If Moms Argue With Their Friends, Their Kids Will Too

By Francine Russo

Do as I say, not as I do. Sounds good in theory, but as every mom and dad knows, it doesn’t work as a parenting tactic. Now there’s more evidence that kids may mimic their parents behaviors, even when it comes to the quality of their friendships.

The latest research delves into a relatively unexplored area of the parent-child dynamic: how mothers’ friendships affect their adolescent kids’ same-sex friendships and overall well-being.

The study, to be published in the Journal of Research on Adolescence, examined whether the positive or negative qualities of mothers’ friendships (not enough fathers agreed to participate) had an effect on their adolescent kids’ friendships. The investigators accomplished this by giving school kids in fifth, eighth and eleventh grades and their mothers questionnaires that explored the quality of their most important friendships. They also gave the parents and kids tests of emotional health. When mothers reported high levels of negative quality with a good friend (such as getting on each others’ nerves, getting upset or mad at each other often), kids were likely to report similar verbal antagonism and heated arguments with a close friend.

So could moms be good role models for their children by having more positive connections with their friends? Unfortunately, no. The study’s lead author Gary Glick, a doctoral candidate in psychological sciences at the University of Missouri, says the team did not find a strong link between mothers’ positive friendship qualities and those of their teens. “Maybe,” Glick says, “kids are more likely to notice adults screaming at each other.”

The fact that adolescents’ friendships mimic those of a parent, is not surprising, given that development is about learning and imitating behaviors. “Adolescents,” says clinical psychologist Joshua Klapow, are in the midst of forming their internal templates for social norms and therefore parental role models are critical. In fact, watching adolescents interact with their peers often is a mirror of how parents interact with their own peers.”
But the fact that the mothers’ positive friendships did not seem to filter down to their children’s own relationships could simply be the result of the artificial way the relationships were defined in the study. Dr. Gayani DeSilva, a child and adolescent psychiatrist at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Orange, CA, notes that friendships are often a complicated mix of positive and negative interactions. The study authors, he says, “divide parental friendships into either positive or negative categories, when healthy friendships are much more complex than that. The more helpful and developmentally appropriate perspective would be to examine how teens are influenced by parental conflict resolution patterns within their friendships.”

In fact, Carleton Kendrick, a family therapist and author of “Take Out Your Nose Ring, Honey. We’re Going to Grandma’s,” says he has observed the opposite effect over 40 years of working with families. “If they witness their parents continuing loyalty, commitment and unwavering commitment to friends,” he says, “through both good times and bad times, they see what it takes for them to possess such cherished friendships. They take mental notes and try to imitate and adopt the attitudes, behavior and commitment they see present in their parents’ successful friendships.”

Kendrick says that the study, which is “a snapshot in time,” does not consider enough variables in the teens’ and parents’ lives and that it does not adequately examine other possible reactions that adolescents might have to their mothers’ problems with friends. “Over and over I have heard kids of all ages tell me privately, in confidence,” Kendrick says, “that they are seriously worried about their parents on many levels.” And conflicts with family and friends were among these worries.

Such internalizing of their parents’ conflicts could have more profound implications for adolescents beyond just the types of interactions they have with their own friends. In the study, mothers with high levels of negativity in their friendships were also likelier to have kids who were more anxious and depressed than those with more positive interactions with their friends. And this, says Glick, was independent of whether the mothers were anxious and depressed themselves.

However children are interpreting and responding to their parents’ choices when it comes to friendships, the study suggests that these decisions could have a greater effect on understanding teen friendships and fostering them in a healthy way than previously thought. “Developing more adult-like relationships with their peers,” says Stephen Gray Wallace, Director of the Center for Adolescent Research and Education at Susquehanna University, “is one of the primary developmental tasks of adolescence.” And parents, it seems, can play an important role in pushing that development in a positive direction, even if they aren’t doing so in a direct and conscious way.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Youngest living Medal of Honor recipient speaks at MU

By Julia Bush
November 7, 2013 | 10:56 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — Sgt. Dakota Meyer has a history of defying authority.

When he was 17, a Marine recruiter told Meyer there was no way he would make it as a marine. Meyer enlisted at a recruiting station near his home in Columbia, Ky., the same day in 2006. Five years later, in a ceremony on Sept. 15, 2011, President Barack Obama awarded Meyer the Medal of Honor for his bravery in Afghanistan.

He told his story to a nearly full Jesse Auditorium on Thursday in celebration of MU’s Veterans Week, a series of events leading up to Veterans Day.

Defying authority

Meyer was part of a group of selected servicemen chosen for certain missions in Afghanistan. On Sept. 8, 2009, the group ran a mission without Meyer for the first time. He maintained security at a patrol rally point while other team members moved into a village in Afghanistan for a meeting with village elders, he described Thursday. Meyer could hear the ambush over the radio. Three Marines and a Navy corpsman were missing.

He requested to go in to help them. He was denied. He requested again. Again. Each time, he was denied and was told the ambush was too close to the village and was too dangerous. Finally, Meyer decided to ignore the orders. While another Marine drove, he traveled down steep terrain into enemy fire. They loaded wounded Afghan soldiers into the Humvee as they went.

"If I was wrong, I was going to answer for it," Meyer said Thursday.

One of the service members, whom he referred to as "Gunny J," began to read the team's coordinates over the radio as Meyer listened. After the first four numbers, he stopped reading
the numbers. Later, Meyer found Gunny J's body face down with his GPS still in his hand. The other three service members lay dead beside him.

"When I got to them, I knew immediately that they were gone," Meyer said.

He carried each of his teammates out one by one. Even though he lost his fellow service members that day, Meyer helped to evacuate 12 friendly wounded and provided cover for 24 marines and other service members to escape. Meyer is the youngest living Medal of Honor recipient and the first living Marine to be honored in 38 years.

**The weight of a medal**

Meyer didn't wear his medal Thursday. He doesn't feel like an American hero, he said. When he was told the president would be calling to offer him the medal, Meyer didn't want it. He wouldn't even stay home from work to take the phone call that day.

"If I'm such a hero, why won't you tell my teammates that?" Meyer said.

Meyer finally decided to accept the medal under the condition that a ceremony would be held at each of his fallen brothers' grave sites in addition to his own.

"It took me realizing that it's not about how I feel," he said. "It's the opportunity to serve them and their families." Meyer said his life changed after the ceremony in 2011. He had to build a fence around his home to protect himself from photographers and reporters. He has been spit on, held at knifepoint and woken up to staples in his head in a hospital, Meyer said.

"The impact that medal brings — you can have mine," he said. "Do not envy me. It's a great honor to have, but to be honest with you, I'm not that type."

Now, Meyer tours the country to educate civilians and veterans on veterans issues and inspire them to seek greatness. He calls this chapter of his life "meeting America."

He said he hopes Americans will stick together and hold one another accountable.

"What makes the greatest country on Earth great?" Meyer said. "It's believing it."

MU's Veterans Week began Monday. [Programming to recognize and support veterans](#) will continue through Veterans Day on Monday.
Fuller to take over coaching duties during Haith's suspension

By Steve Walentik

Thursday, November 7, 2013 at 2:00 pm

Tim Fuller imagines he'll have a hard time sleeping Thursday, thinking about the Missouri basketball team's opener against Southeastern Louisiana.

The excitement of a new season is only amplified knowing that he'll be the man in charge on the Tigers' bench when the ball gets tossed into the air at 7 p.m. tomorrow at Mizzou Arena.

Missouri Coach Frank Haith yesterday announced that the 35-year-old Fuller will fill in as the team's interim coach while Haith serves the five-game NCAA-mandated suspension for his involvement in the Miami infractions case.

"Once Coach Haith first told me yesterday evening, I've had a sleepless night, so I can't imagine what Thursday night after midnight" will be like, Fuller said yesterday as he and Haith met with reporters before practice. "I'll be probably under his tutelage till 11:59 trying to figure out if there's any other things I can get from him before he can no longer participate with us."

It will be Fuller's first chance to step into the director's chair, which is why there was apparently some debate over whether he would get the job during Haith's absence, even though he was promoted to second-in-command and given the title of associate head coach in April 2012, long before fellow assistants Dave Leitao and Mark Phelps even joined the staff.

Leitao has spent a combined nine college seasons as a head coach at Northeastern, DePaul and Virginia and also spent a season coaching in the NBA's Developmental League with the Maine Red Claws. Phelps spent the past five years as the head coach at Drake.

"Going into making this decision, I had three great choices in Dave and Mark along with Tim, but the reason I chose Tim is because Tim's been here the longest," Haith said. "Tim's our
associate head coach, and Tim has a pulse of me, not only because he's worked with me for three years, but I've known Tim for over a decade and coaching him, and he's deserved this."

The relationship between Haith and Fuller goes back to the late 1990s, when Fuller, who grew up in Woodbridge, Va., was a walk-on guard at Wake Forest and Haith was an assistant coach on Dave Odom's staff.

Haith was a mentor to him then and as he entered the coaching ranks, climbing rather quickly from volunteer assistant at North Carolina A&T to, after a year in the high school ranks, full-time assistant at Elon then director of basketball operations at Wake Forest and assistant coaching positions at Fairfield and Louisville — with a three-year stint at Nike in between.

Fuller had been serving on Rick Pitino's staff when Haith made him one of his first hires after accepting the Missouri job in April 2011. Haith immediately named him the Tigers' recruiting coordinator. It's seemed, ever since, that he's been getting groomed for a head-coaching opportunity.

"He will do a great job," Haith said. "He recruited most of these guys. I think he has a pulse for them, and in the head-coaching role, you've got to be able to get the most out of your kids. I think from a standpoint with these guys, execution-wise, they know what our expectations are, how we want to play.

"I think Tim's role will continue to add to that, but I think the other thing we'll be able to do is pull out the best in our guys because of his relationships with them."

"I feel comfortable with Coach Fuller," junior Jabari Brown said. "I think most of the guys do. He brought a lot of us here, so I feel like he's familiar with everybody just like Coach Haith, so I feel like it will be a smooth transition."

Fuller will oversee game-planning and will have the final say in decisions on the sideline during games with Haith sidelined by a suspension that begins at midnight tomorrow and continues until Nov. 25. He also will be in charge for games against Southern Illinois (Tuesday), Hawaii (Nov. 16), Gardner-Webb (Nov. 23) and IUPUI (Nov. 25).

"I don't know how much it really changes day-to-day," Fuller said. "Obviously, Coach Haith gives his assistants a lot of freedom to be almost similar to head coaches in practice, so obviously I have to continue to do what I've always done and fill the role that he's leaving void. It's big shoes to fill, but I think he's started to prepare me for this moment pretty good."

He can lean on Leitao and Phelps for advice.

"The most important thing — and Coach has reiterated that — is those 16 heartbeats in that locker room and to make sure that they're covered and they know that I have their back and that I'm going to give them my very best to hopefully get their very best," Fuller said.
Haith cannot lend any assistance for the next 2½ weeks. He is not permitted to coach games, help run practice or game plan for future opponents.

But the Committee on Infractions didn't punish him with any recruiting restrictions after deeming him guilty of failure to promote an atmosphere of compliance and adequately monitor the activities of his staff while with the Hurricanes.

"I'm going to take quite a bit of time, I think. I've got some plans to go do some recruiting," said Haith, who will be allowed out on the road except for during a dead period in the recruiting calendar that begins Monday and continues until the NCAA's weeklong early signing period gets underway on Wednesday.

Haith doesn't know what it will be like having to watch his team play games without him any better than Fuller can predict what he'll feel like without Haith around making decisions.

"It's going to be pretty hard," Haith said. "You can imagine. I think until I get into it, it's something that I've never experienced."

This article was published in the Thursday, November 7, 2013 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "Fuller speed ahead: As suspension starts for Haith, top aide takes over Tigers."

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Posted in Mu Basketball, Tigerextra on Thursday, November 7, 2013 2:00 pm.
Smoke billowed out of the cockpit and flames engulfed the right wing and engine of the plane as two two-man crews doused the fire with hundreds of gallons of water.

"That's good," Mark Lee called out. And with a flick of a switch, the fire ceased and the smoke stopped.

Lee is an aircraft rescue firefighting specialist with the University of Missouri Extension Fire and Rescue Training Institute, and yesterday he set up "controlled chaos" for firefighting crews to learn how to respond to an aircraft fire.

Firefighting crews from Columbia Regional Airport, Kirksville Regional Airport, Mena, Ark., and Bentonville, Ark., took part in the live-burn training exercise at Columbia Regional Airport. The training, conducted by the MU Extension institute, allows firefighters to conduct initial and requalification aircraft rescue firefighting training.

The training was conducted on the institute's new Mobile Aircraft Firefighting Trainer — MAFT — which was purchased through matching grants from the Federal Aviation Administration and the Missouri Department of Transportation.

Lee said the $1.6 million simulator was purchased in March and replaces a unit the institute had been using for the past 12 years. Lee said unlike the old simulator, MAFT has two low wings and two wheel assemblies so instructors can light fires on either side of the plane. MAFT also has the ability to produce overhead compartment fires and has narrower aisles than the old unit — 20 inches instead of 30 — to make it more realistic for firefighters.
Lee said similar simulators are in Michigan, Virginia and West Virginia, but this is the only unit west of the Mississippi, so he and his team have been traveling the country conducting training. "It provides a great experience for people to use their equipment, their people, their procedures, and then they can bring in their community — mutual aid and fire departments," Lee said.

Yesterday, crews traveled to Columbia to take part in the exercise.

"Columbia Regional Airport, they do police, fire and emergency medical," he said. "Kirksville, it's the people that run the airport maintenance, they go out as needed to do aircraft rescue and firefighting to save people, and then the folks from Mena are here to do a class and are volunteers."

Larry Johnson and Mat Ferry, both of Mena, Ark., were doing their initial qualification and were excited to test out the new simulator. "It's as good as you can get without being in the real thing," Johnson said.

Crews worked in two-man teams; one team would handle exterior fires, and the other would go into the interior of the plane, extinguish fires and search for victims. After going through rotations, handling both the interior and exterior fires, Johnson said that even though the fires were manipulated in the control cab, it gave him the realization that a fire is not out until it's out.

"They kept lighting it up behind us," he said.

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Posted in Local, Education on Thursday, November 7, 2013 2:00 pm.
Two days after he dressed up as Gary Pinkel for Halloween, 9-year-old Mason Gray stood outside wearing his headset and Mizzou visor, waiting on one last door to open.

As a bus full of Missouri football players made its way to a parking lot across from Memorial Stadium, Mason and a pack of Missouri fans stood and waited. At the front of the bus would be Pinkel himself.

Mason bounced in place. Waiting is usually one of the hardest parts of life for a nonverbal autistic child, but on this Saturday, a few hours before the Tigers played Tennessee, it just felt right. Sometimes a feeling is all Mason can live by.

He was back in the place where his family learned of his condition. Mason was diagnosed at MU’s Thompson Center for Autism when he was 2. The Grays have been making a few trips a year to the center ever since.

The bus pulled into the parking lot and rumbled to a stop. Mason stepped forward as the door flew open and stood face-to-face with the man he was trying to clone.

"I know who you are," Pinkel said with a smile before kneeling down to shake his hand.

Many people know who he is now. They know him as Mini Pinkel from a photo that has made its way around Twitter, including the pages of Maty Mauk, L'Damian Washington, Justin Britt and Pinkel himself. It comes from the night Mason put on the black sweater and khakis and walked door-to-door around his Lee's Summit neighborhood hoping people could finally see the love for Missouri football that he has never been able to explain.
For as long as his parents can remember, Mason has watched Missouri games with an attention he does not pay to anything else. When he hears the crowd roar and the players run into the end zone, his arms fly above his head. It is unclear whether he knows what a touchdown is, but he seems to know something good is happening.

"It's something that brings him to life," said his mother, Jennifer Gray, who graduated from Missouri in 1993.

As his arms wave like he's on a roller coaster, it sometimes appears like he's trying to direct the players. So, on Halloween, his parents let him be the coach. They took the earphones he used to wear to block out loud noises and attached a microphone to the end. With sunglasses and Missouri gear, Mason walked alongside his 11-year-old brother, Thomas, who went as Austin Powers.

Everyone knew who he was.

The next day was Mason's birthday. Jennifer Gray went on Twitter and saw that Gabe DeArmond was giving away memberships to his website, PowerMizzou.com, to the parents of children with the best Halloween costumes.

When he saw the photo, DeArmond awarded her a membership and then notified Missouri athletics spokesman Chad Moller. Soon enough, the Gray's phone rang and Athletic Director Mike Alden was on the other line offering tickets.

"You can't do something like this for everybody," Moller said. "We had no idea that Mason was autistic and that his family was involved with the Thompson Center on campus, but when Jennifer told me that, it became an absolute no-brainer."

On Saturday, Missouri players filed out of the bus to find the miniature version of their coach. James Franklin gave him a head nod. Evan Boehm and others gave him a high-five. When Max Copeland stepped off the bus with his shaggy hair, Mason jumped up and down at the sight of his favorite player.

"It was real flattering," said Pinkel, who first saw the photo when friends sent it to him. "I don't know what his parents were thinking to have him look like me."

Mason watched each player cross the bridge during the Tiger Walk and then turned to find new visitors. Alden and basketball Coach Frank Haith were there, and they shook his hand. Haith joked that Thomas should go as Haith for Halloween alongside Mini Pinkel next year.

When Dorial Green-Beckham scored Missouri's first touchdown of a 31-3 victory, fireworks shot off and Mason fell silent and his eyes widened as he stared at the flashing scoreboard. Jennifer and Joel Gray have taught themselves to never be surprised about their son's random draw to Missouri football. They have had season tickets his entire life.
But Saturday was different. Despite the long car ride, the two-hour wait for kickoff and a game that ran past his bedtime, Mason never slowed down. When the crowd chanted "M-I-Z," he chanted back "M-I-Z!" His arms were constantly flying above his head, his smile as wide as ever.

"We've always known he was a rock star. But the university gave him a day when he was a star," Jennifer Gray said. "For a little boy who fights every day for his systems to work in tandem, to be able to function in a world that is very foreign to him, it was incredible. I was very proud of my alma mater and proud to be a Tiger."

The game finally ended around 9:30 p.m. Moments later, the Grays walked out of the home tunnel and into the end zone. Mason immediately dropped to the ground and reached for the turf. Then he stood back up, and he ran.

Suddenly he was in an all-out sprint toward the other end zone, running as fast as he ever has. Joel fumbled with his phone to try to record it, but Mason was speeding away without anybody telling him where to run or why.

Thomas tore off after him and finally caught up at the 50. The two turned around and ran back. Mason began to feel winded at the 10-yard-line but kept going. He stumbled the final few yards until he crossed the white stripe for the score.

"I've never seen my son that happy," Jennifer Gray said.