



# SXC Chronicles

Issue 5  
August-September • 2014

*Diamond Jubilee Year (1955- 2015)*

## Best Teacher Award ☺

The Ahmedabad Mirror, a subsidiary of TOI, had organised a 'Best 5 Teachers' award on the occasion of Teacher's Day. One of the five selected by the newspaper through student voting process, was none other than our own **Dr. Sudeshna Menon**, the HoD of Biochemistry. The newspaper also acknowledged the positive influence good teachers like **Fr. Vincent Saldanha** have had in the lives of former students. Congratulations to both Dr. Sudeshna and Fr. Vincy! You have made us proud! Keep up the good work and continue to transform the lives of many more students.

## Youth Festival ☺

Gujarat University Youth festival (South Zone) was held on September 5 and 6, 2014 at LJ College. Thirty seven students from Xavier's participated in 20 events. Our students gave their best and put in tremendous effort despite having very few days left for practice due to the mid-semester examinations. We were the winners in the Rally, Quiz, Classical Instrumental (non-Percussion), Western Solo and Group, and Mono-acting. In Folk Dance we got the encouragement prize. In the Inter Zonal, we won the first prize in Western Solo (**Moushumi Das**), Western Group (**Roshni Tharian, Moushumi Das, Christopher Alexander, Merly Sebastian, Francis SJ, Samvit Joshi, and Darshini Gokli**), Instrumental-Non Percussion (**Jaini Shah**), Quiz (**Arjun, Het Shah and Devang Rathod**), and third in Mono act (**Samvit Joshi**). Big thanks to the core team (**Fr Vincent Saldanha, Dr Sudeshna Menon, Dr Shuchita Mehta, and Prof Saurabh Vaishnav**) and the resource persons who helped us. Congratulations to all those who put in hours of effort to make Xavier's proud, like always.



## Sports ☺



The Inter Collegiate Basketball Tournament was held in August. Both our boys and girls teams have done exceptionally well under the captainship of **Aquib Sameja** and **Vrinda Dave** respectively. Both the teams put in a commendable effort and showed true sportsmanship on the court and finished as the runners up in the event. Five from each team has been selected for the inter-zonal. In swimming **Soumya Joshi** won in 5 events at the inter-college level. She also represented GU in an International competition in swimming. In table tennis we were the runners up in girls. In volley ball our girls were the first runners up in the inter college. In khokho our boys team reached semi finals. The College also started a football club to encourage more players. Congratulations to all the players for keeping the Xavier's flag flying high and making us proud. Special thanks to **Dr. Vijaysinh Padheria**, our sport director who continues to encourage our sports teams.

## MoU ☺

On September 20, St. Xavier's College and ACTI (The Association of Chemical Technologists India) signed an MoU for academic collaborative and participative work. **Fr. Dr. Robert Arockiosamy**, the Principal of St. Xavier's College, and Mr Rajeshbhai Shah, the President of ACTI signed the MoU at St Xavier's College in the presence of ACTI governing body including Mr K J Amin, Manojbhai Mehta, and Atulbhai Bhow. Among the College staff **Fr Lancy**



**D'Cruz, Fr Roland D'Souza, Dr Nirmal Desai and Dr Atul Makwana** were present on this occasion. It was followed by a short visit to the Library and Auditorium in the new building.

### Visitors to Xavier's Campus

Prof. Kensuke Okada, University of Tokyo, visited our campus on August 9, 2014. He addressed our faculty involved in research. Prof. Okada gave a splendid presentation and our enthusiastic faculty researchers were greatly impressed by his knowledge in plant science and its ramification in the Indian context. **Fr. Lancelot D'Cruz** accompanied him to Dediapada where Prof. Kensuke showed great interest in the Aadiaushadi project.



### Vision Building under Autonomy



The IQAC of St Xavier's College organised a seminar on 'Vision Building under Autonomy' for all our staff members. It was conducted by Dr. Vinayak Shirgurkar who is an eminent educationist. During the seminar the entire staff was divided into six groups and challenged to rewrite the vision-mission of the College, relevant to the changing times and our context of being conferred autonomous status. The resource person was impressed by the vision statements presented by each of the groups.

### Fr. Valles Lecture Series

Fr. Valles Lecture Series continues to attract and captivate Mathematics lovers in and around Ahmedabad. During August and September eminent scholars like Prof AM Vaidya, Prof MH Vasavada gave lectures on the nuances of linear algebra, number theory etc. to a group of interested students, parents, and faculty. The response was so motivating that **Dr. Udayan Prajapati** wishes to make it a year long process.

### Fr. Provincial visits the College

Fr. Francis Parmar SJ, the Provincial of Gujarat Province, visited the campus and interacted with our staff members on August 12, 2014. This was an opportunity for our entire faculty to not only greet their former Principal but also to voice their apprehensions as well as appreciation about the new direction our College is headed in after getting autonomy.

### Independence Day celebration

Independence Day was celebrated on campus with great fervour. **Dr Urmi Shah**, Associate Professor, Department of Sanskrit, was the chief guest. She gave an inspiring speech in which she challenged the youth to rise above class and creed and to work together towards building a strong India in this era of knowledge explosion. Unlike previous years, this year's celebrations saw students dressed in traditional attire actively participating in group building games.



### Tarumitra initiatives

Tarumitra is our key to ensuring a greener and cleaner Xavier's. After a brief lull, Tarumitra volunteers attended a workshop on ecological auditing conducted under the guidance of Mr. Jyothi, a well-known environmentalist. It was a pleasant surprise for many of the faculty when student volunteers peeped into their cabins unannounced to take a count of the number of fans and lights. This initiative by Tarumitra is certainly a welcome step towards understanding the existing situation on the College campus. It will also enable us to take certain corrective measures in the future.

### TCS Affirmative Programme

The TCS affirmative programme is back with a bang. Over 50 SC, ST, and OBC students are attending this 100 hour programme which will help them develop leadership qualities. **Fr. Lancelot D'Cruz** along with **Dr. Ishwar Mehra** are the local coordinators of this programme.

## Staff Seminar

The Campus Ministry once again organised a one day seminar on Communication Skills and Conflict Management under the leadership of **Fr. Roland D'Souza** and **Sr. Mary James** for 30 of our non-teaching staff. The resource person was Fr. Jimmy Dabhi who is proficient in conducting such workshops. He engaged the entire group in some serious discussions and gave them all a chance to share their thoughts and ideas. **Mr. Ambalal Makwana** was the chief coordinator of the workshop. Thrilled by this experience the participants asked Campus Ministry to keep organising such team building seminars in the future.



## Faculty in Media



On August 29, **Dr. Shuchita Mehta** was in the media to give a talk on 'Vivek Chudamani'. The talk was telecast on Aasta channel. Dr. Mehta spoke in the presence of many dignitaries and religious people. Her talk was so awe inspiring and motivational that it prompted the people to name the auditorium after one of the key words that Dr. Mehta repeatedly used in her talk, Shankaracharya *Samvad Hall*.

## Workshop for Hostelites

Not only College staff, but even the St Xavier's Men's hostelites were engaged in workshops on growing together, goal setting and time management. We thank our enthusiastic hostel Rector **Fr. Ronald Sanctis SJ**, who helps organise such programmes for students. They have helped boost up the morale of the students. Mr. Vishat Patel was the resource person for the workshop in which 150 students participated.



## Workshop for challenged students



Few may know that **Dr. Atul Makwana** is not only an Associate Professor of Chemistry but also a motivational guru. Dr. Makwana interacted and trained a group of 30 challenged students of our College in study techniques. It is often not the lack of knowledge or ability but wrong methodology that leads a child to failure. Dr Makwana with his expertise, based on experience, enlightened the group and shared various study techniques and nuances of systematic study. We applaud your initiative Sir and hope the students are able to implement what you taught them.



## CWDC

As part of our Diamond Jubilee celebration, the College Women Development Cell (CWDC) organised a poster making and a drawing competition for college students of Ahmedabad under the leadership of **Dr K.P. Banaji** and her team of committed student volunteers. The theme of the competition was 'Save the Girl Child'. A number of students from 12 colleges participated. Ms Panchal Deepali and Ms Naomi Maiti were winners in the poster making competition while Mr Anuj Solanki and Ms Ami Shah were the winners in the collage making competition. All the participants received participation certificates. Thank you Dr. Banaji for giving to our CWDC visibility in Ahmedabad.



## Quiz competition in Chemistry

The Department of Chemistry organised a Quiz competition based on Chemistry titled 'A Journey of Chemistry with fun'. It was open to students from various neighbouring Science colleges. In spite of facing stiff competition, the first and the third prizes were bagged by Xavierites: **Naresh Parmar & Jinali Shah**, respectively. Congratulations to the Department and to the winners as well.

### Teacher's Day celebrated

Teacher's Day was celebrated this year with a lot of enthusiasm in the SAH. Fr. Principal was so touched by the motivation of the Campus Ministry that he instantly declared half a day of celebration. The entire event was well organised. The students presented each of the faculty with gifts to thank them for all the difference they have made in their lives.



### Department of Economics does it again!



A group of students from the Department of Economics represented the College at a National Economic Fest held in Jaipur and won the 'Best Outstation College' award. The team comprising **Utkarsh Dave, Vrinda Dave, Hard Patel, Arjun Sindhav, Sidhraj Maisurya, Jensy Johny, & Subha** participated in events such as Pennybag, Stockshock, La Bougette and won the overall trophy. Congratulations to the entire team for their fantastic performance!

### Seminar to woo Sanskrit students

The Department of Sanskrit under the leadership of the HoD, **Dr. Shuchita Mehta**, brought in resource persons to conduct a workshop on 'Sanskrit Bhasha Kaushalyam'. The four day workshop was a way to encourage students to use Communicative Skills in Sanskrit. The workshop was inspiring and educational not only for students of Sanskrit but also some from the Science and Arts departments who joined in.



### Jagrat

120 FY and SY Arts and Science students of JAGRAT attended a workshop on "Academic Improvement" conducted by **Dr. Dilip Vasava** and **Prof. Vijay Dhandhukia**. The aim of this workshop was to bring about improvement in their academic performance. Expert suggestions were given and on the basis of these the students themselves drew up action plans.

### Climate catalysts

**Aayushi Maheswari** and **Jahnvi Kapadia**, SYBSc students from St. Xavier's College participated in a 2 day workshop of Climate Catalysts 2014, held at CEE, Ahmedabad. In his inaugural speech Dr Kartikeya Sarabhai introduced the participants to the agenda of the workshop and made aware how we are indeed aware of everything going wrong but still choose to ignore it. He gave a brief account on the history of CEE, Ahmedabad, a national institution setup in 1984, for educating the common man about nature. In this workshop they spoke about climate changes taking place, in the context of the development agenda.

### Botanical study tour

A 5-day Botanical study tour to Mt. Abu was organized for semester 5 Botany students from Sept 1 to 5, 2014. The 25 students were accompanied by **Fr. Lancy S.J., Mr Musabhai & Mr Satishbhai** along with Mr. Santosh & Ms. Anima as the resource persons. In spite of tough weather conditions, the students trekked over varied landscapes including Nakki Lake, Gurushikar, Tiger's Path, Abu Ghat, etc. and documented over 250 plant species including some rare ones. The study tour is part of the TY curriculum and each student submits a report and has to take a viva related to the tour.



### Fr. Lancy visits Kashmir

**Fr. Lancy D'Cruz SJ** was part of a special TCS delegation which visited Kashmir from August 24 to 27, 2014. The delegation included senior Vice-Presidents of TCS, along with the Vice Chancellor of New Delhi, Jamia Milia, and prominent academicians from Mumbai, Bangalore and Coimbatore. The visit included interactions with the Vice Chancellors

of several Universities, the Education Ministry, Govt. of Kashmir as well as with students of Kashmir University. He also participated in a panel discussion. It can be seen at <http://emmrckashmir.com/quest/quest-2014/quest-episode-298/>

### Fr Donald Dias Football tournament

Fr Donald Dias Football tournament was held on our campus. We were the winners of the cup in last year and were eyeing the coveted cup this year too. We did exceptionally well in the preliminary matches which boosted our confidence. However, the dream was shattered by the Ahmedabad City Police in the semi-finals.

### Initiatives of Career Cell

**Dr Clement Chammasheril** who heads the Career Cell offered some challenging moments to job aspirants from Xavier's. Three institutions (Teach for India, Gandhi Fellowship and the French Embassy) organised workshops for students in order to acquaint them with various opportunities available for students in future. Over 72 students took part of these workshops.



### Navratri celebrations by Hostelites



The Annual Navratri Garba was held on St Xavier's College campus as a joint venture of the Ladies and Men's hostel on September 27. The event was named 'Radhiyari Ratri 2014' to highlight the uniqueness of the event. The event saw not only students dressed up in colourful attire but also some college professors, and the hostel rectors dancing to the drum beats.

### Gujarati Divas celebrated

The Department of Gujarati celebrated 'Gujarati Divas' with all gusto. The department took the initiative to collect photographs of literary figures who have contributed to the development of Gujarati literature and installed them in their classroom. It also organised two talks on various topics related to Gujarati literature. Dr Ranjana Harish and Dr Satish Vyas were the resource persons.



### Workshop on SAP



The College organised a workshop on Strategic Action Planning. Though only departmental heads were invited, many more faculty joined the workshop. Departmental members prepared SAP for their department to be executed in the next semester. The resource person was **Fr Fernando Franco SJ**.

### NSS activities

The NSS under the guidance of its motivating officer **Prof Ami Shah** took up brooms and mops to clean the College. It was followed by a poster-making and essay writing competition as part of the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations. For poster-making, the topic was 'Clean India, Green India' and for the latter, 'Clean India, Healthy India'. Many students took part in the competition. Keep it up NSS.



### Alumni speaks

Prof. Gautam Kantharia: "I enrolled as a student in FY Arts in 1955 when the College was housed at St. Xavier's High School, Mirzapur. Rev. Fr. More ran the College office. Rev. Fr. Lobo was the first Principal of the College. Among the faculty were Prof. T.R.Vakil, Prof. Chimanbhai Patel (who later became the Chief Minister of Gujarat), Prof. C.L Shastri and

Prof. R.C. Shah. Following year (1956) the College shifted to its present location. The College building under construction was surrounded by fields with standing crops. We used to take our bicycles along the embankments of the surrounding fields to reach the College by a shorter route. Rev. Fr Herbert D'Souza came as the Principal while Rev. Fr Francis Braganza was the Vice-Principal and his brother Rev. Fr Joseph Braganza the Rector. Fr. J. Braganza was known as a very strict disciplinarian. Conversing with the Jesuit fathers was truly a very exhilarating experience. In fact, in those days, they were our windows to the world as most of them had travelled across continents. Regular interaction with them, in my own case, was a beneficial upshot in my career. I was convinced that the Jesuits and their educational institutions are unquestionably the best places of learning anywhere across the world. I am proud of being an alumnus of St. Xavier's". Thank you Prof. Kantharia for your heartfelt inspirational words.



## Snippets

- ✓ **Dr Mrudul Gadhvi** is back in the Department of Physics after a year long research in the US. Dr Gadhvi was a recipient of famous Dr CV Raman Fellowship. Welcome back Dr Gadhvi.
- ✓ **Ruzbeh Hodiwala** a student of Economics represented the Gujarat Chapter of IARF in UK in the 34<sup>th</sup> World Congress of International Association of Religious Freedom.
- ✓ **Dhvani Bhatt** a student of BA Semester 3 majoring in English presented her research paper entitled "Harmony in South Asia-Cross Cultural Communication through Writers of South Asian Diaspora" at the International Conference organized by GNLU September 12 and 13, 2014.
- ✓ The Department of Biochemistry organized a talk on 'Next Generation DNA Sequencing' by iBIOA. The talk was attended by a large number of SY and TY students. Dr Senthil Nateshan was the resource person.
- ✓ **Prof Prashant Patel** from the Department of Mathematics has bagged the all India first rank in CSIR-NET examination held in June 2014 in Mathematics. Congratulations Prashant.
- ✓ A training of Trainers workshop was conducted by **Fr Roland D'Souza** and **Sr Mary James** for the PGOP team of our faculty. They also trained students for organizing a workshop for PRERNA, the association of housekeeping employees.
- ✓ The Campus Ministry organized a training programme for Utkarsh and Utkarsh volunteers in order to bridge the gap and help them bond together.
- ✓ Campus ministry also conducted PGOP training programmes for the students of various departments.
- ✓ The Ecology project of SXC is among the top 20 selected in Asia in the Handprint Challenge. Congrats to the team leader **Jhanvi Kapadia** of SYBSc and her team, to Tarumitra and to their mentor Mr Jothi.
- ✓ **Fr Lancy D'Cruz SJ** was awarded the Young Scientist Award for his presentation at the National Seminar on 'Strategies to Understand Sustainable Utilization of Plant Wealth' (SUSUP -2014) held at the Department of Botany, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad on September 29-30, 2014.
- ✓ One of the UG student researches of 2013-14 has been published in the Research and Reviews: A journal of Biotechnology. The title of the article is "Comparative Assessment of Antiproliferative Potential of Triphala and Ashokarishta: Dependence on Dose, Exposure Time and Age of the Preparation". Congratulations to the team comprising of **Dr Sudeshna**, **Prof Kinjal Desai** and **Neha Oli**. May many more departments follow their example.

*Thanks to Ms Aakansha Roberts for compiling the news items, Fr Vincent Saldanha SJ for editing and Fr Roland D'Souza SJ for photo documentation.*

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