

## UF Counseling Center offers campus suicide prevention, education program

Suicide is the third-leading cause of death in college-age students behind accidents and homicide. Suicidal thoughts and attempts are even more common.

According to the Jed Foundation, approximately 1,100 college students die by suicide each year. Most individuals who feel suicidal give some warning signs of their thoughts or plans. Unfortunately, due to the stigma and complexity of discussing suicide, many warning signs are often disregarded, unrecognized, or not acted upon by family, peers, professors, or others in the campus community. The Jed Foundation reported that fewer than one in five college students receive information about suicide prevention.

To increase awareness of the issue and provide individuals with tools to refer distressed and suicidal individuals for help,

the University of Florida Counseling Center has initiated a three-year suicide prevention and education program to provide training to faculty, staff and students. The program is sponsored by a grant from the Division of Student Affairs Parent Fund, which allows the training to be offered free to student groups, classrooms and departments across campus.

The program involves training "Gatekeepers," who are individuals in a position to interact with others regularly on campus and recognize individuals in distress. In the training, Gatekeepers learn to recognize the warning signs of suicide and how to apply three steps (Question, Persuade and Refer) with individuals who are depressed or contemplating suicide.

The program utilizes the QPR curriculum, nationally recognized by the Joint

Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations, as a "Best Practices" program (see [www.qprinstitute.com](http://www.qprinstitute.com) for more information). The training is a 1½-hour interactive presentation incorporating the basic QPR curriculum, interactive case study, and opportunity for questions and discussion. Informational handouts are provided to program participants and are designed to be useful to participants in both their work and personal lives.

QPR training may be arranged at a time and place convenient for the participating group. To schedule a date or ask questions about the QPR training, call the Counseling Center at (352) 392-1575 and ask to speak with Natalie Indelicato or Wayne Griffin. You also may visit the Counseling Center's Web site at [www.counsel.ufl.edu](http://www.counsel.ufl.edu) for more information.

By Natalie Arce Indelicato

## UF to celebrate Education Week

University of Florida International Center invites all UF faculty, staff and students to take part in International Education Week activities Nov. 13-17. A joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education, International Education Week promotes programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn and exchange experiences in the United States. This year's theme is "International Education: Engaging in Global Partnerships and Opportunities." For a list of tentative UF events, check out the Web at [www.ufic.ufl.edu](http://www.ufic.ufl.edu). Or, if you are interested in organizing or holding an event, contact Aleks Nesic at [aleksn@ufic.ufl.edu](mailto:aleksn@ufic.ufl.edu) or 392-7040.

## UF announces scholarship deadlines

Applications for the Goldwater and Truman scholarships are due in Tigert Hall Room 140 on Nov. 27. The application deadline for the Udall and Beinecke scholarships is Jan. 19.

The Goldwater Scholarship recognizes college sophomores and juniors who have outstanding potential and intend to pursue research and/or academic careers in mathematics, the natural sciences, or engineering (but not in medical practice). For information, visit [www.act.org/goldwater](http://www.act.org/goldwater) on the Web.

The Truman Scholarships are for college juniors with exceptional leadership potential who are committed to careers in public service. For information, go to [www.truman.gov](http://www.truman.gov).

The Beinecke Scholarship is for graduate study in arts, humanities and social sciences (financial need is a requirement). Apply as a junior. For information, visit the Web at [www.beineckescholarship.org](http://www.beineckescholarship.org).

The Morris K. Udall Foundation awards undergraduate scholarships to sophomores and juniors in fields related to the environment and to Native American and Alaska Natives in fields related to health care or tribal policy. Information is available online at [www.udallfoundation.org](http://www.udallfoundation.org).

## Don't forget ...

- To get your flu shot. Visit the Web at [www.shcc.ufl.edu](http://www.shcc.ufl.edu) or call 392-1161 for more information.
- To vote today.
- Advance registration for spring semester is now under way.

Send submissions for publication consideration at least two weeks in advance to [insideuf@ufl.edu](mailto:insideuf@ufl.edu).

## The Blog

### Exercise your power by getting out to vote

On this Election Day, I wanted to remind the University of Florida community how important it is to go out and vote. The governor and state Legislature have control over the funding of our university, which means they could grant us additional resources or not.

If we want to ensure that higher education is a priority in the state of Florida and in particular that UF is a priority of this state, we must get informed and get active in the political process.

In addition, the national government affects each of our lives in an incredible manner. This influence may not always be in ways we see in an everyday, practical manner; yet, we must take a step back from our shortsighted nature and examine the impacts of political forces over time. Whether your issues are the affordability of higher education, the environment, the economy or international policy, inform yourself about the candidates.

Each Election Day, countless U.S. citizens let the day pass without making their voices heard in the forum that many sacrificed their lives to obtain.

Many times it is difficult to decide between candidates. I find myself during this election feeling the difficulty of choosing who will represent my interests. I find myself agreeing with some stances of each candidate, but neither candidate espouses ideals that completely align with my own. However, we must all take time to consider which aspects of this election are most important to us and act accordingly. If we do not, no candidate will ever begin to espouse our ideals.

Your power in this nation is your vote. Exercise your power.



John Boyles

John Boyles  
University of Florida, Trustee  
Student Body President

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### Center brings Hindu traditions to UF classrooms

At the University of Florida, the Center for the Study of Hindu Traditions is working to change the way people view the third-largest religion in the world.

"People aren't really clear about what the word Hindu means," said Vasudha Narayanan, director of the center and distinguished professor of religion. "This is a global and multidisciplinary study of Hindu culture."

Narayanan worked to establish the center in 2005 after speaking with scholars at Oxford University in England. She said the center hopes to serve two audiences: the larger student population in the university community and Hindu-American students who are eager to see their cultural traditions recognized in an educational setting.

"Hindu has a world influence, including here in America," Narayanan said, adding that to broaden the understanding of Hindu culture, the center aims to look beyond India.

Commonly referred to as ChiTra, the Sanskrit word for "beautiful work of art,"



Vasudha Narayanan  
Odissi dancers from the Nrityagram Dance Troupe get in the Gator spirit by miming the "chomp" in a performance at the Phillips Center.



Vasudha Narayanan  
Students in the Introduction to Hindu Culture Honors class try out Bharata Natyam dance positions as dancer Suparna Banerjee looks on.

the center is the first of its kind in the United States and only the second in the world. The center focuses on the study of Hindu traditions from global perspectives and also emphasizes interdisciplinary ways of understanding the culture.

ChiTra funds part of the Sanskrit curriculum, regularly hosts scholars and performing artists from around the globe, and offers guest lectures on Hindu art and culture.

"The scholarly reaction has been very warm and receptive," Narayanan said.

Besides international partnerships, ChiTra collaborates with many centers and units across the UF campus, especially the College of Fine Arts' School of Theatre and Dance and the Harn Museum of Art.

Internationally acclaimed dancers also have held dance

workshops and discussed the relationship of dance to aesthetics and culture.

"To look at dances in an academic light is a very important part of this program," Narayanan said.

Amy Bard, an assistant professor in the department of African and Asian languages and literatures, said her students benefited from attending a recent ChiTra sponsored interpretative dance performance.

"It's not Hinduism narrowly defined," Bard said of the center. "It has broken down the barriers of literature just being text on a page."

Shreena Gandhi, a doctoral candidate in the department of religion who is writing her dissertation on the history of yoga in the United States, said the center creates opportunities for all students. For Gandhi, ChiTra helped her access scholars outside the UF community.

"ChiTra is allowing for the understanding of Hinduism to create global and economic ties in the future," Gandhi said. "It's not just going to a classroom to hear a lecture."

By Panagiota Papakos

## Seen & Heard

### IT security focus of daylong event

The University of Florida IT Security Team will host the eighth Information Technology Security Awareness Day beginning at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 8, in the Reitz Student Union Auditorium. The daylong event will feature security experts from several companies presenting information on current security trends, including Web application security, malware prevention and forensics. For more information, go online to [www.itsa.ufl.edu](http://www.itsa.ufl.edu). No registration is required for this free event.

### Harn Museum hosts popular photographer

At 6 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 9, guests of the Harn Museum of Art will gain a rare look into the mind of the artist Charlie White as he joins the museum for a special Museum Nights lecture and book signing.

White will discuss his photographs and the surreal world they depict, including the work "Getting Linsay Linton" currently in the Harn exhibition "Contemporary Complexities: Photography Gifts from Martin Z. Margulies." The work is part of a series that includes a grotesque-looking puppet named Joshua that White uses to explore ideas of male self-image and sexual vulnerability. This program may explore ideas and images of an adult nature.

Admission to the Harn Museum of Art is free. For more information about fall programs and events, call (352) 392-9826 or visit [www.harn.ufl.edu](http://www.harn.ufl.edu).



Josh Wickham

### Fall collection

University of Florida sophomores Matt Meyer, left, a landscape architecture major, and Jesse Hogan, a history major, collect sweet gum leaves in McCarty Woods on the UF campus earlier this term. The students were gathering specimens for an introductory botany laboratory class, said instructor Erica Van Etten, a master's degree student with UF's School of Natural Resources and Environment, part of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

### Florida Players to stage first play of fall season

The first production in the Florida Players' fall season is the play "Proof," which will be presented in four performances Nov. 9, 10 and 12 at the Phillips Center's Black Box Theatre. Show times are 8 p.m., Nov. 9 and 10, and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.,

### Harn Museum of Art

**Nov. 8**  
7 p.m., Roy C. Craven Memorial Lecture, "Water in Hindu Art and Architecture in Indonesia," by Boreth Ly, University of Utah, Harn Auditorium  
**Nov. 9**  
6 p.m., Charlie White, contemporary artist, lecture

**Theater**  
**Nov. 9, 10, 12**  
Florida Players presents "Proof," Phillips Center Black Box Theatre; show times: 8 p.m., Nov. 9-10; 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Nov. 12

**Phillips Center**  
**Nov. 10**  
6 p.m., UF Step Show

7:30 p.m., Buchholz High School Band Veterans Concert

**Nov. 12**  
7:30 p.m., Gainesville Community Band

**Nov. 13**  
10 a.m., Mr. Al

**O'Connell Center**  
**Nov. 9**  
7:30 p.m., Swamp Jam, benefit for Lyrics for Life Foundation featuring Hootie & The Blowfish and Sister Hazel

**Academic Calendar**  
**Nov. 10**  
Veterans Day (observed), no classes

## Happenings

Listings in this section are a sampling of events at the University of Florida compiled from the full calendar that appears on the Web at [calendar.ufl.edu](http://calendar.ufl.edu). To submit an event online, send an e-mail to [calendar@nersp.osf.ufl.edu](mailto:calendar@nersp.osf.ufl.edu) with the following information in this order: event date; event name, brief description and sponsor; time; location; costs; and contact information to include name, phone number and e-mail.

**Nov. 7**  
9 a.m.-4 p.m., "2006 Faculty IT Showcase & Symposium: Educating the Net Generation," Reitz Student Union

**Nov. 8**  
7:30 a.m., Community Campus Council Breakfast featuring Dedee DeLongpre, director of UF's Office of Sustainability, Reitz Student Union, Arredondo Room

8 a.m., Information Technology Security Awareness Day, Reitz Student Union, Auditorium

4 p.m., Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Graduate Student Association seminar featuring Robert Bonde talk on manatee genetics, Newins-Ziegler Hall, Room 112

**Nov. 9**  
4 p.m., "Selenoproteomes," Food Science and Human Nutrition Department seminar featuring Vadim N. Gladyshev of University of Nebraska, Florida Gym Room 270

4 p.m., "The Best Alternative," Philosophy Department's annual R.M. Hare Lecture featuring Earl Conee of Rochester University, Griffin Floyd Hall Room 303

7:30 p.m., School of Music clarinet ensemble concert, University Auditorium

**Nov. 11**  
1 p.m., School of Music pipe organ demonstration, University Auditorium

**Nov. 12**  
4 p.m., The English Concert with Andrew Manze, University Auditorium