Rally for peace

Students organize movement to remember victims of terrorist attacks















Photos by Tarun Bali, Celeste Thompson and Manny De Los Santos

Students, faculty and staff join in solidarity Friday at the Plaza of Heroines in light of the terror attacks in Paris, Beruit and Lebanon. Attendees were asked to place gems inside a jar in remembrance of the victims of the attacks. The rally was organized by the French Honors Society at WSU.

NICK BEACH | REPORTER @nickbeach1

or associate professor Brigitte Roussel, the Nov. 13 terrorist attacks in France hit too close to home. "We are very sad, infinitely sad," said Roussel, who was born in France and lived in Paris for a while. Roussel and Pi Delta Phi — the

French Honors Society at Wichita State — organized a peace rally Friday in the Plaza of Heroines, located in the heart of campus.

About 100 people filtered through the plaza, which was adorned in blue, red and white candles, signs and drapes, in solidarity with the victims of international terrorist attacks, including in Paris, Beirut and Lebanon a week before the

"I organized the event, and my students actually asked if we could put together a commemorative event so people could come together... at this time of grieving and sadness for the world," Roussel

About 130 people died in the attacks in Paris — France reported - and another 350 were injured.

"We are here in order to be together," Roussel said, "and to "We are here in order to be together, to grieve, pause and reflect."

BRIGITTE ROUSSEL

Associate professor of French

grieve, pause and reflect, like the people of Paris and all the people all over the world who are being victims of the horrible and unjustified attacks."

Students held signs that read, "#Shockers4peace," "We welcome refugees" and "Liberté, égalité, fraternité," which translates to

"liberty, equality, fraternity." Senior Amanda Babcock, vice president of the French Honor Society, was at the rally Friday, and said she plans to study abroad in France next semester.

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Westboro Baptist Church exits protest early, virtually ignored by WSU

CHANCE SWAIM | REPORTER

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Westboro Baptist Church protesters stood on a street corner Friday, waving signs and shouting at passing cars, but the gusty winds drowned the sound of the group's hateful chants and nearly inaudible music.

The protest of Wichita State's inclusion efforts gathered only a handful of spectators, most of them from off campus. Protestors from the Topeka-based church known for provocative pickets of veterans' funerals and LGBTQ

rights — were scheduled to be on campus from 1:10 to 1:45 p.m.

Almost 20 minutes earlier than scheduled, the six protesters packed up their windblown signs, crammed back into their minivan and drove away.

University President John Bardo

sent an email to faculty, staff and students via Shocker Blast on Thursday, notifying them of the protest and urging them to ignore

"They have a right to speak, but no right to an audience," Bardo said in his statement. "Ignoring

their protest deprives them of the fuel that drives their cause."

The group protested on the southwest corner of 21st and Oliver Streets — an intersection slowed by construction cones and a three-vehicle pile-up — beside a

pile of dirt and a fenced-off construction hole. Despite the slowed traffic – and contrary to the lack of attention they received in the short amount of time they protested -WBC seemed to view the protest

differently. SEE WESTBORO · PAGE 4



Photo by Manny De Los Santos

Members from the Topeka-based Westboro Baptist Church protest the university's inclusion efforts Friday on the corner or 21st and Oliver.