



COS ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

GO
SPARTANS!

ALUMNUS VISITS SJSU AFTER 57 YEARS!



Krishna Dixit & his wife in front of Tower Hall at San José State University

Krishna Dixit, class of 1951 made contact with the Biological Sciences Department about returning to SJSU for a visit after 57 years. This effort was coordinated between Biology Chair Dr. John Boothby and Carol Beattie, Development Officer for the College of Science along with Krishna's son, Kamal Dixit. On August 15, 2008, Krishna Kant Dixit, along with his family were able to return to SJSU and fulfill a lifelong dream.

Krishna Dixit graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology, In an email to Carol Beattie, he writes about how SJSU impacted his life and lay the foundation for a brilliant career in this remarkable story:

"Many thanks for making our visit to my Alma Mater on (the) 15th (of) August, 2008 a most memorable & once-in-a-lifetime experience.

To be able to visit my University campus again, for the first time in 57 years, after graduating in June 1951, overwhelmed me emotionally and spiritually. You see, I had dreamt and hoped over all these years (a lifetime, virtually) to be able to someday visit my College and say a quiet "Thank You" to the Institution & Faculty Members who helped me realize my true potential and make a successful career, despite all odds. They taught me patiently and helped me cope with challenging subjects (and a very challenging American English accent...which was more alien to a young student from a small hamlet town in India, than you could possibly imagine, as my medium of instruction up to High School was in the Indian "Hindi" language).

What was then San Jose State



Dr. Boothby with Krishna and family

College (affiliated to the University of California) is today, a University in its own right. SJSU looked awesome, yet seemed to welcome us with open arms as you & Dr. Boothby received us so graciously and patiently bore with

my narratives, as I walked down Memory Lane to the period between 30th (of) January 1948 (when I landed after a month-long journey from India by ship) until February 1952, when I sailed back home.

You would recall my mentioning that while I had been offered admission at Stanford University, I chose to join San Jose State College because the then Dean & Faculty Members of the Biology Department made me feel so welcome (there were very few overseas students in those days, you know), encouraged me to develop my communication skills and drew the best from me, despite my limitations. This gave me the confidence that I needed & I have never looked back since.

I had learned to battle against odds & adversities from the tender age of 8, when I lost my father to a brief illness. I worked my way through school, as I was determined to hold my family together. What kept me going was my father's strength of conviction that education was the best investment a person could make & one that would ensure tangible & intangible benefits for a lifetime. He had the wisdom to sponsor his younger brother's graduation from Stanford University as far back in 1920, even while the conservative point of view in Indian families was that Western culture and education was undesirable (India was a British colony in those days). He believed that this decision would be the turning point

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ALUM –Krishna Dixit

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for our family and it was! Years later, my uncle offered me a similar opportunity & sponsored my education in the U.S. I was discouraged by friends and relatives who had unpleasant memories of their association with the West but I was firm in my belief that they had gone there to imbibe the then prevailing negative influences of society but I would go there to learn something.

Much as I was keen to pursue a career in Medicine, I chose to return to India after my graduation, to look after my ailing mother and support my siblings. I built my career in the sugar industry, right up from a base executive position in 1952 to a general manager in 1959 and held various senior management positions such as Chief Executive Officer, Administrator & Director of the best reputed Sugar Companies in India for over 45 years. The Government of India bestowed upon me the prestigious National Safety Award for 4 years & included my name in India's "Who's Who" across Industries. I was also nominated to the Sugar Cane Control Board, Central Labour Advisory Board & various Committees of the Indian Sugar Mills Association. And by the Grace of God, at the age of 80, I continue to provide Management Consulting to some reputed organisations.

I owe my success to my father's convictions, my uncle's support and to San Jose State College for imparting the highest standards of true learning that blended academic brilliance with confidence-building

measures to succeed despite adversities and emerge a winner – optimally realizing one's potential, across career options.

Last, but not the least, my wife – Kamal Rani Dixit – has been the constant and consistent source of my inspiration and unflinching support. We have completed 55 years of our marriage on (the) 13th (of) July, 2008 and are blessed with seven wonderful children, who are professionally brilliant and, more importantly, have grown up to be good human beings. We are truly blessed to have been able to gift them the best education possible within our means and pray that they make a meaningful contribution to Society at large, qualitatively & quantitatively.

Our best wishes to all faculty members & students of SJSU, particularly the Biology Dept, for a great future. I hope our children & grandchildren continue to visit your campus as it shall always hold a very special place in our hearts.

With warm regards & three cheers to SJSU & the Spartans!

Krishna Kant Dixit
Batch of 1951"

Krishna Dixit will become a member of the SJSU Alumni Association and is considering joining



Carol, Mrs. Dixit, Krishna, and son, Kamal

the College of Science Dean's Circle. For more information about these organizations, please contact Carol Beattie, the College of Science Development Officer for University Advancement at (408) 924-1328, cell (408) 313-1348 or at: <http://www.sjsu.edu/advancement>.

The College of Science hopes that you enjoyed this edition of The Scientist. We look forward to your comments or suggestions to make future issues of our Newsletter even better. Thank you.

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