

## A RIVIER FIRST Smashers cricket team wins 2016 championship (From *Rivier Today*, Fall 2016)



Courtesy photo by Celso Barriga

**Y**es, Rivier has a men’s cricket team. And not just a team—a championship team.

Initiated three years ago by the Office of Global Engagement, the Smashers is comprised of international graduate students. Team members come from countries where cricket is a popular sport, and they’ve hit their stride in New England league play.

“This is a historic moment for Rivier University—our first cricket championship win,” says **Sister Paula Marie Buley**, IHM, Rivier’s President. “We are incredibly proud of these student-athletes and congratulate them on their athletic and academic accomplishments.”

The Telugu Association of Greater Boston, a regional Indian community organization, conducts the Telugu Premier League, which attracts players and teams from Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

The Telugu Premier League 2016 IV edition tournament was held in Nashua on five grounds simultaneously this past August. The Smashers competed with 15 other cricket teams in the tournament, which included more than 160 cricketers.

## A RIVIER FIRST: SMASHERS CRICKET TEAM WINS 2016 CHAMPIONSHIP

The Smashers emerged victorious, the only team to have won all five of its tournament matches. **Thondaladinne Pedda Basha**, a candidate in Rivier's M.S. in Computer Science program, was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player for his all-around performance with his bat, bowling and fielding. Team captains included General Captain **Krishna Reddy Akula**, Captain **Kaushik Reddy Kancharla**, and Vice Captain **Rithish Reddy Katpally**.

"Playing for Rivier has given me and team Smashers great pleasure," says Kancharla. "Winning for Rivier was a proud moment for us." ■