

# SMRITI-2008

## INDIAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

University of Houston – Clear Lake

*ISA Newsletter November 2008*

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### ”What is ISA?”

Indian Student Association is one of the well known organizations among others in the university. Today with a membership of over 600 members, around 200 currently enrolled at UHCL, ISA is working hard together with Student Service Offices in the University to help and assist Indian Students from the time they contact ISA till they graduate from UHCL. Helping each other in times of need is what brings us together and aids us in strengthening our community. Exchange of cultural values and spreading Indian Cultural among the various individuals who are a part of UHCL and bringing the community in Houston in touch with the students community has been an achievement of ISA. ISA is easily accessible through its website [www.isauhcl.org](http://www.isauhcl.org). This website not only caters to the needs of UHCL students, but also provides valuable information to non-UHCL students.



UH Chancellor with ISA-EC 2008-09

### Mission Statement

We are an independent association recognized by the University Of Houston Clear Lake. We are a community that was formed for the Indian students. We organize special events, participate in them and try to keep India and its cultural heritage alive in our hearts far away from home in the United States. Helping each other in times of need is what brings us together and in strengthening our community.

### ISA Executive Council 2008-09

President: **Priya Pakhanavar**  
[priya@isauhcl.org](mailto:priya@isauhcl.org)

SGA Representative: **Doyle Rodrigues**  
[doyle@isauhcl.org](mailto:doyle@isauhcl.org)

Public Relations Officer: **Anand Salodkar**  
[anand@isauhcl.org](mailto:anand@isauhcl.org)

Marketing Officer: **Venkat Narasimha Bhyravabotla**  
[venkat@isauhcl.org](mailto:venkat@isauhcl.org)

Special Events Coordinator: **Nupur Agarwal**  
[nupur@isauhcl.org](mailto:nupur@isauhcl.org)

Webmaster: **Vishal S. Jadhav**  
[vishal@isauhcl.org](mailto:vishal@isauhcl.org)

Contact Information:  
[www.isauhcl.org](http://www.isauhcl.org)  
[info@isauhcl.org](mailto:info@isauhcl.org)

### ISA Diwali 2008

Known as the festival of lights, Diwali is ISA’s biggest event . The lights represent hope and positive thinking as well as the victory of good over evil. Diwali is observed over a 5 day period, the third day being a New Year celebration. ISA celebrates Diwali on a grand scale, befitting the most widely celebrated festival in India. The celebrations take place in the Atrium II of the Bayou Building, the entire place is decorated with Indian decorations, costumes, informative posters. The entire place is lit up with different kinds of lighting like Kandils, hanging lights, diyas, kandils, candles and lanterns. The Indian Students Association brought this event to the UHCL campus on Nov 1. The festivities, which included traditional Indian food, music, dancing, and an assortment of lights and decorations, was a home away from home for many of the UHCL Indian students.



Rangoli-ISA Diwali 2008

Questions? Email your concerns to [info@isauhcl.org](mailto:info@isauhcl.org)

## Up Coming Events!

**Diwali, The festival of Lights**  
**November 1st, 2008**  
**7:00 pm, Atrium II, Bayou Building**

Celebrated with lights, decorations, dancing and food.

**New Students Welcome Party**  
**February, 2009, Atrium II**  
New students and old, mix with each other, in a party atmosphere.

**Holi**  
**March 2009,**  
Festival of colors played with color, traditional Holi food and drink, music and dance.

**Elections**  
**March 2009, Delta Building**  
Annual elections for ISA Executive Council.

**ISA Cricket Tournament**  
**July 2009**  
**Annual Cricket Tournament attracts many teams across Houston**

**For more information about any of these events please contact [info@isauhcl.org](mailto:info@isauhcl.org) or visit [www.isauhcl.org](http://www.isauhcl.org)**

### ISA CRICKET

Indian Students Association hosted the eighth annual ISA Cricket Tournament in July. ISA organized its first cricket tournament in 2001. Started primarily for UH-Clear Lake students, the tournament now draws more than 15 teams and over 150 players. Past tournaments have included UH-Clear Lake students and alumni, students from UH, San Jacinto Community College and Clear Lake High School as well as community.



Girl's Cricket Team 2008

### What is ISA ? Contd...

#### WHO ARE OUR MEMBERS ?

Ours is an ever-expanding community comprised of not only Indian but of several other origins as well. Students, faculty and staff alike participate in our events. Membership is free for all the students enrolled at UHCL.

#### OUR GOAL

Our primary goal is to help the Indian students in every step of their journey at UHCL. We also keep the Indian cultural heritage alive in the hearts of the people here by organizing special events and festivals.

#### HOW DO WE ACHIEVE OUR GOAL ?

Every semester UHCL receives applications from Indian Students for various programs and courses. During this process ISA is contacted and this initiates the communication between the Indian Community at UHCL and the prospective student.

ISA helps students by providing information about Living; Programs offered at UHCL, student life at Clear Lake, etc, to helping with problems and issues with admissions etc, The ISA (Indian Students Association) also thrives to achieve its goals by keeping the year filled with events.

#### HOW DO STUDENTS BENEFIT BY BEING PART OF ISA?

Working for the ISA not only includes helping others, achieving targets and accomplishing these very difficult tasks. A side effect of this work is that it helps these students to build their personalities.

Organizing an event takes a lot of work in planning and executing the event. Each aspect of the event, like food, decorations, cultural aspects, invitations, pre-event marketing, event coverage, post-event follow-up, updating the website, etc. has to be taken care of. This includes coordinating several tasks with several different people, and delegating the best job to the most appropriate person. The students learn how to undertake and manage these responsibilities, they learn how to work with different people in order to accomplish tasks, and they have to do all this while managing their studies and campus jobs. Thus the organization work helps the council build their managerial, time management and communication skills.

#### LIFE

Learn to live a little more each day,  
By facing all that may come your way.  
Try to make the best of it all,  
Rising a little higher with every fall.

Pray to God to teach you how to strive,  
And make you cherish a miracle called  
LIFE!

**-Prerana Narang,**

**MS Computer Science**

Combine the silence with the noise,  
Come out of troubles with added poise.  
Think with your mind and feel with your heart,  
This will make you a person- a class apart.



#### Special Thanks!

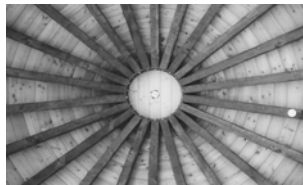
ISA thanks Intercultural & International Student Services for their never ending support and valuable advice on various aspects which has made ISA function smoothly.

#### Cricket ...European version of Baseball

I had heard about cricket, but never actually played or really even knew the rules. Then, I found out that ISA has an annual cricket tournament which is kicked off with an all girls match. I got excited knowing I was finally going to get to play this "european version of baseball." When I got there, I'll admit I was really nervous. However, thanks to all the smiling faces and their eagerness to explain the rules to me, I instantly felt comfortable and ready to play. The game went smoothly and was a lot of fun. I can't wait until next year's tournament. I will be practicing until then. Thanks ISA for such a great experience.

**Jessica Williams, UHCL sports Association President.**

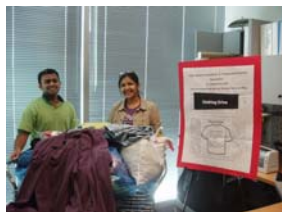
# STRUCTURE OF ISA COUNCIL



The ISA consists of 8 council members. Elections are held for these posts every year. The posts are: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Public Relations Officer, Special Events Coordinator, Marketing Officer, SGA Representative and Webmaster. To contest for any of these posts, please contact

[info@isauhcl.org](mailto:info@isauhcl.org)

## Clothing Drive for the Victims of Hurricane Ike



Hurricane Ike was really disastrous. Although Clear Lake Area was not effected, certain parts of Galveston were drastically effected. ISA along with IISS and VSA had a cloth donation drive, where ISA and its members collected clothes for the less fortunate. The clothes will be sent to relief center, which will then distribute it to the victims and people who really in need of them.

## Achievements of ISA over the Years

ISA is one the largest, has been one of the most recognized student organizations at UHCL. Since ISA was founded in 2001, we have been an active organization. Every year ISA collects funds to put into the scholarship that the financial aid department disperses to two eligible students.

## The Power of Excellence

To excel in various fields is what has been the objective of Indians throughout the globe. Be it any field, Indians are making their mark. The Indian students are expected to be the good professionals and managers in their respective careers. This is because the qualities that the Indian students have been portraying and the knowledge that they have been procuring and thereby implementing had made a tremendous impact in the global markets. Today, India has been forecasted to become the superpower in the next 20 years. 50 years of excellence and the country is progressing to become the most powerful nation. This is all because of the education that we took and we gave to the world.

But, the initiation of the developments begins at home. Indian students Association is a highly reputed students' body which has set some model standards for various leadership activities. Today, we being the members of ISA, it is our responsibility to make use of all the available resources and bring out the outstanding leaders of the society from ourselves.

ISA has been formed to make the Indian student s comfortable when they arrive on a foreign land. The council has a short life to work for the benefit of the Indian students. The present and prospective students of ISA have to participate to make ISA more successful and carry on the legacy of ISA at UHCL. The Alumni try their part to contribute toward the progress of ISA. The collective effort from all the ISA members is the most desirable reward that ISA can ever get. ISA has surely been a part of nurturing the leadership qualities of its members which precisely complemented their professional qualities. So, it has been a two way affair, which made this "organization of students" more successful.

The power that comes from this kind of association is invincible because it is based on the excellence of values that we live in. We have to start doing the things based on the ensemble of proper planning and make this world a better place to live for everyone.

- Naineesh R. Burde, University of Houston-Clear Lake Alumni

## Festivals:

One of the main aims of ISA is keeping the Indian students here in touch with their culture. The primary means of doing this is to celebrate the festivals as they are done in India. In order to incorporate all religions and festivals, we celebrate a wide range of festivals throughout the year.

## Holi



Holi heralds the beginning of spring. Arrival of new season represents new beginnings, new hope and a fresh start, welcomed by playing with many colors

### ISA Celebration:

ISA celebrates Holi in much the traditional way. The students get together, usually in the UHCL soccer field, and play with dry and wet colors. Typical Holi songs are played and we also provide Holi traditional snacks and homemade thandai, the Holi drink made from milk and dry fruits. We dance the day away. A traditional showering down with a water hose follows.

## Picture Gallery 2008



ISA Cricket Team with Dr. Staples



8th Annual Cricket Tournament



Independence Day

## New Students Temporary Accommodation

ISA provides a temporary place for new students to stay until they are able to find an apartment of their own. This Semester, ISA provided temporary accommodation to 110 new Students.



ISA's Last Event Welcome party . October 3rd, 2008



# Our Sponsors



## UHCL

- SGA
- IISS
- Students Life Office
- Cultural Arts
- International Initiatives
- Dean of Students Office
- MIS Alumni Association

## Community

- Dr. Kashif Ansari
- Dr. Aslam Loya
- AIM Insurance
- Days Inn and Suites
- Raj Grocers
- Kiran's Boutique
- Guitar City
- Chris Wagner
- ISA Members

**Printing of the Program sponsored by IISS and Dr. Darlene Biggers, AVP of Student Services**

## Indian Students Association: From A new Student's view A journey for New beginning...

When I was planning for Masters in US which is major step in any ones career, I was bit skeptical for the reason I didn't know anyone here in UHCL, for the reason I was never away from my home, for the reason many people gave me an impression that the life in States is difficult. Infact I didn't know how and where to start my journey.

Thanks to ISA team (Esp. Doyle for prompt replies) who provided us Information through Web regarding all major things to plan for our journey. We (I and other students who were planning their prospects in UHCL with me from Hyderabad, India) organized a meet among us and shared our views, perceptions and experiences which helped us a lot... thanks to orkut and UHCL fall 2008 community owner Praneeth Jonna for providing a platform. Thanks to all ISA members for providing Temporary accommodation, we are very much obliged to you.

After I came here I made new home far away from home, I made new friends far away from my old friends and I made new family i.e., ISA far away from my family. Here life taught me many new things like professional way to deal Issues.

We (New students) wish to support ISA, in order to help our self... I wish all the best to everyone in UHCL and ISA, especially new students who have new strengths, new hopes, new aspirations and seniors who welcomed us warmly, in your future career and life endeavors, whatever they may be.

**- Aditya Macherla, MS Computer Science**

For many years I have had the pleasure to work with international students at UHCL. Some of my most delightful memories are of my interactions and collaborations with the Indian Students Association. Through ISA's programming, volunteering and participation, they have shared their culture and traditions. Their generosity has enhanced and enriched the learning experiences we all enjoy.

**Linda Contreras Bullock, Assistant Dean of Student Diversity, Intercultural & International Student Services**

**WWW.ISAUHCL.ORG**



ISAUHCL.ORG is comprehensive website which provides information about current students. A lot of information for new students coming to UHCL.

The most used feature is the Discussion Board.

You will also find articles written by former students. You want to sell something for looking for something, now you know where to go!

This program is available online at [www.isauhcl.org](http://www.isauhcl.org).



Cultural Extravaganza



Global Expo



Welcome Back Dance



Welcome Week



Students Org Expo

## ISA Participation in other school activities

ISA also participates in other school activities which is an intrinsic part of Leadership Learning and personality development such as Chili Cook off and Other Inter cultural Exhibitions such as Global Expo and Student Leadership Conferences etc.. There is so much to do and so little time. What makes ISA so active? Answer-the efforts of all the students and dedicated volunteers.

