

April 5, 2008

Dear GSAS students and other members of the GSAS community,

A tragic incident last night occurred involving one of our GSAS students. Minghui Yu, a PhD student in Statistics, was struck by a vehicle Friday evening at Broadway and W. 122nd Street. Mr. Yu passed away as a result of his injuries. We are grief stricken at the loss of this member of our Columbia graduate community. His parents, family, friends, and colleagues in the Department of Statistics and the Department of Physics are all in our thoughts.

It is believed that Mr. Yu was struck as he was fleeing an attempted robbery near the Jewish Theological Seminary. Representatives from Columbia were on the scene and later, at St. Luke's Hospital, Minghui's friends, faculty from the Department of Statistics, and GSAS Associate Dean Rebecca Hirade were there when he passed away at 11:30 Friday night.

Columbia's Counseling and Psychological Services will be open from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. today if you wish to talk to someone. There will be opportunities this coming week to gather and honor the life and memory of Mr. Yu; we will share details in the coming days.

This is a horrible tragedy and, at such times, we think of the safety of all members of GSAS and the Columbia community. Your safety and well-being are of the highest priority for us in GSAS. Soon we will inform you of the additional steps that will be taken to ensure your safety. We ask you to work with us and be even more cautious in the days and weeks ahead.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact GSAS at 212-854-8428 or ja2310@columbia.edu or rst1@columbia.edu

Henry Pinkham
GSAS Dean