Kristofer Hagglund named dean of MU School of Health Professions

By Brendan Gibbons
May 20, 2013 | 7:28 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — In his 12 years as associate dean of MU's School of Health Professions, Kristofer Hagglund has witnessed the school quadruple in enrollment.

The school announced Monday that Hagglund had been selected as dean, effective July 1. He will replace Richard Oliver, the founding dean who had been with the school since it separated from the MU School of Medicine in 2000.

In 2001, when Hagglund started as associate dean, the school had fewer than 600 students, Oliver said. Since then, enrollment has grown to 2,500.

"I recruited him here, and I think he's done a stellar job," Oliver said.

Hagglund talked about the satisfaction he feels about helping the school grow in enrollment and expand the services it offers to the community, such as fitness classes, occupational therapy clinics and a preschool program for children with speech and language difficulties.

"I don't suspect that all associate deanships are alike," Hagglund said. "Mine's just been a great deal of fun over the past 12 years."

Hagglund said one of his favorite moments as associate dean came in 2007, when the university approved the Bachelor of Health Sciences Program. The program now has about 1,300 students, Hagglund said.

Hagglund said he discovered his interest in public health in 2000 when he was a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow in Washington, D.C. He was working in Sen. Tom Harkin's office, preparing for a hearing on public health.

"It just struck me that you can do a lot of good for a lot of people through public health initiatives," he said.
Hagglund is also director of the Master of Public Health Program, a role he will miss.

“It's going to be difficult for me to have to give up the public health role, but that's a fantastic team,” he said.

His first act as dean, he said, will be listening.

“I have a great sense of duty to listen well and to commit myself to doing this job well,” he said. “To follow someone like Rich Oliver is a very humbling experience.”

Oliver will begin a two-year term as president of The Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions.

“It'll be good for me as a transitional role, but it'll also be good for the university to know that we're respected enough that a person like me has been asked to assume the presidency of this national association,” Oliver said.

Oliver said he thinks the school will be in capable hands after he leaves.

“Having his inside knowledge as our associate dean, he can carry on and build on the great success we've had working together,” Oliver said of Hagglund.
Police investigate fatal shooting

Victim worked for MU athletics.

By Brennan David

Monday, May 20, 2013 at 2:00 pm

A 25-year-old Columbia man was fatally shot on North Ann Street early Sunday in a disturbance that quickly escalated into gunfire.

Brandon R. Coleman was pronounced dead at University Hospital as a result of the 3:12 a.m. shooting in the 500 block of Ann, Columbia police Officer Latisha Stroer said. Police released little information about an argument that preceded the shooting, but one man involved claims he was being held at gunpoint when his son rushed out of a nearby residence with a 12-gauge shotgun and opened fire.

Police were awaiting results of Coleman's autopsy this morning before commenting further. No suspect was in custody, and no arrests had been made, Stroer said. Investigators have not commented on whether anyone involved was acting in self-defense or whether Coleman was the intended target.

"I'm lucky to be standing here talking," said the man who said he was held at gunpoint. He declined to give his name.

Coleman was a groundskeeper for the University of Missouri's athletic department since 2010, said Chad Moller, an MU athletics spokesman.

"He was very dedicated to his job and always seemed to have a positive energy about him," Moller said. "Our thoughts go out to Brandon's family and loved ones."

Upon arrival, officers found Coleman shot. Ann Street resident Josiah Williams, 35, said he heard three quick gunshots, a pause and then a fourth gunshot. Williams said he then went outside and overheard a man telling others that he looked out the window of a home near Ann and Hinkson Avenue to see his father being held at gunpoint and started shooting.

Williams said he could see Coleman rolling on the ground in pain. He said he called 911 four times but never spoke to a dispatcher because the phone continued to ring or he was placed on hold. He estimated it took 25 minutes for an ambulance to arrive.
Investigators learned that a disturbance occurred before Coleman was shot, Stroer said, and police believe they have contacted all those involved and are interviewing them. The witness who said he was held at gunpoint said a fight that started earlier at a local hospital involving his daughter continued hours later at an Ann Street residence.

Online dispatch records indicate Columbia fire, police and a Boone Hospital Center ambulance were dispatched to Ann Street around 10:50 p.m. Saturday. Police reports only note that a 21-year-old male complained of dizziness, Stroer said, but Columbia fire notes indicated a 21-year-old male was taken to Boone Hospital with a traumatic injury.

Columbia police also responded to a vehicle crash in the 800 block of Ann Street at 9:37 p.m. Saturday and returned to the same residence at 1:02 a.m. yesterday for a peace disturbance. Officers did not find a loud party as reported, Stroer said, and she could not confirm whether any of the incidents were related to the shooting.

This article was published in the Monday, May 20, 2013 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "Fatal shooting is investigated: Victim worked for MU athletics."

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Posted in Crime on Monday, May 20, 2013 2:00 pm.
MU groundskeeper killed in early morning shooting

By Harrison McLean
May 20, 2013 | 5:21 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The 25-year-old Columbia man killed early Sunday in a shooting on North Ann Street worked for MU as a groundskeeper.

Brandon Coleman had worked for the turf management section of the MU athletics department since June 2010. Prior to that, he worked at MU Campus Dining services, according to a statement from Chad Moller, associate athletics director.

"He worked hard for athletics, and we’re all really saddened about this news," Moller said via email.

Coleman graduated from Hickman High School in May 2006 and attended MU. The University Registrar could not confirm how long he attended or whether he graduated.

Members of the Columbia Police Department Criminal Investigative Division arrived at the intersection of Ann Street and Hinkson Avenue at approximately 3:15 a.m. Sunday after receiving a report of a disturbance leading to shots fired.

Coleman was taken by ambulance to University Hospital where he was later pronounced dead, according to a news release from the Columbia Police Department.

The police said they think they had located all persons involved in the disturbance and were conducting interviews, according to the release, but no arrests have been made as of Monday afternoon.

An autopsy was performed late Monday morning, but the Boone County Medical Examiner was not able to provide results.
A team of students from the University of Missouri Health System won first place in the CLARION National Interprofessional Team Case Competition, a health care quality improvement program. The team’s four members are Sabrina Abramovitz, Scott Bartkoski, Kaci Dannat and Terri Stone, representing four different professions: public health, medicine, health care administration and nursing. The students, who competed against other teams from universities throughout the United States, received a $7,500 team scholarship for their winning presentation. The teams were given the same case study, then presented their quality improvement recommendations to a panel of judges.
'65 novel set at Mizzou captivates Europeans

18 hours ago • By Jane Henderson jhenderson@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8107

"Stoner," a novel about an English professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia, is getting more praise these days than it did when it was published in 1965.

"Stoner," refers to the protagonist's name; not any drug habits. NPR had a report on author John Williams' book Sunday, saying that the novel ...

"received admiring reviews over the years, but sold just 2,000 copies and was almost immediately forgotten.

"Fast forward to today and the book is experiencing a renaissance of sorts. It is a best-seller across much of Europe, including the Netherlands, where it has been the best-selling novel for the past two months. But it is not the action-packed thriller or steamy romance you might expect to be topping the charts. It is a quiet, slim novel about a young man who leaves a hardscrabble farm in Missouri to become a literature professor in 1910."

John Williams was born in Texas and died in Arkansas. But he did study at Mizzou for his doctorate. He received his degree in 1954.

Since "Stoner" was republished a few years ago, it has received more recognition. But it's surprising that it's an actual "best-seller" in Europe. For the NPR story, click here.

Reminds me of the little renaissance Jetta Carleton, who also wrote about rural Missouri, underwent several years ago.
Alternative energy fuels hopes for southern Missouri mine

Monday, May 20, 2013 at 2:00 pm

SULLIVAN (AP) — Never mind the lawsuits, regulatory hurdles and competing against the Chinese. Jim Kennedy is plotting a comeback for the mine he used to own in eastern Missouri.

The St. Louis-area developer was forced to sell the now shuttered Pea Ridge Mine in Washington County in January 2012. The new owners of the iron ore mine say they are testing its flooded caves and figuring out a storage and disposal plan for mining waste before deciding whether to reopen.

But Kennedy retains a 70 percent stake in the mine's other resources. They include rare earth minerals, a key ingredient in laptop computers, cellphones and other household electronics that are almost exclusively mined in China.

And he's a relentless advocate for thorium, a radioactive mining byproduct that Kennedy touts as a green energy alternative to uranium-reliant nuclear power. He speaks of thorium's benefits with an evangelistic zeal, recounting how U.S. scientists were on the brink of major breakthroughs before ceding the research battle to scientists in China.

He also bemoans the failure of traditional mines to exploit an underutilized resource. "They throw them away and drop them right back into the tailings lake," Kennedy said of the standard mining approach to rare earth minerals.

It's a message that has generated enthusiasm among lawmakers, including state Rep. David Schatz. A resolution introduced by the Sullivan Republican and co-sponsored by 30 others calls for development of Pea Ridge as a rare earth refinery and urges Congress to revise federal law to allow for a thorium "storage bank." The measure won the backing of two House committees before the Missouri legislature adjourned Friday.

"There's a huge opportunity with that aspect of the mine," Schatz said. "As I look at our potential energy needs in the future, this is a resource we need to look at. It's clean energy, it's abundant and it's a much safer alternative than nuclear energy."

Patrick Pinhero, a University of Missouri chemical engineering professor, testified in support of Schatz's resolution at an April hearing of the House Utilities Committee. He
noted Missouri is "uniquely suited" to embrace thorium energy. Both the campus in Columbia and Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla are home to research reactors.

Pea Ridge is one of two U.S. mines where rare earth elements can be mined. The other, in California's Death Valley, is owned by a company that both Kennedy and Pinhero said sells its refined minerals to companies in China.

The state House resolution also notes that discrepancy, along with the limitation that Molycorp Inc.'s mine in Mountain Pass, Calif., has only eight of the 16 recoverable rare earth elements. The elements are a key component in the manufacture of lasers, missile guidance systems and other pillars of defense — another reason why proponents are pushing for a domestic alternative to the Chinese.

"We've given most of it away — the refining methods and the intellectual property associated with it — to other countries," said Pinhero, who is researching a portable thorium power source at his lab. "They can squash anybody who tries to make a run at it."

Kennedy's company retains a 70 percent stake in minerals other than iron ore after a messy legal dispute with a former business partner that culminated in the sale of the mine he purchased in 2001, the same year it closed.

The new owners are MFC Industrial Ltd., a Canadian commodities supply chain company, and Alberici Constructors, which is based in St. Louis County. Kennedy's first step in reviving the mine's fortunes will be convincing them to reopen the facility.

"If we determine to move forward with the project, significant additional investment would be required," said Rene Randall, an MFC Industrial vice president.

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