

Lyceum series presents “Seven Brides for Seven Brothers”



Katey Stoetzel/Index

The Kohlenberg Lyceum Series presented “Seven Brides for Seven Brothers” March 3 in Baldwin Auditorium. The musical follows a backwoodsman who brings home a wife and his six brothers decide they want to get married too. The show is based on a 1954 film of the same name.

Native speaker teaches Catalan

BY COURTNEY KAUFFMAN
Staff Reporter

The Classical and Modern Languages department brought Professor Maria Antònia Martí Escayol to Truman State for the spring semester to teach the Catalan language.

Catalan is a Romance language native to Catalonia, a region in northeastern Spain, and shares many characteristics with Spanish and Italian.

Martí Escayol said she has been teaching for 17 years, starting when she was about 24. This is her first time teaching students with knowledge of several Romance languages, Martí Escayol said. She said it is easy to teach them a new language because they have experience learning other Romance languages. She said she learns much from the students, as they teach her about the different aspects of other languages.

“It’s incredible the welcome I’ve had,” Martí Escayol said. “The students are fantastic and help me with my English.”

Martí Escayol said she wanted to experiment with teaching in another country. She said students at Truman are motivated and smart, and appreciate the small class sizes.

Because of her students’ ability to quickly pick up the language aspect of the course, there is time to teach more about culture, Martí Escayol said. They can discuss subjects such as preparations for holidays and diet, for example.

Martí Escayol said she likes Truman so far. She said in Barcelona students live with their families, whereas here the on-campus living makes it a “real” campus, and there are a lot of activities every day. She

said she enjoys reading the Index to keep up with campus and community news and activities.

Martí Escayol said she would love the opportunity to return to Truman for future semesters to teach, but she is unsure if that will be a possibility because of her commitments in Barcelona.

Spanish and Portuguese professor Thomas Capuano said this is the first time a class for Catalan has been offered at Truman. He said the Classical and Modern Languages department sought to offer the class because many Romance language majors showed interest in learning Catalan.

Capuano said he has known Martí Escayol since 2002.

“I just threw myself in there and got to know more Romance Language majors.”

—Freshman Taylor Libbert

“It was in 2012 that we first floated the idea. We wanted to know whether Truman had a visiting professor program or whether we had the flexibility to arrange it,” Capuano said.

After exploring Truman’s campus and asking students, they found students were interested in the University bringing Martí Escayol to teach Catalan.

The process of recruiting Martí Escayol took almost a year, Capuano said. After he visited Barcelona during May 2014, he said he began asking the University to set up a package for Martí Escayol as incentive to teach at Truman.

Capuano said Lucy Lee, Classical and Modern Language Department Chair, and Jim O’Donnell, Dean of Arts and Letters, handled most of the work, including setting up the class for registration, setting up an office for Martí Escayol and handling her living arrangements.

“We only have nine students, but we are having so much fun [since] the students are very highly motivated,” Capuano said.

Several students sit in on the class occasionally since they didn’t have time in their schedules to register for it, he said.

Capuano said Martí Escayol only will be at Truman for the spring semester since she is a full-time professor in Barcelona.

Although Truman will not offer Catalan after Martí Escayol returns to Barcelona, Capuano said he hopes to bring more Catalan professors in the future, and possibly invite professors for other languages.

Capuano said Martí Escayol has been open with her students and blends right in.

Freshman Taylor Libbert, a student in Martí Escayol’s class, said her interest in the class started during last August. Other Romance language majors had mentioned that anyone interested in taking a course on Catalan should get involved and contact Capuano, she said.

“I just threw myself in there and got to know more Romance language majors,” Libbert said.

As long as a student met the prerequisites needed and expressed interest to Capuano they just registered for it like any other course, Libbert said.

“Having someone who is a native speaker is the best resource that Truman could have given us,” Libbert said. The Catalan language is an example of how different languages can all affect one another, but said Martí Escayol herself is Libbert’s favorite aspect of the class, she said.

Libbert said Truman should offer more classes with visiting professors, not just for Romance languages. She said she thought native-speaking professors are a great resource for students looking to learn a language.

Libbert said without the Catalan language course, her Truman experience would have been different. She said she hopes Truman is able to offer more specialty language courses such as Catalan during the future.

Spring break doesn’t have to break the bank

BY GRACE BUECKENDORF AND KATEY STOETZEL

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If you’ve watched movies or television shows lately, the stereotype seems to be college students going to Panama City Beach or the like for a week of spring break shenanigans. However, as bona fide college students ourselves, we know funds and time can come in short supply when midterm break rolls around. Personally, we usually have just enough money to splurge on gas for the journey home and to our first shift at our longtime minimum wage jobs scanning papers and waiting tables. Driving — or flying — to Florida or the Gulf Shores? Completely out of the question.

For that matter, having friends to hang out with when you are home can be difficult, especially if you’re not from St. Louis or Kansas City like many students at Truman State are, or if your high school friends have spring breaks at different times.

While sitting at home listening to sappy Taylor Swift songs and contemplating how friendless and poor you are seems like an appealing way to spend your week at home, here are some other options of how to spend your time.

1) Hike — Hiking is a great way to kill a couple of hours and is just as much fun alone or with a dog as it is with a group of friends. No matter where you live, there are great trails in Missouri and the rest of the country. Hiking is a great way to decompress and think about life. We love to listen to music as we walk and soak in nature. Regardless of the weather, this is great springtime activity. We’ve had as much fun on rainy, snowy and windy walks as we have on sunny and warm ones.

2) Look for a job — If you are feeling alone and less than wealthy, it can be easy to think this predicament will last forever. Try looking for a job or summer internship over break — or spend some time bettering yourself for the future in other ways. Maybe try beating down the doors of local businesses if you’re looking for a minimum wage position, or start working on perfecting your resume if you’re looking for an internship. This is a week when you

are relieved of your usual day-to-day responsibilities as a student, so it’s a great time to get ahead in the job search.

3) Catch up on TV shows — “Parks and Recreation” just ended. “Better Call Saul” just started. The third season of “House of Cards” was released on Netflix. There’s a lot of good television out there, all just waiting to be watched. You have a week to get caught up. We dare you.

4) Become a regular at a coffee shop — It’s an awesome experience and you can accomplish this in three simple steps. One, choose a local coffee shop to frequent. Two, order the same thing again and again. Be it black coffee, a lemon scone, coffee that is basically just chocolate and caramel — order it all the time. Three, show up pretty much every day. For the bonus benefit of having your new regular coffee order ready for you, show up at the same time every day.

5) Learn to do something new — You might not be at school for a week, but that doesn’t mean you can’t learn something. Finally learn how to French braid or knit. Learn how to cook, how to write a screenplay, how to play a new sport or how to parallel park. Choose something you never have the time to do during the school year. There’s a lot you can accomplish in a week.

6) Create a mini Lego city only to crush it Hulk-style — Then watch the Hulk movie to continue feeling powerful — the Edward Norton version, not the Eric Bana one. School is stressful, and sometimes stress leads to wanting to destroy something. Destroying a Lego city will allow you to get out those frustrations without harming anyone. Plus, it’s fun to destroy a Lego city.

7) Spend time with your family — All of the above is fun, but it’s more fun doing those activities with company. Take your family on a hike with you. Ask for their help with your job search. Watching TV shows with other people leads to quality discussions about said TV shows. Invite them to drink coffee with you. Have them accompany you on your learning-something-new adventure. If they say Legos are dumb, they’re lying. Your spring break might not line up with your family’s time off, but it’s still important to stick around and put in face time with your family.

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