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## CONVICT DENIED APPEAL BOND

*TRACY DASH, tadash@sunherald.com*

BILOXI --- A Pass Christian man convicted of causing an accident that killed a college student will have to stay in prison while his case is appealed to the state Supreme Court.

Michael J. Kramm was sentenced last year to 25 years for the death of Traeacy A. Staunton. He is being held at the Delta Correctional Facility in Greenwood.

Staunton, 20, of Dublin, Ireland, was killed December 2002 on U.S. 90 near Edgewater Mall when a drunken Kramm rear-ended the car she was riding in. She died of head injuries. She was in the U.S. on a soccer scholarship to William Carey.

Kramm, 27 at the time, was arrested in Gulfport later that morning.

His lawyer, **Wayne Woodall**, filed a notice of appeal in Harrison County Circuit Court over Kramm's denial for a new trial and appeal bond. Judge Kosta Vlahos earlier this month denied Kramm's request for a new trial and refused to release him on bond during the appeal, which state law permits in certain cases.

**Woodall** said the judge thinks the "appeal was without merit in that it did not present a substantial question of law." An issue raised in the appeal is a claim that no witnesses identified him as the driver of the vehicle that struck the car carrying Staunton.

**Woodall** said it is not clear why the judge denied the appeal bond, but he said Vlahos mentioned Kramm was out on bail at the time of the crash for a DUI charge in Texas and had a DUI conviction in Biloxi prior to the fatal accident.

Defendants convicted of felonies other than those for child abuse or any crime where the death penalty is imposed are entitled to be released pending appeal, within the judge's discretion. The judge can refuse bond if the defendant is a danger to the community or may be a flight risk.

