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D'Agostino family doubles reward to help catch professor's killer

With the two-year anniversary of the brutal murder of University of Illinois Chicago Professor Peter D'Agostino approaching, the family of the victim has doubled the cash reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual responsible.

Mary Mapes, the widow of D'Agostino, said in announcing the increase in the reward to \$50,000 she hoped to heighten public awareness and generate new leads that could help solve her husband's murder.

D'Agostino, 42, was attacked at about 5:30 p.m., June 22, 2006, in the 1100 block of south Harvey Avenue in southeast Oak Park, just blocks from his home. Oak Park Police believe a sledgehammer was used to kill the professor as he walked home from Blue Line stop at Austin Boulevard. D'Agostino died from blunt force trauma to the head in what police described as a vicious attack.

Oak Park Police have identified a person of interest. He is described as an African American male with medium complexion in his mid-20's to mid-30's, five-foot-10 inches to six-foot-two inches tall and thin to medium build. He was believed to have been driving a mid-sized, older model passenger vehicle, turquoise or light blue, with a maroon or dark-colored front passenger side fender.

A flyer with a computer-generated image of the person of interest is posted on the Oak Park Police Department's page at www.oak-park.us.

Anyone with information is asked to call 708.358.5403, a dedicated telephone number for tips.

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