

[Click to Print](#)[SAVE THIS](#) | [EMAIL THIS](#) | [Close](#)

Posted on Fri, Jan. 2, 2009

# Penn student found dead near Delaware River

By Barbara Boyer

INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

A promising University of Pennsylvania student who worked as an intern for the Nutter administration was found dead in a vacant lot near the Delaware River this afternoon.

Kambili Moukwa, 22, was found by friends who reported the senior missing after he had not returned home after going to a club for a New Year's Eve celebration.

Moukwa, described as "upbeat and friendly" with a laid-back personality, was active on campus and worked for the mayor's press secretary, Doug Oliver.

Oliver described the intern as "intelligent and soft-spoken with his opinions" and who had a "natural political acumen and always-pleasant demeanor."

Most of all, Oliver said in a written statement, "Kam will be remembered for his warm smile and his sincerity."

"Kam was a true gentleman," Oliver said. "He was a calming presence in a hectic environment, and each of us appreciated his willingness to help out with whatever was needed."

Police spokesman Lt. Frank Vanore said Moukwa had been at Z Bar on Spring Garden Street with friends who were worried after he had not returned home after a late night of celebrating.

After reporting Moukwa missing, the friends returned to the area today and discovered Moukwa's body shortly after 1 p.m. in a lot at Delaware Avenue and Spring Garden Street, close to the area's nightclubs. The area is used as parking for the clubs.

Vanore said it appears the death is accidental, possibly the result of hypothermia, but an autopsy will be conducted to determine the cause and manner of death.

The autopsy will also determine whether the death is alcohol-related. Officials said there was no obvious sign of trauma or foul play.

"It looks like it's a tragic death, but not a homicide," Vanore said.

Moukwa is the second young man in the region found dead after a night of clubbing. David Martinez, 26, of Berlin was found dead New Year's Day submerged in a frozen-over fountain outside Taylor's nightclub in Cherry Hill. He too had been celebrating with friends the previous night.

Moukwa was looking forward to graduating this year and wanted to enter a Ph.D. program for government and politics, officials said.

At Penn, Moukwa had served on the United Minorities Council, an interracial alliance that promotes cross-cultural awareness through events such as Unity Week.

He grew up in Shaker Heights, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland, Oliver said, and moved to Raleigh, N.C., when he was in high school.

"He was a regular face around the Mayor's Office and in a very short time, he became a part of our team," Mayor Nutter said in statement. ". . . He was making real contributions to our government. He will be remembered fondly."


Oliver said: "He was proud of his work. And we are proud of him. We miss Kam dearly and will always hold a special place for him in our hearts while keeping him and his family in our prayers."

---

Contact staff writer Barbara Boyer at 215-854-2641 or [bboyer@phillynews.com](mailto:bboyer@phillynews.com).

**Find this article at:**

[http://www.philly.com/philly/news/20090102\\_Man\\_found\\_dead\\_near\\_Delaware\\_River.html](http://www.philly.com/philly/news/20090102_Man_found_dead_near_Delaware_River.html)

 Click to Print

[SAVE THIS](#) | [EMAIL THIS](#) | [Close](#)

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

© Copyright | Philly Online, LLC. All Rights Reserved. Any copying, redistribution or retransmission of any of the contents of this service without the express written consent of Philly Online, LLC is expressly prohibited.