



# Bringing the world to Kerrville

*Schreiner students celebrate Diwali festival of lights*

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Schreiner University freshman Emily Bouchon put research into use Wednesday while practicing her skills with rangoli, an Indian sand art form.

"We're using a polysand here, but in India they use colored, real sand and freeform all the designs," she said. "It's really amazing to just watch what they can do."

Bouchon is a member of the university's Global Scholars program, which hosted a Diwali celebration on campus Wednesday evening. Diwali is an autumnal Hindu festival of lights, and the event included food, crafts, clothing, henna tattoos and Bollywood music and film clips.

Seabrook Jones, coordinator of the program, said Global Scholars is a freshman-only learning living community.



"The focus really is learning about international affairs and world cultures," Jones said. "At the end of their freshman year, I take them to South Korea, which is really fun."

The Global Scholars program is now in its third year, and Jones said along with classroom work and events, the group plans and hosts two cultural events each semester that are open to the public.

Students are in charge of executing each event, Jones said.

"I like the idea that you can be in a small school

**Above: Sonja Lind, left, and freshman biochemistry major Emily Bouchon practice an Indian dance step during a festival Wednesday at Schreiner University. The Diwali celebration is the autumnal Hindu festival of lights. At left: Houston Glover, a sophomore cellular biology major, practices rangoli art Wednesday during a festival of lights event at Schreiner.**

# 6A Local

## Schreiner

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and a small town but actually come out of this program a world citizen," Jones said. "We're really trying to bring the world to Kerrville for these events."

Bouchon said she was drawn to the program to help her expand her horizons. She is studying biochemistry with the longterm goal of becoming a doctor and visiting different countries.

"Here, we learn about different cultures, which is just something that I've always found interesting," she said. "I

like to expand and broaden my knowledge of the world."

Houston Glover, a sophomore cellular biology major, said he had never attended a Diwali festival before. He practiced with the sand art as well, making designs out of blue, green, orange and yellow sand.

"I've never been exposed to this kind of culture," Glover said. "I don't know anything about the dishes or the art or anything, so it's an exposure to a new thing."

Sonja Lind, coordinator of the Changing Global Society initiative at Schreiner University, said her program works with the Global Scholars program to host events.

Lind said Diwali is her favorite holiday, and said she considers herself an Indophile.

"I'm very interested in Indian culture, religion, everything," Lind said. "I spent two months there, and ever since then it's been a big part of my life."

For those who missed the celebration, Lind said there will be a Diwali festival in San Antonio on Nov. 5. The day changes each year as the festival is based on a Hindu lunar calendar.

"Events like these help peak people's interests," Lind said. "This is not cultural immersion by any means, but it's a way to get people interested about different cultures."