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TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY INDEX

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Campus discusses Ferguson protests

BY LUCAS MEYRER
Staff reporter

The Office of Student Affairs hosted a two-night discussion series about recent events in Ferguson, Missouri, Sept. 24-25 in Baldwin Hall Auditorium.

The events were to help students understand the full breadth of the situation in Ferguson and engage in a civic discussion about the matter, Director of Residence Life John Gardner said.

"I think we have a lot of events that happen around the world and in our society that are worth having discussions about," Gardner said. "There are different angles you can view these events through, and this gives our students an opportunity to hear some broader perspectives on what happened, what didn't happen and what some of the motives behind those different things are."

Residence Life, the Multicultural Affairs Center and Office of Academic Affairs collaborated to bring this event to campus, Gardner said.

"We have a lot of different parts of the University coming together and I think that reflects the concept of the civic engagement and the broader perspective we're giving here," Gardner said.

The shooting of Ferguson resident Michael Brown occurred more than a month and a half ago, and it largely has passed from national news coverage. He said the discussion series did not occur until late September because of logistic difficulties and because the story is ongoing.

Gardner said there are town hall events currently being hosted in Ferguson, and the issues of racial perception and social injustice haven't gone away just because Ferguson coverage has.

"In a lot of ways having the conversation extended here is almost ideal because we can continue to reinforce the concept that this issue is not over because CNN decided to stop talking about it," Gardner said.

Wednesday evening's event was called "Starting a Movement: Ferguson Town Hall," and featured a faculty-led discussion panel. History professor Marc Becker, Doug Davenport, Justice Systems Department Chair, and English professor Linda Seidel offered different perspectives about what occurred in Ferguson surrounding the shooting of Michael Brown and the ensuing riots and protests. Kevin Minch, Director of the Center for Academic Excellence, moderated.

Becker offered perspective into the social movement that stemmed from Ferguson, and the goals of citizens in See FERGUSON, page 3

ECO to propose sustainability fee

BY PAIGE YUNGERMANN
Staff Reporter

The Environmental Campus Organization sent out a survey to students and faculty last week to gauge student opinions about a potential sustainability fee at Truman State.

If instated, this fee could cost full-time students about \$2 per year. The money, which would total about \$12,000 per year, would fund environmentally sustainable projects at Truman.

ECO president senior Elizabeth Ward said the fee potentially could pay for solar panels, a better composting system, eco-friendly lawn maintenance and more energy efficiency. While Truman already has implemented some sustainability projects, Ward said this fee would allow more projects to be put in place.

"With the fee, we can get things moving quickly," Ward said. "Right now, we don't have a great record of sustainability. It's good but not great. This fee would be able to start these projects."

Ward said \$2 per student, per year is not an exact amount. She said ECO will base their proposal off the survey results, and the fee could ask for more money if students report willingness to pay more.

Ward said ECO plans to present the proposal to Student Government before the end of this semester. Ward said the fee potentially could go into effect during fall 2015.

If the fee is implemented, Ward said a committee likely will be formed to

decide how the money is spent. She said the committee will consist of the Student Government Environmental Affairs Chair and members of student organizations such as ECO and Community Garden. Committee members would submit proposals for sustainability projects, and vote on them. If passed, Student Government would have final approval.

Ward said ECO originally discussed implementing a revolving fund, where the cost-saving benefits from sustainability projects are put into an account to be spent on more environmentally-friendly projects. For now, she said ECO does not plan to propose a revolving fund to Student Government. However, if this fee is passed, it might become a revolving fund at some point.

Ward said the idea for the fee came about during spring 2014, when ECO learned Webster University and Missouri State University have similar fees.

ECO has considered funding large-scale sustainability projects with its own budget, but Ward said they do not have enough money in the budget to do so.

ECO emailed the survey to some Truman students and faculty, she said. The survey asked whether they support the fee, how much money students would be willing to contribute and what type of projects they want the fee to be used for.

Ward said ECO representatives want to meet with University President Troy Paino before proposing the fee. She said they want to know his opinion about the

fee and hopefully get his support.

Once ECO finishes collecting and analyzing survey data, sophomore Adrian Wheeler, Student Government Environmental Affairs Chair, said the next step is to write a fee proposal for Student Government. He said Student Government then would vote whether to approve the fee. If Student Government approves the fee by mid-March, it will go to the student body for a vote in April during campus-wide elections. If the student body approves the fee, Paino and the Board of Governors will make a final decision as to whether the fee is instated.

Wheeler said one advantage of a student fee, as opposed to other funding methods for sustainability projects, is the student body will have a greater say in how the money is spent. For example, students possibly could apply for a grant for a specific project, but this would limit how the money could be spent.

ECO will work with Wheeler to create the proposal for the fee. Wheeler said he had his own idea for a sustainability fee independently from ECO and when he found out ECO had the same idea, they decided to work together. Wheeler said he currently is researching schools similar to Truman with a sustainability fee.

Wheeler said Student Government looks forward to working with ECO. He said in the event that ECO does not propose a sustainability fee, Student Government will move forward with this issue on their own.

ROTC course added as Homecoming activity

BY JOHANNA BURNS
Staff Reporter

As part of the 2014 Truman State Homecoming activities, the Homecoming Committee is working with ROTC, Missouri National Guard and Stephanie McGrew, owner of the Lone Star Physiques fitness center, to organize an obstacle course race Monday Oct. 6.

This is the first time there will be an obstacle course race open to the Truman community and Kirksville residents during homecoming. The activities will begin at 5 p.m. Monday with the Circ Bizurk relay race, a Greek event. The relay will take place all around campus and finish at the ROTC obstacle course. During the relay, observers will have the opportunity to rappel from the ROTC rappel tower. At 6 p.m., the new obstacle course race will begin.

The race is part of the Homecoming Committee's efforts to organize events that integrate students and community members. Last spring, Julia Carr, Homecoming Committee Event Coordinator, spoke with ROTC Enrollment Officer Doug Reinsch about opening up the tower for observers to rappel from while they are waiting for the relay to finish. Reinsch then put Carr in touch with McGrew, who contacted Reinsch about organizing an obstacle course event.

Carr said the reason the Homecoming Committee is organizing this new event is to offer something more members of the Kirksville and Truman communities can participate in during homecoming. Initially, Carr approached Reinsch about opening the rappel tower to the public during the Circ Bizurk relay.



Anna Grace/Index

The ROTC obstacle course will be the site of the Oct. 6 obstacle race. The activities and challenges are a part of Homecoming week, and are open to members of both Kirksville and Truman communities.

Carr said the Homecoming Committee has been working with Reinsch and McGrew. The committee is in charge of advertising for the event, mainly through social media and posters.

Reinsch said he worked with McGrew to create the obstacle program. The course will have 15 different obstacles including a water crawl, a weaver obstacle, climbing a cargo net, a high step over, carrying a lit-

ter with a 200-pound casualty, a vehicle pull, a tire flip and a poncho flip.

The race will consist of teams of four. The teams earn points based on completion of the obstacles and how fast they completed the obstacles.

"It's part of the strategy as to which ones [the teams] go to," Reinsch said. "If they decide to go to an See TEAMWORK, page 3

TEAMWORK | Obstacle course competition

obstacle that already has a team on it and they have to wait, they shouldn't have chosen that obstacle."

Reinsch said the obstacles are worth different amounts of points based on their difficulty. He said participants will have to decide whether they want to receive more points for more difficult obstacles or less points for easier ones.

McGrew said she was inspired to approach the ROTC after hearing about an interest in obstacle course races, so she spoke with Reinsch during the summer to organize a joint effort with the ROTC and Homecoming Committee. She said she wanted to offer additional fitness events to Kirksville residents after being approached by community members with an interest in more local activities besides 5K races.

McGrew said there will be free food and refreshments as well as prizes for the winners, donated by the Missouri National Guard. McGrew also approached some community businesses about the possibility of other donations if this event turns into an annual occurrence.

McGrew said the race will be timed. She said during the 35-minute race, participants should try to complete as many obstacles as they can as fast as possible.

She hopes a wide variety of people show up, McGrew said. The course has been tailored to accommodate to all levels of fitness.

"That's why we wanted to have teams of four, so that way if you have two people who are super athletic they could possibly do some obstacles and if you have two people who are just really smart they could probably flip and do the other activities," McGrew said.

McGrew said the obstacles should be challenging but still fun for amateurs. She also said safety will be the number one priority during the event.

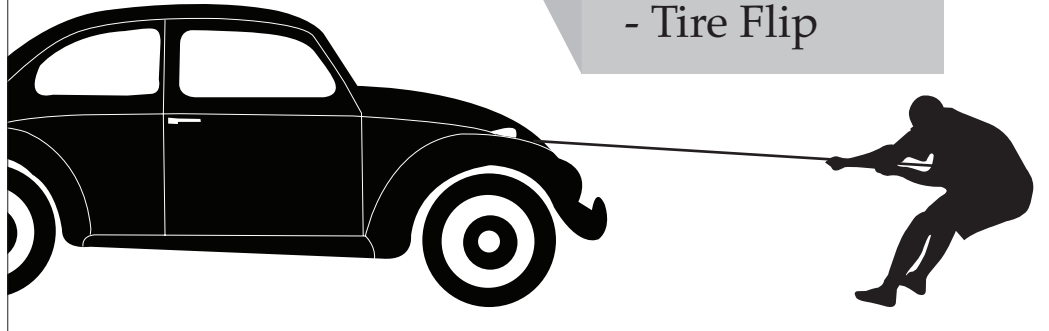
McGrew said there will be ROTC cadets and volunteers to run with each group to monitor not only safety, but also to keep track of points.

Homecoming Obstacle Course Challenge

The 6 p.m. Oct. 6 event has a total of 15 challenges, including —

- Cargo Net
- High Step Over
- 200-pound Casualty Litter Carry

- Vehicle Pull
- Poncho Flip
- The Weaver
- Tire Flip



Source: ROTC Enrollment Officer Doug Reinsch

FERGUSON | Community discussion panel and speaker events



Submitted Photo

Guest speaker Nathan Stephens addressed students, faculty and staff Sept. 25 in Baldwin Hall Auditorium.

their unified protests. Davenport's expertise is in law enforcement and the police handling of riots, and he said he was a proponent of peaceful, not militarized, police action. Finally, Seidel provided insight into the civil rights issues at hand in Ferguson, and what the protestors wanted and were not receiving after the shooting death of Michael Brown. The panel discussed topics related to Ferguson for about

an hour then fielded questions from members of the audience for another 30 minutes.

Senior Anissa Tarapes was also featured on the discussion panel. Tarapes' hometown is near Ferguson, and she was able to offer a local perspective into the impact the events of the past few weeks have had on the community.

Tarapes has friends and family in the surrounding Ferguson area, and encouraged discussion about the issues that recently transpired in Ferguson and the socio-economic status of African-Americans in the area.

The Multicultural Affairs Center brought in speaker Nathan Stephens, Director of the Center for Inclusive Excellence at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, for Thursday evening's event, entitled "Images in Black: Perception vs. Reality." Stephens is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Missouri-Columbia in the field of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis.

Stephens spoke about the socio-economic history of African-Americans in the United States, including involuntary movement of Africans to the United States as slaves. He discussed criminal-

ization of African-Americans and the large discrepancies in punishment between African-Americans and other races, beginning at young pre-school ages.

He discussed the "monsterization" of African-American youths in the media, and highlighted specifically the case of Trayvon Martin, the 17-year-old who was killed in 2012 in Sanford, Florida, by neighborhood watch member George Zimmerman. In the ensuing court case State of Florida v. George Zimmerman, the defense portrayed Martin as an aggressor and Zimmerman as the protector, according to Stephens, which the speaker thinks perpetuates a stereotype of African-American men as "brutes."

After his presentation, Stephens fielded questions from the audience. Aside from his speech, Stephens offered advice for students and community members. Included in his advice was educating oneself about racial issues and current events, getting out of one's own racial comfort zone by considering the perspective of others and affording respect to everyone in every situation.

"It's about the humanity," Stephens said. "Let someone be human first. This is a human being, regardless of race or

gender or sexual identity or religion or any of those things."

Freshman Will Chaney attended the events both evenings and said he appreciated the diversity offered by the panel Wednesday evening.

"The first evening was kind of interesting because we had four different perspectives," Chaney said. "They all answered the same question in completely different ways, and that was very neat to see. I think the second night was a lot more emotional because of Stephens' use of videos of the riots and other things. He presented facts but also gave them emotional weight. He was very informed."

Chaney said he thought both evenings were beneficial for the Truman community because they provided a means to discuss important issues in a direct and open way. Chaney said it was a good academic exercise to host informative events such as these. Chaney's biggest takeaway came from Stephens and his presentation about the reality for African-Americans in today's society.

The final Ferguson-related event occurred Sept. 26. The Phi Beta Sigma and Sigma Phi Beta fraternities hosted #ChalkedUnarmedTSU, named after chalk images from Ferguson depicting an unarmed Michael Brown.

A series of chalk drawings were created across campus concrete with information about those killed by police brutality. A series of performances occurred Friday evening on The Quad, where students were able to share personal stories or opinions about Ferguson.

"It's about the humanity. Let someone be human first. This is a human being, regardless of race or gender or sexual identity or religion or any of those things."

-Nathan Stephens, Director for Inclusive Excellence at SIUC


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