

Rodet discusses public choice economics

BY NICK TELEP
Staff Writer

Cortney Rodet from Ohio University made a presentation to a full house of Truman State University students in Violette Hall about public choice economics Friday, Nov. 4.

Rodet, economics professor at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, travelled to Kirksville to sit in on classes, talk with students and give lectures Thursday and Friday. Truman economics professor David Gillette and economics student Elias Garcia were key people in bringing Rodet to Kirksville. In the presentation, Rodet spoke about a branch of behavioral economics involving governments and poli-

tics. He spoke about the election and possible issues with democracy and the electoral system. He spent time focusing on strategic and single-issue voting and presented experimental research on people's behavior when they vote. He also covered incentives voters, politicians and the government respond to.

Freshman Hunter Lambert, who had never been to an economics department lecture before, heard about the event from Gillette and attended to get extra credit in Gillette's microeconomics and macroeconomics classes. Lambert said even though he had never heard of public choice, he found the combination of economics, political science and psychology

interesting. Lambert praised Rodet's ability to present a complex topic that was new to much of the audience in a simplified, in-depth manner that was interesting and concise. He said he would definitely attend another lecture hosted by the economics department, and he said presentations on public choice seem especially relevant and enlightening during election years. Lambert had filed his absentee ballot before he attended the lecture, but he said if he had seen the lecture before he voted, it might have influenced his vote.

"If it had swayed my vote at all, it would have been to not vote at all, because it's a killer waste of time," Lambert said.

While Rodet came nowhere near endorsing a candidate, he did echo Lambert's sentiment at some times. Rodet's statistics showed that, during the past several decades, an election had only been swayed by a single vote a handful of times. He presented research and theory about strategic voting showing that, in our current political system, who becomes an elected representative is largely determined randomly. Rodet also explained the experimental nature of public choice and the intersections it has with political science. Even though he couldn't cover everything, Rodet delivered the one-hour version of a very complex and emerging field of economics.

Observatory scopes out new telescope installation

EMILY MERKLE
Staff Writer

The Truman State University observatory finished installing a new telescope Oct. 26.

Tim Baker, Physical Plant Assistant Director, said it took three weeks to remove the old telescope from the observatory dome and put together the new one. Baker said they used a forklift to get the new telescope into the dome, and it took six people to ease it off the forklift. Baker said the old telescope will be put in a small dome outside the main observatory. He said Physical Plant workers, professors and students all helped put the new scope together.

Baker said the new telescope cost more than \$30,000. He said a new telescope was purchased because technology has advanced and the old one did not rotate all the way around the dome or give as smooth of an image when

tracking. Baker said for the technology in the scope, it was a cost-effective purchase.

Baker said the new telescope has a 17-inch aperture scope, which helps give a clearer image than the old 14-inch aperture. Baker said the new telescope also has more advanced technology built into it. He said the lenses and mirrors are higher quality, which also helps provide a better image. Baker said the new telescope has the ability to point any direction in the sky whereas the old one had limited mobility. He said the new scope runs on one motor when tracking a star as opposed to two motors, which provides a smoother, better-focused image. Baker said the main frame of the scope is carbon fiber, which has good thermal control. Baker said having a frame with thermal control is important because extreme temperatures can have a negative effect on the image quality.

"Truman is very fortunate to have an instrument of this quality," Baker said. "There are probably extremely few schools our size who have an instrument of this quality, plus have this good of a site to operate it."

Truman shows gratitude for student scholarships



Photo by Rachel Fechter/TMN



Photo by Rachel Fechter/TMN

Top: Junior Stephen Plassmeyer sits at a table in the SUB on Truman Tag Day Nov. 15. Students were welcomed to sign a banner to thank those who donated money for internships and study abroad scholarships.

Left: Tags for Truman Tag Day were taped or hung in various places across campus. The first 50 students who took pictures of the Truman Tags with the hashtag #TrumanTagDay got a free T-shirt.

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