JV students experience culture of France

By DONJA LANG
JVHS Reporter

Partez-vous Francais? Do you speak French?

The French II class at Juniata Valley High School was recently given the opportunity to experience the French culture in a way that was truly unique. On Thursday, Nov. 20, Terri Miller, French teacher at Juniata Valley, accompanied her class of six students, Brythan Benfer, Felicia Gross, Adam Oldham, Denny Reel, Jacob Wenger and Donja Lang, to Juniata College where they spent the day learning about the French language and culture.

Upon arrival, their hosts, Sandra Cheriet and Susanne Grautmann, greeted the students. They spent time asking questions about the lives that the students lead in America and shared some experiences they have had in their native countries. This was followed by an informative look into the opportunities that Juniata College has to offer to its prospective students by Terri Bollman, the Director of Admissions. Bollman gave an in-depth look at the goals the college has for those who are enrolled and how the curriculum accommodates both those who wish to travel to the United States to partake in American culture and those who wish to study abroad.

Cheriet and Grautmann then led the French students on a narrated tour of the college campus, spoken entirely in the French dialect. The students were given an opportunity to see many of Juniata College's international buildings, places that enable students attending the college to interact with many of the different cultures that are present on campus.

After the tour, Cheriet and Grautmann gave a presentation to the students, and it was spoken entirely in French. They based their information on the culture that exists in present-day France, and educated the students on the European Union, a recent development that unites many of the European countries. Following the presentation, the students were instructed on how to make crepes, a food much like a very thin pancake, which is native to French cuisine. Once again, Ms. Cheriet and Ms. Grautmann gave directions in French. The class was then given the opportunity to make, and eat, their own crepes. This task proved to be both enjoyable and challenging. The students then partook in a guessing game that concluded their day, and it was, of course, spoken entirely in French.

The students were able to experience French culture in a way that they had never before because of Grautmann and Cheriet. Grautmann is a native of Munsier, Germany, and she is teaching German to students attending Juniata College. She stated that her goals for the event were to share cultures, meet American high school students and allow them to see the college and what it has to offer. Cheriet concluded, "It's very nice to hear Americans speaking French. Sharing and communication is my first goal."