

UNITED COLORS OF HOLI AT RIVIER COLLEGE

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Welcome to the Holi Festival at Rivier! (Courtesy photograph)

Bright colors, traditional Indian costumes and cultural performances were the highlights on March 19th, 2008, a day before the Easter Break. Inside the Reception Room, there was a rainbow of Spring Colors as the Rivier Community gathered to celebrate The Festival of Colors – Holi. The International Students Advising Office sponsored the event, which was co-hosted by Nivedita Ananth and Chandana Karthik.

The presentation of Holi began with a slide show featuring the celebration of colors with a simultaneous explanation of the significance. Essentially, the festival of Holi is a traditional celebration of social harmony between the various classes of society. It means the triumph of good over evil and respect of spiritual values.



Rainbow of Spring Colors (Courtesy photograph)

The festival of Holi signals the change of season, marking the advent of spring. The tender green leaves on the trees, the blossoming flowers in the gardens and the sweet calls of the birds mark the arrival of a new season - spring. It is an occasion to forget all differences and share feelings of mutual love and goodwill. Enriching the natural freshness of Spring is the festival of Holi. It adds a splurge of colors and a spirit of cheer and merriment all around.

“In India, the festival goes on for days and the color play floods into the streets, markets and homes. Festivals, such as this one, help keep the Indian students connected to our roots. It’s a combination of Thanksgiving and Easter,” remarked Chinnapa, a nursing and business major student.



The creation of the Indian Students Association at Rivier College (ISARC) is announced.

The highlight of the evening was the official formation of a student representative body: the Indian Students Association at Rivier College (ISARC). Nivedita Ananth, President of the Association, inducted the major officers: Chandana Karthik as Vice President; Chinnapa Gade as Secretary; Hiren Gudka as Treasurer; and Suganya Muthu as Communications Officer. The primary mission of the Indian Students Association at Rivier College (ISARC) is “sangam” which is a coming together. ISARC would like to spread cultural awareness and positively impact the quality of all students' experiences in the Rivier College community by creating opportunities to appreciate and understand the rich cultural heritage of India.



Traditional Indian dance (Courtesy photograph)

A group song and group fusion dance provided a beautiful cultural performance that evening. The audience joining in and danced to tunes of some famous Bollywood music entertainers. The audience and all ISARC members thoroughly enjoyed themselves with a game of Bingo which included much enthusiasm and participation.

Faculty and Professors from the Business and Computer Science Departments enjoyed the vibrant display of colors. Professor Maria Matarazzo expressed that the dance was so happy and merry making that she was tempted to shake a leg or two. Sister Martha Villeneuve and Professor Vladimir Riabov appreciated the decorations and delicious traditional dinner that was another element of the evening.

Overall, as the ISARC President, I sincerely hope that this newly formed student association will continue organizing various festivals and celebrations of India that will bring its cultural traditions, such as legends, dances, performances and fun to Rivier campus.

Mission Statement of the Indian Students Association at Rivier College

The primary mission of the Indian Students Association at Rivier College (ISARC) is to spread cultural awareness and positively impact the quality of all students' experiences in the Rivier College community by creating opportunities to appreciate and understand the rich cultural heritage of India. ISARC is a platform for sharing our rich culture and traditions with other Indians and non-Indians alike by organizing cultural events and social gatherings on a regular basis, especially during festivals and on auspicious days.

The strength of our organization lies in the unconditional support that we all have for each of our members. We also appreciate support from the Advising Office. Finally, ISARC is strong in its determination to strive towards the integrity of our traditional values and to engage with the Western outlook.

ISARC (Indian Students Association at Rivier College) Officers:

Title	Name	E-mail ID
President	Nivedita Ananth	<i>nnagarajan@rivier.edu</i>
Vice President	Chandana Karthik	<i>ckarthik@rivier.edu</i>
Treasurer	Hiren Gudka	<i>hgudka@rivier.edu</i>
Communications	Suganya Muthu	<i>srenganathan@rivier.edu</i>
Supporting coordinator	Harika Samudrala	<i>hsamudrala@rivier.edu</i>
Design Coordinator	Anitha Karthik	<i>akarthikeyan@rivier.edu</i>
Supporting Coordinator	Lavanya Reddy	<i>lsiddareddy@rivier.edu</i>
International Student Advisor Support	Dey Barriga	<i>dbarriga@rivier.edu</i>

* **NIVEDITA ANANTH**, a native of Bangalore, India, is a graduate student pursuing her M.B.A. at Rivier College. She has been a Graduate Assistant in various departments, and currently holds the position in the Office of International Student Advising. Nivedita is also the President of the recently formed Indian Students Association (ISARC). She is a trained classical singer and dancer. She performs frequently in ethnic community events held in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Nivedita enjoys cooking Asian cuisines with her husband, Ananth, and volunteering for non-profit and cultural community events. In her leisure time, she goes on scenic drives and visits Boston to attend performing arts and cultural shows.