Police: DNA ties dead man to Mo. prof's '05 murder

16 hours ago • Associated Press

Authorities announced Wednesday that they know who killed a University of Missouri professor in a campus parking garage eight years ago, but that they may never be able to explain the vicious attack because the suspect committed suicide last summer.

Campus police said at a hastily arranged news conference that two people recently implicated Timothy Aaron Hoag in the Jan. 7, 2005, stabbing death of 72-year-old Jeong Hyok Im, whose body was stuffed into the trunk of his car, which was then set on fire. Blood, hair and DNA evidence collected at the crime scene has been matched to Hoag, said campus police Chief Jack Watring.

In August, Hoag jumped to his death from the roof of a city parking garage without leaving a suicide note behind. He was 35 years old. Those who implicated Hoag said they did so only after he died because they were afraid he might harm them, Watring said. Hoag's criminal record includes assault and drug convictions.

"We never stopped working on the case, examining every lead that came to us, day and night, for a long eight years," Watring said.

University police Capt. Brian Weimer said Hoag apparently didn't know Im and investigators don't know why he killed him. Im's death sent a wave of fear through the city, particularly
through its close-knit Korean-American community, of which Im was a part. Im earned a
doctorate from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill after immigrating to the United
States four decades ago and worked at several universities, including Harvard, before he joined
the Missouri faculty in 1987.

"This loss was a very, very traumatic one for our university," said Chancellor Brady Deaton.
"Our hearts were broken for the Im family. It's haunted us for the past eight years."

Watring did not disclose the names of those who implicated Hoag. He said investigators believe
Hoag acted alone and that they don't consider either of the witnesses to be accomplices in Im's
killing.

The chief said one of the two came forward in late December with information linking Hoag to
the crime. He said the second person later told police he drove Hoag to the garage that day and
returned two hours later, parking a level below where the attack happened, with a gasoline can
Hoag had asked for. He said Hoag came to get the gas and left, then returned later wearing a
painter's mask and hooded sweatshirt that covered his head, a description that matched the
killer.

Watring said detectives believe the witness' claim that he or she didn't know what Hoag had been
doing at the garage.

"(Hoag) was the only one who knew about this," Watring said.

Im's slaying doesn't appear to have factored into Hoag's suicide, but Hoag didn't leave a note
behind, Weimer said. He said Hoag was injured in a car accident not long before his death, and
that may have contributed to his suicide.

Online court records show that Hoag pleaded guilty to misdemeanor assault and tampering with
a victim or witness in March 2001 in Boone County, serving six months in jail. He spent another
five days in jail in March 2005 after being convicted of a misdemeanor drug paraphernalia
charge.

In a statement issued through the university, Im's family thanked campus police for their "tireless
commitment" to the case and said Wednesday's announcement will help bring closure to the
case.
Witnesses speak up after killer's suicide

COLUMBIA, Mo., Jan. 30 (UPI) -- Police said tips from two witnesses led to identifying a man who committed suicide in August as the killer of a University of Missouri professor in 2005.

University Police Chief Javk Watring said Wednesday in Columbia that Timothy Hoag, 35, who killed himself Aug. 9 by jumping off a parking garage, killed Jeong Im, 72, on Jan. 7, 2005, the Columbia Daily Tribune reported.

Watring said the motive for the fatal stabbing probably never will be known.

Police said in the 2005 incident, the microbiologist's body was found in the trunk of his car, which had been set on fire.

At least two witnesses who thought Hoag was the killer were too afraid to come forward with information while Hoag was alive. They described Hoag as violent, the Tribune reported.

Police received a tip Dec. 21 from one witness that Hoag may have been the person who killed Im. After investigators learned Hoag had killed himself, they got a sample of Hoag's blood, which the Missouri State Highway Patrol Crime Lab matched to the blood, hair and DNA collected at the 2005 crime scene, MU Police Capt. Brian Weimer said.

Another witness came forward to give other information that implicated Hoag.

The newspaper reported police department described a person of interest in the case and are looking for the owner or driver of a faded red 1980s model Ford F-150 pickup seen near the scene of the crime.
Killer identified in 2005 murder of MU professor

Witnesses, DNA connect man to slaying in 2005.

By Jodie Jackson Jr.

Wednesday, January 30, 2013 at 2:00 pm Updated: 1:59 pm, Wed Jan 30, 2013.

University of Missouri police say a man who committed suicide last year is responsible for killing retired MU assistant Professor Jeong Im in January 2005, but they probably will never know why.

On Jan. 7, 2005, University of Missouri police officers and Columbia firefighters responded to a vehicle fire in the Maryland Avenue parking garage on campus. The body of Jeong H. Im, 72, was found in the trunk of Im’s Honda Accord. He had been stabbed. Forensic evidence, including a knife, was collected at the scene. The Mid-Missouri Major Case Squad was activated and assisted with the case for a little more than a week.

Several witnesses reported seeing a white man holding a gas can and standing near Im’s car. A rough sketch of a possible suspect depicts a man with a hood wearing a painter’s or drywall mask.

Over an eight-year period, MUPD investigators pursued at least 300 leads and compared roughly 60 DNA samples to evidence recovered at the crime scene. Police offered a $25,000 reward for information leading to an arrest.

On Dec. 21, 2012, MUPD received information identifying Timothy A. Hoag as the suspect in the case. Investigators learned that Hoag killed himself Aug. 9 by jumping off a parking garage in downtown Columbia. DNA from a blood sample obtained from Hoag matched DNA from blood, hair and other DNA recovered at the crime scene.

Investigators identified a witness who told investigators he took Hoag to the Maryland Avenue garage Jan. 7, 2005, so Hoag could get a car. The witness provided additional details: Two hours after dropping off Hoag, the witness got a phone call from Hoag requesting that he pick him up at another location and to bring gasoline. The witness picked up Hoag and took him back to the
Maryland Avenue parking garage with the belief that Hoag needed the gasoline to start his vehicle.

The witness parked, and Hoag took the gas can and walked up a stairwell out of sight of the witness. When Hoag returned, he was wearing a particle facemask and had his hood pulled up. Hoag ordered the witness to drive from the area, and the witness told investigators that he recalled seeing smoke coming out of the garage as they drove away.

MU Police Chief Jack Watring this morning identified Hoag as Im's killer, but he said the case will remain open for the time being as investigators expect to gather more information. However, based on DNA evidence and witness statements, "there is nothing at this time to indicate that anyone else was involved in the homicide," Watring said.

The body of Im, a 72-year-old retired research assistant professor for the MU School of Medicine, was found in the trunk of his burning 1995 Honda Accord in MU's Maryland Avenue parking garage after he left work at University Hospital on Jan. 7, 2005. He was stabbed to death before his body was stuffed into the trunk and the car set on fire.

At least two people who believed Hoag was Im's killer did not come forward with that information because they were afraid of Hoag, police said.

MU police Capt. Brian Weimer said police got a tip Dec. 21 that Hoag might have been the person responsible for Im's murder. He said after investigators learned Hoag had committed suicide, they obtained a sample of Hoag's blood from the suicide scene, and the Missouri State Highway Patrol Crime Lab matched DNA from Hoag's blood to DNA extracted from blood, hair and skin cells recovered at the 2005 crime scene.

Investigators then identified a witness who said he drove Hoag to the Maryland Avenue Garage the morning of the Im's murder. Weimer said that witness provided other details that implicated Hoag.

Weimer said the witness told police he believed Hoag was involved in the homicide "but never came forward for fear of what could happen to his family." Weimer said the tipster who contacted police in December described Hoag as a violent person and also was fearful of coming forward.

"There could be other people that were fearful of Hoag," Weimer said, explaining why investigators were keeping the case open for now. "He is believed the sole person responsible."

Police were called to Im's murder scene about 12:30 p.m. Jan. 7, 2005, roughly two hours after the crime occurred. Over the years, the MU Police Department has enlisted help from outside agencies, including the Mid-Missouri Major Case Squad, all local and state law enforcement agencies, the FBI's Behavioral Science Unit and a regional crime information center in Springfield.
Based on witness reports, the department had a rough sketch of a possible suspect, described as a slender white male, between 6 feet and 6 feet 2 inches in height with brown wavy hair who was wearing a painter's or drywall mask in the area of the Maryland Avenue Garage the day of the murder.

The witness who said he took Hoag to the parking garage the day of the murder told police Hoag was wearing a particle facemask and a hood when the witness drove Hoag away from the scene. Weimer said police do not believe the witness was involved in the crime.

MU Chancellor Brady Deaton said Im's murder has "haunted" the university community for the past eight years.

"We never stopped working on the case," Watring said. Investigators pursued at least 300 leads, and some 60 DNA samples were compared to DNA collected at the crime scene.

Weimer said Hoag had not been a suspect and had not been interviewed. He also said police had not drawn conclusive connections between the homicide and Hoag's suicide, adding that investigators know very little about Hoag's life.

Court records indicate Hoag was convicted of third-degree assault and victim tampering related to a 2001 case and sentenced to six months in the county jail and two years probation. He also pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor drug charge in 2005.

According to a probable cause statement filed in the Feb. 5, 2001, assault and tampering case, Hoag went to local chiropractor Mark Pressley's business and threatened to break Pressley's hands and arms so Pressley "couldn't practice again." He also said he would go to Pressley's house and "hurt his wife and make the children watch" and that he would "get some sick twisted pleasure from it," the statement says.

The statement, written by a Columbia police officer, also says Hoag should be considered "extremely dangerous" to Pressley and his family because of his physical stature. It notes Hoag was 6-feet, 7-inches tall and weighed 235 pounds. The officer said Hoag also told Pressley that if Pressley called the police on Hoag and he were arrested, Hoag would "just bond out and come back as many times as it took."

Im's family, who moved to California after the murder, released a statement thanking the police and community.

"We are very relieved and grateful for the resolution of the case," the family said.

"This brings closure on the tragedy, to our family, as well as to the University of Missouri and Columbia communities as a whole."

This article was published in the Wednesday, January 30, 2013 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "Professor's murder solved: Witnessess, DNA connect man to slaying in 2005."
MU Police solve 2005 homicide of MU researcher

By Joseph Vozzelli Jr.
January 30, 2013 | 6:26 p.m. CST

Eight years after Jeong Im was killed, MU police connected Timothy Aaron Hoag to the homicide. Hoag jumped to his death from a Columbia parking garage in August 2012.

COLUMBIA — The man who MU police say killed Jeong Im in 2005 jumped to his death from a downtown parking garage in August, prompting an acquaintance to come forward with information that helped link Timothy Aaron Hoag to the unsolved slaying.

That break led investigators to a person who said he brought Hoag to the Maryland Avenue parking garage "to get a car" on Jan. 7, 2005, and later picked him up when he was carrying a gas can and wearing a face mask as smoke poured from the third floor of the garage where Im’s body was later found.

MU Police Department Capt. Brian Weimer said witnesses were afraid to come forward with information because they were afraid Hoag might hurt them and their families.

Weimer described Hoag as a "violent individual."

Investigators determined that Hoag’s DNA, extracted from blood collected at the suicide scene, matched the blood, hair and "touch DNA" found at the scene of the homicide, Weimer said.

Weimer said the case remains open, though investigators believe Hoag was solely responsible for the slaying. Weimer said he hoped Wednesday’s news would prompt other witnesses to come forward with information that would help investigators determine a possible motive, which remained unclear.

Weimer was able to confirm that Hoag didn’t know Im. Hoag jumped to his death from the parking garage at Fifth and Walnut on Aug. 9, 2012, at the age of 35.
Weimer said there appeared to be no connection between the suicide and the homicide. He said Hoag was suffering from medical issues related to a 2008 car accident.

On Jan. 7, 2005, the body of Im, 72, was found in the trunk of his white 1995 Honda Accord in the Maryland Avenue parking garage. The retired research assistant at MU had been stabbed multiple times.

Investigators determined that gasoline was poured on the trunk lid of the car, and it was lit on fire.

At 12:24 p.m. that day, MU police received a call from an emergency phone at the parking garage, reporting a vehicle that was on fire. MU police officers and the Columbia Fire Department responded to the call, and firefighters were able to extinguish the fire.

Firefighters then discovered Im's body in the trunk of his car.

In December 2012, someone informed the MU Police Department that he or she had information about the person behind Im's homicide, Weimer said.

The December 2012 informant led investigators to a potential witness who could confirm the facts and details of the case. The witness told investigators that he received a call from Hoag, asking to be picked up from a business on the north end of the university. Hoag also requested that the person bring a gas can.

After Im's death, his family moved to California. His wife, Tesuk, remained in touch with MU police during the investigation, Weimer said. He said the Im family has requested privacy.

The family did release a statement through MU: "We are very relieved and grateful for the resolution of the case. This brings closure on the tragedy, to our family, as well as the University of Missouri and Columbia communities as a whole.

"We are deeply grateful to the MU Police Department, university administration and all the other law enforcement agencies involved, for their dedication, professionalism, and tireless commitment over the last eight years, which have resulted in solving the case. We also thank the community for all of their support."

Seungkwon You, an assistant professor of Korean studies at MU, who knew Im for 10 years, said: "I am a native Korean, and the Korean community is quite close, and he was my neighbor. He had a big garden and he brought lettuce and other things to our house."
"He also introduced us to good music, classical music."

Mark Foecking, who worked with Im in the microbiology and immunology lab at the time of Im's death, said he was happy — especially for Im's family — that they found his colleague's killer.

"I'm glad to see that (MU Police) kept working on the case and that they kept adding evidence," he said.

"It's a huge relief for the department," Weimer said. "I mean, this is something that has literally been on our mind for eight years. Sgt. (Shawn) Spalding had Im's picture behind his desk, along with the timeline for this. So, it's something he saw every day. We didn't think about it occasionally; we thought about it daily."

He continued: "We fully believed all along that we would solve this case."

Weimer expressed some frustration about the criticism the department received for failing to solve the 8-year-old case earlier.

"Too many people watch TV and think, evidently, you don't have evidence because if you put evidence in the computer it automatically shows you a photo and tells you (who did it)," he said. "But that's not how it is."

Im had retired from MU at the time of his death. He had returned to work part time in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology. He was working on the sixth floor of the Medical Science Building near the garage. He was supposed to be having coffee with other researchers at 11:30 a.m. the day he was killed. When he didn't show up, his colleagues grew concerned.

On Jan. 8, 2005, investigators released composite sketches of a man who was spotted at the scene near the time of Im's homicide. The "person of interest" was between 6 feet and 6 feet 2 inches tall and was wearing a painter's or drywall mask. Almost seven hours after police discovered Im's body, they asked for help from the Mid-Missouri Major Case Squad. MU police also sought help from the FBI and other law enforcement agencies to solve the case.

In October 2005, MU police released further details about its "person of interest," saying he was of "medium-length brown hair, possibly wearing faded-blue baggy jeans, a hooded red sweatshirt and a blue winter coat," according to previous Missourian reporting.
The department also released details about a vehicle that was spotted near the crime scene. Police described the vehicle as a 1980s Ford F-10 pickup with a faded black driver's side door.

Police also uncovered an Old Hickory kitchen knife that had an 8-inch blade and a 5-inch handle at the scene, according to previous Missourian reporting. The department thought the knife was purchased on the Internet. MU has continued to offer $25,000 as a reward for any information that would lead to the arrest of Im's killer.

For a little more than eight years, however, the homicide case remained unsolved, even as MU police asked for help from "cold case" expert Lou Eliopulos, who was a senior homicide analyst for the National Criminal Investigation Service.

During the eight-year investigation, MU police remained unsure about the motive behind Im's homicide. Police couldn't determine whether Im had been robbed by his assailant or assailants. MU police also investigated an Internet-based conspiracy theory that said Im's death was part of a worldwide campaign against microbiology researchers and other scientists.

Former MU Professor Henry Liu wrote a letter to the Columbia Daily Tribune in February 2005 in which he criticized the lack of attention being paid to the case. Liu, who continued to put pressure on MU police to solve the case, died in a car crash in 2009. Liu believed Im's homicide may have been race-related.

In January 2012, MU police sent the Im homicide report to the Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center in Springfield for a fresh look at the case. MUPolice Department Capt. Brian Weimer denied that the crime center was taking over the case, despite several news reports to the contrary.

Im, who was born to a farming family in 1932, was self-educated. He taught at Cheongju Normal School, before receiving a full scholarship to attend Seoul National University. He earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry and a master's degree in physical chemistry there. He also earned a doctorate in biochemistry from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 1967 and was a research fellow at Harvard Medical School.

He came to MU in 1987, where he worked as a research professor in the MU Department of Microbiology and Immunology. Although he retired from MU, he worked part-time making proteins for other MU researchers.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Details about Timothy Aaron Hoag paint him as a violent man

By Joseph Vozzelli Jr.
January 30, 2013 | 5:08 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — Timothy Aaron Hoag, the man with the violent past who police say killed Jeong Im in 2005, was capable of following through on threats of physical violence, according to court records.

That kept at least two people from telling police what they knew about Hoag's possible connection to Im's slaying.

In December 2012, a few months after Hoag committed suicide on Aug. 9, 2012, by jumping off a parking garage at Fifth and Walnut streets at the age of 35, MU police were contacted by a person who identified Hoag as a possible suspect in the case. The person told police he feared for his own safety and that of his family if he came forward sooner.

That led investigators to another acquaintance of Hoag's who talked about bringing Hoag to the Maryland Avenue parking garage several times on the day Im was killed.

But a motive for the killing remains unknown, and efforts to locate members of Hoag's family were unsuccessful on Wednesday.

Hoag's last known address was 2900 Flora Drive. Police say he had no known employment at the time of his death. A Timothy Aaron Hoag is listed on the summer 2010 President's List at Moberly Area Community College.

Court records show that a restraining order was filed against Hoag in Boone County family court in January 2001. He was accused of assaulting Mark Pressley, a local chiropractor, and threatening to hurt his family in an effort to extort $1,200 from Pressley's business, according to court documents.

After entering the business, Hoag "threatened to break (Pressley's) hands and arms so he couldn't practice" and to "go to his house and hurt his wife and make the children watch,"
according to the court records. He told Pressley "that he would get some sick twisted pleasure from it."

The officer who swore out the probable cause statement noted that "(Hoag) should be considered extremely dangerous to the victim due to his physical size 6 feet 7 inches and 235 pounds. He also made threats to victims (sic) family and did already assault victim. Suspect also told victim that if he contacted the police that he would just bond out and come back as many times as it took."

Hoag was charged with third-degree assault and victim tampering in February 2001 as a result of the incident. After pleading guilty to both charges, he received a six-month sentence in Boone County Jail and two years of probation, according to Missouri Case.net.

Contacted at his business Wednesday, Pressley said: "I'd prefer not to talk about it, thank you."

In June 2004, court proceedings were begun to have Hoag evicted from a rental property. The following year, he was arrested for unlawful use of drug paraphernalia, and another restraining order was filed against him in family court.

One of Hoag's brothers, Michael J. Hoag, also sought an order of protection against Timothy Hoag. On a court document dated June 27, 2005, Michael Hoag described his reasons for seeking protection after fighting with his brother over a roofing job that "Tim" had agreed to do and then refused to finish. "He told me he was to (sic) angry with me about a previous argument. He stated that he wanted more money and that I had better give it to him. ... My girlfriend, employer and myself are all scared of Tim Hoag at this point."

Dave Miller, Hoag's former landlord who owns a house on Quail Drive, where Hoag lived three or four years ago with a varying number of roommates, remembered forcing Hoag to move out.

Hoag's autopsy showed the presence of Lamictal in his system, said Dori Burke, the death examiner for the Boone County Medical Examiner's Office. Lamictal is a drug used to treat epilepsy and bipolar disorder, according to the Mayo Clinic website.

Christine Coester, Samantha Sunne and Peter Kampschroeder contributed to this report.

Supervising editor is Katherine Reed.
Suspect identified as Timothy Hoag in 2005 homicide of Dr. Jeong Im

After eight years of mystery, the MU Police Department identified the suspect in the murder of Dr. Jeong Im.

"Our investigators have worked tirelessly to identify individuals," MUPD Chief Jack Watring said at a press conference Wednesday morning. "Even though we were unable to do so immediately, we never stopped working on the case, examining every lead that came to us, day and night, for a long eight years."

Im was stabbed in the chest area on the third level of the Maryland Avenue parking garage at 12:45 p.m. on Jan. 7, 2005. After responding to reports of a car fire in the garage, police officers found Im's body in the trunk of his 1995 white Honda Accord, which was on fire when they arrived at the scene.

On Dec. 21, 2012, MUPD investigators received information identifying Hoag as the suspect.

Hoag committed suicide on Aug. 9 by jumping from a parking garage downtown.

Investigators have no reason to believe that Hoag's suicide was in any way related to the murder, MUPD spokesman Brian Weimer said.

"There is nothing to indicate that his suicide was related to that," Weimer said. "Our understanding is that there was no suicide note or anything left. From looking into Hoag, it appears that he had medical issues after being struck by a car — several things went on in his life. It can only be speculation."

Investigators obtained a blood sample of Hoag and matched it to the blood, hair and touch DNA found at the crime scene. Touch DNA consists of skin cells left behind when a person touches an item, Weimer said.

Later, investigators identified another witness for the case and found additional information. The witness hadn't come forward with the information before out of fear that Hoag, who he knew was a violent person, may come after his family, Weimer said.

"The witness informed investigators that he had transported Timothy Hoag to the Maryland Avenue Garage on Jan. 7, 2005, so Hoag could get a car," Weimer said. "...Two hours later, he received a call from Hoag requesting that he pick him up at a business located north of the university and to bring gasoline. The witness picked up Hoag and transported him to the Maryland Ave. Garage with the belief that Hoag needed the gasoline to start his vehicle. Upon arrival at the parking garage, the witness parked his vehicle on a level below where the crime scene was located and Hoag took the gas can and walked up a stairwell out of sight of the witness. The witness stated that Hoag was gone for a while and when he returned he was wearing a particle face mask and hood covering his head. ... upon getting in the vehicle, Hoag ordered the witness to drive from the area."
Hoag is believed to be the sole person responsible in the murder, Wiemer said.

Waturing complimented Sgt. Sean Spalding for being key in the resolution of the case.

"I want to say how proud I am of detective sergeant Shawn Spalding, who diligently pursued this case, was in charge of it and was the reason the case was brought to a satisfactory conclusion," Watring said.

The 1m family released a statement saying they are "very relieved and grateful for the resolution of the case."

The investigation will remain open as investigators finish the case and in case additional people may come forward with information regarding the case now that Hoag has been identified, Wiemer said.
Killer identified in 2005 murder of MU professor

Witnesses, DNA connect man to slaying in 2005.

By Jodie Jackson Jr.
Wednesday, January 30, 2013 at 2:00 pm Updated: 1:59 pm, Wed Jan 30, 2013.

University of Missouri police say a man who committed suicide last year is responsible for killing retired MU assistant Professor Jeong Im in January 2005, but they probably will never know why.

Timothy Hoag, 35, jumped off the city's parking garage at Fifth and Walnut streets Aug. 9.

On Jan. 7, 2005, University of Missouri police officers and Columbia firefighters responded to a vehicle fire in the Maryland Avenue parking garage on campus. The body of Jeong H. Im, 72, was found in the trunk of Im's Honda Accord. He had been stabbed. Forensic evidence, including a knife, was collected at the scene. The Mid-Missouri Major Case Squad was activated and assisted with the case for a little more than a week.

Several witnesses reported seeing a white man holding a gas can and standing near Im's car. A rough sketch of a possible suspect depicts a man with a hood wearing a painter's or drywall mask.

Over an eight-year period, MUPD investigators pursued at least 300 leads and compared roughly 60 DNA samples to evidence recovered at the crime scene. Police offered a $25,000 reward for information leading to an arrest.

On Dec. 21, 2012, MUPD received information identifying Timothy A. Hoag as the suspect in the case. Investigators learned that Hoag killed himself Aug. 9 by jumping off a parking garage in downtown Columbia. DNA from a blood sample obtained from Hoag matched DNA from blood, hair and other DNA recovered at the crime scene.

Investigators identified a witness who told investigators he took Hoag to the Maryland Avenue garage Jan. 7, 2005, so Hoag could get a car. The witness provided additional details: Two hours after dropping off Hoag, the witness got a phone call from Hoag requesting that he pick him up at another location and to bring gasoline. The witness picked up Hoag and took him back to the Maryland Avenue parking garage with the belief that Hoag needed the gasoline to start his vehicle.

The witness parked, and Hoag took the gas can and walked up a stairwell out of sight of the witness. When Hoag returned, he was wearing a particle facemask and had his hood pulled up. Hoag ordered the witness to drive from the area, and the witness told investigators that he recalled seeing smoke coming out of the garage as they drove away.
MU Police Chief Jack Watring this morning identified Hoag as Im's killer, but he said the case will remain open for the time being as investigators expect to gather more information. However, based on DNA evidence and witness statements, "there is nothing at this time to indicate that anyone else was involved in the homicide," Watring said.

The body of Im, a 72-year-old retired research assistant professor for the MU School of Medicine, was found in the trunk of his burning 1995 Honda Accord in MU's Maryland Avenue parking garage after he left work at University Hospital on Jan. 7, 2005. He was stabbed to death before his body was stuffed into the trunk and the car set on fire.

At least two people who believed Hoag was Im's killer did not come forward with that information because they were afraid of Hoag, police said.

MU police Capt. Brian Weimer said police got a tip Dec. 21 that Hoag might have been the person responsible for Im's murder. He said after investigators learned Hoag had committed suicide, they obtained a sample of Hoag's blood from the suicide scene, and the Missouri State Highway Patrol Crime Lab matched DNA from Hoag's blood to DNA extracted from blood, hair and skin cells recovered at the 2005 crime scene.

Investigators then identified a witness who said he drove Hoag to the Maryland Avenue Garage the morning of the Im's murder. Weimer said that witness provided other details that implicated Hoag.

Weimer said the witness told police he believed Hoag was involved in the homicide "but never came forward for fear of what could happen to his family." Weimer said the tipster who contacted police in December described Hoag as a violent person and also was fearful of coming forward.

"There could be other people that were fearful of Hoag," Weimer said, explaining why investigators were keeping the case open for now. "He is believed the sole person responsible."

Police were called to Im's murder scene about 12:30 p.m. Jan. 7, 2005, roughly two hours after the crime occurred. Over the years, the MU Police Department has enlisted help from outside agencies, including the Mid-Missouri Major Case Squad, all local and state law enforcement agencies, the FBI's Behavioral Science Unit and a regional crime information center in Springfield.

Based on witness reports, the department had a rough sketch of a possible suspect, described as a slender white male, between 6 feet and 6 feet 2 inches in height with brown wavy hair who was wearing a painter's or drywall mask in the area of the Maryland Avenue Garage the day of the murder.

The witness who said he took Hoag to the parking garage the day of the murder told police Hoag was wearing a particle facemask and a hood when the witness drove Hoag away from the scene. Weimer said police do not believe the witness was involved in the crime.
MU Chancellor Brady Deaton said Im's murder has "haunted" the university community for the past eight years.

"We never stopped working on the case," Watring said. Investigators pursued at least 300 leads, and some 60 DNA samples were compared to DNA collected at the crime scene.

Weimer said Hoag had not been a suspect and had not been interviewed. He also said police had not drawn conclusive connections between the homicide and Hoag's suicide, adding that investigators know very little about Hoag's life.

Court records indicate Hoag was convicted of third-degree assault and victim tampering related to a 2001 case and sentenced to six months in the county jail and two years probation. He also pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor drug charge in 2005.

According to a probable cause statement filed in the Feb. 5, 2001, assault and tampering case, Hoag went to local chiropractor Mark Pressley's business and threatened to break Pressley's hands and arms so Pressley "couldn't practice again." He also said he would go to Pressley's house and "hurt his wife and make the children watch" and that he would "get some sick twisted pleasure from it," the statement says.

The statement, written by a Columbia police officer, also says Hoag should be considered "extremely dangerous" to Pressley and his family because of his physical stature. It notes Hoag was 6-feet, 7-inches tall and weighed 235 pounds. The officer said Hoag also told Pressley that if Pressley called the police on Hoag and he were arrested, Hoag would "just bond out and come back as many times as it took."

Im's family, who moved to California after the murder, released a statement thanking the police and community.

"We are very relieved and grateful for the resolution of the case," the family said.

"This brings closure on the tragedy, to our family, as well as to the University of Missouri and Columbia communities as a whole."

This article was published in the Wednesday, January 30, 2013 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "Professor's murder solved: Witnessess, DNA connect man to slaying in 2005."
MU researcher to receive National Medal of Science at White House Thursday

13 hours ago • By Margaret Gillerman mgillerman@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8126

COLUMBIA • President Barack Obama on Thursday will award University of Missouri researcher M. Frederick Hawthorne the National Medal of Science.

The National Medal of Science and National Medal of Technology and Innovation are the highest honors awarded by the United States government to scientists, engineers, and inventors. Hawthorne will receive his award along with 20 other recipients.

Hawthorne is the director of the International Institute of Nano and Molecular Medicine at MU and is the school's Curators' Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Radiology.

Hawthorne was named a National Medal of Science recipient because of his work on the chemical element boron, according to news release from the university. He developed the use of a technique known as Boron Neutron Capture Therapy, which is used in experimental treatments for cancer, arthritis and other diseases. His work with boron also has been used to fight heart disease and Alzheimer's. He pioneered the use of “boron cages,” chemical structures that can be attached to other compounds and thereby change their physical properties, the university said.

In announcing the recipients, Obama said last month: “I am proud to honor these inspiring American innovators. They represent the ingenuity and imagination that has long made this nation great—and they remind us of the enormous impact a few good ideas can have when these creative qualities are unleashed in an entrepreneurial environment.”

MU's International Institute of Nano and Molecular Medicine was created largely to facilitate Hawthorne’s research. Hawthorne came to MU in 2006.

The National Medal of Science was created by statute in 1959 and is administered for the White House by the National Science Foundation. A committee of Presidential appointees selects nominees on the basis of their extraordinary knowledge in and contributions to chemistry, engineering, computing, mathematics, or the biological, behavioral/social, and physical sciences.
Deaton announces $8.3 million athletics donation from Walsworth family

By Jacob Bogage

University of Missouri Chancellor Brady Deaton announced Tuesday an $8.3 million gift to the MU’s athletic department from renowned donor Don Walsworth, CEO of Walsworth Publishing Company and former chairman of the university’s Board of Curators.

The gift, geared toward MU athletics’ needs after joining the Southeastern Conference, includes funding for renovations to Memorial Stadium as well as construction of a new clubhouse, housing, coaches’ offices, team locker rooms, indoor heated hitting bays and the latest swing instruction technology, for both the men’s and women’s golf teams.

“This gift to help renovate Memorial Stadium is vitally important as we transition into the SEC and step up to meet the new expectations of our new conference home,” Deaton said. “And the portion of the gift designated for the golf facilities at Old Hawthorne will have an enormous impact on our ability to recruit and retain quality student-athletes, both men and women.”

The gift, indicative of the Walsworth family’s love of golf—two of Don and his wife’s, Audrey, children played golf for Missouri—brings the family’s total giving to MU to nearly $14 million.

“We feel it’s vitally important that the university has the facilities that are necessary for the student athletes to prepare for events,” Don Walsworth said. “And we think the coaches need to have the top facilities to be able to compete in the SEC. As we all know the SEC is a very competitive conference and, consequently, it’s going to take the Missouri athletic department to move up the guard somewhat.”

Athletic director Mike Alden said the gift put funding “over the top” for the clubhouse which had been on the books for several years. It will cost, according to Alden, between $1.5 million to $2 million.

“We’ve got great alums and great friends of this institution that have been here for so many years that continue to help propel us forward in everything that we’re trying to do academically, everything that we’re trying to do from a research standpoint, everything that we’re trying to do from a student experience standpoint, and ... everything we’re trying to do in intercollegiate athletics,” Alden said.

The remaining funds, around $6.3 million, will go towards improvements to Memorial Stadium and to the athletic department’s general scholarship and endowment funds. Alden said the department had not yet finished budgeting what portion of the remaining sum would be sent to either category.

“When you see a gift like that come in, a gift like that come in from the Kansas City Sports Trust, we try not to have all of that money go towards bricks and mortar,” Alden said, referring to another $30 million gift from anonymous donors at the Kansas City Sports Trust in June of 2012. “We like to have some of that money go towards scholarships and endowments because we’re really trying to build that up.”
The donation chips away at the $200 million capital improvement fundraising campaign that athletics already has in place to overhaul stadiums and practice facilities.

Memorial Stadium, the flagship of the campaign’s mission, will see completion of a new west tower and north concourse, which necessitates the movement of Faurot Fields’ historic “rock M” and cosmetic work to the base of the hill on which it sits, by the 2013 football season.

A construction contract for the east tower, the last of the phase-one renovations to the 87-year-old stadium, will be bid out in a month with ground breaking expected by the spring of 2013, Alden said regarding plans for the east tower.

“If we can catch a good break on the weather, if people do things in an expedient fashion, which we think they can, then our hope is that we can have that completed for the 2014 football season,” he added.

Second-phase renovations, namely that of the south concourse, have been put off until the department can raise more money.

Meanwhile, a contract for renovations to MU’s baseball facility will be bid out “soon,” Alden said, while a debate remains on whether to pump money into the softball team’s University Stadium, or start from scratch.

“The question is, do you just improve it towards what you got right now, or frankly do you take a look at building a brand new softball complex?” Alden said. “And that’s where we’ve put it on hold, just for a little bit, so we can really analyze that and we’ll make a decision on that probably within the next three to four months.”

If a new stadium were to be constructed, it would most likely be “on the same footprint,” Alden said. “But there’s a lot of work that has to go into that.”
UM tuition increases might be smaller than expected

By Dan Burley
January 30, 2013 | 8:16 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — The University of Missouri System Board of Curators is expected to vote this week on proposed tuition and fee increases for all four UM campuses in 2014.

Under the proposal, a resident, undergraduate student would expect a 1.7 percent increase in tuition and required fees, amounting to an average of $157 more per year. The current resident, undergraduate student in the UM System pays an average of $9,167 per year for tuition and required fees. The system's proposed increase is down slightly from the 2 percent jump in tuition and required fees discussed at the UM Board of Curators meeting in December.

The system will bring its proposal to increase tuition and required fees for fiscal year 2014 to the curators' first meeting of the year on Thursday and Friday at University of Missouri-Kansas City. A 1.7 percent increase would match the rate of inflation, according to the proposal.

Over the past five years, tuition has been raised by an average of 2.3 percent annually for resident, undergraduate students, according to a statement released by UM System President Tim Wolfe. Since 2001, state funding to the UM System has decreased by more than 10 percent, placing Missouri 44th in the nation in overall state higher education funding in 2012, according to system documents.

On Monday, Gov. Jay Nixon called for additional funding for higher education in his annual State of the State address. Nixon's budget plan suggested an increase of $34 million to public colleges and universities in the state, or an average increase of 4 percent for each school.

A list of performance measures — such as increased graduation rates, increased student retention and improved learning — would determine how much of the $34 million pot each school receives in fiscal year 2014, which begins on July 1, 2014. Last year, the UM System met all of the performance measures and would receive a 4.3 percent increase in funding,
$16.9 million, under Nixon's plan, according to the document listing Nixon's proposed budget increases.

The Missouri General Assembly will review Nixon's requests and pass a budget by May.

Wolfe's statement said he was pleased by Nixon's State of the State address. He thanked Nixon "for his willingness to invest additional dollars in higher education and his commitment to find ways to combat our ever-growing backlog of capital needs that in some cases directly affects the learning experience of students and limits enrollment growth in certain degree programs."

On Friday, Wolfe will give the State of the University address, his first since becoming system president in December 2011. Since the board's meeting in December, three curators have been appointed by Nixon to the nine-member board: Ann Covington, 4th congressional district; John Phillips, 5th congressional district; and J. Michael Ponder, 8th congressional district.

If approved by the Missouri Senate, all three curators' terms would expire in January 2019. Covington was the first female judge to serve on the State Supreme Court when former Gov. John Ashcroft appointed her in 1989. Before her appointment, she was a judge on the Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District, and served under Ashcroft as assistant attorney general. Covington, a Columbia resident, retired from the bench in 2001.

Phillips is an attorney who has spent the past 40 years working in business, education and health organizations in the Kansas City-area. He served for 15 years on an advisory council for the Henry W. Bloch School of Business at UMKC. He works for the Husch-Blackwell law firm.

Ponder, of Cape Girardeau, is a partner in the Cape Girardeau law firm of Cook, Barkett, Ponder and Wolz and has served on the State Board of Education since 2009.

All three are graduates of the University of Missouri School of Law.

The board's full agenda, meeting documents and presentation materials are available on the UM System's website. The system will stream audio of Thursday's meetings online at www.umsystem.edu/curators/stream.

Columbia Missourian reporter Dan Burley will be reporting from the board's meetings in Kansas City on Thursday. Follow his reporting online and on Twitter at @CoMissourian and with the hashtag #umcurators.
By August Kryger
Wednesday, January 30, 2013 at 2:00 pm

Ty Christian stands by a replica of the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial Tuesday during a ceremony to mark the replica's installation at Ellis Library on the University of Missouri campus. Christian, a 1977 graduate of MU, presented the statue to the university last year. Christian served as chief marketing strategist on the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Project Foundation.
Former men's tennis coaches at the University of Southern Mississippi (unsuccessfully) bribed a highly recruited player to stay on the team with $5,000 and a car, paid another athlete $150 to write an academic paper for him, and offered him $200 to come back and win an in-progress match, according to a National Collegiate Athletic Association public infractions report. The NCAA announced Wednesday that it had cited the former head and assistant coach with unethical conduct and the university with a failure to monitor its men's tennis program. The report also noted that the coaches' refusal to participate in NCAA enforcement interviews and their encouragement of athletes to lie to NCAA investigators.

"The two coaches' actions obviously fell short of what the NCAA membership expects of its coaches by their failure to act ethically," Rod Uphoff, acting chair of the NCAA's Committee on Infractions and law professor at the University of Missouri at Columbia, said in a call with reporters Wednesday, adding that they also were "ruining" the "opportunities" of the athletes involved, who are now permanently ineligible.

In explaining the university's failure to monitor citation, the report notes a flouting of travel policies and procedures, lack of proper documentation and general administrative oversight of the tennis program, and failure to provide appropriate resources to compliance staff. Also, obviously, the coaches' behavior occurred under supposed administrative watch. The violations took place from January 2008 through May 2010.

Citations include public reprimand and censure; four years' probation (through Jan. 29, 2017); a seven-year show-cause order for the former head coach and a six-year show-cause order for the former assistant coach, which will require any institution that wants to hire those coaches within that time frame to make its case for doing so to the NCAA; prohibition of foreign tour participation for men's tennis until 2016; and a one-year postseason ban for men's tennis, as well as vacation of all wins in which the former athletes competed while ineligible (both self-imposed by the university).
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU online farming tool, class encourage students into the industry

By Caroline Bauman
January 30, 2013 | 6:00 a.m. CST

COLUMBIA — The memory of gathering around the dinner table with his uncles and grandparents after a good day of farming keeps calling Andrew Perry back to his roots.

"I love the atmosphere of a family farm," said Perry, a junior in agricultural economics at MU. "I spent some time working for an agribusiness firm, but there seemed to be something missing. Working alongside my family and watching something grow, that strikes a deep tune in my chest."

Perry spent much of his childhood at his family's farm in Kirksville. Despite the uncertainties of the farming industry, Perry said, his dream after he graduates is to return to the farm. For the young, aspiring farmer, determining expenses and profit can be daunting, he said. A new online tool developed by the MU Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute and an MU farming preparation class share the goal to help make it easier for young farmers to break into the industry.

Funded by a United States Department of Agriculture grant, the Farm Cost and Return Tool, or Farm CART, allows farmers to simulate what their farm will look like financially over the next five years. Beginning farmers can use the tool to estimate start-up costs and future returns, and established farmers can find better ways to grow their operations.

"This tool is very useful to anyone in agriculture, especially young people thinking of getting started," said Peter Zimmel, the institute's program director. "You may be thinking about purchasing 100 acres for corn but have no idea what that will cost. You can utilize the tool to make more successful decisions."

Free to the public, farmers can customize Farm CART to their state, county, acreage and choice of crop or livestock. Based on the institute's annual baseline projections and USDA data, the tool predicts prices, revenue, total costs and net returns.
"It's very easy to ignore the hard facts of finance," Perry said. "There's a fine line between success and failure when going back to the farm, and I think FAPRI's tool will help young, aspiring farmers discover where they stand."

The grant was provided through the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program in an effort to educate people nationwide about the costs and benefits of starting a farm, Zimmel said. He and his team received about $500,000 in 2009 to be distributed over three years. They finished Farm CART in September 2012.

"We worked hard to make it as easy to use as any standard Web page," Zimmel said. "The ideal goal is for someone thinking of getting into farming to use the tool to see if it's financially viable for them to farm." The rising average age and projected decrease of American farmers has renewed interest in funding beginning farmers programs, according to the USDA website. The number of farmers and ranchers is predicted to decrease by 8 percent from 2008 to 2018.

"There's a very expensive barrier for young farmers wanting to get into the business," Farm CART programmer Scott Gerlt said. "With a struggling economy and a lot of farm consolidations, it's just tough right now."

**A growing concern**

People 65 and older own more than 19,000 farms in Missouri, while farmers younger than 25 own 307 farms, according to the latest USDA Census of Agriculture from 2007. Farmers 25 to 44 years old own more than 5,000 farms, and those 35 to 54 years old own more than 19,000. Nationwide, only 5 percent of principal farm operators are younger than 35, according to the census.

The gap has continued to grow since that information was gathered, said Kevin Moore, MU associate professor of agricultural economics. The economic climate and immediate uncertainties make it difficult for the next generation to return to the farm.

"What we're seeing is the older generation living longer and staying on the farm longer," Moore said. "It's an increasing challenge to make farming look attractive to the younger generations, as its is by no means an easy or stable job." Two decades ago, Moore began teaching Returning to the Farm, a class that aids students in overcoming the economic and personal difficulties of the farming industry. About 150 students have completed the course, and three-quarters of them have gone into farming, he said.
"We have the same mission" as Farm CART, Moore said. "We want to help kids make the best decision possible, whether to return to the family farm or start from scratch."

Perry, a member of this semester's 14-person class, said it brings to light important details of the financial and mental feasibility of returning to his family farm.

"Just because I'm a third-generation member of this farm doesn't mean I have to be a hired hand," Perry said. "The course has made me think about what my value is and what I can contribute to make my farm better."

Room for hope

Though the low number of young farmers might seem disheartening, there is optimism that family farmers in Missouri will be successful for generations to come, Moore said.

"I've know the passion that these kids have," Moore said. "The future of family farming in Missouri is not all doomsday and gloom."

Some aspiring farmers, such as MU sophomore Aubrey Ellison, hope to bring back to their farms new knowledge they have gained at college.

"This is just my calling," said Ellison, who grew up on a dairy farm in Mount Vernon. "But when I go back, I want to do things differently. I want to switch to a pasture-grazed farm, because I know this will be more successful."

USDA grants, statewide loan programs and classes such as Returning to the Farm have a renewed mission to provide young people with a foothold in this industry, Moore said.

Zimmel said he agrees that young farmers have plenty of room for hope.

"Many producers grew up on farms, went to school and now are branching out to their own farms or returning to improve their family farms," Zimmel said. "The numbers are dwindling, but there are still bright people in agriculture. There is still optimism."

The passion for farming doesn't stem from a love of money or success, Perry said.

"For me, this is just the way I want to live my life, with great family, doing what I love," Perry said. "That outweighs all of the risks."

Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.
Rain beneficial but not enough to quench drought

By Ashley Fowler
January 30, 2013 | 6:57 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — The 1.53 inches of rain on Tuesday put a dent in the ongoing drought, but much more rain is needed before the spring growing season.

Pat Guinan, state climatologist and MU Extension assistant professor of climatology, said it was the most significant rainfall event for the state since the remnants of Hurricane Isaac moved through Missouri in August.

"It was something we badly needed, a step in the right direction," Guinan said.

Tuesday's rainfall at Columbia Regional Airport set a record for Jan. 29. The previous record for Jan. 29 precipitation was 1.24 inches in 1968, Jon Carney, meteorologist at the National Weather Service in St. Louis, said.

But 2012 was the driest year for Missouri since 1980, and Columbia remains more than 15 inches below normal rainfall since May 1, 2012.

Mark Fuchs, a hydrologist at the National Weather Service in St. Louis, said it would take a 5- or 6-inch rain to bring Columbia close to average rainfall. "But it would do little to no good if our pattern went back to dry after a few weeks with no rain," Fuchs said.

"The soil profile is dryer than I've seen it in probably 20 years," Bill Wiebold, agronomist and professor of plant sciences at MU, said. "We need to have continued rains that would start to infiltrate into the soil and fill that profile up."

"Tuesday's rain was a good start, but we need much more to get our soils ready for the next growing season," Wiebold said.

Supervising editor is John Schneller.