

Northern Kentucky

8:00

MU students arrested in grade hacking scandal

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Posted by FOX19 Digital Media Staff - email

OXFORD, OH (FOX19) - Two Miami University students are facing charges for allegedly breaching the school's computer system to change grades for themselves and more than 50 others.

A health teacher notified Miami's IT Department and police that grades she reviewed online did not match her paper copy of grades at the end of fall semester 2012.

An investigation by authorities found that a mechanism called a 'key logger' was used on classroom computers. Police say the key logger recorded keystrokes made by instructors whenever they logged into the system, copying their username and password.

According to a police report, Beckley Parker, 21, changed his own grades in 17 different classes as far back as spring 2011. In an effort to cover his tracks, police say he also changed more than 50 other students' grades, 28 of them being his fraternity brothers.

The other suspect, David Callahan, is accused of changing his grade and two others in a class.

Police say that further investigation revealed that Callahan logged into professors' online accounts to download midterms and finals. According to a police report, Callahan shared these tests with his fraternity brothers.

Police say the majority of the other students didn't even know their grades were altered.

Both students were dismissed from the university and were charged multiple misdemeanors.

MU officials say all the grades changed are being corrected.

<u>FOX19's Brett Hoffland</u> went to Oxford to learn more about the simple device they allegedly used to pull off the crime - TONIGHT at 6:30.

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