

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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