

## A-State celebrates Diwali

### Campus and community come together for night of dancing, food and fun

RACHEL RUDD

NEWS EDITOR

The Indian Student Organization and the NEA Indian Cultural Society (NEAICS) came together on Saturday to celebrate Diwali, an annual festival celebrating the triumph of good over evil. It is also associated with wealth and good luck.

Since Diwali's date is based on the lunar calendar, its date changes every year: normally falling between mid-October and mid-November.

"In this festival, people meet with each other, greet each other and worship in their home," said Pradeep Mishra, graphic communications professor, advisor for the Indian Student Organization and vice president of the NEAICS. "The main worship in this time is the worship of the goddess of money. Lots of business people start their year with this festival. They pray for better profit or good business."

Mishra added that fireworks are common at Diwali celebrations.

The festival began with a puja, which is the lighting of a lamp and a prayer for everyone's well being.

After the prayer, performers sang songs and put on dances.

"They are dancing and singing to celebrate their own cultural traditions," said Jagriti Chouhan, a graduate marketing student from Jonesboro. "They have chosen songs from every single region. (They performed) Bollywood(dances),they danced to their own traditional songs. It's a communion of diversities."

One of the performers was Sindhujavemi Reddy, a graduate engineering management student from India.

"I used to give stage shows back in India, so I have some knowledge in how to participate and perform the stage shows," Reddy said. "The first song which I sang was a bit traditional. It was in the name of the god Shiva. I just wanted to give a traditional song first. All my friends are energetic, so I chose all the energetic songs to sing. I think everyone loved that."

After the performances concluded, a traditional Indian dinner was served. After dinner, people danced to Indian songs and played games.

The celebration was open to all both on the Arkansas State University campus and the Jonesboro community. There were around 250 people attending.

"It's my first event experiencing Indian culture. India is my neighboring country," said Zahra Islam, a graduate supply chain management student from Bangladesh. "I'm looking at things with a different perspective. It gives me (more) knowledge about different cultures and traditions."

Mishra said the event helps Indian A-state students get to know the local community.

"We do this every year here with the students. The reason we do it with the students is because there's not too many families to have our (celebration)," said Harikrishnan Ramasubramaniam, secretary for NEAICS. "There were five or ten families, that'd be a very small event. So we join with the students so we can have more fun with them."

Alekhya Yarra, a computer science graduate student from India and president of the Indian Student Organization, said



Students, faculty and staff celebrate Diwali at the A-State Centennial Hall.

Photos by Jessica McMillan | Photo Editor

the celebration also helps with "All Indian students are said. "(It helps them) not students facing homesickness. away from home," Yarra miss their home and food."

## Annual Pink Warrior Walk recognizes breast cancer survivors

### 5K raises money for breast cancer research and promotes awareness

CAROLINE AVERITT

STAFF WRITER

St. Bernards held the third annual Pink Warrior Walk on Saturday in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The race started and ended at St. Bernards Health & Wellness and looped through the Arkansas State University campus.

At 8:30 a.m., breast cancer survivors took part in a Survivor Parade in which they walked around the parking lot as they were cheered on by the other participants in the event. At 9 a.m., the race began.

Pat Farmer, chairman of the 2022 Pink Warrior Walk said, "In the years past, we've had what was called the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. They decided they weren't going to do an event in this area, so we decided at St. Bernards we were going to have our own." Farmer said women are

never too young to start getting breast exams and suggested getting one monthly.

In addition to the race, volunteers ran booths and tents with prizes and food.

Thao Do, a sophomore NYITCOM Jonesboro student from Austin, Texas said, "We have a little wheel that they can spin and they can win various prizes. This tent is set up (so survivors) can spin the wheel, get a prize and then have cookies, coffee and water and hang out before the actual run starts."

Do volunteered with her fellow members of the NYITCOM registered student organization, American Medical Women's Association (AMWA).

Jennifer Salo, the director of the Emerging Scholars Program and a breast cancer survivor said, "Our family does this every year since I was

diagnosed with breast cancer in 2017." She said she finished treatments early and is "doing great now" She still likes to support the cause and see people in the community that have gone through the same thing.

Edward "Ed" Salo, her husband and the associate director of Heritage Studies at Arkansas State University said, "We're just here to support her. Our son and his friends are going to be here."

Their son Cameron Salo, a first-year business administration major from Jonesboro, said, "My mom is a breast cancer survivor, so I am here to support her."

Not everyone who participated in the event had a strong connection to breast cancer. Ryan Kelly, a professor from the education department said, "I try to run as much as my schedule and training will let



Participants in the third annual Pink Warrior Walk.

Photo by Caroline Averitt | Staff Writer

me." He added he has a history of cancer in his family and he likes to support local events.

Over 500 people registered to participate in this event. All of the proceeds for the event go

toward breast cancer research and awareness in the community. This includes services for those with breast cancer and encouraging people to get screenings and mammograms.

#### THIS WEEK IN THE HERALD:

OPINION, 2A



- "Ethical horror houses"
- HBO Max's "Velma" makes unwanted change to the franchise

NEWS, 3A



- Election Day is coming soon
- Advanced service learning students introduce Sexual Assault Awareness Week
- Campus Crime

NEWS, 4A

- No car? No problem
- This Week's Crossword Puzzle

LIFE B1

- The spreading of Korean culture
- @ASTATESQUIRRELS Q&A
- This Week's Pop Pick
- Horoscopes

SPORTS, B2 & B3



- Inside the life of an international student-athlete
- Wooldridge's five passing touchdowns help Ragin' Cajuns defeat Red Wolves
- Upcoming Events Calendar



PHOTO, 4B

- What's been going on at A-State