



# SXC Chronicle

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## Incredible Xavier's!

SXC is in the list of the top 20 colleges in India according to a survey conducted for 2013 by The Week-Hansa Research Survey and the India Today- Nielson Survey. The Week put SXC in the 20<sup>th</sup> position where as India Today rated SXC in the 17<sup>th</sup> position for Science and 35<sup>th</sup> for Arts. The credit goes to the Management, faculty, staff and students who untiringly work towards maintaining quality. Congratulations to all!

## Towards International Collaborations

Ms Priti Shroff-Mehta from World Learning visited the College and interacted with the top Management and administrators to discuss the scope for a collaborative degree with World Learning Institute, USA. World Learning offers education to bridge cultures and transform lives. The Provost John Lucas is expected to visit SXC in October to explore possibilities of collaboration.



## Green Xaviers

*Cura personalis*, was the motto of Xavier's in 2011-12. *Cura environmentalis* (read 'care for environment') seems to be the motto of Xavier's for 2013-14. After a series of meetings which began in March 2013 it was decided that an environmental audit should be carried out for Xavier's. The entire Xavier Parivar met once to take stock of the situation on campus. A group of enthusiastic students were also roped into the programme. The days are not far when you will see Xavier's going green!



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## Research Award Ceremony

The Annual Research Award Ceremony for the students who had successfully completed their year-long research was held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2013. Dr Alok Dhawan, the Director of ILS, Ahmedabad was the Chief Guest.

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## Letters to the Editor

Many past Xavierites have responded after reading the first issue of SXC Chronicle. Some were surprised, some delighted. All, however, were excited. Here is an excerpt from one of the letters;

Fantastic to go through the Chronicle! It's amazing that so many events have taken place at Xavier's in just three months. As an ex-student, I feel really proud to read about all these events and seminars. A wonderful way to make us feel that we are still part of the SXC family.

-Gayatri Iyer

## Staff Picnic



The support staff and the teaching faculty organized separate picnic cum get together at the end of this academic year. Eleven of the support staff visited Gandhinagar and Sabarmati Ashram. The most significant part of this picnic was that Fr Roland gave up his camera to organize the event along with Sr Mary James, Prof Vijaysingh Dhandhukia, Prof Amarsinh Vasava and Prof Saurabh Vaishnav.



The teaching faculty went on a picnic to Jambughoda on 24<sup>th</sup> April. As most of the faculty were engaged in examination duty at Gujarat University, only 19 of them participated. Dr Nirmal Desai and Dr Pinky Desai were the main organizers of the picnic. It was a wonderful experience that helped the faculty bond inter-departmentally. May many more such picnics happen at Xavier's.

## Admission to Xavier's



Getting admission to St Xavier's College is a dream come true. This year the SXC campus witnessed an unusually large crowd of students seeking admission to the Science stream. The admission process required a team of over 180 student volunteers. SXC processed over 6500 forms in Science alone, and have admitted to 860 students in the Arts and Science streams. One can still find students queuing up in front of the Principal's office for admission. Jai Xavier's.

## The ever active Campus Ministry

The Campus Ministry is systematically organizing the PGOP programmes. Initially Sr Mary and Roland organized the programme for 12 faculty members who are trainers. PGOP for the SY and TY students is conducted by SXC faculty and



for the FY by Mr Prashant. This year, PGOP was conducted on weekdays after the college hours for Arts students. Those who attended the programme said that it was an 'aha' experience.

### Major General Dilawar Singh Additional Directorate General of NCC, Gujarat, visit campus

In a drive to promote more students to join the NCC and to boost the morale of the present students, Major General Dilawar Singh, Additional Directorate General of NCC, Gujarat, visited our college. He interacted with a large group of students and addressed them highlighting the significance and contributions of the NCC to nation building. He encouraged more and more students to join NCC. The event also gave our students a feel of military discipline☺.



### Utkarsh Inauguration



A workshop was organized for UTKARSH students and volunteers on 27<sup>th</sup> June. UTKARSH is an organization of physically challenged students. In this highly appreciated workshop conducted by Dr Preeti Shah, 50 students and volunteers participated.

UTKARSH had their inauguration on 29<sup>th</sup> June in the XICA auditorium. Dr Bhaduria was the chief guest at the function. His inspiring speech focused on how his own life has been a journey of not yielding to the shortcomings of physical disability. Fr Lancy spoke on the significance of UTKARSH in the Xavier context. The event also witnessed some exceptionally good talents performing on the stage.



### Talks

The department of Gujarati organized a 3 day workshop from 1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> April on 'Equal Opportunity for all.' Various dignitaries visited the campus as part of this seminar. Dr Chinu Modi, Dr Anand Vasava, Dr Yashwant Vaghela, and Dr Pravin Gadhvi were the resource persons. The department of Physics organized a talk by Dr Watson Varricatt from UKIRT, Hawaii. Congratulations to the Department of Gujarati and Physics for the good work.



### Workshop for Support staff

A workshop was organized for the support staff of the college by the Campus Ministry. Twenty of them participated. The trainer was Dr Priti Shah who engaged the staff on the theme, "Looking back, looking

ahead". The programme helped the staff members to look at past life and how to move forward without regrets. It was a very inspiring and encouraging experience for all. Many thanks to Sr Mary James and Fr Roland who continues to inspire one and all on the SXC campus.

### Study tour

The third year Botany students attended a 'Basic Course in Field Botany' organized by the Serenity Library at Koteswar, Gandhinagar on 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2013. Fr Lancelot D'Cruz delivered a guest lecture at the workshop with was attended by students of five state colleges.

### Xavier's goes Green☺

Environmental consciousness is catching up in SXC. Earlier the talk was on an environmental auditing. Now we are focusing more on action. Ayush Foundation, an NGO working in collaboration with AMC on solid waste management, conducted a 45 minute training session for about 45 of our students. The training was given by Ashah Mehta, the Director of Ayush. She highlighted the importance of taking small steps to curb the menace of solid waste. It was followed by a presentation by Dr Saby on an environmental auditing of SXC facilities. Inspired by these events a small group of enthusiastic students are working towards making our campus green and clean.

### Jagrat Inauguration and Orientation

Jagrat (Xavier's forum for SC & ST students) organized an orientation programme for the first years on 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 in the College. Sixty two first year tribal and dalit students participated in it. Dr. Dilip Vasava & Dr. Ishwar Mehra, the resource persons, introduced the students the nitty-gritty of Jagrat. The event gave an opportunity to a

number of them to shed inhibitions and actively participate in the various activities.



Jagrat organized the official inauguration on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 in the SAH. 175 students participated in the event. The Chief Guest was Shri Chandrakant Munia, Vigilance Inspector, Vidhyayog Bhavan, Gandhinagar. Fr Vincent Saldanha, Fr Lancelot D'Cruz, Sr Elsy and a large number of faculty were present on the occasion.

### Research Award Ceremony

The Annual Research Award Ceremony was held on 27<sup>th</sup> July in the Herbert D'Souza Hall. 49 students from various departments received awards for their work during this academic year. Dr Alok Dhawan, the Chief Guest of the function spoke about the significance of research at UG level. Citing various examples from his life, Dr Dhawan highlighted the role of research in the character building of students.

## World Indigenous Day celebrated



World Indigenous People's day was celebrated on 9th August , 2013 with SXC playing host to over 600 tribal students from over 25 educational institutions in and around Ahmedabad. Mr Kamlesh Vasava, the first tribal to clear IIM, Kolkata was the Chief Guest. The programme studded with dances and inspiring speeches ended with the entire community joining in the traditional tribal dance.

## GUNI Network and Xavier's

St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad was the only educational institution in the entire country selected to partner the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW) as one of five participants in an innovative 10-month effort to incorporate a model for reducing HIV-related stigma in a variety of settings throughout India. The initiative aimed at the creation of a core group of faculty and training them in issues of HIV stigma. This group then created a similar core group of students. Both groups were provided an exposure to the HIV reality through field visits and collective reflection. Awareness was then created in the larger SXC community. The entire process has been documented.

The project was selected as a good practice and presented at the session on 'Service Learning' at the 6<sup>th</sup> International GUNI Conference on 'Transformative Education' held in Barcelona from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2013.

Fr Lancelot D'Cruz and Dr Sebastian. V represented SXC at GUNI. You may find the details at <http://www.guninetwork.org/guni.conference/2013-guni-conference/piloting-integrated-youth-based-stigma-and-discrimination-curriculum-in-higher-education>

## Independence Day Celebrations

The 67<sup>th</sup> Independence Day celebration at St Xavier's College witnessed an unusual crowd on the OAT lawns. This year, the function was organized by XICA. The Chief Guest of the function was Fr Ornellas Coutinho, Rector of the College. In his address, Fr Coutinho highlighted the importance of fostering values of integrity and honesty in order to take the country forward.



## Christian Student's get together

On 6<sup>th</sup> July SXC had the inaugural meet of the Christian students of the college. Students themselves took initiative and the programme was well attended. Fr.Vincent Saldanha was the animator and resource

person for the sessions. The programme has some wonderful activities which kept the entire group involved. Thanks to the ever young animator! The get together culminated with the students chalking out an annual plan for various activities. Thanks to Sr Mary James who untiringly visualizes and coordinates these events.

### Preparation for NAAC Peer Team's visit

The NAAC Peer Team will be visiting SXC from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> of October, 2013 for the third cycle of Re-Accreditation. In order to prepare the Xavier Parivar IQAC organized an interactive seminar on 31<sup>st</sup> of August. The resource person was none other than our own Fr Francis Parmar. Fr Parmar with his vast experience as a Peer Team leader enlightened the staff about the Peer Team's visit. Thank you Fr Francis.

### Snippets

- ✓ Google App offered two separate trainings to faculty and students. A large number of students from SXC and XICA took advantage of this. Currently both these institutes have institutional email id. A big thanks to Google and Dr Nirmal Desai who keeps coordinating this huge project.
- ✓ Dr Profaina Christian was awarded UGC minor project worth, 1.45L for a period of two years. Title: Death anxiety and coping strategies. Any volunteers?
- ✓ This year as usual, SXC shone in the annual examination of Gujarat University. There are 19 in the top 50 in final year Arts and 16 in the top 50 in final year Science. Congratulation to all. Keep up the good work
- ✓ Juhi Biswas, an SY BSc student in the Department of Physics was appointed the camp commandant in the NCC camp at Law Garden this year.
- ✓ Seven students of Biochemistry visited Disha Life Sciences as part of an exposure programme to advanced laboratory techniques. They were inspired seeing so many advanced equipments under a single roof.
- ✓ Mid semester exam were held between 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> August.
- ✓ College reopened on 21<sup>st</sup> August after a short mid-semester break.
- ✓ 42 SY Jagrat students attended a training workshop held on 31<sup>st</sup> August. The theme: 'Self-Esteem'. Profs. Ishwar Mehra and Dilip Vasava were the resource persons. It was a wonderful experience for both students and the resource persons.

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