Seminary and Cars May Pull Spanish Professors From EMU

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Layout Editor

From attending Harvard Seminary to tinkering with old cars, new roles are being considered by two of the three Spanish professors, Patricia King and Ray Horst.

“It’s not certain,” said Patricia King, “but it is certainly a possibility.”

“I have to hang it up while I’m still able to function,” said Ray Horst.

King, whose title is assistant professor of English, has been teaching both English classes and Spanish classes.

“Last semester I taught four classes: two in English and two in Spanish. I think it might have been a bit much.”

Accordingly, she asked the university about decreasing her teaching load. This semester she has three classes: one in English and two in Spanish. “It has helped decrease my stress level,” said King.

King earned her BA from EMU, MA from James Madison University and Ph.D. from Emory University. She has been teaching at EMU since January of 2000 and received her doctorate later that year after completing her dissertation on American women who witnessed the Spanish Civil War.

Earlier plans had revolved around King attending seminary at one of five schools: Harvard, Yale, Pacific School of Religion, Princeton or Union. “Seminary is still a possibility,” said King, “but I’m not sure.” Keeping seminary in mind, King has considered three other options.

First, a three-year service term with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC); second, applying for the directorship of CASAS in Guatemala; and third, staying in Harrisonburg for another year. King laughs when discussing her many choices.

“You can’t really make a plan and know it will work out, so why not have four?”

Ray Horst, assistant professor of Spanish, is also considering the possibility of not returning.

“Plans suddenly shifted into high gear.” When, however, the plans concerning his replacement fell through, he resolved to stay for another year. Presently, he plans to retire unless EMU is unable to find a candidate to take his teaching position.

“I would like to retire,” said Horst. “There are certain hobbies that I would like to attend to.”

Those hobbies include tinkering with anything mechanical, be it car or tractor, and volunteering in Harrisonburg. “There is a great need for people who can speak English and Spanish,” said Horst.

Another possibility includes exploring his fascination with history. He has always been intrigued with the sixth and seventh centuries and the possibilities of transcontinental migration. Within the topic of migration, he has wondered about the sort of process that selects the ‘best’ people to migrate to a new area.

He said, “I am just fascinated and want to learn more about those ideas because they just haven’t disappeared in my mind.”

Finally, he wants to audit a Physics course.

The Language and Literature Department is currently searching for a new associate professor of Spanish. They will join Don Clymer, current assistant professor of Spanish, to complete the Spanish department.

Photo gallery:

marching for peace

Last Saturday, Jan. 18, EMU students joined hundreds of thousands of protesters on the Mall in Washington, D. C. to demonstrate against the possible war with Iraq.

Weather Vane photographer Joelle Hackney was there to capture the action.