



Union Christian College Alumni Association of North America (UCCAANA)

IRS Section 501(c) (3) Tax Exempted Non-Profit Charitable Organization

Tax ID # 20-4794742



VOLUME V

2017 UCCAANA OFFICE BEARERS

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Greetings from UCC

The College is making great strides and the achievement of A grade accreditation with 3.45 GPA is only one among the many. More than that, with NAAC Peer Team visit, a new generation of teachers and students were able to experience something of the soul of UCC and the joy of being part of its legacy. The mobilization of all sections of the academic community, teachers, students, alumni, PTA, was unprecedented. In all these, we were greatly encouraged by the support of UCCAANA and such organizations as UBCHEA. As we approach the centenary, we have to make great strides in expanding our international linkages with academic institutions overseas. The following proposal is something that you can work on:

Develop a Center for Educational Research, Innovation and International Linkages (CERIL): Facilitate educational research and policy studies, prepare the college to take on the challenges ahead, offer courses in cutting edge areas of knowledge and offer academic programs for an international clientele.

This is a suggestion to provoke your thinking. UCC extends its love and regards to all the alumni in America and Canada.

Rev. Thomas John

Manager, UCC

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President's Message

Dear Alumni and Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I am writing this report. I am very glad that we are able to publish a newsletter after some time. We are publishing this as a Thanksgiving Edition. We all are thankful for so many things. I am hoping we can share some of those things through this newsletter.

At this time I want to thank all the Presidents before me, who dedicated their time, talents, and treasures to move UCCAANA from newborn to infancy to childhood. We are still going through 'failure to thrive' symptoms, but we are on the right track, and with our sincere efforts and determination we can reach our goals and can be more active among our alumni and friends.

Looking back since the inception of UCCAANA in 2006, I am very glad that we were able to accomplish a few things. We arranged two grand scale alumni get-togethers in New Jersey and Maryland, two small local get-togethers in Chicago and Toronto, and an alumni cruise in the Caribbean Sea. Also, we were able to establish the UCCAANA Educational Endowment at U C College to assist the poor and needy students. In addition, UCCAANA members were able to assist in establishing the Center for the Study of Religion and Society (CSRS), the T. O. Abdulla Endowment, the Vidwan P. G. Nair Endowment & Research Center, and the Dr. Abraham C. Kulangara Scholarship.

Due to some unknown reason we were not able to attract more alumni to join UCCAANA. If any of you have any suggestions to attract new members, please share them with us, so that we can pursue that goal. I am hoping in the coming years we can have more local small get-togethers in various cities, as traveling long distances is a concern.

Unfortunately we were not able to reach our goal for the UCCAANA Educational Endowment Fund. I am hoping we can reach that goal in the coming years.

If we are visiting Kerala, please plan to visit UCC, and show our affection to our alma mater.

Thanking God the Almighty for all His blessings. Wishing all of you a happy and enjoyable Thanksgiving. May the joy and peace of the Christmas season come your way, and finally may you and your family and loved ones have a prosperous New Year.

With warm regards and prayers,

*Dr. Thomas P. Mathew (Ohio)
President, UCCAANA
November 15, 2017*



ഓർമ്മത്താൽ മറിയും; നേട്ടത്താലിത് യൂസി കോളജ് പേരു കുറിക്കും

- ഏറ്റവും വലിയ പൂർവ്വിക വിദ്യാർത്ഥി സംഗമമെന്ന റെക്കോർഡിലേക്ക് യൂസി കോളജ്
- നാളെയും മുന്നാളും സംഗമം

ആലുവ • പൂർവ്വിക വിദ്യാർത്ഥി സംഗമങ്ങളുടെ ചരിത്രത്തിൽ പുതിയ റെക്കോർഡ് കുറിക്കാൻ ഒരുങ്ങുകയാണ് നൂറിന്റെ നിരവിലേക്കു കടക്കുന്ന യൂസി കോളജ്. നാളെയും മുന്നാളും മാത്രമല്ല നേട്ടത്താൽ മറിയും; നേട്ടത്താലിത് യൂസി കോളജ് പേരു കുറിക്കും. സംഗമത്തിൽ 1980 മുതൽ 2015 വരെ പഠിച്ച അയ്യായിരത്തോളം വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളെ പങ്കെടുപ്പിച്ചാണ് നിലവിലുള്ള ലോക റെക്കോർഡ് രേഖിക്കുക. നൂറു വയസ്സ് പിന്നിട്ട പൂർവ്വിക വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളായ രണ്ടു ഫിലിപ്പൈൻ സംഗമത്തിനെത്തുന്നു എന്നതും പ്രത്യേകത. കോളജ് റജിസ്ട്രാറിൽ ഫിലിപ്പൈൻ ഉമ്മൽ എന്ന പേരുള്ള ഡോ. ഫിലിപ്പോസ് മാർക്രിസോസ്റ്റോം വലിയ മെത്രാപ്പോലീത്തയും സി.എസ്. ഫിലിപ്പ് മാസ്റ്റർ 75 വയസ്സ് പൂർത്തിയാക്കി 18 അധ്യാപകരെ ആതിക്കുന്ന 'ഗുരുവേലി' ചടങ്ങുമുണ്ട്.

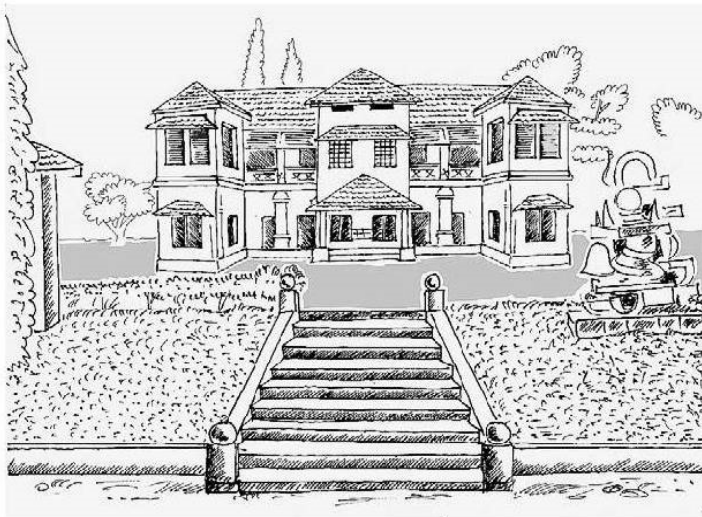
അപൂർവ്വമായ ഗുരുശിഷ്യ ബന്ധം എക്കാലത്തും കാത്തുസൂക്ഷിച്ചു കലാലയമാണു യൂസി. നാലു വർഷം കഴിഞ്ഞുള്ള ശതാബ്ദി ആഘോഷത്തിന്റെ മുന്നോടിയായി നിലവിലാണ് ഇക്കോളം വിപുലമായ പൂർവ്വിക വിദ്യാർത്ഥി സംഗമം സംഘടിപ്പിക്കുന്നത്. ജീവിതത്തിൽ നൂറ്റാണ്ടു പിന്നിട്ട രണ്ടു വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കൊപ്പം ഓർമ്മകൾ പങ്കിടാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞ അര നൂറ്റാണ്ടിനുള്ളിൽ പഠിച്ചിറങ്ങിയവരും എത്തും. ബാൽഗാമിലെ സെന്റ് പോൾസ് വിദ്യാലയത്തിൽ 3,638 പേർ ഒത്തുചേർന്നതാണ് ലോകത്തിലെ ഏറ്റവും വലിയ പൂർവ്വിക വിദ്യാർത്ഥി സംഗമമായി ഗിന്നസ് ബുക്ക് പറയുന്നത്. ഈ റെക്കോർഡ് മറികടക്കാനാണ് യൂസിയുടെ ശ്രമം.

മെട്രോയിലെ വിശിഷ്ടാതിഥി

സംഗമത്തിന്റെ തലേന്നുതന്നെ കോളജിൽ എത്തുന്ന വലിയ മെത്രാപ്പോലീത്തയ്ക്കു പിൻമുറക്കാർ കരുതിവെച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സന്തോഷം മാനങ്ങളിലൊന്നാണ് കൊച്ചി മെട്രോയിലെ യാത്ര. വെള്ളിയാഴ്ച വൈകിട്ട് പാലാസിനടുത്തു നിന്ന് ആലുവ വരെ തിരുമേനി വരുന്ന തു മെട്രോയിലാണ്. കൊച്ചി മെട്രോയിൽ കയറുന്ന പ്രായം കുട്ടിയെ യാത്രക്കാരുടെ സഹായത്തോടെ അടുത്തുവരുന്ന സന്തോഷം. വിശിഷ്ടാതിഥിക്ക് ഊഷ്മള വരവേൽപ്പു നൽകാനുള്ള തയ്യാറെടുപ്പിലാണ് കെ.എ. ആർ.എൽ. അധികൃതർ. നൂറു തികഞ്ഞ രണ്ടു പൂർവ്വിക വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കും വേദിയിൽ ആദരിക്കുന്ന അധ്യാപകർക്കും അവരുടെ ഹൃദയിൽ ചെയ്ത കാരിയെപ്പറ്റിയ സ്മരണയ്ക്കും പൂർവ്വിക വിദ്യാർത്ഥിയും കാർട്ടൂണിസ്റ്റുമായ സിനി ലാൽ ഒ. ശങ്കറാണ് ഇവ തയ്യാറാക്കിയത്.

കാത്തിക സ്വഭാവമുള്ള വേദി

കോളജിലെ ഹുട്ബോൾ ഗ്രൗണ്ടിൽ 5,000 പേർക്ക് ഇരിക്കാവുന്ന പന്തൽ പൂർത്തിയാക്കുന്നു. 1000 പന്തറയ്ക്ക അടി വിസ്തീർണ്ണമുള്ള വേദിയുടെ രൂപകൽപ്പന നിർവഹിച്ചതും പൂർവ്വിക വിദ്യാർത്ഥിയായ പ്രശസ്ത ശിൽപി മരപ്രഭു രാമചന്ദ്രനാണ്. ചെമ്പി, ചിട്ടയുള്ളതുകൂടിയ ഉപയോഗിച്ചു തയ്യാറാക്കിയ 'ബാക്ക് ഡ്രോപ്പ്' കാത്തിക സ്വഭാവമുള്ളതാണെന്നു രാമചന്ദ്രൻ പറഞ്ഞു. വേദികൾ കാലപ്പഴക്കത്തോൽ പൂസ്തകരൂപം പ്രാപിച്ചു ആൽച്ചുവട്ടിലിരുന്നു വിദ്യയോതു ന ഗുരുശിഷ്യരുടെ 'അബ്സ്ട്രാക്ട്' ശിൽപത്തിനൊപ്പം നിങ്ങളില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഞങ്ങൾ പൂജ്യം

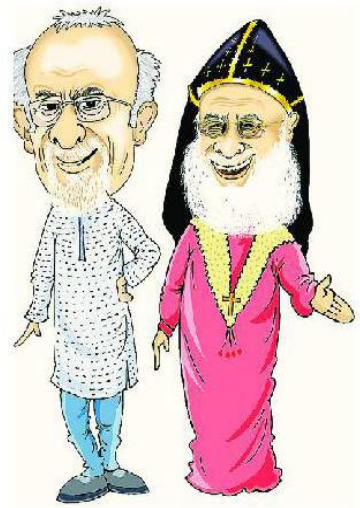


യൂസി കോളജിലെ കച്ചേരിമാളിക. രാജഭരണകാലത്തു കോടതി പ്രവർത്തിച്ചിരുന്ന ഈ കെട്ടിടമാണ് യൂസിയുടെ മുമ്പാകു.



മെന്നും ഗുരുദേവോ ഭവ: എന്നും ആലേഖനം ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു. കവി ആർ.കെ. ദാമോദരൻ എഴുതി സംഗീത സംവിധായകൻ സെബി നായരവലം ഈണമിട്ട 'ഗുരുവന്ദനം' പൂർവ്വിക വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളും കുടുംബാംഗങ്ങളും ചേർന്നു വേദിയിൽ ആലപിക്കും. ഉദ്ഘാടകനും അധ്യക്ഷനുമില്ലാത്ത ചടങ്ങിൽ ഓർമ്മകളും അനുഭവങ്ങളും പങ്കുവെയ്ക്കാൻ മാത്രമേ അവസരമുള്ളൂ. **മരുവന്തം ഏറ്റുവാങ്ങുന്നവർ**

പ്രഫ. ജി.ഡി. ഗുണിയേൽ, പ്രഫ. പി.ജെ. ജോസഫ്, പ്രഫ. മാത്യു സി. എബ്രഹാം, ഡോ. കെ.ആർ. ജോസഫ് (ഇംഗ്ലീഷ്), പ്രഫ. വർഗീസ് ഇട്ടിയവിര (മലയാളം), പ്രഫ. കെ.പി. മാത്യു, പ്രഫ. എം. മാധവൻകുട്ടി, ഡോ. സി.ജെ. തോമസ്, പ്രഫ. സി.വി. ജോർജ്ജ് (മാതൃഭാഷ), പ്രഫ. കെ. ഗോവിന്ദൻകുട്ടി മേനോൻ (ഹിന്ദി), പ്രഫ. എം. എ. ചാക്കോ, ഡോ. കെ. ജോർജ്ജ് തോമസ് (കെമിസ്ട്രി), പ്രഫ. വി.വി. ജോസ്, ഡോ. സി. ജോയ്സ് മാത്യു (ബോട്ടണി), പ്രഫ. എൻ.സി. ചാക്കോ (സുവോളജി), പ്രഫ. എ.പി. മാത്യു (ഇക്കണോമിക്സ്), പ്രഫ.



സി.എസ്. ഫിലിപ്പ്, ഡോ. ഫിലിപ്പോസ് മാർക്രിസോസ്റ്റോം വലിയ മെത്രാപ്പോലീത്ത.

ടി. സൈമൺ (സൈക്കോളജി), പ്രഫ. സി.ജി. വർഗീസ് (ഫിസിക്സ്) എജ്യൂക്കേഷൻ എന്നിവരാണ് സംഗമത്തിൽ ആദരിക്കുന്നത്.

കച്ചേരിമാളിക

പെരിയാറിന്റെ തീരത്തു മംഗലപ്പുഴ സെമിനാരിക്കു സമീപം പഴയ മൂന്നു നില കെട്ടിടത്തിൽ 1921 ജൂൺ എട്ടിനാണ് യൂസി കോളജിന്റെ പിറവി. മുദാസ് ക്രിസ്ത്യൻ കോളജിൽ സതീർഥ്യായിരുന്ന കെ.സി. ചാക്കോ, സി.പി. മാത്യു, ഡോ. എ.എം. വർക്കി, വി.എം. ഇട്ടിയവിര എന്നിവർ ചേർന്നു മലയാളികൾക്കു ഗുരുക്കുലരിൽ മാത്രമായി വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ലഭ്യമാക്കുക എന്ന ലക്ഷ്യത്തോടെയാണ് യൂസി (യൂണിയൻ ക്രിസ്ത്യൻ) കോളജ് സ്ഥാപിച്ചത്. ഇവരുടെ ആശയങ്ങളിൽ ആകൃഷ്ടനായ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ മഹാരാജാവ് കോളജ് നടത്താൻ 18.82 ഹെക്ടർ സ്ഥലവും ചരിത്രമുറങ്ങുന്ന കച്ചേരിമാളികയും കോടതി കെട്ടിടവും കരമൊഴിവൊക്കി പതിച്ചു നൽകി. അക്കാലം മുതൽ ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറിയും യൂസിയുടെ പൂർവ്വിക വിദ്യാർത്ഥിയുമായ ഡോ. ഡി. ബാബു പോൾ പുരോഹിതൻ വകുപ്പിന്റെ അമരത്തു വന്ന ഡോ. കച്ചേരിമാളികയെ സംരക്ഷിച്ച് സ്മാരകമായി പ്രഖ്യാപിച്ചു.

ഗാന്ധിജിയും ടോഗോയും

അടിയറവു ദേശീയവാദികളായിരുന്നു യൂസിയുടെ സ്ഥാപകർ. 1925ൽ മഹാത്മാഗാന്ധിക്ക് അവർ കോളജിൽ സീകരണമൊരുക്കി. കച്ചേരിമാളികയുടെ അങ്കണത്തിൽ അന്നു രാഷ്ട്രപിതാവു നട മാവ് പിന്നിട്ട ഗാന്ധിമാവ് എന്ന പേരിൽ പ്രസിദ്ധമായി. ഗാന്ധി സന്ദർശനത്തിന്റെ ചരിത്രസ്മാരകമായി അതിനും നിലകൊള്ളുന്നു. കേരള സന്ദർശന വേളയിൽ രവിന്ദ്രനാഥ് ടോഗോനെയും സ്മാപകർ യൂസിയിലേക്കു ക്ഷണിച്ചിരുന്നു. അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു കോളജിൽ എത്താൻ കഴിയാതിരുന്നതിനാൽ റെയിൽവേ സ്റ്റേഷനിൽ ചെന്ന് ആദരമർപ്പിച്ചു. അതിന്റെ ഓർമ്മയ്ക്കായി കോളജിലെ ഒരു ഹോസ്റ്റലിനു ടോഗോന്റെ പേരിട്ടു. ആ ഹോസ്റ്റൽ നിന്നിരുന്ന സ്ഥലത്താണ് ഇപ്പോൾ ടോഗോ ഓഡിറ്റോറിയം സ്ഥിതി ചെയ്യുന്നത്.

സ്തംഭരണാഞ്ജലി

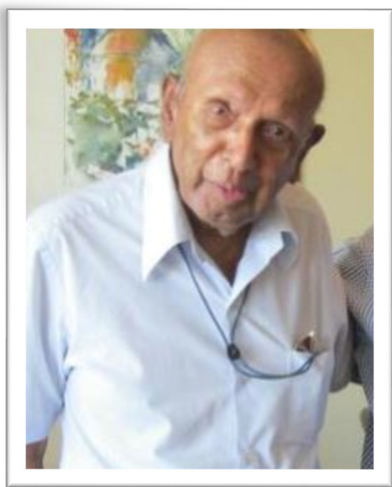
യൂസിയുടെ സന്തമെന്ന് അഭിമാനിക്കാവുന്ന പ്രശസ്തരായ പൂർവ്വിക വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കും അധ്യാപകർക്കുമുള്ള സ്തംഭരണാഞ്ജലി കൂടിയാകും. രണ്ടു ദിവസങ്ങളിലായി നടക്കുന്ന സംഗമം മുൻമുഖ്യമന്ത്രി പി.കെ. വാസുദേവൻ നായർ, കേന്ദ്രമന്ത്രിയായിരുന്ന സി.എം. സ്റ്റീഫൻ, നിത്യചൈതന്യയതി, പി. ഗോവിന്ദപ്പിള്ള, എം.പി. മന്മഥൻ, ജവാഹർലാൽ നെഹ്റുവിന്റെ പൈപാറ്റ് സെക്രട്ടറിയായിരുന്ന എം. ജി. മത്തായി, ഇതിരാഗാന്ധിയുടെ സെക്രട്ടറിയും മഹാരാഷ്ട്ര ഗവർണ്ണറുമായിരുന്ന ഡോ. പി.സി. അലക്സാണ്ടർ, എഴുത്തുകാരൻ മലയാറ്റൂർ രാമകൃഷ്ണൻ തുടങ്ങിയവർ മൺമറഞ്ഞ പൂർവ്വിക വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളിൽ പെടും. ലോക പ്രശസ്ത ചരിത്രകാരൻ മാർക്സ് മഗ്സിഡ്ജ് അടക്കമുള്ള വിദേശികൾ ഇവിടെ അധ്യാപകരായി പ്രവർത്തിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. തികഞ്ഞ ഈശ്വര വിശ്വാസികളായിരുന്ന കോളജിന്റെ സ്ഥാപകരെയും നിശ്ശങ്കരമായി കയറ്റിപ്പുഴ കൃഷ്ണപിള്ളയെ പോലുള്ള പ്രശസ്തരായ അധ്യാപകരായി നിയമിക്കാൻ മടിച്ചില്ല എന്നതാണ് യൂസിയുടെ മഹത്വം. നിയമനത്തിനും പ്രവേശനത്തിനും കോഴ് വാങ്ങാത്ത കലാലയം കൂടിയാണിത്.

In Memoriam

Dr. K.C. Chacko – 4th Death Anniversary

Dr. K.C. Chacko passed away on November 16, 2013, in Denver, Colorado. He was 92. He was an eminent economist. His wife Mrs. Thankamma Chacko also passed away in 2014. Their only daughter Mrs. Shanti Chacko and son-in-law Mr. Graig Weisbart are living in Colorado. After studying at U.C. College (1939-41), and then at Madras Christian College, Dr. Chacko came to the

United States in 1946. He was a generous supporter of UCC, and individuals who aspired for higher education.



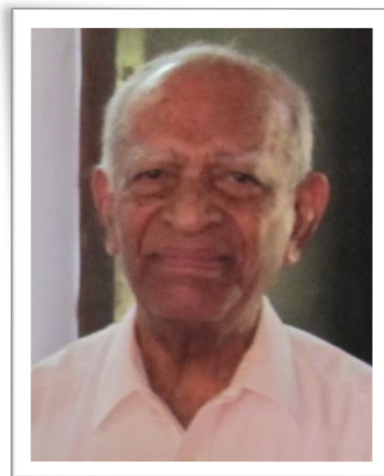
He took initiative to establish the U C College Alumni Association of North America (UCCAANA), and was its first President. When we decided to establish the UCCAANA Educational Endowment Fund to help the poor and needy students at UCC, KC made the first donation of Ten Thousand Dollars. He remained active as an Advisor of UCCAANA until his passing. May his soul rest in peace. We remember him as an inspiration during his 4th death anniversary.



Death of Dr. Abraham C. Kulangara

Dr. Abraham C. Kulangara (92) passed away in June 2017 in Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Kanakamani Earaly, and only daughter Dr. Sara, Cardiologist. He studied at UCC in 1942 - 1944 for his intermediate. He and his family had been living in the USA for many years. He had instituted fifteen scholarships for graduate and post graduate students at UCC since 2005, and visited UCC often.

He visited UCC in 2012 and added Rs. 5 Lakhs to the Abraham C Kulangara Scholarship, and in 2013 he added Rs. 3 Lakhs. UCC and UCCAANA are very grateful to him and his family for their



generosity. May his soul rest in peace is our prayer. UCC was represented at the funeral by a UCCAANA Board member, Dr. Sargadharan, and Dr. Kulangara was buried in Virginia by a UCC alumnus Priest, Rev. Dr. Varghese Manikat, with the permission of another UCC alumnus, Archbishop, His Eminence Mor Titus Yeldho. We thank Theethose Thirumeni, Varghese Achen and Dr. Sarngadharan for their assistance.

Principal's Message

Dear Dr. Thomas P. Mathew sir,

Congratulations and best wishes for the newsletter going to be published on thanks giving day. We must be thankful for God the almighty for the mercies showered upon us all through these years. We must be thankful to our alma mater for shaping us in such a wonderful way so as to lead a societal life by holding our head high. We must be thankful to our relatives and friends for their protection and care given to us for the steady progress in our life. Over and all we must be thankful for still being a 'Ucean.'

Thank you

Dr. P. Thomas Mathew

Principal, UCC

Bursar's Message

Thank you from Dr. Thara K. Simon, Bursar, UCC

In 2003 I received a very surprising email from Dr. K. C. Chacko (KC), a US based alumnus of the college, inspiring me to coordinate international linkages and alumni communications of the college. Since then, it was also a pleasure to be in touch with Mr. Thomas P. Mathew (Ohio) and Attorney Lal Varghese, as they were working hard to establish UCCAANA. The dream came true in 2006, where KC was the Founding President and Dr. Mathew served as the Treasurer for a decade. So far UCC has received about 100, 000 USD from UCCAANA. We are very thankful to all of you for your generosity, and thinking about your alma mater. Since then, UCCAANA not only initiated and supported several projects of UCC, but also enhanced partnership with Hope College, Michigan, USA. Let me thank Dr. Simon Thomas former President, and welcome Dr. Thomas Mathew as the new President of UCCAANA. Recently, the Dept. of Botany purchased a Phase Contrast Microscope with Fluorescent Equipment with the funds from the family of KC, ie, Mrs. Shanti Chacko

and Mr. Graig Weisbart, also, adding the gift from Prof. Alfredo Gonzales, Hope College. May God almighty strengthen our partnership with UCCAANA and help the college to reach greater heights.

UCCAANA President Dr. Thomas P. Mathew with His Eminence Mor Titus Yeldho, Archbishop & Patriarchal Vicar



UCCAANA President Dr. Thomas P. Mathew met with His Eminence Mor Titus Yeldho, Archbishop & Patriarchal Vicar on November 14th. Theethose Thirumeni completed B.Sc. and M.Sc. (Mathematics) at UCC. We requested Thirumeni's assistance to attract more new alumni to UCCAANA.



Aluva U.C. College – A Nurturing Cradle

By **Dr Bhamini M. P. Nayar**

Most transformative years of one's life is during the 'teen-age' years and I spent all but one of those years in the nurturing cradle of life we know as UCC. I consider the seven years I spent in U. C. College as the best time of my life, almost being carefree and being affectionately encouraged by my teachers. What more one could ask for at that age!

I was fortunate to have had such teachers as mentors, teachers like TBT (T. B. Thomas Sir, E N (Nambiar Sir), MM (Madhavankutty Sir), DJD (David Jayakar Daniel Sir), NSN (Neelakantan Sir) CVG (C. V. George Sir), KPM (K. P. Mathew Sir) CJT(C. J. Thomas Sir); PCC (P. C. Cherian Sir), MK (Mathew Koshy Sir), RV (Rajan Varghese Sir) and TP (Thomas Philip Sir). Each of them, each with unique styles, instilled indelible impressions in me. I am for ever being grateful for such opportunity to have been their student.

UC College, though a Christian College, never imposed on us students the Christian religious philosophy. We were free to be who we were. Each student was given the freedom to grow into who he/she wanted to be. We could stay back after class and work as a group for any class activities or any other group

activities we were engaged in. It was clear that we were under the watchful eyes but never felt restricted or intruded. To me that



sense of freedom I experienced at home and at school during those days shaped my view and individuality. To study and grow in such an atmosphere, knowing that I have the affection of those who have the power to shape my future gave me the confidence to be who I am now. I cannot overstate when I say I am indeed grateful for that gift. I wish every young life will get such environments to be so nurtured.

Dr. Bhamini M. P. Nayar

She completed her Pre-degree, B.Sc. and M.Sc. (Mathematics) at UCC from 1967 to '74. Now she is a Professor at Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland.



UCC 2017 July Meet Photos



His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Philipose Mar Chrysostom Valiya Thirumeni and others at July Alumni Meet.



His Eminence Mor Titus Yeldho, Archbishop & Patriarchal Vicar & Koshy Mathew, DySP (Retd) at the July Meet. Thirumeni went to Kerala for one week just to attend the July meet at UCC.

FAST FACTS

70% of all the world's spices come from India.

My Uppa and His Values to Pass On

By **Mrs. Fatima Tharakandath, Houston**

I write this short note for the UCCAANA newsletter with pride and love for my Uppa, T.O. Abdulla. An apt quote for Uppa is "he didn't tell me how to live; he lived and let me watch him do it." My earliest memories about him are not about a hugging-kissing person; rather a man of few words but of significant action. Most of the days, our family used to sit down together for breakfast and dinner. During those occasions Uppa would ask my brothers and me one or two questions or make a comment or two on the meal or school activities. I never saw him raise his voice even when occasionally Umma mentioned to him about the naughty behavior of his three kids. Another picture that is vividly in my mind is visitors waiting on our front porch after sun break. The visitors were from varied sectors of our society, and as I listened to the conversation between Uppa and the visitors I learned that some came seeking guidance on school or college admissions, some for financial help, and some for job recommendations. He spoke softly and kindly to them and occasionally he would ask me to bring water or coffee for them. He was a member of many arts and sports organizations, and I used to look forward to the days he took us to watch drama, music, and dance at TASS Hall and for Sivaji Ganesan or Prem Naseer movies. As a little girl, I developed an abiding trust in his

judgment and was filled with the deepest respect for the hard working, humble, and compassionate dad that God gave me as gift.

As I grew to adulthood I could see and feel Uppa's passion for education. He fervently and sincerely wished that the younger generation walk into their adult life with confidence and dedicated 50 years of his adult life to building and nurturing scores of education institutions in Kerala under the Muslim Education Society. The project he initiated with a handful of others in the community has been able to play a significant part to educate the parts of the community that have been left behind. One of the institutions, MES Kunnukara College, is named in his memory. In addition to building scores of educational institutions, he had a passion for football and worked tirelessly for raising the standard of football in India. It was when he was the Football Association President that the Kerala team won the Santhosh Trophy three times. He lived his life with the fervor and spirit of an inimitable sportsman. While working day and night for his causes, his prayer was that more people on this planet should draw from their reservoir of energy for improving not only their lives but the community and society around them. After Uppa's passing away in 2012 I started looking for opportunities to be a change agent he would wish me to be.

In 2014, I learned about the activities of the Centre for the Study of

Religion and Society (CSRS) from Dr. Thomas P. Mathew of UCCAANA. Later that year, I met with Dr. Thara K. Simon and Dr. Mini Alice of CSRS, and they convinced me that this endowment has a mission synergistic with that of the CSRS which was already operational at UCC. Since the road to a successful fulfillment of the next generation is impossible without a firm understanding of ethics and values, I chose to sponsor messaging on this subject through UCCAANA and CSRS. The specific goal of steering the thinking and actions of the succeeding generations toward creating and sustaining an ethical environment was something very dear to my Uppa's heart.

I was unable to attend the inauguration of the T.O. Abdulla Endowment, but Dr. Mini Alice and Mrs. Nino Baby shared the video and photos of the occasion, and I was extremely impressed by the event especially seeing the participation of the student body and the rapt attention the students gave to the speakers. I got a warm feeling from this all that the message on ethics is reaching our young generation. Since the inauguration four more talks have been organized on this subject. I recently had an opportunity to visit UCC at a CSRS event and was delighted to see the dedication of all of the CSRS volunteers in carrying forward their work for achieving the goals set for the endowment I am sponsoring. I plan to continue to support the activities of the CSRS volunteers in messaging on ethics and values for the young generation.

Memories of U. C. College that I always cherish

By **Dr. M. G. Sarngadharan**

I grew up in a country neighborhood. Everybody knew everybody else. We kids played together, and sometimes quarreled. It was part of growing up and having fun. Seeing some scenes from war-torn neighborhoods around the world, depicting neglected lives of deprivation and fear, I feel so thankful for the protected lives we lived. We never met an unfamiliar face or had an unfriendly encounter. We were oblivious of the world outside of our immediate neighborhood. Even when I got to high school, some distance away from home, though the walk was long and the study requirements grew, those old friends remained close.

At the end of high school, a letter came from Union Christian College offering me admission. Several years earlier, my brother got a similar letter, a great benefit of doing well in school! So I started college only a few miles from home, and mostly walked to classes. All my fears and apprehensions of entering the new and unfamiliar surroundings soon disappeared, because the College presented a welcoming and nurturing atmosphere to all, and prevented us from getting lost or disillusioned.

I had some great teachers, and I still remember them with reverence. We made fun of some of their idiosyncrasies, but always with great respect. My student days at UC

College lasted only two years, but my connection with the College has lasted a lifetime. I left UC College to further my studies, first at Madras Christian College, and then in Delhi University. Years later, after I came to the United States and made some significant contributions to biomedical research, I was invited to speak at the College. Several luminaries were in attendance when I spoke. I saw my old teachers, Professor T. B. Thomas and Professor C. T. Benjamin, in the front row. That was one of the proudest moments of my life. The bottom line is this: You leave the College and go forward with your lives, but the College never forgets you, and always holds you dear.

My connection with U. C. College has assumed a new dimension. Almost two decades ago we instituted a major educational endowment at the College in the name of our father Mahakavi Vidwan P. Gopalan Nair for studies in Malayalam language and literature. The 'Vidwan P. G. Nair Smaraka Gaveshanakendram' of the Malayalam Department has a very vibrant program. It conducts a widely attended and well recognized national seminar annually over a 3-day period. Each year a new theme is selected by the Department, and the proceedings are published as books. The universities recognize these publications as reference books in literature. There is also a scholarship program under the Endowment which pays for a Fellow-

In-Residence. The College recognizes this as its largest educational endowment to date. We are proud of this association and its contribution to academics and to Malayalam literature.

Life has given me many things to be thankful for, and my years at U. C. College rank among the most precious and invaluable of these.

Dr. M. G. Sarngadharan

He has been a UCCAANA Board Member for a long time. Before he retired he had served as Vice President and Scientific Director of Advanced BioScience Laboratories in Maryland. He has spent most of his career in biotechnology. He led research into biochemical and immunological characterization of mammalian, especially human, retroviruses. He conducted epidemiological studies to establish etiological associations between human retroviruses and human diseases. He developed serological screening methods to detect and define patterns of the spread of etiologically significant retroviral agents among various populations. He is a Biochemist and Virologist. He holds PhD. in Chemistry from Delhi University in 1966. Now he is assisting in starting some research program by the Kerala Government. He will be going to Kerala soon for the official inauguration.



Thanks Giving

By **Dr. K. M. Koshy, Toronto, Canada**

Where I live, which is north of the border, Thanks giving is celebrated in October, perhaps in anticipation of an earlier winter season. For a good proportion of UCCANA members thanks giving is only coming. Nevertheless we are all in that season and let us remember once again what we have to be thankful for.

Let us be thankful to God Almighty for all His blessings.

I am sure all us cherish the time we were students or teachers at UCC. As for me I would not have been happier if I had my education elsewhere. Without any reservation it can be said that the college focused on the development of each person's strengths with a view to achieving their personal best, irrespective of gender, religion or political leanings.

We can be thankful for the opportunities for higher education which eventually led

Dr. K. M. Koshy

Koshy Sir was a faculty member in the Chemistry Dept., and was the Resident Warden at Tagore Hostel. He helped to arrange an alumni get together in Toronto in 2012 during then- Principal, Dr. Thomas Philip was visiting USA and Canada.

to satisfying career opportunities, our families and friends and good health. Most of all let us be thankful for the countries we live in which provide the rights we enjoy.



About CSRS

By **Rev. Thomas John, Manager, U C College**

Dear Thomas Mathew,

It is with great pleasure that I share with you the news that the NAAC Peer Team recognized CSRS as one of the Best Practices in UCC. Kindly find attached a copy of the report of the work done by CSRS up till now that was submitted to NAAC. Though there were some initial problems and starting troubles, CSRS today is probably the most single organization that influence the whole college community with its T. O. Abdulla Memorial lectures and the program on "Alternative Lives".

A notable change in the recent past in the functioning of CSRS is the fact that CSRS has become a movement of students; Mini and Nino have been able to nurture a group of student leaders, who not only have a sense of ownership of CSRS but also play a significant role of leadership in the total life of the College. Students are provided with opportunities for direct encounter with people who by their commitment made significant contribution to the life of society, especially to the most vulnerable in our society. They are being given models for imitational learning.

Fatima attend one of the meetings on Alternative lives- a lecture in memory of her father. I hope she will share her experience with you. Kindly circulate this email to those who should be updated on the status of CSRS, particularly Titus Mathew Sir.

Thanking you for your support and continued interest in such programs as this,

Achen

Rev. Thomas John, Manager, U C College,

Aluva, Kerala, India-683102, +91-9447124403

Thanksgiving Day or Turkey Day?

By **Dr. Anju M Philip**

With the Canadian Thanksgiving passed, and the US Thanksgiving was right around the corner, for many the holiday has become known as Turkey day, characterized more by gluttony than gratitude. I have to admit that gratitude does not come naturally to me either. Interestingly, recent scientific studies show that as we age, our brains get better at feeling thankful. In older people, the limbic system, especially the amygdala, an area of the brain involved in emotions and memory, become less active in response to negative information and increase its reactivity in response to positive information, making it easier to feel grateful as we grow older. So I might just be an outlier to this rule or I might still not have aged enough to be considered wise! Though I am thankful for many things in life, I rarely say it or even acknowledge it. When my six year old grabs me my cellphone from downstairs, he still often has to remind me to “use the magic words-THANK YOU!” There is a key difference between *Thankfulness* and *Thanksgiving*. While thankfulness tends to be passive, thanksgiving is more active. Unless you express your thankfulness, it isn’t worth much to both parties-the giver or the receiver. So here’s my challenge to you- Take some time off today to come up with 6 things you are thankful for. Though you might be thinking that 6 seems to be a lot, I bet you’ll be amazed, just like I was at how fast your list fills up. Here are my 6 reasons to give thanks today

1. I am thankful for my parents and brother who taught me to dream
2. I am thankful for my husband who supports my every dream
3. I am thankful for my two little boys who help me realize my dreams

4. I am thankful for my in-laws who treat me like their own daughter
5. I am thankful for my health
6. I am thankful for my job and for doing work that matters

With Christmas fast approaching, when we celebrate and give thanks to the greatest gift of all-the birth of Jesus Christ, let’s try to make every day a day of giving thanks-a Thanksgiving Day! I am going to try harder and I hope you will too.

Dr. Anju M Philip

Postdoctoral Fellow, St. Michael’s Hospital and the Zebrafish Center for Advanced Drug Discovery, Toronto, Canada.

Anju is an alumnus, and is the daughter of Retired Principal, Dr. Thomas Philip.

Endless memories from UCC

By **Mr. Thomas Varughese, Secretary, UCCAANA**

A newsletter for UCCAANA when it is time of Thanksgiving here in the USA, made me think what do I thank UCC for. Struggled to make an itemized list, but could go easily for a time-travel through endless memories — pleasant, unpleasant, funny and sad. Most of the funny memories are from the extra-curricular side of college life, but no anecdotes. UCC gave me chance to make many friends, meet hundreds of students and live with a few dozens in dorms. Interactions with students, faculty and staff of different family backgrounds, religious beliefs, political ideas, and languages spoken at home and even nationalities shaped me into who I am today — not someone famous or rich, but a contented person retired from teaching profession.

Thank you UCC for all the memories which have a special place in the heart of your alumnus.



UCC Campus Visit Report

By **Mrs. Kuttimol Kurian, Vice President, UCCAANA & Dr. Simon Thomas, President (Ex) & Board Member**

Mrs. Kuttimol Kurian, UCCAANA Vice President and Dr. Simon Thomas, President (Ex) had the pleasure of visiting UC College on August 30, 2017. They held on-campus meeting with the Manager Rev. Thomas John and the Bursar Dr. Thara K. Simon. Main goals of the meeting were to brief them on the recent election of a new UCCAANA Board and to explore ways to strengthen UCCAANA/UCC relationship and support. The UCC leaders are eagerly looking forward to working with the new UCCAANA Board.



UCC Manager Rev. Prof. Thomas John and Bursar, Dr. Thara K. Simon with Mrs. Kuttimol Kurian and Dr. Simon Thomas

Recognizing the changed environment of higher education in Kerala, we suggested holding an orientation programme for the newly arriving students and faculty, to renew the college spirit and to instill a love for the college and pride in this venerable institution, especially as the college approaches its centennial.

The more specific discussions on relationship building were channeled to two broad fronts of "the gives and gets" by the two organizations. A few specific opportunities were considered for further action.

Rev. Thomas John (TJ) had prepared a white paper entitled "Development Trajectory for 2021", which contained ten 'strategic objectives'. The list of objectives is for UCC's internal discussions, prioritization and development of 'action plans'. TJ touched on three strategic objectives for possible UCCAANA help with, viz: Faculty Development, Center for Educational Research, Innovation and International Linkages (CERIL), and College Development Office. Feedback from the UCCAANA Board on the white paper was sought by TJ, which has been consolidated by Dr. Thomas P. Mathew and will be forwarded to TJ.

The UCCAANA Board, from its own perspective, is eager to increase alumni membership in the association and to strengthen relationships among the alumni and with the alma mater. One of the key enablers to reach out to 'younger alumni' in N. America, is a searchable database of UCC alumni, that only UCC can provide. On an interim basis, we made a more modest request whereby each UCC department could provide contact information of alumni (e.g. from the period 1985-2015, even if a small number) currently in N. America. TJ promised to follow up on our request.

Timely and relevant communication with the UCCAANA Board is foundational in building a strong relationship. TJ in his interim role as alumni contact person, could communicate with the UCCAANA President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer as appropriate.

We are eager to strengthen our ongoing UCCAANA/UCC partnership.

Mrs. Kuttimol Kurian, Vice President, UCCAANA
Dr. Simon Thomas, President (Ex) & Board Member

T O Abdulla Memorial Lecture Photos 2015



Rev. Thomas John is receiving Mr. M G Rajamanickam, IAS, District Collector of Ernakulam for the inauguration of lecture series.





FAST FACTS

Lose Weight / Healthier Eating is the top New Year resolution, around 21%

Principal Dr. P Thomas Mathew is speaking. Dr. Mini Alice, Director of CSRS & Mrs Nino Baby, Deputy Director of CRCS are also on the stage with Collector & College Manager

