Council of International Programs

The year under review has been quite an exciting one in retrospect. Our academic exchange programs with our academic partners have progressed very well. We have also made an effort to establish new linkages with international institutions of repute that have yielded a few positive prospects for the years ahead.

Harvard University: Eight Xavierites visited Harvard University from 20th-26th January 2013 to participate in the Harvard College in Asia Program (HCAP) conference along with students from five other Asian countries. Twelve Harvard students were at St. Xavier's from 16th - 24th March 2013. During this visit we organized an International Conference on 'Civil and Minority Rights' with eminent speakers from the field. There was a huge turnout of students from various Mumbai colleges.

New York University, Stern Business School: Twenty students accompanied by Mr. Saju George (Department of Statistics) & Mr. Maurice Monis (Registrar) attended the India Leadership Exchange Program from 25th May to 8th June 2013 on the theme of "Capitalism & Development in US, Japan, UK & Germany." The program consisted of lectures, assignments & field visits. A few months prior, on 25th January, 2013, students from NYU Stern visited Xavier's and Prof. V. Srivatsan of NYU conducted an introductory seminar for both NYU students and Xavier's students who were going to NYU.

OMG program: The Ontario-Maharashtra-Goa program is a collaborative effort between the Canadian Government of the State of Ontario and the States of Maharashtra and Goa. Students from sixteen universities in the State of Ontario, Canada and seven Universities/Colleges from Maharashtra and Goa are participating in this program. For the academic year 2012-13, four Canadian students took courses in various departments like History, Sociology, Political Science & Ancient Indian Culture while two of our students were selected for studies at Ontario.

Stuttgart University, St. Louis University and St. Xavier’s English Department Collaborative Program: Ten students and two faculty members from the University of Stuttgart, Germany along with one faculty and five students from St. Louis University, Missouri, USA visited St. Xavier's College from 21st - 26th March 2012. Ten students and one faculty member from St. Xavier's College participated in this joint diploma program on 'Globalisation'. The program was the initiative by Dr. Shefali Balsari Shah, Head, Department of English.

Comillas Pontifical University, Spain: For the academic year under review, 3 students - Raveena Joseph, Vashalri Janarhanan and Janavi Parikh were selected to study at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration at Comillas. Likewise, three students from Comillas spent a semester at Xavier's.

IESEG, France: Three students from IESEG school of Management took courses at St. Xavier's in the final year of the BMS program for the academic year 2012-13.

Sciences Po, Paris, France: Three students, Sneha Reddy, Nupur Khedeykar and Neha Sethi were selected to spend the academic year 2012-13 at Sciences Po, Paris. Likewise, two students from Sciences Po studied at Xavier’s for two semesters.

Yale University: A summer program for Yale students was conducted on our campus from June 3rd till July 4th 2013 on the theme of "Bombay: City, Society and Culture" by Dr. Ashish Chaddha. Seven students from Xavier's were also selected for this course. Two students Vidhi Lohia and Wayne D'Cruz were selected to attend the Yale Summer Session from 3rd June to 7th July, 2013.

Oxford Summer Scholarships: Two of our deserving students Kenneth Rosario and Aabaa Ahmed Momin were selected for the Betty and Donald Keating Scholarship that sponsors a trimester of academic study at St. Catherine's College, University of Oxford from April to June 2013. This is the second consecutive year that two of our students were selected for this prestigious scholarship.

Eumind Programme: As part of the Eumind (Europe meets India) programme 20 students and four teachers from Saint Lambert's school (Belgium) participated in an exchange programme in November 2012. In return a Xavier's contingent visited Pius X College Netherlands and Saint Lambert’s school Belgium in May 2013 accompanied by professors Bernadette Dease and Arti Kulkarni. Our students also participated in an ejournal project on Human Rights.

The Global Next Leaders Forum, Tokyo University Conference: Thanks to the initiative of Lizann Fernandes, Dr. Shefali Balsari-Shah along with two students attended this conference on

New Initiatives

Study Abroad Counselling Centre: In order to guide our students on opportunities available for studying abroad we have initiated a Study Abroad Counselling Centre. We welcome Ms. Rashida Haidermota an alumna of our college with many years of experience in counselling students going abroad for higher studies who will spearhead this initiative.

International Day: - For the first time, International Day was celebrated on the campus. It began with the inauguration of the Study Abroad Counselling Centre by the Principal Dr. Frazer Mascarenhasas, S.J. This was followed by certificate distribution to all students who had done a summer program abroad. A power point ‘Study Abroad Opportunities’ was then presented by Ms. Rashida Haidermota. The Director assisted by a group of students had a mini-exhibition in the Canteen Foyer during the Arts and Science breaks to create awareness of all the international programs available to students.

UCB at St. Xavier’s: The “India Studies Expose” is a summer program offered by St. Xavier’s to foreign students. It can also be designed to specifically meet the needs of a particular university. Using this model, we designed a program for students of the University of California, Berkeley. This two credit course “Economics and development of India” fully developed & hosted by St. Xavier’s College runs from 16th June to 2nd August, 2013. Along with this course the students do an internship program. Seven students from University of California Berkeley are participating in this course along with seven students from St. Xavier’s College. Dr. Agnelo Menezes and Ms. Periyarayagi Subramaniam coordinated the program along with 8 faculty members & guest lecturers.

School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London: A Memorandum of Agreement has also been worked on between SOAS & St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai for the exchange of students and for the Masters program at SOAS.

Ecole de Management de Normandie (France): Ecole de Management de Normandie, France & St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai have signed an MOU to reinforce their cooperative relations and to develop further academic and cultural interchanges between the institutions through mutual assistance in the area of education and research.

Campus Visits

During this year we had representatives from various universities visiting the campus. Some of these have already featured in the report above. The other universities with their date of visit are: New Zealand Tertiary College (30th Aug’12); RMIT, Melbourne, (11th Sep’12); UC Berkeley (20th Sept’12); Sciences Po, France (29th Oct’ 12); American Institute for Foreign Studies (20th Dec’12) and EM Normandie, France (Jan’13); University of Notre Dame, USA (11th Jan’ 13); Taiwan University (14th Jan’13); University of Western Ontario (16th Jan’13); Brown University (18th Jan’13); Campus France (28th Jan’13); Trinity College, Dublin (29th Jan’13); University of Queensland (4th Feb’13); Fairfield University (9th Feb’13); University of Guelph, Canada (22nd Feb’13); Cardiff University, Wales (26th Feb’13); New Castle, UK (6th Mar’13); Australian Film, Television and Radio School (13th Mar’13); Asia Pacific University, Malaysia (15th Mar’13); American Jewish Committee (15th Mar’13); Oxford University (3rd Apr’13); Glasgow University, Scotland (8th Apr’13).

Fulbright awardees visit: On March 14th, St. Xavier’s welcomed Fulbright professors from at least 15 colleges in the U.S.A. who were here as part of their Fulbright visit to India. We shared with them about Xavier’s and India and gave them a tour of the college.

Aquinas College UK visit: About 60 students accompanied by 6 faculties were on a visit to our college to understand the Xavier’s student culture.

Director’s visits: The Director Dr. Roy Pereira, S.J. attended the NAFSA Conference 2013 at Missouri, US from 26th May to 31st May. NAFSA (National Association of Foreign Student Affairs) is an Association of international educators. He also visited Santa Clara University, Fairfield University and St. Louis University. This Conference and visits were sponsored by the three Jesuit universities in order to explore potential partnerships with St. Xavier’s College. He also met officials of the University of California, Berkeley in preparation for the pioneering UCB- SXC Summer Program which was to begin at St. Xavier’s College on June 14th, 2013. During the Diwali Vacations of 2012, the director was invited to preach a retreat in Melbourne. During this time he visited the prestigious Universities of Melbourne & RMIT and attended a conference, “The Argumentative Indian” organised at the University of Melbourne.

We extend our deep appreciation to all our academic partners who believe in the Xavier’s tradition of excellence. Our gratitude to all our sponsors, benefactors, as also to our parents and Father Principal who feel this work is important to the lives of our students. Special appreciation to the large number of Professors who help us in the interviews or in conducting sessions for our foreign students or in mentoring our visiting students who attend regular classes. Thanks also to the members of the CIP committee Professors Hermione Salazar, Madhuri Raijade, Anjali Lokur and Radiya Pacha Gupta. Dr. Radiya Pacha Gupta - Associate Professor, Department of Life Sciences and Biochemistry who has been an integral part of our Council takes over as the new Director as we embark on another academic year 2013-14.

Dr. Roy Pereira, S.J.
Director, CIP
Conrad Rodrigues,
(Alumnus, 2001)
AROUND THE WORLD

GNLF CONFERENCE ON ‘GOVERNANCE’, TUNISIA

At the beginning of October I found myself en route to Tunisia to attend a conference on ‘Governance’ organized by Global Next Leaders Forum which is an initiative of Tokyo University. With me were TY English students Lizann Fernandes and Janavi Parikh. Lizann deserves special mention because she was the trigger for our participation: a Japanese student she had met in Boston last January during HCAP was also a GNLF committee member, and so St. Xavier’s came to be invited. This was a wonderful instance of the kind of cross-cultural networking one hopes will emerge from the college’s growing international affiliations.

Through its conferences and other activities, GNLF seeks to provide a platform for international students to interact closely in order to develop an understanding of both global and local problems to become effective ‘global leaders’ in the future. The Tunisia conference featured participants from Bulgaria, Egypt, India, Kyrgyzstan, and South Africa, apart from the hosts Japan and Tunisia (Kenya and Turkey had to withdraw at the last minute because of visa problems). Each of the guest countries was represented by one faculty member and two students. The high-level scholarly lectures by the faculty provided in-depth insights into complex national and regional concerns, while the students were required to discuss in detail the issues raised in each of the talks and recommend action plans based on them. Incidentally, I incorporated an analysis of leadership models from several of Shakespeare’s plays into my talks on ‘Leadership’ and ‘Governance and Government’.

Being in Tunisia so soon after the Arab Spring uprising was a tremendously exciting experience. It was particularly inspiring to see the young people so filled with pride and hope for the future of their country. Tunisia itself, bordered by the Mediterranean Sea and the Sahara desert, is a fascinating mixture of Berber roots, colonial French past, and present-day Arab as well as African identity. Visions of this beautiful land will stay with me for a long time: the clean, well-maintained cities of Tunis and Sousse, the eye-catching architectural splendours from the ruins of ancient Carthage to the impressively designed modern mosques and museums, the enchanting traditional village of Sidi Bou Said and the stirring son-et-lumiere spectacle depicting the history of Tunisia, and above all, the people, especially our hosts, as warm, hospitable, and unforgettable as their famed luscious dates.

Dr. Shefali Balsari-Shah
Head, Department of English

INDIA LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

New York University – Stern School of Business

An air of excitement filled our hearts as we landed at John F Kennedy airport, New York on 26th May 2013 by Kuwait airways. After customs and immigration checks, we boarded a bus that was waiting to take us to NYU dormitory on 12th street 4th Avenue in Manhattan. 19th and 20th floors of NYU dormitory were kept ready for our 15 day stay. We were presented with a memento- a purple blanket with the letters NYU emblazoned in white (NYU colours) as a shield for the air conditioning. NYU Stern School of Business was a 10 minute walk from the dormitory. The group comprised of 2 staff members and 20 students from St. Xavier’s College Mumbai and 2 staff members and 17 students from HR College.

We were all welcomed to the Stern School of business on the 28th May 2013. The Director: Ms. Geeta Menon, the Professor in charge: Prof Srivatsan, co-ordinators: Ms. Lisa Butcher and Ms. Carmen, and some of the students of the School were there to receive us. They also hosted a welcome lunch for the entire team. A welcome gift was also handed over to each one of us. The staff there made us feel at home and took care of all our needs with a warm smile and a willing disposition. They accompanied us on all the official trips as well as on some unofficial ones.

The curriculum consisted of 6 lectures of 2 hours each. The students were asked to prepare in advance on the topics of discussion. The main topic of study was CAPITALISM AND DEVELOPMENT where a detailed analysis on the role of the private sector in the promotion of a country’s economic development was made. At
the beginning of each lecture all the respective groups had to submit a write-up on the topic of discussion for that day. The sessions were entirely interactive. Prof Srivatsan highlighted all the important aspects through these discussions. Students were free to voice their opinions during the lectures. The study was based on two companies in four countries – England (Wedgewood and Rolls Royce), USA (Ford and IBM), Germany (Thyssen Steel and Deutsche bank) and Japan (Seven-Eleven and Toyota).

Through extensive class discussions and assignments we, at first, analyzed the differences in the capitalist systems of various countries and secondly we highlighted the contribution offered by each of these companies to their respective country’s economic growth via their business models. A special effort was made to compare capitalism and development in India with a discussion on ways to use capitalism in order to enhance India’s development and progress.

Nine groups made presentations on how they could bring about a sea change in India via Capitalism and Development. They were given time and separate cabins for the preparation during the course. Library facilities were open night and day. Preparations went on right until the wee hours of the morning in the Dormitory or in the University.

The group made extensive use of the subways to move around the city. The places we visited were Bloomberg NEWS office, the Broadway show, the Museum of Finance, the MET museum of Art, a New York city tour on an open bus, a walking tour of Greenwich village, Rockefeller Tower, the Empire state building, Times square, Madame Tussaud’s Museum, Staten island, the Statue of Liberty, Brooklyn Bridge, Central Park, Washington Square and finally shopping at Jersey Gardens.

The climate in general was warm but the weather there changes frequently. Sudden showers and cold winds caught us off guard very often. The team left New York on 8th June 2013 and reached Mumbai on 10th June 2013 by Kuwait airways.

Mr. Saiju George
(Department of Statistics)

Mr. Maurice Monis
(Registrar)

STUDY AT STERN

My introduction to NYU Stern was through the detailed and most carefully organised purple folder I received when I checked in to the founders’ hall, our home for the next two weeks. The program was just as well planned and informative.

The academic environment there mandates a different teacher-student equation from that prevalent here. A major part of the program involved reading a huge tome on capitalism and submitting assignments on 3 of the topics discussed in the book. The subject was also discussed elaborately in class. In fact, our classes involved discussions only. There was no writing on the board and a majority of the times the discussions ended up being far away from what the topic was but yet relevant to the big picture.

During the discussions, one of the best ways to contribute that many of the students had figured out was to use their laptops, mobiles, ipads, tablets and the NYU Stern wifi. So most often than not, the rebuttals involved heavily researching the topic on google, reading each search result carefully and then coming up with an argument.

We had a limited number of class hours and there was a great deal of emphasis on studying on your own and presentations. The entire class was divided into groups and the last day of ‘studies’ involved us presenting a business company or ‘start up’ of our own and discussing how it would lead to India’s economic development. I have never been a part of a more aggressive and argumentative class ever. The number of questions and objections that fellow students raised were phenomenal. It was a war.

EUMIND: ONE YEAR DOWN THE LINE

I could sum up EUMIND (Europe Meets India) in one sentence – an experience to last a life time. Not only the trip, we did so much more in EUMIND during the course of this one year – we hosted the Belgian students who came to India and some of us took part in the first ever French e-journal! Each and every component of EUMIND has been significant in itself and we’ve learned something new every step of the way.

The trip to Westerlo, Belgium which lasted for 11 days, gave us the richest cultural experience we could have ever had. We stayed with two host families, went to all the major cities in Belgium (we even went to Cologne, Germany), attended lectures in school and put up a cultural show. Besides the cultural learning we gained, we made friendships that we’ll cherish for the rest of our lives.

We got a chance to strengthen these bonds of friendship when the Belgians visited India in November, 2012. Now it was our turn to show them our country and remove the many misconceptions they had about India for instance they thought we have parking spaces for elephants! The Belgians’ trip to India was divided into two parts: their stay in Mumbai and their stay in Panchgani. While in Mumbai, they saw the many sites the city has to offer, for instance The Gateway of India, the Elephanta Caves, Mani Bhavan and also the rampant poverty and beggary. However, we tried to show them the truth behind this poverty by taking them to REAP and having them attend a lecture on this topic by our very own, Professor Dr. Agnelo Menezes. However, I think the one thing that really had an
impact on them was the demise of one of our political leaders which happened during their visit. It was probably the first time in their lives that they witnessed the impact of the death of one person could bring the entire city to a stand-still. This event delayed their trip to Panchgani by a day, but that one day which was spent with the family was loved by all the Belgian students as it gave them a chance to see what a normal day in an Indian family is like! Towards the tail end of the trip, both the parties put up cultural programmes of their own, the event ending with students of both the countries dancing together and showing that international camaraderie is not very difficult to achieve. The Belgians’ stay ended with a send-off party at the Radio Club.

The third leg of the EUMIND programme was the French E-Journal – a novel introduction for the first time in the four years of EUMIND. It was definitely a very new experience as we got to interact with students, not only from Belgium, but also the Netherlands. The theme of the year was “Mon École” – My School / College with 5 sub-topics to choose from. Our Dutch counterparts were from Cambreur College. It began with the introduction of the group members, then the writing of articles on the sub-topic chosen, all uploaded on the net; followed by the reading of each other’s articles and formulating questions to ask them and it culminated with a video conference call between the partner schools which was moderated by the chief of the EUMIND body. I think this experience removed the inhibitions we might have had about talking in French, showing us that we were proficient to some extent in a language which is spoken in many parts of the world and this feeling gave us new confidence.

All in all, I think the EUMIND journey has been indescribably fantastic. It has not only enriched us academically, but has also helped us grow as people. We’ve learned values about cooperation, friendship and humanity that we might not have learnt anywhere else. This programme has given us hope that maybe the concept of “international love and cooperation” is not so far-fetched after all. That maybe Tagore’s dream of a world without boundaries just might be possible. In short, EUMIND has changed me for the better, and it will be an experience that I will keep with me forever.

Tarushi Sonthalia, FYBA

SUMMER TALES: YALE SUMMER SESSION ‘13

The Yale Summer Session not only marked my first study program abroad, it was also the first time I was travelling to the United States of America. While I always knew it was going to be different, I don’t think I ever quite understood how radically different things could end up being.

I chose courses from the American Studies and Film Studies departments namely, Contemporary Visual Culture in the Americas and Screen Writing. While Vidhi Lohia, the other Xavierite who accompanied me also chose the former, her second course was International Economics. Both my classes were enriching and proved to be a very rewarding experience at the end of it all. I consider myself rather fortunate at having had the opportunity to partake in academic sessions conducted by brilliant and resourceful professors which brought out my best. It was only because of them that I was able to cope with a semester’s worth of coursework in five weeks. My American Studies course saw me exploring trends that indicated the resurgence of the Pop Art movement in the Indian subcontinent while my Film Studies course helped me delve into finer nuances of film which aided me in writing a short screenplay that fit in accordance with industry conventions. Both my courses also brought together a delightful mix of people from all across the globe which brought so much more to the table. In engaging with other students when discussing and deliberating whether over coursework or over a meal at the Dining Hall, there was always a lot to absorb and learn. It was because of these wonderful people who I soon became friends with that Yale felt like home in no time.
While our weekdays saw all of us pore over our reading matter and sit by our computer screens at length in the various picturesque libraries of Yale, weekends were another matter altogether. One weekend took us to Broadway in New York where we watched the absolutely wonderful musical, ‘Wicked’. Another weekend saw us enraptured by ‘Totem’ put up by the magnificent Cirque Du Soleil. Some of the other events included a Hip-Hop dance festival at the Apollo Theatre in New York and a trek followed by lunch atop East Rock from where we saw a splendid view of Yale and New Haven. We were also lucky for our American Studies class included a trip to the famous Guggenheim and Museum of Modern Art of New York. When we were not on Yale-organised trips, we found ourselves on a gastronomic expedition, sampling as much as we could of New Haven and New York’s fare. Whether soaking in Yale’s stunning architectural wonders or the bright city lights of Times Square, the five weeks gone by will remain memorable for far more reasons than one. Every day held something new, even the simplest of things now form a part of our cherished memories. When we were in our last week, we all worked together with renewed zeal towards completing our assignments in a bid to not having deal with the fact that it was our last few days together. We absolutely couldn’t fathom how quickly time flew by when we had to bid our goodbyes. The five weeks were indeed an adventure; one we’re certainly never going to forget!

Wayne D’Cruz
TYBMM (Advertising)

TRINITY TERM AT UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Oxford, the city of dreaming spires, is a magical place where gargoyles guard the town, domes and arches tell a story, writers write under a tree on the riverside, you read with your lover, laugh with your tutor and sleep with your books. In Oxford, I studied at St. Catherine’s College, University of Oxford for the Trinity Term, 2013. I secured a full scholarship called The Betty and Donald Keating Scholarship for the same. The term, which lasted for nine weeks was as enjoyable as it was educational.

Each student in Oxford is expected to take up two subjects, one primary and one secondary. My primary subject for the term was Creative Writing and secondary was Literary Criticism. Every student is given a tutor for each subject who teaches you individually, thus ensuring that you get personal attention and immense clarity about a topic. It also accommodates discussion and debate with the tutor along with tailoring of the tutorial according to the comfort of the student. My tutor for Creative Writing was Dr. John D. Ballam, Director of the Undergraduate Diploma in Creative Writing for the University of Oxford and my tutor for Literary Criticism was Dr. Stephen Ross, Ph.D. in Literature. Each tutorial lasted for an hour, packed with intense discussion and peppered with light-hearted conversation often in a café over a pot of English tea. The access to the Bodleian Libraries, lectures across the University, concerts in the Sheldonian Theatre and the access to the world renowned museums, among many other privileges fostered a spirit of learning and generated a deep desire to know more, to explore more. The university town not just stimulated my mind academically but submerged me in the British culture by offering quintessential British activities for leisure, like playing croquet on the college lawn, punting in the River Cherwell or simply cycling along the river bank with ducks and swans for company. Studying at Oxford was an experience so surreal that I want to return again to recapture the atmosphere of this stunning university town.

Kennith Rosario
Mass Media (Journalism)

MUMBAI–STUTTGART DIARIES

Try imagining a normal classroom in your mind, that mundane geometric confine composed of a professor and his humble companion; the black board, students with notebooks which they allegedly use to take notes and the other paraphernalia completing a typical classroom attire. Now dismantle this classroom and fling the pieces across the globe! That my friend makes for a virtual classroom!

For the sixth year in a row the Department of English at St. Xavier’s College offered its students the unique opportunity to be part of an online course titled: “In Conversation with Globalization” in collaboration with the University of Stuttgart (Germany) and the University of St. Louis (USA). The online course begun in November and comprised of assignments which were graded by professors from the different participating colleges, and thus the program offered a one-of-a-kind global exposure of sorts. The
main theme 'Globalization' was looked at through the lenses of politics, literature, media and economics. The online discussion forums and the internet search tasks, which required teaming up of students from all the 3 universities proved to be the highlight of the course, as we students were truly ‘conversing with Globalization’. With students from three different continents working together in groups, multiple perspectives and different shades of opinions often cropped up. The far flung interaction eventually culminated into a week of actual physical interaction in January 2013, when the students of Stuttgart and St. Louis University visited Mumbai. A week of lectures at St.Xaviers, travelling around Mumbai city and a research presentation was the last and the most exciting part of the course, and only when we thought that it was all coming to an end, did we realize that we as students of St. Xavier's College, had the opportunity of visiting Stuttgart University in the months to come.

Thus, on the 1st of May 2013 six Xavierites were being graciously welcomed at Stuttgart airport by their respective hosts. It was a ten day visit meticulously planned out by the students of Stuttgart University and their Guiding Professor; Mr. Wolfgang Holtkamp. Not only did we get copious portions of delightful German culture but also we were fortunate enough to attend a few lectures at the Stuttgart University. Transnational Modernist Poetry and the Culture of Irish History were a few of the subjects that we attended lectures for, not only did we thoroughly enjoy observing the academic environment of their classroom but also participated in it! Thus we were immersed in the academic as well as cultural aspects of our host's country. Visits to Breathtaking castles, serene lakes, inspiring museums and of course delicious food dotted the rest of our visit. A highlight of our time in Germany was an evening at one of our host's homes that happened to be a quintessential Turkish house in southern Germany. Our evening ensued with a sumptuous fare of Turkish food and conversations ranging from German economy, to Turkish food and Indian society. All of this chatter was lulled by the blaring sound of hit Bollywood numbers playing in the background! It was then in that moment, that a sort of epiphany dawned upon us and made us realize the criss- cross networks of globalization and how the world today is no more confined by geographical boundaries.

The entire program proved to be a life shaping experience for us. Interacting with students from different countries and being exposed to an array of opinions and academic processes is something that is essential to the increasingly global set up of the world. 

Natasha Patel and Nolina Minj

SPORTS EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Tanya Thomas, a Second-Year B.A. student of St. Xavier's College and a member of the College football team, was selected to be a part of the India-Pakistan Sports Exchange Programme organized by United Sports, which was held at Washington D.C., in 2012. It was a two- week program, and she was part of a contingent which comprised of nine other participants selected from across India, along with ten other girls from and coaches in the United States of America.

Sports United: Female Soccer Delegation

On September 11, 2012, I, Tanya Thomas from St. Xavier's College, was selected by the American Consulate to be a part of a Sports Exchange Program in Washington D.C for 2 weeks. The delegation comprised of 18 female football players, out of which 8 girls and 1 coach was selected from different parts of India. I was the only girl from Mumbai.

The main purpose of this trip was to
in introduce participants to the U.S culture through the lens of sports, to highlight the role that football plays, to show the value of participation in sports through visits to community programs that juxtapose sports with other life skills and to develop action plans that can be carried out in our respective countries.

This trip gave me a chance to experience the impact football can have on people. It showed me that with the right encouragement and opportunities everyone can make the most out of their skills. I feel privileged to have gotten the chance to train with some of the best coaches, see the most beautiful places, meet some amazing people, and also to have given a little back in return to the American culture. I hope that with all that I have learned I can make a positive difference and change the idea of female football in India in the coming times.

Lastly, I'd like to thank St. Xavier's and Thomas Sir for providing me with this opportunity that will last with me for life.

Tanya Thomas
TYBA

SCIENCES-PO

Some of the best opportunities that students at St. Xavier's could avail of are the ones offered by the International Programs Office. Last year, I managed to secure a place for an exchange of one academic year to one of Europe's (and specifically, France's) premier institutions for International Relations, Political Science and Humanities: Sciences-Po (Thanks to the exchange accord, the tuition fees, which would have otherwise amounted to 11,000 Euros for the year, are entirely waived off. Additionally, Sciences-Po and the French Government offer partial scholarships for living expenses) That it happened to be the Paris campus, a city everyone dreams of going to, was an amazing bonus.

The fact that the year does not yield credits which count for your TY in Xavier’s is a deterring factor for many, as it means having to return to Bombay and completing your final year to get your degree. (This in sum means taking a “gap” year) But for me, adding an extra year to the completion of my degree always seemed like a value-addition rather a year “wasted”. This thought is only reinforced now that I am back to Xavier’s.

At Sciences-Po, under the Undergraduate Student's module, I had the liberty to choose across 5 odd disciplines viz Humanities, Sociology, Politics, International Relations etc, which offered courses like 'The Business of Wine in France', 'Radical Politics and Film around the world', 'Political Philosophy: politics and ethics', 'French Opera: a political art form', to name a few. The professors are often stalwarts in their respective fields, and many lecturers are notable persons from institutions such as the UN and other International Organizations or the French judiciary.

The academic rigour required to survive in Sciences-Po is no-doubt, extremely high; but the current Autonomous system did prepare me to a certain extent for my work load in Paris. (So, I would say the difference between my work at Sciences-Po, and the work in the Sociology department here at Xavier’s would be one of degree).

And needless to say, spending an entire year abroad certainly helps overall in gaining life/social skills. If you get a chance to apply for an International Program through college, I'd highly recommend it!

Neha Sethi
TYBA (Sociology)

BIOTECHNOLOGY AND ENTERPRISE

The academic year began with students of the 2011-2012 batch presenting posters of their placement in Bharat serum Ltd, Bhat Biotech Ltd, Piramal Life Sciences and US Vitamins Ltd. These posters were evaluated jointly by the faculties from the University of Bath and St. Xavier’s College. The faculty from the University of Bath, along with the college faculty inaugurated the batch of 2012-2013.

This year the course involved a lab project for 6 weeks which the students completed successfully. Students were evaluated on the basis of lab reports, assignments and presentations.

The external faculty involved in the delivery of the program were Dr. Ryan Pereira (Cornell University, USIEF – Mumbai), Dr. Deepak Modi (Scientist, NIRRH), Dr. Shashikant Acharya (Associate Professor, M.S. Baroda University), Dr. Urmila Joshi (Faculty, Kundnani College of Pharmacy), Dr. B.V. Vakil (Professor, Khalsa College), Dr. Sivakami (Ex-Faculty, Dept. of Life Sciences, University of Mumbai) and Ms. Bhakti Joshi (Freelance Faculty).

The batch of 2012-2013 left for the University of Bath in September 2012 and completed research projects under the guidance of various faculty members from the Dept. of Biology and Biochemistry at the University. The students returned in January 2013 and completed their internships with US Vitamins Ltd and CDRI, Lucknow.

Dr. (Mrs) Madhuri Hambarde
Co-ordinator M.Sc IBE
Associate Professor,
Department of Zoology

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

-Nelson Mandela