

UnionChristianCollege Alumni Association of North America

(A Tax-exempted Non-profit Charitable Organization)

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The President's Message.....

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NEWSLETTER

Volume II

May, 2011

Number 1

From the Editor's Desk......



Lots of great things are happening in UCCAANA...

As our distinguished President described in his Message, which you may please read in the right hand column of this page, a new Board of Directors was unanimously elected in March of this year, and is already in place and functioning. This election was held in a "cyber" General Body meeting which "met" on March 30, 2011. Former members of the Board of Directors and other interested alumni called into a special phone number set up for such purpose. I have to admit, at first I was not all that optimistic about the functionality of such a meeting, what with the large volume of callers that I had expected to participate in the meeting. True, we have successfully conducted many such 'telecon' meetings of the Board of Directors, which comprised a finite number of callers, in the past with no major mishaps, but there was no way, I thought, that we could pull off such a large undertaking. But I was mercilessly fooled, and pleasantly surprised!

Then there is the UCCAANA Educational Endowment that is currently taking its baby steps, thanks to all the Members of the Board and others who helped in general, and our Vice President, Dr. Simon Thomas, in particular in drawing up the Charter of this new endeavor. I invite you to read more about the Endowment in the following pages of this issue of the Newsletter.

And last, but not least, I am not ashamed to ask any and all of you for contributions to this Newsletter, which is the *de facto* vehicle of communication for our Association. We want to read your stories and unique experiences of your life, both while you were at UCC and later on in life, which only you can provide. I urge you to participate in the life of UCCAANA!

--- George P. Kurien, Editor

Dear friends:

It is a pleasure to address you once again through our first Newsletter of 2011. I am glad to report that our association made progress in many areas last year highlighted by distribution of Alumni Directory, membership certificates and laying the foundation for an Educational Endowment at UC College.

We held our first General Body meeting on March 30, 2011. A new Board of Directors was elected unopposed. All those attended felt that our association is united to meet our goals and objectives. Besides offering financial and other forms of support for our Alma Mater, we plan to hold regional meetings in North America to meet other alumni and share our memorable UC College experiences.

You may or may not have heard the good news that UC College received 'A' grade last month from the National Accreditation agency which makes us all proud. UC College has a dedicated team of management and teaching staff providing excellent education in many disciplines including computer sciences. Many students achieve University rankings in several subjects every year.

May I request you to offer your financial support for our Educational Endowment which will become a reality this month (April). If we receive \$100 or more from each one of you, we will be able to add to the already raised \$15,000 and thus create a substantial Endowment. Interest from this fund can be put to good use in helping the many needy students especially the ones who are ineligible for scholarships offered by various agencies because of their non scheduled-cast status. UC College will be able to use the interest proceeds for other worthy projects as outlined in our Memorandum of Understanding. Please look for details elsewhere in this Newsletter.

I wish you and your family all the best this year. Please give us your comments to help us serve you better.

Sincerely,

James Jacob, Ph. D, President

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'UCCAANA Educational Endowment' at UnionChristianCollege

Simon Thomas, Vice President, UCCAANA

1. Background

The UC College Alumni Association of North America (UCCAANA) is steadily growing in size and organizational stature. An element of its stated mission is to provide the College with encouragement and support for its renewal and growth in the contemporary world. Alumni can share their rich life experiences with their alma mater in its effort to extend its academic excellence and to offer a richer educational experience for the current and future generations. In addition to the spiraling cost of instruction in a highly competitive global environment, present day higher education also demands newer educational tools and techniques. A need exists to support highly talented students from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds. UCCAANA besides playing a key role in fostering intellectual and emotional connection with the College has an opportunity to provide supplementary financial support. With that in mind, one of the strategic goals of UCCAANA approved by its Board is the establishment of an endowment for sustained support of UCC in specific areas such as scholarships, modernizing science laboratories, newer teaching tools and methods, knowledge management resources, etc.

2. Overall Strategy

While sporadic donations to UCC have been made by very generous UCCAANA members, the need to provide a steady, sustainable, and predictable flow of funds to support academic activities was recognized by UCCAANA. An Endowmentpotentially can offer such a stream of funds not just for one year, or even one generation, but in principle for perpetuity and that steady flow will enable the College to make strategic investments in people and programs for the long term.

A portion of the earnings from such anendowment will be spent on specified projects on an annual basis (not the corpus that anchors the endowment), while the rest will be judiciously reinvested to keep pace with inflation and to avoid effects of potential recession in future years. The strategy is to ensure that the original fund will grow over time. The fund is open to new additions from UCC alumni and friends, thus further ensuring growth of the fund.

Reaching an endowment of even a modest size is a slow process. Rather than getting hung up on its exact target size upfront, it is felt necessary to take the first step in establishing the endowment and a process for its management. UCC alumni in North America who are recognized to be generous, loyal and dedicated to our alma mater will rise to the challenge.

The expectation is to start the endowment with about \$10,000 which has been donated by Dr. K.C. Chacko, the UCCAANA Advisor. The UCCAANA Board will drive an effort to build the fund to reach a modest level in the range \$50K-\$100K in the short term.

3. Types of Donation.

Donations made to the endowment might take different forms. These include outright cash gifts, gift pledges, securities, deferred gifts such as life insurance, bequest through wills, trust etc. UCCAANA will be happy to help in the appropriate type of donations to the fund. All contributions made to the endowment through UCCAANA are tax exempt in the United States.

4. Guidelines for the Use of Funds

A portion of the income from the endowment will be spent every year for academic purposes as decided by an Endowment Management Team. In view of the remarkable economic growth foreseen in India, a judicious use of investment instruments (not only the traditional 'savings account') can yield impressive returns. This offers a path to reasonable growth of the corpus as well. Suggested uses of the income from the endowment include:

- General Scholarships for students, merit based or merit-cum need based.
- Laboratory instrumentation and methods
- New teaching tools and methods
- "Library" resources including online access to an expanded list of technical journals, reports etc.
- Endowment lecture series
- Any other educational project approved by the Endowment Management Team.

The UCC-established process and criteria will be used in selecting the recipients of awards.

The funds will be disbursed equitably and fairly without undue regard to any specific academic discipline or department.

The income from the endowment may not be used for the operating expenses of the 'Alumni Office' or on building construction projects.

5. Management Oversight

- The name of the Endowment will be:
 "UCCAANA Educational Endowment."
- A management team (which includes the Manager, Principal and the Bursar of UCC and the President and Treasurer of UCCAANA) is responsible for managing the endowment assets. Assistance of professional wealth managers may be sought in the judicious choice of investment instruments, if net returns warrant it.
- The funds received from UCCAANA towards the Endowment will be under the Government of India umbrella certificate that already exists in UCC and which remains current.
- UCC will be responsible for ensuring taxexempt compliance in India.

6. Reports and Communication

 UCC will provide a detailed utilization plan for specific projects to UCCAANA to

- ensure compliance with UCCAANA's tax status in the USA.
- The Endowment Management Team will strive to be good stewards of the fund and will provide timely reports on endowment performance and accomplishments to the UCCAANA Board, at least once a year.
- Alumni donors may wish to see what their gifts allowed UCC to accomplish/make a difference in the academic life in UCC. Specific facts and stories of how alumni gifts have changed the lives and educational experiences of the UCC academic community may be provided for wider communication to the alumni at large through the UCCAANA website, via email etc. This is expected to be inspirational and will further motivate potential donors.

7. Next Steps in Implementation

In order to provide structure to the Endowment, UCCAANA prepared a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UCCAANA and UCC. The UCC Governing Board recently reviewed and approved the MoU for execution. UCCAANA will start the endowment with a seed fund of \$10,000. In the coming months, UCCAANA will appeal to the alumni and friends of UCC to contribute towards building up this endowment. Of course, no donation is too small or too large. I hope the association will be able to motivate the alumni, to give something back to our alma mater. That is a key element of UCCAANA's stated mission and will be a wonderful achievement and a glorious legacy of the alumni.

Donations may be sent to the Treasurer, **UCCAANA**, 120 Valencia Circle, Orange Village, OH 44022

From the Ledgers...--Thomas P. Mathew (OH), Treasurer

Our Association has been slowly, but surely, moving forward since 2006, and more members are joining UCCAANA. Just last week a new member joined our Association, and found out that he was at UCC around the same time I was at UCC. So I contacted him, and to both of our surprise, we found out that we were together at the Holland Hostel for two years, and that in the 80's he lived just 30 miles away from me for about 8 years. We had mutual friends, but we simply didn't know each other. We seriously think that we might have seen each other at some Malayalee functions and didn't recognize each other.

In 2009 UCCAANA, with a donation of \$7000.00, supported U.C. College to obtain computers for the library and internet access to various journals. It is functioning well now, and both the students and faculty members are taking advantage of this newly available technology. Also, we donated \$15,000.00 to establish an International House, and later we decided to use the same for an educational endowment, as there are so many poor and needy students at UCC. Recently we donated \$250.00 to a needy student at UCC as she was several months behind in paying her mess fees. We are in the process of finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the UCCAANA Educational Endowment, and adding another \$10,000.00 to the corpus of the endowment. So far we have pledges for \$5000.00 from alumni and friends. We hope to reach our goal of \$10,000.00 before college starts in June, and request the alumni to consider the needs of these poor students. All donations to this cause are tax deductible. In October, 2010 Dr. M. G. Sarngadharan, a member of the current Board of Directors. contributed \$1500.00 to the Vidwan P.G. Nair Endowment at the Malayalam Department at UCC. In 2010 Dr. Titus Mathews of Calgary, Canada was instrumental in establishing the Center for Study of Religion and Society at UCC. He has contributed \$7500.00 for this project so far, and has agreed to contribute another \$2500.00 for this project.

We have a blog which can be accessed at: http://uccaana.blogspot.com. We also developed a website for our Association, www.uccollegealumni.org. We are in the process of adding new tools to enhance the communication between the alumni through these sites.

UCCAANA Elects Board of Directors and Advisory Board for 2011

UCCAANA elected its Board of Directors for the year 2011 during its General Body meeting that met on March 30. The following are the Members of the Board with their respective functions, email addresses, and personal phone numbers. Feel free to contact them for further information on the Association.

Dr. James Jacob (President)

jjacob2@verizon.net 727-372-9383

Dr. Simon Thomas (Vice President)

simonthomas@cox.net 480-730-8736

Mr. Thomas Mathew (NJ) (Secretary)

tmathew41@yahoo.com973-224-1230

Dr. Thomas P. Mathew (OH) (Treasurer) thomasmathew@hotmail.com 216-591-9632

Mr. George P. Kurien (Member/Editor of Newsletter)

gpkurien@gmail.com 423-490-0105

Mr. Alex Mathew (Member)

amathew2@verizon.net 727-372-7929

Mr. Sankara I. Ramaswamy (Member)

sramaswamy@cox.net 703-971-7328

Dr. M. G. Sarngadharan (Member)

mgsarang@msn.com 703-847-9651

Mrs. Fatima A. Tharakandath (Member)

tarafatima@gmail.com 281-870-9234

Mr. George Varghese (Member)

varghese361@msn.com 201-926-4875

Dr. Pothen Varghese (Member)
pothenv@yahoo.com 412-349-2336

And here are the Members of the Advisory Board:

Dr. A. M. Chacko (UCC Manager)

aelihills@gmail.com

Dr. Thomas Philip (UCC Principal)

principal@uccollege.edu.in(91) 484-260-9194

Dr. Benny Cherian (UCC Bursar)

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Lal Varghese, Esq. (Legal Advisor)

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Dr. K.C.Chacko (Advisor)

KChacko667@aol.com

Dr. K. M. Koshy (Advisor)

kalavelikoshy@hotmail.com

Dr. Kamakshi Krishnan (Advisor)

kamakshikrishnan@yahoo.com

Essay

Decaf, s'il Vous Plait!.....

by: George P. Kurien

[Suggestion: Read the essay entitled "Coffee Manager" which appeared in the UCCAANA Newsletter in the January, 2010 issue.]

I was not joking, the decision that I had made as regards my coffee drinking habits at the office (the lack thereof, really...) which I have described in my last essay happens to be real. As a matter of fact, that was one of my new year resolutions of yesteryear. I had resolved a few years back that I will not drink *office* coffee for as long as I live. Now, have I not made other new year resolutions before? Yes. And have I kept them? Not really! Most of my resolutions lasted about a couple of weeks, and were promptly broken by the time Martin Luther King's Birthday rolled around in mid-January. A few others got a little better mileage, but they too never lasted beyond the Presidents' Day. But when it came to my decision about not drinking the *office* coffee, there was a major difference. It was a keeper! It was a life and death situation of sorts. It was a long time ago......

It happened about sixteen years back. I was on an extended assignment at one of TVA's Nuclear Power stations. My Corporate days of shirt and tie and the 9 to 5 work schedule were simply faint memories of the past. My formals became blue jeans, T shirt and work boots, and on an occasional casual day, I would wear my sneakers! On a good day, I could sit down at my desk for about 15 minutes and eat a sandwich, although on most other days, it was lunch on the run. If I remember correctly, most everybody, including our beloved "Coffee Manager", was out during the Christmas and New Year holidays, and only a handful of us were left at the office. This necessitated that one of us do the honors, and as usual, I was volunteered (the passive voice is intentional) to be the "Guy-in-Charge" of coffee. Well, since I was volunteered, I decided to have the dubious distinction of fetching the water from the bathroom in the old yellow jugs, although I probably could have delegated that responsibility to my assistant manager, but there was one problem: There was no assistant manager! If there were one, I hadn't seen him, because he too was probably on vacation! So, off I go to the men's room with the yellow milk jugs in tow.

Before filling the jugs, I thought I would give them a quick rinse, inasmuch as I thought that was one of the many chores which the coffee manager normally was supposed to do in the mornings. But what I didn't realize until then was that the old yellow milk jugs were not really yellow at all! They simply appeared yellow to the casual observer, that's all! The color was only in the eyes of the beholder! In reality, they had been made of clear plastic at some point in their life cycle. This became more and more obvious to me when I held the jugs under the faucet for a few seconds. First, the dirty yellow color of the jugs changed to a dirty mud color, soon to be followed by a plain mud color. I poured out the water into the sink, which also turned into a dirty mud color. A few minutes later, I heard reports on the radio that the color of the water in the Tennessee River also followed suit, similar to the water of the Nile when Moses brought on the plagues on Ramses II and the rest of the Egyptian mummies (and daddies). I rinsed them again and again, with detergents this time, until the color finally stabilized, and settled on a yellowish grayish hue-ish (I mean

hue). I'll make a long story short. I made the coffee all right with that water, but only for the rest of the coffee drinking proletariat. As far as I was concerned, that was it, baby! No more of this poison! I was done!!

Naturally, I stayed in the position of Acting Coffee Manager and discharged my duties for the rest of the holidays as a non-playing "team player". I didn't tell the regular coffee manager the reason why the jugs looked differently when he returned. He probably still thinks that I replaced them with new clear plastic milk jugs during the time when he was gone, and I, for one, was not going to disappoint my buddy. The bright side, now in hindsight, was that in the process, I saved 50 cents a day, 5 days a week! I put on my economist's hat and calculated my long term savings, and it worked out to be \$107.00 a year, or well over \$1,700 in sixteen years. Taking into account inflation, that's like saving \$17,000 in 2011 dollars! Not a bad deal, wouldn't you say, albeit I may have hurt the office economy to a certain degree?! Granted, the coffee was probably high octane, high propane, high performance, unleaded, super premium material, and would even have given me the caffeine fix that I very badly needed on certain lousy afternoons, but I have to say in all honesty, it was downright unhygienic!

India's Department of Science and Technology Awards Rs. 5 million to U C College

The Department of Botany of the U C College will be receiving Rs. 4.96 million for the development of a Plant Molecular Biology laboratory under the Government's FIST (Funds for Improving the Science and Technology infrastructure in higher educational institutions) program. The grant will also help the establishment of a Computer lab, according to Dr. Thara Simon, one of the Advisors of UCCAANA. This year, the U C College is one of only 12 colleges in India selected for such an award. Simon went on to state that the Department of Chemistry of UCC received such a grant last year.

Mission of UCCAANA

- (i) To provide the Union Christian
 College alumni in North America a
 forum for networking and mutual
 emotional and intellectual enrichment;
 and
- (ii) to provide the College with encouragement and support for its renewal and growth in the contemporary and global context.

THE UCC I LOVE

Thomas Mathew (NJ) UCC Student 1959-1963

Union Christian College has a unique place in the hearts and minds of many of its students. I always wondered what made UCC have such an impact on many of us. Certainly it is not just the academic excellence which it always maintained. There were many other colleges in Kerala which were equally good or even better. I just want to share a few of my thoughts on the endearing and enduring qualities of UCC which made it a unique institution and hope to write a more detailed account sometime in the future. These are entirely my thoughts and reflections based on my experience and may or may not reflect the experiences of all the readers of this column.

The College was started in 1921 by four former Professors of Madras Christian College, whose names I am sure are well known to most of us. They were inspired by the ideals by which Madras Christian College was founded. The idea of the founders of UCC was to impart knowledge, high moral values, and patriotism, and mold students as responsible citizens. They also envisioned an enlightened student body with a broader outlook on life through residential life which also helped students foster close friendship among themselves irrespective of caste, creed, ideology and social status. The College also provided for coeducation in an ideal and healthy environment which was a model for other colleges. The residential life promoted a healthy student-teacher relationship. I can go on and on with a litary of personal accounts and stories which will attest to the wonderful and endearing aspects of UCC life, but as stated earlier, I hope to do that at some other time in the future.

UCC had eminent professors from diverse religious backgrounds who were highly respected and loved by their students and the faculty. Extracurricular activities were given a lot of importance which helped the students build sportsmanship, team spirit and character. The founding fathers with high ideals, moral conviction and a vision of the Indian Society built an institution with indigenous resources, leadership and style of functioning. They wanted to ensure that the college would be integrated with the State and actively engage in its development as a partner.

It has been a long time since I left U C College, but the values and life lessons I learned from there stood me in good stead for life. My two brothers and two sisters also studied there, and even to this day, we often share memories of our beloved college and its campus life with great joy. I hope and wish my six year old grandson will have the same joy and love for his alma mater in the future.

You may forget, but we cannot......

By Elsy Satheesan

You see a college there on hill, U C College that shines there well? You my love for four long years! Now to part with rolling tears!

Beloved, you are smiling there On that sacred sleeping hill, The sacred chapel bearing the cross Blessing us every morn and eve.

Beauty flowing river is there Dimpling laugh and music sweet Gently fanned by gentle breeze Flows it quietly at its ease.

Shining alike in sun and moon
Smiling hills are far away
Happy thoughts our hearts will fill
Viewing the river and hills from here.

Neither famous for buildings Nor for Fashion Exhibitions But for the distinct 'Results' of you Every year ever, ever good!

Countless children you have here Growing and going every year You may forget, but we cannot Goodbye my dear Alma mater.

(Prof. Elsy Satheesan taught English Literature at various Kerala University colleges, and currently lives in Charlottesville, Virginia. This is a poem that she wrote in 1966 which was published in that year's UC College Magazine. She gave me permission to re-print this in our UCCAANA Newsletter, and it is herein presented in its original form. Thanks, Elsy! – Editor)

UCCAANA- ANNUAL REPORT, 2010

Office bearers and Board Members:

Dr. James Jacob- President

Dr. Simon Thomas-Vice President

Mr. Thomas Mathew-Secretary

Dr. Thomas P. Mathew-Treasurer

Mr. George Varghese- Board Member

Mr. George P. Kurien-Board Member and Editor of UCCAANA Newsletter

Dr. Kamakshi Krishnan-Board Member

Dr. K.M. Koshy-Board Member

Dr. Pothen Varghese- Board Member

Advisory Board

Dr. K.C. Chacko- USA

Atty: Lal Varghese - Legal Advisor

Dr. Titus Mathews, Canada

Dr. A.M. Chacko- Manager, U C College

Dr. Thomas Philip- Principal, U C College

Dr. Thara K. Simon- U C. College

The year 2010 was an important milestone for UCCAANA. We have taken several steps to strengthen the organization so that we can grow and expand to meet our stated goals and objectives.

We held our Board Directors meetings in January 28, 2010 and December 29, 2010. We also had an alumni gathering in Chicago in September 26, 2010. Dr. Simon Thomas and Dr. Titus Mathew attended the gathering. Some of the accomplishments for 2010 also include the creation and distribution of UCCAANA directory spearheaded by our President Dr. James Jacob, publication of our first newsletter by Board Member and Editor Mr. George P. Kurien, distribution of membership certificates and pocket diaries thanks to the efforts of Mr. George Varghese and Dr. Thomas P. Mathew, channeling funds to UC college from Dr. Sarngatharan for Malayalam Project and from Dr. Titus Mathews for CSRS project. Dr. Simon Thomas held fruitful discussions on various opportunities with UCC management during his visit in September 2010. A website for UCCAANA was created and released through the initiative and efforts of Dr. Thomas P. Mathew.

UCCAANA Educational Endowment

One of the strategic goals of UCCAANA, as approved by its Board is the establishment of an endowment for sustained support of UCC in specific areas such as scholarships

for highly talented students from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, modernizing science laboratories, newer teaching methods and tools, knowledgemanagement resources, etc. To provide a formal structure to this 'UCCAANA Educational Endowment', a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was prepared and submitted to UCC. The UCC Governing Board recently approved this MoUand the next steps are being taken for its implementation. While the seed money for theendowment has already been provided through a generous donation by Dr. K. C. Chacko, it is hoped that the endowment will grow to a meaningful size through the contributions of the alumni and friends. Board Members of UCCAANA has already pledged \$4,000.00 towards this fund.

Alumni Meeting in Chicago

A meeting of the Chicago chapter of Union Christian College Alumni Association (UCCAANA) was held on Sept 26, 2010 in Darien IL. Mr. George Varghese of Chicago made the arrangements for the meeting. In addition to alumni from the Chicago area, Dr. Simon Thomas, Vice President of UCCAANA and Prof. Titus Mathews of Calgary, Advisor to UCCAANA attended the meeting. Prof. Titus Mathews gave an overview of the planned start of a Center for the Study of Religion and Society (CSRS) in UCC, a brochure for which was launched on Sept 6th in Aluva by the Mar Thoma Valia Metropolitan Mar Chrysostom. Dr. Thomas also reviewed the ongoing UCC Navathi Celebrations and associated program initiatives in UCC. The attendees discussed opportunities to increase membership of the association in the Chicago and neighboring areas.

We had notable accomplishments in some areas in 2010. We hope and plan to improve and accomplish more in the areas of our organizational growth and activities which promote our stated goals and objectives as an alumni association in 2011.

We thank all the alumni in North America for their support and request them to get more involved with UCCAANA. We also thank all the staff, faculty members and the members of the Governing Body of UCC for their support and encouragement.

Warm Regards to all,

Thomas Mathew (NJ) Secretary, UCCAANA

UCCAANA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

	(First) (M.I)				_ (Last)
Street:	- Notes				
City:	State/Province Zip:		Zip:		
Email:	Cell				
Phone:					
U C College:					
Student:	to	PreDegree/Interi	nediate (Group	
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Teaching:	to	Subject			
Other Institut	ions:				
			Degree	Major	
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	Section		VARIATE STATE OF THE STATE OF T		
Family (Option Name of Wife/	nal): Husband				
Number of chi	ldren	Grand childre	n		
Number of Fai	mily membe	rs who attended U C	College		
TT 787			<u> </u>		

Please send completed form to: Thomas Mathew; <u>tmathew41@yahoo.com</u> (Hard copy applications may be returned to: UCCAANA, 120 Valencia Circle, Orange Village, OH 44022)