MU event honors suicide victims, raises money for documentary

ELIZABETH CASSIDY, 10 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Blue, triangular envelopes with “living is conquering” written on the outside served as temporary homes for butterflies as they waited to be released by the MU Columns on Thursday evening.

Mizzou Suicide Prevention Coalition sold the butterflies to raise money for the making of "Wake Up," a documentary centered on the life and suicide of an MU student.

Julia Schroer, co-director of the prevention coalition, said the butterflies were a meaningful symbol for mental health because of the famous butterfly effect.

“You never really know what the smallest act of kindness will have on those around you,” Schroer said.

About 300 students attended the event, which was meant to honor suicide victims. The event raised $700.

"Wake Up," which was started in 2014, is meant to start a conversation about suicide prevention and mental health, according to the documentary's website. Former MU student Alex Lindley had the idea for the documentary after his friend and fellow student Ryan Candice died by suicide in June 2014.

The Missourian first reported about the documentary in December. Since then, the GoFundMe page has swelled from about $9,000 to almost $52,000. The total goal is $150,000, which will cover the production costs.
"Above all, I've been just really happy to see people wanting this to be done," Lindley said. "There's still a lot to do, but there's been overwhelming support. It's really motivating to hear people say this needs a platform."

Lindley said the hope is that the documentary will be released in late 2016. A documentary short was produced in 2014 of interviews with Candice's friends and family members.

With more than half of the footage already produced, the remaining portion will include expert interviews and another round of interviews with those who personally knew Candice, Lindley said.

“I’ve learned how suicide and mental health is not talked about enough,” said Morgan Domijan, co-director of the prevention coalition and friend of Candice.

In 2012, 14 percent of college students in Missouri reported having suicidal thoughts, according to statewide coalition Partners in Prevention.

MU students aim to change conversation about suicide

COLUMBIA - Hundreds are expected to gather on MU’s Francis Quadrangle Thursday night to remember the lives of loved ones lost to suicide. The Mizzou Suicide Prevention Coalition hosts the memorial to commemorate World Suicide Prevention Day, as a part of National Suicide Prevention Week.
This is the second year the event will take place. Expected attendance has grown so large, organizers say they won't release balloons as planned.

"We were only expecting about 100 to 200 people to attend," Schroer said. "I checked my Facebook page a few days later and saw that over 800 had RSVP'd. We knew there was no way we would be able to blow up that many balloons in that time."

Instead, a butterfly will be released for anyone who donates five dollars to the organizations philanthropic efforts. The event's Facebook page said all proceeds collected will go toward a documentary film project.

MSPC works year-round to change the conversation about suicide and the way it is portrayed in the media.

Colleen O'Brien, a member of the MSPC steering committee, said she thinks there needs to be change in how young people are educated about the issue of death and an increase in sensitivity with how death is discussed.

"In high school, I took a death and dying class and that was so helpful to me," O'Brien said. Shortly after she took the class, O'Brien's father took his own life. She said everything she learned in her class stuck with her and helped her more than she ever thought it would while she was in it.

Classes and more conversation about the mental illness that often affects suicide victims are major priorities of MSPC and create the foundation for events like the butterfly release.

"One in four adults suffers from mental illness," Schroer said. "Mental illness causes people to see a completely different reality that, although isn't exactly what is happening, is completely real to them. People who can't understand that are usually the ones who lack sympathy and the ability to discuss this issue."

The National Alliance on Mental Illness website says suicide is the 10th leading cause of death, and occurs more often than homicide. 90 percent of suicide victims had at least one mental disorder.

A study done by the University of Missouri-St.Louis showed, in Missouri, suicide was the leading cause of death in 2013 with nearly 1,000 victims. The study showed suicide took more lives than homicide or motor vehicle accidents.

Missouri placed 18th out of the 50 states for most suicide deaths per 100,000 people with 15.88. This surpassed the national average of 13.02.

"One of the major reasons we started this organization is because we realized we couldn't really talk about the grief we had over the people we lost to suicide," Schroer said. "It's an issue that
affects so many, and we should be able to talk about it. Facilitating that conversation is something we are constantly trying to do."

MU researchers find luteolin can reduce risk of breast cancer

Watch story: http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=30453&zone=5&categories=5

COLUMBIA - **MU researchers have found a natural compound that reduces the risk of breast cancer for women who have taken hormone replacement therapy.**

Salman Hyder, professor of biomedical sciences and lead researcher, said breast cancer is more prevalent in women who receive the hormone replacement treatment.

"Research has proven that a higher incidence of breast cancer tumors can occur in women receiving therapies that involve a combination of the natural component estrogen and the synthetic progestin," Hyder said in a news release Tuesday.

Luteolin, a compound found in herbs and vegetables, monitors stem-cell like characteristics in developing cancer cells. As breast cancer cells take on these stem-cell like characteristics, they become harder to kill.

When the compound was tested in mice, researchers found reduction in blood vessel formation and stem-cell like characteristics inside the body. For these reasons, Hyder said he thinks direct injection of luteolin could be effective.

"We feel that luteolin can be effective when injected directly into the bloodstream, so IV supplements may still be a possibility," Hyder said in a news release Tuesday.
MU researchers will conduct additional studies over the next few years. If the studies are successful, MU will request permission from the federal government to begin human drug development and conduct human clinical trials.

Loftin to Lead Working Group on Student Athlete Personal Conduct

Watch story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=26238771-aa2a-4749-be22-74e83d00d1dc

MU physical therapy celebrates 50 years

By Megan Favignano

Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 2:00 pm

The University of Missouri Physical Therapy Department in the School of Health Professions graduated its first class 50 years ago. The school will host events Friday through Sunday to mark the milestone.

The department will host a trivia night at 7 p.m. Friday; facility and campus tours and a continued education course from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday; a family picnic at Clark Hall at 11 a.m. Saturday; a banquet 6 p.m. Saturday; and a run/walk Sunday, according to a news release.
The family picnic and tours are free, trivia night costs $30 per person and the celebration banquet costs $30 per person.

For more information on the run/walk Sunday, email mupt50years@health.missouri.edu.

MU’s physical therapy program began in 1963, and the first class of 10 graduated in 1965. Up to 44 students are admitted into the Doctor of Physical Therapy program each year.

MU’s physical therapy department curriculum is accredited through 2022 by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education, the department says on its website.