Mizzou student found dead, police don't suspect foul play

By Koran Addo kaddo@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8305

Police investigators do not suspect foul play was a factor in the death of a 19 year old University of Missouri-Columbia student found dead Monday night.

Columbia Police spokesman Latisha Stroer said officers were dispatched to the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity house at 11:43 p.m. Monday in response to a call of an unconscious male.

Medics pronounced the man dead at the scene.

Investigators don't believe foul play was involved based on the man's medical history and information gathered at the fraternity house, Stroer said.

Koran Addo is the higher education reporter for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Follow him on Twitter at @KoranAddo

Autopsy set after MU student found dead

Tuesday, September 30, 2014 at 10:35 am

An autopsy was scheduled for Tuesday to find out how a 19-year-old University of Missouri student died.

Police received a call about 11:43 p.m. Monday and found a dead man at the Alpha Gamma Rho house at 602 S. College Ave., Columbia Police Department Officer Latisha Stroer said.

Stroer said the man was identified as Cale E. Boedeker. Investigators don't suspect foul play "based on his medical history and information gathered at the fraternity house," Stroer said in a statement.
UPDATE: MU student who died Monday remembered at candlelight vigil

Tuesday, September 30, 2014 | 10:21 p.m. CDT; updated 6:15 a.m. CDT, Wednesday, October 1, 2014
BY MISSOURIAN STAFF

COLUMBIA — Light from hundreds of candles reflected in teary eyes as friends of Cale Boedeker gathered on the lawn of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity house Tuesday night to remember the young man who died unexpectedly the night before.

Boedeker was described as thoughtful, caring and enthusiastic by those who attended, who hugged and stood arm in arm during the vigil. Alpha Gamma Rho president Kayden Guymon described him as a spiritual man.

"If this had been anybody else, this would be Cale's job right now, to be speaking to all of you," Guymon said, voice breaking.

The 19-year-old fishery and wildlife student from Marshall was found unresponsive in his bed in the fraternity house Monday night and likely died from natural causes, an investigator with the Boone County Medical Examiner said.

The vigil, organized and led by members of the fraternity, brought together Boedeker's friends — new and old.

"Cale was one of the happiest people I've ever met," Samantha Ehrhardt, an MU student who had been a close friend of Boedeker since high school, wrote in an email to the Missourian.

"He was caring, hilarious, loving, social and what some would call 'the life of the party,'" she added. "He loved being involved. In high school, he wanted the entire student body to have the most school spirit in Missouri."
John Connor Scott, an MU sophomore and member of the fraternity, said Boedeker was the first person he got to know at Alpha Gamma Rho. The pair stayed up all night once listening to "Second Chance" by Shinedown on repeat, Scott said.

"If you had to choose one person to go through your life with, you would choose Cale," he said.

Phil Josephson, the executive director of Alpha Gamma Rho's national organization, said MU's Alpha Gamma Rho house has been closed since Monday night to everyone but members and law enforcement. The organization will work with law enforcement and the coroner, and grief counselors will be made available, he said.

Josephson also said members were asked not to talk to anyone but their close friends.

MU Greek Life renamed the annual "Unsung Hero" award to the "Cale Boedeker Unsung Hero" award in honor of Boedeker's life, according to a news release from Mark Baker, Alpha Gamma Rho building association president.

Boedeker was a member of Future Farmers of America in high school and wanted to grow up, have a family and work with wildlife, Ehrhardt said.

Once, during high school, Boedeker asked Ehrhardt to an FFA dance called Barnwarming. Neither one of them was old enough to drive, however.

"His mom had to drive him to my house, took us to dance and picked us up," Ehrhardt recalled. "It was so funny. I'll never forget it."

An email received by MU Greek chapter presidents stated that Boedeker was diagnosed with childhood diabetes at age 6.

"We don't believe there was any foul play," Boone County Medical Examiner investigator Stacey Huck said. "It does appear to be of natural causes."

Huck said she could not confirm that Boedeker's diabetes was the cause of his death.

She said that they don't believe drugs or alcohol were involved but that she wouldn't be able to confirm it until the toxicology results were completed.
Columbia Police Department responded to a call at 11:43 p.m. Monday at the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity house, 602 S. College Ave., police spokeswoman Latisha Stroer said. Medics pronounced Boedeker dead at the fraternity house.

Stroer said foul play is not suspected, based on Boedeker's medical history, as well as information that police collected at the scene.

Missourian reporters Seth Klamann, Alex Gorbachev and Annie Rees contributed to this report.

Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.

Student found dead at Alpha Gamma Rho

Authorities said there are no signs of foul play.

By Covey Eonyak Son

Sept. 30, 2014

An individual was found dead at the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity house late Monday evening.

Columbia Police spokeswoman Latisha Stroer said officers were dispatched to the house at 11:43 p.m. in response to a “male unconscious.”

Stroer said the deceased was not transported to a hospital and that the report indicates the death is “not criminal.”

Greek Life associate director Janna Basler said the deceased has been identified as Cale Boedeker, a member of the fraternity.

Boedeker is listed in the MU Directory as a sophomore studying fisheries and wildlife.
Stacey Huck, an investigator from the Boone County Medical Examiner’s office, said an autopsy is still underway.

Huck said while a cause of death is still unknown, no signs of foul play were found.

Basler said Boedeker’s death appears to have been “health-related,” and that he had battled childhood diabetes.

In a statement, chapter president Kayden Guymon said Boedeker was unresponsive when his roommates found him in his bed just before midnight and called 911.

“The Brothers of Alpha Gamma Rho are deeply saddened by the death of our brother, Cale Boedeker, sophomore from Malta Bend, Missouri,” Guymon said in his statement. “We asked for prayers for Cale’s family and our brothers.”

MU medical school awards $600,000 in translational research grants

By ASHLEY JOST
Tuesday, September 30, 2014 at 11:45 am

The University of Missouri School of Medicine on Tuesday announced six grants totaling about $600,000 as part of MU’s Coulter Translational Partnership Program to help bring the work of several research teams from the laboratory to commercial production.

The grants went to six research teams, each including a faculty member from the medical school or College of Engineering. The grant winners were chosen by a review committee because their biomedical research projects show potential and would meet a health care need. Each team received about $100,000.

“This Coulter program is really a testament and really confirms my own observations of what this school is all about in terms of a collaborative environment,” MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said at the announcement ceremony.
He said the campus' focus on translational research — research that can directly benefit the general populous — between the medical school, engineering school, College of Veterinary Medicine and other campus programs was a huge draw for him in deciding to accept his job.

Among the projects awarded a Coulter grant is a wireless communications research effort from Randy Curry, director of the Center for Physical and Power Electronics and distinguished professor in the electrical and computer engineering department, and Renee Sullivan, assistant professor in the medical school.

Curry and Sullivan have teamed up to help create smaller equipment that can be implanted in the human body to help send information to outside technology. In addition to making the technology, particularly the antenna that communicates outward, smaller, Curry said they also focused on making the equipment more efficient overall to help increase battery life.

With the help of the close to $100,000 grant the duo received, Curry said they will be able to work toward making the technology compatible to implant.

Another recipient team, organized by Raghu Kannan and Amolak Singh, professors in the radiology department, are working on research that uses molecular probes for early detection of some types of breast cancer. Singh, who also is the interim department chair for the radiology department, said the team is a few years from testing on larger animals.

Other projects focus on: Finding a new way to identify tuberculosis, creating a different approach to engineering knee cartilage, improving the success rates of cartilage transplants using transplants that are modified to the patient’s need and using gold nanoparticles to detect cancers that are susceptible to some types of chemotherapy.

The Coulter program is a $5 million partnership between MU and the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation that is in its third year. MU is one of 15 academic institutions that has this partnership.

Biomedical research teams receive grants
The University of Missouri awarded $600,000 to biomedical research teams at the Reynolds Alumni Center on Tuesday. The grants are part of the University's Coulter Translational Partnership Program, which supports innovations by faculty in the MU School of Medicine and College of Engineering.

“The idea is to create collaboration between people who understand taking care of patients at the beside in the clinic and the hospital and bioengineers who have an interest in inventing and innovating,” said Dr. Hal Williamson, MU Executive Vice Chair of Health Affairs.

Six research teams won grants for innovations including artificial cartilage engineering and transplants, cancer detection and tuberculosis identification.

MU School of Medicine Assistant Professor Renee Sullivan’s research focuses on creating smaller antennas for implantable devices.

“Our goal is really to make the implantable antenna more efficient and also smaller in size, so that more patients can benefit from this technology,” Sullivan said. “We think that while we have good use of these implantable antennas in pacemakers and defibrillators, we think that this can also benefit a wide variety of other medical devices.”

Williamson said the development in antennas will allow doctors to read signals from biomedical devices from longer distances and funding from the Coulter Program will help the innovation go further.

“It takes a lot of engineering to do that because they are already pretty small, but now, they’re going to get smaller,” Williamson said.
Cynthia Helphingstine, MU Program Director of the Coulter Translational Partnership, said the program will help the developments advance to commercialization so patients receive better care.

Sophomore among two suspects arrested in Aspen Heights shooting

Leonard Jordan and MU sophomore Christopher Herron were arrested Sept. 27.

By Paige Lalain

Sept. 30, 2014

Local law enforcement officers responded Sept. 27 to early morning reports of gunfire on property at the Aspen Heights housing complex.

According to a Columbia Police Department news release, officers were dispatched to the 3500 block of Aspen Heights Parkway at 2:13 a.m. after receiving multiple phone call reports of shots fired.

Upon arrival to the scene, officers located a vehicle with a bullet hole through both the driver’s side door and window, along with a 22-year old female victim inflicted with a non-life threatening wound. She was later sent to a hospital for examination.

In a statement released to residents and parents of students living in Aspen Heights, John Kendrick, interim general manager for Aspen Heights, reported multiple individuals had been taken into custody following the incident and the Aspen Heights staff was working closely with the Columbia Police Department to keep all of its residents as safe as possible.
“At the time that this incident took place, our control access gate was fully operational and our on-site security team and courtesy officer immediately responded to the situation,” Aspen Heights spokesperson Stuart Watkins said.

**Shortly following the incident, Columbia detectives arrested two 19-year old men, MU sophomore Christopher Herron and Grandview, Missouri resident Leonard Jordan. The two were charged with second-degree assault and unlawful use of weapons with a $4,500 bond per charge.**

According to witness reports, Herron was seen firing a gun into the air at the time of the disturbance, with Jordan opening fire shortly thereafter.

Herron and Jordan were arrested at 3:57 and 4:34 a.m. respectively, and have since been transported and released to the Boone County Jail.

In light of the incident, measures have been taken to promote safety and monitor guest admittance at Aspen Heights, Watkins said.

---

**Mizzou, Washington U among most ‘high-tech’ colleges**

Sep 30, 2014, 10:33am CDT

The University of Missouri’s flagship campus in Columbia, Missouri, and Washington University are two of the techiest college campuses in the world, according to a new ranking by Great Value Colleges.

The list ranked Mizzou as the 48th most high-tech university in the world, while Washington University came in at No. 22.

The rankings were based on a point system that considered awards for technology or innovation; lab and research space; research facilities made available to undergraduate students; Nobel laureates listed as alumni, and various tech features found in the classroom, dorms or in departments.
Washington University was noted for its integration of technology into all aspects of campus life.

“For those interested in technology as a major, the Computer Science and Engineering department offers students more than 80 courses ranging from business ethics to team formation, to finance and intellectual property,” the ranking said. “Though some Washington students complain about high fees for Internet and television access, a high-speed campus network connects all of Washington University’s campuses and provides easy links to the Internet2 and National Lambda Rail research networks.”

Washington University accumulated 25 points in Great Value Colleges’ point system.

Mizzou, meanwhile, was credited with implementing its Tegrity lecture capture software system into its classrooms, which gives instructors a chance to put lectures online.

“Students can then access the recordings via the Internet, iPods and iPhones (which every Columbia student is required to have), or other mobile devices. Later, students can search for any word or phrase presented in class,” the ranking said. “With Tegrity, Columbia classes and lectures are available 24/7.”

Mizzou accumulated three points.

Many Universities Don't Want You To Know How They Punish Sexual Assault

Posted: 09/29/2014 4:18 pm EDT Updated: 09/30/2014 7:00 am EDT

More than a dozen colleges and universities, when asked by The Huffington Post, declined to reveal how they’ve punished their students for committing sexual assault.

HuffPost requested information from 50 schools about the sanctions imposed on students found responsible by the colleges for sexual assault. *A Huffington Post analysis* of information provided by the nearly three dozen schools that did provide data on sexual violence cases showed fewer than a third of students found guilty of sexual assault are expelled.

Ten institutions, however, declined to provide any information, four did not respond to multiple requests and several others provided incomplete information.
Several cited the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act as preventing them from disclosing such information. However, FERPA does not block an institution from providing these numbers. U.S. Department of Education guidance allows schools to release information, including specific sanctions, if a student is "an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or non-forcible sex offense" who violated university policy. While FERPA permits this disclosure, it does not require it, and a college is free to withhold such information.

"Defenders of the campus disciplinary process have always pointed fingers at the criminal process and said, 'Look how bad the criminal process is,' but they've never actually disclosed any numbers of the efficacy of the campus process," said Adam Goldstein, an attorney advocate at the Student Press Law Center.

But that may soon change.

Legislation, known as the Campus Accountability and Safety Act, introduced on July 30 by a bipartisan group of senators would require colleges and universities to disclose the number of sexual assaults adjudicated and their outcomes. Staffers who worked on the bill say it was born out of Sen. Claire McCaskill's (D-Mo.) survey of colleges, which found that many schools use adjudication processes that do not comply with best practices, such as imposing an unusually high standard of proof, and fail to educate judicial panels about "rape myths," such as the myth that stranger assaults are a majority of sexual violence cases. Advocates argue that requiring transparency from universities could shed light on whether schools are properly handling rape investigations.

"I think that's a good idea, as long as it's current," said Scott Coffina, a former deputy White House counsel who was recently hired to advise the University of Connecticut on sexual violence cases. "I'm a lot more supportive of that than merely identifying schools that are under investigation."

Survivor advocates believe that the prospect of releasing such data has colleges concerned about a backlash should it seem they are doling out light punishments for sexual violence.

Colleges currently have no incentive to publicize anything about sexual violence on campus, Goldstein said, because "schools don't want their name to appear next to anything more sinister than a candy cane."

"I know what they're so afraid of," Goldstein continued. "Most of the time a school doesn't find people responsible at all, and when it does, their sanction is between walking the street as a free man or write a 500-word essay about why you shouldn't rape so much."

Many administrators, however, cited the concern that, without context, it's difficult to present a real picture of how various offenses are sanctioned.
"These cases are so fact-specific, I don't think those statistics in and of themselves are helpful to the reader," said Amy Forester, Bucknell University's general counsel and member of the National Association of College and University Attorneys. "If you see someone was suspended for six semesters, I don't know what that tells you if you don't understand the underlying circumstances there."

The Association for Student Conduct Administration, which advises schools to be "educational" and "not punitive" in adjudicating sexual assault cases, is also hesitant to support disclosure as to the outcomes of such cases. Instead, ASCA President-elect Laura Bennett suggested that it would be beneficial for colleges to outline scenarios for when a certain punishment would apply. Yale University created such scenarios last year, but only after students raised concerns about a lack of severe punishments for "nonconsensual sex." "That's really helpful for students to see, 'OK, this is where the community is at with this,'" Bennett said.

Bennett suggested it would be best for colleges and universities to provide upfront information about how they sanction students in cases of sexual assault. Otherwise, she explained, "People tend to fill in the gaps and make stuff up when they don't know what's going on."

The schools listed below were among the 50 from which The Huffington Post requested data on sexual assault cases. Colleges and universities were chosen to represent a geographical variety, both public and private, and include elite schools and others that are not household names. HuffPost obtained data from 32 institutions, which collectively represent 705,000 students. The comments below are from the schools that declined to provide that information.

**University of Notre Dame**
The University of Notre Dame declined to release any information.

**American University, Baylor University and Bowdoin College**
Officials with American University, Baylor University and Bowdoin College did not respond to multiple requests for data.

**University of Virginia**
The University of Virginia confirmed that since 1998, 13 students were found guilty of sexual assault, but denied a request for a breakdown of the data. The university directed HuffPost to fill out a Freedom of Information Act request for disciplinary action taken against students for sexual assault since 1998, but then denied it, saying no document contained that information. The university denied another FOIA request for any sanctioning letter or letter of findings in cases where a student was found responsible for sexual assault, saying providing such information would violate federal privacy law.
UVA spokesman McGregor McCance agreed that a FOIA request was not needed to supply the information, but that the university would not release any additional information about how sexual assaults were punished.

**University of Montana**
The University of Montana declined HuffPost's request, instead referring to its annual Clery report of how many assaults were officially reported to the school, and noting, "We don't collect statistics in the manner that you've requested."

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology**
MIT noted it's currently reviewing how the university handles sexual violence. It provided a pre-existing breakdown of sanctions against students imposed by the Committee on Discipline, but it lumps all sexual misconduct cases in with academic misconduct cases, and does not list separately how students were punished for sexual assault.
HuffPost asked the university to list punishments for students found responsible for sexual misconduct, but MIT declined.

"I can't break this information out for you, but I can tell you that as part of the chancellor's overall review of sexual-assault issues at MIT, we will be considering changes to the way we report publicly," said Nate Nickerson, associate vice president for communications.

**The University of Massachusetts-Amherst**
UMass Amherst did not initially respond to a request for the data, then later said the request had been forwarded to the student affairs office. HuffPost's followup requests since May 20 have not been returned.

**University of Oregon**
The University of Oregon provided a snapshot of how sexual assault cases were handled in one academic year, but declined to provide additional information. The school directed HuffPost to submit an open records request. In response, it provided a document detailing all misconduct cases, ranging from plagiarism and theft to rape, with aggregate totals of how many students were disciplined, suspended or expelled. When HuffPost followed up, the university clarified that because no pre-existing document specifically tracked sexual misconduct cases over the past several years, the university would not release this information.

**University of California-Berkeley**
UC-Berkeley provided information on sanctions for cases of sexual misconduct between 2008 and 2013, and indicated that nine students were found responsible and suspended or dismissed during that period. When HuffPost requested the university specify how many were suspended, dismissed or expelled, UC-Berkeley declined, citing FERPA and university policy. "When the numbers are so small that they can be identifying (meaning someone can
use that data and link it with other information to identify the case) we cannot disclose that information," spokeswoman Janet Gilmore said.

HuffPost noted that the university had previously confirmed that six students were suspended for sexual misconduct between 2011 and 2013, and the question was how many of the remaining three were expelled between 2008 and 2010.

The university said it believes "such disclosure could lead to identification of students who were part of the disciplinary process. The data provided to you is grouped in a way to provide information about case outcomes without violating FERPA or UC policy." UC-Berkeley noted that while FERPA may permit an institution to share information about how many students are expelled, it does not require it, and UC system policy "recognizes the privacy of these records and does not permit us to disclose them."

**Princeton University**
Princeton declined to provide any information that wasn't already public as part of its annual Clery report listing.

**Tufts University**
Tufts declined to provide information about how sexual assault cases were adjudicated because the school is deliberating on how to disclose the data to the community. "We are currently exploring how best to provide statistics regarding sexual misconduct on campus while balancing the confidentiality that is expected by our community," Tufts spokeswoman Kimberly Thurler said in a statement. "As result, at this time we are not able to provide information relative to complaints received and adjudicated by our Office of Equal Opportunity. We are also unable to discuss individual cases given the confidential issues involved."

**Northwestern University**
Northwestern declined to provide information on how students are adjudicated for sexual misconduct. Instead, the university referred to a report that indicated there were five cases of sexual assault in 2012-13. However, the report does not provide any further information as to the number of students who were found responsible for sexual assault, or what sanctions were imposed, if any, but only the total aggregate number of punishments for all cases ranging from cheating to rape. No one was expelled during 2012-13.

**Sewanee: The University of the South**
Sewanee told HuffPost that the staff members needed to sort through the data were unavailable. It also noted it had revamped its sexual misconduct adjudication process in ways that would make it difficult to compare the two most recent years to prior years.

**University of Chicago**
The university referred to its annual Clery reports and daily police crime log, though those sources do not provide information on student sanctions for sexual assault. University spokesman Steve Kloehn, however, said the school "does not report on disciplinary matters the way some" other institutions do, and that he was not in a position to obtain the requested data. The University of Chicago also "declined to comment on any individual disciplinary matters."

**Rice University**

Rice said it was unable to provide information because it is in the process of considering new options for disclosing sexual misconduct adjudication data.

Rice spokesman Jeff Falk said in a statement: "Rice is a small institution with about 3,800 undergraduate students. We are in the process of establishing a working group, including representatives of the student body, to review our policies, procedures and outreach on sexual assault, including analyzing data on sexual assault and developing the best way to add this information to the educational materials offered to all of our students, faculty and staff. That report will differentiate between cases of sexual assault and other forms of sexual misconduct. We do not have this report available at this time, and will use what we learn to ensure that our education, prevention and adjudication programs are as effective as possible."

**University of Missouri**

Christian Basi, Interim Director of the university's News Bureau:

"The number of adjudications for sexual assault at the University of Missouri during calendar years 2012, 2013 and 2014 are 5, 4 and 4, respectively. Because of the small number of such adjudications over the applicable time period, I respectfully decline to provide a further breakdown as to the disposition in each category in order to protect the student privacy rights under the provisions of the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)."

**THE KANSAS CITY STAR.**

Missouri announces that Cam Biedscheid will leave men’s basketball team

BY TOD PALMER
Missouri announced Tuesday night that Cam Biedscheid would no longer be part of the men’s basketball program.

Biedscheid, a St. Louis native who transferred from Notre Dame in January, never played in a game for the Tigers.

He was expected to be eligible at semester and contribute as a wing scorer.

“Cameron will no longer be a member of our basketball program as he attends to personal matters,” Missouri coach Kim Anderson said in a release from MU Athletics. “We wish him and his family all the best and hope everyone will respect their privacy during this period of time.”

Biedscheid, a 6-foot-7 small forward from Cardinal Ritter in St. Louis, averaged 31.7 points and 9.6 rebounds as a high school senior.

With the Fighting Irish, Biedscheid averaged 6.2 points and 1.4 rebounds as a freshman in 2012-13.

Missouri said it would have no further comment about Biedscheid’s leaving the program.

He is the third player to leave since Anderson took over in April.

Shooting guard Shane Rector transferred in May, and Anderson dismissed forward Torren Jones in August.

Two freshmen, forwards D’Angelo Allen and Jakeenan Gant, were suspended from team activities after being arrested Sept. 14 on suspicion of assault.

Read more here: [http://www.kansascity.com/sports/college/sec/university-of-missouri/article2363623.html#storylink=cpy](http://www.kansascity.com/sports/college/sec/university-of-missouri/article2363623.html#storylink=cpy)
Biedscheid no longer part of Mizzou basketball team

By Dave Matter dmatter@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8508

COLUMBIA, Mo. • Cameron Biedscheid’s brief time with the Missouri basketball team is over.

“Cameron will no longer be a member of our basketball program as he attends to personal matters,” first-year Tigers coach Kim Anderson said in a prepared statement Tuesday. “We wish him and his family all the best and hope everyone will respect their privacy during this period of time.”

Missouri will have no further comment at this time, team spokesman Dave Reiter said in a text message. Anderson is scheduled to meet with reporters Wednesday to discuss the team, which begins preseason practice on Friday.

Dan Biedscheid, the player’s father, declined to comment when reached Tuesday, saying only that Biedscheid has no future plans yet. The 6-7 guard was expected to provide perimeter scoring as part of Mizzou's rebuilt roster this season.

Biedscheid, a former Post-Dispatch high school player of the year at Cardinal Ritter, transferred to Mizzou from Notre Dame in January and sat out the remainder of Missouri’s season per NCAA transfer rules. He became the seventh Division I transfer to join Missouri in three years under former coach Frank Haith. Biedscheid would have been eligible to play for the Tigers at the end of the current semester, though Missouri had sought an NCAA waiver for Biedscheid to play immediately this fall.

“It would be huge,” Biedscheid said in June. “I’d love it. I’d be extremely excited. I hope it will happen.”

A three-time all-state player at Cardinal Ritter, Biedscheid averaged 31.7 points, 9.6 rebounds and 3.4 assists as a senior. Haith made late overtures to Biedscheid shortly after he was hired in 2011, but Biedscheid had already been committed to Notre Dame. At Notre Dame, Biedscheid scored in double figures six times as a freshman in 2012-13, and led the Irish in scoring in three games. Biedscheid averaged 6.2 points and shot 30.3 percent from 3-point range as a freshman. He missed only one game, serving a one-game Big East suspension after trading punches with a player from St. John’s.

Biedscheid is the third Missouri player to part ways since Anderson’s arrival. Guard Shane Rector transferred in May. Forward Torren Jones was dismissed for an undisclosed violation of team rules in August.
MU School of Health Professions hosts researcher for lecture series

Tuesday, September 30, 2014 at 10:00 am

Jennifer Wisdom, professor and associate vice president for research at George Washington University, is giving a lecture titled “Pragmatic Mixed Methods Research” this week with the University of Missouri School of Health Professions.

Wisdom’s talk is scheduled for 1 to 2 p.m. Friday in the Mark Twain Ballroom of the Memorial Student Union. The event is free and open to the public.

The presentation is the fall 2014 installment of the Scholarship & Discovery Lecture Series.

Wisdom is a licensed clinical psychologist and academic researcher focused on the organization, delivery and quality of health care, according to a news release.

Cosmic Conversations focuses on big-bang theory at upcoming talk

Tuesday, September 30, 2014 at 10:00 am

The University of Missouri Department of Physics and Astronomy is hosting its monthly Cosmic Conversations discussion this week on the big-bang theory.

Wouter Montfrooij, associate professor of physics and astronomy at MU, will give his lecture, “The Day that Time Began,” about “how galaxies emerged from chaos,” according to a news release.

The talk is at 7 p.m. Wednesday in room 114 of the Physics Building, 701 S. College Ave. The event is free and open to the public, and the observatory will be open, weather permitting.
Fundraiser set for university preschool

Tuesday, September 30, 2014 at 10:00 am

The University of Missouri School of Health Professions is hosting its annual “Let’s Talk” fundraiser to benefit the Robert G. Combs Language Preschool and the MU Speech and Hearing Clinic.

The fundraiser is from 6 to 8 p.m. Oct. 7 at Bleu Restaurant, 811 E. Walnut St. The cost is $30 per person and includes appetizers and drink tickets. Childcare will be provided at no cost.

The preschool serves children ages 2 to 5 years, with or without speech and language problems.

Pumpkin harvest won't set records, but there will be plenty to go around

By Tim Barker tbarker@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8350

Jack-o’-lantern artists can rest easy this year.

The same weather that’s promising to produce near-record corn yields has been kind to pumpkin patches across much of the region.

That’s been made clear by the number of so-called prizewinner pumpkins grown by Eckert’s farms in Metro East.

These are the big ones, weighing in the 80- to 150-pound range. Some 500 to 600 of these mammoth pumpkins — often sold to schools and organizations — have been counted.

“Everything grew so vigorously,” said Angie Eckert, vice president of retail operations. “There are more large ones than I’ve ever seen before.”
And in what could be a good sign for consumers, the pumpkin bonanza has prompted the family operation to start the season with a half-price sale that runs through the weekend.

**But that doesn’t necessarily mean shoppers at chain grocery stores will notice huge discounts on pumpkins, with stores typically stocking their produce bins through earlier contracts with farmers, said James Quinn, a horticulture specialist with the University of Missouri Extension.**

“There are only so many pumpkins that people will buy,” Quinn said. “I don’t know that retailers are going to scramble around buying up more pumpkins and putting them on sale.”

In that sense, some pumpkin farmers may experience the same problems facing corn and soybean growers. Forecasts of bumper crops have pushed prices for those crops down to a point where farmers may struggle to turn a profit.

Strong yields are being driven by weather conditions — a relatively cool summer with decent rainfall — that have proven ideal for many of the things being grown by Missouri and Illinois farmers.

That’s not to say, however, that everything is perfect in the land of pumpkins.

At Thies Farm and Greenhouses, 2014 is going to go down as a so-so year. Not the best, though certainly not the worst, either.

Dave Thies, who runs the business with his brother, reported mixed results this year in various patches spread across three St. Louis-area farms.

“We’re still trying to figure it out,” Thies said. “We have some fields right next to each other, where one field is good and the other isn’t so good.”

Still, he said the patches will provide plenty of pumpkins to support the farm’s various retail operations, including pumpkin play areas, school field trips and jack-o’-lantern sales.

What’s missing this year will be the opportunity to sell surplus pumpkins off the farm.

Late rains may be one factor that hurt some Missouri growers.

To thrive, pumpkins need warm, but not hot, temperatures and fairly dry conditions. Rain-soaked fields can cause pumpkins to rot.

At Brookdale Farms in Eureka, workers walked among some 10 acres of plants, turning pumpkins to keep them from ruin.

“It’s been a little bit of extra work,” said Jerry Kirk, owner of the farm that features a pair of corn mazes on a 22-acre field.
Kirk expects a strong harvest, though that’s pretty typical, because he uses irrigation every year for his crops.

And he needs every pumpkin he can get his hands on — even if half of them will never leave the farm.

Among the attractions at Brookdale is an 8-foot-tall sling shot. For $5, visitors can fire three pumpkins across a field, aiming at water troughs for prizes.

“Last year, I know for a fact, we shot 11,000 small pumpkins,” Kirk said.

And new this year, is an air cannon capable of launching a 6-inch pumpkin up to 3,000 feet. He worries, however, that the machine might be a little too powerful.

“We’re going to tone it down for people,” he said.

Tim Barker is the biotechnology and agriculture reporter for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Follow him on Twitter at @tbarker13