

IPRO 363 : This week's Language Link



(Photo courtesy Monica Samelson)

By Monica Samelson
TECH NEWS WRITER

Ashika is from Mumbai, India! And we'd like you to meet her!

What's your name? Ashika Jayanthi
Where are you originally from? Mumbai, India

What is your major and what class standing are you at IIT? Molecular Biochemistry and Biophysics, senior

What's your native language? Hindi and Telugu, and English - English is technically the national language of India, so I first started learning English from birth.

Do you speak any languages other than your native language and English? I learned Sanskrit in school, but it's kind of like a dead language now - not many people really speak it. But what's interesting to know about it that Hindi (as in the language itself) and a lot of words in many other languages are derived from Sanskrit.

Can you tell us how to say a few common phrases in your native language?

How are you? *Aap Kaise Hai?*
That chick's hot! *Woh Ladki Kya cheez hai!*

What's your name? *Aapka naam kya hai?*

Are there any specific customs or traditions relating to your culture that you'd like to share? My favorite festival is Holi. It's basically where everyone takes to the streets and has a big water fight with water pistols and water balloons, and you also have powdered colors that you throw at people. That's a lot of fun.

Some mean people throw eggs, though.

What brought you to join us here in Chicago, and why did you choose IIT? Just the city, I guess, and I have family around here.

Do you like it here? Yeah!

What's your favorite way to stay in touch with your culture when you're here in Chicago? At IIT it's not really a problem to stay in touch with my culture, because of the ISA [Indian Students Association] and SASA [South-east Asian Students Association]. I also watch Bollywood movies.

What Chicago experience has been most fun or interesting to you so far? I like exploring downtown a lot. The thing that struck me the most about coming to America was how empty the streets were. I could literally walk with five feet ahead of me and five feet behind me with no people and it was completely normal.

Interview conducted by Monica Samelson of IPRO 363. Looking to find someone to learn a new language with? Keep your eyes open for Language Link next semester, pioneered by IPRO 363. Email ipro363@googlegroups.com for more information, but here's a general round-up:

Language Link is a new IPRO that's building a web site for IIT that can work to match up students according to their language learning needs, as they hope to be part of IIT's up-and-coming foreign language program. The website will work sort of like a dating site - using a matching algorithm to match up people according to various factors, such as language proficiency, classes, extracurricular interests, and languages of interest

St. Baldrick's is coming!

By Lisa Kwiatkowski
TECHNEWS WRITER

If you haven't heard of St. Baldrick's, you either are new to IIT or may not be venturing far out of your room too often. If you have heard of it, then you probably know that it's a phenomenal fundraiser organized by students to support the St. Baldrick's foundation. It all started in 2008, when Lydia Benger (class of 2009) was inspired by the story of a girl fighting with cancer. That first year students at IIT came together and raised over \$10,000 to support childhood cancer research. What did these students do to solicit so many donations? They vowed to shave their heads. The generosity of IIT students didn't stop there though. The event continued in 2009 and 2010, raising over \$30,000 over three years.

It's happening again this year, and I'm sure that we are going to do better than ever before.

At Center Court on March 11, starting at 8 p.m., participants will be seated on a stage, cameras pointed at them, as their hair is shaved from their head. The idea behind the event is that participants get friends, family, peers, and professors to put money on their head. All the

money donated goes to the St. Baldrick's Foundation.

The St. Baldrick's foundation has made more than \$55 million for childhood cancer research since 2005. Given that each year 160,000 children are diagnosed with cancer worldwide, this is a pretty big deal. Children who had almost no chance of survival fifty years ago now have an 80% survival rate.

Now here's the interesting thing, IIT. We all know that there are way more boys than girls here, but looking at the participants for the event that's not the case. As of February 25 there are seven ladies registered, while only six gentlemen are standing up for this cause. Come on, guys! Your hair will grow back way faster than it will some of these ladies! For anyone interested in contributing to this event, find us on the web at <http://www.stbaldricks.org/events/mypage/eventid/4052/event-year/2011>. Too much to type? Check stbaldricks.org and search for events in the 60616 zip code. Remember, you don't have to shave your head to help. Donate to any of our participants and you can still make a big difference.



Volunteers get their heads shaved for a good cause at a previous St. Baldrick's event.
(Photos courtesy Alex Miller)

GreenIIT

Did you know...

...Producing an aluminum pop can from recycled aluminum uses 95% less energy than manufacturing a can from ore? Recycling aluminum cans also produces 95% less air pollution and 97% less water pollution. Next time you finish that can of pop, remember to always recycle it!

The Office of Campus Energy and Sustainability (OCES) is coordinating an effort among students, faculty and staff to define the specific actions, programs and policy changes IIT will make in order to reach the targeted commitments that will define IIT as the most sustainable urban university campus in the United States.