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Le Tour de France-UMM style!

Summary: Entre Nous, UMM's French Club, and the French discipline sponsored National French Week activities, including the "grueling" Le Tour de Morris.

(November 15, 2006)-Established by the American Association of Teachers of French, La Semaine du français is a nationally recognized week of celebration honoring the French language and francophone cultures. Entre Nous, UMM's French Club, and the French discipline held numerous festivities and activities during the week of November 6 to mark UMM's eighth annual celebration of National French Week.

On Monday students and faculty tabled in the Student Center amid the sounds of French music including Patricia Kaas, Edith Piaf, Kevin Soucie, and various French rappers, and stickers stating "J'aime UMM" (I love UMM) and "Je suis adorable" (I'm adorable) were distributed.

Aboubakary Moussa Moumouni, a francophone speaker from the country of Benin in Africa addressed the campus on Wednesday. Moumouni, a Humprey fellow, delivered his speech, "Bénin: Splendeurs et Misères" ("Benin: Splendors and Miseries") in French. He spoke of Benin's harsh realities and introduced the audience to the culture and customs of its inhabitants. A question and answer session followed.

Cougar Circle was the scene of the first-ever Tour de Morris on Thursday. Two teams of six members each rode adult-sized tricycles around the campus mall. The "grueling" race lasted less than one-half-hour with participants and onlookers sharing many laughs.

The week's issue of the University Register featured a French quiz on the Fun Page, giving readers a taste of the French influence in the area and in the state. For example, the Pomme de Terre River, which flows through Morris, means "potato river" in French.

Photo: Red team participants in UMM's first-ever Tour de Morris, a "grueling" cycling race around the campus mall.
Back: Brett Lysne '08, Matthew Hutchinson '07, Joe Coyle '07
Front: Emily Christiansen '07, Audrey Respet '08, and Abby Swafford '09

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