

## UF Voices

### Showcasing UF and Florida's future scientists

Each year since 1963, Florida science teachers and several hundred high school students have traveled to UF's campus for a prestigious event known as the "Junior Science, Engineering and Humanities Symposium" (JSEHS). This unique three-day program is designed to foster and encourage student interest in science and mathematics. This year, JSEHS will take place Jan. 24-26.



Mary Jo Koroly

The program includes visits to laboratories of more than 50 researchers, a speaker competition for the top 25 senior-level high school researchers in Florida, and an opportunity for ninth- and 10th-grade students to give presentations about their research. Students are invited to bring posters to display throughout the symposium.

Another component of JSEHS is UF faculty lectures. This year's speakers include Dr. Lyle Moldawer, vice chair of research, Laboratory of Inflammation Biology and Surgical Science, and Charles Telesco, professor, department of astronomy.

JSEHS is hosted by UF's Center for Precollegiate Education and Training, the U.S. Armed Services and the Academy of Applied Science. For more information, please visit [www.cpet.ufl.edu/JSEHS](http://www.cpet.ufl.edu/JSEHS) or call 352-392-2310.

Mary Jo Koroly  
Director, Center for Precollegiate  
Education and Training

### EPI dedication ceremony to be held on Jan. 26

A dedication ceremony for the new 80,000-square-foot Emerging Pathogens Institute (EPI) building will be held at 2 p.m. on Jan. 26.

The ceremony's keynote speakers will include President Bernie Machen, Vice President for Research Win Phillips, and several state of Florida officials.

Deans from eight University of Florida colleges affiliated with EPI will join together for a ribbon cutting. Included are the College of Medicine, College of Engineering, College of Veterinary Medicine, College of Dentistry, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, College of Public Health and Health Professions and the College of Pharmacy.

The building's dedication will be combined with the annual EPI Research Day 2010, including an open exhibit of approximately 80 research posters. The exhibit will be held from 10 a.m. to noon.

The dedication and exhibit are open to the public.



Agit Patel

UF students Ashley Van Putten, Wendy Alderman and Ami Patel visited the Taj Mahal during a recent trip to educate Indian children about tobacco hazards.

### UF students take anti-tobacco message to India, blog reaches beyond

Instead of spending winter holiday break with family, five University of Florida pre-medicine majors blogged from India about their experiences with Doctors Without Borders.

Wendy Alderman, Jasmine Nebhrajani, Ami Patel, Krupa Patel and Ashley Van Putten traveled to Mota Fofalia, India, to help educate children about the dangers of tobacco use.

Each day 55,000 children in India start using tobacco and about 5 million children under the age of 15 are addicted to tobacco, according to an online article written by Dr. Pankaj Chaturvedi, an associate professor and head and neck cancer surgeon at Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai.

Ami Patel's uncle, Kiran Patel, is one of three founders of the Mota Fofalia compound, including a hospital and the Shree Chhotubhai A. Patel Learning Institute and Academy.

PowerPoint presentations provided 150 academy students, ages 13 to 16, with vivid pictures of the harmful effects of tobacco use. Although many U.S. schools censor such pictures, the Indian school permitted them, said Wendy Alderman.

Alderman considers the effort a success, crediting the "shock value" of the pictures, as well as the interactive games and awarding of candy.

The UF students traveled several times to an Internet café to blog ([gatorgirlsindia.blogspot.com](http://gatorgirlsindia.blogspot.com)) about their experiences. Alderman said that she and the other women decided to create the blog to stay connected with their families, but the blog soon began to reach others.

"The world is becoming increasingly connected," said UF alumnus Vivek Chandrasekhar, a manager at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Chandrasekhar found the blog after reading about it in the "InsideUF" online newsletter (<http://insideuf.ufl.edu>).

Chandrasekhar said he was attracted to the blog because of the time of year the women decided to engage in the cause, and because of the cultural experience for them.

Alderman recommends keeping a blog when traveling.

"You may forget the experiences you have, but if you blog about it, you can reread it and feel what you felt in that moment," Alderman said.

### Fact

Each day 55,000 children in India start using tobacco.

Your campus news source

# THE BEST OF UF

Produced by the University Relations Office for faculty, staff and students  
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By Kristie Andres

## UF Calendar

Jan. 19

UF Career Resource Center presents Career Showcase, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., O'Connell Center.

The Bob Graham Center for Public Service presents a health-care debate, given by former Senators Tom Daschle and Bill Frist, 7 p.m., Pugh Hall Ocora.

Jan. 20

UF Career Resource Center presents Career Showcase, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., O'Connell Center.

Jan. 22

Spring S-U grade-option deadline.

Jan. 29

Spring-degree applications deadline.

### Recurring Events

Jan. 30

The Harn Museum of Art presents weekend tours at 11 a.m. on every Saturday, and docent-led tours at 2 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday. Both events are free and open to the public.

This is a sampling of events from the electronic UF calendar.

For more event details, or to submit an event to the calendar, click "UF Calendar" at [www.insideuf.ufl.edu](http://www.insideuf.ufl.edu).

Did you KNOW?

Florida's ecosystems and diverse agriculture are particularly vulnerable to new pathogens.

UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

The Foundation for The Gator Nation

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