MU wins $12 million contract to train spy agency employees

By ASHLEY JOST St. Louis Post-Dispatch
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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 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 with MU’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 participating in the graduate certificate program.

“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 likely will be self-paced and online, with more advanced classes taught in person. Professors from MU will teach the classes in St. Louis, but the university has contracted for teachers in Washington. Davis said MU 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.

5 year, $12 million Grant Awarded to University of Missouri to Improve National Safety

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

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=fc63d2be-560e-4c6e-8f80-b8dfec180513

MU $12 million contract goes to national security training for government employees

COLUMBIA- The MU College of Engineering has been awarded a $12 million contract in exchange to create a new science program to prepare employees for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA).
However, this multi-million contract will not be offered to MU students, said Grant Scott the Assistant Research Professor of Engineering. MU professors will travel to teach employees outside of the university.

"The students that will be a part of this program are government employees or members of the military, that currently work for the NGA or other elements of the department of defense, and the courses are contracted by them and are specifically delivered to those students," Scott said.

The contract and new training program is in hopes of improving the NGA's analytical capabilities and to increase national security overall.

"This will help national security and a lot of aspects of our nation because anytime we can increase peoples' ability to do their job more efficiently using tools and techniques, then there is more value that they can bring to either the intelligence mission or the homeland security mission, or the humanitarian efforts that they support," Scott said.

The $12 million was awarded with a specific contract from the government.

"Under the contract it is basically a ceiling of value for the government to acquire courses, and every course has a fixed price. And when we schedule and deliver that course, in essence is what they're buying," Scott said.

The new training program is scheduled to begin in October.

MUPD arrests delivery driver for false robbery report

COLUMBIA — University of Missouri Police have arrested a delivery driver for filing a false report.
MUPD received a report of a robbery near Wolpers Hall on the MU campus at about 8:35 p.m. on Thursday.

23-year-old Courtney A Chancellor filed the report, saying she had been robbed as she attempted to make a food delivery.

Chancellor told police that a 6-foot black man with facial hair in his late 20's pulled a gun and demanded money.

MUPD immediately sent an emergency notification to the campus, and began investigating the report.

“Using evidence from surveillance cameras, we interviewed Courtney Chancellor, and she confessed that she had reported the crime falsely,” MUPD Chief Doug Schwandt said in a press release.

Chancellor was charged with one count of filing a false report.

She is not an MU student.

MU Police arrest woman for faking robbery

COLUMBIA - MU Police arrested a woman late Thursday night, saying she faked being robbed while on the MU campus.

Police say 23-year-old Courtney Chancellor reported being robbed near Wolpers Hall while delivering food.

After police checked surveillance tapes, Chancellor eventually admitted she lied about being robbed.
"Using evidence from surveillance cameras, we interviewed Courtney Chancellor, and she confessed that she had reported the crime falsely," MUPD Chief Doug Schwandt said.

She was arrested for filing a false report of a robbery.

Chancellor is not an MU student.

In response to the original report, MU sent out an alert around 8:30 p.m.

MUPD arrests delivery driver for claiming false robbery report

COLUMBIA, Mo. - UPDATE 9/2: MUPD has arrested a woman after she claimed she was robbed on campus, but apparently was not.

Thursday night around 8:30 MUPD got a report from Courtney Chancellor, claiming she was robbed as she attempted to deliver food near Wolpers Hall on the Mizzou campus.

MUPD said they used evidence from surveillance cameras and interviewed Chancellor, who is not a student at Mizzou.

Police said she confessed to falsely claiming the robbery.

She was charged with one count of filing a false report.

UPDATE: MU and Columbia police have left the scene of Thursday night's robbery near Wolpers Hall. Investigators said they will continue to search for the suspect and found no threat to the campus.

If you have any information about the robbery, you're asked to call 573-882-7201.

UPDATE: The suspect is described as a black man, 6 feet tall, some facial hair with a possible goatee, upper arm tattoo, late 20s, with a handgun.

The Columbia Police Department and its K9 unit are assisting in the investigation.
**ORIGINAL STORY:** The University of Missouri Police Department is investigating a robbery on campus Thursday night.

According to the MU Alert website, a delivery driver reported a suspect flashed a gun near Wolpers Hall and demanded money.

The university notified students, faculty and staff to the investigation just after 8:30 p.m. but did not initially say where the robbery occurred. This comes after continued criticism over the alert system.

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**Woman Arrested for Making False Robbery Report**

Watch the story: [http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=bd933d4a-2a36-4d1f-9f87-de8d2fe61190](http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=bd933d4a-2a36-4d1f-9f87-de8d2fe61190)

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**MU Alert system gets improvements for new school year**
COLUMBIA - **MU Alert, the University of Missouri's online emergency information center, will be including more specific information in its alerts moving forward, officials said Thursday.**

MUPD Chief Doug Schwandt confirmed at an open discussion at the MU Student Center that, effective immediately, emergency alerts will now incorporate specific locations where incidents have occurred.

The change comes in response to complaints from students that previous alerts were too vague in their description of potential emergency situations on campus.

"One of the criticisms was 'Hey, we want to know where [the emergency]'s at,'" Schwandt said. "Our system didn't say that, it said 'shots fired on campus.' As we all know, we have a pretty big campus, so there was a lot of people wanting to know more information about where it was."

Other improvements to the system include MU Alert now being synced through the "GoMizzou" app, where messages will be disseminated in addition to emails and text messages.

MU has also added more emergency alert beacons around campus that provide information in the case of an emergency.

"We expand those beacons a lot every single year," said Eric Evans, MU's emergency management coordinator. "When I first started here two years ago, there were 200. Now there are over 350 of them."

Schwandt expressed that the decision to issue a mass alert message is taken seriously and an alert is sent only if there is "an imminent threat to campus."

The announcements came at an event facilitated by the Missouri Students Association called "Roar at Us." The open forum will continue once a month and is meant to address "top concerns of the student body," according to MU's "Stuff to Do" website. The theme of this specific forum was MU Alert.

"It's always going to be the vagueness of the alerts," said MSA President Sean Earl on what his biggest concern about MU Alert is moving forward. "I think that's just a reality of the situation. I definitely hope we can get as much information as possible into those messages so students can know where to go, where not to go, and generally where to address those different types of situations."

Schwandt said there are still aspects of the system he doesn't like, such as the "all clear" messages sent after an active situation is deemed safe. He compared it to a tornado, in that one can never be certain when a situation is "all clear." However, the system keeps it in use due to public support for the feature.

Some students also expressed concerns with MU's clery release system. Specifically, they were concerned with the "vague descriptions" of suspects with regard to race, gender, etc.
Schwandt said his team includes as much information as is available at the time of the release and that anything that could help find a suspect is made public.

"If we have it, we put it out," Schwandt said. "We're not going to not put something in there that would help solve the case."

The university plans to test the new changes to the system during the school's "safety week" which begins September 12.

MU Making Changes to Emergency Alert System


Editorial: Controversy swirls when animals are used in research. Don't add to it by hiding information.

The use of animals in scientific research is a hot-button issue that divides the medical community probably as much as it does the general public. We hate the idea but know that, in
many circumstances, such research can save lives. Providing information to show that research animals are handled humanely is critical to gain support and answer the critics of animal experimentation.

**The University of Missouri offers a good example of how not to handle the issue.** It tried to charge excessively high public records fees, apparently to discourage inquiries by a California-based animal-rights group. The group sued, then discovered that six beagles had been used for experimentation, then reportedly killed, in a university research project.

The lawsuit didn’t get much notice until last week, when the Beagle Freedom Project used social media to expose the use of the beagles for treatments for corneal ulcers. The group contends the beagles in the study were purposely blinded for the project and euthanized after the experiment failed.

The university says researchers did nothing wrong and that the project followed rules established by the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology and was approved by the campus’s Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

If the university had provided records the group asked for in the first place, regarding 179 dogs and cats on Mizzou’s campus, the activists might not have scrutinized published research looking for a study they could exploit. Their lawsuit alleges the university charged more than $82,000 for public documents the animal-rights group requested. The organization says it uses such records to identify candidates for post-research adoption.

Activists subsequently uncovered the study about the eye research project, published in the 2016 Journal of Veterinary Ophthalmology, which showed that four researchers originally intended to use 24 dogs but determined it was “impractical given concerns of animal resources for this pilot study.” The sample size was whittled to six dogs.

The university said the dogs were anesthetized during the procedure in which the cornea in each dog’s left eye was damaged intentionally by a researcher. The university said the dogs were not in pain during the procedure and were given painkillers as needed afterward. The university also said the dogs received daily socialization and were well cared for.

By making public information too expensive and difficult to access, the university gave the impression it had something to hide. The published information was enough for the group to initiate a social media campaign, which got more than 1.5 million page views and was shared with 40,000 people on an email list where donations were sought to cover lawsuit expenses.

If universities and researchers have nothing to hide about their ethical treatment of animals, the only way to prove it is by sharing information openly.
University of Missouri Under Fire for Animal Research


Similar stories also ran on:

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Mizzou football coach clarifies team gun policy

COLUMBIA — Mizzou football coach Barry Odom clarified Thursday comments he made about the team's policy on owning firearms.

The university has refuted a national report that claimed the coach does not allow his players to own legal handguns.
A FoxSports report published after Wednesday's SEC coaches teleconference cited a reporter for the Montgomery Advertiser asked each coach about their respective team's gun policies.

In Wednesday's teleconference audio provided by the SEC's Soundcloud account, the reporter is heard asking Odom, "Just to clarify, the policy [on handguns] is you prohibit your players from doing so?" Odom replies, "Yeah, you've got to make sure with the rules, if there's a handgun issue, then we deal with it, and not allow them in the program."

Thursday afternoon, the Mizzou football program refuted the report. "The Foxsports.com story was inaccurate, as the team policy only points to illegally possessed guns," said team spokesman Chad Moller. "Any student-athlete with a legal situation involving an illegally-possessed gun will be removed from the team. That's what Coach Odom was referring to [Wednesday] during his comments when he said it's “not allowed in our program.” The team policy does not prohibit lawful ownership.

FoxSports removed the report from its website Thursday.

Other Missouri universities report enrollment climb amid MU student drop

Watch the story: http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=64b965be-b4d7-4f72-a1e5-8ca550fc40c1

COLUMBIA – Many four-year universities in Missouri are reporting a spike in enrollment, even as the University of Missouri’s enrollment dropped this fall.

Some universities, like Missouri State University, are experiencing an increase in students this year. The associate vice president for enrollment management at MSU said the Springfield campus is busier than years past.
“We are up 773 students from last year, which is a 3.8 percent increase,” Don Simpson said. “After official numbers come in in a few weeks, we expect that number to considerably top that at over 23,000.”

The Missouri S & T website said, "First-day enrollment of 8,640 students at Missouri University of Science and Technology is the highest in the campus’ 146-year history.”

The University of Missouri-Kansas City said it isn’t releasing numbers for a few weeks, but its website boasts the addition of 1,151 new freshmen and 1,040 transfer students for fall 2016.

The University of Missouri News Bureau reported 32,777 students were enrolled on the first day of class, which is a 6.5 percent drop from last year’s enrollment of 35,050.

Many people cite last year's racial protests, led by Concerned Student 1950, as a reason for the drop.

“I figured that whenever the protests were happening that more black people would leave Mizzou and that all types of people would be scared,” MU student Davion Thomas said.

For Thomas, the racial protests gave him incentive to enroll.

“It made me want to go to Mizzou even more because I knew that there would be so many other people who would leave,” Thomas said.

Some students say MU stood out because of the protests, but that didn’t deter them from becoming Tigers.

“My classmates from senior year would be like ‘oh, like the school with the protests,’ and obviously I had a couple of stereotypes to go along with it,” freshman Kaitlyn Weir said. “But being on campus, there’s no real difference from this and any other school.”

Another freshman said she thinks most of the tension at MU has settled.

“There’s been nothing but positivity,” Hailey Contine said. “We haven’t seen any remains of all the stuff that happened, so everything seems to be picked up pretty well.”

School officials said final census numbers for enrollment in Missouri won’t be released until the end of September or beginning of October.

MU spokesperson Christian Basi said the university is changing things in an attempt to attract more students next fall, but has not given specific details.
Law enforcement responds to string of car break-ins

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Police reports indicate there have been almost 50 car break-ins in the last two weeks.

**CPD confirms that five of those break-ins happened on the University of Missouri campus near Greek Town.** Victims reported missing wallets, phones and money.

Most of the break-ins aren't in a specific pattern, so they could happen anywhere in the city. Law enforcement said these break-ins usually happen overnight.

"It's unlikely that a thief is going to hit your car when you're running into the convenience store," said Detective Tom O'Sullivan, with the Boone County Sheriff's Department. "Most of these occur late at night, in the early morning hours, in subdivisions, or parking garages."

Typically, one might envision thieves smashing windows and grabbing peoples' valuables, but law enforcement says people are making it much easier for thieves lately.

"We see quite frequently that when valuables are stolen from a vehicle, it seems like 99 out of 100 times it was through an unlocked door that the thief gained entry," said O'Sullivan.

He said that keeping the doors locked would deter thieves who are just checking doors. But in order to completely avoid a theft, smashed window or otherwise, law enforcement recommends keeping all valuables out of sight, or out of the car if you're not in it.

"It's not a good idea to leave your laptop out there, but if your car is locked, chances are the thief will just move to the next vehicle," said O'Sullivan. "But I can't rule out that they wouldn't take a tire iron to your window and bust it out. That's why you avoid the problem in the first place by not leaving valuables in plain sight."

If someone has been the victim of a car break-in, they can call local law enforcement to report it. Items often have serial numbers that can be traced back to the item, and police or deputies can find valuables that way.
Olympic wrestling medalist returns home to Columbia

Wrestling Olympian J’den Cox of Columbia continues to celebrate his victory now that he’s made his way back home.

COLUMBIA, MO. - Wrestling Olympian J’den Cox of Columbia continues to celebrate his victory now that he's made his way back home.

Cox appeared at a public celebration dedicated to him on Wednesday in the Columns Club at Memorial Stadium in Columbia. The Columbia Missourian (http://bit.ly/2ecE60q ) reports.

The University of Missouri senior won a bronze medal at the Rio Olympics earlier this summer. About 200 people gathered to hear about his experiences in Rio and to get his autograph.

People were also able to get a good look at the medal, which Cox said he's been carrying around in his pocket because he doesn't know where to keep it and he's afraid of losing it.

Columbia's first Olympic medalist said he's happy to be home, and wants to help his school's wrestling program. Wrestling coach Brian Smith also attended the celebration and said a program becomes stronger after an athlete becomes the first to accomplish something.

Cox is the program's second Olympian and first medalist. He wrestled during the Olympics with a torn meniscus in his left leg.

Smith said Cox's win is "probably the most memorable athletic moment" of his own career, coaching or otherwise.
Even though Cox said he's ready to have a more regular schedule than the one he had in Brazil, he does want to go to the Tokyo Olympics in 2020.

Mizzou Gymnast Arrested


**THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**Campuses With Child-Care Centers Are on the Decline, Report Says**

**NO MU MENTION**

The proportion of four-year public campuses that have child-care centers has declined to less than half, according to a new report by the Institute for Women’s Policy Research. That’s a drop from roughly 55 percent of such institutions in 2003, the report says.

The trend occurred while the number of college students who are also parents ballooned from 3.2 million in the 1990s to 4.8 million in 2012, according to the report. The decline in child-care
centers disproportionately affects minority students, who are more likely to be parents, the report says.

Read the report, “Child Care for Parents in College: A State-by-State Assessment.”