As it has been rightly said, “Learning happens in the minds and souls, not in the databases of multiple-choice tests.” It is this very rationale that the ‘Learning for Life’ initiative by the Student Council of St Xavier’s embodies. Shambhavi Priyam, General Secretary of the Student Council says, “Learning for Life was a program which was a precursor to the honors program in our college but over the years it had phased out and now we are restarting it.”

‘Learning for Life’ endeavors to prepare students of St. Xavier’s to competently handle the complexities of prevailing times. It seeks to enhance their skills through a range of sessions that the Student Council has arranged for. These sessions are not only engaging but also enable students to gain real-life experiences.

“Learning for Life”, as Shreya Mathur, member of the Student Council and overall in-charge of this program says, “was something organized in the past and now has been resumed in order to impart to the students skills that are relevant to life. It provides an opportunity to students to imbibe portrayals and claims of the media. In an age where we are barraged with information from every corner, it becomes imperative to sift through the true and false, the correct-incorrect, the realities and manipulations and lastly news and views. With yellow journalism on the rise, what this workshop precisely did was to assist students in opening their eyes to exaggerations of news providers and media personnel. “The workshop helped me learn how to analyse and evaluate the information I receive around me,” said Meeti Doshi (FYBA).

The other workshop was on time management which had Rohini D’Souza, a life coach supplying Xavierites with ways in which time can be efficiently directed in relation to one’s priorities. With autonomy bringing in several prospects of self-growth, it also brings with it severe time crunches. Ruth Hannah Pereira, who attended the workshop said, “Being so busy I lost track of time and I needed to learn to manage a schedule like mine.” Ask her what she took with her after the workshop, she states, “It is the value of the 86,400 rupees that stand for 86,400 seconds we have in a day that I learnt.” She reiterated a quote by Alan Lakein, a management consultant that she picked up through the course of her session which said, “Time = Life, Therefore, waste your time and waste your life, or master your time and master your life.”

There was a third workshop called ‘Faster Chef’ which gave the participants a chance to improve their culinary skills. A number of quick and easy recipes were taught to them. All in all the participants spent their Sunday continued on page 3
Editors’ Block

**Episode MMXIV: A New Hope**

The first thing that comes to my mind when I think of January is change. Although in reality, there are no tangible changes, a sense of hope lurks around the new year, reminding us of all the things we can do right this time around. I personally do believe in New Year’s Resolutions, practical or physical, probable or improbable as a way to catalogue some sense of direction. And despite them usually being forgotten in a few weeks, I don’t think I’ve ever heard them to be anything less than a baker’s dozen of good intentions.

2014 is going to be an interesting year, with the biggest change being in the upcoming May elections. With the two major parties of Indian government having been the center of debate for the last several months, the outcome is one of increasing anticipation. On the other hand, within college, the International Conference on Chemistry, the Xavier’s MUN, Book Club Conference and a multitude of fests await, keeping up the festive spirit.

Here’s to another trip around the sun!

KADAMBARI SHAH

The Team

The Xavier’s Press consists of a bunch of enthusiastic writers who present the ongoings of college in the simplest, most accessible, and fun way possible.

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UNravelling 2014

Every year, UN officials decide on reasons for the world to celebrate the days ahead of them. Let’s see what they have planned for 2014.

**UN Official 1:** We have 3 themes on which 2014 could focus on.

**UN Official 2:** “The International Year of Family Farming.” Groups, families and communities who farm together are losing out on their earnings due to several reasons.

1: Also, smallholder farming is important for sustainable food production, which is also environmentally sustainable. We will aim to focus on lessening poverty and hunger.

2: And the second theme?

1: “The International Year of Crystallography?” This is my personal favourite. Crystallography studies the formation and structure of crystals. We must focus on building awareness!

2: And since it is the core of structural science, we’ll promote information access and activities too! The next is “The International Year of Small Island Developing States”. We must secure small island states and prevent forced emigration from them!

1: We must also recognise the environmental problems that they are facing and promise to help combat them. So finally, we have made our decision.

Yes, that’s how 2014 began to hold the importance that it holds now.

NEHA TETALI

Applications Shut

Applications have unfortunately closed! We may or may not open them again this year, but watch out for this space!

Have queries? Seen something cool? Want to get featured in The XPress? Email us at thexavierspress@gmail.com.
And while you’re at it, go like our Facebook page to get the latest updates and follow our Twitter handle @TheXPen for bad jokes, semi-scoops and other fun stuff.
CURRENT EVENTS

BEST OF THE FEST

Our college seems to be a melting pot of festivals. Pick any time of the year and there almost definitely is a bunch of students huffing and puffing their way around college, trying to set things in order for some fest which happens to be right around the corner. If you thought 2014 would change that, then you’ve never been more wrong. Within the first two months of the year, it’s best to be prepared for three huge fests to make a place on the college campus.

JANFEST
Janfest remains one of the most awaited classical music festivals in India. Celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, the festival has showcased the best talent that the Indian Classical Music circle has to offer since 1974. In the past, Janfest has played host to great maestros such as Ustad Alla Rakha, Pandit Ravi Shankar, Ustad Zakir Hussain, Pandit Mallikarjun Mansur, Gangubai Hangal, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Pandit Shivkumar Sharma, the Dagar Brothers and many others. Shankar Mahadevan, Shubha Mudgal, Sivamani, Louiz Banks, Tauqiq Qureshi, Niladri Kumar and other popular artists have also performed at Janfest.

Come 2014, the 40th edition of Janfest will feature an eclectic mix of artists from across the country delivering performances from a range of genres. Spread across three sessions, Janfest ‘14 will be held between 25th and 26th January, 2014. The artist line-up for the music festival this year will be unveiled at the Birthday Concert on 11th January, featuring Pandit Ronu Majumdar (flute) and Smt. Devaki Pandit (vocals).

ZEPHYRUS
There’s something about the hostel building that isn’t quite right. The concision of their speech, the direction in their commands, the unity of their thought processes. The winds of change have descended once again and there’s an ominous chatter among the BMS students. Zephyrus, the Greek God of the west wind, symbolizing change holds the cornerstone of their lives with students on edge at the slightest mishap, it seems the BMS department is going all out on their festival to make it an affair to remember. Bringing back prior events like Fantasy Football and Mock Stock, as well as newly crafted events like A-FICCI-ONADO (Mock FICCI in session), interesting new speakers (the rumors of TED seem to be true) and a college trophy up for grabs, Zephyrus promises to deliver a truly complete festive experience for all. With the introductory video raising a high amount of interest, we’re looking forward to what it brings to the table and from the looks of it, it shouldn’t be disappointing.

ZEITGEIST
Zeitgeist - The Media Conference comes to you on the 8th and 9th of January. Last year, the media fest organised by students of The Mass Media Department saw speakers such as Shekhar Kapur, Hussain Zaidi and Madhu Trehan on campus to speak about a variety of topics. As is the tradition, the conference remains open to all students of St. Xavier’s College as well as students from other colleges. Another exciting development is the addition of Events to the table, under the categories of advertising, journalism and film making. Details are yet to come, but entry will be open to all. Zeitgeist promises to live up to its high expectations this year around as well (The Xavier’s Press gave it the highest rating among other fests after last year’s edition). Thought the line-up of speakers for this year is yet to be revealed, their social networking feeds have been providing interesting snippets about this year’s conference. With the addition of events, Zeitgeist promises to be bigger than ever before. Look to Facebook and Twitter for more!

ALARIC MORAS AND ABHINAV CHUGH

morning learning to conjure up mouth-watering delicacies.

The Student Council plans to conduct a bunch of workshops in association with the Council of International Programs (CIP) to acquaint the students with the knack of writing a statement of purpose. These workshops will also aim to aid students in preparing for competitive examinations like the GRE and will benefit attendees in understanding the different ways of funding overseas education. Talking of the response the workshops have attained so far, the Student Council hopes to expand the scope of the initiative in the future.

With a variety of exciting activities planned for the upcoming month including a course on film appreciation, we sure have a lot to look forward to.

So make the best use of your time and sign up for any of the upcoming learning for life workshops lest you should find yourself on a steep learning curve. And also for ECC hours, if you are in need of them!

Learning for Life was something organized in the past and now has been resumed in order to impart to the students skills that are relevant to life. It provides an opportunity to students to imbibe proficiency in those abilities that may come handy as they step out of college. Content with the kind of participation the workshops have attained so far, the Student Council hopes to expand the scope of the initiative in the future.

So make the best use of your time and sign up for any of the upcoming learning for life workshops lest you should find yourself on a steep learning curve. And also for ECC hours, if you are in need of them!

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"Learning for Life was something organized in the past and now has been resumed in order to impart to the students skills that are relevant to life. It provides an opportunity to students to imbibe proficiency in those abilities that may come handy as they step out of college."
Our college is particularly famous for two things—its labyrinthine architecture and its sundry extracurricular activities. Keeping with the trend, the FYJCs have taken it upon themselves to introduce Xavier’s to its very first Model United Nations in February 2014 for the Junior College students.

While a novice MUN-ner would tell you about the noose-like ties, the smart blazers and the general formal bearing, Google would classify the MUN as a conference where students participate as delegates of various countries to deliberate on various political issues. You could be in any organ or committee of the UN; debating about women’s rights in Middle Eastern Countries as the Human Rights Council or discussing the militarisation of the Arctic in the Security Council.

There are Delegates, who do the actual debating in a MUN; Press Correspondents, who report the activities that take place in the various committees; and the Logistics, who cater to the needs of the former (their work is not to be underestimated—the unwritten rule of every MUN is that they have the liberty to spit in your food if you are rude to them!).

Being part of a MUN is an empowering experience. A MUN is three days of being more than just a student and engaging in things that more important than marks. You learn to see things from your ‘enemy’s’ perspective, to compromise and to come up with innovative solutions no world-leader has thought of. While you solve conflicts around the globe, you realise your choices affect others and you alter your own views as you try to change the world.

Here’s to hoping you change the way you see the world at X-MUN 2014! Details will slowly trickle out as the days pass, but for now we wait with bated breaths.

**Farah Maneckshaw**

**Sharing Great Chemistry**

We’ve always heard about sharing chemistry in different contexts; from complaining about the lack of it on-screen, to mixing chemicals in the lab. This year, however, Xavier’s has managed to raise this to a whole new level – by sharing it between countries!

To commemorate eighty years of the existence of the Nadkarni Sacasa Research Laboratory in 2014, the Chemistry Department has conceptualized an International Chemistry Conference centred around “Chemistry Cutting Edge: Nano, Green and Beyond”.

The conference not only aims to bring to light the new discoveries in chemistry but more specifically, chooses to address issues on the themes of nano-particles (tiny little things that could save your life one day), green chemistry and applied physical chemistry (your average chemistry tools and formulae seen in a whole new light and no, we do not mean Breaking Bad).

Keynotes will be delivered by the likes of Dr. V. S. Ramachandran (the Marco Polo of neuroscience), Dr. Paul Jelliss (his chemistry is a bit complicated, come hear him out yourself), and Dr. Narayan Hosmane (who has interesting ideas revolving around Cancer and Cure). Other notables include speakers from IIT-B, TIFR and IISER Pune who will share novel ideas about the technical aspects of chemistry and their application in our day-to-day lives.

From championing the cause of the environment, and learning about how your mind can play tricks on you, to enabling miniscule particles to flow through your blood and target a diseased cell – this conference has it all. So mark your calendars — on the 6th and 7th of January ’14, we promise to take you beyond the edges of this world and into the chemistry of the next!

Registrations are open for a minimal fee. The chance to see the best minds in the field discuss what they do best will definitely be a once in a lifetime opportunity for Xavierites and one which nobody should miss.

**Adityesh Mitra**
The Page Turners, our very own book club, was formed by Mehr Malhotra and Anushreya Asthana, both TYBMS students, along with Nerina Almeida and Nayanika Bhatia, with “an initiative to bring under one roof, all those who like to read, and in this mutual quest, enable one another to enrich their experiences by indulging in discussions and other activities.”

The college’s reading culture is well recognised around the city, and the introduction of the book club would only help enhance this tradition.

The grand opening of the book club was marked with the Literary Symposium ‘13 which had about 150 students registering from within the college. Conducted on 26th and 27th of November, it had four events spread over the two days. Renowned guests like Mr. Ashwin Sanghi (The Rozabel Line, Chanakya’s Chant, The Krishna’s Key); Mr. Vasudev Murthy (author of Sherlock Holmes in Japan), and publishers such as Mr. Akash Shah from Jaico and Ms. Amrita Chowdhury from Harlequin, were a part of this Symposium.

As Mehr Malhotra says, “The book club, ‘Page Turners’ was our initiative to help create a utopia of literature within St. Xavier’s College.” The next Page Turners meeting will be on 10th January, 2014. To know more about Page Turners, you can visit their Facebook page.

So all you lovers of stories and readers of books, to register for the Page Turners, email them at pageturners.xaviers@gmail.com now!

DOOHAN VAZ

PATIO OF DANCE

‘Dance is the hidden language of the soul.’ No truer words could have been said! Dance sets you free; it transports you to another world. It is a form of expressing your inner self.

Everything on earth dances; everything follows a rhythmic pattern. Indian classical dancing is anonymous with and considered one of the best teachers of rhythm and beat. It is all about expressions – expressing human emotions, situations and sagas of lore with accuracy and precision. In pursuit of portraying Indian Art and its beauty, the ECC brings to you- “Nrityangan: A Patio of Dance” – The Xavier’s College Classical Dance Competition. In a world where fusion is the ‘IN

thing’ this event comes clean, like a breath of fresh air – concentrating on pure classical forms of dance. It is an apt platform for our students to showcase their skills. It would be a competition like no other, loaded with intricate dance forms and expressions. The event would be judged by individuals having extended knowledge in the field.

Nrityangan is a one day event scheduled for the 17th of January 2014 (date changed from the 15th to accommodate the junior college participants who will be having their exams at the time). Like the dance itself, which is all about expression, come and be a part of an event that in its existence is an expression of respect and acknowledgement for our culture!

CHINMAYI PILGAONKAR
December is an emotional time for the human population. We suffer from the colder temperatures, gift each other presents and cuddle with our families and watch the clock tick towards a new year. This is usually the time to sit back and reminisce about the good things we’ve seen, heard or been a part of. But 2013 has been the year of the Hipster (ahem... citation needed), so let’s be alternative and dwell on the worst things of 2013, then hopefully leave them behind as dusty memories.

**Worst Song**

Right after Mallika Sherawat hilariously tried to wish Narendra Modi a happy birthday via a Marilyn-Monroe-esque routine, the world was bestowed with a gift: ‘NaMo NaMo’, is a truly horrifying song that has tried to unify the younger voters of this country under one banner of bad electronic music and lyrics sung like terrible hip-hop. Unfortunately, the only result was a cringe-worthy receptacle that was not unlike your parents trying to mimic Eminem.

**Worst Picture**

The world lost a lot with the passing of Nelson Mandela. Barack Obama, President of the USA, evidently thought so too, from a heartfelt eulogy he delivered... and the selfie he took at Mandela’s funeral with British PM David Cameron and Danish PM Helle Thorning-Schmidt to commemorate the occasion. First Obamacare, now this. It’s like he left the house wondering how best to act like a little boy at a concert. Except, whoops! Not a concert.

**Worst Movie**

Shahid Kapoor seems to have forgotten his desire to do only one good film a year, and has decided to just pick the worst movies like ‘R... Rajkumar.’ Even John Abraham in his greasy hair days wouldn’t touch this with a ten-foot pole. This movie has a lot of fighting, swearing, and ridiculousness, none of which happens for any good reason. Sonakshi Sinha repeats her usual performance of ‘just being there’ as Shahid prances (stalks) around vying for yards of her sari.

**Worst Scientific discovery**

2013 has been a pretty great year for science. But some guys in Canada, around August, felt a bit left out and so they decided to study... squirrels. According to the study on the critters, red squirrels born to mothers with high level of stress hormones are able to out-compete others for food and territories. Apart from using this to create soldiers for the upcoming war against pigeons, this one’s a pretty useless discovery. That being said, we also suggest reading the paper titled ‘The Usefulness of Useless Research’ written by Alexander Flexner.

**Worst Word**

The worst word is ‘twerk.’ This isn’t even some biased opinion from a heavy metal fan or anything – ‘twerking’ has officially been chosen by TIME magazine as the one word that needs to banished. The problem with this word (apart from Miley Cyrus’ disturbing tendency to show us just what it means to twerk badly) was the incredible over-use of it. And the awful mental images that accompanied any and all mention of ‘twerk.’

**Worst Moment**

The worst moment of the year 2013 was that moment when we all woke up on the first of January and realized that 2012 was officially over, with no trace of an apocalypse. No zombies, no huge earthquake... 2012 was over, and thus we knew, without a doubt, that a momentous opportunity for doom (and for one white man to save America the world) and gloom was gone.
Your Guide To Recognising An FY Eco Student

Oops, we did it again.

After being abused by BMS students, acquiring mysterious viruses through IT ‘friends’ and being glared at by BMM students, we have gone where no newsletter has ever gone before; we will take you through the steps of How To Recognize an FYBA Eco student.

1. Bright young lads with sizeable IQs? Must be FYBA Eco. The course with the highest cut-off, it attracts the just-DU-missed, don’t-want-to-go-to-NM crowd of (apparently) super intelligent, eager young potatoes. They (think they) can do anything and everything because they’re smarter and they know it.

2. Try explaining what free time is to an Eco student. They will do numerous fests, write many papers and attend seminars you didn’t know existed. They will even do things they don’t like just so they can add it to their Non-Malhar Experience section for their OC App. And to their applications to LSE and Yale.

3. If you see a bunch of young ones who aren’t JCs (recognizable by their lack of a goatee or a guitar) clustered nervously around the hostel steps, following a certain college lecturer with awestruck faces or hounding their TYBA mentors to explain for the 567th time what they’ve already learnt in class that morning, you’ve found your FYBA Eco student.

4. What stays up all night before an MCQ paper, does reference work from graduate texts, pukes in fear in the morning and then sob at a lowly 17/20 marking after the test? Yup, you got that right. An FYBA Eco student.

ISHITA CHAUDHARY

Impish Delights

Imp 509 scratches his head. His job this year is going to be harder than usual. Instead of getting sent to the cushy spreading joy as a Christmas elf at a mall, he’s been sent to spread cheer in a college.

And not just a college. A college where the students have to fight some awful monster called a ‘see-ai-aay.’ Things could be worse, he supposes. He knows a chap who has been sent to be a Garden Gnome. But how is he supposed to spread Christmas cheer among studying students?

He perches near a counter of food, invisible, watching as glum-looking kids buy twists of bread and coffee. Suddenly, he sits up excitedly.

I can slip Cheer into coffee, Imp 509 thinks, jumping down to peer at the busy machines and men providing children with hot and cold caffeine. Within a day, he procures some liquid Christmas Cheer. He tiptoes to the correct jar quickly, then rapidly uncaps his tiny bottle of shiny liquid (the smell is so strong, he feels dizzy with happiness as the scent of food, happiness and love envelop him) and tips it into the coffee machine.

Seconds later, the job is done, he waits, eager to see his plan work. It works like a charm. The students drink their coffee laced with Cheer, and he sees smiles spread on their faces. Pretty soon, their joy touches the other students.

People look up from books and mobile phones as smiles slowly wipe their frowns away. Smiling, Imp 509 sits back in relief. Merry Christmas to you all, he thinks.

SROOJANA IYER
Chocolatey cookie. Chocolatey crème.

What do you think?

Crème zyaada chocolatey hai? Scan now.

Cookie zyaada chocolatey hai? Scan now.