I KNOW WHAT YOU DID THIS SUMMER

The Xavier's Press examines the pursuits of some Xavierites during the holidays.

Summer. A time for reading and relaxation, for ice-creams and indolence.

Not so much for the average Xavierite. Many of our students were out and about, seeking new activities to pursue during their vacation. And when we say new, we mean new. Flipping burgers at McDonald’s or cleaning filing cabinets at government offices will not suffice for this lot. Right from election campaigning to working on neuroscience research, these students looked beyond merely glorifying their CVs but at enriching their lives, and having a great summer in the bargain. Let’s take a look at what some of them did.

Savio Fialho, TYBMM, interned for two months with a travel venture called ‘The Land Out There’. Savio’s job included finding the travel hungry, arranging for their trips and getting five likes a day for the company’s Facebook page. While this was tedious, it was also new and exciting and had flexible working hours. Though it was an unpaid internship, he says, “I found it very interesting, one learns to have a calmer outlook about things, as Marketing is a painstaking job. Asking people to like the page was also tedious. Only the kind can empathise with the plight of the forced spammer.”

Jai Subramanian, TYBA, undertook a project on the safety of public spaces for women for an independent researcher. It was an eye-opener. Says Jai, “What was disturbing was that most women deemed physical misbehaviour as their ‘limit’. The level of desensitization was shocking. Most were afraid that there might be repercussions if they protested against verbal harassment.” Regarding his experience, he said he’d do it again in a heartbeat. “Though it was very demanding, I learnt that social research is enlightening, as it gave me a perspective on the ethics involved.”

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Rishaya Palkhivala, TYBA, spent the summer campaigning for the Aam Aadmi Party’s candidate, Phiroze Palkhivala. Says Rishaya, “Work involved office administrative tasks, publicity, campaigning and accompanying the candidate to various places on padayatras through slums and local areas. As clichéd as this sounds, the living conditions were shocking and the gravity of the task of upliftment was staggering. I’ve never been interested in politics but the experience was so different from a regular internship. The response we got while campaigning was wonderful; this election seemed to have attracted the interest of all kinds of people who previously never cared about politics.”

Despite her intensely demanding schedule as a Psychology student, Alefyah Potia, an enthusiastic SYBA student, found time to work in the day-care centre of the Psychiatric ward at Masina Hospital. She spent time with patients, playing games with them like Uno and Pictionary or doing simple activities like colouring and craftwork. “We would also have a lot of discussions, which would get very emotional at times,” recalls Alefyah. “At the end of the day, I’d feel good about getting through to some of the patients and saw what incredible people they were. I’d definitely do it again, only not at the same place. The hospital was grim and the staff gave electroconvulsive therapy to all the patients indiscriminately, whether or not they needed it. It made me realize the need for conscientious psychologists and has strengthened my resolve to be one someday.”

Breaking Bad fans will be fascinated by Prasenjit Srivastava, TYBSc. Chemistry, who spent the summer interning at The Central Drug Research Institute, working on the synthesis and testing of various drugs. What kind of drugs, we ask? “All kinds,” he replies with a grin. “Be it anti-malarial, anti-
The XPress presents its new editorial team. We work in companionable chaos, channelling our creative efforts towards creating your favourite (we know it is) monthly publication. We now take you behind the scenes, revealing an excerpt of our WhatsApp conversations.

**Raadhika:** Please start working on the Editorial NOW. I’ve also extended the deadline for all edits by 24 hours. NO further extensions. Check the spreadsheet. All articles are to be sent in by 11:59 pm tomorrow night. Any questions? Please reply.

(5 hours later)

**Raadhika:** Guys?

(1 hour later)

**Raadhika:** There will be no paper if you are all like this.

**Ashwin:** Oh. Sorry, I was sleeping. I completely agree with your views.

**Stuti:** Yes, got it!

**Ashwin:** Let us all bond, to get our creative juices flowing.

**Adityesh:** I will need to create a Skype ID for that.

**Alaric:** I’m in! I have nothing to do once I finish the layout.

**Stuti:** I’m in the US. We’ll never find a mutual time to bond. I’ll send in my articles, the rest of you can bond.

**Raadhika:** None of this bonding nonsense. We can bond when we have achieved something worthwhile.

**Alaric:** We need to decide on a colour scheme for the paper. What do you all think? Green and blue? With the official XPress crest on the left?

**Raadhika:** No. The articles first. Please work on finishing them before you do anything else.

**Alaric:** No. *continues to design the crest.*

**Adityesh:** Guys, I have to move out of the hostel. I’m homeless.

**Raadhika:** Why aren’t we allowed to make revolutionary brochures?

**Alaric:** But what about the fonts we plan to use? I’m sick of Times New Roman. We have to decide this now.

**Raadhika:** I give up.

And so it continues. Until something publishable is created. Or excerpts like these are used as news instead. One of the two. Have faith, our team shall not disappoint.

*Disgusted silence from Adityesh*

**Ashwin:** Anybody for an article on student anarchy?

**Alaric:** I agree. How do you want the anarchy brochures to look like? Green and yellow with the XPress crest?

**Raadhika:** NO. No revolutions, no brochures. We must be creative and productive first.

**Stuti:** Sorry, my phone internet isn’t working properly. I’m in the US, interning at *insert fancy Wall Street firm name here*. Will talk later. *(Is not heard from for a week after.)*

**Raadhika:** Can we all just please write this Editorial already?

**Adityesh:** Why aren’t we allowed to make revolutionary brochures?

**Alaric:** But what about the fonts we plan to use? I’m sick of Times New Roman. We have to decide this now.

**Raadhika:** I give up.

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- Written and compiled by the Editorial Team

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**Editor-in-Chief:**
Raadhika Vishvesh, TYBA

**Editors:**
Alaric Moras, SYBA
Stuti Trivedi, TYBA
Adityesh Mitra, SYBA
Ashwin Chandrasekhar, TYBA
cancer and even psychedelic ones, my job involved synthesizing them and handing them over to the Biology department for animal and cell testing. We later received their feedback and incorporated the changes they suggested.” When asked to describe his internship in three words, he says, “Mystical, fruitful and tiring. The work took up my whole day but it was fascinating. I want a career in onco-chemistry, the use of chemistry in treating cancer, so this internship made a lot of sense for me to pursue.”

Jaagruti Didwania, a TYBA Eco student, set out on a trip to rural spaces, working with the Jagran Jan Vikas Samiti, an NGO that works to promote rural development in the Udaipur district of Rajasthan. “My work involved visiting villages and educating the people on microfinance, bank loans, self employment and the like. I also studied the development of women for a report on the NREGA I was preparing. I now have a new perspective on rural life and how policies, the government and administrators have an impact on them. It was beyond all textbook learning we do in class, yet some experiences resembled readymade textbook examples. It was a two way learning process; they learnt about microfinance while I learnt about their lifestyle, politics and families.” When asked if she’d do it again, she said, “I’d definitely go back again for a short span to help them further, but I couldn’t have stayed longer than a month as I am plainly accustomed to a globalized life.”

Devika Gupta, OG FA this Malhar, was a junior graphic design intern this summer at a publishing firm called BecomeShakespeare. “I designed templates for publicity and catered to their design needs. I enjoyed the work because it was doable from home.” What was it like? “Overall, it was an enriching experience, mainly involving experimentation through trial and error with Photoshop,” she smiles.

Perhaps the most exciting of all summer internships was Rashi Pant’s of TYBSc. She interned at the National Brain Research Centre in New Delhi, delving into the intricacies of the human mind and devouring Mughlai chicken in the country’s capital all summer. “My work involved statistical analyses of various neuro-imaging methods of diagnosing Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, and several other neurodegenerative diseases, and compiling the results in order to put together a recommendation report to standardize diagnostic methods for these diseases in India. Often, you’re assigned work that any trained lab monkey can accomplish but when you get to the actual, tougher stuff, the joy is ten-fold.” She had an incredible time, and says “It is one thing to read about how difficult it is to diagnose dementia and quite another to meet people struggling with the disease. It renewed my appreciation of the beauty and complexity of the human brain, where it just takes a group of cells to create your personality, memories and identity, and at the same time, its fragility, where the lack of just one chemical can destroy it all.”

There you have it; the inside story. Surely, with Xavierites making the most of their summer so productively, trying to better the world in every way, the future seems a good place to be.

There are undoubtedly several more out there who put their summer to good use, we’re sorry we couldn’t cover more of you due to space constraints. Do write to us at thexavierspress@gmail.com and tell us how you spent the holidays! The best entries will feature on our Facebook page.

- Raadhika Vishvesh
Despite waiting eagerly for the summer, when the time comes, all we want to do is go back to the glorious world that is Xavier’s. The XPress examines all that the academic year 2014-15 holds in store for us.

**Food for Thought:** They are subtle, but undeniable. Gone are those halcyon days when a cup of coffee was Rs 5, bhelpuri was Rs 12 and hakka noodles were Rs 20 a plate. We confidently expect the prices of chaat, beverages, sandwiches and Chinese food to rise again this year due to inflationary pressures. While this is unavoidable, it is hard on our pockets as well.

**New International Programmes:** Xavier’s is truly going global, with a host of new international programmes with leading foreign institutes like Berkeley, Yale, SOAS and the like. Students are now regularly emailed about them and are no longer in the dark about the costs and requirements, details and prices, something we applaud the college for being proactive about.

**More Departmental Publications:** Economics has the Arthniti, Ithaka has The Ithaka Journal, Life Science has Lignum Vitae, and Statistics has The Plot. Interestingly, the French department brought out a newsletter last year, instead of a journal. Big things are expected from departments, student editors and writers this academic year (we at The XPress promise to do our best). We look forward to more and more of us students contributing to these publications, and perhaps, even creating some new ones this year.

**The ECC and Student Council:** They both did a brilliant job last year, pulling off several incredible events and student initiatives such as the voter identity card creation program, Nrityangan, literary events conducted by the The Playhouse and debates and discussions by The Debate Society. With new members and big plans for the coming year, this year’s students are looking to achieve even greater heights.

- Written and compiled by the Editorial Team

**MALHAR: KUCH ZYADA HATKE?**

An unacquainted visitor to Xavier’s this summer, noticing knots of students working intently, poring over complex flowcharts, notes and maps would be mystified. But the average Xavierite would simply smile, knowing that Malhar is, once again, around the corner.

This year, the festival has undergone a dramatic change in structure. Instead of having a single centralized Chairperson in charge of the fest, Malhar now has a flat structure with three chairpersons, each in charge of Events, Management and Conclave.

Why the change? Says Akshay Shetty, CP Conclave, “The new structure was brought into place to make Malhar more democratic by creating space for dissent. The staff felt it was unfair to have so much power concentrated in one person’s hands. The three CP structure creates a balance of authority.” Tanya Jerry, CP Management, chimes in, “It keeps us happy. Every time there’s a road block, we have two others to fall back upon. But it wouldn’t work if we didn’t get along, which luckily, we do.”

As for the rest of the student body, opinions are divided and curiosity prevails. With several of Malhar’s landmark events being removed and replaced by exciting new ones, Xavier’s can’t wait to see what lies ahead. We at the XPress are no exception and wish the committee all the best.

- Raadhika Vishvesh

We wish to thank St. Xavier’s College for sponsoring the June issue of The Xavier’s Press.
Brazil hosts the FIFA World Cup this year. Protests against its timing and scepticism over the preparedness of our fellow BRIC-layer have surfaced. The XPRESS takes a look at the beautiful game. We seek out the contenders and the pretenders who vie for the trophy and help you to make an informed (and informal) bet with your buddies.

The Contenders:
Spain – The defending World Champions have churned out the greatest generation of footballers. But with its legendary core of Hernandez, Iniesta and Puyol having a sub-par domestic season, one could very well bet on a fall from grace for La Roja!

Brazil – Hailed as favourites to win, hosts Brazil have a lot to prove. With World Cup winning coach Scolari at the helm and a squad of talented youngsters that are setting European football on fire, the Selecao have a rare mixture of flair and industry that may prove to be too good for their opponents.

Honourable Mentions – Germany and Italy

The Pretenders:
England – Roy Hodgson’s gone bold with his squad, picking some of the Premier League’s most dazzling young English lads. The English media has come up with all kinds of ridiculous news pieces, predicting a win for the Three Lions based on the fact that Austria won the Eurovision singing competition this year (as they did in 1966). England is a perennial pretender, but this time, the youth experiment will be exciting to watch.

Argentina – Wouldn’t we like the dark horse win the World Cup! After an injury plagued season, Messi would like to believe that his national team will have better luck. Argentina also has one of the most enviable forward lines in the game.

Honourable Mentions – France and Netherlands

So place your bets wisely and enjoy the World Cup!

-Ashwin Chandrasekhar

THE WORLD ALWAYS NEEDS A HERO

A recent change is noticeable in the world of heroes and the fans who read their exploits in graphic novels. Though cos-play (dressing up as your favourite hero) and discussing strategies about who will win what fight (Batman vs Superman, later this year) remain unchanged, what is evident is an increase in emotional identification with heroes. We mortals have realized that their lives are riddled with the same afflictions that plague our own.

Consider dealing with tragedy and loss (the most common reason behind the creation of famous heroes), the love-life crisis (barring rare exceptions, most heroes tend to love ordinary beings with no superpowers except incredibly good looks), the identity issue (a perpetual fetish for masks is seen) and the trust in the system (the no-killing rule). Heroes are simply men and women who are faced with difficult choices. No matter how green, gigantic or laser-beam friendly they seem, heroes are only human. They give people the courage to rise above even the hardest problems and make the best of terrible situations. In short, aside from being simply a source of entertainment, superhero tales cause us to become the hero we read about (minus the cape of course).

At the risk of making the obvious more so, our life is our story to make and we can choose to act heroically (not by hand-swinging from the curtain rod) but by making apt choices and staying brave in the face of adversity. The rest can be summed up from the much clichéd power-responsibility statement from Spiderman. Decide well!

-Adityesh Mitra
WORLD MUSIC DAY

Music is a language understood by all. Fête de la Musique refers to the worldwide celebration of music that occurs every year on 21st June in cities across the globe. It was initiated by the French Minister of Culture, Jack Lang, as a platform to promote music.

Freedom of expression through music is what this festival hopes to spread, and everybody is urged to participate. Concerts are held in various public buildings such as castles, museums and train stations to make it accessible to all. Entry is completely free. Every year, Fête de la Musique reinvents itself to cater to different individuals by incorporating regional styles and eclectic genres to appeal to different audiences worldwide. This is what makes it so diverse and unique to be a part of.

Unfortunately, celebrations of this sort haven’t caught on much in India just as yet. But since we celebrate every other occasion with gusto, why not this? Let’s take music beyond global barriers and be a part of a worldwide phenomenon. So all you musicians out there, go take part in the 32nd rendition of the World Music Day celebrations! And for all of you music lovers, Fête de la Musique is just around the corner, waiting to unleash the music within!

- Stuti Trivedi

ONLINE POPULARITY 1.01

Though the first recorded use of the Internet was for purposes like connecting various Defence Departments of the US, civilization has progressed to use it for higher purposes, such as social networking sites. Here, you can update your friends about how attractive your toe-nails look after a trim. The Xavier’s Press explains the science of acquiring online popularity.

The Selfie: Pouted lips, hands on your hips, head tilte and a camera phone in your hand. Selfies, the most self-indulgent creation since automatic toothbrushes, are all the rage these days. Points are given on how ‘natural’ you look, how well you are dressed and even your dexterity at taking the selfie. Popularity is now just a pout away.

Appropriate hashtag usage: Using the correct hashtag (#th isforthosewhodon’tknowwhat#atlamtalkingabout) is the key to the re-tweets, likes and follows you crave. And if you can’t decide on an appropriate one, be indiscriminate, they’ll still love you. Because #YOLO #lcandothissinceeveryoneelseis #goodbyegrammar.

Ridiculing everybody else: The key to popularity on Twitter lies in the ability to slam other people for their beliefs. All bashing is encouraged, whether it is on grounds of religion, politics, food, dress choices or even feelings.

Celebrity Quotes: Whether it is Miley Cyrus’ views on relationships or Justin Beiber’s wisecracks on fame, everyone loves relating to a celebrity. Most of their quotes aren’t relevant to anything, but who cares?

Private lives turned Public: Nothing excites the crowd more than an exhibition of PDA (or lack thereof). A status update describing your fight with your parents, your bad grades, or even the pimple of your chin will instantly acquire a dozen “Aww”s and virtual *hug*s.

So if you have the right balance of beauty, aggression and questionable intellect, then with a little help from The XPress, any of you can become an online hit.

- Alaric Moras
THE LEISURE PAGE

What’s in a name? The XPress went above and beyond the call of the belly to find out just what went into the making of some of the wackiest named dishes in the canteen.

The Iranian Omelette: Anna’s counter can always be counted on for cheap and delicious food. This dish, however, is simpler than its fancy name sounds, consisting of tomatoes and Anna’s masala (details of which are better hidden than KFC’s recipe) wrapped in a pleasing dosa shape and served hot.

The Mauritian Omelette:

THE NAMESAKE

Yet another Anna delight, he tells me that this omelette was named by one of his students (why Mauritian? We don’t know). Far from being an exotic foreign delicacy, it consists of a deep fried, masala coated egg, which will set your taste buds on fire, in all senses of the word.

The Burma Toast: Deceptive as it may sound, it bears no relation to a certain SAARC country and is merely 2 slices of bread with fried tomatoes and an omelette stuffed in between. Did I mention that it is very filling?

The Special Maggi: Confessions have been posted on Facebook, enquiring glances have been given and praise has been showered upon it. Now, Anna’s Special Maggie has been decoded. It consists of regular Maggi garnished with his unique cheese and garlic paste. There is also a version with salami for the daredevils. This is his best-selling delicacy.

Chicken Cotton Blue: No linen, no food colouring. Yet the name (concealing a rather fancy price of about Rs 80) is but a simple chicken dish. A chicken breast, cheese and the lot of it fried and dipped in delicious sauces, to be precise. Heavy on the wallet, but heavenly on the palate, this is a must have delicacy for all.

For the bold and adventurous, here are your options. For those who wish to play it safe (gastronomically), may we suggest cheese toast?

- Adityesh Mitra

THE TOP 6 (RIDICULOUS) INTERNET SENSATIONS

1. Fatuous Facebook (Apps): Take this quiz to find out ‘What spice you are!’ Please don’t. No one cares if ‘You Are Cilantro’. As if this wasn’t enough, your newsfeed is also flooded with your friends’ horoscopes and idiotic messages from confession pages abound.

2. Viral Videos: Quality footage and good content are not prerequisites to get people interested online these days. Whether somebody is spoofing Miley Cyrus’ Wrecking Ball, or dancing to meaningless songs like The Harlem Shake and What Does the Fox Say, these ‘viral’ videos are bound to amuse you. Check out ‘The NFL: A Bad Lip-Reading’, and ‘How Animals Eat Their Food’ for a good laugh, if you haven’t already.

3. Vivacious Vines: A recent phenomenon on the Web, these 6-second videos are a humorous take on everyday life with diverse topics (like White vs. Black people) and will shock you with the impact they are capable of leaving within 6 seconds.

4. Pseudo Photographers: They own a DSLR (some even make do with an iPhone camera) and take pictures of everything: their every meal, their innumerable ‘best’ friends, and of course Mother Nature (every plant or flower crossing their path instantly becomes their muse). Instagramming is in.

5. Meme Mania: Touted as the most amazing invention of the Internet world, memes use a trending picture to express a certain feeling. These memes, along with rage comics and rage faces, are like the Internet’s own trending language to reckon with. Animal memes are very popular as well. Cats have finally found their purpose in life.

6. YouTubers: They have their own so-called channels on YouTube and present you with videos ranging from self-help tutorials (how to cut your hair, wash your dog, assassinate your aunt) to uploading their musical performances, and even funny spoof shows. Interesting fact: Justin Beiber was discovered via YouTube. And we all saw how that turned out.

-Stuti Trivedi
The XPress Poll

With over 120 students who polled across all tranches of college, The XPress was able to unearth some interesting insights on how students in college perceive the trials and tribulations that plague this great country of ours. In light of the recent election rhetoric and the damaging mischief of the previous government, not surprisingly, corruption was rated by over 43% of the respondents as the principal problem preventing India from flourishing. On a performance rating of the past government, Xavierites gave a damning indictment of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), giving them a below average score on all our indicators, including economic growth, inclusive growth, protection of minorities and aspirations of the youth.

One could infer great scepticism over the leadership in this country. A lack of decisiveness and the absence of a clear vision for the future among our leaders were the strongest sentiments among our respondents, which could either mean distrust towards the UPA message or being unfazed by the vision offered by any and all campaigners. Despite all this pessimism, a glimmer of light was seen when over two-thirds of our respondents claimed that India should strive to be a better version of itself rather than ape the success stories of Scandinavian welfare or Japanese equality. An education at Xavier’s makes us acknowledge the differences across people and societies and one would like to believe, at the least, that a rejection of the ‘one-size-fits-all’ argument or the universalism promoted by some nations in the West, is a sign of humility and rationality.

-Ashwin Chandrasekhar

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To apply for the post of writer, drop us an email at thexavierspress@gmail.com and/or subscribe to our Facebook page to receive the application form.

To apply for the post of photographer, send us a 100 word Statement of Purpose and two sample pictures on the theme ‘Summer.’