Autopsy scheduled for man who died after being found unconscious in MU residence hall

By Joey Ukrop, Tess Catlett
October 14, 2013 | 6:41 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The Boone County Medical Examiner's office will perform an autopsy Tuesday on Gregory Gerard Holthaus, who died Sunday after being found unconscious in an MU residence hall.

Some other tests, such as a toxicology report, might be necessary to determine the cause of death, said Stacey Huck, part of the office support staff at the Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences.

MU Police Department officers found Holthaus, 18, of Highland, Ill., unconscious and not breathing shortly after 9 a.m. on Sunday in Dogwood Hall, according to an MUPD news release. He was transported to University Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Holthaus was a first-semester student in the electrical program at Ranken Technical College, a career technical training school in St. Louis, according to a school representative.

"Greg enjoyed life and always made the best out of everything," said Thomas Foppe, a close friend of Holthaus. "He could make anyone laugh. He was everyone’s friend."

Foppe is also from Highland and attends the St. Louis College of Pharmacy. He is selling wristbands in remembrance of Holthaus for $2.

"They're black and blue Livestrong-style bracelets and say #RIPGreg," Foppe said.

Supervising editor is Richard Webner.
University of Mo. opens new pediatric rehab center
October 14, 2013 7:59 am

The University of Missouri Health System has opened a new pediatric rehabilitation center.

The new therapy center is located across the street from the university's Women's and Children's Hospital on Keene Street in eastern Columbia.

Dr. Timothy Fete, the hospital's medical director, says the new 8,300-square-foot building will allow doctors to expand the number of scheduled patient appointments by more than 100 each week.

The $1 million facility includes a 2,000-square-foot outdoor playground accessible to children who use crutches, walkers and wheelchairs. The rehab center also has specially equipped rooms for children with autism and multiple rooms for speech and physical therapy.
No foul play suspected in death at MU dorm

Monday, October 14, 2013 at 2:00 pm

An 18-year-old man was pronounced dead Sunday at University Hospital shortly after he was found unresponsive at 9:07 a.m. at the Pershing group of residence halls.

Gregory G. Holthaus of Highland, Ill., was visiting a resident on campus over the weekend. His cause of death has not been determined.

University of Missouri police Capt. Brian Weimer said there is no indication of foul play and declined to say if there were any signs of drug or alcohol use.

"We're looking at all possibilities and working with the medical examiner to determine what happened," Weimer said.

An autopsy might be done today. Authorities are interviewing friends of Holthaus and others in the area as they gather evidence in the investigation.

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Posted in Local on Monday, October 14, 2013 2:00 pm.
University of Iowa experience lends hope to MU Museum of Art and Archeology

By T.J. Thomson
October 14, 2013 | 10:05 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Dale Fisher of the University of Iowa Museum of Art brought a message to MU on Monday evening: "Good things can come from bad circumstances."

Fisher, curator of education for the University of Iowa's museum, described the way his institution responded when a flood threatened its art collection in 2008. His lessons could be useful for the MU Museum of Art and Archaeology, which is moving from Pickard Hall to Mizzou North, about two miles from the main campus.

He shared his experiences with a group of about 50 faculty members, students and Columbia residents Monday evening in Pickard Hall.

After the flood covered his museum's floor, Fisher and others stood on ladders in the basement to pick out which paintings to save. One of their most expensive paintings, a $180 million work by Jackson Pollock, was the first to be rescued. The painting was placed on a truck to Chicago.

The University of Iowa's situation was different from MU's for several reasons, Fisher said. His museum had little time to move its collection. MU, on the other hand, is moving because of potential radiation risks, said Alex Barker, who has served as the museum's director for seven years.

"We had three and a half days; you have a luxurious amount of time," Fisher said.

Pickard Hall once housed the university's chemistry department. During that time, a chemistry professor, Herman Schlundt, processed ore in the building, which "left behind contamination in some parts," Barker said.
MU has hired two art movers, Terry Dowd Inc. of Chicago and U.S. Art Company Inc. of Brentwood, to complete its move by December. The movers have already transported about 300 bins of material, Barker said. The museum staff has surveyed 16,000 objects and has found none of them to be radioactive.

Barker said MU is worried more about radiation in the building itself than in the collection.

The university has been monitoring the building for radiation since the '70s, reporting the results to the state, Barker said. Five or six years ago, the university began reporting to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which has since called for the move. The MU Museum of Anthropology will also move to Mizzou North. After the building has been emptied, the commission will perform a radioactivity analysis. Despite the differences between the two moves, Fisher said the lessons he learned in Iowa can help Missouri.

"I don't have any answers in some kind of definitive sense, but I know where you're going because I'm five and a half years down the road from where you are now," Fisher said.

Since the flood, the University of Iowa museum has been in a temporary building without dedicated exhibition space. Because of this, it has spent its money on art education and community outreach.

The museum went from reaching fewer than 1,000 people through community outreach in the 2008 academic year to reaching 18,465 in the 2012 academic year, Fisher said. The University of Iowa Museum of Art's staff visited schools, libraries and senior living centers so that its community could still benefit from art. The flood brought some positive things to the University of Iowa, Fisher said. He expects the MU Museum of Art and Archaeology's move to lead to good things, too.

"We can have bigger and better when we end up the other side of the path," Fisher said. "You’re all going to do that."

Fisher, an MU alumnus, added: "This building was too small when I was an undergrad, 30 years ago, so get more space." MU graduate student Tony Pierucci, who is co-president of the Museum Advisory Council of Students, said he was excited to learn from an industry professional.

"It's a great opportunity to learn from someone in the field who's going through something similar to what we're going through," he said.

*Supervising editor is Richard Webner.*
The University of Missouri School of Law opened a new clinic Oct. 3, 2013, to assist veterans and provide law students with real world experience. The students, who will be supervised by experienced attorneys throughout the process, will assist veterans and their families secure disability benefits.

Not only will the clinic provide benefits to its veteran clients, but students will also work within the law firm atmosphere they might expect upon graduation. The program is geared to assist students interested in personal injury, civil litigation or administrative law.

In order to fully assist their clients, students will interview clients, witnesses and medical personnel, as well as conduct research to collect the facts of the case and prepare briefs.
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Events around Columbia celebrate worldly women

By Cathy Salter

Monday, October 14, 2013 at 2:00 pm

A week ago, I introduced Matthew Goodman, author of "Eighty Days: Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland's History-Making Race Around the World" in preparation for the four days of events taking place in town and on the MU campus this week.

Events are taking place at the Ragtag Theater, the Boone County Museum and Galleries, the University of Missouri School of Journalism and Reynolds Journalism Institute, and the Columbia Public Library — with sponsorship as well from the Tribune and the Boone County Journal.

The kickoff event takes place at 5:30 tonight at Ragtag Theater. Ragtag and the Boone County Museum are sponsoring a free showing of the documentary film, "Farewell" — the dramatic, archival film footage of the Graf Zeppelin airship's 1929 inaugural circumnavigation of the globe.

This documentary was selected because like Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland's 1889 race around the world by ship, train, ferry, and sheer gumption, "Farewell" is the story of one woman journalist pitted against a world of male competition engaged in reporting a record-setting, round-the-world journey.

The 1889 round-the-world race of Bly and Bisland and the 1929 journey of Lady Grace Drummond Hay 40 years later expanded the possibilities of travel and tourism.

Bly and Bisland's 1889-90 race around the globe was promoted as a publicity stunt by the competing editors at the New York World newspaper and John Brisben Walker, owner of the monthly magazine The Cosmopolitan. In "Farewell," journalist Hay was covering the journey for newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst in 1929.

In their day, these three intrepid female journalists were widely known but have largely been forgotten over time. "Eighty Days" and the documentary "Farewell" bring these remarkable women and their accomplishments to life once again.
Tomorrow from 5 to 7 p.m., the Boone County Museum and Galleries is hosting a free reception with libations and hors d'oeuvres to welcome Matthew Goodman to Columbia. Come meet the author, view the museum's Nellie Bly exhibit, listen to a preview of Goodman's Book Talk coming up at the Columbia Public Library at 7 p.m. Thursday and have the author sign your copy of "Eighty Days."

Wednesday, the MU School of Journalism hosts the author at two public events.

At 3:30 p.m., he will meet with students and the community in the Reynolds Journalism Institute's upstairs Fred W. Smith Forum. Mary Kay Blakely and her journalism students will take part in a discussion with Goodman about women in journalism — then and now.

That evening at 7:30 p.m., investigative reporter and author Steve Weinberg will interview Matthew Goodman at a free, public talk in Gannett Hall's Fisher Auditorium.

Thursday morning at 10, the Columbia Public Library hosts a distinguished panel of four local women titled "Daring and Adventurous Journeys." Panelists include former astronaut Linda Godwin; cross-country cyclist and original organizer of Columbia's Bike Walk, Judy Knudson; Libby Cowgill of the MU Department of Anthropology; and Soviet-born Svetlana Grobman, now an American citizen, a librarian and a writer.

That evening, the author will give a Book Talk at 7 on "Eighty Days" in the Friends Room at the Columbia Public Library. Book groups and the public are invited.

Cathy Salter is a geographer and columnist who lives with her husband, Kit, in southern Boone County at a place they call Boomerang Creek.

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