Fraternal organizations on the University of Missouri campus are pushing back against a consultant’s recommendation that they open member rooms for inspection during parties, an idea intended to curb both binge drinking and sexual assault.

MU has five task forces at work studying the Dyad Strategies report received in October, Dean of Students Jeff Zeilenga said in an interview Friday. One of the groups is working to develop rules governing social events, including how they are policed and how alcohol is controlled.

The task forces, subgroups of a fraternity and sorority advisory board made up of faculty, students, staff and parents, will make recommendations about which policies to adopt by the end of the semester, Zeilenga said. Implementation of any changes, such as barring freshmen living in chapter houses, expanded inspections or moving recruitment from the summer to after the start of school, will take longer, he said.

The Interfraternity Council, the governing organization for the largest group of fraternities and the ones most likely to have off-campus chapter houses, supports having third-party vendors provide alcohol but opposes any rule that mandates opening rooms for inspections, Matthew Oxendale, vice president of public relations, wrote in an email late Saturday.

“The IFC views individual rooms search as an invasion of privacy and we feel strongly that the social event audits will be just as effective without them,” he wrote.

Fraternities that have the most discipline problems tend to be Interfraternity Council organizations. Since the Dyad report was delivered, two of the council’s member fraternities have been shut down by their national governing organizations and two have been put on disciplinary probation for hazing.

The council imposed a two-week suspension on new member activities that ended Monday. Despite the recommendation that recruiting be delayed until after the start of classes, new member recruitment will take place July 6 to July 8 but moving it back in future years is under study, Oxendale wrote.

The Dyad report was critical of the oversight of Greek organizations by the MU administration and critical of practices at chapter houses that include hazing, binge drinking and allowing freshmen to live in chapter houses.
The report made a distinction between registered social events that follow MU risk-management policies and unregistered events that do not. A registered social event must be at a location with a liquor license and adequate insurance, making the vendor responsible for preventing underage drinking and safe behavior.

The report recommends requiring all social events to be registered, banning beverages with an alcohol content greater than 15 percent from chapter houses and strict adherence to alcohol purchase policies that ban pooling of member funds or use of fraternity treasury funds.

The council supports tighter controls on social events, Oxendale wrote.

“IFC strongly supports the use of third-party vendors because they help limit the amount of alcohol being consumed, prevent underage drinking and help ensure that the IFC social policies are being followed,” he wrote.

Moving freshmen out of chapter houses creates an economic problem for organizations that have large debt for recent construction, Zeilenga said.

Asked about the issue of freshmen in chapter houses, Oxendale said the council is still considering it. Few, if any, sororities with chapter houses have freshmen residents.

“There are a few houses that have a significant amount of freshman living in the fraternity house and we have to make sure their opinions are heard before we ban freshmen in house all together,” he wrote.

University of Missouri frats still studying recommendations

By The Associated Press
COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Fraternity chapters at the University of Missouri are still studying a consultant's October report warning the school to change the culture of Greek life on campus, chapter officials said.

University Dean of Students Jeff Zeilenga told the Columbia Daily Tribune on Friday that the school is still looking at the recommendations from Dyad Strategies.

The Office of Greek Life had only two employees, little positive engagement with organizations and "bounces from one fire to the next, spending the bulk of its time advising council officers and responding to allegations of misconduct," Dyad's report stated.

The consultant recommended the university change Greek life recruitment, ban freshmen from living in chapter houses and require residents' rooms to be open for inspection during parties.

But Zeilenga said one of the objections to banning freshmen is that many fraternities are in debt for large new houses and need the revenue.

"Over the last 15 years or so, they have built some really, really big frat houses that accommodate a lot of students, so the economic model is to keep those houses as full as possible," he said.

Zeilenga said the full response to the report is being studied by five working groups established by a fraternity and sorority advisory board made up of faculty, students, staff and parents.

Two fraternities have been shuttered by their national governing organizations since the university received Dyad's report. Two more fraternities have been put on disciplinary probation for hazing.

One of the shuttered fraternities, Sigma Phi Epsilon, is being sued over allegations of assault by two members also facing felony charges for breaking a student's jaw and knocking out another's tooth.

Members at the other shuttered frat, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, have until Thursday to move out of their chapter house. The statement issued by the national organization cited "multiple health-and-safety violations and an inability to adhere to the national organization's standards and guidelines" but didn't give specifics.

Similar stories ran nationwide
Communications professor wins MU Kemper award

By Claire Colby Columbia Daily Tribune

Generated from News Bureau press release: Missouri School of Journalism professor awarded first 2018 Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence

Pouring rain didn’t deter University of Missouri Chancellor Alexander Cartwright and a group of staff from trekking across campus to surprise Professor Shelly Rodgers with 2018's first William T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence award.

The administrators gathered in MU’s Jesse Hall before walking into the journalism school. Gathered under the guise of a mandatory staff meeting, MU’s strategic communications faculty were surprised to see Cartwright come in to deliver the award.

“I felt honored to be nominated, and I never believed I would win,” said Shelly Rodgers, who has been an MU faculty member since 2003.

Rodgers teaches strategic communication and serves on the editorial boards for several scholarly journals. She also led an effort to train nearly 100 science, technology, engineering and math graduate students to more effectively communicate their work to general audiences, the university said in a news release. Rodgers earned her bachelor’s degree in business administration from Union College in Lincoln, Neb., her master’s in communication and journalism from the University of California-Davis and her doctorate from MU. She was presented Monday with a $10,000 check Monday as part of this award.

Five Kemper awards will be given out this year. Cartwright said that the next recipient will find out Thursday, and three other professors will be recognized Friday.

“It isn’t everyday that you get to give out a $10,000 check,” Cartwright said. “It’s a lot of fun, recognizing how hard our faculty works and how much they give to students.”

This year marks the 28th anniversary of the William T. Kemper Fellowships for Teaching Excellence, which started in 1991 with a $500,000 gift from MU alumnus William T. Kemper, a 1926 MU graduate and well-known Kansas City civic leader.
Shelly Rodgers awarded Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence

BY CARLIE PROCELL 15 hrs ago (0)

Generated from News Bureau press release: Missouri School of Journalism professor awarded first 2018 Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence

A group of around 20 professors, administrators and media filed into a classroom in the Reynolds Journalism Institute building Monday morning to surprise MU Strategic Communications Professor Shelly Rodgers with this year’s first William T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence.

MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright, School of Journalism Dean David Kurpius and Commerce Bank Chairman and CEO Teresa Maledy presented Rodgers with the award and a $10,000 check during an event arranged by her colleagues that was jokingly called a “mandatory faculty meeting.”

“This tradition of Kemper Awards in the J-school speaks to the quality of our students and teachers,” Kurpius said.

Rodgers, a faculty member at MU since 2003, said that setting a high standard for her students is what makes her an effective teacher. “Then I try to give them tools and knowledge to reach that standard,” Rodgers said. “It doesn’t matter who I teach — graduates or undergraduates — they reach that standard.”
Alicia K. White, an undergraduate studying strategic communication at MU, said Rodgers helped influence her decision to attend graduate school.

“It is rare to find a professor who radiates a genuine interest in the success of their students such as she does,” White said in Rodgers’ university-prepared biography. “I cannot stress enough the level of encouragement that Dr. Rodgers provided to me. Her ingenuity for divulging students into the world of research is unparalleled.”

Jeanette Porter, a colleague of Rodgers and assistant professor of strategic communication, started teaching a graduate seminar this January that Rodgers had previously taught.

“(Rodgers) knows her stuff backwards and forwards, inside and out. But that’s not enough,” Porter said. “You need to be able to communicate that to students professionally, effectively and compassionately. She’s a role model for me.”

Rodgers said she hopes to use her award as a platform for mentoring other teachers.

In addition to teaching, Rodgers serves on the advisory board for the Dalton Cardiovascular Center for Research and the Health Communications Research Center. She also serves on the editorial boards for multiple advertising journals, according to her biography.

Rodgers contributes research to the field of advertising, especially in the areas of science and health. She has co-authored more than 150 manuscripts that have been accepted to conferences and peer-reviewed journals.

The Kemper Fellowship was established in 1991 in honor of William T. Kemper, a 1926 MU graduate. The fellowship is “dedicated to continuing Kemper’s lifelong interest in improving the human condition and quality of life through education, health and human services, civic improvements and the arts,” according to the fellowship’s website.

Five Kemper Fellowships are given to MU professors each year. The second will be awarded Thursday and the remaining three will be awarded Friday.
First 2018 Kemper Fellowship Award Announced

By HALEY BROUGHTON • 14 HOURS AGO

Generated from News Bureau press release: Missouri School of Journalism professor awarded first 2018 Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence

Shelly Rodgers, a strategic communications professor in the Missouri School of Journalism, is the first 2018 William T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence recipient. She was surprised with the award and a $10,000 check while in a meeting with her colleagues.

“I am so deeply indebted and just humbled by this entire process and this award.” Rodgers said.

Rodgers said she wants to use the Kemper award as a platform to continue to keep the university’s diversity and inclusion efforts going through her classrooms and in future teaching material.

The university said the Kemper Fellowship has celebrated outstanding faculty for 28 years. Liz McCune is the Associate director of the MU News Bureau.

“This truly is one of the most exciting times of year at Mizzou.” McCune said. “We’re delighted to honor the many contributions of our Kemper fellows.”
The fellowship is in memory of 1926 MU graduate William T. Kemper. The fellowship fund was established in 1991, after the Kemper foundation donated $500,000 to honor outstanding teachers at the University of Missouri, according to the Kemper Fellowship Awards website.

UM President to speak at event at country club Thursday

By: Ed Button

Generated from News Bureau direct pitch

WEST PLAINS, Mo. — University of Missouri System President Dr. Mun Choi and West Plains native Zora Mulligan will be at a special event Thursday, March 22 at the West Plains Country Club at 6 pm.

The event is being hosted by the Ozarks Black and Gold chapter of the Mizzou Alumni Association.

Dr. Choi was named the 24th president in the history of the University of Missouri System on November 2, 2016, and replaced interim president Michael Middleton on March 1, 2017. Prior to his job at MU, Dr. Choi was provost and executive vice president of the University of Connecticut.

Mulligan was appointed Commissioner of Higher Education in August 2016. Mulligan holds bachelor’s degrees in political science and psychology from Drury College, and a master’s degree in education and juris doctor from the University of Kansas.

Officials from the college say currently 45 students and 367 alumni are from Howell County. Mizzou also employs 11 individuals in Howell County, with an economic impact of $400,998 in salary and retirement income; health care services; and more than 12,100 contacts from MU Extension connected to business development, healthy eating and productive farming.
For-Profit Colleges' Teachable Moment: 'Terrible Outcomes Are Very Profitable'

Guest post written by: Caroline Simon

Today, American college graduates collectively owe a staggering $1.3 trillion in student debt — the second highest debt category in the country, following mortgage debt and outpacing automobile loans and credit card debt. Over a tenth of graduates ultimately default on their loans.

And, according to a recent report from Brookings Institution, for-profit colleges — a controversial sector of the higher education market now facing intense scrutiny — are playing a major role in the crisis.

For-profit colleges frequently serve non-traditional, disadvantaged students by offering flexible programs and degrees. But these students’ dependence on federal loans, combined with the relatively poor outcomes they see, have raised questions about how much financial support the schools should receive from the government.

The Brookings report examined two cohorts of students: one that entered college in 1996, and one that entered in 2004. The study found that for-profit borrowers default at twice the rate of public two-year borrowers, but since for-profit students are more likely to borrow, they default at four times the rate of public two-year students as a whole.

The default rate is rising: in the 1996 cohort, 23 out of every 100 for-profit students defaulted within 12 years of starting college. For the 2004 cohort, that number jumped to 43 students out of every 100.

Critics of for-profit education point to “perverse incentives” that motivate these schools: because many for-profit students can depend on federal subsidization of their education, they choose programs that are more expensive than public alternatives, like local community colleges.

And, too often, the higher prices for-profits charge aren’t correlated with better educational outcomes — many students don’t earn as much as they’d anticipated, or don’t complete degrees at all, making it more difficult to pay back loans.

“Imagine you go to the store and you need tax software to do your taxes, and there’s one product that’s two times as much as the other one, but they’re both just as good,” says Cory Koedel, a University of Missouri professor who has researched for-profit colleges. “So why is the other one there? What is it doing?”
The root of the problem, according to Barmak Nassirian, the director of federal relations and policy analysis at American Association of of State Colleges and Universities, is that the for-profit sector continues to benefit from public financing despite its relatively poor results, prompting a severe lack of accountability.

“Why does the for-profit sector generate these terrible outcomes? That is very simple,” Nassirian says. “Because terrible outcomes are very profitable, and there are no adverse consequences visited upon corporations that generate absolutely abysmal consequences, for both students and the taxpayers — and yet continue to be in good standing to victimize new cohorts of people, basically with impunity.”

At for-profit schools, those new cohorts of people are more likely to be first-generation, low-income students, who might struggle to pay back loans regardless of the type of institution they attend.

But research suggests that for-profit students still see worse outcomes than their peers at public or nonprofit private schools, even when their backgrounds are corrected for. One study found that certificate-seeking students at for-profit schools are less likely to be employed after graduation than their counterparts at other kinds of schools, and that their earnings are, on average, lower — results that held true for seven of the ten top fields of study.

The poor outcomes associated with for-profit colleges are compounded by what some see as disingenuous recruiting tactics: aggressive marketing and advertising that can suck in vulnerable students who lack information about the higher education landscape. In a particularly glaring example of false advertising, Corinthian Colleges, a large for-profit chain, was fined $30 million and forced to close after it misrepresented job placement information as well as grades and attendance records.

“The question is, are students from low income communities who don’t have a tradition of college-going in their family — are they accessing those resources?” wonders Stephanie Cellini, a George Washington University professor whose research focuses on for-profit education. “Are they able to assess the quality of these schools, especially if there’s strong advertising and heavy recruitment and sometimes false promises?”

**The value of for-profits**

Backlash against the for-profit sector is by no means universal. Defenders of the industry point to its role as an innovator in higher education, and warn that kneecapping it could prevent students from completing any degree at all. For-profit schools were pioneers in online education, making it possible for nontraditional students to balance classes and full-time work. They’ve also historically been more in tune with changes in the labor market.

“One way that they innovate is changing their degree fields more rapidly,” says Christina Stoddard, a professor at Montana State University who has researched the industry. “For profits, at least in the data that we use, seem to be able to respond much more quickly in terms of program offerings when economic conditions in their area change.”
For-profit schools also play a major role in providing technical training, with offerings in two-year associate’s degrees and certificate programs that aren’t always available at more traditional schools. Robert Cherry, an economics professor at Brooklyn College, drew a distinction between for-profit occupational training — which yields much-needed skilled workers — and “soft” programs in business or education, which can lead to poor outcomes.

“If we want to increase access to middle class technical jobs, either the public sector has to change — which it’s not — or you have to be clearer about the good and the bad in the for profit sector,” Cherry says. This is the only way you’re going to get large numbers of well-trained technical workers.”

**For-profits under Trump**

Like other aspects of higher education, the for-profit sector has become increasingly politicized in the Trump era, as Education Secretary Betsy DeVos has announced rollbacks of Obama-era regulations designed to curb the industry’s excesses.

In the first months of the Trump administration, Devos gutted two Obama-era regulations: one that cut off funding to programs that performed poorly, and one that made it easier for students defrauded by a for-profit school to wipe out their loans. Devos also appointed Julian Schmoke Jr., a former for-profit college administrator, to police fraud in the higher education industry.

For the sector’s critics, these changes have sparked fear that the for-profit industry could expand its reach, perpetuating student loan default problems and subjecting more students to poor educational outcomes. And while few want to shutter the industry completely, many experts agree that stricter regulation is needed. “We need to be really cautious,” Cellini says. “I think the profit motive can sometimes get in the way of the best interests of students, so I do think regulation and oversight is needed.”

Cellini and Koedel have advocated the enforcement and expansion of what’s currently known as the gainful employment rule, which requires graduates of for-profit programs to meet a certain debt-to-earning ratio to qualify for student aid. They also suggest amending the 90-10 rule, which allows up to 90% of for-profit revenues to flow through federal financial aid funds.

But others, like Neal McCluskey, director of the Cato Institute’s Center for Educational Freedom, believe that the real problem is related to the wider trend of government-subsidized higher education — a phenomenon he says neither political party wants to acknowledge. While for-profit colleges are typically targeted by Democrats, Republican politicians often criticize wealthy, elite universities with large endowments and liberal political biases.

“Neither party actually has an incentive to address what research is pretty clear is actually the root problem: which is that the federal government gives almost any amount of money to almost anybody who wants to go to college, regardless of their demonstrated ability to actually do and succeed, and then get a job through that work that enables them to pay off their debt,” McCluskey says.
Regardless of policy, the for-profit sector has suffered reputational damages with the high-profile closings of major schools like Corinthian, and the total number for-profit schools is steadily declining. And a widely publicized case involving Trump University, a fraudulent for-profit institution set up by the current president, hasn’t helped matters.

“We now have an administration that is very methodically undoing what little accountability metrics the Obama folks put in place.” Nassirian says. “I frankly doubt that it’s going to help the sector. They’re making a huge strategic error in going hog-wild just because they can.”

Caroline Simon is a senior at the University of Pennsylvania and a writer at The Daily Pennsylvanian. In addition to Forbes, she has also been published in The Philadelphia Inquirer, USA Today and Business Insider. Follow her on Twitter @carolinesimon66

Students in the News: Mizzou

Generated from News Bureau student honors release

Morgan Kopitsky of Fredericktown recently was named to the University of Missouri’s distinguished Mizzou ’39. Given annually by the Mizzou Alumni Association Student Board to 39 seniors across all academic disciplines, the award honors scholastic achievement, leadership, and service to Mizzou and the community.

“Being selected for Mizzou ’39 means so much to me and has given me the opportunity to reflect on the past four years,” Kopitsky said. “I feel honored to be among a class of seniors who have represented Mizzou so positively through leadership, academic success and service.”
Kopitsky, a 2014 graduate of Fredericktown High School, is pursuing a major in strategic communications in the Missouri School of Journalism, along with a minor in political science. She serves the Mizzou community through her role as a journalism ambassador and is interning for the MU Office Admissions. Her parents are Alan and Jane Kopitsky.

Columbia robotics team headed to championship for the first time in 8 years

BY NAOMI KLINGE

After six weeks of building, 28 community outreach events and two regional competitions, the Army Ants will head to Houston for an international competition.

The local robotics team, made up of 33 Columbia high school students, designed and built a robot to compete in regional competitions in St. Louis and Huntsville, Alabama. This is the first time the team has made it to the FIRST Championship in eight years.

The regional robotics competitions begin with qualifying matches, where teams have a chance to evaluate the competition. After this, teams join together to form “alliances” of three that compete in a double-elimination bracket. Not all teams get chosen for alliances, and those not chosen do not advance.

The team was part of the winning alliance in Huntsville last weekend, qualifying them for the championship.

The team’s alliance did not place as high in the St. Louis competition, which took place on March 9 and 10, but the team did win the Engineering Inspiration Award, which also qualified them for the championship. The award recognizes the team for their community involvement and pays for the team’s entrance fee for the Houston championship.
Though they had qualified in the St. Louis competition, they already had registered for the Huntsville one, said Kevin Gillis, an engineering professor at MU and chief mentor and coach to the students.

Matches at the regional events involve games in which robots move blocks from place to place, with several ways to earn points. Two students control each team’s robot while one student coaches them. Other students work at a pit stop to fix and touch-up the robots, and some are in the stands taking notes on the strengths and weaknesses of the other teams’ robots.

Rock Bridge High School junior Louise Schul is a student leader for the Army Ants and focuses on programming and outreach. She said she helped lead some of their outreach efforts, including camps for children to learn about programming and robotics.

Schul helped with scouting other teams to identify the best teams for an alliance. She said they wanted to team with robots that were best at reaching up and putting the blocks on a scale, which is one aspect of the game.

The Army Ants earned third place after the qualifying matches in Huntsville. They were the first pick of the team that placed first in the qualifying matches for an alliance.

Schul was hesitant about the offer at first because placing in the top eight gave them the option to form their own alliance.

“I was a little bit nervous,” she said. “They wouldn’t have been my first choice to work with.”

She added that after the Army Ants analyzed their options further, they decided this alliance was the best chance they had. Their alliance ended up winning the competition.

Gillis, the team’s mentor, helped with technical input and fundraising, but emphasized that it was a student-led team.
He said the team would meet for at least 20 hours a week at MU during their designated six weeks of building time. They met after school, and their parents would even bring them dinner so they didn’t have to stop working. Gillis said he still recognized they were students.

“We do emphasize that they have to keep up with their school work,” Gillis said.

The FIRST Championship in Houston will take place April 18-21.

the maneater

MU study finds social media use does not decrease face-to-face social interactions

Story generated by MU News Bureau release: Social media does not decrease face-to-face interactions, MU study finds

By Tashfia Parvez

An MU study found that regular engagement with social media does not decrease face-to-face interactions with other individuals. This study was led by assistant professor Michael Kearney of the School of Journalism, associate professor Jeffrey Hall at the University of Kansas and doctoral candidate Chong Xing at the University of Kansas.

Kearney and his team looked at two datasets that tracked the social media use of individuals. The first one was a national dataset collected over a span of two years and the second one was a dataset of a smaller group of people collected over five consecutive days.

“In both cases, we looked at ‘does someone’s social media behavior at one point in time predict with what they are doing later, and does it affect their social well-being or how happy they are with their social lives?’” Kearney said.

Kearney and his team found the assumed model that suggests social media decreases face-to-face social interaction, and ultimately social well-being, to be inaccurate.

He said the relationship between one’s social media and their social life is not as simple as whether someone uses social media or not. It’s about how someone uses social media and what they do to maintain friendships outside of it.

Kearney also said that if two people only interact via social media, one of them could spend hours trying to keep up with their friend’s life without getting acknowledged for their
investment. Ultimately, this does not really cultivate the relationship between them or maintain any real friendship, he said.

“Social media offers one-way communication between two people,” Kearney said. “As we get more personalized with new media technology, we could artificially satisfy ourselves socially. That might be harmful to our long-term health.”

Sophomore Arin Jemerson personally did not relate to the findings of the study and said social media has negatively impacted her social life and social well-being.

“[Social media] does shape my social life because I see how other people live their lives, and it can affect my thinking of how I should live my life,” Jemerson said. “My social welfare has definitely decreased due to social media, most likely because it shapes my conversations in ways that address the things I see on the internet.”

An individual’s social interactions depend on their personalities and how they tend to use social media, not on whether they use social media or not, Kearney said. An introverted person will try to find excuses to not to go to a big party, and whether they have a Twitter or Instagram account is not going to be the deal breaker that prevents them from going.

“Moving forward, the task for researchers is to kind of find what are the conditions that make certain people more vulnerable to behavior that promotes loneliness or what makes people more likely to engage in behaviors that make them more socially healthy,” Kearney said.

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**Green Dot Week encourages a safer campus**

By Lauren Wilcox

**The MU Green Dot program is celebrating Green Dot Week with events to engage and teach the public about sexual and relationship violence prevention. The week will end with the Green Dot Conference on Saturday.**

The MU Green Dot program is organized through the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center, which trains individuals on what choices can help make campus safer. Its main mission is to teach students how they can end violence through bystander intervention.

Bystander intervention, according to Indiana University’s Division of Student Affairs, “involves developing the awareness, skills, and courage needed to intervene in a situation when another individual needs help. Bystander intervention allows individuals to send powerful messages about what is acceptable and expected behavior in our community.”

Green dots represent behaviors that promote safety for everyone and communicate intolerance for sexual and partner violence and stalking through choices, words and attitudes, according to
the RSVP Center’s website. Red dots represent instances of sexual or relationship violence or stalking.

Green Dot Week events offer resources for whoever wants to learn more about the Green Dot program and the training for combating red dots on campus.

Green Dot has utilized social media throughout the week to connect with the community through sharing stories, articles, advertisements and YouTube videos.

On Tuesday, Green Dot volunteers had a table set up to spread awareness in the Student Center in the triangle space.

“We want folks to stop by our table to get a refresher and learn more about bystander intervention,” said Christopher Walters, prevention coordinator at the RSVP Center. “We do these active engagement events to get people to think about how they can change the community for the better, even through the simplest acts.”

The main event of the week is the conference, which will be held Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The location is given once you register to attend the event. You can register online at either the RSVP website or on OrgSync. The event is not just a lecture, Walters said. There will be opportunities to practice real-life skills to use if students ever find themselves in a bystander position.

“At the conference, we will be discussing situations from all different perspectives, not just from me; I haven't gone to college in a long time,” Walters said. “So we’ll hear stories from a variety of bystander lenses so people know what green dots look like. You can help someone just by asking, ‘Are you okay?’”

To learn more about the Green Dot program, the Green Dot Conference or the RSVP Center, visit the spring Green Dot Conference sign-up page or the RSVP Center’s website.