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## Metro

# BC student found dead was avid swimmer

## Cause of death undetermined

By **Matt Rocheleau** | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT APRIL 30, 2012

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Michael Gannon and his older sister Michelle traveled frequently while growing up because their father's work took the family from Illinois around the globe. The siblings bonded over their love of swimming and each continued that passion when they attended Boston College.

“Both he and Michelle were very competitive, avid swimmers,” said their aunt, Carol Gannon-Bock.

“They were best friends - very, very close,” she said. “They always had each other.”

On Saturday afternoon, 20-year-old Michael Gannon was found dead in his dormitory at BC.



The sophomore studying management was described by his aunt as being a popular, kind, good-humored young man, who was “very full of life.”

“He was looking forward to so much in front of him,” she said in a brief phone interview Sunday.

She said how Gannon died has not yet been determined.

On Saturday, a Boston College spokesman reiterated that the cause of death has not been settled, but added, “police do not suspect foul play.”

Gannon-Bock said the siblings’ parents immediately traveled Saturday from their home in Lake Forest, Ill., to the Chestnut Hill campus to console their daughter, who is expected to graduate from BC next month.

Campus counselors, ministers, and residential life staff were available to students during the weekend and will remain available this week, said Jack Dunn, a spokesman for the school.

“Michael was remembered at all campus Masses on Sunday,” he said.

On Saturday, Patrick Rombalski, vice president for student affairs at BC, informed the campus community of Gannon’s death in a letter posted to the school’s website.

“We ask you to pray for [Michael’s family] and his many friends on campus as they come to terms with this news,” Rombalski said.

Gannon-Bock said that arrangements for a funeral in Gannon’s hometown in Illinois have not yet been finalized.

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