



# SXC CHRONICLES

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## Triumphs and Accolades

### Annual Day Celebrations

The 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Day of the College was held on March 17, 2018 in the Siddharth Assembly Hall. The Industrialist duo, Mr. Milan Dalal, Managing Director of Bluetex Pvt Ltd and Mrs. Pinky Dalal were the Chief guests. Over 119 prizes, under the categories of Academic, Deserving and Sports were given to students who excelled in the respective categories. The most coveted '*The Rev. Fr Donald Dias Memorial Prize*' for outstanding past staff or student who continues rendering valuable service to the College was awarded to Ms. Devyani Nawab, former student and a close associate of Utkarsh activities. The Best Employee of the Year (Faculty) was awarded to Dr. Udayan Prajapati, the Head of the Mathematics Department and The Best Employee of the Year (Administrative) was awarded to Ms. Anita Patel of the College Office. The Xavier Medal for excellence was conferred to Ms. Shweta Gohil, The Sportsman of the year was bestowed on Mr. Kanjani Naman M. and The Sportswoman of the year on Ms. Merlin Martin.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Chintan Dalal highlighted that the orientation that St Xavier's College is giving to students is exemplary, thereby, moulding the young minds of Ahmedabad to become responsible citizens of India.



### Reaching the Silver Zenith

In appreciation for 25 years of their service to the institution, Xavier's felicitates them with a silver medal. This recognition is a gratitude for their belief in the institution and their commitment to education and nation building. This year, Dr. Urvi Chhaya, Dr. Nandita Ganguly, Mr. Agnelo Gonslaves and Mr. Rajesh Kalasva were honoured in a function celebrating their successful journey towards a silver jubilee.



### A Xavierite in a Youth Delegation to South Korea

Ms. Radha Mehta from the Department of Sanskrit accepted an invitation to be a part of an Indian Youth Delegation to South Korea. It was a 9 day summit. During the meeting, sessions on youth empowerment and responsibilities were conducted with South Korean Ministry. Youth from India presented nuances of Indian Culture and Vedic literature. Radha in exaltation expressed that she is representing India as a Xavierite.

Congratulations and gratitude to Dr. Shuchita Mehta, who has been her mentor for the last three years.

# Campus Buzz

## Jagrat and Utkarsh Programmes

The Academic year 2018 - 19 of Jagrat Forum, began with an inaugural function organized for 140 Adivasi and Dalit students on July 4, 2018. The Chief Guest, Dr. Rajendra Jadav, Spokesperson, Gujarat State Professor's Association and the Guest of Honour, Mrs. Mamta Shah, ex-student of the College and currently Section Officer in the GPSC, inaugurated the Jagrat Forum. Mr. Omkar of TCS, Mr. Sudeep and Mrs. Mayeling of Catalyst, also graced the occasion. The inaugural function was enriched with a cultural program presented by the second and third year students, which was followed by an introduction and orientation of the new batch of students.

In this semester, two workshops have been held for the first year Jagrat students. A Workshop of 'Goal setting and planning' was held for 39 first year students on July 28, 2018. Our faculty members, Dr. Ishwar Mehra, Dr. Jui Upadhyay and Mr. Amit Koshti were the resource persons. The second year students had a parallel workshop on the same day, in which 20 students participated. Mr. Puransinh, Dr. Pinky Desai, Mr. Saurabh Vaishnav, Ms. Anna Sacha and Ms. Rashmi Yadav were the resource persons.



Trainee workshops were conducted by Utkarsh and as part of the training volunteers visited Old age home in Unteshwari and Blind peoples's association.

Utkarsh Alumni Meet, 'Sneh – Milan 2018' as an event hosted 120 alumni members bringing in a nostalgic feeling. Catching up with old friends, they reminisced their journey as Utkarshians at Xavier's and with a feeling of belonging shared how being part of Utkarsh helped them reach their goals and face day to day challenges. The high point of the event was that despite their physical handicaps, their thinking and will power have taken them through myriad experiences with a smile on their faces.

Utkarsh conducted a training programme for their volunteers with the main thrust on 'How to become effective trainers?' The resource person skillfully brought out the qualities of an effective trainer through various activities. The message given was very clear and strong, 'If you want to contribute to the Society, develop qualities in yourself first'.

Hosting 30 slum children from 'Vasna –Gyan- Shala' was the best experience that Utkarsh had. Their innocence, curiosity, enthusiasm while talking about their lives and families was very heartening. The volunteers made the visit special by playing games and engaging them in activities showcasing the importance of education.

## CWDC “Seizes The Moment”

The Collegiate Women's Development Cell (CWDC) at St. Xavier's College has been actively reinforcing discussions and programs on very intriguing issues that demand the attention of the youth today. CWDC and Blind People's Association joined hands to organize an awareness programme called 'Seize the Moment', where the director Ms. Nandini Raval and Ms. Shruti Singh addressed the students with suitable examples on the 5Ls (live, love, learn, lead, let go), which teaches how to enjoy and live life every moment. They exemplified the same by showcasing lives of people that include Neeta (An earthquake survivor), differently abled people living a life better than normal human beings, Robin Sharma (Author) and Pranav Desai (founder of Voice). They also narrated stories of mentally challenged people and their trials and tribulations in life. They concluded the discussion with a quote by Alwin Toffler, *“The illiterate of 21<sup>st</sup> century will not be the one who cannot read and write but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn”*.

CWDC also celebrated Women's Day by distributing handmade cards and chocolates to the teaching and non-teaching female staff of the College. The cards were hand crafted by the CWDC volunteers, with artistic decorations and motivating quotes on Women Empowerment.

# Campus Abuzz with NSS Activities

NSS, under the leadership of Dr. Devang Pandya and the committed group of NSS volunteers, organized a registration drive for the first year students and conducted an orientation programme to give an insight into the activities and contributions of NSS for societal awareness and growth. Their first initiative was a Thalassemia test campaign for over 150 first year students. Anandhar Sunny from Department of Chemistry and Sahitya Rawal from BCA sang patriotic songs to enliven the atmosphere. Moreover, the high point of the campaign was that there were many who had never thought that they may be carriers of a disease.

NSS also organized a talk for students on 'Nutrition for teenagers' by Ms. Shital Doshi with the main focus being on creating awareness amongst students on initiating a movement to eradicate anemia. This informative talk was attended by about 85 students. Mr Naresh Gadhvi from Red Cross was invited by NSS to train our students in administering First Aid. It is very encouraging to note that over 50 students learnt the basic skills of providing First Aid.

NSS also conducted another programme on campus on 'Traffic awareness for the students and a get together for the housekeeping staff' of the campus.

NSS also visited Cancer hospital and interacted with inmates. Thank you, Dr Devang Pandya for boosting up the spirit of NSS.



## Celebrating 72<sup>nd</sup> Independence Day

The 72<sup>nd</sup> Independence Day was celebrated with great aplomb being spearheaded by the NSS Coordinator, and NSS volunteers with support from the members of the Cultural Committee. The Chief Guest, Mr. Natubhai Verma, the Coordinator of the NSS

Activities, Gujarat University unfurled the National Flag to a resounding Jana Gana Mana from everyone present. That moment was symbolic of Unity and Peace. The Chief Guest in his speech emphasized on the importance of developing the youth towards becoming more responsible and proactive towards the growth of India. He ended his speech with a very touching story of the fragile condition of family system in India today, where there is a growing intolerance to stay as a family and he appealed to the youth that the integrity of the family system should be maintained. Students of NSS enthralled the audience with their though provoking speeches, poems and patriotic renditions.



## International Yoga Day

International Yoga Day, now popularized as IYD was conducted on June 21 in the Siddharth Assembly Hall. Ever since its inception in academic institutions, Yoga is gaining popularity among the younger generation. Renowned Yoga teacher of Gujarat University, Ms. Falguniben Pandya guided the participants to perform yoga in a technically sound and meaningful manner. Large numbers of students from humanities and computer sciences with their faculty members participated in learning nuances of Yoga. This is indeed a motivational activity that helps students to unwind as well as discipline oneself in life.

“Yoga is the journey of the self, through the self to the self” - *The Bhagvad Gita*



# Succouring Dreams for Higher Education and Careers

The department of Biochemistry – Biotechnology had its second phase of Capacity Building Programme (A GSBTM Aided Programme) on Feb 04 – 05, 2018 for undergraduate students of various colleges of Ahmedabad to prepare them for competitive exams for higher studies in Biological Sciences. The programme is strategically focused on grooming the students to tackle questions on mathematics, logical reasoning, physics and chemistry as these are subjects that biology students do not have as their core competence. The programme has enabled 70 percent of the students registered in the programme to get admissions for higher studies. It is a gratification that the endeavour has enabled Ms. Saishree Iyer to be selected at TIFR, Mumbai; Mr. Darshit Thakkar to be selected at National Brain Research Centre, New Delhi; Ms. Priyanshi Mishra to be selected at IIT, Rourkee, which are premier research institutes in our country.



“You never fail until you stop trying” - Albert Einstein

## Inculcating the Spirit of Entrepreneurship in Xavierites

A group of experts from Gujarat University organized a talk to motivate students to initiate startups and sow the seeds of entrepreneurship in them. A seminar was

conducted where long term goal and short term goal of startups was discussed. A positive outcome of this workshop is that it may change lives of many students whilst our college can play a pivotal role in enabling self-realization by supporting students in choosing self-employment as a career move. An entrepreneur needs to develop a lot of soft skills along with technical knowledge and these can be honed by the college. The seminar was attended by students from various departments. Many of the students presented their innovative ideas for the startup and later on submitted these proposals in a documented form. Three proposals were selected for funding by the experts. Congratulations to Darshan Patel, Rishi Palora from the Department of Chemistry and a special thanks to the coordinator of the programme, Dr. Pranav Trivedi.

## Advanced BSc Programme - Physics

The department of Physics - Electronics organized the advanced BSc programme from May 13, 2018 onwards. It was a programme conducted for a duration of three weeks and is popular among the physics lovers of the state. About 34 students from 24 colleges participated. The sessions were conducted by experts from Xavier's College as well as from PRL and IPR. Students also visited national centers such as visited IPR, FCIPT, PRL, SAC-ISRO and VASCSC. Another attraction of the programme was an Astro night where Dr Vishal Joshi, an astrophysicist interacted with the students. **Congratulations to the organizers!**



# Pedagogical Endeavours

Tata Consultancy Services has been our hand holding partner in student empowerment. For several years now, TCS has been conducting capacity building programmes especially for the ST students of the

college. This is a 100 hr - duration programme offered exclusively to the third year students, to initiate them in to looking at various career choices. The net outcome of this programme is that several of them

have been inducted by TCS themselves and others easily find a place in other companies.

This initiative has been one of the most successful programmes due to the efforts made by Fr Lancy for coordinating these programmes with the help of TCS for our students.



### A Student Initiative

In Xitu, a student owned unit of the Biochemistry – Biotechnology department, as an extension of its services, conducted summer workshops on Plant Tissue Culture, Basic Molecular Biology techniques for school as well as college students. The workshop was conducted by the third year students of Vocational Biotechnology with the objective of creating awareness in school students of the relevance of Biotechnology and its prospects.



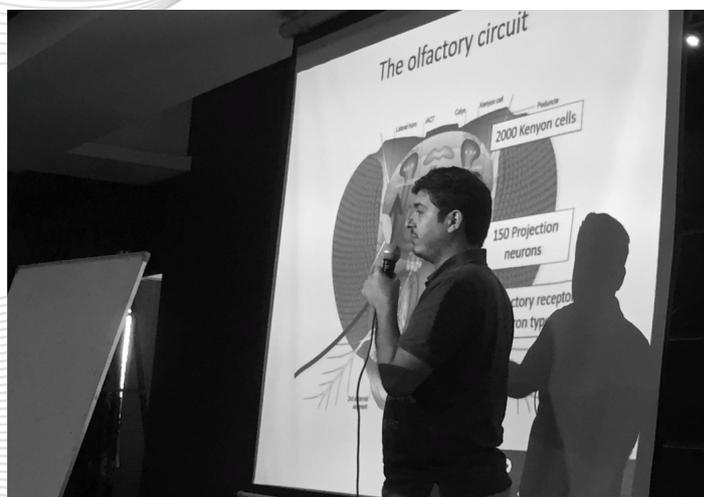
### $\beta$ -heliX

The department of Biochemistry - Biochemistry has initiated the  $\beta$ -heliX Colloquium. The helix is a motif in biomolecules that gives stability, a 3 - D structure and thereby, a complete conformation leading to optimum functioning. This definition will be the thrust of all the talks in the colloquium, where the students will get an insight into how biological systems

intricately coordinate to be efficient and productive with an extension of an application. These colloquia will bring out the essence of basic research and the conceptualizing of applied research.

The first talk on 20 August, 2018 was delivered by Dr. Mehrab Modi, currently working at Janelia Research Centre, Washington DC. His talk was on “Sustained Odour Responses in *Drosophila* Kenyon Cells and their role in associative learning” and in his inimitable style he was able to pique the curiosity of the students and the entire session turned out to be a forum of scientific interaction and discussion. It truly was an amazing beginning to initiate scientific thinking on campus.

The second talk in the colloquia series on 30 August, 2018 was by Mr. Rigveda Bhawe, who gave an interesting talk on "The direct reprogramming of stem cells to address the root cause of Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus". His journey was inspiring to the students, because the work he shared was his dissertation work in his MSc programme that was done in Portugal and that in itself opens to the arena of exploring to do research across the world. He also shared with the students the nuances of applying for a programme abroad.



### Science Fests / Workshops / Trainings

The department of Biochemistry - Biotechnology organized the third State Level Biofest “**BiocalyX – Contesting the Inquisitive Gene in You**” on March 03, 2018. The theme this year was “Personalae curatio – Personalized treatments” as there is an increasing number of interventions to cure diseases in individuals after identifying the root cause. The biofest included competitions in Poster Presentations, Decoding the

Conundrum (Science Crossword) and a BioQuiz. There was also a display of posters by in house students on Nutrition based themes. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Bhadresh Rami, Sun Pharma Ltd and graced by our judges for the various events, Dr. Hyacinth Highland and Dr. Linz – Buoy George, Department of Zoology, School of Sciences, Gujarat University. There was participation from students across the state giving them the opportunity to share knowledge and present their original ideas, learn from the judges, other participants, and revel in the scientific atmosphere.

The Mathematics Department has been instrumental in offering a range of training modules and workshops to students across the state. A remarkable feat by them was to have four programmes being conducted by them simultaneously during the summer. The first

Prof P.C. Pandya Summer School funded by GUJCOST, Prof A. R. Rao Foundation, Ahmedabad Ganit Mandal, Gujarat Science Academy and Madhava Mathematics Competition Fund of Gujarat region was organized by the Gujarat Science Academy and Mathematics Department, SXCA. A state level summer school, 30 students were selected from various college and one of the highlights of this programme was a visit to the Science City. The sessions were conducted by experts from IIT, Gandhinagar, Gujarat University, Sardar Patel University, M.S. University, Colleges associated with Gujarat University, Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, GLS University, Parul University, L. D. Engineering College and Gujarat Technological University. A couple of sessions were dedicated to solve the famous Rubik Cube Puzzle.

## Search and Research, Learn and Relearn

Organizing seminars and lecture series is now a culture at Xavier's. This term witnessed several National seminars happening on campus. The department of Psychology organized a National seminar on 'Pedagogy as a Requisite, To Make Counseling Psychology a Promising Profession in India', wherein, Dr Romate John from the University of Gulbarga was the keynote speaker. The department of Computer sciences organized a seminar on 'Deep learning for computer Vision' where Fr. John Rose from Xavier Institute of Technology, Mumbai was the key note speaker.

The Department of Chemistry organized a National seminar on 'Recent Advances and Future Trends in Chemical Sciences-2018' where Dr. Rodney A Fernandes from IIT Mumbai gave the keynote address. The seminar was attended by over 100 participants. St. Xavier's College also organised a National workshop on 'The Intellectual Dimension of The Jesuit Mission' where Principal, Fr Robert Arokiasamy himself was the coordinator. Several talks were also organized by various departments. the Department of Economics organized a talk on 'Global Political and Economic order' by Dr. Kishor Bhanushali of Karnavati University.



### Staff Research Ceremony and Annual Research Award Ceremony, 2018

The 15<sup>th</sup> Staff Research Seminar was held on April 14 in the XICA auditorium. The Chief Guest of the function was Dr. A K Singhvi, renowned Indian physicist from PRL. Dr. Singhvi inspired the enthusiastic participants and challenged them to produce quality research work that will transform the world. Following the keynote address, there were six presentations from humanities and science subjects. Dr. Shuchita Mehta, Mr. Puransinh Makwana, Dr. Profaina Christian, Mr. Tejas Turakhia (JRF working under Dr. Sanjeev Gupta), Dr. Dweipayan Goswami, Mr. Prabal Dev Bhuyan (JRF working with Dr. Rajesh

Iyer) presented their research findings. This seminar has its peculiarity as it was the first time college explored the possibility of getting an ISSN number for the Research Annals. Due to technical reasons, the first issue with an ISSN number is expected to be published soon. This, therefore, is a definite move towards quality research work.

The Annual Research Award Ceremony, 2018 was held on 25 August, 2018. The Chief Guest, Prof Kalroo, Professor Emeritus, Ahmedabad University, and Guest of Honour, Dr. Bhushit Vaishnav, Academic Head, PRL blessed the research students and presented medals, prizes and certificates to 54 undergraduate and one post Graduate research students. In his speech, Prof. Kalroo emphasized the importance of asking relevant questions and the passion to search and research. Dr. Bhushit Vaishnav

extended support by inviting students to avail facilities in PRL.

Ms. Heli Oza, Botany Department and Ms. Sukanya Sanger, Psychology Department presented their research work. Dr. Udayan Prajapati, Head of the Mathematics Department was conferred the coveted “Researcher of the Year” Award.



# Xavier's ups the Ante of Quality

The National Life Science Entrepreneurship Awareness competition was held at IIM-Ahmedabad on 16 March, 2018. An initiative by C CAMP, Bengaluru, and the competition was on developing a business idea that the participants had to build in two hours and then present. Four of our students of Vocational Biotechnology, Priya Shah, Anoushka Oza, Rushabh Shah and Hrimkar Buch represented our College and made the college proud by winning the first prize of Rs. 25,000. Students commented during their interaction that their learning pad was the opportunity they have received through in-Xitu, the entrepreneurial programme of Vocational Biotechnology and the freedom given to them to experiment and learn. Congratulations to the students as well as the staff who spend a lot of their time in moulding them in their journey towards excellence.



“Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of an intelligent effort” - *John Ruskin*

## New Appointments

Several new staff members have been appointed to the college: Dr. Yogesh Baravalia, Dr. Anuroopa Gupta and Ms. Sunita to the Department of Biochemistry-Biotechnology, Fr. Johnson to the Dept. of Physics, Fr. Sunil Macwan, Ms. Jui Upadhyay, Mr. Harsh Thacker to the department of English, Mr. Harsh Khoradia, Ms. Anuja Limbad, Dr. Atman Shah to the department of Economics and Mr. Tatpar Joshipura to the Dept. of Psychology, Dr. Divya B to the department of Chemistry, Dr. Rashmi Jadav to the department of Botany, Dr. Savan Patel, Mr. Dhawal Bhatt, and Mr. Kishan Vyas to the department of Mathematics. Welcome to the ever growing and dynamic Xavier Parivar.

## The Entree Process

One of the occasions when the College sees a sea of people flowing in to the campus is during the admission process. This year too was no exception to this, although, a major part of the admission process has become online. Much the same as the previous years, over 5500 students applied for various programmes at Xavier's. This academic year the college initiated three new programmes such as MSc Biotechnology, MSc Chemistry (Analytical) and MSc Physics. These programmes received an encouraging response and the respective departments are not just

enthusiastic but determined to offer the best education to the students who have enrolled. Congratulations and all the best to the departments!

## Connecting with Alumni

Fond memories are relived when one steps into a world that they belonged to and it is any institution's wish to have their alumni visiting them as often as possible. Minister and Hon. Ex speaker of the Vidhan Sabha, Shri Chotubhai Vasava, Ex Head of the Dept. of Chemistry, Dr P. S Acharya, and Prof. M.T Patel were amongst the many who visited the college. Two of our

alumni, Mr. Vinod Agrawal and Dr Dilip Vasava addressed the third year students and highlighted the experience and values that they will carry from the campus for the rest of their lives.

On August 12, about 80 alumni from the batch of 1980-83 under the leadership of Dr Sharadkumar Sondarva, Dept of Zoology, met on the campus. The meet was a nostalgic trip and a rejuvenating experience for all of them.

“As truth be told, homecoming never gets old”  
*Hlovate*

# Snippets

Fr David Roy has proceeded to pursue his doctoral studies in Computer Sciences at the Marquette University, Wisconsin. We wish him all the best.

We have a new director for XICA in the absence of Fr David Roy. Fr Johnson Kuruvilla SJ took charge of XICA on June 12, 2018 as the director.

Ms. Dhara Bhatt is now Dr Dhara Bhatt after obtaining a doctoral degree in Computer Sciences from C U Shah University, Bhavnagar.

Ms Shital Doshi and Mr Tatpar Joshipura have submitted their PhD thesis and await their viva.

Remedial classes were conducted by the department of Chemistry to help students to clear their supplementary examinations. Thank you and congratulations.

Inaugural prayer service was held in the St Xavier's Church with a Eucharistic celebration by the Bishop of Ahmedabad, Rev. Fr Ratnasamy.

Fr Principal attended the Principal meet in Bangalore and Jesuit Principals meet in Bilbao, Spain.

Dr Karin Monteiro, from St Pauls's Institute of Communication Education, Mumbai, delivered a lecture on 'Communication Media and Career Series'. The primary goal was to increase the focus around the importance of journalism and communication today, its impact on the media we consume, its relevance in every aspect of our life and our society.

Fr Donald Dias Memorial Trophy football tournament is being played from August 4 with very enthusiastic participation.

Dr Devang Pandya delivered a lecture at ACTI on Chemistry of Dyes and intermediates.

Ms Shraddha Doshi from BCA and Ms Jill Mehta from B.Com have left the institution.

Ms. Joshi Naiya, a student of Sanskrit Department, won the first Prize in a Paper Presentation Competition in Narmad Meghani Smruti – Vandana held at Shri M. B. Patel Arts and Commerce College on 31 August, 2018. Earlier the department has won the Shrimad Bhagwad Geeta elocution trophy.

The Campus Ministry now celebrates birthdays of all the staff members born in a particular month. All staff assemble and pray for the wellbeing of those whose birthdays are being celebrated and mingle with each other over coffee and cake.

College men's and women's hostel celebrated the annual grand feast to bid adieu to the senior students. The programme was named 'Carnival of Diversity'.

The Economics department organized 'Cognoscence 2018' - 4th Annual Economic Fest on 3-4 February.



“Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean” - *Ryunosuke Satoro*

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