



Summer 2005

South Asian Students Association (SASA)

2005 SEP Students, Illinois Wesleyan University

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Recommended Citation


2005 SEP Students, Illinois Wesleyan University, "South Asian Students Association (SASA)" (2005). *Summer Enrichment Program*. 2.
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South Asian Students Association



The purpose of the South Asian Student Association is to promote awareness about the South Asian culture throughout the campus.



The goals of this organization are to educate and expose the IWU community to various aspects of South Asian culture; including observation of holidays, current events, history, and other cultural activities.

■ These goals are achieved through numerous activities that celebrate this unique group.

- The culmination of these activities is the annual cultural show that highlights the talents of the members.



RAKHI



Rakhi or raksha bandhan is a well loved and celebrated holiday for brothers and sisters all over India. The Rhaki ceremony is a reaffirmation of love and affection between siblings and a promise to always be there when needed. Traditionally a brother promises to always protect his sister, a promise that can be called upon even when the sister has left the household and married. Rakhi (ceremonial bracelet) means bond of protection. It is tied on the brother's hand by the sister. This symbolizes the bond between them. To conclude the ceremony the siblings exchange sweets and pray for each others well being.

Diversity Workshops



Diversity Workshops

- SASA co-sponsors the diversity workshops with other multi-cultural student groups
- The general purpose of the diversity workshops is to educate the IWU community on issues regarding racial and ethnic diversity
- The diversity workshops also serve as a forum where students can openly ask and answer questions regarding racial issues

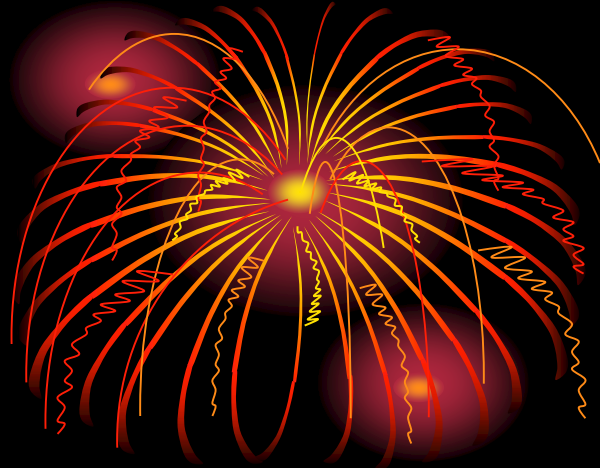
HOLI

*Lets spread the feeling of
Love and Togetherness*

HAPPY HOLI



Holi is the festival of spring and harvest when people emerge once again from their houses, and from the cold winter. Farmers consider this the harvest festival, as many of their crops become ripe in spring. The festival is celebrated differently in different regions of India but some of its most popular traditions include spreading colored powder (gulal) on friends and neighbors faces, burning images of the demoness Holika to symbolize good's triumph over evil, and partaking in song, dance and feast.



CelebrASIA



- **Each section is designed to showcase a talent that uniquely describes a specific country.**



- **SASA members use different art forms to educate the audience, in an entertaining manner, about cultural differences between the South Asian countries.**
 - **Examples:**
 - **Japanese poetry read in a kimono**
 - **An Indian dance that includes both traditional and modern dance steps**



SASA and the Strategic Goal

Strategic Goal: Student Development
Enhance the campus environment so
as to foster students' intellectual,
social, ethical, and personal
development.



SASA and the strategic Goal

- SASA promotes the strategic goal concerning student development on several levels
 - Social: SASA sponsors several movie nights in which they get together with each other and other members of the IWU community to relax and have fun



SASA and the Strategic Goal

- Personal Development: All SASA events hold deep meaning and significance either to a specific country or to a specific culture. Therefore, all SASA events are an opportunity for students to grow and develop by being enlightened on traditions, cultures, and holidays, that are new and different to them.