

St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association

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Secretary's Report for the Year 2016– 2017

Revered Father President and Fellow Xaverians,

I would like to take this opportunity to place on record my most sincere and humble feelings of gratitude to the Almighty for the blessings, our most revered President Fr. Dr. Felix Raj for his guidance and the Xaverian family for the help, which was provided to me to steer the St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association through an eventful and meaningful year of achievements.

Join me in a minute of silence as we pay tribute to the Jesuit Priests, our members, students, teachers and non teaching staffs who passed away during the year and pray to the Almighty that their souls rest in everlasting peace.

Allow me, ladies and gentlemen, to peruse through the various programme, events taken up by the SXCCAA and its wings, association and chapters during the year.

Everyone is equal in the Xaverian family but it is our custom and tradition to always highlight the achievements of our Women members. So, I would like to start with the achievements of the Women's Forum:

A. Women's Forum

01. The Women's Forum of the SXCCAA flagged off their event with the Annual Tea Meet which was held on 19 November, 2016. The Governing body members were felicitated, the inmates of Antoday Anath Ashram enthralled everyone with their dance performance and were presented a cheque of Rs. 11,000/-.
02. On the 5 March, 2017 the Women's Forum organized a meet at St. Xavier's Campus, Raghavpur along with NSS Department and supported by the Philanthropic team of SXCCAA of the college wherein the problems of the women were heard and solutions sought.
03. A Seminar was organized on 21 April, 2017 which was an interactive session on the topic 'Couples Relationship'. Ms. Minu Budhia and Ms. Preeyam Budhia professionally handled delicate psychological and cognitive issues.
04. We are extremely thankful to all the members of the forum ably lead by Mrs. Sujata Rampuria for their excellent achievements. The forum works hand in hand with the main body of the SXCCAA for the success of all our programmes. We salute the President's Women.

B. Philanthropic Activities

01. A painting workshop named 'Celebration of Life' was organized for children living with HIV and AIDS on the occasion of 'Children's Day' on 14 November, 2016 in the college auditorium in association with Organisation for Friends Energies & Resources (Offer) wherein a total of 118 children from 24 Parganas (South), Hooghly, Howrah and 24 Parganas (North) participated in the event. The children were gifted with gift hampers donated by the members of SXCCAA.

02. A Health and Eye Check-up Camp was organized at the St. Xavier's Campus of St. Paul's High School, Raghavpur on 8 January, 2017 wherein patients were screened and eye drops and medicines were provided to them. Cataract operations were also undertaken.
03. SXCCAA continues to work with zeal on project at Paikhala. Poor students were provided with text books, exercise books and others stationeries to the school children.
04. SXCCAA participated in the Prayas Camp, supported the Sishu Mela and the blood donation camp held at SXC and also provided the students of extension centers with stationery and educational items.
05. Mr. Yogesh Chpora and Mr. Deepak Gupta must be congratulated along with the members of the Philanthropic Committee for helping Xaverians to put 'Service before Self', through their dedicated hard work.

C. Fellowship Activities

01. 'Sangam' Annual Reunion Dinner created nostalgia with the theme '*Flashback*' on 29 December, 2016. Reminiscence of the classes, the Green Benches and fun came ushering. The evening was graced by inspirational welcome by Rev. Fr. Felix Raj sj and attended by Chief Guest Mr. Sudhir Jalan. The mood was set just right as the crowd of more than 700 guests was enthralled by the performance of live music by 'Bombay Meri Jaan' by Sourendro and Soumyojit of You & I. Xaverians danced to the pulsating beats of DJ Harish. Every Xaverian recalled the golden memories of their college days. The credit of the success of this event goes to the conveners Hemant Sarogi and Zahid Rafique and advisors Baldev Raj Sony and Atanu Malik.
02. SXCCAA organized a Christmas Meet on 23 December, 2016 to celebrate the birth of our Saviour. The Chief Minister of West Bengal along with her Council of Ministers graced the occasion and shared their feelings about the college. The Chief Minister expressed her thoughts about the college being the seat of academic excellence, congratulated the President for navigating the college and trans-creating it into a University. A special thanks to advisor Anil Goenka and conveners Manoj Jain and Rajendra Kumar Agarwal supported by Pravin Baid for organizing the event.
03. On Friday we all meet together to thank God after every eventful week. The Friday Fellowships helps us to re-invent and rejuvenate ourselves.

D. Special Occasions

- 01 The inauguration ceremony of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata took place on 7 July, 2017. The momentous occasion was graced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal Ms. Mamata Banerjee, Hon'ble Education Minister Dr. Partha Chatterjee, Mr. Lakshmi Niwas Mittal, the Chairman and CEO of Arcelor Mittal, Mrs. Usha Mittal, Hon'ble Chancellor Rev. Fr. Jeyaraj Velluswamy sj, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Rev. Fr. Felix Raj sj, Rector Rev. Fr. Dominic Savio sj and several other dignitaries. Rev. Fr. Felix Raj sj, the first Vice Chancellor of St. Xavier's University expressed his gratitude to Mr. L. N. Mittal, Ms. Mamata Banerjee, Dr. Partha Chatterjee, the Government of West Bengal and all the stake holders for their unstinted support and cooperation.
- 02 Bhasha Diwas was celebrated on 21 February, 2017 in association with Bengali Literary Society. A rally was organized from the twin hostel of St. Xavier's College to St. Xavier's main campus. Jesuit Fathers, Professors, teaching and non-teaching staff and alumni members participated in the rally. Earlier the Bhasha Diwas Torch was lighted in Dhaka University amidst the presence of the Vice Chancellor and Registrar of Dhaka University was finally received by the Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Kolkata along with the Rector and Principal of St. Xavier's College.

E. Fund Raising Programmes

01. In Beyond Barriers XVII, the field of the college was up in flames by the performances of Farhan Akhtar along with ever popular Raftaar held in the college ground on 29 January, 2017. The Beyond Barriers XVII was a grand success for the hard work of the conveners Vikas Khosla, Arvind Bubna & advisor Dharmen Trivedi & Pankaj Shah.
02. One of the most sought after in the Xaverian calendar of events and a forerunner in the debating circles of the city, the XXVIth Fr. Joris Memorial Nihil Ultra Trophy National Debate was held in the college auditorium on 8 April, 2017. The motion of the debate was “In the opinion of the house, this house believes that Terrorism has now been Legitimised”. Eminent personalities from various fields fought the war of words on the motion of the debate. The debate was finally undecided. Bharat Baid and Jayjit Biswas were the advisor and Monojit Ghose and Nalin Jain were the convener of the said debate.
03. The 2nd International Intervarsity Challenge Debate was held on 20 January, 2017. The topic of the debate was “The house believes that Citizens of the World want Economic Security over Political Freedom” and “Men are endangered species”. The participants of the debate were from University of Sydney, Harvard & Emory Universities from U.S.A., Cambridge & London School of Economics from U.K., Presidency and St. Xavier’s College, Kolkata, Benares Hindu University, Sikkim Manipal University and Ashoka University. We owe its success to conveners Bharat Baid & Manoj Mani Agarwal.

F. Activities in Association with the College

01. The NAAC Peer Team interacted with the members of SXCCAA on 9 January, 2017. It was felt that the NAAC Peer Team went fully satisfied with the interaction programme wherein most pertinent questions were asked and suggestions given. A dinner in their honor was hosted by SXCCAA.
02. The Feast of St. Francis Xavier was observed with due solemnity on 3 December 2016 at the College Chapel. It was attended by a large number of SXCCAA members.
03. The 10th Convocation & Valedictory was a solemn occasion of celebration on 17 January, 2017. Hon’ble Minister, Dr. Partha Chatterjee was the Chief Guest. Rev. Fr. Rector offered the inaugural address as he welcomed all. He introduced the audience to the vision and mission of the college. Rev. Fr. Principal in his address and Annual Report highlighted the salient achievements of the college over the last one year.
04. The College Foundation Day was celebrated with the ceremonial cake cutting and a special dinner hosted by the SXCCAA for all the Fathers at the college refractory.
05. Xavotsav 2017, one of the most awaited events marked in the Xaverian Students Calendar was organized amidst the usual fervor by the students’ union who worked together with the Alumni.
06. Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola was observed with due solemnity in the College chapel on the 31 July, 2017.
07. A Picnic for all the Jesuit Fathers was organized by SXCCAA on 19 February, 2017. Around 40 Fathers and 15 Alumni members participated at the picnic.
08. A Condolence Meet was organized by SXCCAA on 18 November, 2016 at the college auditorium for Fr. Dataiane wherein large number of alumni members offered floral tributes and paid their respectful homage to the departed soul.
09. The 1st Press Conference of St. Xavier’s University was held on 8 March, 2017 in the hall of Britto House in the St. Xavier’s University Campus. Rev. Fr. Felix Raj sj., the Vice Chancellor of the University informed the press and media about the inauguration of the University scheduled for 7 July, 2017 and the courses to be offered.

G. International Associations

01. It is with pride we state that the existing International associations also carried out various fellowship & networking activities, in the true Xaverian spirit around the calendar year.

H. National Chapter

01. More than 150 members of the Association met in the Indian city of Jaipur on 14 - 17 October 2016 in the II nd National Convention of SXCCAA 'Looking Beyond'. The Conference began with the prayer where all members of SXCCAA and their spouses led by Rev. Fr. John Felix Raj sj, Principal, St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, prayed for the new General of the Jesuit Order, Rev. Fr. Arturo Sosa, sj, who was elected only on the previous day. The First Technical Session was devoted to Jesuit Values. There was a presentation of GC 36. The Conference also paid rich tribute to St. Teresa of Calcutta on conferment of Sainthood. The main highlights of the meet included felicitation of outstanding alumni, Conference on Bengal and Rajasthan Cultural heritage and business, cultural programme, fellowship and network, sightseeing and an exhibition cricket match between the alumni of SXS Jaipur and SXC Kolkata. The education minister, Mr. Kalicharan Saraf was the chief guest for the inaugural function on October 15. He applauded the Jesuits for their enormous service to education in India particularly in Rajasthan. The Rector, Fr. Glenn Menezes and the Principal, Fr. John Ravi sj of St. Xavier's School, Jaipur were present at the inaugural ceremony. Fr. Felix Raj sj thanked Mr. Sanjay Gupta, an alumnus of SXC and the General manager of the Le Meridien hotel for his Xaverian quality hospitality. Sanjay had thrown open the entire hotel at the disposal of Xaverians. The convenors, Umesh Goenka and Arun Bhattar organised the meet exceptionally well.

I. Sports

01. The St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association contingent took part in the Annual Sports Day of the college on 4 February, 2017. The contingent comprising of old & new alumni members of the college was lead by the Hony. Secretary of SXCCAA who attended the march past ceremony on the day. Members from the alumni also participated in the alumni flat race.

02. The sporting spirits ran high as alumni members took up a challenge against the teaching & non-teaching staff members of the college to play at the traditional Fr. Joe D'Souza Memorial Cricket Match on the college grounds on 18 February, 2017. It was a great match together & ended in true sportsman spirit – thanks to the coordinated & unstinted effort of advisor Pawan Dalmia & Convenor Sandeep Mundhra.

J. Participation in JAAI & WUJA Activities

01. G. P. Gupta, Vice President of SXCCAA was elected the Vice President of JAAI at the 8th National Congress of Federation of Jesuit Alumni Associations of India held at St. Xavier's School, Ranchi from 27-29 January, 2017.

02. Naresh Gupta was elected the Secretary of World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae Congress held at Cleveland, U.S.A from 27 June, 2017 to 2 July, 2017. Naresh Gupta won the post uncontested and was the first Indian to have been elected for this coveted post.

K. Financial Matters

The St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association has clinched yet another financially satisfying year. All the programmes have successfully generated the resources required for their execution. The Alumni has also been able to post a healthy balance to the corpus through the various fund raisers. A special thanks to R. R. Modi and Anil Goenka for guarding the treasury zealously and for their accounting excellence. We must also thank our Auditors M/S. Anurag Mathur and Company for their good work.

L. Growth and Expansion

By the Grace of the Almighty and vision of our mentor Fr. President and Principal, the expansion programmes of our alma mater continued with great speed and vigor and SXCCAA had little its humble support and presence almost in every sphere of development.

M. Media Relations

The college and alumni activities, needless to say the members were always on news this year as the alumni witnessed a new height of relationship of goodwill with the media. We are grateful to all our friends in the media for the excellent coverage they have given to us.

N. Conclusion

The SXCCAA is today cited as an example, benchmark that all other alumni associations wish to attain, not only because we function as a family – as a team, but mainly because we have with us the blessing and guidance of our leader, our President Rev. F. J. Felix Raj sj, who dreams up and executes every alumni activity by leading from the front. I am grateful to him for giving the Alumni this stature, this position of pride and for his unstinting support. He breathes positive energy into the ‘movement’ called SXCCAA. Thank You Father.

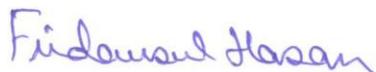
Let me thank all the members of the Governing Council, the Conveners, Sub-Committee Members for their excellent support and co-operation, without your selfless service we would not have achieved this unprecedented success as a team.

Allow me, also to put on record our gratitude to all the sponsors who have and continue to support our multi farious activities around the year. Without their financial support we would not have been able to organize events at such a grand scale.

I also thank Dominic Anthony ably assisted by Tanima Ghosh – the last but not the least, for efficiently assisting us at all times.

Nihil Ultra

Xaverianly yours,



Firdausul Hasan

Hony. Secretary,
SXCCAA.
2016 – 2017