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### De Montpellier, France a Morris, Minnesota

University Relations

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**De Montpellier, France a Morris, Minnesota**

*Summary: International student Guillaume Chauvin, Montpellier, France, believes studying abroad is a valuable experience, and he's pleased with his decision to study at UMM.*

(March 2, 2007)-Guillaume Chauvin, Montpellier, France, will remember 2006 as a year of “firsts”—first study abroad experience, first United States visit, and first visit to an English-speaking country.

Cindy Fel, a Montpellier friend and 2005-06 exchange student, recommended UMM to Chauvin. “She told me that people are so nice here, and it’s true! Everyone’s open-minded which is nice, especially going to a different country where you don’t speak the language. It’s challenging to learn English and be able to communicate with people easily. By the end of the school year, I hope to be fluent.”

Chauvin, a third-year business and communication student in France, says his school is very different than UMM. “In Montpellier, there are three universities that each specialize in a specific field: literature, business and sciences, and medicine and pharmacy. In my school, there are different campuses.” Chauvin attends the Institut Universitaire et Technologique, part of the Université de Montpellier.

“The classroom system is very different, too” he notes. “At UMM, students engage in discussion and share their opinions. At my school in France, the professors just lecture. The students aren’t very involved. Here, you can call professors by their first name.” He finds the personal relationships appealing.

Chauvin enjoys spending time with Clayton A. Gay Hall floormates and appreciates UMM’s facilities, helpful offices, and many resources, including accessible computers. “I really like the telescope in the observatory,” he notes. “It’s amazing!”

A typical college student, he also enjoys “parties and sleeping,” and he likes Minnesota breakfasts. “In France, we don’t cook for breakfast,” he shares. “but I really enjoy it. I like how I can just take time to sit and relax.”

Chauvin would recommend UMM “to everybody,” he says. “It’s a very nice school that has a pleasing study environment. UMM is also very personal. You can chat with anyone.” He believes that studying abroad is a valuable experience, noting that learning a new language and living in a different culture are important achievements.

For making him and other international students feel welcome, Chauvin thanks Sharon Van Eps, associate administrator, and Tom McRoberts, director, in the Center for International Programs, and others who “take care” of UMM’s international students.

Photo above: Chauvin and Tammy Berberi, assistant professor of French, at the UMM French Club’s raclette party.

Editor's note: Forty-one international students representing 15 countries will study at UMM during the 2006-07

academic year: China, Moldova, France, Sri Lanka, Venezuela, Taiwan, Malawi, Korea, Ivory Coast, Netherlands, Ghana, Latvia, Aruba, Indonesia, and Peru.

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