



CONXERV

PARITRAN



HIGHLIGHTS

Latest News On

*Climate Change,
Sustainability and Human
Development from around
the globe*

Alumni Connect:

*Ms.Sanjana Roy from batch of
2017-19*

Faculty Speaks:

Professor Elizabeth Abba

Student Speaks:

*Ankita Rout from batch
2019-21*

INTRODUCTION

ConXerv is the functional committee of Xavier School of Sustainability. The committee was formed by the first batch of XSoS with the aspiration to create an enriching environment that fosters sustainable learning and holistic development with the goal of helping the student community reach their highest potential and be the torchbearers of change for a sustainability driven future.

With an aim to empower the student community in XUB and help them to stay updated about the latest developments in the field of sustainability, we present to you the October edition of our newsletter, 'Paritran'.

Along with news from the sustainability world, we present the views of Professor Elizabeth Abba on the changing dynamics in the education sector due to COVID-19 pandemic. In the Alumni Connect Section, we have Ms.Sanjana Roy, batch of 2017-19 sharing her views and experience with us. Along with that, we have the student coordinator of the Alumni Committee for the batch of 2019-21 sharing views about her journey at XSoS.

World Food Programme chief 'deeply humbled' by Nobel win, calls it 'incredible recognition' of WFP family (October 9, 2020)

The United Nations World Food Programme is "deeply humbled" by the announcement it had won this year's Nobel Peace Prize, Executive Director David Beasley said.

Read more at:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/magazines/panache/world-food-programme-chief-deeply-humbled-by-nobel-win-calls-it-incredible-recognition-of-wfp-family/articleshow/78572855.cms>

Plastic bags could be 'eco-friendlier' than paper and cotton (October 14, 2020)

Scientists from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) have modelled the cradle-to-grave environmental impact of using different types of shopping bags and report that in cities like Singapore, single-use plastic bags (made from high-density polyethylene plastic) have a lower environmental footprint than single-use paper and multi-use cotton bags.

Read more at:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/10/20201014114629.htm>

India's eight beaches get 'Blue Flag' certification (11th October, 2020)

India received the prestigious 'Blue Flag' certification for all its eight beaches that it recommended, the environment ministry said.

Read more at:

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.livemint.com/news/india/india-s-eight-beaches-get-blue-flag-certification/amp-11602423189005.html>

WORLD HABITAT DAY

The Earth is just not our habitat. The responsibility to conserve it rests with us. A decent home is more than just a roof. It is a human right - the building block of a family's well-being, health, safety, dignity, and inclusion. Every individual has a responsibility towards building a sustainable habitat for the upcoming generations.

The United Nations picked the first Monday of October of every year as World Habitat Day to reflect on the state of our towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter. World Habitat Day was first celebrated in 1986 in Nairobi, Kenya, and the theme chosen for that year was "Shelter is My Right".

2020 Theme: Housing for All — A Better Urban Future

As we pass somber milestones during this COVID-19 pandemic, having an appropriate and adequate home is the need of the hour, as people are told not to step out unless required. The location of our homes in a social environment with access to health care opportunities, schools and colleges, public and green spaces and employment opportunities is crucial for a sound and healthy mind of the residents.

Housing is a human right and a catalyst for all other fundamental rights. It is the only way to ensure the "Right to the City for All".

Source:

**United Nations
World Habitat Day Wikipedia**

FACULTY SPEAKS



Professor Elizabeth Abba

Q. What pedagogical shifts must be made to a faculty's practice to serve student's remote learning needs?

COVID-19 brought a paradigm shift to the teaching-learning process.

The first change required to be empathetic towards student's limitations on technology use and access.

The faculty needs to recalibrate a teaching style from a classroom chalk & talk, powerpoint to a fully digital space.

Change in providing resources like e-text books and more soft copies of reading materials. Lecture mode to active learning class. New forms of assessment and online exam. Overall, to be flexible and open to a new teaching-learning environment.

Q. How can you bring substantial improvement in your online teaching method to keep students engaged?

I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand -Confucius

The above quote inspires me to adopt a teaching style where students 'do and understand'.

An online class requires more effort than face-to face class. I start with a presentation and then engage students using discussions, hands on learning exercises, debate, videos, quiz using google forms, tools like gap minder and world bank data to make an active learning class.

One of my course on Environmental Pollution & Health had a laboratory practical component so I used a virtual laboratory, an Initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development Under the National Mission on Education through ICT (<https://www.vlab.co.in/>) and also a Noise Tracker Application (App) developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI), Nagpur, to measure the real-time noise level using android smartphones.

On the zoom platform, I also use many good features like a chat box, share screen, breakout rooms for peer learning and emoji to appreciate students' efforts.

Though I have embraced online teaching I miss the happiness of seeing my student's smile while learning in the classroom.

Dr Reddy's joins hands with SBTi, aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 55 per cent by 2030 (October 5, 2020)

The company has committed to reducing its Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 55 per cent by 2030 from 2017-18 base year, which are in line with the latest climate science of limiting global warming to below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

Read more at:

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/dr-reddys-joins-hands-with-sbti-aims-to-cut-greenhouse-gas-emissions-by-55-per-cent-by-2030/78492258>

India, Norway explore widening maritime partnership and developing the Blue Economy (October 14, 2020)

India and Norway (key player in global maritime sector) are cooperating to expand their maritime partnership including construction of vessels and developing the Blue Economy for sustainable development.

Read more at:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/magazines/panache/world-food-programme-chief-deeply-humbled-by-nobel-win-calls-it-incredible-recognition-of-wfp-family/articleshow/78572855.cms>

HSBC Pledges to reach net zero financed emissions by mid-century (9th October, 2020)

HSBC has become the latest bank to commit to achieving net zero financed emissions, announcing this morning that it intends to align its portfolio of investments and debt financing with global climate targets by mid-century.

Read more at:

<https://www.businessgreen.com/news/4021466/hsbc-pledges-reach-net-zero-financed-emissions-mid-century>

Ocado and Amazon steer different courses towards green delivery fleets (9th October, 2020)

Online supermarket Ocado is forging ahead with plans to reduce the emissions of its extensive delivery fleet using Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), as it yesterday revealed more than a third of its delivery vehicles are now powered by the lower carbon fuel.

Read more at:

<https://www.businessgreen.com/news/4021412/ocado-amazon-steer-different-courses-green-delivery-fleets>

Crayfish 'trapping' fails to control invasive species (October 13, 2020)

Despite being championed by a host of celebrity chefs, crayfish 'trapping' is not helping to control invasive American signal crayfish, according to new research by UCL and King's College London.

Read more at:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/10/201013090249.htm>

NGT Slams Bihar for Violating Environmental Norms in Sand Mining Auction (October 28, 2020)

The National Green Tribunal has declared a sand-mining action held by the Bihar government in the state's Banka district in December 2019 as "void and a nullity".

Read more at:

<https://science.thewire.in/environment/bihar-national-green-tribunal-sand-mining/>

ALUMNI CONNECT



A short interview with **Ms. Sanjana Roy, Batch of 2017-19** was conducted by the Alumni Committee. Ms. Sanjana throws light on her MBA journey, how it has moulded her and built her up. She also gives an important message for the current batch which will help them start their professional life.

1. How have those two years of study helped you in your professional career?

MBA teaches one to work under tight deadlines. When one is new to the system, it seems rather overwhelming. However, with time and continuously working under pressure you learn to keep calm and deliver the expected results. It's not as if the pressure reduces, your ability to work quickly increases. MBA also teaches one to prioritize the tasks assigned. This is extremely important because in one's job, one has to work on multiple deliverables with short turnaround times. The next aspect is networking and communication. Most assignments in MBA are group assignments, so you essentially have no choice but to work with different types of people. You learn to work together to accomplish the task in hand while also settling differences among team members. It's a big lesson in teamwork, which might seem easy at first but when you actually start working you realize the issues that can crop up including the problem of freeloaders in the team. This is in fact quite interesting because by the end of your MBA you learn the ways of "getting" work done in a timely manner. MBA also helps you to hone your interpersonal skills because you have to interact and network with people. This skill is particularly important when you have to deal with multiple stakeholders in your job.

2. Can you share your summer internship experience with us?

I interned with Alfa Laval, a Swedish firm based in Pune. The company offers specialized engineering solutions for various types of industries. I was an intern in the CSR department. I got a chance to interact with multiple external stakeholders and people from several departments in Alfa Laval. I worked in multiple ongoing CSR projects and learnt how funds were allocated toward education, infrastructure, health & sanitation, and women empowerment with strong focus on educating the girl child.

Since I was interested in climate change related interventions, the CSR head of the department encouraged me to plan an environment friendly initiative. So after several rounds of discussions, we developed a month long initiative to bring down the organization's Scope 3 emissions. We encouraged employees to start carpooling and avail the company's transport system. But before this began, in addition to emails and posters in high footfall areas like the cafeteria and the lounge I would go from one department to another convincing employees to be a part of this initiative. Surprisingly, quite a few employees came forward. This however, was after a great deal of convincing. We used to collect data from the participants on a daily basis to keep a tab on the fuel saved because of carpooling. For this we considered several variables such as distance covered, type of vehicle, and fuel type among others. At the end of 3 weeks we did a few calculations to show how adopting such measures over a long period of time can have a favourable impact on the environment.

3. Since we have started our MBA journey in the pandemic year, is there any message you would like to give to the current batch which can help them in starting their professional life?

It is very important to become "market ready". By this, I mean enhancing your skills. Make the most of this time and identify key skill requirements in the industry. And be quick to enhance your skills accordingly. It could be doing short certification courses, reading up on the latest trends in the world of sustainability, attending webinars or something as simple as polishing your skills in MS Office. You can opt for advanced Excel, Power BI and similar other data analysis tools. Start from basics and get your fundamentals in place.

When it comes to internships, please do not be choosy about the company. Your focus should be on learning as much as possible. Take up an opportunity that comes your way and be a sincere intern. Give it your best. And learn as much as you can.

Brush up your communication skills, both written and verbal. Networking is a cornerstone in today's world.

Always be on time, be it for classes or for meetings. Never attend a class or a meeting on an empty stomach as it can hamper your focus. As funny as it may sound, you must keep your energy levels in place. MBA is just a prelude to the stress levels that one faces in one's job. Given the tight deadlines, multiple deliverables and long working hours, burnout is a strong possibility. So, work hard but learn to work smart.

Indian outfit wins UN award for efforts to combat climate change amid COVID-19 (October 28, 2020)

An Indian organisation that leverages tourism and technology to help remote communities access solar energy has won a prestigious UN award for its efforts to combat climate change amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Read more at:

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/amp/news/renewable/indian-outfit-wins-un-award-for-efforts-to-combat-climate-change-amid-covid-19/78903314>

The Science Based Targets Initiative Launches First Framework for Financial Institutions (October 5, 2020)

This announcement marks the first opportunity for the finance sector to add a science-based stamp to their portfolio alignment targets.

Read more at:

<https://www.environmentalleader.com/2020/10/the-science-based-targets-initiative-launches-first-framework-for-financial-institutions/>

India gets first ever brand, logo for its 'Kasturi Cotton' (October 8, 2020)

India produces about 51% of the total organic cotton production of the world, which demonstrates India's effort towards sustainability.

Read more at:

<https://www.livemint.com/industry/manufacturing/india-gets-first-ever-brand-logo-for-its-kasturi-cotton-11602139994123.html>

Sustainability: PepsiCo India to Create Awareness on Upcycling of Plastic (October 2, 2020)

Aligned with the Government of India's 'Swachhta Hi Seva' initiative PepsiCo India in partnership with United Way Delhi has launched a unique digital initiative Why Waste.

Read more at:

<https://indiacsr.in/sustainability-pepsico-india-to-create-awareness-on-upcycling-of-plastic/>

P&G India announces 400 crore India Growth Fund

This fund is part of P&G India's 'vGROW' programme that focuses on identifying and collaborating with startups, small businesses, individuals or large organisations and offer solutions for the fast-moving consumer goods industry.

Read more at:

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.livemint.com/companies/news/p-g-india-announces-rs-400-crore-india-growth-fund/amp-11603957383979.html?initiation-of-wfp-family/articleshow/78572855.cms>

Microsoft and Accenture expand commitment to support social entrepreneurs (October 27, 2020)

Aiming to amplify the societal impact of emerging technology, Microsoft and Accenture are expanding a joint initiative announced earlier this year to support startups that are focused on solving critical business challenges related to sustainability and skilling.

Read more at:

<https://news.microsoft.com/en-in/microsoft-and-accenture-expand-commitment-to-support-social-entrepreneurs/>

STUDENT SPEAKS



Ankita Rout

Student Coordinator of Alcom (batch of 2019-21)

To be part of a school that invests not only in the professional life of its students but also conditions and equips them on their personal front is overwhelming. Having pursued B.Sc in Sustainable Development and currently MBA in Sustainability Management, I have had the opportunity of being part of this school since 2016. Back then I ventured into the unknown field of Sustainability with mixed feelings of trepidation and expectancy. Today, when I look back, I stand tall on the hard work that the faculty body has put in.

Pursuing MBA in Sustainability Management, I learnt that one should not be afraid of pushing one's limits. Juggling between academic rigor, committee tasks and fun with batch mates has taught me the importance of time management and also in a way has molded me into what I have become. The knowledge gained through peer learning is the greatest asset that would be my take home.

My stint at KPMG as part of the Summer Internship Program has taught me the art of delivering quality work within strict deadlines. I could see my learnings getting translated into practical work. I was fortunate that few alumni also helped me pull it through my Internship.

I am gratified to be the Coordinator of the Alumni Committee of XSOS. Alumni are the soul of a school. At SM-ALCOM, we strive to create a strong network between our alumni and their Alma mater. We believe our alumni strengthen and help our school to grow because they are our ambassadors amidst our recruiters. To do what it takes, Alumni Talk, Alumni Career Timeline, Alumni Speaks, Alumni Insights are a few of our pursuits.

To be part of this school, I feel obliged. Although this pandemic has pushed us to go online, the help, encouragement and motivation by the entire school helps me sustain through.