



CONXERV

PARITRAN



HIGHLIGHTS

Latest News On

Climate Change, Sustainability and Human Development from around the globe

Alumni Connect:

Ms. Deepika Ganesh from batch of 2015-17

Faculty Speaks:

Professor Mary Sabina Peters

Student Speaks:

Sidhant Sarangi 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 September edition of our newsletter, 'Paritran'.

Along with news from the sustainability world, we present the views of our faculty coordinator on the changing dynamics in the education sector due to COVID-19 pandemic. In the Alumni Connect Section, we have Ms. Deepika Ganesh, batch of 2015-17 sharing her views and experience with us. Along with that, we have the student coordinator of Career Advisory Services for the batch of 2019-21 sharing his views about his journey at XSoS.

Climate change: Rising sea levels in Fiji create 'ghost towns' (September 15, 2020)

The Pacific island nation of Fiji produces less than 1% of the globe's carbon emissions, yet rising sea levels, coastal erosion and intense storm surges are having a dramatic effect on the country.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-asia-54138677>

Apple accused of swerving questions on sustainability and product repairability (September 24, 2020)

As it launches its highly anticipated range of news products, Apple continues to swerve questions from the UK's Environmental Audit committee on its environmental record and repairability of its devices, the committee says.

Read more at:

<https://www.circularonline.co.uk/news/apple-accused-of-swerving-questions-on-sustainability-and-product-repairability/>

OZONE DAY 2020

The slogan for World Ozone Day 2020 is "Ozone for life". This year marks the 35 years of global ozone layer protection. "Ozone for life" is meant to remind us of the importance of the Ozone layer for the existence of life.

Life on other planets is yet to be found. By virtue of such a truth Earth is the only Blue planet that houses life in a whole lot of variety. Of all species of life on earth Man is considered the most intelligent. What use is his intelligence if he is bent upon destroying himself? There's no two opinions about the fact that the mad rush for rapid industrialization has led to reckless exploitation of natural resources. This has resulted in the depletion of the ozone layer .

The world is celebrating 35 years of International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, it is about time we revert to sustainable living through a localised circular economy as was advocated by the father of our nation, Mahatma Gandhi.

Griffith boosts its Sustainability credentials with solar energy deal (September 22, 2020)

Griffith University has entered into an agreement with CS Energy which will ensure 50 per cent of its electricity needs provided by renewable power sources from next year.

Read more at:

<https://news.griffith.edu.au/2020/09/22/griffith-boosts-its-sustainability-credentials-with-solar-energy-deal/>

How Sustainability will drive the growth in the packaging industry (September 21, 2020)

A unique type of recyclable plastic known as Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET)- is commonly used for drink and water bottles- are the most recycled plastic packaging in the world.

Read more at:

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/09/sustainability-drive-growth-packaging-industry/>

**LEGO to invest US\$400 million on sustainability
(September 15, 2020)**

The brickmaker is looking to accelerate green efforts, and will parse the money out over three years to work towards achieving zero-waste and carbon-neutral status.

Read more at:

<https://kidscreen.com/2020/09/15/lego-to-invest-us-400-million-on-sustainability/>

Sundarbans endangered as per IUCN's Red List of Ecosystems framework, cautious optimism advised (September 17, 2020)

A global team of researchers has evaluated the Indian Sundarbans ecosystem to be endangered driven by historical clearing of mangroves and diminishing fish populations.

Read more at:

<https://india.mongabay.com/2020/09/sundarbans-endangered-as-per-iucns-red-list-of-ecosystems-framework-cautious-optimism-advised/>

STUDENT SPEAKS



Sidhant Sarangi

Student Coordinator of CAS (Batch of 2019-21)

My life at Xavier School of Sustainability, XUB has been a great ride over the past four terms.

I have always enjoyed both the academic and non-academic life at campus: from the rigorous assignments to class discussions and from quizzes to pulling off an all-nighter. All these activities have kept me engrossed and inculcated in me a holistic development, both at professional and personal levels.

At XSoS, MBA in Sustainability Management is an amalgamation of both Sustainability Management and General Management subjects. The programme has been aptly designed to nurture students to address the environmental issues and social problems.

Having completed my Summer Internship with Puma Group, I personally feel that I am able to implement the classroom teachings into practical work. The faculties here have been very supportive and are ever approachable irrespective of the kind of help I needed.

I am also glad to be the coordinator for the SM Career Advisory Services. SM-CAS is in charge of all Career Advisory Services and placements related affairs. CAS organizes regular Leadership talks. For the last academic year of 2019-20, we had some renowned companies like KPMG, PUMA, Vedanta, CDP, Ultratech Cement, SustainPlus, and many more, who visited the campus for internships and final placements.

FACULTY SPEAKS



Professor Mary Sabina Peters
Faculty Coordinator of ConXerv

Q. What are the opportunities for students in the area of Sustainability during this time of ongoing pandemic?

My response to this question is based on the understanding that I gathered from Indian Investment Grid and the document published by CEEW titled 'Jobs, Growth and Sustainability- A new social contract for India's recovery', both the reference points identify the sectors that are still growing and so opportunities are resting in the realm of -waste management, e-commerce, transport, health care, water management, energy (renewable and non-renewable) agri -based products and aid. The government is doing a lot for the small and medium scale enterprises, which means insurance & banking, skilling & live hood also looking at compliance, supply-chain & marketing, environmental management, health and safety profiles will have a lot to offer.

Q. On-campus MBA program helps students to be a part of in-person discussions that take place both in and outside the campus. However, due to the ongoing pandemic, the university has moved to online sessions. What strategies should faculties use to make online sessions as interactive as classroom ones?

It is essential to be relevant and significant, which implies that one needs to accommodate change paradigms. I don't think pandemic is the reason for online teaching. Online was inevitable; pandemic simply provided the environment. Previously it was optional to choose (synchronous or asynchronous) learning platforms like Youtube, Coursera, Unacademy, Edx, or UNITAR. Those who invested their resources and time choose the platform according to their preference and benefits derived (direct or indirect).

I would like to look at my "strategy" regarding effective teaching from a student's perspective. Students are often driven by content, application and benefit of the content. In my exposure to on-line teaching platforms as an instructor, I find it beneficial to break the 90 min class into a set of 20mins X3, and final 30 min session. At the end of every 20 mins of lecturing (starting with theory), there is an exercise (20 mins), followed by a discussion of 20 mints. and finally (last 30 mins) a closing session. This makes it easier to contextualise the topic to daily applications and helps test decision-making skills. This also feeds into the rubric of the MBA programme; which is to help managers evolve into leaders.

Truly revolutionary: Elon Musk hails Tesla battery breakthrough (September 24, 2020)

Elon Musk claims Tesla engineers have achieved a "major breakthrough" in battery technology, which he predicts could dramatically cut production costs, boost the range of electric vehicles and accelerate the shift towards renewable electricity.

Read more at:

<https://www.businessgreen.com/news/4020646/truly-revolutionary-elon-musk-hails-tesla-battery-breakthrough>

Crisps, chocolate and cheese brands under fire for wasteful packaging (September 24, 2020)

Pringles crisps, Cadbury's chocolate and Babybel cheese are among the snack brands named and shamed for wasteful packaging.

Read more at:

<https://www.businessgreen.com/news/4020664/crisps-chocolate-cheese-brands-wasteful-packaging>

Walmart pledges to achieve net zero emissions by 2040 without offsets (September 21, 2020)

The world's largest retailer has committed to reaching net zero carbon emissions across its operations by 2040, without relying on carbon offsets.

Read more at:

<https://www.businessgreen.com/news/4020443/walmart-pledges-achieve-net-zero-emissions-2040-offsets>

Food Businesses bank of sustainability linked loans (September 24, 2020)

A surge in interests by banks and companies in providing their ethical credentials in driving rapid growth in sustainability linked loans (SLLSs) to food and agriculture firms, but they are not for everyone.

Read more at:

<https://www.ft.com/content/d0c721fc-2eae-4501-b95b-1660c81b05ed>

Prakash Javadekar hopes India will reduce carbon emissions by 35% in 10 years (September 10, 2020)

He also said that it is important to achieve a green Earth with clean air and blue skies post Covid-19 despite the odds, and that it is possible to do so alongside industrial activity.

Read more at:

<https://auto.hindustantimes.com/auto/news/prakash-javadekar-hopes-india-will-reduce-carbon-emissions-by-35-in-10-years-41599708429224.html>

A New York Clock That Told Time Now Tells the Time Remaining (September 20, 2020)

Metronome's digital clock in Manhattan has been reprogrammed to illustrate a critical window for action to prevent the effects of global warming from becoming irreversible.

Read more at:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/20/arts/design/climate-clock-metronome-nyc.html>

Amazon will make it easier to buy sustainable products with new climate label (September 24, 2020)

Amazon is launching a new environmental program called Climate Pledge Friendly that will label certain products that meet one of 19 certifications for sustainability.

Read more at:

<https://www.theverge.com/2020/9/23/21453017/amazon-climate-pledge-friendly-environmental-carbon-footprint-certification>

How California Became Ground Zero for Climate Disasters (September 20, 2020)

The engineering and land management that enabled the state's tremendous growth have left it more vulnerable to climate shocks — and those shocks are getting worse.

Read more at:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/20/climate/california-climate-change-fires.html>

ALUMNI CONNECT



A short interview with **Ms. Deepika Ganesh, Batch of 2015-17** was conducted by the Alumni Committee. Ms. Deepika throws light on her MBA journey, how it has moulded her and built her up. She also speaks about Summer Internships and its importance.

1. Tell us about your SIP (Summer Internship Programme) experience.

Being from the 1st batch of MBA-SM, the journey was not very smooth. I did my internship with Nordson India Pvt. Ltd, Bangalore and I helped them in putting together documents on their sustainability practices. It was my first hands-on experience in factory compliances like OHSAS, factory emissions, etc. For me personally, it was a learning experience. Good thing about SIP is that it tends to be unique for every student as every student learns something different.

2. To what degrees does the SIPs affect the Final Placements?

SIPs do affect the Final Placements as the brand value of the company that you worked for does carry weight. If you have done good work during your SIPs and have recommendations, it will help you during the time of placements. There can be two scenarios; you might get to work with a really good company and its name will take you to places or you might not get a reputable company or get a project of not your interest or get a startup to work with. In both the cases, it is important to keep your eyes open and learn as much as possible from everyone as I believe that every workplace has learnings to offer.

3. Are immersion courses actually important? Will it teach us anything?

What I can say about immersion courses is that they can be taken up based on our interest areas, because these interest areas eventually help us with choosing our future workspace. Taking up these courses will help us get acquainted with the latest happenings in those areas and eventually, help us become an expert. Also, we should not restrict ourselves to academic courses, there are umpteen number of online hobby courses, which can contribute more towards an enriched recreation time.

There has been a shift from T model wherein one was expected to acquire broad knowledge about the subject followed by mastery in one core area, to, a more all-encompassing pie model wherein emphasis is given to acquiring broad knowledge and developing two areas of expertise; one related to the professional domain and the other related to leisure activity of our choice.

4. How have the 2 years of MBA shaped you as a person?

One of the many things that I learned over the course of two years is the art of resilience. I was part of the placement committee and sometimes it was a little difficult to progress forward without causing friction, but what I learned over those two years helped me sail through that seemingly difficult time. Every one of the 25 of us worked in tandem, continually supporting one another. Our passion, is what I believe, gave us the confidence that all of us would be able to carve out a place for ourselves in the market. The other thing which I learned was the wide application of sustainability as a principle; the learning that sustainability is not limited to the environment but, it also encompasses a whole lot of other areas. As of now, I work in the academic domain but, the course actually helped open new avenues for me.