MU students, administrators attend vigil spurred by Ferguson events

By ASHLEY JOST

Friday, August 15, 2014 at 11:56 am Comments (5)

Holding signs saying, “Justicia” and, “Don’t Shoot,” scores of students and other members of the University of Missouri community attended a moment of silence and vigil Thursday evening on campus.

The National Moment of Silence and Day of Rage event to honor the death of Michael Brown, who was shot and killed Saturday in Ferguson, occurred nationwide just after 6 p.m. The MU student organizers and participants hope that for Columbia, the event was just the beginning.

“This is my life,” Naomi Daugherty, one of three student organizers of the vigil, said about why she chose to get involved. “I think I just got tired of the normality in this country of wrongful violence against black and brown bodies, whether it be black transgender women who are burnt and killed and no one cares, or that it’s initiation in Chicago for a black body to get stomped before you’re 18. It’s normality. A lot of this hits close to home.”

Daugherty, a Chicago native, said she — like many of her friends — have family members who have experienced violent confrontations with the police though they were unarmed.

The crowd members at Speaker’s Circle last night had the chance to step into the middle of the circle of people and express their thoughts and opinions on the recent events in Ferguson.

Donnell Young, senior coordinator with the MU Office of Student Conduct, applauded students for getting involved and having the conversations about race, crime and altercations with the police.

“History will repeat itself if we’re not educated about the past,” he said, adding that “this is deeper than one man being killed.”

Carl Kenney, adjunct professor in the MU School of Journalism and local pastor, spoke about the struggles black men face in America.

“I am a black man. If you’re a brother who carries that pain, raise your hand,” he said,
Mary Ratliff, NAACP Missouri chapter president, applauded the students’ discussion of race while stressing that “justice is priority” in Brown’s death. Ratliff said she has spent part of the week in St. Louis working with other NAACP and religious leaders.

The moment of silence, poems and open discussion at Speaker’s Circle were a first step in the “awareness’ portion of a three-pronged approach to show support for Brown, his family, other victims like him and to stand against police brutality, Daugherty said.

Daugherty said students also want to raise money for people in Ferguson and volunteer with cleanup efforts there and work to educate the community.

Students were urged to come to the Francis Quadrangle at 1 p.m. Sunday for a “Hands up, don’t shoot” photo demonstration, similar to those done around the state and country since Brown’s death. Students will meet after the demonstration to talk about plans going forward, Daugherty said.

Cathy Scroggs, vice chancellor for student affairs, attended the Moment of Silence and Day of Rage vigil.

“The students are organizing this, and I am supportive of them and stand with them,” she said. “I think they care, but they’re at a loss for what to do and how to be helpful, so I’m glad we’re having these discussions and this dialogue.”

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

'Hands Up, Don't Shoot' movement seen as rallying cry for change
Sunday, August 17, 2014 | 8:36 p.m. CDT; updated 7:22 a.m. CDT, Monday, August 18, 2014
BY KASIA KOVACS

COLUMBIA — Gov. Jay Nixon’s mandated curfew in Ferguson began at midnight Sunday, but Jonathan Butler’s curiosity got the better of him. After midnight Sunday, he stood under pouring rain, about 30 feet behind a group of protestors jeering at the line of police tasked with enforcing the curfew.

At 12:50 a.m., Butler saw bright lights approaching from the end of the street, which he assumed were SWAT trucks. Law enforcement officers gave a last warning for the
protestors to disperse, but they stood their ground. A few protestors even moved closer to the police line, Butler said.

A few minutes later, police began throwing tear gas cans at the crowd, and other officers fired rubber bullets.

"When they started popping the first tear gas, there was a taste I couldn’t get out of my mouth,” Butler said. “My nose started running. I just started itching. It was so overpowering that I started to get a headache."

**Butler, an MU graduate student, arrived in Ferguson at about 10 a.m. Saturday to participate in peaceful protest following the fatal shooting of unarmed black teenager Michael Brown by Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson on Aug. 9. At 1:05 a.m. Sunday, he helped protestors and fellow onlookers find safety.**

"I was trying to make sure people were OK,” Butler said. “And that's what kind of amazed me because even though it was a bad situation, you still saw the people come together as a community. Even in that frenzy, there was a real communal aspect of everyone in Ferguson looking out for each other, and that was a unanimous thing the whole day."

These feelings of support haven't been contained to Ferguson. Demonstrations using the mantra "Hands Up, Don’t Shoot" have spread throughout the country. The chant was inspired by Brown’s reaction to Wilson’s gunshots, according to eyewitness reports. After Butler returned to Columbia on Sunday, he hosted a #DontShoot photo challenge for MU at 1 p.m.

**Several dozen students, staff and faculty as well as members of the community posed in front of the MU Columns. In one photo, they raised both of their hands in solidarity with Brown, and in another, they lifted their right fists. As the photos were taken, their unified chants of “Hands Up, Don’t Shoot” echoed across Frances Quadrangle.**

The #DontShoot photo challenge movement began at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Students raised their hands with the caption “Don’t shoot,” and the photo soon went viral on social media.
“The photo was very simple but very powerful,” Butler said. “It sent a big message that we’re in this together. We’re standing with you.”

MU senior DeShaunya Ware, another photo-challenge participant, shared Butler’s sentiment.

“I’m just here today because black lives are important,” Ware said. “And we’ve had a lot of losses, and I like to refer to them as the black sacrifice. Nobody deserves to have their life taken away from them. I’m here to show my support because I am Mike Brown.”

Despite incidents of violence after dark, daytime protesting in Ferguson has been peaceful, Ebonie Young said. Young, who graduated from MU in 2012, was in Ferguson on Sunday. She began her day at the site of the Ferguson QuikTrip that was burned down during riots on Aug. 10, where protestors gathered with chants of “Hands up, don’t shoot,” and “No justice, no peace.”

“It was such a welcoming atmosphere,” Young said. “There were people who were giving away chips, drinks and flowers. Every car that was passing was honking their horns. I felt like I stepped back in the 1960s for a second.”

To Butler, the chant harkens back to his experiences as a black man.

"I have been arrested and stopped by the police several times for what I would consider to be profiling," he said. "In those instances, you fear for your life. Putting your hands up ... it’s like saying, I’m unarmed, I don’t have anything against you, I’m a law-abiding citizen. Let’s look at the injustice in that system. Let’s change that."

Young already sees change due to the movement. As an example, she used a petition being circulated on Change.org to outfit police officers with body cameras in order to hold them accountable. She nicknamed the petition the "Michael Brown Law."

"Little old St. Louis made national coverage, and it’s opened up people’s eyes to a bigger movement,” Young said. “Change does not happen overnight. This is the beginning of something beautiful."
MU to share grant on value of scientific research

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA, MO. - The University of Missouri will share a $500,000 grant for a project aimed at educating the public on the value of taxpayer funding for federal scientific research.

Missouri is the lead institution in what’s called the Broader Impacts and Outreach Network for Institutional Collaboration program, or BIONIC. The $500,000 grant from the National Science Foundation will fund the project for five years.

Susan Renoe heads the Broader Impacts Network at the Columbia campus. Renoe said the program was established by Congress to encourage scientists to educate citizens about the research they support as taxpayers.

Other schools taking part in the program are the University of Pennsylvania, Northwestern University, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Iowa State and Stanford.
MU among schools to share $500,000 grant to better communicate research

Friday, August 15, 2014 at 8:44 am

The University of Missouri is one of several institutions to receive a $500,000 National Science Foundation grant for a five-year project to encourage communication between the science community and the public on tax dollars used for research.

The “Broader Impacts and Outreach Network for Institutional Collaboration” program, which MU leads, includes five other research-focused universities, many of which are in the Association of American Universities.

“Broader Impacts refers to the educational outreach and community engagement efforts that NSF-funded scientists use to show the social relevance of their research,” Susan Renoe, director of the Broader Impacts Network in the Office of Research and Graduate Studies at MU and the primary investigator for the project, said in a news release. “Established by congressional legislation, the Broader Impacts criterion was designed to encourage scientists to educate Americans about the research they support through their tax dollars.”

University of Missouri named preferred contractor by Department of Defense

August 15, 2014  BY Sarah Walsh

The Department of Defense has named the University of Missouri-Columbia a preferred contractor for the Defense Systems Technical Area Tasks (DSTATs), a contract vehicle that extends government research and advisory opportunities to outside firms. MU will join a team of 39 other subcontractors led by URS Corporation in eligibility for nearly $3 billion in government contracts for projects
and research developing military sensing equipment, autonomous systems and directed energy over the course of the next five years.

The university received this distinction after a thorough vetting and review process, said Mark Prelas, professor and director of research with the Nuclear Science and Engineering Institute in the Office of Graduate Studies at MU.

“The university met some very high standards in order to receive that designation,” said Prelas. “Being vetted as a preferred contractor means that the process of competing for contracts will be streamlined from now on, which increases our chances of getting major research opportunities and of Columbia as a whole being able to benefit economically from this federal funding.”

Randy Curry, director of MU's Center for Physical and Power Electronics, agrees, citing the potential for the award and subsequent projects to bring jobs to Boone County.

“This could spin off quite a few companies leading to jobs and significant economic growth for the area,” Curry said in a press release.

Other contractors included in the award include URS and the private engineering firm Wyle.

“No one operation is going to have the expertise to do everything,” Prelas said. “Collaboration really is the heart of everything we do.”

Prelas said that he is optimistic about the future both of the DSTATs contracts and of research at MU on a grander scale, citing the participation of upper-level university administrators as a key factor in qualifying the university for the award.

“We're very fortunate that we have the leadership in place to support this. I look at the current situation under Chancellor Loftin as one that’s ideal to foster growth in research,” he said.
Food pantries receive seeds, vegetable plants

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA, MO. - A University of Missouri program is offering people who do not have enough food a chance to grow some of their own by distributing seeds and vegetable plants to food pantries.

The program, called Grow Well Missouri, has distributed more than 22,000 seed packets and plant starters to four food pantries in northeast and mid-Missouri since it started in early 2013. It is funded by a five-year, $500,000 grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health, The Columbia Daily Tribune reported (http://bit.ly/1t2rWjC).

Missouri ranks seventh in the nation for food insecurity, meaning people who don't have access to enough affordable food. Almost 14 percent of residents are food insecure, according to the 2013 Missouri Hunger Atlas, a product of the university's Interdisciplinary Center for Food Security.

Project coordinator Bill McKelvey said the goal for the project's second year is to establish a sustainable seed-distribution program with community support that will outlive the current project.
"When we're out working with groups to distribute seed, we're only working with them for about two years," McKelvey said. "Then, we have to step back and hope that we have developed a partnership so that what we started will live on."

The first seed distribution was at the Shelby County Food Pantry and St. James Caring Center and it was expanded to the Central Pantry in Columbia and the Help Center in Mexico. The goal is to reach eight pantries in northeast and central Missouri.

Typically, the project holds events each week in the winter for spring vegetables and another round of distribution events in the summer for fall harvests. The summer distribution wrapped up in late July.

Central Pantry Supervisor Sean Ross said people who use Grow Well Missouri have been positive about the program.

"Some people don't have a place to plant at all, but the ones who do stopped and asked about the program," he said. "A couple of people have said they've really enjoyed their gardens."

Obama trumpets proposals to lower college costs
August 16, 2014 5:01 am

EDGARTOWN, Mass. (AP) — President Barack Obama is calling on Congress and colleges to help make the cost of higher education more manageable.
In his weekly radio and Internet address, Obama says higher education is "the surest ticket to the middle class." But he says paying for that education is a constant struggle for many families.

Obama reiterated his call for Congress to pass legislation letting students refinance their loans at lower interest rates. And he highlighted his plan to tie federal financial aid for colleges to the school's performance.

In the weekly Republican address, Georgia Rep. Doug Collins calls on Senate Democrats to pass bills approved by the GOP-led House. He says the Senate has failed to take action on more than 340 House-passed bills, including some with bipartisan support.

Mobile shelter will house pets after disasters

COLUMBIA, Mo. • Catherine Vogelweid witnessed families searching Joplin's animal shelters for missing pets after the May 2011 tornado and leaving grief-stricken when their beloved companions could not be found. Now, Vogelweid is hopeful that if such a catastrophe should strike the Columbia area, Boone County's new pet disaster relief trailer will raise chances of reuniting people and their pets.

"Keeping the family together is what it's all about," the veterinary medicine instructor said as Boone County took delivery recently of the first such mobile shelter in Missouri.

Purchase of the $22,000 American Kennel Club Pet Disaster Relief trailer was financed with donations from the AKC's lost pet recovery service and a Columbia-based nonprofit called the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, the Columbia Daily Tribune reported.

The foundation's Eddie Dziuk said the trailer can be used to supplement an existing animal shelter that fills up in a disaster. It also can be used as a stand-alone lost-and-found shelter, where people can go to find their lost pets after a disaster.

"They've been lost," Dziuk said of the animals involved in disasters. "They're scared."

The trailer can accommodate around 65 animals, depending on size, and is equipped with crates, collars, leashes, a generator, a printer, microchips and other supplies. It won't treat injured animals and doesn't hold medications, because they are perishable, Dziuk said.
Boone County emergency manager Scott Olsen said he saw the need for assistance for pets after Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, the Joplin tornado and last year's Colorado floods. The displaced pets in Colorado included cats and dogs but also spiders and snakes, he said.

"This is a capability I think is needed not only in Boone County but around the state," Olsen said.

Vogelweid, an associate professor in the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine, assisted at an animal shelter in Joplin after the tornado.

"Disasters are chaos and confusion," she said. "It's very easy for people and their pets to become separated."

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Meet 'Mom Marit,' house mother of MU's Kappa Delta House

Monday, August 18, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CDT; updated 7:13 a.m. CDT, Monday, August 18, 2014

BY T.J. THOMSON

COLUMBIA — Marit Vogelsong doesn't have children of her own, but that hasn't prevented her from being a mother.

She schedules meals for as many as 200 hungry mouths and manages day-to-day operations at the three-story, 17,827-square-foot Kappa Delta house at 606 E. Rollins St.

Vogelsong's title is house director, but the young women of the Epsilon Iota chapter of Kappa Delta have another, dearer name for her. They call her "Mom Marit."

"This is not a job. It's a lifestyle," Vogelsong said. "It doesn't end at 5 p.m. It doesn't end on the weekends."

Vogelsong, who began working and living at the house a year ago, said she didn't expect the pace to be as intense as it is.

"There's just a personality to a building and what a building needs, what your staff needs, and how the girls come in and out of the building," she said. "It sort of dictates what your day is like, which is exactly what it's like to be a mom in a house. It's just exponentially bigger."
Like many parents, she does what she can to keep the house, and the lives of the young women who live there, running smoothly. Sometimes that means handling things you wouldn't ordinarily think about.

Take vacuums. The sorority used to have seven upright vacuums, but the chapter members' long hair constantly clogged the bar brush rollers, so Vogelsong replaced the vacuums with industrial shop vacs. Problem solved.

In the second-floor hallway, the paint in what one of the sorority sisters called "claustrophobic" egg-yolk yellow is gone. Now, it's a brighter beige thanks to the Kappa Delta House Corporations Board and a designer Vogelsong worked with.

When she's not streamlining a process or dreaming up solutions to housing problems, Vogelsong's time is filled with a few perennial tasks, such as planning the menu for each day's meals. About 90 women can live at the house, but the rest of the sorority's members can eat lunch and dinner there.

"It's like the biggest puzzle I've ever had to work — to make sure you're not giving someone a sandwich at lunch and then a sandwich for dinner," she said. "I try to do them long beforehand because when the food purveyors come in, we're still reworking things. Do they have this available? Is this the right time to get it? Do we have space in the freezers? It's like running a restaurant."

Chapter officers handle responsibilities such as doling out parking permits, dealing with disciplinary concerns and helping track finances.

"This is their opportunity to learn how to handle money, a facility, work well amongst themselves, have good grades and balance the philanthropic work we do," Vogelsong said.

But she maintains oversight.

"I'm a facility manager," she said. "I'm to oversee the comings and goings of workmen that have to deal with the building. I'm here in case of emergencies, or if the girls need to ask for information.

"These are private institutions," she continued. "From one house to the other, they're run each like a little corporation."
She sees parallels between herself and the British housekeepers featured in Victorian novels.

"When you read about the housekeeper, she's not really a servant, and she's not really living on the 'upper floors,' as they would say in England. So you're kind of this in-between person," Vogelsong said.

"I'm not a social equivalent for the girls, and I'm lucky to have the staff — (cooks) Stan (Lewis) and Mattie (Burkholder) and Shairon (Fair), my cleaning person," she said. "I have a friendship with them, but it's a work friendship."

From the perspective of incoming new members, Vogelsong is a house veteran, but she is the new one on the house's staff, some of whom have worked there for three decades. They say they're attracted to the job for different reasons.

"I have four daughters of my own, and I like being around with a bunch of girls," said Shairon Fair, who has spent a decade cleaning the house.

Mattie Burkholder clocks in at 6 a.m. each day and handles preparing the midday meal. She has worked there 19 years, the second longest.

"I've seen quite a few girls come and go," she said.

Stan Lewis, a former Army cook, handles the evening meals and, at 30 years, has worked in the house the longest. He enjoys the flexibility the job provides.

Some Greek houses hire only seasonal employees to staff the house when students occupy it during the school year. In contrast, Kappa Delta’s alumnae board hires the building’s staff year-round.

When Lewis tires of cooking, he knows his job responsibilities will change in the summer, and the time he used to spend in the kitchen will be replaced with maintenance and other renovation tasks around the house.

Lewis has seen almost a half-dozen house mothers come and go during his three decades at the sorority house.

"I just ain't never seen a woman like that before. Not a young one like she is," he said of Vogelsong, who is 49. "Most of the other house mothers were a lot older than what Marit
is. We had one young lady here who was about Marit's age. I think she lasted two weeks. She didn't even last 'til school started. She said, 'There ain't no way I could do this,' and she left. Marit stuck right in there. She had a bad time and a good time, but she's just a hard worker. A go-getter."

It's more than a source of employment for Vogelsong. It's an emotional investment. As moms are prone to do, she does her fair share of worrying.

Vogelsong wonders, for example, how well the formal room's new brown laminate flooring will hold up to the scores of high-heeled shoes soon to clickety-click across it. Or how she will manage hanging the giant and differently sized composites in chronological order given the limited wall space.

The house's infrastructure and the needs of 91 young women can be, at times, trying, yet Vogelsong doesn't let these issues affect her demeanor.

"I've never seen her mad — at all," Lewis said. "She just says, 'Oh well, we'll just have to do something different, I guess. It didn't work.'"

On top of her responsibilities at the house, she also cares for her parents, whose home in Columbia offers a respite from the demands of Kappa Delta.

"My folks live here in town, and that's where I go to decompress," Vogelsong said. "That's where I go when I have my break time."

*Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.*
University Club and Catering to open café at Mizzou North

By ALICIA STICE

Saturday, August 16, 2014 at 12:00 am

University Club and Catering has decided to take advantage of the relocation of several University of Missouri museums and offices to Mizzou North.

On Monday, it is opening Café 115 in the basement of Mizzou North, the former home of Ellis Fischel Cancer Center, at Business Loop 70 and Garth Avenue. University Club and Catering also will use the kitchen there for its catering business, moving it out of Lowry Mall at MU.

Even though some of the offices at Mizzou North are only there temporarily, Karlan Seville, spokeswoman for Campus Facilities, said the restaurant will have enough customers to keep it going if and when some of them move back to MU’s main campus.

“Mizzou North is not going away,” she said.