When the Beagle Freedom Project sued the University of Missouri in May alleging a public records violation, it didn’t get much national attention.

That came last week, when the California-based anti-animal-testing group started to call attention to a recent experiment in which MU researchers used beagles to test a new treatment for corneal ulcers.

“The University of Missouri purposely blinded six beagles and then killed them after their experiment failed,” a post on the group’s Facebook page said. Other posts stated that researchers at the College of Veterinary Medicine had used an “experimental acid” on the dogs’ eyes.

The group then reminded readers of its pending lawsuit against the university and asked for donations.

The group’s vice president, Kevin Chase, said the post received more than 1.5 million page views and was shared with an email list of 40,000. Outrage over the experiment ensued on social media.

University spokespeople have spent the last week pointing out that the group’s account of the experiment was flawed and that the research met ethical standards that govern the treatment of laboratory animals.

A study published in the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists Journal said that in the experiment, the left eyes of six beagles, under sedation, were wounded and the corneal tissue scraped away. The beagles then were fitted with Elizabethan collars to prevent them from hurting their eyes any further.

Beagles were used because their eyes are similar to those of humans.

Three of the dogs were treated with a 0.2 percent solution of hyaluronic acid, a compound found in the skin that’s related to tissue repair. It’s often found is topical skin treatments. The other three dogs were treated with a different compound.

After 96 hours, researchers concluded that the healing times between the groups was not scientifically significant, and with the wounds healed they ended the experiment. Nothing in the
published research suggests the beagles were permanently blinded. Later, the dogs were euthanized so that scientists could remove their corneas for research.

The Beagle Freedom Project’s post caused many to question the ethics of the MU researchers, particularly the decision to euthanize the animals.

Chase said his organization would have worked with MU to find the beagles adoptive homes.

The beagles “are just like people that have sight impairments,” said Chase, who called the experiment “egregious.” “They are capable of full and happy lives.”

Paula Clifford is a former researcher who is now the executive director for Americans for Medical Progress, a medical testing group devoted to public understanding of the humane use of animals in medical research.

She said the MU experiment appears to be well within existing standards, which allow animals to be euthanized when researchers see no other way to study affected tissues.

“Often scientists need to euthanize animals at the end of the study because they have to collect tissue on a microscopic level to get the data they need,” Clifford said.

It’s not uncommon for high-profile incidents involving animal testing to tap into or incite tension between those who believe that animal testing is regulated, safe and necessary to further medical discoveries that help both animals and humans — and those who believe animal rights and safety are exploited in the name of science and medical progress can be obtained through other means.

Unlike other major controversies involving university laboratory animals — such as when the United States Department of Agriculture cited the University of Kansas for 160 Animal Welfare Act violations in 2010 — the University of Missouri researchers have not been found guilty of any wrongdoing related to this issue.

The school was cited by the USDA in March for an incident in which a boar fatally injured another boar after knocking down a pen. But MU spokesman Christian Basi said the university passed a surprise inspection in May.

Outside researchers say that the use of emotional arguments by animal-rights groups to persuade others to join their cause is hardly new, but social media makes it easier than ever to share inflammatory claims.

“The instant broad reach of social media enables armchair quarterbacks to become purported experts overnight,” said Matthew Bailey, executive vice president of the Foundation for Biomedical Research. “How individuals with little to no scientific background or training could present a well-informed argument about study design defies logic.”

Chase suggested that any conversation about how universities conduct experiments on animals is positive.
“If this kind of research does not impact your emotions or give you cause for concern, there might be something wrong for you,” he said. “Technically, yeah, they didn’t do something against the law. And maybe that’s part of the problem. We’re concerned that research like this was approved in the first place.”

Not regulated enough?

Chase said his group regularly files public records requests of university and other groups’ testing practices as part of its mission to rescue dogs and other animals from laboratories. But when it made a request of the University of Missouri’s laboratory program this spring, school officials said the request would cost $82,000 to complete.

The group decided to sue and found the published report on the beagle experiment this month while combing through other public sources regarding MU’s research program.

Part of their dismay, Chase said, was due to the university’s acknowledgment in its published study that the sample size of the beagles — six — was too small to effectively draw conclusions about the effectiveness of the hyaluronic acid, even if the treatment had been successful.

The University of Missouri released a statement this week affirming that animals were treated humanely and in compliance with its standards.

“All studies were performed in accordance with the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology ... and approved by the MU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee,” the release stated.

Those standards require scientists to eliminate any “avoidable source of discomfort or distress” during experiments and include “reasonable periods of rest and readjustment.”

Animal laboratories are regulated by the federal Animal Welfare Act and inspected by the USDA. The law requires that experiments on animals be approved by Institutional Animal Care and Use committees made up of veterinarians, researchers and an outside member of the community.

The National Institutes of Health has specific requirements for research it funds, as do many research facilities accredited by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International.

Critics say the required committees give research labs lots of wiggle room.

“Realistically, as long as the committee approves it, virtually anything can go,” said Michael Budkie, executive director of Stop Animal Exploitation Now.

“While there are standards that are supposed to require things like the use anesthesia, provide food and water, pain and relief, that animal committee can set aside those requirements if that researcher says it’s necessary to do so for the purpose of the experiment.”
He points out that researchers and scientists on the committee often are employed by the laboratory that wishes to conduct an experiment.

Clifford says scientists have little motivation to skirt state and federal standards.

The members of the Institutional Animal Care and Use committees take this very seriously, Clifford said. “It’s an institution’s reputation. They aren’t going to get funding for research if they aren’t’” taking it seriously.

Animals, especially dogs, have played a crucial role in medical discoveries in the past century, she points out. According to the Foundation for Biomedical Research, dogs were involved with the discovery of alternative treatments for diabetes, heart disease and kidney dialysis.

“Our children receive vaccines thanks to this kind of research. Our parents and grandparents receive treatment at the hospital thanks to this research. Our pets live much longer, healthier lives thanks to this research,” said Bailey.

But sharing this message means combating another, perhaps more powerful image used by anti-animal testing groups — of animals being hurt, killed or exploited in the name of science, an image that can increase the number of people who believe that animals should have more rights and protection.

Gallup polling in 2015 suggests that a third of Americans want animals to have the same rights as people, a viewpoint that has increased by 25 percent since 2008. The role pets play in our lives has also changed, Clifford points out, in part because of the rabies vaccine. Pets, she said, are more often allowed to be in the house, in the owners’ beds and treated as part of the family.

Explaining what researchers do isn’t always easy to understand or neatly explained.

“Fear sells,” Bailey said. “The scientific community has a complex truth to tell, as opposed to a simple lie. The challenge is informing the public in an easy-to-understand way.”

On Facebook, the Beagle Freedom Project continued to share its message Wednesday.

It posted pictures of adorable beagles along with a picture of a beagle’s open eyeball gleaned from the publication on the experiment.

More than 3,000 viewers reacted to it and shared it more than 1,000 times.
NGA stiffs Illinois again, will give millions to Mizzou

*News-Democrat*

**Generated from News Bureau press release:** *$12 Million Federal Contract to MU Will Establish Education Program for National Intelligence Agency*

Talk about rubbing salt into the wounds of Illinoians.

**The National Geospatial Intelligence Agency — which was considering a new home in Illinois but ultimately decided to keep its western headquarters in St. Louis — has awarded a $12 million grant to the University of Missouri.**

The University of Missouri announced the grant Wednesday in a news release.

“The University of Missouri College of Engineering has just been awarded a five-year, $12 million contract to deliver a comprehensive data science education program that will provide cutting-edge analytical training for the NGA workforce and potentially other members of the U.S. Intelligence Community,” the university said in the news release. “This new program will address key education and training needs identified by NGA.”

NGA Director Robert Cardillo announced in June that the agency’s $1.6 billion western headquarters would be built in north St. Louis instead of a proposed site in St. Clair County, next to Scott Air Force Base.

Cardillo, at the time, said: “The St. Louis site provides NGA with the most technological, academic, and professional environment for this agency to develop the capabilities necessary to solve the hardest intelligence and national security problems entrusted to us by the American people.”

The program at MU is a collaboration between the university’s College of Engineering’s Center for Geospatial Intelligence and the MU Informatics Institute’s Data Science and Analytics master’s degree program. The newly established effort is part of the NGA College’s Learning Outreach program that partners with qualified academic institutions and industry partners to address key education and training gaps within the NGA.

Mizzou will provide a data science education program that includes databases and programming, statistical analysis and predictive modeling, data visualization and data mining,
cloud-based computing, and machine learning among other specialties that will help develop the NGA and intelligence-community workforce.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

AUGUST 31, 2016 5:02 PM

MU lands $12 million contract to train U.S. intelligence members

BY MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS
mdwilliams@kcestar.com

Generated from News Bureau press release: $12 Million Federal Contract to MU Will Establish Education Program for National Intelligence Agency

The University of Missouri has landed a $12 million contract to train members of the U.S. Intelligence Community.

The five-year contract calls on the MU College of Engineering to provide a comprehensive data science education program that will provide “cutting-edge analytical training” for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and potentially other U.S. intelligence members.

The program joins the MU College of Engineering’s Center for Geospatial Intelligence and the MU Informatics Institute’s data science and analytics master’s degree program.

To address the specific education and training needs identified by the NGA, the university will provide a data science education program that includes databases and programming, statistical analyses and predictive modeling, data visualization and data mining, cloud-based computing, and machine learning. These and other specialties are among those the government has said will help develop their workforce, according to an announcement Wednesday.

“Our faculty are thrilled to be able to support NGA’s effort to equip its workforce with the data science skills necessary for NGA to make sense out of the overwhelming volume of government, commercial and open-source geospatial information they have to deal with on a day-to-day
basis,” said electrical engineering professor Curt Davis, who directs the university’s Center for Geospatial Intelligence.

Military service members and government officials making national security decisions rely on the NGA for up-to-date geospatial information critical in their decision-making.

$12M Fed. Contract to MU to Establish Education Program for NGA

August 31, 2016 2:51 PM

Filed Under: Mizzou, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, NGA, University of Missouri

Generated from News Bureau press release: $12 Million Federal Contract to MU Will Establish Education Program for National Intelligence Agency

COLUMBIA, Mo. (News release) – The University of Missouri College of Engineering has been awarded a five-year, $12 million contract to deliver a data science education program that will provide analytical training for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency workforce, and potentially other members of the U.S. Intelligence Community (IC).

“This new program will address key education and training needs identified by NGA,” according to a news release from the university.

The award is one of the largest in the college’s history, the release says. The program is a collaboration between the MU College of Engineering’s Center for Geospatial Intelligence (CGI) and the MU Informatics Institute’s Data Science and Analytics (DSA) master’s degree program.

The newly established effort is part of the NGA College’s Learning Outreach program that partners with qualified academic institutions and industry partners to address key education and training gaps within the NGA, according to the release. Mizzou will provide a comprehensive data science education program that includes databases and programming, statistical analyses and predictive modeling, data visualization and data mining, cloud-based computing, and machine learning among other specialties that will help develop the NGA and IC workforce.
The MU Data Science and Analytics master’s degree was developed as an online-only program for professional workforce training. The DSA program then was adapted to meet specific NGA requirements for on-site instruction at NGA locations in St. Louis and Washington, D.C. MU faculty members who hold appropriate security clearances and have data science expertise will teach at these locations, and this will allow government participants to earn graduate-level credit at MU for all the program courses. As a result, NGA and other IC workforce participants enrolled in the program will have the ability to earn a graduate certificate in data science and a master’s degree from the University of Missouri.

NGA estimates about 1,800 participants from 60 different work roles will take courses from the program, with more than 500 NGA employees completing a program of data science courses that will help them earn a graduate certificate in data science.

**Mizzou wins $12 million, 5-year contract to train NGA employees in St. Louis, Washington D.C.**

By Ashley Jost St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 4 hrs ago

Generated from News Bureau press release: $12 Million Federal Contract to MU Will Establish Education Program for National Intelligence Agency

ST. LOUIS • Several months after confirming the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency is in fact staying in St. Louis, the agency announced a $12 million contract to the University of Missouri’s Columbia campus to train NGA employees.

The five-year contract to Mizzou's engineering school — the largest contract in the College of Engineering's history — is aimed at data science and "key education and training needs identified by NGA."

Curt Davis, director of the engineering school's Center for Geospatial Intelligence, said the process of acquiring the contract started more than a year ago. The NGA anticipates 1,800 working students in St. Louis and Washington, D.C., participating in
the graduate certificate program, and Davis expects them to span from early career and beyond.

“Our faculty are thrilled to be able to support NGA’s effort to equip its workforce with the data science skills necessary for NGA to make sense out of the overwhelming volume of government, commercial, and open-source geospatial information they have to deal with on a day-to-day basis,” Davis said in a statement.

NGA employees will be paid for their time in these classes, Davis said. Beginning courses will likely be more self-paced and online with more advanced classes taught in person. Professors from Mizzou will teach the classes in St. Louis, but the university has contracted out teachers in Washington. Davis said Mizzou professors will travel to D.C. as needed.

When students are done with the program, they will have a graduate certificate in data science and a master’s degree from the University of Missouri.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to break ground on the federal intelligence agency's $1.75 billion campus in mid-2017. St. Louis officials hope the campus will reshape the area northwest of downtown.
NGA awards $12 million grant to University of Missouri

Generated from News Bureau press release: $12 Million Federal Contract to MU Will Establish Education Program for National Intelligence Agency

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency has awarded a $12 million, five-year contract to the University of Missouri’s Columbia campus to train NGA employees.

The contract, announced Wednesday, follows the NGA’s decision earlier this year to remain in St. Louis instead of moving to St. Louis County or Illinois.

The contract with the College of Engineering will focus on data science and other training needs identified by NGA. The agency anticipates 1,800 working students in St. Louis and Washington, D.C., will participate.

NGA employees will be paid for time in class. Those who complete the program will have a graduate certificate in data science and a master’s degree from the university.

The agency is expected to break ground next year on a new $1.75 billion campus in north St. Louis.
MU College of Engineering awarded federal contract

Generated from News Bureau press release: $12 Million Federal Contract to MU Will Establish Education Program for National Intelligence Agency

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri will soon develop an educational program for federal intelligence workers.

The MU College of Engineering announced Wednesday it was awarded a five-year, $12 million contract by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA). It is one of the largest contracts in the school's history.

“This award from the NGA -- one of the largest in the College’s history -- highlights the excellence of instruction the College of Engineering faculty provide using cutting-edge technologies that are necessary in a complex and data-driven world,” said Elizabeth Loboa, dean of the College of Engineering.

The college will create a data science program that will provide training for NGA workers and other members of the U.S. Intelligence Community. The program will also focus on "key education and training needs identified by NGA."

Participants of the program will earn a graduate certificate in data science and a master's degree from the University of Missouri. MU professors who hold the appropriate security clearances will train employees at NGA locations in Washington D.C., and St. Louis.

“Our faculty are thrilled to be able to support NGA’s effort to equip its workforce with the data science skills necessary for NGA to make sense out of the overwhelming volume of government, commercial, and open-source geospatial information they have to deal with on a day-to-day basis,” said Curt Davis, professor of electrical and computer engineering.

Around 1,800 people from 60 different work roles will take courses in the program.
MU College of Engineering lands data education contract worth $12 million

JACOB SCHOLL, 15 hrs ago

Generated by a News Bureau press release: $12 Million Federal Contract to MU Will Establish Education Program for National Intelligence Agency

COLUMBIA — The MU College of Engineering has landed the largest contract in its history. The five-year contract worth $12 million is with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

Under the agreement, MU engineering faculty involved in the project will provide courses on data science and how to manage large amounts of information, said Curt Davis, the Naka Endowed Professor and director of the MU Center for Geospatial Intelligence in the College of Engineering. NGA employees will then be able to use these skills in mapping data for use by the U.S. government.

The NGA "delivers world-class geospatial intelligence that provides a decisive advantage to policymakers, warfighters, intelligence professionals and first responders," according to its website. "Anyone who sails a U.S. ship, flies a U.S. aircraft, makes national policy decisions, fights wars, locates targets, responds to natural disasters, or even navigates with a cellphone relies on NGA."

The courses were created over three years by an interdisciplinary group of faculty led by the MU Informatics Institute and were the basis for pursuing the contract, Davis said.

The curriculum is aimed at teaching NGA employees how to use new programs and techniques that can make their workload more manageable, Davis said.
"This is a new area for the agency," Davis said. "In the past 10 years, there has been an explosion of data they have to process. We're teaching workers the technical skills to do their jobs better."

Based in Springfield, Virginia, the NGA has two major locations in St. Louis and just south of St. Louis in Arnold, Missouri. Hundreds of NGA employees serve on support teams at U.S. military, diplomatic and allied locations around the world, according to the NGA website.

The courses will be offered either online or in the NGA offices in Virginia and in St. Louis. Some will be taught by MU faculty members.

Davis said the contract, which started Aug. 15, is the largest in the college's history. Engineering faculty will offer 12 courses to NGA employees in the first six months of the contract. After that, the program is looking at offering over 20 online and in-person classes a year.

MU wins $12 million contract to train intelligence workers

Wednesday, August 31, 2016 at 1:05 pm

Generated from News Bureau press release: $12 Million Federal Contract to MU Will Establish Education Program for National Intelligence Agency

The University of Missouri has won a multi-million dollar contract to train workers for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

MU's College of Engineering will receive $12 million over five years to provide data science education to the NGA workforce and government intelligence personnel. The education program will include training in databases and programming, statistical analyses and predictive modeling, data visualization and data mining, cloud-based computing and machine learning, among other specialties, MU said in a news release.

The contract includes on-site instruction at the NGA location in St. Louis and in Washington, D.C. An estimated 1,800 people will take courses in the program.
The NGA provides intelligence and geospatial data for national security purposes.

Beagles euthanized in MU study spark unanswered questions


COLUMBIA - Six beagles were euthanized after a study conducted by the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine.

The study, published by the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists, was to investigate the efficacy of topical hyaluronic acid compared to the standard treatment currently available. Researchers concluded the experimental treatment was not more effective.

"To test the effectiveness of the new drug treatment, dogs underwent sedation, and their corneas were operated on by a board certified veterinary ophthalmologist under the guidelines of ARVO," University of Missouri officials said in an email to KOMU 8 News.

"However, following their wounds they were given medical treatment to heal their eyes. The treatment consisted of hyaluronic acid," the statement said.

Hyaluronic acid is naturally in the human body, according to webMD.

MU said no dogs were blinded during the study. Researchers injured the corneas and then healed them before the end of the study.
According to the researchers' publication, the six beagle puppies were between 9 and 12 months. The Beagle Freedom Project, the dogs were euthanized after the study was conducted.

According to a university news release, all studies were performed in accordance with the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology.

The BFP is also suing the MU College of Veterinary Medicine over its research programs; however, the lawsuit isn't directly related to this study.

In May of this year, Beagle Freedom Project filed an open record request with the University of Missouri. The organization said the university asked BFP to pay $82,000 for the records of the 179 dogs and cats the university has in its laboratories.

"That's a violation of Missouri's Sunshine Law," Vice President of Beagle Freedom Project Kevin Chase said. "It's a violation of the source the public gives these facilities by giving them their tax payer dollars to do this research."

When BFP was not able to get the records, the organization researched studies from the university.

"This is why we feel the University of Missouri is trying to charge us $82,000. They don't want us to have records because we think they are trying to hide something similar that is still going on," Chase said.

Chase said BFP has adopted out many blind dogs, and loss of vision shouldn't be a factor in euthanization.

"We're disappointed in the University so we're going to continue to press forward our lawsuit asking for more transparency. We're going to continue to engage the university community and animal lovers everywhere to put pressure on the university to stop doing these experiments," Chase said.

In a statement MU said, "Without animal research, we would not be able to answer some of the most important medical questions."
Mizzou under fire after 6 beagles used for research are killed

A California-based group and its supporters nationwide are taking issue with research at the University of Missouri-Columbia that resulted in the deaths of six dogs.

After filing a lawsuit against Mizzou over access to documents for animals used in research on the Columbia campus, organizers at the Beagle Freedom Project started looking into the university's published research and found a study that raised a red flag for the group.

The study, published in the 2016 Journal of Veterinary Ophthalmology, was testing treatment for damaged corneas. Beagles were used in the study because dogs' eyes are similar to human eyes.

According to the research, the dogs were given anesthesia and the cornea in each dog's left eye was damaged intentionally by one of the researchers. The dogs were then given a topical acid treatment for their eyes to try and heal the damage. The hyaluronic acid treatment is a moisturizing agent.

The treatment didn't work, and the dogs were later euthanized; their corneas were removed and used for additional research. University spokespeople would not comment on whether it was common practice to euthanize animals after a study.

A university statement said the study was approved by the campus' Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, and followed the rules of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology.

The university said in a statement that the dogs were not in pain during the study.

The dogs "were anesthetized during the procedure and received pain medications during and following if any signs of pain were observed," the statement said. "The dogs also received daily socialization and husbandry needs."

Kevin Chase, vice president of the Beagle Freedom Project, disagreed.

"No reasonable person can deny that these dogs were in pain following the injury to their cornea," Chase said in response to the university's comments. "As everyone knows, the eye is an extremely sensitive part of the body. The (top layer) of the cornea is filled with thousands of tiny nerve endings."
Chase's group argues that a better way to go about this research would be to use medication on dogs that suffer from corneal damage independently.

"Caging dogs in a laboratory, intentionally damaging their corneas, and then killing them is about as ethical as picking people off the street and hitting them over the head with a pipe in order to test new concussion treatments," Chase said in a statement.

In the study's conclusion, the four researchers acknowledge the small sample size, saying that before the study started it was determined that 24 dogs would be required to detect a significant difference in the healing rates. But, such a study size "was deemed impractical given concerns of animal resources for this pilot study."

The Beagle Freedom Project filed a lawsuit against the University of Missouri System this summer alleging the university was violating the state's Sunshine Law for open records.

The suit says the university violated open records laws by creating a "discouraging fee structure" and charging more than $82,000 for public documents. The group asked for records for 179 dogs and cats on Mizzou's campus.

The organization uses record requests to identify candidates for post-research adoption, Chase said. He said the university filed an extension on the deadline to respond to the lawsuit.

"We are confident we'll get these records," he said. "It's just how long the university will drag out this process."

University of Missouri researchers blinded beagles before euthanization

The university explains why the tests were done

Josh Helmuth
Posted: 5:21 PM, Aug 30, 2016
Updated: 11:19 AM, Aug 31, 2016

COLUMBIA, Mo. - **The University of Missouri acknowledges its researchers took part in a medical study that included wounding six beagle puppies before they were all euthanized.**

The study was published in the medical journal Veterinary Ophthalmology on April 7.

It says six healthy, female beagle puppies (9-12 months) were wounded in their left corneas; three were then given an experimental drug (Optimend, containing 0.2% hyaluronic acid) and the other three received the control product without the acid.

The result of the study concluded the topical drug “did not accelerate corneal wound healing.” ‘Optimend Corneal Repair Drops’ is a product currently on the market for use only by veterinarians.

The Beagle Freedom Project learned of the tests several months ago.

"We identified 179 dogs and cats at Mizzou used by the med school, for research purposes,” said Daniel Kolde, attorney for Beagle Freedom Project.

Beagle Freedom Project’s mission is to adopt beagles from universities and institutions after they have been through medical testing. They requested public records from the animals under testing at Mizzou last year under the Sunshine Law but were met with a large bill.

“They wouldn't give us any records until we gave them $82,222 and some change,” said Kolde.

Beagle Freedom Project then sued the university.

“Daily care logs, research protocol, and euthanasia records ... all just basic, standard stuff that the university should be keeping in an orderly fashion for the government inspectors ... So we think they were just running up the bill to discourage us. That's why we filed the sunshine law."
The University of Missouri sent 41 Action News this statement regarding the tests:

*Without animal research, we would not be able to answer some of the most important medical questions.*

*Researchers at the University of Missouri are working to develop painless or non-invasive treatments for corneal injuries to the eyes of people and dogs, including search and rescue dogs and other service animals. Common injuries to the cornea can include force trauma, chronic defects and surgical procedures, and can lead to blindness. Since dogs share similar eye characteristics with people, they are ideal candidates for corneal studies, and veterinarians have provided vital information to physicians and veterinarians treating corneal injuries – which ultimately benefit other dogs, animals and humans, including many of our U.S. veterans who have sustained corneal injuries while defending our country.*

*All studies were performed in accordance with the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Statement for the Use of Animals in Ophthalmic and Vision Research ([as seen here](#)) and were approved by the MU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. The animals were treated humanely and every effort was made to ensure dogs were as comfortable as possible during the tests to study the effectiveness of the new drug treatment.*

*Animal research is only done when scientists believe there is no other way to study the problem, and our researchers respect their research animals greatly and provide the utmost care.*

*Research in vision and ophthalmology improves the quality of life for both animals and humans.*

When asked if the dogs were euthanized following the study, the university did not respond. However, an email obtained from Mizzou’s Mary Jo Banken to Beagle Freedom Project says the animals were put down.

The email partially reads, “The dogs were humanely euthanized, corneas were removed and samples were stored for further research.”
When asked if the dog’s eyes were damaged, Banken also responded, “Yes. To test the effectiveness of the new drug treatment, dogs underwent sedation and their corneas were wounded by a board certified veterinary ophthalmologist under the guidelines of ARVO. However following their wounds they were given medical treatment to heal their eyes.”

Beagle Freedom Project and PETA don’t understand why the dogs couldn’t be adopted.

"The universities and institutions don't want these animals out, then because every day these people look at their family member with one eye taken out and they start thinking about the testing," said Kolde.

Kathy Guillermo, senior vice president of PETA, said, "We are embroiled in a number of law suits with a number of universities on open records issues now. We have to remember, these universities are publicly funded, the documents they have should be open for review by the public and yet they fight tooth and nail to keep us from getting those because they know how bad they look when people see what they do to animals."

"The Animal Welfare Act is really the only federal law offering any sort of protection for animals in laboratories, and its protections are very minimal. You can basically do anything to an animal you want if you get your over-sight committee to approve it. There's nothing that is illegal," she said.

Beagle Freedom Project says they’ve sponsored five bills that make it mandatory for medically studied beagles to be adopted.

Those states are: California, Nevada, Minnesota, Connecticut and New York. There are currently no proposed bills for such measures in Kansas or Missouri.

Why beagles?
"It's about 60,000 every single year and beagles, because they're docile and friendly and seek affection, unfortunately they become the dog of choice for these hideous experiments,” said Guillermo.

Kolde says their lawsuit against Mizzou could go to trial, but it would likely be another 9-12 months. The attorney says there is a similar lawsuit currently filed against the University of Illinois.

41 Action News reached out to local universities to see if any of their research involved animal testing. University of Missouri-Kansas City said they currently test on mice and rats; rabbits used to be on their list. The University of Kansas Medical Center said that more than 99 percent of the animals on their campus are rats and mice. They said there are also a handful of other animals, including gerbils, pigs, rabbits and a couple varieties of monkey.

Story also appeared in the following NBC affiliates

KTVB (NBC) - Boise, ID
KTFT (NBC) - Twin Falls, ID
KOAA (NBC) - Colorado Springs, CO
KTVB (NBC) - Boise, ID
WSMV-NAS (NBC) - Nashville, TN
KCRA-SAC (NBC) - Sacramento, CA
KFOR-OKC (NBC) - Oklahoma City, OK
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Dogs Dead After University Experiment

Watch the story:

http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=5c5a188a-8671-417c-8e6e-9985e78a57a

Story also appeared in CBS affiliates:

WSAW (CBS)- Wausau, WI
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MU Researchers Facing Lawsuit for Animal Research

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Forum audience scrutinizes University of Missouri free speech proposals

By Rudi Keller

Wednesday, August 31, 2016 at 10:16 am

A policy on University of Missouri campus protests must allow demonstrators to express themselves while protecting the university’s ability to function, law Professor Bob Jerry, chairman of a committee drafting rules, said Tuesday.

The draft proposed in May by the Ad Hoc Joint Committee on Protests, Public Spaces, Free Speech and the Press has already been revised to remove the word “disturb” from two prohibitions, Jerry said. The point of a demonstration, he and others noted during a forum on the proposed policy, is often to disturb people.

“We do need a distinction between just disturbing something or annoying someone and substantial disruption of function,” Jerry said.

Jerry spoke at the first of two forums on policies proposed after protests over racial issues in the fall 2015 semester. A revised draft will be available for the next forum, to be held at 3 p.m. Sept. 19 in Jesse Wrench Auditorium at the Memorial Union, Jerry said.

Several speakers at the forum, which drew about 70 people, said the proposals do too much to restrict speech, such as calls for enforcing current rules against camping overnight on campus and requiring permits to use amplifiers such as megaphones.

Raising those issues after the fall 2015 Concerned Student 1950 protests, which featured both, makes them suspect, some speakers said.

Confrontational preacher George “Brother Jed” Smock visited campus every year, “telling me with a megaphone that I was going to hell,” said Jeff Rouder, a professor of psychological sciences.

No one attempted to enforce the rules with Smock, he said. “But when the black kids pick up the megaphone, all of a sudden, megaphones. And I know that’s not your intent, but it’s hard not to see things in this light.”
A policy requiring approval does not mean every request will be denied, Jerry said. Megaphones used on Carnahan Quadrangle or Francis Quadrangle might not be disruptive, but one used 10 feet from a classroom window could be, he said.

Some questioned why the Athletic Department allows camping by tailgaters when it will be prohibited for protesters. That will change, said Todd Houts, director of Environmental Health and Safety and a committee member. The athletic department rules are being revised, Houts said.

The camping policy dates to the 1940s, when sleeping overnight on campus was banned. The speech policy needs to address it, said committee member Christina Wells, a professor of law, because camping can be a form of protest.

“That is why it is in this policy and not just somewhere else because it is such a common thing to have happen and is such a common thing in recent years,” she said.

The Concerned Student 1950 demonstrations began by blocking the Homecoming parade when the car carrying then-UM System President Tim Wolfe reached University Avenue and Ninth Street. The protests grew to include a hunger strike by graduate student Jonathan Butler, a campout on Carnahan Quadrangle and a boycott of athletic activities by the football team.

The proposals, Jerry wrote in May, are intended to implement a 2015 state law protecting expressive activity that “does not materially and substantially disrupt the functioning of the institution” by establishing guidelines for when and where it takes place.

The committee’s report covers activities of groups scheduling events and spontaneous demonstrations. In addition to recommendations to enforce restrictions on camping and amplifiers, the proposed policy also prohibits demonstrations inside buildings that disrupt classwork or campus business or that occupy buildings after business hours.

The proposal lists locations where spontaneous demonstrations may take place, places that may be reserved for events and locations where no demonstrations are allowed, such as adjacent to health care facilities or the research reactor.

For journalists, the policy proposal includes guidelines protecting media rights to record and report on demonstrations and other activities on campus.

“From the outset, this was intended to be a strongly pro-free speech, pro-free inquiry committee,” Faculty Council Chairman Ben Trachtenberg said. “The very bedrock, the purpose of the committee was to regulate speech as lightly as possible while protecting the orderly functioning of the university.”
University of Missouri Holds Forums on Protests

Watch the story: http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=e5c6e9ce-53e1-497b-b4f4-65177cc06df5

Total Student Cost to Attend College is Going Up

Watch the story: http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=f2200c46-27b5-4d65-80d7-cea3ebfe3cb4
MU AD Sterk to testify in wrongful termination lawsuit of SDSU coach

By Blake Toppmeyer

Wednesday, August 31, 2016 at 4:53 pm

Missouri Athletic Director Jim Sterk still has at least one matter to attend to before he can shut the book on his tenure as San Diego State’s AD.

He'll be called to testify in a wrongful termination lawsuit brought by one of his former employees.

Former Aztecs women's basketball Coach Beth Burns is suing SDSU and its university system board of trustees because she believes she was unfairly ousted in 2013. The trial began Monday in San Diego Superior Court.

The San Diego Union-Tribune reported that Burns, 57, is seeking in excess of $4.5 million, which includes $1.5 million for breach of contract and $3 million for whistleblower retaliation.

Burns, in the lawsuit she filed in February 2014, claims she was fired without legitimate cause following years of her complaining about what she perceived as SDSU's lack of equal treatment for her program.

Sterk, whom Missouri hired earlier this month, is expected to testify in the coming weeks, according to the Union-Tribune. The newspaper reported that the jury trial might take four weeks. Burns took the stand Tuesday and Wednesday.

Burns was fired in April 2013 -- though it was labeled a retirement -- following a 27-7 season in which the Aztecs reached the second round of the Women’s National Invitation Tournament. She was in the first year of a five-year contract extension that paid her $220,000 annually in base salary.

Burns claims in her lawsuit that she was called in for a meeting with Sterk under the pretense of an annual review. At the meeting, Burns claims Richel Thaler, SDSU’s associate vice president, told Burns she was being terminated for allegedly striking a subordinate. Sterk told Burns that there was video evidence of the incident and told Burns she had the choice of resigning, retiring or being fired, according to the lawsuit.
"My goal," Sterk said in a statement released Wednesday through MU’s athletic department, "is to ensure that all of our student-athletes, coaches and staff are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve and, when this does not happen, I will take appropriate action."

The Union-Tribune obtained video of a February 2013 game against Colorado State. The video showed Burns smacking a clipboard that was on assistant coach Adam Barrett’s lap and later elbowing Barrett after a CSU basket.

Burns’ lawsuit states that Sterk and Thaler told her that the sole cause of her termination was the video showing her striking a subordinate. Burns disputes that she struck Barrett.

“During the video, Coach Burns makes incidental physical contact with Adam Barrett, a member of her staff. The insignificant contact was made in the heat of watching the game and coaching the team,” the lawsuit states. “The video makes it clear that this contact was not intentional or malicious.”

The Union-Tribune reported that Barrett’s one-year contract expired in May 2013, and he reached a $250,000 settlement with the school that cited a dispute regarding the non-renewal of his contract.

Burns claims she was fired because she frequently challenged what she perceived as unequal treatment of her women’s basketball program compared to men’s programs such as football or men’s basketball. Title IX law requires equal treatment of male and female athletes at institutions receiving federal funds.

“Coach Burns worked under five athletic directors in her second stint at SDSU,” the lawsuit states. “During this time, she regularly confronted the athletic directors about the fact that the women’s basketball team did not receive the same benefits provided to men’s athletics programs at SDSU. This disparate treatment existed at all levels of the athletic department, including the provision of equipment and supplies, scheduling of practice time, travel budgets, number of coaches and tutors, locker room and practice facilities, housing support, and publicity.”

At the crux of Burns’ claims is a 2012 email Sterk sent to fellow administrators referencing contract negations for Burns, the Union-Tribune reported.

“I am open to … lengthening her contract,” Sterk wrote in the email, according to the Union-Tribune, “if we have ways to separate if she has issues rising to that level (like driving us crazy w complaining). One moment she is fine the next everything is terrible and we do not care about her or the WBB program even after we have invested significant resources the last couple years.”

Missouri hired Sterk on Aug. 9 to replace Mack Rhoades. He was scheduled to begin his duties on or before Sept. 1 and said during his introductory news conference that his work at MU would begin Aug. 22.

Burns compiled a 295-186 record across 16 years coaching SDSU. She coached the Aztecs from 1989-1997 and again from 2005-13. She is currently the associate coach at Southern California.
Mizzou A.D. Jim Sterk at center of San Diego State wrongful termination suit

BY TOD PALMER
tpalmer@kcestar.com

COLUMBIA - New Missouri athletic director Jim Sterk is expected to testify in San Diego Superior Court as a central figure in former Aztecs women's basketball coach Beth Burns' wrongful termination suit against Sterk's former employer.

According to the San Diego Union-Tribune, Burns, who announced her retirement in April 2013, filed a civil complaint against San Diego State in February 2014, alleging that she was terminated in retaliation for her complaints about department’s lack of Title IX compliance.

Title IX is a 1972 federal law that codifies equitable treatment of men’s and women’s sports at public universities. California also has more stringent guidelines, which establish participation targets and funding mandates (including scholarships) above and beyond Title IX requirements, according to the Union-Tribune.

Sterk, who spent last week in Columbia before returning to San Diego, isn’t expected to testify until next week, but Burns’ attorney, Ed Chapin, claimed in his opening statement Tuesday that Sterk destroyed evidence, throwing away notes he kept on Burns a few months after she was fired despite knowing her termination might be litigated.

San Diego State’s lead attorney, David Noonan, denied that accusation in the defense’s opening statement.

Still, among the key pieces of evidence put forth in pretrial briefings by Burns, according to the Union-Tribune, is a May 2012 email Sterk sent to two athletic department staffers regarding a possible contract extension: “I am open to ... lengthening her contract if we have ways to separate if she has issues rising to that level (like driving us crazy w complaining). One moment she is fine the next everything is terrible and we do not care about her of the WBB program even after we have invested significant resources the last couple years.”
Sterk was hired Aug. 9 to replace Mack Rhoades, who left a month earlier to become Baylor’s athletic director, and was scheduled to begin his role at MU on or before Sept. 1.

MU interim chancellor Hank Foley’s office confirmed Wednesday that he was made aware of the pending civil litigation during the interview process with Sterk, who is scheduled to travel to West Virginia for the football team’s season-opener Saturday in Morgantown, W.Va.

San Diego State contends Burns was fired for cause based on a review of video evidence that she struck former assistant coach Adam Barrett twice during a 2013 home game against Colorado State.

Missouri athletics issued a statement on behalf of Sterk on Wednesday that said: “My goal is to ensure that all of our student-athletes, coaches and staff are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve and, when this does not happen, I will take appropriate action.”

Former Aztecs senior associate athletic director John David Wicker, one of the staff members who received Sterk’s email, oversaw an internal investigation into Burns’ conduct at Sterk’s behest in early 2013.

Attorneys for Burns said Wicker, who is now at Georgia Tech and might be a candidate to reunite with Sterk at Mizzou, “deliberately misled witnesses” and called his investigation a “farce,” according to court documents.

The Union-Tribune, which obtained a copy of the video through an open-records request directed to Colorado State after San Diego State declined to release the video, said the video shows Burns appearing to “slam her right hand into a clipboard or notepad on the lap of Barrett” and that “Burns swings her right elbow into Barrett’s shoulder” after a poor defensive set.

Barrett, who only coached one season at San Diego State, reached a $250,000 settlement with the school when his contract wasn’t renewed, according to the Union-Tribune.

During 16 seasons with the Aztecs, Burns posted a 295-186 record, including seven NCAA Tournament appearances and one Sweet 16 berth in 2010. Burns is now an associate head coach at Southern California.

Before leaving San Diego State, she won 27 games and had just finished the first year of a five-year contract extension — worth $220,000 annually plus bonuses — that she signed before the 2012-13 season.

Burns is seeking more than $4.5 million, including $1.5 million for breach of contract and $3 million for whistleblower retaliation plus punitive damages, according to the Union-Tribune.
Sterk is one of several current and former San Diego State staffers, including president Elliot Hirshman and men’s basketball coach Steve Fisher, expected to be called as witnesses.

**New Mizzou AD to testify in wrongful termination suit**

By Dave Matter St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 16 hrs ago

In the coming weeks, newly hired Missouri athletics director Jim Sterk will testify in the wrongful termination lawsuit filed by his former women’s basketball coach at San Diego State.

Beth Burns, fired by Sterk in April 2013, was the first witness Tuesday in her suit against SDSU, the San Diego Union-Tribune reported. Attorneys for the California State University were expected to cross-examine the Aztecs’ former head coach on Wednesday and Thursday. Burns, now the associate head coach at Southern California, filed the lawsuit two years ago.

Missouri interim chancellor Hank Foley and campus and athletic officials were well aware of the lawsuit when Sterk was being considered for the job, multiple university sources confirmed. Sterk has been back and forth between Columbia and San Diego since being named Mizzou’s new AD Aug. 9. Sterk’s first official day at Mizzou is Thursday. He’s expected to attend Saturday’s football game at West Virginia.

SDSU fired Burns three years ago, shortly after her Aztecs won a team-record 27 games in her 16th season on the bench. She’s seeking $1.5 million in damages for breach of contract and $3 million for whistleblower retaliation for complaining about Title IX compliance, plus punitive damages, the Union-Tribune reported.

“It’s unfortunate that it has to get to this point and things couldn’t be settled amicably,” SDSU chief communications officer Greg Block told the newspaper. “The byproduct of any trial like this
is, I’m sure there’s going to be stuff that nobody wants to see or read about. But it’s just a reality of being a big place like this.

“There are people who leave under a variety of circumstances all the time. Sometimes they sue us, and it usually gets settled and handled out of court and we don’t go to trial. I can’t remember the last time a case like this went to trial. It’s just a unique situation.”

In opening statements, Burns’ lawyers accused Sterk of destroying notes regarding the coach’s time at the school. CSU attorney David Noonan depicted the coach as unable to control her emotions and denied the claim Sterk destroyed evidence.

In a trial brief made public last week, attorneys for the California State University system explained the reason Burns was fired and referenced video from a game against Colorado State in which Burns struck her assistant coach on the sideline.

“Although Ms. Burns’ teams generally had success on the court, Ms. Burns had a troubling pattern and history of mistreating, disrespecting, and publicly embarrassing her staff, coworkers and subordinates,” the trial brief said, the Union-Tribune reported. “Accordingly, CSU made the decision to terminate Ms. Burns ‘for cause’ due to conduct seriously prejudicial to the best interest of CSU and the SDSU athletic department.”

**MISSOURIAN**

Olympian and first responder J’den Cox says he's enjoying a return to normalcy

AARON REISS, 9 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — The latest story in J’den Cox’s unbelievable life happened Sunday, at the big bur oak tree near McBaine.
Cox, Missouri wrestling’s new bronze medalist, was there with a friend when a man crashed his motorcycle. Cox said he called 911 and wrapped the man’s bleeding head in a new black Team USA shirt he was wearing for the first time that day.

Add saving a life to Cox’s growing list of accomplishments.

“As of now, yes, I’m kind of salty about it,” Cox said of his ruined shirt. “At the time, it didn’t matter.”

He smiled his way through the story, just as he did when he told his girlfriend, Missouri soccer goalie Kelsey Dossey, about it. Cox played it off as though it was nothing Wednesday, when he met with media before a public celebration for him in the Columns Club of Memorial Stadium. About 200 fans gathered to hear stories from Cox’s experience at the 2016 Summer Olympics, to get autographs and to try on the bronze for themselves.

**Cox, who hasn't been shy about letting the MU community get a feel for the hardware, admitted Wednesday to carrying the medal around in his pocket because he said he didn’t know where else to keep it. He’s scared he’ll lose it.**

The senior and first Columbia native to win an Olympic medal is ready for the post-Rio haze of attention to “fiddle away.” Cox is happy to be home and to have a more regular schedule than he did in Brazil.

“A lot more people know who I am,” Cox said of what’s different now. “From the last month, a lot more people speak English, too.”

He realizes the Olympics put him on a larger platform. The only certain thing he said he wants to do with it is help the Missouri wrestling program.

Missouri wrestling coach Brian Smith, who was also a part of Wednesday's news conference, said the program becomes stronger after an athlete becomes the first to accomplish something. Cox is the program’s second Olympian and first medalist. Smith, who’s known Cox
since he was a toddler, called Cox’s win “probably the most memorable athletic moment” of his own career, coaching or otherwise.

“It’s never been my aspiration for someone to come through and accomplish what I accomplished the exact same way,” Cox said. “That’s not going to better anyone. The only way for this sport to evolve and for us to evolve, not only as Mizzou Tigers, but as a sport in general, for the world to evolve, is for us to go where no one’s gone before.”

“Take the steps that no one’s stepped before. Take the first footprints in places that no one’s been. And that’s what I want. It’s going to be awesome to have an impact on that.”

Cox said he wants to go undefeated and win the Dan Hodge Trophy in his upcoming senior season. The trophy is the college wrestling equivalent of the Heisman Trophy, given to the country’s most outstanding wrestler.

If Cox does those things, he’ll put Missouri in position for his other goal, a team national title.

First, though, he’ll take about a month off. And he’ll eat junk food.

One day last week, he ate a full rack of ribs with two sides at Lutz’s BBQ and an extra large pepperoni pizza. The next day, he had a large triple chocolate concrete from Andy’s. He also ate a bowl full of Chips Ahoy! cookies as cereal, with milk poured on top.

“Don’t do that, right now,” Cox said to Smith while holding his hand in front of the coach’s face. “You’re taking deep breaths. I know what that means. It means you're very disappointed. I get it.”

“You deserve it for a day,” Smith said.

Cox does. He, of course, wrestled the entire Olympics with a torn meniscus in his left leg. He wrestled the NCAA championships with it, too.
He had surgery on it last week and he’s already off crutches, though he did have them when he saved the man in the motorcycle accident. Cox said he tossed them and ran.

“I tore it up even more trying to get that takedown (of the Olympics) — but it was totally worth it,” Cox said. “Totally worth it.”

Before going to Brazil, Cox told his girlfriend this would be his only Olympics. He doesn’t want wrestling to define him.

But now he’s willing to live with the Olympic spotlight. He wants to go to Tokyo in 2020. The experience was too fun to do once.

“He just wants to be a normal guy, with a normal life,” Dossey said. “And that won’t ever happen.”

J'den Cox comes home to hero's welcome
By Dave Matter St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 9 hrs ago

COLUMBIA, MO. • The legend of J'den Cox continues to grow. Fresh off winning a bronze medal at the Summer Olympics, to go along with two NCAA championships and four Missouri state high school titles, Cox revealed Wednesday that he wrestled in Rio with a torn meniscus.

Cox came seconds away from qualifying for the gold medal match, recovered to capture the bronze and did it all with one functioning knee. Cox had the meniscus in his left knee surgically repaired last Thursday. The injury had lingered for months, but Cox believes he did further damage in the bronze medal victory over Cuba’s Reineris Salas.
“But it was totally worth it,” the Mizzou senior said Wednesday. “I wouldn’t change anything about it.”

Maybe he’s superhuman after all.

On Sunday, while still walking on crutches, Cox added to his local hero status when he helped a stranger who was injured in a motorcycle accident just outside of Columbia. On the Katy Trail near McBaine, Cox dropped his crutches and ran over to the man who was bloodied and barely conscious.

“At that point I totally thought he’s dead,” Cox said.

A friend called 911 while Cox pulled off his shirt — a brand new Team USA shirt from the Olympics — and wrapped it around the man’s head to stop the bleeding. Cox held him until paramedics arrived. Cox never learned the man’s name and wasn’t sure about his status Wednesday.

“It was nerve-wracking,” Cox said.

Just another adventurous day in the life of Mizzou’s most decorated athlete in decades. Wednesday was a chance for local fans to honor Cox at a public homecoming celebration at Memorial Stadium, where hundreds gathered to meet the Olympic medalist as he reflected on his experience in Rio.

On Aug. 20, Cox became the seventh Mizzou athlete to earn an Olympic medal. Wrestling in the 86-kilogram class, Cox cruised through his first two matches to reach the semifinals where his quest for gold ended in crushing fashion.

Cox mistakenly thought he was ahead of Turkey’s Selim Yasar in the final seconds but was actually trailing and lost the match 2-1.

“I’m not going to lie,” Cox said. “It sucked. There’s no other word to put it. Having to realize you thought you were winning and you lose.”
Missouri coach Brian Smith, who attended the games with the rest of his coaching staff, recalled sitting through lunch after the semifinal match feeling depressed — until he read the post-match comments from Cox. His two-time NCAA champion found opportunity where most saw only heartbreak.

“I think I realized I was having a lot of fun,” Cox said. “I’m wrestling with the best wrestlers in the world. And I’m included in that. I am. And I’m from Columbia, Missouri.”

Against Salas in the match for bronze, a replay review awarded Cox the decisive two-point takedown with six seconds left in the match. When Salas was denied another review, he walked off the mat, giving Cox the 3-1 win by disqualification — and the medal, though some disputed the match-clinching takedown.

“At the end of the day when all is said and done, they can have the complaints and say what they want to say,” Cox said. “And this is no disrespect, but I have the bronze medal. I took it home and I have it. There’s no way I’m going to let it go because of someone’s opinion on how it went.”

Smith didn’t make any apologies for the controversial finish.

“To watch that medal go around his neck,” he said, “there’s nothing like it. Just awesome.”

Cox said Salas found him after the match, shook his hand and gave him a hug. Still, Cox couldn’t help but think how he ran out of time in his semifinal match … and Salas quit with time on the clock.

“You know what I would do to have six seconds?” Cox said.

With the fall semester underway, Cox is getting reacclimated to campus since returning from Rio. One day last week, he gorged on ribs, pizza and a large chocolate concrete. (Smith approved.) He’s taking the next month off to rest his knee. Then he’ll shift focus to capturing a third national title and leading Mizzou back to the NCAA championships in St. Louis. Once his
college wrestling career is done next spring, Cox wants to join the Mizzou football team for the 2017 season, he said Wednesday. He was an all-state linebacker at Columbia's Hickman High. Who’s to doubt him?

For now, Cox's biggest worry is keeping track of his souvenir from Rio. He brought his medal to Wednesday's event, stuffed in his jeans pocket.

“It was with my pencils in my backpack the other day,” he said. “I don't know what do with it. I'm afraid if I leave it somewhere I'm not going to be able to find it.”

In four years, Cox can try to replace it with another. Maybe he'll bring back gold from Tokyo.

MU gymnast Morgan Porter suspended indefinitely after Tuesday arrest

By Joe Vozzelli

Wednesday, August 31, 2016 at 12:26 pm

Missouri gymnast Morgan Porter, the Southeastern Conference's freshman of the year last season, has been suspended indefinitely from the team after her arrest on suspicion of fraudulent use of a credit device.

"Morgan is suspended, per athletic department policy, as we work to gather more information," MU spokesperson Kate Lakin said.

Porter was booked in Boone County Jail on Tuesday night and released after posting a $4,500 bond.

University of Missouri police were notified on Aug. 28 of an incident at an off-campus apartment in June, Maj. Brian Weimer said. MUPD later identified Porter, 19, as the suspect.

MUPD arrested Porter at her off-campus apartment at 9 p.m. on Tuesday.
"It's crazy how much things change in a year," Porter tweeted on Tuesday night, shortly before her arrest.

The Overland native was an all-around qualifier for the NCAA Championships last season.

According to Missouri Revised Statute 570.130, fraudulent use of a credit device over $500 is a class D felony.

Mizzou gymnast Morgan Porter suspended after Tuesday arrest

BY TOD PALMER
tpalmer@kestar.com

COLUMBIA - Missouri sophomore gymnast Morgan Porter is suspended from the team after she was arrested Tuesday by University of Missouri Police on suspicion of fraudulent use of a credit device or debit device.

Porter, 19, was booked at Boone County Jail at 10:59 p.m. She was released after posting a $4,500 bond at 11:28 p.m.

According to Missouri Revised Statute 570.130, fraudulent use of a credit device or debit device is a Class A misdemeanor unless the value of goods and services obtained exceeds $750, in which case it becomes a Class E felony. According to MU Police, the alleged fraud in this case was for more than $500.

Missouri associate director of strategic communications Kate Lakin said Porter “is suspended, per athletic department policy, as we work to gather more information” in an email to The Star on Wednesday.

According to MU Police, “The fraud incident is believed to have occurred on June 8, 2016 at an off campus location. Through investigation the officer identified Morgan Porter as the suspect.”

No formal charges have yet been filed, according to the Boone County clerk's office.
Porter — a Ritenour High graduate from Overland, Mo. — was the Southeastern Conference freshman gymnast of the year last season and qualified for the all-around at the NCAA championships, where she finished 23rd last April.

**Mizzou gymnast arrested for fraudulent use of credit device**

By Dave Matter St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 8 hrs ago

UPDATED 1:15 p.m.

COLUMBIA, MO. • Mizzou gymnast Morgan Porter was arrested Tuesday by MUPD on suspicion of felony fraudulent use of a credit device.

Porter, 19 from Overland, Mo., and Ritenour High School, was the Southeastern Conference freshman of the year last season and qualified for the NCAA Championships in the all-around.

Porter has been suspended from the team per athletics department policy, team spokesperson Kate Lakin confirmed.

An MUPD officer was dispatched on a possible fraud case Sunday for an incident believed to have occurred June 8 at an off-campus location, according to a report provided by MUPD Major Brian Weimer. The officer identified Porter as the suspect. She was contacted at her residence at 9 p.m. Tuesday and arrested on suspicion of fraudulent use of a credit/debit device for more than $500. Porter was taken to Boone County Jail after processing and left on a $4,500 bond.

The report did not say what Porter is suspected of buying with the card or where she used it.
Fraudulent use of a credit device is a class A misdemeanor unless the value of the property or services obtained or sought within a 30-day period is $500 or more. In that case it’s a Class D felony.

Per university system policy, an athlete charged with a felony is suspended immediately from practice and competition. If the athlete pleads guilty or is found guilty of a felony charge, the athlete is barred permanently from participation in athletics at any school in the UM System. A student suspended from participation in intercollegiate athletics as a result of a felony charge shall not be prohibited from receiving financial aid during the pendency of such felony charge.

On Wednesday, former Mizzou football player Trevon Walters, recently charged with a felony count of receiving stolen property, tweeted about the media not reporting on athletes in other sports getting arrested. Walters was arrested earlier this month on suspicion of using a stolen credit card. He was dismissed from the team during preseason camp. Walters faces arraignment Sept. 9 in Boone County.

“I wonder why when college football players get arrested it goes all on ESPN, all the news channels, news paper etc,” Walters tweeted, followed by, “But when a different college sport get arrested no one hears about it. I'm not gonna call any teams or names out but I think that's crazy.” And, later, “Let's see if this arrest hits social media”
Rep. Hartzler visits MU journalism students, discusses student protests

COLUMBIA - **Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler, R-Columbia, stopped by to talk with students at the Missouri School of Journalism Wednesday afternoon.**

After meeting with Dean David Kurpius, Hartzler mentioned the technological improvements in journalism.

"I've been very pleased to see here that the adaptations that are taking place to keep journalism relevant in the changing world we live in with new technology, and print media kind of changing its focus," Hartzler said. "I was glad to learn about the programs here. Communication is always going to be important in our world. It's just the method and how it's delivered, and clearly you all are on the cutting edge and will graduate and be able to continue and lead and show others how to do that."

She also discussed her platform and recent happenings at the University of Missouri.

In particular, Hartzler mentioned what it was like being in office during the campus protests.

"It was very, very unfortunate, and it does have national implications," Hartzler said. "When I was in Washington D.C., I'd have colleagues from all over the country say, 'You represent Mizzou?' They were aware of what was happening here, and so I think it did damage our reputation."

However, her opponent, Dr. Gordan Christensen, offered a different perspective on the climate at the university. Christensen has served as a faculty member in internal medicine for more than 25 years.

"From my perspective, as a member of the faculty, I thought that it went quite well, as well as you could expect for something like that," Christensen said.
COLUMBIA — The idea of establishing a Mayor's Task Force on Medical Tourism in Columbia was gaining steam even before Mayor Brian Treece made his initial appointments to the group Wednesday morning.

“My phone is ringing off the hook from people who want to participate in this,” Treece said during a news conference at the Daniel Boone City Building where he revealed the first eight members of the task force.

Approved by the Columbia City Council on Aug. 15, the task force will be composed of Columbia professionals with experience in the medical, travel and tourism industries.

The task force, according to a city news release, will make recommendations on:

- Marketing strategies for Columbia’s “key sub-specialty medicine areas.”
- Airport improvements and new flight routes designed to improve patient access to health care.
- Public transportation improvements, such as patient-accessible shuttles and vans.
- Hotels and short-term housing options coordinated between hospital and hotel management.
- Development strategies for new health-care jobs.

Treece touted the potential economic boost of medical tourism.

He cited the MU Research Reactor Center as an example of the medical resources Columbia can access. The reactor creates isotopes used to treat cancer, but their radioactivity causes strict limits...
on how many can be shipped aboard a single plane. Treece brought up the possibility of bringing patients to the isotopes, instead of the other way around.

The eight members are:

- Guy Collier, an attorney specializing in nonprofit hospitals and health systems. Collier is a partner at McDermott, Will and Emery in Washington, D.C. He will chair the task force.
- Jonathan Curtright, chief operating officer of MU Health Care.
- Kate Pitzer, in-house legal counsel for Boone Hospital Center.
- Vivek Puri, vice president and general counsel of Hilton Garden Inn and the Holiday Inn Express.
- Gene Austin, chief executive officer of Columbia Orthopaedic Group.
- David Parmely, owner of the Hampton Inn & Suites and The Broadway hotel.
- James Cook, a former veterinary surgeon at the MU College of Veterinary Medicine and director of operations for the Mizzou BioJoint Center.
- Kevin Staveley O’Carroll, director of the Ellis Fischel Cancer Center.

A member of the Columbia Convention and Visitors staff will act as a liaison to the task force.

Treece said he's not done making appointments. “A huge gap on this task force that I hope to fill before Tuesday is veterans’ care,” he said.

Curtright, who previously worked for the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, touted the clinic's ability to market itself as a medical destination.

“Why do people come to Mayo? They come to Mayo because they built a better mousetrap,” he said.

He said giving people a medical destination will increase their quality of care. “The more you’re willing to travel, the more complex care you’re going to be receiving.”

Treece also sang the praises of the task force members and their willingness to volunteer on short notice.
“Everybody here got about a 48 hour ask: ‘Would you like to be on this panel? Can you be at a press conference at 10 Wednesday?’

"There was no hesitation," he said.

MU Health and Boone County Hospitals Part of New Effort to Promote Health Care Tourism

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=1524c70e-94d6-49f0-adf3-c1effdc620