois did not return calls seeking comment.

Masters said there was no evidence Mendel told anybody of his attack.

Collins College president John Calman said students and faculty were saddened by the tragic events.

“Our hearts go out to the families of everyone involved,” Calman said.