



## Young researchers earn trips to national science competitions

DISCOVERY: Kennan Jeannet and Harpreet Sangha didn't meet until recently, but the two young Fairbanks scientists will get to know each other over the next few weeks as traveling companions.

What they have in common besides being 17-year-old high school juniors, is that they have both challenged themselves with complicated biological research projects that many college students would find intimidating.

Jeannet is trying to understand how a type of beetle can endure severe cold, research that may have applications for agriculture, while Sangha is studying the brains of mice to find clues to the neural mechanisms that may be linked to obsessive compulsive disorder.

For the record, Jeannet's project is titled: "Overwintering Physiology of *Cucujus clavipes*; Supercooling Points, Dehydration, Heat Shock Protein Transcript and Silencing Antifreeze Protein Expression using RNA Interference."

Sangha's is titled: "The Role of Serotonin Pathways in Mouse Compulsive-Like Behavior: Implications for the Study of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder."

Jeannet, the daughter of Charlie and Trina Jeannet, is a home school student. Sangha, the daughter of Sukhdev and Gurdev Sangha, is a student at West Valley High School.

Sangha's family owns and operates the Pizza 4Less restaurants on Illinois Street in the Garden Island mall and on Geist Road, across from Hutchison High School.

She moved to Fairbanks from India when she was in the third grade along with her sister, Gurpreet Sangha, who is now 20 and an accounting student at University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Harpreet has learned English so well that she doesn't have an accent and when she is not busy keeping up with the academic demands of four Advanced Placement classes, she can be found behind the counter at Pizza 4Less, where she take orders and prepares pizzas about 20 hours a week.

Jeannet has a busy schedule as well, for she is both a home school high school student, as well as a college student at UAF. She plays the viola, takes voice lessons, volunteers at her church and is a soccer referee.

With months of research and analysis behind them, they competed against each other at the 17th annual Alaska Statewide High School Science Symposium in Fairbanks in March. A week later they also presented their findings at the Alaska Science and Engineering Fair in Anchorage.

In the science symposium, held at UAF, Sangha finished first and Jeannet finished second.

In the science fair, held in Anchorage, Jeannet finished first and Sangha finished second.

As a powerful one-two punch, they each qualified for the corresponding national contests connected with the state events.

This week Jeannet and Sangha continued to refine their presentations for the National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium, scheduled in two weeks in Albuquerque, N.M.

Last year Jeannet won a third-place award at the national competition for an earlier report on beetle survival. This year she continued the research, focusing on beetles found in the bark of cottonwood trees near Wiseman.

She has studied under graduate student Todd Sformo of UAF, while Sangha has worked closely with Dana Greene of UAF and Cyndie Beale at West Valley.

A week after they return from New Mexico, Jeannet and Sangha are booked to go to

Indianapolis for the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, a trip that will give them another chance to get to know each other.

\* \* \*

**EARLY SERVICE:** There are all sorts of sunrise services planned Sunday in Fairbanks, but the Fairbanks Lutheran Church may be the only congregation holding its early morning service outside.

Since the overnight low tonight is expected to be in the single digits, those who attend the outdoor service might want to wear Easter bonnets.

The 7 a.m. service is to last 45 minutes and is to be conducted near the William R. Wood pedestrian bridge and Golden Heart Plaza downtown.

It is open to everyone, said church pastor Paul Teyler. "There will be hot chocolate, music, a procession and the joyous message of Easter," he said.

Church members hope to make this an annual tradition in Fairbanks.

Dermot Cole can be reached at [cole@newsminer.com](mailto:cole@newsminer.com) or 459-7530.

### Sponsored Links

[Cheap Internet](#)

[Priceline Airline Tickets](#)

[Fast Cash Advance](#)

[Orbitz Airline Tickets](#)

[Payday Loans](#)

[Inkjet Cartridge](#)

[Consolidate Debt](#)

[Cash Advance](#)

[Home Equity Loans](#)

[Fairbanks Web design](#)

 **RETURN TO TOP**

**[Home](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Business Directory](#) | [Find A Job](#) | [Find A House](#) | [Contact Us](#)**

©2006 MediaNews Group, Inc. and Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, Inc.