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East Boston High students mourn slain math teacher

By **Jennifer Rosinski***Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Alma Mendoza would have failed algebra her freshman year if murdered East Boston High School math teacher Andrea Harvey hadn't offered free tutoring after school - every day.

Mendoza, now a 16-year-old junior, said the extra help turned that F into an A.

``She was a nice teacher, a nice person, always smiling," said Mendoza, who took down the flag lowered in Harvey's honor after school yesterday. ``Everything else was first, then her."

Mendoza cried when she learned Harvey's husband of 13 months, Damion Linton, was being charged with strangling the 28-year-old in their Cambridge apartment last week.

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Harvey's parents found the University of Massachusetts-Lowell graduate's body on the bedroom floor when they checked on her Thursday. They had last spoken to their daughter two days earlier.

The mood was somber when school officials held a moment of silence for Harvey during homeroom yesterday, students said.

``It was really depressing. We couldn't believe she actually died. Everyone was crying," said Adriana Mora, a freshman in Harvey's Algebra I class. ``She always tried her best to make us learn. She never gave up on us."






Harvey was more than a teacher to Mora's older sister, Jessica.

``She was a great friend," said Jessica Mora, 16, who often confided in Harvey. ``She was like my own personal guidance counselor."

Harvey's husband, Linton, was arraigned on a fugitive from justice charge yesterday in North Carolina, where he was arrested Sunday in a Raleigh Wal-Mart, Middlesex District Attorney Martha Coakley's office said.

Linton is expected to return to the Bay State this week and could be arraigned on one charge of murder as early as tomorrow.

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