

St. Xavier's College [Autonomous], Kolkata. An Overview – 2009-2010

Founder	REV. FR. H. DEPELCHIN, S.J.			
Foundation Day	16TH JANUARY, 1860			
Motto	"NIHIL ULTRA" (NOTHING BEYOND)			
Aim	TO FORM MEN & WOMEN FOR OTHERS			
Place	KOLKATA			
State	WEST BENGAL			
Type of College	CO-EDUCATION			
Financial Category	GRANT-IN-AID AND SELF FINANCING			
Accredited by NAAC	'A' Grade in 2003			
Autonomy	March 2006			
Centre for Potential For Excellence (CPE)	2006			
Centre of Excellence – 'EMMRC'	1			
Computer Centre	1			
Computer Labs	4			
Research Library	1			
Observatory	1			
Hostels	2			
MOUs	6			
Foreign Collaboration / Exchange	4			
Courses	PG- 5	UG- 16	OTHERS- 12	
Students	PG- 433	UG- 5136	OTHERS-272	TOTAL-5841
Staff	TEACHING- 190	NON-TEACHING- 97	TOTAL- 287	

Principal's Message

It is with a firm sense of optimism that I deliver this report to the Xaverian community. I took over as Principal from Fr. P. C. Mathew, S.J. who served as Principal for almost fourteen years. Fr. Dominic Savio, S.J. took over as the Vice-Principal of the Commerce (Morning) department from me, Fr. Jimmy Keepuram, S.J. took over as the Vice-Principal of the Arts & Science department. Prof. Albert Gomes has taken over as the Controller of Examinations from Fr. P. Eaton, S.J. Prof. M. M. Rahaman continues to be the Vice-Principal of the Commerce (Evening) department. St. Xavier's College is grateful to Fr. P. C. Mathew, S.J. and Fr. P. Eaton, S.J. for making it an institution of infinite breadth, vitality and distinction. The portals of this hallowed institution has been built and nurtured over the last 150 years by the toils of the Jesuit Fathers, dedicated faculty and loyal students. I am enormously proud of our outstanding faculty, administrators and support staff and of the important role our college plays in Kolkata, India and the world beyond.

Each day that I serve, I am reminded of the long history of St. Xavier's and its dedicated service in the field of education.

The celebrations for 150 years started on 16th January, 2009 and was inaugurated by Shri. Buddhadeb Bhattacharya, Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal. Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, was expected to grace the occasion but on account of his ill health was unable to attend the programme. The Chief Minister was kind enough to spend around 30 minutes with the Jesuit Fathers and staff members. He was in all praise of the institution and its legacy. The closing ceremony will be held on 16th January 2010 and the Prime Minister of India has promised to grace the occasion this time. The college has also lined up a host of other programmes as a part of the 150th year celebrations.

Each day that I serve, I am reminded of the long history of St. Xavier's and its dedicated service in the field of education. St. Xavier's College is UGC accredited as a "centre with potential for excellence". But history alone will not propel us forward. As we build on the remarkable legacy we have inherited, I believe that, as a public institution, we must maintain the highest standards of quality, transparency and accountability. Benchmarking our performance serves several purposes. It helps promote better management of the college and more accountability to our stakeholders. It sharpens our focus on how we allocate our resources and it allows us to measure how we compare with other colleges that compete with us for resources and talent. We have no right to claim that we are a premier college unless we can demonstrate it.

St. Xavier's College is a pluralistic and diverse institution with many departments. In order to run an institution this big we need to set some targets and work towards achieving them. For better management of the college 24 committees have been set up to look into the diverse range of activities. As the Principal of the college, I would like first to lay down my vision of this institution. The past few months, since I took over as the principal, have seen vigorous activity in terms of new directions within the campus. My focus henceforth will be on:

Improvement of teaching and learning facilities.

- Staff development and promotion.
- Research and innovation, and
- Diversification.

The Jesuit tradition of education has a distinguished history spanning five centuries. It is an expression of an aspiration and inspiration. There are some characteristics that uphold the Jesuit standards of education, and which undergird the experience of teaching and learning. St. Xavier's, therefore, remains committed to ensure the enduring mission to propel the economic, social, political and cultural development of society through teaching, research, innovation, advisory and community services.

St. Xavier's is committed to the cause of social justice and has therefore devised the rural outreach programs. We stand for education with a human face.

The primary feature of our education is a passion for quality. This institution set demanding standards for both students and faculty. Our education has, in every age, pursued and delivered educational excellence. If we have to maintain our quality standards and move ahead with time and be contemporary, we need to introduce more undergraduate and postgraduate courses. We need to set up research centers in various disciplines and offer doctoral degrees. In an effort to do this we need to expand and create more space. We have two action plans to achieve this: shift the Park Street hostel and also set-up another campus. We must try to become a University in the near future as envisioned by the Knowledge Commission.

We believe that if St. Xavier's has to reach the pinnacle then our faculty has to be the best. We have constantly encouraged our faculty to take up research. Research infrastructure in the college was upgraded and during the year the Central Research Facility Room was set up for encouraging research in the field of science. The Staff Study has also been equipped with adequate research facility. During the academic session 2008-09, two of our faculty members were awarded Ph. Ds, seven faculty members got UGC sponsored MRP and three faculty members got research funding from CISR. Some of our faculty members who made us proud during the year include Prof. T. Dutta who presented a paper in the XIV International Clay Conference at Castalaneta Marina, Italy in June, 2009. Prof. S. S. Roy won the National Film Award for best editing and was awarded the "Rajat Kamal" by the President of India. Prof. A. Chakraborti produced and directed an acclaimed documentary shown at prestigious film festivals around the world. St. Xavier's College has a memorandum of understanding with the University of Manitoba, Canada. Our faculty, Dr. Arup Mitra, visited Manitoba to facilitate the running of courses in micro-biology. Dr. Sweta Ghosh visited St. Benedict and St. John's University, USA and we may enter into another MOU with them. St. Xavier's College also started offering M.B.A, M.S.W, M.A (English) and M.A (Education) courses under the IGNOU Convergence Scheme. The department of Career Oriented Programme (COP) has been successfully offering eight courses including a joint collaboration programme with National Stock Exchange, New Delhi. St. Xavier's College Placement Cell got more than 200 students placed in 30 odd companies including some multi – national companies.

As a part of our efforts to upgrade infrastructural facilities the Central Library was equipped with a new system of bar coding of books. This will immensely help in the easy tracking and distribution of books. The college canteen has also been given a new look and is well stocked now with a variety of eatables.

Another characteristic of our education is its constant evaluation of ethics and values. We address these issues to enhance the personal strength of character and professional quality of our students. It is today, as it has always been, important to combine personal integrity and ethics. In recent years, this pursuit has taken on new urgency. Today we want to focus attention on the great questions of justice and fairness that confront our age: economic inequity, racism, and unemployment in our own country, the global imbalance of economic resources and opportunities, and poverty and oppression, among many others. These are, clearly, complex issues which do not have any certain and universally-accepted solutions. But as a Jesuit institution, we feel compelled by our tradition to raise these questions for our students in a way that is conducive to higher education- through reflection, and creative action. Such a review process provides a firm basis for logical and ethical action. St. Xavier's is committed to the cause of social justice and has therefore devised the rural outreach programs. We stand for education with a human face.

We must share what we receive - our learning and our life experience are not for us to hoard for ourselves. Rather, we are to use our learning, our leadership, our values, and our compassion in service to a world desperately in need of life and hope. We are to make a difference as persons for others; we are challenged to be leaders in the service of all. St. Xavier's is also known to give a lot emphasis to religious experience. St. Xavier's prides itself on being a "home for all faiths". The experience of searching for God is integrated into the educational process. We want to provide students the opportunity to grow in both knowledge and faith, in belief and learning. We at St. Xavier's stand for a multi-cultural, multi-linguistic, multi-religious and well integrated India.

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At St. Xavier's College, the Sports Department has inculcated the spirit of sportsmanship in every Xaverian. Blessed with two lush green fields, the college activities comprise of sports like Basket Ball, Football, Hockey, Cricket, Squash, Aquatics and Volleyball. Our Basket Ball and Hockey teams are playing in the divisions under the banner of Xaverians Club. The Basket Ball team emerged champions in the 2nd division and was promoted to the 1st Division. The hockey team is currently playing in the 2nd division. Out of all the colleges under the banner of Calcutta University, our college has the honour of holding the most number of 'University Blues' i.e. St. Xavier's College has sent up the most number of students as a part of the various sports teams of the Calcutta University. We thank Ms Feroza Mogrelia, our sports director for her able leadership.

The NCC department at St. Xavier's comes under the 20(Bengal) Battalion NCC. It is a combined battalion that it gives equal opportunity for both boys as well as girls. Two of our students from the NCC made us proud. Ilmaz Syed, who represented the college in the Republic Day Parade - 2009 in New Delhi, was awarded the best cadet from West Bengal and Sikkim Directorate. In November, 2009 he was selected for the Youth Exchange Programme and visited Vietnam as a member of the NCC delegation. Chitra V Nair represented the

state and the college in the National Thal Sainik Camp (TSC) in New Delhi in September, 2009. Various camps were organized for personality development, leadership skills, and group training as to how to face an interview and how to master a group discussion. We are proud of 3 NCC cadets who have been selected for the state contingent for the Republic Day parade to be held in New Delhi on 26th January 2010. We thank Prof. A. P. Mondal for his active involvement in the NCC.

The college is also abuzz with a number of other cells like the English Academy, Fine Arts Society, Science Association, Hindi Literary Society, Bengali Literary Society, Xaverian Theatrical Society, XADAM (SXC Cultural Association), Xavier Commerce Society and the College Choir. The recent Drama organized on the 150th year of the college or the year round programmes organized by these societies and cells have really helped St. Xavier's as an institution to grow along with its students. The Women's Cell (SWAR) of the college is also doing great work for women's rights. In addition the college also hosts three national level fests. Xavotsav, Xavier Management Convention (XMC, organized by the BBA department) and Insignia (organized by XCS) all have created a niche for themselves. Conclave (organized by the Economics department) is probably the one of its kind seminar that encourages student research and paper publication. A number of magazines were also brought out during the year; Xaverian the college magazine, Aavishkar (Microbiology department), Xecutive (BBA department), Youthink (Commerce department), Rashi (Statistic department), Horizon (Physics department), Pebbles (Science Association) and EcoEchoes (Economics department).

NSS witnessed a new record of more than a thousand students registering. With more helping hands and immense enthusiasm of the youth, it diversified into both urban and rural areas. NSS has now got four new urban projects in addition to our, now legendary, "Prayas" and other out-reach programmes. The Shishu Mela 2009 was a great success with 600 children participating in it. It was held on 15th November 2009. Bi-annual camps were organized with even greater force and broader scope this year. We thank Ms Cheryl Francis, social work coordinator for her efficient organization of the programmes. AICUF has also been instrumental in its own way in making a difference. This year (2008 - 09) AICUF started Spoken English classes for the Class XI and XII students. Many camps were organized during the year. The members who joined these camps were brought face to face with the harsh reality of life in our villages. The State Women Commission Camp was held for the first time where the students were shown the difficulties which women face today. Noel Francis, last year's State Convener, represented West Bengal AICUF in the International Youth Meet in Australia in the month of July, 2008 where he got a chance to interact with his contemporaries from other countries. The LTS movement in Kolkata began its Golden Jubilee Celebrations on 2nd July 2008 at St. Xavier's auditorium. Around 900 student LTSers from 27 renowned institutions graced the celebrations with their benign presence.

St. Xavier's is also committed to the cause of sustainable development. We must be careful in conserving resources and what we hand over to our future generations. In its own way we are doing our bit. We have banned the use of plastic bags in the campus. There is a solar power laboratory in place. We have plans to increase its capacity. The rain water harvesting system is in place and possibly in the years to come we will have enough to water our field for the whole year. I can confidently give the assurance that St. Xavier's is committed to the cause of sustainable development.

I would like to end by extending blessings to all of our students and to wish them well as they join this great community of learning. I also want to express my gratitude to everyone who has contributed to ensuring that St. Xavier's remains an outstanding institution providing opportunities for superb students and scholars to pursue their dreams. My thanks go to each student, faculty member and member of the administrative and support staff, as well to those most closely involved in the administration of the college, the Vice-Principals, the Deans and all those who support them. I would also like to place on record my condolences to the family of the late Prof. R. K. Ghosh. May his soul rest in peace. Last but not the least, I would also like to express my profound appreciation to our alumni/alumnae for their constant support.

Fr. J. Felix Raj, S.J.
Principal
June 2010.

ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE [AUTONOMOUS], KOLKATA
Glimpses 2009-10



Hon'ble Prime Minister of India - Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Governor of WB - Shri Devanand Konwar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of WB - Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharya and Jesuit Fathers on the occasion of Sesquicentenary Celebrations – 16th January, 2010.



Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Hon'ble Chief Minister of WB Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharya on the occasion of Sesquicentenary Celebrations – 16th January, 2010.



Hon'ble Home Minister Shri P. Chidambaram delivering the convocation address on the occasion of the Convocation and Valedictory – 17th January, 2010.



Fr. Principal presenting memento to Hon'ble Home Minister Shri P. Chidambaram on the occasion of Convocation and Valedictory – 17th January, 2010.



Convocation and Valedictory – 17th January, 2010.



Convocation and Valedictory – 17th January, 2010.



Multi-Religious prayer meet to celebrate the Sesquicentenary Celebrations – 18th January, 2010.



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Glimpses 2009-10



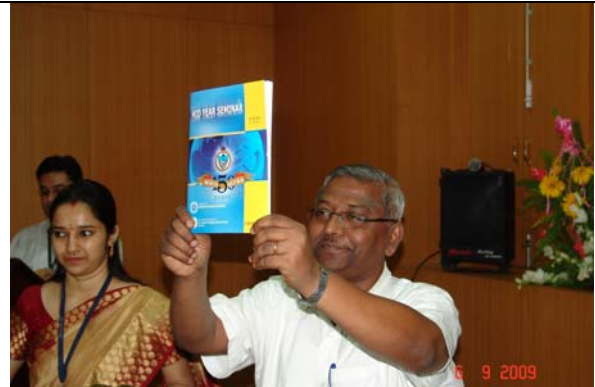
Annual Sports - 2010



Fr. Principal presenting memento to the guest of honour Shri Sambaran Banerjee on the Sport Day 2010



Fr Principal presenting memento to Shri Nirupam Sen, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of West Bengal.



Economics summit.



Cricket Match between College and School Alumni



Presentation by Sussex University



Seminar organized by Computer Science Department



National seminar organized by Dept. of Commerce and BBA