Trojans explore ‘Spanish Immersion Day’

By JESSICA PRICE
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MUAHS Spanish III students didn’t have to travel very far to get a better feel of Hispanic culture and customs; they just ventured to Spanish Immersion Day at Juniata College.

Students from both MUAHS and JVHS started off the day with an ice breaker that tested their knowledge of vocabulary, mainly involving el cuerpo, the body.

Participants then sang along to the songs of Henry Thurston-Oswald, who also educated the students about the Scott Grugan Memorial Guatemala Scholarship Program and what they could do to help.

The scholarship program aids Colegio Miguel Angel Asturias, a non-profit school in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. The Stone Church of the Brethren in Huntingdon has contributed to the program.

The Spanish classes at MUAHS have done their best to support the program as well by collecting money to donate to the school. Thurston-Oswald taught these students the school’s anthem of “Paz y Libertad,” meaning “Peace and Liberty.”

Spanish III student Jessica Ritchey commented, “I enjoyed meeting other students and singing songs in Spanish at Spanish Immersion Day.”

The students gained knowledge on Seville, Spain and Ecuador from two college presenters.

Participants cooked their own Spanish lunches. They used traditional Hispanic recipes written completely in Spanish that they had to follow with the help of college students Fernando Martinez, Brittany Moyer, Elise Ebert, Melissa Konowal, Karina Gonzalez, Jessica Zuzik and Leslie Stier. Some of the recipes included chicken taquitos, flan and salads.

“I thought that it was very fun and challenging to make the food by following the Spanish recipes,” noted Liberty Clark.

The students were unable to end the day with a campus tour due to the rain. However, they were still addressed about the campus in general.

Spanish III students who participated in the recent Spanish Immersion experience at Juniata College are, front row, Jessica Price with instructor Heather Thompson; back row, Caressa Duvall, Lisa Morgan, Derek King, Courtney Long and Liberty Clark.

Juniata College offers Spanish in Motion, Science in Motion and History Day to the public as well as courses for high school students, plays, art and history museums and a library.

“This was a great opportunity for my third-year Spanish students because they were able to practice their Spanish while getting to know students from Juniata Valley and Juniata College,” expressed Spanish teacher Heather Thompson.