A sign language course gives students the opportunity to learn a non-traditional foreign language

BY SHANNON WALTER
Staff Reporter

A sign language class offers a unique opportunity to students at Truman’s campus. Clinical supervisor Sheila Garlock started teaching sign language at the University seven years ago because of a high demand for the subject in the communication disorders department.

Garlock said the course offers sign language at an introductory level to all students lucky enough to sign language at an introductory level. She believed sign language would be a foreign language option for Truman students over more traditional foreign language options.

“Students watch as clinical supervisor Sheila Garlock starts off the semester by signing for her sign language class.”

Garlock said she practiced speech pathology in the clinical setting for 15 years before she began teaching sign language. She also received her Bachelor’s degree in speech pathology from the University of Illinois to become a certified sign language interpreter.

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Maxson is a first grade teacher at Springfield, Mo. She uses sign language to aid in her classroom and to help her students show her their feelings or who their child is. It’s so fascinating to be the one that is on the outside,” Maxson said.

Maxson attended William Jewell College in Liberty, Kan. She said she learned American Sign Language when she was a graduate student and attended Wabaunsee Community College in Kansas City, Kan.

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