MU News Bureau
Daily Clips Packet
April 16, 2015
Man fatally shot on University of Missouri campus

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) - Authorities say an armed man was fatally shot inside a University of Missouri parking garage following a confrontation with police.

Columbia and university police say a college officer found the man late Wednesday on the garage's second floor and that shots were fired following an altercation between the two. A Columbia police officer arrived, and more shots were fired.

It wasn't immediately clear if an officer's bullet killed the man or if he shot himself.

Columbia police say a fingerprint scan will confirm the identity of the deceased. Authorities suspect the man is the same person wanted for hiding in a woman's vehicle and pointing a gun at her earlier in the day.

Both officers are on paid administrative leave while an investigation continues.

Shooting on the MU campus

Watch KSDK story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=f3186198-59f3-4cd1-a987-2c50e0bcce0e

Watch KMBC story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=d520b3ad-d551-4bf5-8649-330a8c9ff8b84
Robbery Suspect Fatally Shot Near University of Missouri Campus

An armed robbery suspect was shot and killed after fighting with police Wednesday near the campus of the University of Missouri, authorities said.

The fatal incident occurred in a parking garage on the north side of campus in Columbia, Missouri, about 11 p.m. local time (12 a.m. ET), police said in a statement. A university police officer suffered non-life threatening injuries during the struggle but no one else was hurt.

Columbia Police believe the suspect who was shot dead is Mark W. Adair, a 51-year-old registered sex offender who was wanted for absconding parole, according to a news release. Adair allegedly tried to rob a woman with a gun about six hours earlier at a nearby supermarket.

However, officials said they were awaiting forensic confirmation of the fatality's identity.

Police shoot, kill armed robbery suspect in Columbia, Mo.
By Valerie Schremp Hahn

COLUMBIA, MO • An armed robbery suspect was shot and killed by police Wednesday night in Columbia, the University of Missouri reports.

An MU police officer also suffered a non-life threatening injury, the university said. According to KOMU, university police chief Doug Schwandt said early Thursday the officer was shot in the finger and was expected to be released from a hospital this morning.

Columbia police asked the campus police department for help during a search for the armed robbery suspect, according to information on the campus alert system. “The suspect was located and engaged police, who shot and killed him. The campus is safe at this time,” said the alert, which was posted just before 11:30 p.m.

KOMU reported that shots were heard at the Hitt Street Parking garage just before 11 p.m. More than a dozen police cars were on the scene, including one ambulance.

Earlier, police had issued a press release seeking help finding Mark W. Adair, 51, who was suspected of an armed robbery at Mosers Supermarket at about 5:30 p.m. Wednesday. Columbia police said a man had hid inside a female victim's vehicle while she was shopping inside. When she came back to her vehicle, the man showed a handgun and demand she drive away. The woman was able to escape after a struggle. The suspect was seen running from the business.

Police said a warrant had been issued on Adair for absconding parole, and that he was to be considered armed and dangerous. Police said he had an extensive criminal record.

It was not clear whether Adair was the person shot.

Armed suspect shot and killed by police

Police have shot and killed a man suspected in a pair of attacks on Wednesday evening.

Columbia police, along with sheriff's deputies and state troopers, fanned out across the downtown area after a man carjacked a woman outside Mojo's around 9:30 p.m. The woman was unhurt and provided a description that matched that of a suspect in an attempted robbery in the parking lot of Moser's on Keene Street early Wednesday evening.

Deputy Chief Jill Schlude said bystanders repeatedly flagged down officers with new information about the suspect, including a clothing change. She said citizens took to social media to keep track of the search.
Schlude said MU police were alerted as the suspect approached the MU campus. MUPD Capt. Brian Weimer said an MUPD officer received a tip that the suspect might be in the Hitt Street parking garage. The officer ran into the suspect in the garage and got into a fight with him. At that point, Schlude said a Columbia detective intervened. The suspect was shot and killed during the encounter. Schlude and Weimer said they didn’t know which officer fired the fatal shots or whether the suspect had opened fire on them. Weimer said the MUPD officer was taken to a hospital with injuries to the end of one of his fingers.

Schlude told reporters police were "95 percent certain" the suspect killed was Mark W. Adair, 51. Adair was wanted for being a parole absconder at the time of Wednesday’s incidents. He was serving a 30-year sentence for several crimes including rape, kidnapping and assaulting a police officer. He was considered armed and dangerous throughout the search.

The Highway Patrol is investigating the death, per standard procedure. Weimer said the MUPD officer was wearing a body camera, and that footage will be included in the investigation.

ORIGINAL STORY:

Columbia Police have confirmed Thursday morning that Adair was shot and killed by police after confronting officers.

One Missouri University Police Department officer was hurt during the confrontation. The officer is currently in the hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

The University of Missouri said Columbia Police asked for assistance from MUPD during the search for a man wanted in an armed robbery. During a search in the Hitt Street Garage, which is located on Mizzou’s campus, the man engaged officers; police then shot and killed the man.

MU said there is no threat to the University of Missouri campus.

KRCG 13 has reporters on the scene working to get more information.

MUPD shoots, kills armed robbery suspect

Watch story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=2714b0c8-07ed-4427-ba8b-db97c0449733
COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri reports during a search for an armed robbery suspect in Columbia Wednesday night, the suspect engaged police and was shot and killed.

MUPD said one MUPD police officer is injured and at the hospital. The injury is not life-threatening.

At about 4:30 a.m. Chief Doug Schwandt said the MUPD police officer was shot in the finger. The condition of the officer shot was that he was still at the hospital and will be released shortly, sometime this morning.

Multiple witnesses and a KOMU reporter say they heard shots fired at Hitt St. Parking Garage just before 11 p.m. Wednesday evening.

The Associated Press said, "Columbia and university police say a college officer found the man late Wednesday on the garage's second floor and that shots were fired following an altercation between the two. A Columbia police officer arrived, and more shots were fired."

KOMU 8 Anchor Christian Bryant reports over a dozen police cars were on the scene, including one ambulance.

At roughly the same time, the police were searching for Mark W. Adair in the same area, who was suspected of attempting to rob a woman outside a supermarket earlier Wednesday afternoon.

The Associated Press said, "It wasn't immediately clear if an officer's bullet killed the man or if he shot himself."

Columbia Police Public Information Officer Bryana Maupin said officials are 95 percent sure they have identified the deceased, however, the plan on using finger print scanning to verify the identity of the deceased.

The Associated Press said, "Authorities suspect the man is the same person wanted for hiding in a woman's vehicle and pointing a gun at her earlier in the day."

"Both officers are on paid administrative leave while an investigation continues," said the Associated Press.

The Columbia Police Department has taken over the investigation.

KOMU 8 has a crew on the scene and will continue to update as we gather more information.
Robbery suspect believed dead in Hitt St. garage shooting

Watch story: [http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=85e326e8-4476-4058-ace1-80b17eb1ce0a](http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=85e326e8-4476-4058-ace1-80b17eb1ce0a)

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Police say they are "95 percent" sure the man an officer killed Wednesday night in a parking garage was the same one wanted for a robbery earlier that day.

Deputy Chief Jill Schlude with the Columbia Police Department told reporters outside Hitt Street Garage that they strongly believe Mark W. Adair, 51, died when he and an officer exchanged gunfire on the second floor of the parking structure just before 11 p.m. An officer with the University of Missouri police department went to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries from a bullet.

Schlude, along with MUPD Captain Brian Weimer, described the confrontation in the garage's northwest corner. An MUPD officer confronted a man they believe is Adair. The two began fighting, and a Columbia police officer arrived shortly after. It's unclear who fired the killing shot, and who fired the shot that injured the MUPD officer.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol will investigate the shooting.

Columbia police were searching for Adair in relation to a robbery outside of Moser's grocery store on Keene Street. The department said at 5:35 p.m., officers came to the grocery store after a woman fled from a man who threatened her with a gun near her car. Police say Adair had recently been paroled for kidnapping and burglary, and was a registered sex offender. The woman suffered injuries to her head and hands during her struggle with Adair, described by police as a white male with silver and blonde hair.

Columbia police identified the suspect to media outlets at 9:40 p.m.

The search for Adair led Columbia police to Rose Music Hall in downtown Columbia. Around 10 p.m., officers surrounded the music venue, formerly called Mojo's, after reports of a man matching his description seen in the area. Police told ABC 17 News at the scene the suspect tried to steal a woman's car at gunpoint, but the woman escaped. Officers also found a car that belonged to Adair in the lot.
The University of Missouri says Columbia Police asked for the MU Police Department's assistance during a search for Adair. Police began a search throughout downtown, with dozens of officers looking for him.

An MU Alert was sent out saying the suspect engaged police who then shot and killed him.

Christian Basi, spokesman for the University of Missouri, said he had a statement prepared on the departments' search for Adair. However, authorities told him the suspect had been killed before it was sent. Basi said the University will review the timeline of events before commenting on specifics of communication between CPD, MUPD and the University.

Stick with ABC 17 News for the latest. We will have updates on ABC 17 News This Morning starting at 5.

Police shoot, kill man after armed robbery attempt

By THE TRIBUNE'S STAFF

Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 6:43 am

Police shot and killed a suspect in a Wednesday armed robbery after a manhunt.

The University of Missouri Police Department said in a campus alert that officers from MUPD and the Columbia Police Department found the suspect at Hitt Street Garage on the north side of the university campus at about 11 p.m. The man “engaged” police officers, and police shot and killed him, the release said.

An MUPD officer suffered non-life-threatening injuries, according to the release. No one else was injured.

The man was a suspect in an earlier armed robbery and attempted kidnapping at Moser's grocery on Keene Street, Columbia police said in a news release sent earlier Wednesday. They identified the suspect as Mark Adair, 51, but the MUPD release didn't confirm that Adair was the man killed.
Police said in the earlier release that Adair hid inside a woman's vehicle while she was shopping inside the store. When the woman came out, he showed her a handgun and demanded that she drive away. After a struggle, the woman escaped, police said, and the manhunt started.

Adair was a registered sex offender who was wanted as a parole absconder.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Police fatally shoot suspect Wednesday night in MU garage

Thursday, April 16, 2015 | 2:07 a.m. CDT
BY CAROLYN HEGER, ETHAN COLBERT

COLUMBIA — The Columbia Police Department and the MU Police Department said early Thursday that a man matching the physical description and appearance of Mark W. Adair, 51, was shot and killed on the second floor of the Hitt Street Garage at MU.

Jill Schlude, deputy chief of Columbia police, said that positive identification would be determined by a fingerprint scan conducted by the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

Schlude and MU police Capt. Brian Weimer gave a news conference near a west-side entrance of the garage with the following information:

At the Hitt Street Garage, an MU police officer found Adair in the northwest corner of the second floor. The officer approached Adair, and shots were fired after an "altercation between the two where the officer cornered him." A Columbia police officer arrived, and more shots were fired.

The man believed to be Adair was killed, but it was uncertain which officer fired the fatal shot or whether Adair fired a gun he had. The investigation by the Highway Patrol will determine the number of shots fired and who killed Adair.

The MU officer had an injury to the tip of his finger and was taken to University Hospital for treatment.

Both officers are now on paid administrative leave while the Highway Patrol conducts an investigation.
The MU officer was wearing a body camera, and footage will be released as part of the investigation. Schlude did not say whether the Columbia police officer was wearing a body camera.

Schlude said she would not speculate about why Adair was approaching campus or what he was doing in the garage. She said the police received multiple tips that Adair was in the area and that he was last seen at Rose Music Hall, formerly Mojo's, 1013 Park Ave. At the hall, police discovered a stolen vehicle that Adair is believed to have taken earlier in the evening.

The investigation by the Highway Patrol will take several days, Schlude said. "It will be slow," she said. "Please be patient. Do not expect it quickly. It will be thorough, and it will be complete."

Columbia police had earlier issued a warning about a suspect who was armed and dangerous. They named Adair as their primary suspect. The man hid in a woman's car at Moser's Supermarket (formerly Patricia's IGA), 900 N. Keene St., and held her at gunpoint at 5:30 p.m.

"His activities earlier today led us to believe that he was violent," Schlude said. The woman who was attacked in her car earlier sustained minor injuries and was treated at the scene.

The state Division of Probation and Parole had recently issued a warrant for Adair's arrest for absconding his parole, according to a news release about the Moser's incident from Columbia police. Adair had been serving a 30-year sentence for multiple violent crimes including rape and burglary prior to his parole.

Adair is a registered sex offender, according to the release.

Schlude said she was not sure how long he had been in Boone County.

**Witnesses describe chaotic scene**

MU student Christopher Fulton was sitting on his couch with a roommate at 10:55 p.m. Wednesday when he heard a quick succession of gunshots. That was followed by more gunshots, and he then heard women scream.
Fulton lives next to the Hitt Street Garage in the Beverly apartment building. He walked outside and asked if it was safe. Police told him no.

More than a dozen police cars swarmed to the scene.

Residents living around the garage flocked to the crime scene and watched from behind yellow crime tape as officers rushed up to the second floor of the garage.

MU student Derek Dallas, who lives in the Lofts at 308 Ninth, said he could see the cops moving in the garage from his fifth-floor apartment.

Wei Du, an MU graduate student who lives at Manor House apartments, said he did not see the shooting, but he had thought he heard three shots fired.

"It was very loud and sounded like gunshots," Du said. "Then, I just walked to my window and saw that a police car came in 20 to 30 seconds."

Siddharth Vodnala, an MU graduate student, said he did not see the shots being fired. "I tried talking to the cops, but they wouldn't tell me anything," Vodnala said.

MU senior Ellen Sherman was at International Tap House, across the street from the garage, with MU junior Jaime Kedrowski at the time of the shooting.

"We did not see the shooting, but we saw a dead guy on the ground," Sherman said.

Kedrowski's car was parked in the garage when the shooting happened. Sherman said she and Kedrowski left the bar to try to get the car out before police put up the yellow tape. But police stopped them and told them to park their car elsewhere in the garage and to leave immediately. Later, police said cars parked in the garage would be inaccessible until about 5 a.m.

Riley Johnson, an MU freshman, said he was walking back to his home on Paquin Street when the shooting happened.

"I had been at the (MU) Student Center, and I was walking with my earphones in, so I didn't hear the shots," Johnson said.
MU Police are investigating a series of anti-Semitic messages drawn in a stairwell at Mark Twain residence hall on April 9 and 10. Swastikas, triangles and the word “heil” were drawn in what appeared to be charcoal in the northwestern stairwell of the building.

In response, the Department of Residential Life posted flyers to notify residents of the incidents, and Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin issued a statement condemning the offensive message and vowing to discipline the perpetrator. Various members of the campus community have also decried the incidents as “hateful” and “threatening.”

These acts of discrimination are absolutely disgraceful, and like Loftin said in his statement, “unworthy of this institution and its values.” We’ve heard those words before, but we have yet to see some concrete solutions coming from the administration.

ResLife’s response to the incidents was well-executed. The staff at Mark Twain residence hall immediately reported both incidents to MUPD and submitted bias reports, and held meetings to address residents’ concerns and make them feel safe.

The department has already done so much to promote diversity, such as introducing gender-neutral housing and bathrooms, and encouraging freshman interest groups to attend cultural events on campus.
There’s always more room for improvement, though, as evidenced by this weekend’s incidents, and the impetus falls on all of us to prevent such heinous events from recurring in the residence halls and on campus.

ResLife administrators should place greater emphasis on expanding their residents’ critical perspectives. This improvement could come in the form of a mandatory cultural training session or creating new multicultural events, just to list a couple of ideas.

Cultural competency should not focus on just one department of the university, but extend across the entire campus. The most comprehensive and long-term solution to combat ignorance and insensitivity would be to create a new cultural competency course requirement for all students to complete before receiving their MU diploma. The idea is not news to administrators; students have repeatedly advocated for this in forums and meetings. Faculty Council and administration have thus far resisted. But listen: Students want this. This would make a difference. How clear must it be made?

Such a plan could be implemented in many ways that are cost-efficient. For an example, students could be presented the option to choose from existing courses required to receive the Multicultural Certificate to fulfill their new obligation to educate themselves.

When thinking about these solutions, administrators should aspire to give students a better understanding of what it means to be a student on this campus. These solutions should challenge students to expand their horizons and how they perceive cultures and backgrounds that are different from their own. It’s not indoctrination — it’s critical thinking; it’s intellect with empathy.

To accomplish this goal, there must be a place in which students who are reluctant to participate and step out of their comfort zones are encouraged to challenge their own viewpoints.

But we’ve already said this. We’ve already highlighted these points and countless others, but we are unfortunately here again. If these kinds of transgressions continue and nothing changes, we will say it again and again until the administration finally decides to give the students of MU what they deserve.

We’ve seen what happens when the administration loses its focus on actively promoting diversity around campus. One Mizzou was a program that had the potential to create a campus-wide change in the way students think about diversity and acceptance. The initiative was created under the supervision of then-Chancellor Brady Deaton and then-Missouri Students Association President Eric Woods after vandalism appeared outside of the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center in 2010 and Hatch Hall in 2011.

“Let me just say that for me, as chancellor of the university, this truly is the proudest moment that I have had,” Deaton said in a story about the unveiling of One Mizzou in April 2011.

Instead, the movement came to a screeching halt this year and MSA decided to cut all of their funding put toward the program for the 2015-2016 budget.
Faculty and administrators, the time has long passed for just forums and listening sessions. The time has passed for inaction. If we want to see a clear, distinct change on our campus, we need to see you take action, and it needs to happen now.

This school year has been a momentous one because of the volume of students speaking out for change, but the year will ultimately be defined by the action taken by the university to catalyze this change. When the current group of brave, passionate student activists have long graduated and left campus, how will their work be preserved? It must be done through concrete action, and just like the signs protesters left after last month’s Greektown march, it begins at the chancellor’s doorstep.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU Libraries proposes fee for expanded hours, upgrades, collections

Wednesday, April 15, 2015 | 7:53 p.m. CDT

BY PAIGE ANTOLIK

COLUMBIA — MU students could see a new fee starting in the 2016-17 school year.

MU Libraries proposed a November ballot measure that would add a $5 per credit student library fee. The fee would fund building upgrades as well as expanded services, including new electrical outlets, better wireless Internet access, 24/7 library hours and expanded collections of books, databases and films.

MU students can vote on the proposal as part of the Missouri Students Association election in November.

The fee would start at $5 per credit hour and would increase by $2 each year until the 2021-22 school year. At that point, it would stay at $15 per credit hour, according to the proposal summary.

The libraries are the only division at MU without a student fee.

Jim Cogswell, director of libraries, said the library system has been trying to enact a fee for over 10 years.
A 2012 proposal didn't make it on the ballot because Cogswell said students didn't know enough about the fee to support it. He said the staff faced time constraints, so this year he is working to get the word out sooner.

"One way it's different than other student fees is we are interacting with students to see what they want," he said.

So far Cogswell has received positive feedback from students.

Shannon Cary, a communications officer for MU Libraries, said the MU Libraries Student Ambassadors have met a few times to discuss the proposal.

"They are planning on helping get the word out about the fee," Cary said.

The ambassadors hope to determine what type of renovations students would like to see.

According to the MU Libraries' website, the annual library budget is $18 million. By the 2021-22 academic year, the libraries could have an additional $12.9 million in estimated funding when the fee is at $15 per credit hour.

"This will really make a difference to our libraries," Cogswell said.

Alden stresses relationships in the era of budget booms

By David Morrison

Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at 2:00 pm

When Mike Alden came to Missouri in 1998, the school agreed to bump its athletic budget up to $15 million.

Last year, that number was $83.7 million. Next year, Alden expects it to be around $95 million. The year after that, he expects it to hit nine digits.
When Alden cedes the athletic director role to successor Mack Rhoades on April 27, the bullet-point rundown of his 17 years in charge will include guiding Missouri through an age of acceleration in athletic revenues and steering the school into the Southeastern Conference.

That’s how he’ll be remembered, but it’s not why he got into the business in the first place. And, as big-time college athletics continues to expand, he thinks that’s a bit of a shame.

“I am concerned that a man or woman in my job is going to be spending less time with their student-athletes,” Alden said in a meeting with reporters Tuesday at MU’s athletic dining hall. “I think they’re going to be spending less time working on efforts to be able to work directly with your student-athletes to help them grow as men and women, because I think you’re going to be drawn into more commercialized activity that you’re going to be involved with.

“It’s not like I want to hang out in the dining hall all day long, but it’s kind of nice once in a while when you want to stop in and see your kids. When they talk about a corporate exec, you are a corporate exec. It’s just one that’s probably going to be less connected with the day-to-day workforce that you have, which is your student-athletes, staff, things like that.

“I think that part of the reason you do what you do is because you want to spend time with your kids, your coaches and be at athletic events. You want to be part of all the stuff and help with that strategy. When you’re not able to do it as much, it certainly isn’t nearly as rewarding at some points.”

Alden, who served as the president of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics in 2013-14, will watch the continued growth of college athletics as an interested outsider in his new role in Missouri’s College of Education.

He said he’s been approached about other athletic director jobs but has no interest. Nor does he have any interest in continuing an athletic administration career at the conference level.

“This is the only place I wanted to be an AD,” Alden said. “I will never be an AD again. Are there other areas that could come up that I don’t even know about? Sure, there could be. But for me, I’m really looking forward to being on the academic side of things.”

On the precipice of exiting the amateur sports business, he hopes that a future of exploding revenues also ushers in a sense of fiscal responsibility.

“You’re going to see a tendency for people in this role to fall back on saying the SEC Network, Big Ten Network, Pac-12 Network, those things, ‘Look at this additional revenue coming,’ ” Alden said. “‘What’s going to happen is, two or three years down the road, they’re going to spend all that money some way and go, ‘Holy cow, now I’ve got to generate even more.’”

Missouri’s $15 million budget in 1998-99 ranked eighth in the Big 12. In 2013-14, it would have ranked last in the league by $55 million, according to Department of Education figures.
The Power 5 conferences — the ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 and SEC — have coalesced into revenue-churning machines powered by lucrative television rights deals. Most of the power programs have converted those swelled revenue streams into seemingly endless facilities improvements and paying the inflated salaries of coaches.

Football Coach Gary Pinkel made a maximum of $900,000 a year with incentives when Alden hired him in 2000. He made $3.73 million in 2013-14 and can make nearly $5 million a year if he hits on all of his bonuses.

His base salary of $3.1 million is one of the lowest in the SEC.

Alden made nearly $675,000 in 2013, according to USA Today, and he will collect more than $430,000 in incentives according to terms of his departure from the athletic department. He made $150,000 a year when he was hired in 1998.

“Do I think it’s made sense? No, I don’t,” Alden said. “For anybody, it’s hard to see a four-times, three-times increase in whatever any of us are making over the course of, let’s say, five years. That’s kind of a hard thing to understand. But I think the marketplace is going to dictate what the consumer and the public is willing to accept.”

The push for higher coaching salaries has gone hand-in-hand with an increased fervor among fans for those coaches to win and win now. Alden said his philosophy with Missouri’s coaches has been to give them room to build their programs before making judgments on their futures.

It worked for Pinkel, who was 22-25 over his first four seasons but has led the Tigers to four conference championship games in his past eight. It worked for wrestling Coach Brian Smith, who had a 22-30-1 dual record in his first three years in charge but has built Missouri into a national power.

Alden hopes men’s basketball Coach Kim Anderson will get the same chance to build after his 9-23 debut season. But it’s no longer his say.

“That immediate gratification piece, that’s harder now,” Alden said. “That immediate gratification, cause-and-effect, return on investment is different today than it was. There’s always been pressure to win, pressure to perform, speed that people want to do it. It’s just today, it’s almost like at hyper-speed.”

So how else to spend all this money?

Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin recently suggested adding a men’s tennis program, since Missouri is the only SEC school without one. Alden said, were that to happen, the school probably would need to invest in another women’s program to satisfy Title IX requirements.

He said the money could be better spent doubling down on the 20 current sports.
“Before you start adding to your dinner plate, you need to make sure you’ve got all those other items in good shape,” Alden said. “When you start adding things to that, what that’s going to do is take away from some of the investments you’re doing in other things. I think it could be really challenging. I applaud the interest and certainly support anything Dr. Loftin and folks think we need to do, but there will be a cause-and-effect on something like that.”

Missouri could keep adding to its reserve fund — Alden said it’s grown to $14.5 million from $400,000 during his tenure — or kick back some revenue to the university. The athletic department still owes the school $14.1 million it borrowed during the 2011-12 year, when the Big 12 withheld conference funds from Missouri as it exited for the SEC.

It could earmark some of that expanded revenue to improve the experience of its athletes. The Power 5 has already used its autonomous power to enact full cost-of-attendance scholarships and enhance the nutritional, travel and insurance options available to their players.

Though Alden, like most college sports officials, feels compensating athletes is a bridge too far.

“There’s a lot more we can continue to do,” Alden said. “But for me to step from that to saying, ‘OK, now what we’re going to do is have that young man become an employee of ours and put him on the payroll,’ I don’t see that model as being a workable deal.”

Monday night, Alden and his wife, Rockie, had about 40 members of Missouri’s Student-Athlete Advisory Committee to their house for dinner. He said the goodbyes got emotional because he realized it was the last time he would interact with the group in his capacity as athletic director.

The fiscal aspects of the job and vision for the department helped build his reputation. The relationships kept him coming back for more.

“We’re going to miss him around here,” said football center Evan Boehm, the newly elected co-president of SAAC with wrestler Willie Miklus. “I definitely asked him to send me his office number so I can still come and visit him.”

No extra violence risk for gamers with autism

Violent video games don’t affect adults with autism any differently than other adults and don’t appear to be linked with an increase in aggression, according to a forthcoming study.
Following the 2012 shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, there was speculation about a link between autism spectrum disorder and violence and—in particular—that violent video games could cause gamers with autism to act violently.

“If violent video games caused adults with autism spectrum disorder to behave aggressively, we should have seen some evidence of this in our study, but we did not,” says lead author Christopher Engelhardt, a postdoctoral fellow in the School of Health Professions at University of Missouri.

Blast your opponent?

“There are some caveats to our findings,” Engelhardt says. “For example, we only exposed participants to violent or nonviolent games for 15 minutes before measuring their willingness to behave aggressively. This study, therefore, cannot speak to the potential long-term effects of violent-video-game exposure.”

After playing one of two video games that differed only in the amount of violence present in the game, participants engaged in a task to measure aggression.

In that task, participants were led to believe they were competing against another person in a trial to test their reaction times. If the participant won the trial, he or she could “blast” their opponent with a loud noise. The length and volume of that noise were determined by the participant, which allowed the researchers to measure aggression levels in the participants.

More than 100 adults between the ages of 17 and 25, half with autism spectrum disorder and half typically developing, participated in the study.

The study has been accepted for publication in the journal *Psychological Science*.

**COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN**

Black Excellence Awards honor 10 MU students

Wednesday, April 15, 2015 | 10:01 p.m. CDT; updated 10:13 p.m. CDT, Wednesday, April 15, 2015

BY TIMOSHANAE WELLMAKER

COLUMBIA — Javia Gilliam strutted fiercely down the black carpet wearing dark eye makeup, a fur coat and faux locs. As the lights dimmed, the spotlight followed her toward the stage. Heads turned in unison.

**Gilliam was part of a fashion show that kicked off the Black Excellence Awards Wednesday night in Middlebush Auditorium in MU. The event was**
organized by the Legion of Black Collegians and highlighted the achievements of MU students. It was also part of Black Love Week 2015.

Overall, 40 students were nominated by their peers, and 10 winners were selected. MU juniors Asha Bashir and Steven Blakley hosted the event.

Award titles included Mr. and Miss Congeniality, Humanitarian and Rising Star.

MU sophomore Eris Maxwell was surprised to learn she’d been nominated.

"(It) means that somebody's actually watching me make that difference in a kid's life," she said.

Before the event began, many of the nominees drank mocktails and took photos together.

MU junior Mariah Griggs posed boldly in a turquoise dress, gold heels and shiny pink lipstick. Griggs was nominated for the Female Fashion Icon Award.

"Receiving this nomination alone is pretty special because in high school I really wasn't able to express my style. I'm from a really small town, and no one really understood fashion," Griggs said.

"Black Excellence is just really taking out the time to recognize students on this campus," Griggs said.

Phelan Simpkins, activities co-chairman for the Legion of Black Collegians, said the awards are important because they honor students who don't normally get rewarded for being who they are.

"These awards can help motivate students to get involved on campus," he said.

Male Icon Award winner Jalen Mosby said he hopes the event will be big enough to one day hold at the Missouri Theatre.

"This is important because a lot of black kids just don't get recognition," he said. "It's good to see what other black kids are doing at MU."

Winners included:
Freshman Obehi Imaren Ezor, Female Fashion Icon Award
Sophomore Jalen Mosby, Male Fashion Icon Award
Freshman Jazmyn Ferguson, Humanitarian Award
Junior Lanette Henderson, Miss Congeniality Award
Sophomore Cortez Brown, Mr. Congeniality Award
MSA president and junior Payton Head, Obama Award
Junior Wycla Bratton, Shaping Our Future Award
Senior Arianna Poindexter, Renaissance Award
Senior Vernon Driskell, Renaissance Award
Junior Brianna Arps, Rising Star Award

MU students working on suicide awareness documentary

After senior Alex Lindley lost a close friend to suicide, he vowed to make something positive of the tragedy.

Lindley and his fellow members of the Mizzou Suicide Prevention Coalition decided to produce a documentary film that provides a deeper understanding of mental illness, self-harm and suicide.

“We’re basically looking for a better way to deal with the loss and promote some sort of social change,” Lindley said. “He was the last person you would expect to take his own life. He was bright and popular with a great future ahead of him and no one saw it coming. People need to understand that suicide doesn’t discriminate. It’s about starting the conversation about suicide.”

The student group’s production, “Wake Up: A Documentary Film,” aims to encourage audiences to become conscious about the negative effects of suicide.

Suicide is currently the second leading cause of death for people of ages 10 to 24 years old in the United States, according to data from the Missouri Institute of Mental Health. Missouri rates of suicide are 15.9 per 100,000 people in 2012, which is higher than the national average of 13 per 100,000 people.

“It seems to be gaining momentum now,” Lindley said. “It just seems like the perfect time to try and produce this. With mentions of (suicide) in Oscar acceptance speeches and the loss of the
state auditor, certain circumstances are falling into place. I think if it is done right, we can make a difference.”

Tom Schweich, the Missouri state auditor, took his own life in February, bringing additional attention to the issue.

MSPC aims to raise awareness and funds to “help connect MU students to resources for suicide prevention on the campus,” according to the MSPC website.

Lindley said the MSPC is an “excellent opportunity for passionate students to get involved.”

“Right now, the main priority is to spread the word,” Lindley said. “Get people talking about suicide.”

“Wake Up” began filming in March and is currently in production.

“After our production is released, we’re going to try and get it picked up by mental health organizations,” Lindley said. “Hopefully, spread it to other universities across the nation, include public speaking, and try to get as many people to be aware as possible, talk about suicidal warning signs and start the conversation about it.

Suicide can no longer be swept under the rug, Lindley said.

“A lot of people think it’s awkward or uncomfortable to talk about, but the prevalence is so high, that maybe if they see a film put on by a group of college kids, it would encourage a lot of people to start opening up,” Lindley said. “Mental health is not something that can be ignored.”

How a Day Without My Cell Phone Helped Me Loosen My Grip on the Device

Last week when I dropped my cell phone face-down on cement, I picked it up and cringed, then whimpered. The screen was smashed to smithereens. This meant that not only would I have to pay to replace the screen, but I would also be without my beloved cell phone for awhile.

That's when panic set in. For one thing, I didn't have anybody's phone numbers memorized--not even my dad's. Interestingly, I could still recall the time and temperature number I dialed repeatedly as a youth, but all other digits had left my brain.
But phone calls were just part of it. Without my iPhone, how could I ask Siri the name of the song playing on the radio? How would I know the very second an e-mail landed in my inbox or a notification came through on Facebook? How would I search the web for information I didn't really need?

My husband Eric offered to take my phone to the Apple store, leaving me cell-free for only one day. I sent a final text before handing my phone to Eric. It was like ingesting that last delectable bite of chocolate cake before the diet commences.

Clearly, I had joined the ranks of nomophobics--those who are fearful of being separated from their mobile phones. It was strange walking out the door to take my son to preschool without that familiar rectangular device wedged in my pants pocket. And yes, I experienced the phantom vibration on my thigh multiple times that morning.

But as the day went on, I started to enjoy my cell-free experience, and here are a few reasons why:

1. I took the time to watch--really watch--my 4-year-old son play. Instead of glancing up every few moments to check on him, I absorbed the scene in my mind, taking note of his joyful cadence as he zipped around our yard with his toy mower. I also honed in on the sweet chirp of the birds, the fragrant smell of our neighbor's freshly laid mulch, and the low hum of an airplane flying overhead. When Trevyn was done mowing, together we blew bubbles, drew on the driveway with sidewalk chalk, and played Red Light, Green Light -- all games uninterrupted by incoming calls and text messages.

2. I spread out an old comforter on the lawn, lay down beside Trevyn, and watched the puffy white clouds morph, move, and dissipate. I must admit, it was nice to look up instead of down for a change.

3. My productivity level soared. I did the dishes, vacuumed the family room, folded the laundry, scooped the litter box, and unloaded the groceries all in record time, because I wasn't stopping like Pavlov's dogs to check my phone every time I heard a bing.

4. And speaking of sounds, I felt less "on edge" without the constant rings, pings, and bings filling up my day.

In the interest of full disclosure, the moment my husband walked through the door that evening, I rushed to greet him with a giddy anticipation I hadn't felt since our wedding night. Like an addict, I was eager to get my fix. Eric unveiled my flawless phone with the beautiful new screen. I grabbed it and pressed it to my face as if I was applying an oxygen mask after spending the day scaling the Alps.

Then a strange sensation shot through me. Instead of jubilation, I felt humiliation. I didn't like how "owned" I felt by this thing. I thought back to the freeing nature of my adolescence when I wasn't tethered to anything. Back then I talked on the corded phone, retrieved actual letters from on-the-street mailbox, and bopped over to the library if I had research to do.
Even a few years ago, technology didn't have the impact it does today. Back then I had morning bathroom chats with my husband as we got ready for work. Now his eyes are constantly glued to his phone as he gets his fix before heading into the office. I've had countless fights with my children about no iPads at the dinner table. My 4-year-old has even complained from the backseat, "There's nothing to do in the car!" I tell him, "Stare out the window like I used to."

Much of the population struggles to put down their electronic devices. In fact, studies show that iPhone separation anxiety is a real condition. Researchers at the University of Missouri tested it by hooking subjects up to blood pressure and heart rate monitors, then allowing them to have their phones nearby but just out of reach. "Measurements showed that the participants were significantly more anxious while separated from their phones and had higher heart rate and blood pressure."

The morning I gave up my cell, I, too, was anxious as I adjusted to going about my day device-free. Then it got easier. Once Eric brought it home, however, my feelings were mixed. On the one hand, I was thrilled to have that rectangular little lifeline back in my paws. At the same time, I noticed that after spending the day unplugged, I didn't much feel like plugging back in.

I asked my boys, "Who wants to take a bike ride?"

My kids jumped up, yelling, "I do! I do!"

Physical activity. Fresh air. Fun conversation. It all sounded more inviting than a strong Wi-Fi signal.

Off we went to explore the big, bright, beautiful world—a world that is worth connecting to daily.

Dog flu bites Midwest, causing concern among local vets

By Jordan Shapiro

Some St. Louis area kennel owners will start requiring dogs to get a flu vaccine after a recent outbreak in Chicago has sickened hundreds of canines.

Over the last few weeks the flu has infected at least 1,000 dogs in the Midwest, and a small number of infected dogs in the Chicago area have died from the virus. That has spread anxiety among dog owners, prompting some to isolate their pets from other dogs.

There have been no reported cases in Missouri, but that hasn't stopped some kennel owners from seeking preventive measures.
“We are concerned about it and we are taking it very seriously,” said Alan Jones, owner of Kennelwood Pet Resorts.

Starting in the next few weeks, dogs will need a flu vaccine to visit any of Kennelwood’s eight area locations for grooming, boarding or other activities. A similar policy will also soon take effect at Petropolis in Chesterfield, and other kennels are likely to follow suit.

“This is a disease that will be very manageable and very preventable,” said Paul Schifano, Petropolis’ owner and a veterinarian. “The whole approach is to avoid something that has happened in Chicago.”

Area veterinary experts stress that no local cases have been reported. They also say that although some cases of the virus can be severe, dogs with overall good health will be fine even if they are infected.

Canine flu is very similar to the human virus. It causes persistent cough, runny nose and fever. There’s similarly a vaccine like the one people receive every fall. The dog flu vaccine typically cost about $25 and requires a booster two to three weeks after the initial injection.

Also like human flu, there’s no guarantee the vaccine will keep dogs from getting sick. That’s of particular concern with the recent Chicago outbreak.

Tests have identified the H3N2 flu strain in sick dogs throughout the Chicago area. But the vaccine is designed to protect dogs from only the older H3N8 strain, which has also been found in some recent cases.

“We don’t know if the vaccine we are using is going to be protective or if it’s not going to work at all,” said David Roberts, a veterinarian at Manchester West Veterinary Hospital.

Leah Cohn, professor of veterinary science at the University of Missouri, said the H3N2 strain was first identified in 2006 after infecting dogs in Asia. She said there had been no reports of the virus transmitting to humans, though cats could be susceptible.

She said there was no research on whether the current vaccine would shield dogs from the H3N2 strain. Instead, Cohn said owners should focus on other preventive measures, such as making sure their dogs are up to date on their other vaccinations.

Some area veterinarians still see value in the vaccine. In an email blast to customers, Kirkwood Animal Hospital urged pet owners to quickly get their animals immunized.

“At this time there have not been any documented cases of canine influenza in the St. Louis area, but it is only a matter of time,” it said.

Roberts said he was recommending it for “social” dogs who attend day camp or frequent dog parks. He also said dogs who travel with their owners should be vaccinated.

Tom Millis, a veterinarian at Millis Animal Hospital near Richmond Heights, said that he recommended the vaccine as a precaution but that he was not sure if it would work. He’s telling concerned owners to keep their dogs away from others who are coughing.

Millis said he had seen increased demand for the vaccine over the last few days. His hospital has had to order more to keep up.

Questions over the vaccine aside, experts say owners shouldn’t worry too much.

“There are people that get influenza and are fine,” Cohn said. “The vast majority of dogs that get influenza are going to be OK as well.”
Callisto to Offer New Reporting System for Survivors of Sexual Assault

By Casey Fabris

A nonprofit organization that uses technology to improve sexual health is developing an online system for students to report sexual assaults, provide colleges with better data, identify repeat offenders, and support survivors.

The system, called Callisto and developed by Sexual Health Innovations, is intended to simplify the reporting process for students. People using Callisto will be presented with information about the processes for filing a report with their college and with local law-enforcement agencies.

If a student decides to report an assault to the college, he or she will be able to file a report through the system online that reaches the appropriate person on the campus, who will then contact the student to take the next steps.

But if a student decides not to report an assault, he or she will be able instead to record on Callisto as much or as little information as desired, save the information, and return to it at any point in the future.

Recording information about an assault rather than reporting it could be valuable for colleges, too. Although colleges will not be able to see details of a record without the student’s permission, Callisto will aggregate statistics about the users of the system, says Kate L. Lazarov, Callisto’s project officer.

When a survivor reports an assault online, some personal contact is lost. But Ms. Lazarov says the system’s use of technology will be one of its greatest strengths. Some survivors are afraid to talk about an assault or don’t know what their resources are, she says, and Callisto will help to reach those people.
This August three colleges are expected to begin a pilot project with Callisto. Ms. Lazarov declines to identify them, citing contract negotiations in progress.

The system will be just the first step in the reporting process — it is not meant to replace survivor advocates, Title IX coordinators, or counselors, says Tracey E. Vitchers, director of development for Sexual Health Innovations. The system is meant to help students determine if they want to report an assault and to take away some of the uncertainty in that process.

The system’s name comes from Greek mythology. Callisto was a nymph who took a vow of chastity and was raped by Zeus. It seemed an appropriate name for the system, Ms. Lazarov says, because "if Callisto were a person, she’d be a survivor herself."

‘Technology Isn’t a Cure-All’

But the system’s approach raises privacy concerns, says S. Daniel Carter, director of the 32 National Campus Safety Initiative for the VT-V Family Outreach Foundation, established in the aftermath of the 2007 shootings at Virginia Tech. People need to realize that you can’t guarantee security online, he says. "Anyone using this system would need to understand that."

"It provides a useful tool for survivors who want an additional layer of confidentiality, and they’re not having to speak to an actual person who knows who they are," he says, "but there’s no such thing as absolute confidentiality."

Many colleges have changed their policies and procedures for reporting assaults, Mr. Carter says, but few have offered new reporting methods. Just because colleges aren’t embracing such a format, however, doesn’t mean that students won’t. Today’s students have lived most of their lives with access to such instant communication, he says, and so they may be quite comfortable with Callisto.

But technology isn’t a cure-all for sexual assaults on campuses, Mr. Carter says. The issue is much bigger than that.

"I don’t really see the channel of reporting as the main challenge," he says. "It’s more so how the report is handled. You can have all the technology in the world, and if you don’t have good policies and procedures and a trauma-informed response to reports, how the report is made still doesn’t matter."

On some campuses, reporting might mean phoning a total stranger and saying you were raped, says Alexandra Z. Brodsky, a founder of the advocacy group Know Your
IX and a member of Callisto’s advisory board. Callisto could be a good option for someone who finds that process intimidating.

"For a student who feels in that moment that it’s really important to go to a rape-crisis center and talk through it with someone, one on one, that’s great," she says. "But I think the reality is that a lot of students in that moment are instead behind their laptop Googling to try to figure out how their school’s reporting process works."

**A Focus on Repeat Offenders**

Callisto has a special focus in identifying repeat offenders. Students who have created records of their assaults on Callisto but have not filed reports can elect to use a matching feature to help identify repeat offenders.

Here’s the scenario: A student creates a record of his or her assault, identifying the assailant, but chooses not to file a report. Later, another student is assaulted by the same person and files a report that identifies the assailant.

If the first student, who chose not to file a report, opts in to the matching feature, his or her name and the name of the assailant will be sent to the college. The record, however, remains anonymous. The college will then reach out to the student to see if, now that someone else has been allegedly assaulted by the same person, he or she wants to file a formal report or, if not, would help to corroborate the other student’s report.

Callisto’s Ms. Lazarov gives this statistic: Some studies have found that as many as 90 percent of campus rapes are committed by repeat offenders. If they were stopped after their second assault, the studies concluded, up to 60 percent of such rapes could be prevented.

Some critics say Callisto will provide an opportunity for a student with a grudge to abuse the system.

Andrew T. Miltenberg, a New York lawyer who represents young men accused of sexual misconduct, says though Callisto seems well intended, he is concerned about dangers it may pose to students who are accused. Having the ability to report someone with just the click of a button may not be a good thing, he says.

"We’re all guilty of pressing send on an angry text or email that, had we had to put it into an actual letter and proofread, we probably wouldn’t have sent," he says.
He knows from experience that reports can be filed in fits of rage and later recanted. Going through the reporting process in person is a more "deliberate act," Mr. Miltenberg says, and it gives the student an opportunity to think things through more so than simply typing up a few sentences and hitting the send button.

Callisto takes some steps to prevent abuse. To opt in to the matching feature, students must provide a method of contact and agree to be contacted by a college administrator. And reports created on Callisto undergo investigation by a college or local law-enforcement agency, so matching an assailant is only the first step, not the last.

**Legal Protections**
Laura L. Dunn, founder and executive director of the advocacy group SurvJustice, says she is concerned about reports being made through a third party like Callisto. As a lawyer, she worries about the legal protections that Callisto users would have.

There are obvious benefits to identifying repeat perpetrators, Ms. Dunn says. Callisto’s efforts to do so remind her of the FBI’s DNA database. However, she says, identifying repeat offenders presents some legal challenges, in that certain states don’t allow other offenses to be used as evidence in court.

Ms. Dunn says that Callisto is filling a gap left by law enforcement and that the need for a third-party system like it "should be a testament to how much our law-enforcement system simply fails survivors of sexual violence."

Callisto could be a useful tool for survivors, Ms. Dunn says. She just hopes it will account for all of the necessary policy and procedural variables to avoid complicating the reporting process. It could also be valuable for law enforcement to mimic or invest in the system, she says.

"As a survivor and as an activist, I think this is amazing," she says, "and as a lawyer, I’m cautious."
NO MU MENTION

The University of Miami this week tapped the dean of public health at Harvard and former minister of health for Mexico as its sixth president. In many ways the choice appears spot-on during a time when Miami is trying to strengthen its medical program and expand its reach in Latin America.

Yet when it comes to National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I athletics -- the arena in which Miami is perhaps best known, and not always favorably -- the 61-year-old Julio Frenk will face a steep learning curve.

Frenk is far from alone. In an era when presidential search committees are placing increasing emphasis on the medical and technology fields, it’s not uncommon for a leader with limited experience with college athletics to take the helm of a Division I institution with a renowned sports legacy. And several of these new presidents have found themselves in the middle of sports controversies early in their tenures.

Miami’s own legacy is steeped in both success and scandal. Its men’s football team won 5 national championships in 18 years but has gone through 3 coaches since its last title in the 2002 Rose Bowl. The basketball team has reached the NCAA Division I championship’s Sweet 16 stage twice in the last two decades, most recently in 2013. The Hurricanes have also endured multiple accusations of improperly rewarding football and basketball players, and the athletic program is still on probation following a two-and-a-half-year NCAA investigation into a former booster’s gifts to players. The football program has also been known at times for nationally televised brawls.

In the days since his appointment was announced, Frenk, a former soccer and basketball player who says he gained an appreciation of college athletics while a Ph.D. student at the University of Michigan, has limited his comments about Miami’s athletics program to statements of praise and his desire to learn.

“I am, of course, very much aware of the important role that athletics play at the University of Miami, and I’m aware of the great record of its teams,” he said in an interview. “I look forward to learning more…. I look forward to immersing myself in it.”
Frenk declined to go into specifics, but the methods by which presidents without experience with athletics immerse themselves in the athletic department of a university are worth exploring.

At the University of Michigan, a new president, Mark Schlissel, formerly a provost at Brown University, sparked controversy in the fall with comments he made about athletes’ academic performance in a public forum with faculty leaders. He said the Michigan football program admitted athletes who "aren't as qualified" and can't graduate. His remarks, reported in the student newspaper The Michigan Daily, prompted a next-day apology and came less than a month after the resignation of the athletics director after the Wolverine football program came under scrutiny when a concussed football player was placed back in a game despite his injury.

The list of sports powerhouses choosing presidents without experience with college athletics doesn’t stop at Michigan and Miami. The University of Oregon, another university that competes at the NCAA's Bowl Championship Series level, announced on Tuesday that the dean of the University of Chicago law school would be its next president. Kent Syverud became president of Syracuse University in 2014 after serving as dean of the law school at Washington University in St. Louis. Florida State Senator John Thrasher was named Florida State University’s president last fall. And Rutgers University appointed Robert Barchi, former leader of Thomas Jefferson University, a health sciences college, as president in 2012.

Yet most universities with large athletic programs choose candidates who have direct experience with college athletics. According to figures from the search firm Witt/Kieffer, 66 percent of presidents of universities that compete in the top tier of NCAA football have prior experience at a similar university, meaning they likely had some exposure to big-time athletics.

“There’s an awareness in these big schools that participate in big-time athletics that if their president has some familiarity with the NCAA, NCAA regulations, the financial aspect of these athletic programs and the public relations impact that these athletics programs can have on the institutions, the more attractive a candidate usually is,” said William Funk, head of a Texas-based search firm that specializes in higher education.

He continued: “Those institutions that deny they even think about it are just whistling in the dark. They better be thinking about it because a lot of money goes into this side of the house and it needs to be well managed. If someone is completely naïve about that side of the house, it can be troublesome down the road.”

At Syracuse, Syverud told faculty members in March, according to a Syracuse.com article, that he’s been spending half his time dealing with the sports program in the wake of severe NCAA sanctions for awarding athletes improper benefits, academic misconduct and a failure to enforce the university's drug policy.

Presidents without experience in sports must quickly learn how to navigate the NCAA, communicate with athletics administrators and mitigate scandals. When search boards choose an untested pick, they're taking a risk.

"I've really learned that this whole athletic sphere and the usual way you approach things just doesn't work," Schlissel told Michigan faculty, according to The Daily, adding later, "It's a time sink."

Not Ignored
Funk led the presidential search at Ohio State University last year. The university ultimately landed on Michael Drake, an ophthalmologist who was chancellor of the University of California at Irvine. Drake had experience in the medical field and in university administration, and while Irvine is not a large force in college athletics, Drake had been a member of the NCAA Division I Board of Directors.

Ohio State’s search committee wanted a leader who could advance the mission of the university’s medical and health science programs. The sports program, however, “wasn’t ignored” during the search process, Funk said.

“They’re an athletic powerhouse and while it’s certainly not No. 1 or No. 2 or maybe even No. 3 on their list, it was always in the conversation,” Funk said. “They’re proud of that athletic program. They, like everyone else, have occasionally had issues they’ve had to deal with.”

As colleges search for presidents, concerns about research funding and the medical sciences are increasingly eclipsing concerns over athletic programs.

“It used to be that if you had a strong athletic program, that was good, the state was happy with their university. That was how they evaluated the strength of the institution,” said Lucy Leske, managing partner of the higher education practice for Witt/Kieffer. “Now, I think the public and Congress and even the president himself are suggesting, ‘Are these universities doing real good for the economy?’”

Learning on the Job

Nannerl Keohane took the helm of Duke University in the early 1990s. She had been president of Wellesley College, which has a strong academic reputation but a small athletics program. Like many of her colleagues, Keohane learned how to run a major and storied athletics program on the job.

Keohane prioritized developing good relationships with the athletic director and with key coaches. She maintained a reporting structure that included regular conversations with the athletic director on mission and big-picture items but that funneled many of the details of the athletic department through her executive vice president.

“He was known to be ultimately responsible to the president,” Keohane explained of then-athletic director Tom Butters. She said it’s important “that people see you as interested and responsible for the athletic program, but that it doesn’t take a huge amount of your time [because] the details go through someone else.”

She continued: “A lot of people in big universities assume that the athletic director can report to someone else because it takes so much time and you can’t do it all yourself. But if the athletic director doesn’t report to you, at least in a symbolic and substantive sense, you’re never going to know enough to ward off problems before they become scandals.”

Greg Santore, practice leader for Witt/Kieffer’s sports leadership division, said because of increased scrutiny of athletic departments and a heightened call for transparency, it is becoming more necessary for presidents to have working relationships with the athletic director. Having coaches in place who understand that academics, and not athletics, is the main priority of a university is also important, Keohane said.

“A really bad situation would be for someone to come into the university with an iconic coach who had been there a long time and was deeply respected but didn’t get it,” she said, adding that her positive
relationship with Mike Krzyzewski, the legendary Blue Devils basketball coach, made her job a lot easier. “Of course there were a few tensions, but it was around the edges. It wasn’t core.”

Keohane, who left Duke in 2004, is now a professor of public affairs at Princeton University. When she was interviewed for the Duke post, the search committee was more interested in how she would lead the university’s medical enterprise than how she would lead its athletic program. But it didn’t take her long after arriving on campus to realize how deeply Duke’s athletic program is embedded into the university. She noticed immediately how prolific Blue Devils insignia are on Duke’s campus, whether on posters at employees’ desks or on the sweatshirts of students walking to class. Team pride brings a campus together, she said.

Yet pride can unravel into shame when athletic programs are poorly managed.

“The challenges of a significant athletics program are complex and apparently getting more serious,” she continued. “When it works, athletics can be a very valuable part of an institution…. But it can so easily go off the rails.”

Shortly after Keohane left the presidency, Duke was rocked by a high-profile scandal when three lacrosse players were accused of rape, an accusation that was later shown to be false.

No Perfect Candidate

Outside of poaching a president from a similar institution, it’s difficult for colleges to tap a leader who fulfills an increasingly long list of desired qualifications. At the start of its presidential search, Miami published a profile for the position that listed 13 desired qualifications. “An appreciation for the complexities of college athletics in a major research university and a commitment to an unwavering sense of ethics and integrity in the oversight of athletic programs,” was seventh on that list, after qualifications like the ability to advance Miami’s academic agenda, research portfolio and medical center.

“The job of a college president today, whether it’s at a small school or a large one, is so complex and demanding and it does require expertise in a variety of areas, athletics being one of them,” said Susan Resneck Pierce, a former college president who is the author of On Being Presidential (Wiley) and who coaches new presidents.

“I’m not sure you’re ever going to find a president who has expertise in all the areas,” she continued. “What I do think is you want to find somebody who knows how to quickly learn and seek and listen to advice.”

Isaac Prilleltensky, dean of education at Miami and a member of the 14-person presidential search committee, said Frenk is a good listener. “He will take the time to study in depth all the various aspects of the richness of the University of Miami, including athletics,” he said. “He will take the time to get to know all the aspects of the university equally.”

When pressed, Prilleltensky did not elaborate on the search committee’s consideration of Frenk in terms of the university’s athletic enterprise.

Miami’s current president, Donna Shalala, had been U.S. secretary of health and human services and chancellor of the University of Wisconsin at Madison before taking the job in Coral Gables. Before going to Wisconsin in the late 1980s, she was president of Hunter College and had little experience with Division I athletics. But it didn’t take her long to begin turning around the athletic program. A year into
her tenure at Wisconsin, she fired the football coach and brought in a new athletic director, who hired Barry Alvarez to reboot the football program. By 1993 the Badgers made it to the Rose Bowl, and Alvarez went on to coach until 2005. He's now Wisconsin's athletic director. Madison "was taking a chance I knew what I was doing," Shalala told The Chicago Tribune in 1993. "But I had done my homework. I knew we could get first-rate coaches."

In assuming the top spot at Miami, Frenk, not unlike his predecessor nearly three decades ago, inherits an imperfect athletics program. Frenk has said he looks forward to understanding more about Miami's sports program. Similarly, people with an eye on Miami look forward to seeing how that future understanding becomes action.

“The first-time president who hasn’t had to deal with intercollegiate athletics," explained Funk, who has placed more than 400 college presidents, "has to run really fast to catch up and become knowledgeable of the intercollegiate milieu and how to safeguard the institution [from] the excesses of the programs as well as take advantage of the programs."