

# Tragic accident claims college student-athlete

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Grinnell College student Robert Yin died Monday as a result of injuries sustained in a pole vault accident while participating in the Midwest Conference Track and Field Championships at Illinois College on Friday.

## TRAGIC ACCIDENT -

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Yin, a second-year music major from Rockville, Md., fell during a pole vault jump and sustained serious injuries at the Midwest Conference outdoor conference meet in Jacksonville, Ill. The family has requested that specific details not be made available. They also express gratitude for the outpouring of support from the Grinnell community.

The Grinnell campus focus is on assisting students in coping with the loss of a friend and in supporting Robert Yin's family. Due to the close of the academic year, it is likely that a campus memorial service will be held next fall when students return to campus.

Information provided to the campus community can be found at <http://www.grinnell.edu/news/features/robert-yin-12>.

Director of Athletics and Recreation Greg Wallace provided this statement: "Our entire athletic community has lost a gifted student-athlete, a valued teammate and more importantly, a friend, with the passing of Robert Yin '12. It is a tragedy for Robert's family to lose a son, a brother, a nephew and a grandson who had so much to live for, and it is devastating for us when that person has touched so many lives on our campus. His pride and dedication to track and field, his performances with G-Tones, his love for music, and his amazing personality are now cherished memories; Robert will be missed by all of us. Our hearts go out to his family, which has become a part of our family, and we thank them for sharing Robert with us."

A funeral service for Robert Yin is scheduled for Saturday, May 29, at 11 a.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, 107 South Washington Street, Rockville, Md.

## Robert Zhongjie Yin

Robert Zhongjie Yin of Rockville, Md., a student at Grinnell College, died Monday, May 17, 2010, from head injuries suffered in a fall while pole vaulting in a college track meet.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, May 29, at 11 a.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, 107 South Washington St., Rockville, Md. Viewing will take place in the church's chapel from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Interment will take place at Parklawn Memorial Park in Rockville. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to support track and music programs at Grinnell College, to Thomas S. Wootton High School in Rockville, or to support activities of choristers at Christ Episcopal Church.

He was born Dec. 12, 1989, the son of Sandra Gail Giger and Jeremy Yin. He began singing at the age of 2-1/2 and was involved in musical as well as sports activities throughout his life. He sang in the youth choir at Washington National Cathedral and at Christ Episcopal Church and played the violin and viola with youth orchestras. He studied Chinese and played baseball for Landon School in Bethesda, Md.

He graduated from Thomas Wootton High School in Rockville where he was active in music and sports. He was the school's "Homecoming King" in the fall of 2007, captain of its track and field team and received the Patriot's Award for sportsmanship. He graduated with honors as a "Distinguished Scholar."

He is survived by his parents, two brothers, Alexander Yin and William Lyo; his aunt Joanne Malone of Weymouth, Mass.; his uncle Roger Giger of Toledo, Iowa, and his grandmother, Annia Lowe Giger of Braintree, Mass.

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