MADISON, Ill. – A 21-year-old Mizzou student was shot to death Monday while sitting inside a vehicle.

Police were called to the intersection of W. 2nd and Bissell streets at 12:44 p.m. for a report of a traffic accident. When officers arrived, they found Jarrett D. Mosby in the front seat with multiple gunshot wounds.

Mosby was pronounced dead at the scene.

His family says he was a senior at University of Missouri, studying business, and had just been accepted into the Honor Society. Mosby has a 6-year-old son, and he was home for the holidays.

His family says he was a good person and a good dad.

"He was a great guy, smart, intelligent, and a great dad to his son. And i just pray for justice in all of this," said Michelle Crisp-Williams, Mosby's cousin.

Anyone with information about the shooting is asked to call the Major Case Squad at 618-976-7328.
Fixed rates are latest in college tuition plans
Monday, December 23, 2013 | 5:25 p.m. CST

BY M.L. JOHNSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No MU Mention

MILWAUKEE — Freshmen at Northland College, a small Wisconsin liberal arts school known for its environmental focus, will pay no more than $30,450 in tuition next year. They’ll pay the same the following year. And the year after that.

The college on the shore of Lake Superior is joining a growing number of schools promising fixed-rate tuition — a guarantee that most students will pay a single rate for the length of their college careers.

The programs at schools like George Washington University, University of Kansas and Columbia College in Missouri aim to help families budget for college without worrying about big price jumps. They also give recruiters something to tout on the road to try to ease the sticker shock.

Tuition and fees at four-year public colleges rose 27 percent in the past five years, while those at four-year private schools went up 14 percent, according to the College Board.

About 320 colleges and universities offered tuition guarantees during the 2012-13 school year, according to an analysis of U.S. Department of Education data done by the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. The schools represent about 6.7 percent of the nation's nearly 4,800 institutions where students receive federal financial aid.

Many fixed-rate plans are coupled with a commitment to hold financial aid steady so students have a firm cost estimate, but they are not discounts. At Kansas, students starting as freshmen pay more than standard tuition in their first two years to offset lower rates in the last two. Other schools try to estimate expenses and inflation and set
rates that cover costs when averaged over four years. Transfer students generally pay tuition for the year they enter; at Kansas, they pay standard tuition.

Students say the programs help them hold down costs by allowing them to budget wisely and borrow less.

"I can't think of any other major expense where a student or their family is expected to commit to such a large expense without knowing what it is going to cost," Jane Mahoney, a recent graduate of the University of Kansas, said in an email. "I think the tuition agreement puts a lot of students and families at ease when figuring out how to fund a college degree."

Mahoney, 23, said Kansas' program helped her and her parents decide how much she needed to work, take out in loans and receive in family help. It also gave her an incentive to graduate in four years because the rate was only good that long. Mahoney ended up finishing a semester early, with $16,000 in loans — an amount she has found manageable with her job as the alumni association's digital media and marketing coordinator.

Many schools have been rethinking their costs as graduates struggle with student debt and diminished job prospects. Some schools have frozen tuition. A smaller group has slashed rates 20 percent or more in heavily publicized "tuition resets."

Even without those moves, few students at private schools have been paying full freight. Most schools offer scholarships to lure students with attractive grades, athletic skills or other talents. Post-recession, that aid has increased at private schools more quickly than tuition, said David Warren, president of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

"The out-of-pocket expense is less today for a family than it was five years ago," Warren said. "That's a little known fact."

Northland has been part of that trend too, with a guarantee that students who meet certain academic and income criteria won’t pay more in tuition than they would pay at the flagship university in their home state. In Wisconsin, that figure is the $10,400 in tuition and fees charged by the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
Fixing the cost of tuition is aimed at helping students reduce debt by planning better. Northland officials said they noticed that after freshman year, student borrowing tended to mirror tuition increases.

"In most cases, the institutional awards that are given stay the same, so as the cost of education goes up . . . most of our students have gone ahead and turned that into an additional loan, which has escalated the amount they needed to borrow," President Michael Miller said.

Susan McHale, 21, a George Washington senior from the Philadelphia area, said its fixed-rate tuition plan — established in 2004 and one of the oldest in the nation — was a great relief to her father, a cost-conscious accountant who began saving and budgeting for her college education when she was in middle school. She has helped pay for room, board and other expenses with summer jobs and a part-time position in the school’s admissions office.

McHale said knowing her tuition wouldn't go up also encouraged her to control other expenses, such as housing, books and meals.

Tuition guarantees don't affect benefits from 529 savings plans as long as colleges meet the eligibility requirements. The guarantees vary by school. Some include fees, others do not. Some give students the choice between a fixed-rate and one that will increase annually. Northland's plan will include room but not board; George Washington's doesn't include either.

Most schools let students lock in their rates for four years, but some, like Columbia College in Missouri, guarantee the cost for five years. Columbia's recruiters have found it a useful tool.

Columbia junior Alyssa Johnson said the guarantee was a deciding factor for her. She qualified for scholarships and grants that covered most tuition and avoided taking out loans for room and board after her freshmen year by working as a resident assistant. She estimates she'll graduate with $3,000 in debt from a school with a more than $17,000-per-year price tag.

"I did a lot of planning to go ahead and try to stay out of debt and to make sure that I could cover school, and I could come to the school that I wanted to go to," said Johnson, 20, of La Monte, Mo. "I think having that fixed-rate tuition was a huge part of that."
Beyond Meat, a company that has its roots at MU and whose trademark product is produced in Columbia, was recognized as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals' 2013 Company of the Year.

Beyond Meat makes Chicken-Free Strips, which use plant protein instead of animal protein and are made from soy and pea protein, flour and plant fibers, according to previous Missourian reports. Two MU researchers, Fu-Hung Hsieh and Harold Huff, collaborated with company founder Ethan Brown to develop technology to make the chicken substitute.

The company opened its production facility in Columbia in the summer of 2012. Beyond Meat products are used at Main Squeeze in Columbia and are available in Whole Foods stores, according to previous Missourian reports.

Colleen O'Brien, senior director of communication for PETA, said Beyond Meat was recognized as company of the year because "they produce delicious and healthy products that no animals have to die for."

O'Brien said that a person can save 23 chickens each year by switching to Beyond Meat products.
Transportation study shows J-turns decrease crashes

Monday, December 23, 2013 | 6:00 p.m. CST
BY CASEY BISCHEL

COLUMBIA – A study by MU researchers shows that J-turn intersections have decreased vehicular accidents and deaths in Missouri.

J-turns are relatively new to Missouri; the first in Columbia opened in 2012. These intersections are supposed to make crossing to the far side of divided highways safer. And in a new study funded by the Missouri Department of Transportation that was released Monday, Praveen Edara, Carlos Sun and Sawyer Breslow of MU’s College of Engineering found that these intersections have done just that.

According to the report, injury accidents at intersections with J-turns have decreased by 53.7 percent, while overall crashes have decreased 34.8 percent. T-bone crashes, which are particularly dangerous, were eliminated altogether at the intersections studied.

"This study is just validation that J-turns are an effective solution for intersection design," said John Miller, a traffic safety engineer with MoDOT.

Using a J-turn involves a few steps. Instead of waiting for traffic on both sides to clear up, drivers turn right onto an acceleration lane, merge into traffic and then drive through the passing lane onto a deceleration lane on the left.

Once in the deceleration lane, drivers make a simple U-turn onto another acceleration lane before merging right into the passing lane on the other side of the highway.

Although J-turns are a triumph for traffic engineers, they are not popular with everyone. Complaints include difficulty merging after the U-turn, improper use of the acceleration and deceleration lanes, and general confusion, the report stated.
At Meek's Lumber and Hardware off U.S. 63 in south Columbia, most employees encounter a J-turn on their way home, said Hollie Holmes, the store's bookkeeper. Most people are familiar with the intersection now, Holmes said, but it has made it difficult to get shipments in and out.

The J-turn can be difficult to navigate during rush hour, Holmes said, and it can be especially disorienting for people from out of town.

But J-turns don't appear to be going anywhere soon. The first J-turn appeared in Missouri in 2007. When the MU researchers began their study, there were only five in the state. There are now 13, Miller said.

And the intersections are far cheaper than alternatives. Constructing a new interchange to get across divided highways can cost about $10 million, whereas a J-turn costs only about $1 million.
MU maintenance to close lane of Rollins

Monday, December 23, 2013 at 2:00 pm

A short section of Rollins Street at the intersection with College Avenue will have one lane closed for the next few weeks while the University of Missouri conducts maintenance.

Karlan Seville, MU facilities communications manager, said the eastbound lane of Rollins will be closed until Jan. 3, and the westbound lane will be closed from Jan. 6-10. The eastbound lane has been closed since last Monday.

University crews are working on steam lines in the road, she said, which will not affect any neighboring homes or buildings.

Seville said the goal with projects such as these is to schedule them for times when the least number of drivers will be affected, such as the university's winter break.

The stretch of Rollins receiving maintenance is a very short part of the road at the College intersection, and it doesn't affect road access to neighboring intersections, she added.