



MAAK BOOK

Real Stories at your Fingertips

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Interview with K Thomas

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The Joy of Giving

Alumni Association's Commitment to Society

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Aksa Ann Thomas
Chief Editor - MAAK
BOOK

Editorial

Dear Marianites,

Welcome to the sixth issue of the alumni newsletter, where we share the latest news and updates from our community. As the chief editor, I am delighted to present you with some of the highlights of this month, including:

A message from Reshma Jerome, Governing Board member about MBF, its birth, to the latest update about the recent elections.

The first meeting of Trivandrum - Kollam Chapter happened in June, the beginning of a new chapter. You can find the details of the chapter written by Manoj P - the chapter representative.

We have also featured the stories of few alumni and their achievement, alumni who are contributing to college after graduation by taking seminars and workshops for the current students.

The success story of K Thomas, BCom first batch, who currently works with WHO is encouraging as well as a source of pride for us.

Our alumni community is ready to receive the 2nd Generation alumni. Do not miss the story of a mother - daughter duo.

The social service wing of our association has sponsored our kickboxing team appearing for the National Kickboxing Championship on July. You will find the details of this along with the details of study materiel that we issued to students of local school.

I would like to appreciate all the alumni who reached out to us with your stories. We hope we can feature more stories in the future.



Adv. Nelson Joseph
President - MAAK

President's message

Dear Marianites,

Our newsletter serves not just as a medium of communication now, but as a souvenir to keep, record of our activities and a positive place to visit to cherish our memories and to stay connected. The newsletter team is also growing with the addition of Sherin Susan Mathew, Richard and Celeste Francis to the editorial team along with the vibrant existing team consists of Merrill Mathew, Jyothi Jose and Shwetha Pramod and lead by Chief Editor Aksa Ann Thomas. The growth is seen in the Newsletter with added features and articles. Congratulations team for making us all wait for every 1st Saturday for its release.

The month June has been so meaningful for MAAK as we engaged in many social and community relevant projects. We handed over Books to the nearby School Students, Supported the College Kickboxing team for their national championship and other projects are also under consideration. The UAE Chapter again made us proud with the meaningful

Blood Donation Camp. The chapter always shows the way. I am sure other chapters soon will come up with similar programs.

Trivandrum-Kollam Chapter had its first meet up and looking forward to have a great inauguration of the chapter soon. Much awaited Marianites Business Forum (MBF) Leadership Summit and installation of office bearers is also happening soon. I strongly recommend all Alumni to join and make use of the golden opportunities in MBF Platform for your businesses, profession and career.

Wishing you all a safe and happening monsoon season. Stay connected with MAAK.

With Love

Adv. Nelson Joseph



Reshma Jerome
Director - MBF

The Journey so far

Marianites' Business Forum

My name is Reshma Jerome and I hail from Punalur, Kollam. I studied BCom at Marian College from 2006 to 2009. Now I live in Thrissur and run a business called Movementor Destinations, which helps students pursue overseas education. My husband is Stenson Johny and we have three children: John, Anne and Claire.

Marian College gave me many opportunities to organise and participate in events of different scales. Little did I know then that Marian will journey with us for a lifetime. I am grateful to the Marian Alumni Association Kuttikkanam (MAAK) for keeping the bond alive.

One of the initiatives by MAAK is the Marianites' Business Forum (MBF), which aims to create a network of business persons who can support and collaborate with each other for mutual benefit. The idea is to grow together, support each other and celebrate the successes together.

MBF was launched in 2021 with a virtual event on September 1st. I was honored to be part of the team that was responsible for building MBF into a professional network. The objectives - short term and long term were laid out. A subscription-based membership called MBF Activ was introduced. Networking meetings called The Wednesday Meet were organised. The MBF WhatsApp group was effectively used as a platform for communication and interactive activities. The forum was branded as MBF with a logo and colour scheme. To maintain a web presence a website mbf.business, instagram and linkedin profiles were created. The focus was to establish MBF as a reliable place for marianites to share, refer businesses and fulfil professional requirements.


As the chairperson, I am proud of what this team have accomplished together and I am honored to contribute to creating a solid base that will motivate Marianites to enhance their professional network.

With this I'm excited to announce that MBF is moving to the next level of growth and impact. We have been operating as a virtual platform for a long time, but now we are ready to create a physical space where we can meet regularly and take action together. On 16th June, we held our elections and new office bearers were elected, who will be officially installed at the MBF Leadership Summit on 8th July at Sidra Pristine Hotel, Cochin. I invite you all to join us for this special event and show your support for MBF.



You're invited

Stay tuned to our WhatsApp groups and Social Media for more updates.

 @marianitesbusinessforum

MBF

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2023

INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICE BEARERS

08 JULY, SATURDAY, 5.30 PM
Sidra Pristine Hotel, Kacheripadi, Cochin

A Mother-Daughter Duo of Marian Alumni

Sharing More Than Just Genes

Manju V, who graduated from Marian in 1998 (BBA first batch), is now a proud mother of another marianite. Her daughter Rachel P Jhonson followed in her footsteps and joined the same campus three years ago. Rachel completed her degree in BACE in 2023, making her the 2nd generation of Marian alumni in the family. This is a milestone of honor and achievement for both mother and daughter, as well as for the alumni community.

We applaud Manju and Rachel for preserving the Marian legacy.



Manju also expressed her satisfaction and appreciation for the college that shaped her and her daughter's lives. *"Marian is a perfect campus with perfect knowledge. The knowledge and lessons that I gained from Marian are priceless and I'm happy that I could pass them on to my daughter"* she said.

Did you know? It is Manju who lent her voice for Marian's prayer song.

Meeting at the Capital City: A Joyful Prelude

Hello, I am Manoj P (BCA 1998 - 2001) on behalf of the Trivandrum & Kollam Chapter of our Alumni Association.

It was a historic moment for us, eight lively and young Marian alumni, when we met for the first time in Thiruvananthapuram. We met at Lulu Mall on 25th June 2023 at 4:00 PM.

We introduced ourselves and then reminisced about our college days with Marian. We laughed and had fun, not minding the people around us who might have been annoyed.

We had a coffee and took some pictures, then we said goodbye and promised to meet again soon for a bigger event.





CONGRATS, YOU WON!

Top Performer Award

Ajay Antony (BBA 2007 - 10)

He is currently heading the Marketing function at Kochi office of Experion Technologies,. He was recently awarded the top performer by his company for his excellence in marketing.

From Marian to Marriott UK

*Ann Mary Jose
(BCom 2016 - 19, MMH 2019 - 21)*

A proud alumna who got placed at Marriott Global Sales UK Corporate office as Global Sales Intern Coordinator.

“My career in the hospitality industry was made possible through my Master's degree in Hospitality from Marian College, which played a crucial role in shaping my professional path” she said.





Coffee Farming: From Kerala to the World

Jacob Jose (MMH 2007 - 09)

He was one of the speakers for the 'World of Coffee' held at Athens, Greece. His presentation was about Peermade Development Society (PDS) Farmers' Innovations Promotion Programme & The Land to Lab Programme. He represented PDS and Kerala at an international platform.

Jacob is working with PDS as Manager - Business Development.

Martial Arts: Path to Glory

*Joshua George Reji
(Mcom PGDM 2021 - 23)*

He is a martial artist who has won several accolades in the South Asia Kung Fu Championship 2023, held in Goa where he secured the 2nd place.

He also won a Gold Medal in the event of Taolu - Long Weapon Performance (Sr. Category) and a Silver Medal in the event of Taolu - Bare Hand Combination (Sr. Category).





New In-Demand Skills for the Future

Aji Varghese (BCA 1995 - 98)

He discussed with BCA students about the latest technologies, including AI, Augmented Reality, the Internet of Things, Blockchain, Cybersecurity, and Data Science. He emphasised the significance of soft skills such as Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration and People Skills.

[Aji is a passionate entrepreneur](#), Founder of Indus Optics and Malgudi Arts, Bangalore.

GST - Get.Set.Target

*Dr Geethu Anna Mathew
BBA 2004 - 07, MMH 2008 - 10*

A session with BBA students about goal setting and positive thinking.

She is working with Kristu Jayanthi College Bangalore as Assistant Professor at Department of Management.



Placement Oriented Alumni-Student Interaction

18 June 2023, Google Meet

Sharing real-time experiences, tips, and tricks to help students succeed in their upcoming placement drives.

Eight alumni who graduated from the Department of Computer Applications volunteered to mentor the final year students. They offered a comprehensive support and foster a conducive environment for students to launch their careers with leading MNCs.

From the left, top row:

1. **Aleena Paul** (Quality Engg. Associate, Accenture), 2. **Jerardh Tom Jasper** and 3. **Alan Mathew** (Associate Analysts, Deloitte), 4. **Rence Thomas** (MSc. Computer Science, Software Engineering)

From the left, bottom row:

5. **Jetlee Joy**, 6. **P Praveen Kumar** and 7. **Akhil Soman** (Associate Analysts, Deloitte), 8. **Elisabeth Ann Jose** (Data Engineer, EY)



Key Insights from K Thomas, WHO

*10 Questions with the Project
Management Officer*

*& an alumni of Marian's BCom first
batch (1995 - 98)*

Q. To start, could you tell us a little about your background, including where you grew up and your family? Where are you settled now?

I am from a very remote village called Kothapara near Upputhara, Idukki. During my studies there were no electricity or other basic amenities or transport facilities. I did some menial jobs during my studies. With great support and sacrifice from my family, I did pursue my studies and immediately after securing graduation I joined with my sisters who were in Delhi. They supported me to start my journey in Delhi which lasted for long 24 years. I worked with different organizations in Delhi and Joined WHO India Country Office in 2012. My wife is a nurse, and we have three children. Last year we moved to Geneva, Switzerland as I got selected for a position at WHO Headquarters.

Q. How do you think your background and experience have influenced your work and approach within the WHO?

Most of my career, I worked with organizations not for profit, that helped me to broaden my perspective in managing public finance. Also, the extensive experiences with auditors helped me to focus on compliance, quality assurance, setting up internal controls etc. Being agile to change made me to be



open for diverse opportunities and tested my capabilities at different roles. Such experiences and expertise helped me to bring efficiencies within the organization and to contribute towards my career progression.

Q. What skills and qualities do you believe have contributed most to your success in your current role as project Manager with WHO?

Being in emergency response, coordination with stakeholders dispersed globally at different time zones, many working remotely or at the emergency frontlines is important. So, effective project management with timely planning, executing, monitoring, and reporting is my key function, and that makes my life easier.

Teamwork is another important aspect given the complexity of issues, especially in managing emergency response projects. I do engage and encourage meaningful collaboration to bring valuable skills and experiences from each person involved. Even in very difficult and complex situations, the magic happens when we join together proactively with active listening towards consensus-building, focusing on the outcome or expected result.

Being neutral and unbiased is very important when working in a UN Agency. But working in a multicultural environment is not that easy. Despite all best efforts, there are chances that I may give-in to unconscious bias due to my upbringing, thoughts, beliefs, and convictions. Every day I do reflect on my plans, actions, thoughts, and feelings to unpack my unconscious bias to ensure respect and to promote individual and cultural differences.

Another skill that I consider as key is communication. Whether engaging with co-workers/ stakeholders on the other side of the world or explaining a complicated topic, being articulate is important. Given the diverse nature of personnel involved in an emergency response, I do engage with simple

easy to understand and straight-forward communications, using appropriate medium/tools, keeping in mind who is the audience as many of them may not be a subject expert.

Outcomes and results are what finally counts, so I do ensure results in expected lines with effective use of available resources. Risk management is another area, where I do invest to anticipate risks to effectively mitigate negative impacts or to capitalize on emerging opportunities.

Q. In what ways has working with the WHO helped you grow personally and professionally?

"WHO's work is about serving people, about serving humanity. Most importantly, it's about fighting to ensure the health of people is a basic human right." - Dr Tedros, DG WHO.

WHO's work is founded on the principle that all people, everywhere, should enjoy the highest standard of health. It's a great platform to work as an international civil servant with talented professionals, who contribute to this important mission. At any one time, the WHO workforce is actively responding to dozens of infectious disease outbreaks and natural disasters around the world. It is fulfilling to play a role in this important mission in supporting the countries



K Thomas with WHO Director General - Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

to recover from emergencies with public health consequences. The Organization offered a dynamic work environment, opportunities for professional development. Working with this Organization helped me to have broad perspectives, ideas, and experiences as integrated with a diverse, multicultural and gender balanced workforce. The learning and development opportunities supported and encouraged my growth at all stages in my career with WHO. Trainings, tools, and other development opportunities helped me to optimize my potential, for both my personal benefit and to contribute to the Organization.

Q. How has your journey shaped your perspective on failure and setbacks? How do you approach them now ?

“Success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm.” — Winston Churchill

It was not easy for me to put failures and setbacks in right perspective in the youthful ages. I was striving for success at every attempt but resulted in much disappointment most of the time. This made me a safe player and sedentary for few years with pessimistic outlook, resulting into a stagnation with depressive thoughts. But with strong relationships and networks, slowly I understood that unless I try and fail there is no chance for success and success is not instantaneous, especially given my background and constraints. Outcome of every attempt is a learning whether it's a success or failure and those learnings helps me to shape up my resilience and that positively influence work satisfaction and the urge to bounce back with much enthusiasm and energy. I do nurture and build my resilience through a wide variety of interactions with people in my personal and professional lives. Some of them do become real mentors and help to crystalize the meaningful purpose or help to see a path forward to overcome a setback. When I positively react to a failure or a setback, it improves my adversity quotient and prepares to confront greater challenges.

Q. Can you tell us something about your days at Marian? Tell us something about your batchmates ?

My first (unsuccessful) formal job interview was in 1995 for a clerical or attender post in Marian, basing my Pre-Degree qualification. As my pre-degree scores were not great, it was not expected that I may get an admission in Marian for studies, and so I was reluctant to apply. But my brother insisted to apply and followed through and eventually I could join this great institution as a first batch B.Com student, which helped me to shape my future. I remain grateful to Marian and to my teachers, non-teaching staff and the management of Marian. With my poor English skills and great distractions, I struggled during my studies, but finally passed out with a decent score, thanks to my teachers (Jojo sir, Thomas sir, Sabu Sir, Florence miss, Marykutty miss, Chackochan sir and Raju Sir). Those wonderful days at Marian will be cherished forever.

We were a great batch, and our classmates are still thick friends. When we completed our course, there were no social media or other advanced communication tools, but we kept our connections. Even after 25 years, we do cherish our days in Marian and keeping virtual connections though we are in different geographical locations. Sadly, two of our batchmates left us to their permanent abode.

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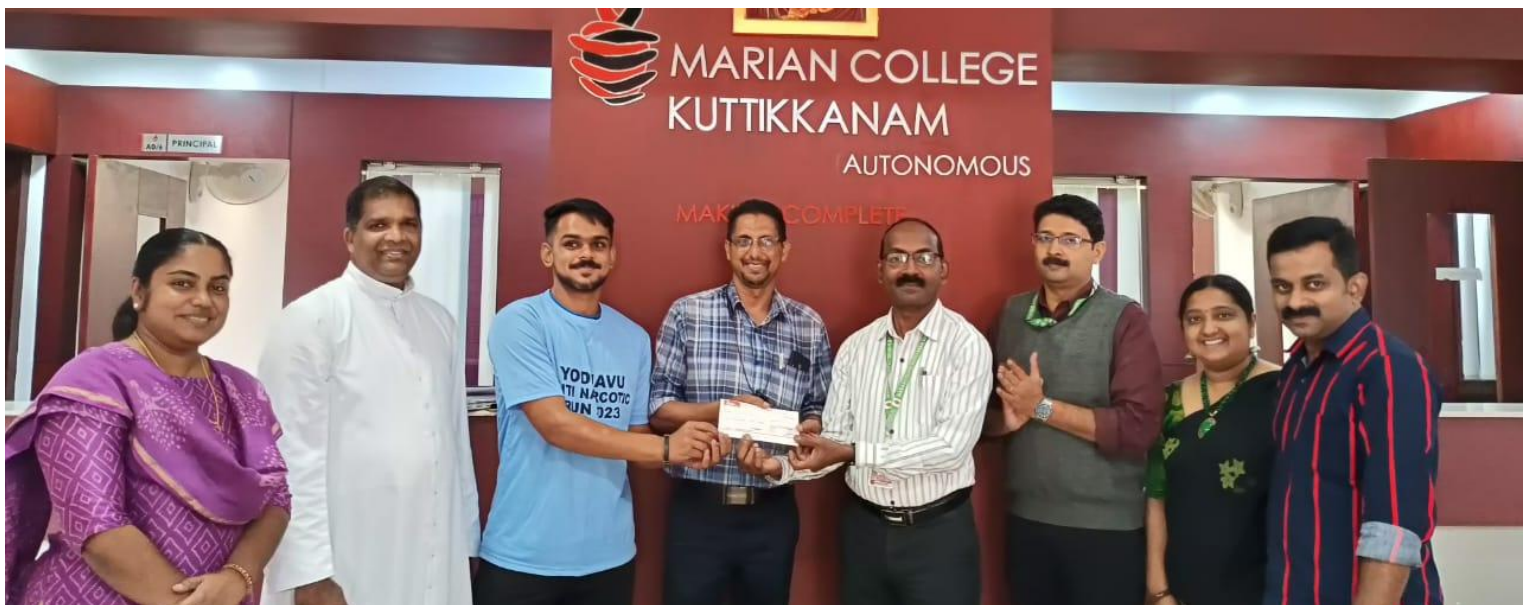
Stay tuned for Part 2 in the next edition...



Fueling Our Kickboxing Team for the National Championship

We are proud to be a group that cares for the welfare of our students. We are thrilled to sponsor the kickboxing team from Marian College, who will represent Kerala State in the National Kickboxing Championship on July 5th at Lovely University of Punjab.

We wish the kickboxing team all the best for the championship.



Marian College Principal - Dr. Ajimon George hand over a cheque of ₹30,000 to the team in the presence of the College Administrator, Vice Principal, Physical Education Faculty, Alumni Teachers and Alumni Liaison Officer. We thank everyone who has helped and donated for this cause.



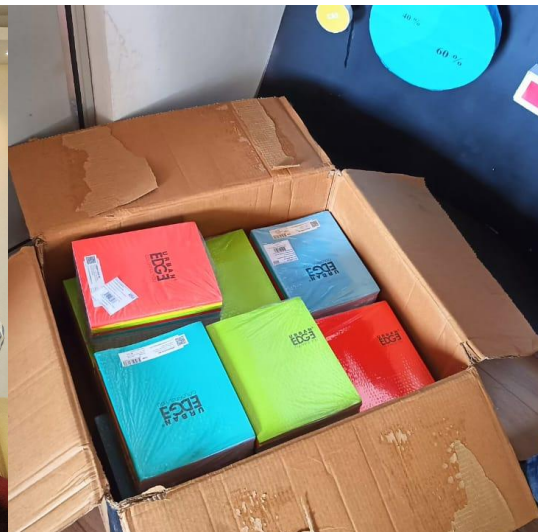
Education is the Way...

Supporting Karadikuzhy Panchayath LP School towards this goal

The Social Service Wing of MAAK aims to make a positive impact on the society.

The Karadikuzhy Panchayath LP School, Peerumedu, has about 200 students who mostly come from tea plantation workers' families. Many of them struggle to buy even the basic study materials. This time MAAK decided to provide note books for their next academic year.

We wish a bright future to the students.



Marian College Principal - Dr. Ajimon George hand over notebooks to Karadikuzhy Panchayath LP School authorities, in the presence of College Administrator, Alumni Teachers, and Alumni Liaison Officer. 200 books were delivered.



Dozens of UAE residents (Marianites and Non Marianites) donated Blood and Platelets. More than 150 donors gathered at Dubai Blood Donation Center in support of the cause. Kudos to Emil (Chairperson - UAE Chapter), Rajiv (Social Welfare - UAE Chapter) and other Core Team members of UAE Chapter for their amazing campaign and coordination. This great initiative is the demonstration of MAAK's generosity and Social Welfare Commitment.

Moncy Alex, Director - Social Welfare and Charity (MAAK)



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Emil Chandy
Chairperson

BCA 2002 - 05



Jeena Elizabeth
Vice Chairperson

BCA 2000 - 03



Anish Jose
Vice Chairperson -
Innovation &
Chapter Development

BCA 2000 - 03



Jijo Arackan
Secretary

MSW 2009 - 11



Disin Davis
Joint Secretary

MMH 2012 - 14



Femin Tharakan
Treasurer

BCA 2000 - 03



Remya Bino
Director
Events & Programmes

BBA 2008 - 11



Sheelu Thomas
Director - Membership

MMH 2005 - 07



Rajiv Mathew
Director - Welfare &
Social Services

MMH 2005 - 07



Shajan Mathew
Director - PR & Social
Media

MCA 2006 - 09



Criss Jose
Immediate Past
Chairperson

BBA 1997 - 00



Abu Surendran
Ex-Officio Member

BBA 1996 - 99



Moncy Alex
Ex- Officio Member

MMH 2003 - 05



Jesbin Thomas
Director - PR

Enhancing Visibility and Fostering Connections

MAAK's Public Relations Team

Dear Marianites,

I am thrilled to introduce the newly selected PR team of MAAK. These talented individuals have been carefully chosen for their passion, creativity, and dedication to strengthening the bond among our alumni community.

With their expertise in social media management, event coordination, digital marketing, and media relations, our PR team is committed to enhancing MAAK's visibility, fostering meaningful connections, and showcasing the incredible achievements of our alumni.

As we embark on this new chapter, we invite you to actively engage with our

PR team through our various social media platforms and stay informed about upcoming events and initiatives.

Join us in congratulating and supporting our new PR team. Together, let us continue to build a vibrant alumni network and create a lasting legacy for future generations.

- **Grigary Cherian** (BCA 2017 - 2020)
- **Tony Sunny** (BBA 2017 - 2020)
- **Amalamol Kuriakose** (BCA 2013 - 2016, MCA 2016 - 2018)
- **Neha Theresa Varghese** (BBA 2019 - 2022)
- **Firoz GG** (BCA 2015 - 2018)
- **Alwin Joseph** (B.Com 2017 - 2020)
- **Angel Mary Tom** (BACE 2017 - 2020)

I would also like to call all talented alumni who are interested in joining our PR team. Together, let's shape the future of MAAK!

*Regards,
Jesbin*

*jesbinkottaram@gmail.com
+91 7034251420*

Follow MAAK on





A Leap of Faith: The Road less taken

Tiby Thomas Joseph (BCA 1998 - 01)

When the world was returning to its new normal post-covid, Tiby made a life-changing decision. He gave up his IT job to serve the Lord as a pastor and preach the Gospel. He is now a full-time minister at World Impact Community Church (WICC) in Trivandrum. His wife Anna is a family counselor and lead singer at World Impact Worship and her latest song has gone viral among worship bands.. They have two children, Zoey (12) and Isaiah (9). We wish all the best in their future endeavors as spiritual leaders.

മരിയനിലെ 99 അനുഭവക്കുറിപ്പുകളുടെ ശേഖരം

Author: Dr. Chackochan Njavallil

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↑ 1st Batch BCA (1995 - 98)

1st Batch BBA
(1995 - 98)

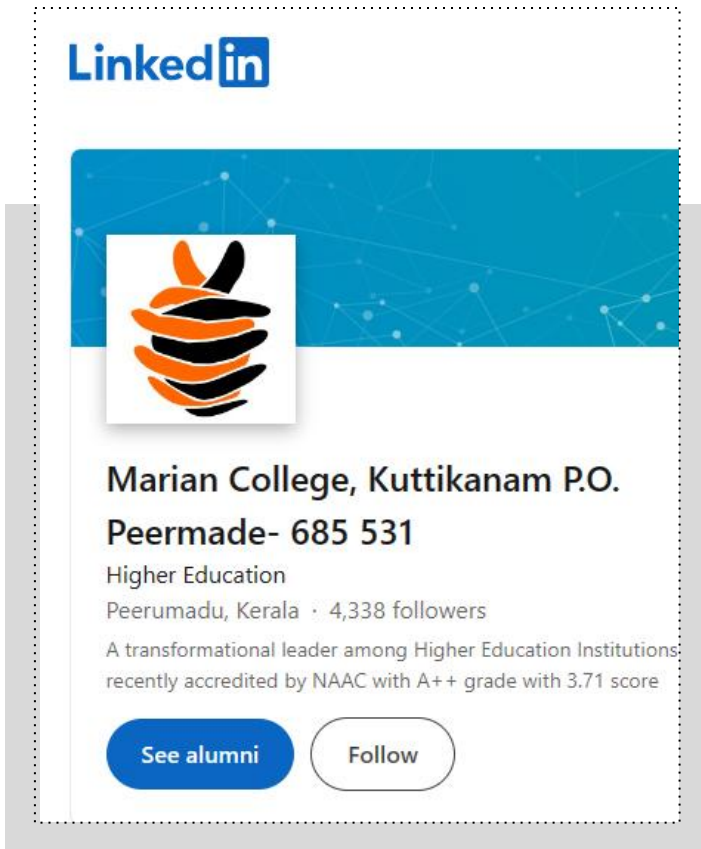




A Walk to Remember: Roots 2k14

In 2014, we Xanthronz (MMH 2013 - 15) organized Roots 2k14, a walkathon to Mathammakkulam from the College. Roy Achen, the Principal at the time, joined in on the expedition. Lunch was arranged in the open, with everyone eating together on the rocks and pastures. This day will always be remembered as a cherished college memory, with students from all departments coming together to participate in a fun activity with a sense of community. A truly unforgettable experience.





Add Marian to Your LinkedIn Education Section

Please add [this page](#) as your Education in your LinkedIn profile; To do this, log into your LinkedIn profile. Scroll down to the Education section and click on the “+” icon. Start typing “Marian College” and select this page from the list that appears. Then, enter further details such as dates attended, field of study, etc. Don’t forget to save your changes.

Stay connected with your fellow alumni ❤️



Shining Brighter

Our College was ranked in the Gold Band Grade in OBE category by the World Institutional Ranking. [Visit this page](#) to view the full list of institutions.

A Tribute to Nancy Samuel

06 August 1981 to 17 June 2023

'Nancy' our dearest Nanu was the meekest and prettiest soul the Argonauts knew. She always carried a soft and hearty smile that spread a wave of positivity in our class. Her strong will and determination motivated each Argonaut to work hard and achieve our best inspite of the challenges we faced. Nancy taught us "When you are with the Lord, you are more than able."



Dear Nanu, we love and miss you deeply. We are heavy hearted that you aren't here, but glad that you are in a better place free of suffering 'You will be the bell that rings each day, a memory, a reminder that Argonauts is incomplete without you.'

*Sorrowing Hearts of Argonauts
M.Com PGDBA (2003 - 05)*



Cover Image: Bipin Domy Thomas
(BCA 2000 - 03)

Beauty Stripped: Unveiling the Wild Wonders of Masai Mara's Stunning Landscapes!

When wildlife photographers visit Masai Mara, most have their eyes set on spotting the magnificent big cats. I was no exception. But let me tell you, the breathtaking beauty of the savannahs and the sky blew me away, even on an ordinary day!

So, picture this: we're cruising along in our safari vehicle, just minding our own business, when suddenly we spot this lone Zebra giving us the "I see you" stare. And boy, oh boy, the backdrop of that tree and the jaw-dropping sky made the whole scene feel like something out of a dream!

My settings were perfectly dialled in: ISO 100, 400 mm lens, wide open at f/2.8, and a super-fast shutter speed of 1/4000 sec. It was pure photography magic!

Can you imagine the thrill? Masai Mara never fails to deliver awe-inspiring moments, even on seemingly dull days. It's a photographer's paradise!

 @urstrulydomy

We love to hear from our alumni and share their stories in MAAK BOOK. This newsletter is just a glimpse of the amazing things they are doing around the world. Whether you have achieved something remarkable, met up with old friends, found some nostalgic photos, or have some insights to share, we want to know. Please contact us if you want to contribute to our future editions and make this newsletter more valuable.

alumni@mcka.in

The July edition will be released on 5th August, Saturday.

For private circulation among the Alumni, Students and Faculty of Marian College Kuttikkanam (Autonomous).