



MAAK BOOK

Real Stories at Your Fingertips



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**A Majestic Ascent
to Everest Base
Camp**

23

**Gearing up for
Marian Diaries**



Aksa Ann Thomas
Chief Editor - MAAK
BOOK

Editorial

Greetings, Marianites. Welcome to the 2nd Edition of 2024 of MAAK BOOK.

We are delighted to share with you the events and updates from the month of February.

This edition is filled with announcements, photos and event reports. Starting with the Annual Day report by Principal Dr Ajimon George, Announcement of our General Convenor for Marian Diaries Mr Dario Aby, Webinar report from Career wing, 6 alumni achievements, details about Marian diaries, and other chapter reports.

This edition is filled with many stories, the Marian chronicles by Jojoy Sir, Photos from different classes of 2001 - 2004 batch, The toy donation campaign on Social service wing among many.

Inauguration of NA chapter, Move club of Kottayam Chapter, and the Everest Base camp expedition of Ajo and Paulson are other stories of this edition.

As always, MAAK BOOK is honoured to feature so many stories every month.

We hope you enjoy reading this as much as we enjoy creating each edition.

The editorial team who work hard to bring you quality content every month. Our team coordinate with each other to produce each edition. We are always open to feedback and suggestions from our readers, so feel free to contact us anytime.

Feel free to reach out to us, with any content you want to feature in the editions.

Real stories at your fingertips.

A big shout out to my fellow editorial board members:

Celeste Francis, Jyothi Jose, Lilin Thomas, Sherin Susan, Jils Abhilash, Shwetha Pramod, Vincy Chacko, Muhammad Emal, Gregory Cherian Mathew, Merril Mathew, Kevin M John, Yedhu Krishna and Alan Chacko.



Adv. Nelson
Joseph
President - Marian
Alumni Association
Kuttikkanam

President's Message

Dear Marianites,

Warm Greetings to you all.

Our Association is on its path to Glory. The annual report presented by our beloved Principal during the College Annual day is a testimony for our activities. Giving a major portion in the report to Association Activities shows how seriously college is looking and appreciating the Alumni activities. The report is published in two issues of the MAAK BOOK and the first part is available in this issue.

We released our first MAAK BOOK in February 2023 with the news and pictures of the Installation ceremony of MAAK Governing Committee. One year later, this February, we got the installation ceremony report and photos of our latest Chapter, MAAK-North America. In between we witnessed the installation of many other chapters.

Having a Chapter in North America (have alumni mostly from USA, Canada and Mexico) is a pride for MAAK and I take this opportunity to congratulate and appreciate the efforts of its Promoters and Executive Committee Members for bringing it alive in style.

Wishing all the best to the Chairperson Jayan Joseph and team North America to create a big impact within the Alumni community and outside.

The Toys Collection and other initiatives of the Social Service team is commendable and I urge all the Alumni teachers and Well-wishers to participate and get involved in the meaningful causes taken up by our Charity and Social Service Wing.

The Consistent career talks and contests by Career wing is creating a big impact to the Students and Alumni. The talk by Rev. Dr. Roy Abraham was class apart and well received by all. Every Month a new initiative is coming up from the Career and Professional Development wing. Big Salute to the excellent activities of the Career team.

The highlight of the month of February was the announcement of General Convenor for our most awaited Annual Mega Event, Marian Diaries, 2024. We got a very experienced, talented and vibrant person as our General Convenor. Mr. Dario Aby has wholeheartedly accepted the request to be the Convenor and a team is being formed for Marian Diaries. I request everyone to be a part of this organising team as it will be a great learning, fun and networking experience. Wishing all the best to Dario and team for making it an ever memorable event.

Let's celebrate our connections from Marian.

With love...



Prof. Dr. Ajimon George
Principal, Marian College Kuttikkanam
Autonomous

Annual Report For The Academic Year 2023 - 2024

Marian College Kuttikkanam Autonomous

His Excellency Mar Jose Pulickal, Patron of the College, the Manager, Very Rev. Fr. Bobby Alex Mannamplackal, our Administrator Rev. Fr. Joseph Ponganthanam, the president of this function and Chairperson of MCSC, Sri. Leo J Johnson, Ms. Aksa Ann Thomas, alumnus and chief editor, MAAK book, invited guests, dear colleagues and dear most students.

I am honored to present the Annual Report of Marian for the Academic Year 2023–2024 with immense pride and satisfaction, following a highly significant and eventful academic year with an outstanding achievement of a remarkable score of 3.71 with A++ Grade in the fourth cycle of NAAC accreditation. On this occasion, I wish to convey my deep appreciation to our Management, the management with futuristic vision, dedicated faculty and staff, members of alumni association and our brilliant students whose selfless dedication, unwavering commitment and pursuit of excellence have been instrumental in attaining remarkable successes for the institution during the academic year. During this year, we embarked on several initiatives, including the decision to adopt the Four Year UnderGraduate Programme (FYUGP) in alignment with the NEP 2020. I am delighted to announce that the Autonomous status of our college has been extended by the UGC for another decade, spanning from the academic year 2022 - 2023 to 2031 - 2032. This notable achievement underscores our steadfast commitment to delivering world-class education to our students. The credit for this success is attributed to the combined efforts of the management and my colleagues, who have collaborated diligently to broaden the horizons of learning on campus. Through their innovative teaching methodologies and enthusiastic dedication, they have actively contributed to shaping the global citizens of the next generation.

The inauguration of the MAGIS complex represented a notable achievement for Marian in the ongoing academic year, solidifying and improving the institution's provisions for student amenities, academic activities and welfare measures. The MAGIS complex consists of a state-of-the-art

auditorium, seminar/training halls and a modern cafeteria. It is noteworthy that this year the University had approved the merger of MIIM with Marian College Kuttikkanam Autonomous, marking a significant milestone for our institution.

This year, we celebrate another significant milestone as we complete mentoring all the five colleges under the Paramarsh scheme of UGC, the latest being St. Mary's College, Puthenangadi, achieving an A+ Grade with a score of 3.45. I extend my profound appreciation to the IQAC and Dr. Binu Thomas for their dedicated efforts that led to this remarkable achievement.

The Logo for "SAHYA, the Marian Fest" was released by Hon. Chief Minister of Kerala, Sri. Pinarayi Vijayan on 12 December 2023 when he and his Cabinet Ministers visited Marian in connection with Nava Kerala Sadass.

The Sahya Marian Fest held from February 6 to 8, 2024 showcased a vibrant tapestry of cultural diversity and community spirit. With a plethora of colourful programs and enthusiastic participation from various communities, the festival served as a symbol of celebration and togetherness. Teams from different states contributed their unique performances adding richness to the cultural mosaic. The event garnered significant attention from both society and media highlighting its significance and impact. I take this opportunity to express my immense appreciation to Sri. Alan Kuriakose, Ms. Sandra Rose Joseph, Dr. Hari R S, Ms. Sheba Benni, Sri. Allan Shaji, Sri. Leo J Johnson (Chairman MCSC) and all faculty colleagues and the entire students of Marian whose dedicated efforts ensured the grand success of SAHYA. We aim to continue Sahya every year as an annual celebration of unity and cultural exchange.

I take this opportunity to extend our admiration and appreciation to four esteemed members of the Marian community: Dr. Soosy Joseph, Sri. Bobby K Mani, Sri. Sunny Thomas and Sri. Saji Joseph. They will be retiring this year after years of committed and dedicated service with the college.

Dr. Soosy Joseph has been an integral part of Marian, long serving as a faculty member in the Department of Languages. She held the esteemed position of being the first Assistant Controller of Examinations following the attainment of Autonomous status. Later, she assumed the crucial role of Controller of Examinations, a role in which she demonstrated exceptional skills in exam administration and related processes. Also, she contributed significantly as a member of our Governing Body and Academic Council. Dr. Soosy Joseph's contributions extended to serving as a member of the Board of Studies and as the Chairman of the Board of Examiners at Mahatma Gandhi University. As we bid farewell to our esteemed Controller of Examinations, we honour the visionary leader behind the transformative reforms and modernization of our examination system working together with the first controller of examinations Adv. Biju P Mani. Throughout her tenure she has been the guiding force, orchestrating changes that have not only streamlined exam processes but also elevated standards of fairness and efficiency. Beyond her administrative duties, she has been a mentor and a source of inspiration to students and colleagues alike. As she embarks on her retirement, she leaves behind a remarkable legacy and a standard of work culture that will serve as inspiration for our future generations.

Sri. Bobby K Mani, who served as the Head of the Department of Health and Wellness, retires with a rich and distinguished record of accomplishments of Marian in sports and games, spanning levels from University to International. It is time to reflect on his profound impact beyond mere physical

fitness, as he imparted lessons of perseverance, teamwork and sportsmanship to generations of students. As he enters his new phase of life, we extend our heartfelt appreciation for his years of service, his unwavering commitment to shaping the minds and bodies of numerous students and his steadfast belief in the transformative power of sports.

Sri. Sunny, Office Superintendent of the College has been in service ever since the College was established. He worked very sincerely cooperating with the Management, Principal, faculties and students during all these years. As he embarks on this new chapter of his life, we extend our deepest gratitude for his years of service he had rendered to our institution. May his retirement be filled with joy and fulfillment.

Sri. Saji Joseph, the U D clerk bids farewell after 29 years of service with Marian. His service and dedication will ever be remembered by the Marian Community. During his service he was very cooperative with the management, principal and all others in the campus. I take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to Sri. Saji Joseph for his service to Marian and wish him peace and prosperity in his retired life.

Professor of Practice

Adv. Augustine Peter and Mr. Mathew Kurian are appointed as Professors of Practice in the Faculty of Social Sciences aligning with the relevant provisions in NEP 2020.

Programmes, Student and Staff Strength

- The College offers 7 undergraduate programmes, 7 post graduate programmes and 2 PhD programmes.
- The present student strength is 2,347 out of which 49% are boys and 51% are girls.
- The College has a staff strength of 231 out of which 132 are teachers and 99 are non-teaching staff.

Awards and Recognitions

- Positioned at Band Gold in Green rankings 2023 - (March 2023)
- Shortlisted by Higher Education Review Magazine as 'Top 10 Most Promising BBA Colleges 2023 (May 2023)
- Awarded Band Gold in OBE rankings 2023 - (June 2023)
- Principal, Marian College included among "23 Prominent Principals - 2023 (Higher Education)- by The Academic Insights Magazine (July 2023)
- Included in Band Gold by MHW rankings 2023 - (October 2023)
- Awarded 2 Star in IIC ranking for the academic year 2022 - 23
- Recognized as AICPA & CIMA academic partner (January 2024)

Research Publications

I am delighted to announce that we have successfully published 27 papers in journals indexed by Scopus and WoS during this academic year. This accomplishment is truly commendable, especially considering that only 26 papers were published from the establishment of the College in 1995 until 2023. It indicates that we have achieved in one year what we could achieve in 28 years. I extend my hearty congratulations to all the faculty members who contributed to this achievement. I would like to give special recognition to Sri. Jobin Jose and Ms. Jeena Joseph for their outstanding efforts in successfully co-ordinating the research facilitation centre of our college.

Marian Alumni Association Kuttikkanam (MAAK)

I am extremely happy to express my satisfaction and gratitude towards the Marian Alumni Association for their diverse support and philanthropic endeavours. The Association actively engages in initiatives ranging from financial assistance for students, mentorship programs and contributions to campus infrastructure development to community outreach projects, scholarships and fostering career opportunities for graduates. MAAK is characterized by its diverse and inclusive nature, fostering a strong and welcoming community that spans across India and beyond. Their commitment to giving back to the institution and society at large is commendable, reflecting a strong sense of camaraderie and social responsibility among the Alumni community.

The Governing Board oversees the administration of the association, while an on-campus office along with a Liaison Officer directs and coordinates alumni activities. Below are the various activities organised by different wings during the academic year 2023-24:

- Revamped the Alumni Logo and set the brand tagline – “Celebrating Connections” by PR team headed by Mr. Jesbin Thomas
- The MAAK-G23 was organized on 9th September 2023 at Pastoral Orientation Centre (POC), Palarivattom, Kochi.
- Sponsored the first prize of Vadamvali competition.
- Around 1.5 lakhs rupees contributed by alumni for SAHYA - The Marian Fest-24.
- Sponsored the first prize of Rs. 3000 for Exhibitions conducted as part of SAHYA-24.
- Rs.30,000 given to the college kick boxing team for the National Championship.
- An alumnus sponsored 25000 to support the expenses of Mr. Abel, (BBA Final Year Student) for participating in the International Kickboxing Championship.
- Organized a fund-raising campaign to support the House Construction of an Alumnus and contributed Rs. 10 lakhs for the same.
- Total Medical Aid – Rs. 9,86,200 (Nine Lakhs Eighty-Six Thousand Two Hundred):
- Medical aids of Rs. 2,25,000 for the cancer treatment of a current Marian Student.
- Medical aid of Rs. 35,000 for one alumnus mother’s treatment.
- Medical aid of Rs.7,26,200 for our alumni
- Sponsored the study materials to the students of Karadikuzhy Panchayath LP School, Peermade.
- Organized Blood Donation with UAE Chapter. More than 150 donors gathered at Dubai Blood Donation Centre in support of the cause.
- BBA and BCA alumni donated laptops to the respective Departments.

- Partnering with Fr Davis Chiramel charitable organization to support the Toys Bank Vs Food Bank initiative
- Financial Support under heads like Student Welfare, Medical expenses, Alumni Welfare etc. in 2023 –2024 with a sum of Rs.20,41,200 (Twenty Lakhs Forty-One Thousand Two Hundred)

MAAK Career and Professional Development Wing

- Inauguration of the Career wing activities for the year was done by Mr. Manoj Balachandran, VP – Sustainability Inhana Organic Research Foundation on Oct 29, 2023.
- Session on “Strategic Thinking Skills for a Competitive Edge for Students & Professionals” by Rev. Fr. Roy Abraham P – Director, XIME Bangalore and Former Principal, Marian College was organized on Feb 17, 2024.
- Talks as part of Alumni Career Talk Series for providing Alumni and Students the opportunity to connect with experts:
- First Session was taken by Mr. Juby Chandy (BBA 1995-98, Whole Time Director and CFO, GSK India) on Dec 09, 2023.
- Session on “Multidisciplinary Approach in Addressing Challenges & Embracing Opportunities” by Mr. Jijo Jose (BSW 2016-19) – Project Associate at One Billion Literates Foundation taken on Feb 02, 2024.
- Organized Career Scavenger Hunt, a competition for the Students of Marian by Career Wing of Alumni and winners are presented with Cash prize of Rs, 2500 and certificate.
- Mock Interviews are conducted on a regular basis to provide a practice session for students. Also prepared and shared set of questions with desirable answers as a model to practice.
- Conducted Alumni -Student Interactions which help in interactions with students to encourage and provide insights. It also helps students to explore the demands of a career of choice.
- Organized the initiative Career Buddy that focuses on Career Counseling Program for students and Alumni.
- Alumni representatives took part in meetings of Board of Studies of every department and provided valuable suggestions and feedbacks in the curriculum development.
- Implementation of an AI Powered virtual interview platform is also in progress.

MAAK BOOK

MAAK BOOK, is the monthly newsletter of Marian Alumni Association, started in January 2023 under the leadership of Ms.Aksa Ann Thomas, as Chief Editor. 13th edition was released in January 2024 which features the achievements, stories, articles and memories of Alumni and Students.

Activities Organized by Various Chapters.

During the academic year, many new chapters were formed which connects Marianites across the world under the leadership of Mr. Abu Surendran (Vice President-In charge of Chapters).

The Association has the following ACTIVE Alumni chapters both formally incorporated and under formation:

1. Cochin
2. Travancore
3. Kottayam
4. UAE
5. Bangalore
6. North America
7. UK & EU
8. Chennai
9. Kuttikkanam (Home Chapter)

Out of the above active chapters Cochin, Travancore, Bangalore, UAE and North America have elected Office bearers and own Governing Councils. The inauguration of Cochin, Bangalore, Travancore and Kottayam chapters was conducted in 2023 and the inauguration of North America Chapter and installation of Office bearers happened on Feb 2024.

The Chapters are coordinating many activities on a regular basis which helps in connecting the Marianites. Some of the major activities of Chapters during the year are: -

- On 26 November 2023 Marianites@UAE came together to participate in the Dubai Run organized by the Dubai Sports Council.
- UAE Chapter organized a Blood Donation Camp.
- Desert Camping - MAAK UAE organized an overnight desert camping event on 11 November 2023.
- A Halloween Night meetup was conducted on 29 October 2023 in UAE which was another space for friends to come together.
- Hiking and Camping at Kuttikkanam organized by Cochin Chapter on Jan 26 & 27, 2024.
- Cycling Club - MAAK Cochin successfully launched a Club for cycling enthusiasts on 05 November 2023 and the club members regularly go on rides together, mutually motivate each other for an active lifestyle. They also participate in cycling events organized by other bodies.
- 'Oru Onnonnara Onam' an Onam celebration event was organized by MAAK Cochin on Sep 10, 2023 and conducted various games and cultural performances to engage the alumni and their families.

- A Movie Club was launched by MAAK Kottayam. Currently it is a WhatsApp group activity, wherein a set of Movies from different genres are selected for reviews and comments on every Saturday.
- Online Xmas celebration was organized virtually by North America chapter.

Department Alumni Associations

Department Alumni Associations function as sub units of the Association, which mainly focus on programmes & Activities for individual Departments. They also act as a bridge between different functional units like Career wing, Charity wing, Insurance & Medical support team etc. The overall activities are coordinated under the leadership of Mr.Joji Sebastian

- Every Departments conducted online career development programmes and expert talks during the year.
- B. Com 1999-2002 batch organised a get together 'Thirike 23' on Dec 2023.
- BCA alumni has donated a Laptop to the Department of Computer Application.
- Student Associations of BBA, BCA, B, Com and MMH are inaugurated by a successful Department alumnus.
- Get together of B. Com 2000-2003 Batch at College

Membership & Alumni Database Management

- The membership drive in MAAK is coordinated under the leadership of Mr. Eric Thomas Joseph.
- Registration portal for membership campaign was created on the College website.
- Databases of more than 80% of Alumni have been developed and the issuance of Alumni ID started this year.

Events & Alumni Engagement

The activities of Events & Alumni Engagement wing is under the leadership of Mr. Merrill Mathew.

Marianites Business Forum (MBF)

- MBF (Marianites' Business Forum) is a global platform for the alumni of Marian College Kuttikkanam, to meet, network and showcase their business and profession. And to unify business-persons and professionals across the globe, by representing their respective fields of work for fruitful collaborations.
- MBF members have taken various sessions for Students in association with Marian Entrepreneurship Club on Startup support, guidance for beginning new businesses and networking between similar businesses.

Conclusion

Let me conclude this report with a note of appreciation. I am deeply grateful to the insightful leadership of Marian, particularly His Excellency Mar Jose Pulickal, Very Rev. Fr. Bobby Alex Mannamplackal and Rev. Fr. Joseph Ponganthanam who guided us through this academic year. I sincerely convey my utmost respect and appreciation to them. I also wish to express my profound gratitude to the members of the Governing body and Academic Council, the two important statutory bodies of our college.

I am deeply grateful to the Vice-Principals, Fr. Dr. Shaiju K. S, Dr. Joby Cyriac and Dr. Lumy Joseph for their unwavering support and diligent execution of their assigned responsibilities particularly in my absence on campus. My sincere appreciation is extended to Fr. Ajo Andrews Pezhumkattil, Deputy Administrator, Adv. Biju P Mani, Director NEP Cell, Dr. Benymol Jose, Secretary Academic Council, Mr. Sajan N Thomas, Coordinator PM - USHA, Dr. Thomas KV and the Student Grievance Redressal Committee team, Ms. Amruth K John and her ICC team, members of the Anti-Ragging committee, Sri. Win Mathew John Additional Controller of Examinations, Fr. Dr. Sibichan Joseph, Chief Superintendent of Examinations and all the staff of the Examination Cell. I also express my gratitude to Fr. Sobi Thomas Kannalil for the outstanding media support, Sri. Ajesh P Joseph for co-ordinating UBA and supporting extension activities, Dr. Muralivallabhan T. V, Director, Fr. Dr. Jose Chittadiyil-Deputy Director MIM, all priests and sisters in charge of various hostels, all Directors and Heads of Departments, BoS Chairs, esteemed faculty colleagues and all the administrative and support staff for their invaluable contributions all through the year.

I am deeply appreciative of the Marian Alumni Association under the leadership of Adv. Nelson Joseph and its dedicated office bearers for their exceptional commitment and active involvement in supporting our institution through various activities throughout the year. Their unwavering support has significantly contributed to the growth and success of Marian College and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every member of the Association. Together, we continue to uphold the spirit of community and excellence that defines Marian, ensuring a brighter future for generations to come.

I extend my gratitude to Sri. Leo J Johnson, Chairperson of MCSC and the entire MCSC team for their cooperation and meticulous support in organizing all student activities. Once again I express my heartfelt appreciation to each and every member of the Marian community.

I remain, Thank you.

Prof. Dr. Ajimon George

9 February 2024





Jino P Mathew
MCA 2002 - 2005



A Majestic Ascent: Ajo Thampi and Paulson Joseph's Everest Base Camp Expedition

In a tale of grit and camaraderie, Ajo Thampi and Paulson Joseph, both distinguished alumni of Marian MCA (2002 - 2005), spearheaded an awe-inspiring adventure to the Everest Base Camp, accompanied by four other intrepid friends. This article unfolds the narrative of their extraordinary journey through the towering Himalayas.

The idea came from an alumni meet

The inception of the Everest Base Camp Expedition was inspired during an alumni gathering. It was at this reunion that the seed of the idea was planted, igniting a shared passion among the attendees. Ajo Thampi, leveraging connections, obtained valuable travel information from an acquaintance

involved in another trekking venture. Building upon this foundation, Paulson took the initiative, turning the idea into a tangible expedition that would soon become a remarkable journey of adventure and camaraderie.

Arriving in Kathmandu

On the 19th of November 2023, Paulson and four companions from the United States touched down at Kathmandu airport. Ajo Thampi promptly joined the group at the airport, and together they proceeded to their accommodation at a local hotel.

The arrival in Kathmandu unfolded as a unique experience in its own right. The journey from the airport to the hotel was a fascinating exploration of the vibrant chaos that defines

this bustling city. The juxtaposition of its busyness against the backdrop of traditional charm left a lasting impression.

Flying to Lukla

Team flew from Kathmandu to Lukla to begin our trek. Lukla airport is considered the most dangerous and extreme in the world, and we could see why! The flight in a small plane was nerve-racking, with the pilots skillfully avoiding mountains. The airstrip was like a long driveway, and we were relieved to land safely. Started walking with their guidance. After months of anticipation, the team was excited to start, although the entire trek ahead made them nervous.



Lukla to Everest base Camp

The journey from Lukla to Everest Base Camp spanned nine days, covering an average of 5 kilometers daily. Each day, we rested at camps along the route, adhering to a 15-kilogram luggage limit. The challenge of high altitude became apparent, with Everest Base Camp registering a chilling temperature of -15 degrees Celsius. Given the altitude, the risk of sickness was significant, and in such cases, airlifting was the sole option.

To ensure the well-being of travelers, three porters accompanied each individual throughout the trek. Their assistance was invaluable, especially considering the potential health challenges associated with the altitude. Despite the physical demands and the harsh conditions, reaching Everest Base Camp was a testament to both endurance and the support network that accompanied each traveler.



Distance, number of days and expenses

The entire journey from Lukla to Everest Base Camp covered a distance of 58 kilometers, taking a total of 14 days to complete. Throughout the trip, basic vegetarian meals were provided at the camp centers. The approximate cost for an individual's expenses during the entire expedition amounted to around 65,000, encompassing various aspects of the journey.

It's worth noting that there is no mobile coverage along the route, adding an element of isolation to the adventure. However, wifi facilities were available at the camping locations, offering a means of communication and connectivity during the trek.

Returning Down to Kathmandu

The trek back down the mountain was quick as it was easier to breathe. All looking forward to getting back to Lukla and contacting home, we were also looking forward to washing our hair! Everyone enjoyed looking around on the way down; As you walk down, it is the same route you came up, you wonder how you managed to get up some parts. It seemed bizarre that I got up some parts of the trail on the way up but at the time pure motivation made it possible. Everyone was so much less stressed about achieving my goal on the way down. The last day of trekking is mostly uphill to Lukla. It rained and was difficult to the finish line, it was poignant, a final reminder of what we went through to reach our goal. Team arrived at our final lodge for one more night as we would fly back to Kathmandu the next morning.







Twinkle Abraham
Director
MAAK Career &
Professional
Development Wing

Webinar on Strategic Thinking Skills for a Competitive Edge

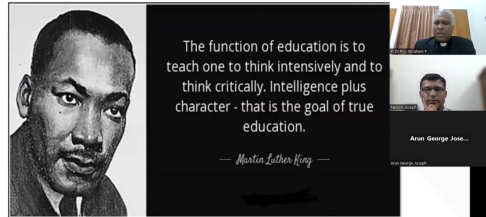
February 17th, 2024

Rev. Dr. Roy Abraham, Director XIME Bangalore, renowned for his strategic leadership during his tenure as Marian College Principal, shared invaluable insights on "Strategic Thinking Skills for a Competitive Edge" in a recent webinar conducted by alumni career & professional development wing. Drawing from his extensive experience in strategically developing colleges and hostels, Dr. Roy delved into various topics crucial for success in today's competitive landscape.

Dr. Roy emphasized the concept of "creative restlessness" as a driving force for innovation and progress. He highlighted the importance of fostering an environment that encourages curiosity, exploration, and a willingness to challenge the status quo. Participants were introduced to methods for cultivating intensive and creative thinking skills. He also shared personal experiences to introduce practical techniques to break conventional thinking patterns and foster creativity.

The webinar discussed the concept of pricing power and its relevance to both individuals and institutions. Strategies were provided to enhance perceived value and commanding premium pricing in competitive markets.

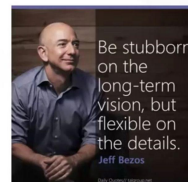
Thinking Skills



Dr. Roy addressed the importance of forming partnerships without compromising core values. He emphasized the importance of aligning values and objectives to foster mutually beneficial partnerships that drive collective success. Participants gained an understanding of the critical role of long-term vision and mission in shaping the educational journey of students. Dr. Roy underscored the need for educational institutions to have a clear vision and mission that guides decision-making and inspires students to achieve their full potential.

The webinar provided attendees with a wealth of insights derived from his strategic development experience in academia. Dr. Roy's expertise and practical wisdom offered attendees valuable tools to enhance their strategic thinking abilities and gain a competitive edge in their respective domains. The webinar was facilitated by Principal Prof. Dr. Ajimon George and was attended by faculty members, alumni, and students of Marian College, Kuttikkanam.

Long-term Mission & Vision





A Ride of Mettle - 165 km with 3000 m Elevation

Jose Augustine (MCA 2009 - 2012)

Congratulations to Jose Augustine for being a proud participant in the Tour of Thekkady 2024, hosted by the KEG Bikers Club. Jose, distinguished as the Cycling club lead of MAAK Cochin, set out for this ride along with his colleagues from UST Global. This challenging yet thrilling 165 kilometres and 3000 metres elevation bike tour from Kottayam to Thekkady has literally tested their mettle. Despite the challenges, this ever-enthusiastic Cyclist finished the tour within the timeframe. For the amusing captures and hilarious narration of this challenging ride, watch the [YouTube vlog](#).

Golden Triumph at Open India International Kickboxing Tournament

Nimisha Aju (BSc Mathematics 2020 - 2023)

Nimisha won the Gold Medal at the Open India International Kickboxing Tournament held in Delhi. Nimisha's journey to victory began during her time at Marian College, which we had featured in the 3rd edition of MAAK BOOK 2023. The Kick Boxing training at Marian is a testament to her relentless dedication and passion for the sport. Despite her achievements in the ring, Nimisha has successfully balanced her sporting career with her professional endeavors, currently serving as a probationary officer at HDFC Bank in Mavelikara. Welcome to the alumni community Nimisha!





Prestigious Leadership Award

Siju Zacharia (MMH 2003 - 2005)

In a momentous ceremony held during the Thomas Cook MICE annual conference on February 25, 2024, Siju Zachariah was bestowed with the prestigious MD & CEO award. This accolade, presented by Mr. Mahesh Iyer, MD and CEO of Thomas Cook India Ltd., recognizes Siju's outstanding leadership and remarkable contributions. With unwavering dedication spanning ten years, Siju currently serves as the General Manager & Regional Head of MICE South, based in Bengaluru. Additionally, Siju's role extends to the Board of Studies of Marian.

Doctorate Degree

Dr. Sharan Murali (MCom 2015 - 2017)

We are proud to announce that Mr. Sharan Murali, a former student of our college, has recently completed his PhD degree from MG University. His doctoral dissertation, titled "Agripreneurship in Kerala - An Empirical Study", explores the challenges and opportunities of agricultural entrepreneurs in the state. Dr. Sharan Murali is also the founder and director of Delve Academic Solutions, a company that provides research and analytical support to scholars in Commerce and related disciplines. He has a rich academic background, as he qualified for the JRF in the first semester of his MCom.





District Championship in Bodybuilding

VS Devan BBA 2007 - 2010

VS Devan has emerged victorious in the Bodybuilding District Championship, organized by the Idukki Bodybuilding and Fitness Association in collaboration with the Sports Council. An alumni of Marian College, his dedication and hard work have propelled him to this remarkable achievement. His success in the Body Craft Mister Idukki Championship is a source of immense pride for his alma mater. VS Devan is an inspiration to aspiring athletes, showcasing the power of perseverance and commitment in reaching one's goals.

Academic Excellence

Dr. Jikky P Shaji

Team MAAK extends heartfelt congratulations to Dr Jikky P Shaji on completing PhD from MG University on Glass Ceiling Effect on Career Advancement of Women in the Banking Sector. She is an alumni of BCom 2009 - 2012. She served as Faculty at Research and PG Department of Commerce, Marian College Kuttikkanam 2015 to -2017.



Bring a smile to an underprivileged kid's face by donating usable toys

Social Service team of Marian Alumni Association Kuttikkanam is ready for yet another Reach Out Program, by supporting the concept of Fr Davis Chiramel's Toy Bank initiative.

This project involves the collection and distribution of old toys to children facing economic hardships within our society. The primary objective is to bring joy and happiness to those who may not have access to new toys. Additionally, this initiative aims to promote sustainability by reusing toys that might otherwise be discarded.

This is the second outreach program after the Blood Donation drive by UAE chapter in association with Dubai Health Authority . This time we are partnering with Fr Davis Chiramel Charitable Trust and all chapters in the MAAK are involved and contributing for this exciting new initiative,

This initiative will be officially launched globally on 7th March 2024, Thursday. You are cordially invited to support this program.

We need volunteers

We are also looking for interested Alumni and Students, who are willing to volunteer to identify the people who are interested to donate the used and unused toys of their children which are in good condition and bring it to any of our collection points.



Whom Can You Contact?

- Jain Kuriakose (Project Head Toys Collection – India)
+91 9496321267
- Rajiv Mathew (Project Head Toys Collection – International)
+971 553189012
- Asha M Thomas (Bangalore)
+91 7022831918
- Rupna Kurian & Vijoy Varghese (Cochin)
+91 9847663740 / +91 9947192646
- Ajith Scaria (Travancore)
+91 94957 65510
- Smitha Peter (North America)
+1 (501) 786-7960
- Moncy Alex (Director for Social Service and Alumni Welfare)
+ 971 553536466

*With hope
Social Service Team of MAAK*

Breaking News!!!

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed Marianites, and honored guests, mark your calendars! 📅

We are thrilled to announce that the dynamic and visionary Mr. Dario Aby, our Vibrant Joint Secretary of MAAK Cochin, has been handpicked as the General Convenor for the spectacular Annual Mega Event — Marian Diaries '24! to be held on 3rd & 4th August 2024 🎉🌟

Who is Dario?

A true son of Elappara, Dario's journey began at Mariagiri, where he emerged as a stellar School Leader.

Armed with a B.Com degree from Marian (Class of 2002) and an MBA from SB College Changanassery, Dario now steers the ship as the Sales Head at Bacardi Martini India.

His life is a delightful shuttle between the vibrant streets of Kochi, where he works, and the serene lanes of Kozhikode, where he resides with his wife and two adorable kids.

Dario's recent stint as part of the coordination team for the Reunion of BCom class of 2002, 'Thirike', showcased his prowess in orchestrating grand-scale affairs.

But wait, there's more! Dario isn't just a leader; he's also an exquisite dancer, moving to the rhythm of success.

Why Dario?

His leadership shines like the sun over the Western Ghats.

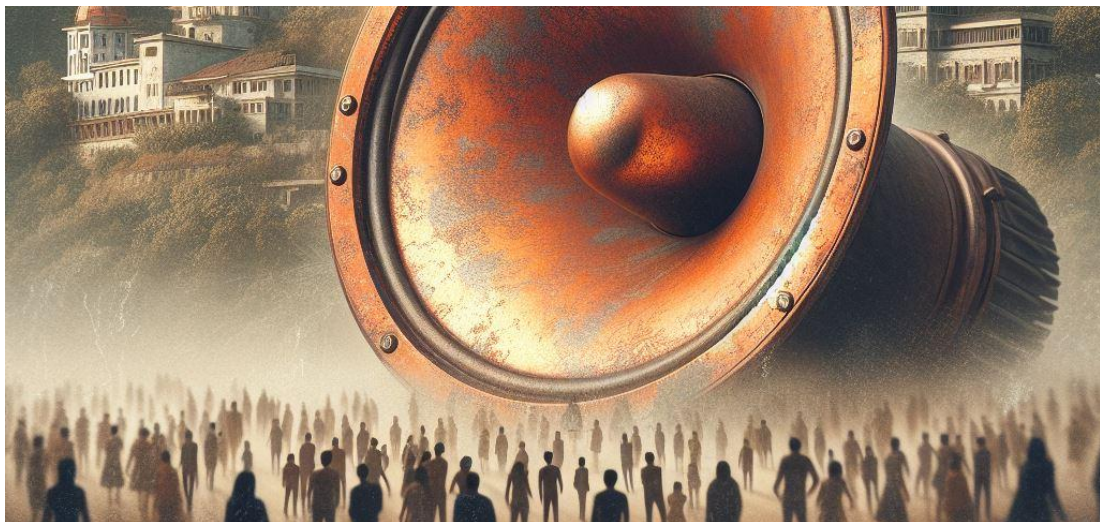
A team player who turns challenges into opportunities.

The perfect fit for the General Convenor role.

So, toast to Dario Aby—the heartbeat of Marian Diaries 2024!

All aboard the MAAK Express! Next stop: Marian Diaries 🚀🌟

#UnforgettableMemories #MD24





Dario Aby
General Convener -
Marian Diaries '24

(BCom 1999 - 2002)

Gearing up for Marian Diaries '24

*Mega Alumni Meet of Marian Alumni
Association Kuttikkanam.*

3rd & 4th August 2024

Dear Alumni,


The much-awaited Marian Diaries '24 (MD '24) is just around the corner, and excitement is building among our alumni to reconnect with old friends and reminisce about our college days. The event promises to be a fun-filled day & night of laughter, storytelling, and catching up on each other's lives. It will be a great opportunity to network, share experiences, and create new memories with fellow alumni. With a mix of nostalgia and anticipation, we are looking forward to a heartwarming and memorable MD '24.


In order to make this event a success, we are seeking support and collaboration from our fellow alumni. Your presence at the reunion meet would mean a great deal to us, and we would be grateful for any contribution you could make towards the event. Whether it be through volunteering your time, helping with event planning, or providing financial support, your involvement would be greatly appreciated.

I truly believe that our alumni community is a unique one, and confident that together, we can make this reunion meet a memorable and enjoyable experience for all.

Hope you will consider joining us and supporting this event in any way you can.

If you are interested in getting involved or have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at

 darioaby@gmail.com

 9447642266



I look forward to hearing from you and hopefully seeing you at the reunion meet.

Cheers!



Inauguration of North America chapter of Marian Alumni Association Kuttikkanam

Venue : Zoom Meeting

Date & Time: Feb 22 9 PM EST || Feb 23 730 AM IST

North American (NA) Chapter was installed on Feb 22/23 with attendees joining virtually over Zoom.

The event started as scheduled with Abu Surendran, VP Chapters chairing the meeting. Jerry Alexander welcomed the guests, NA members & apex alumni office bearers. Marian College Principal, Prof. Dr. Ajimon George's inaugural address was followed by Merrill Mathew introducing the incoming NA Executive Committee & Coordinators and subsequently VP Chapters administering the oath.

Jayan Joseph (Chairman) of the NA Chapter thanked NA members for choosing him to lead the Chapter and provided an overview of his vision.

Philip Varghese (Secretary) presented the Secretary's report with a summary of the NA member composition and the pre-installation activities. Former Principal & XIME Director Rev.Dr.Roy Abraham's keynote address came after Adv.Nelson Joseph's President's address.

Felicitations came from long term and retired faculty members – Vice-Principal Dr. Joby Cyriac, Vice-Principal Dr.Lumy Joseph, Santo Cherian, Dr.Binu Thomas, Dr.Sabu Augustine and Dr.Joshy John.

Pradeesh Mathew (Treasurer) delivered the vote of thanks and the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

The formal event was followed by a lively social session filled with banter, recall of college experiences and teachers expressing their joy at seeing former students.

This event had participants from 8 time zones with NA members representing 6 time zones. Some quick facts about NA chapter:

- About 100 members as of Feb 2024
- Highest representation by Stream: BCA at 40%
- Highest representation by graduation year: 2001
- Highest representation by geographic region: Ontario (27%)
- 2nd highest representation by geographic region: Texas (17%)

Status of long-term vision of the MAAK NA Chapter: Evolving

Prosperity and welfare of NA Chapter members, integration with apex alumni body & other chapters, scholarships for current students, raising a charity fund for quick response to needs and more are under discussion. There will be clearer direction with tangible goals articulated in the months ahead.

With love,

Philip Varghese (BBA 1999 - 2002)
Secretary - MAAK North America



Marian Alumni Association Kuttikkanam
NORTH AMERICA

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2024 - 2025

TREASURER

VICE CHAIRPERSON

CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY

JT. SECRETARY



**Pradeesh
Mathew**



**Anu
Thomas**



**Jayan
Joseph**



**Philip
Varghese**



**Sajan
Joseph**

Coordinators for MAAK Initiatives

ALUMNI WELFARE
& SOCIAL SERVICE



Smitha Peter

CAREER & PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT



Vipin Mathews

EVENTS & ALUMNI
ENGAGEMENT



Susan Joseph

MEMBERSHIP
GROWTH



Juby C Baby

PUBLIC RELATIONS
& SOCIAL MEDIA



Benjin Mary Varghese

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBER
MAAK BOOK



Jils Abhilash

Celluloid Conversations: MAAK Kottayam Movie Club

Lights, camera, action! The MAAK Kottayam Chapter Movie Club has been buzzing with excitement as members gathered for their latest cinematic adventures. From spirited discussions to thrilling movie recommendations, here's a recap of the club's recent activities:

The Beginning of an Epic Journey

As the inaugural season of the Movie Club unfolds, a diverse group of individuals comes together, bound by a shared passion for film.

Episode 1

Movies: 12th Fail (2023)

Episode 2

Boeing Boeing (1985)

Malaikottai Vaaliban (2024)

Episode 3

Discussion: Worst Malayalam movies of all time

Episode 4

Nagarangalil Chennu Raparkam (1990)

Gangubai Kathiawadi (2022)

Episode 5

Bramayugam (2024)

Premalu (2024)

Genre Spotlights: Members dived deep into various film genres, exploring everything from classic noir to contemporary sci-fi. Insightful analyses and discussions take place from each genre.

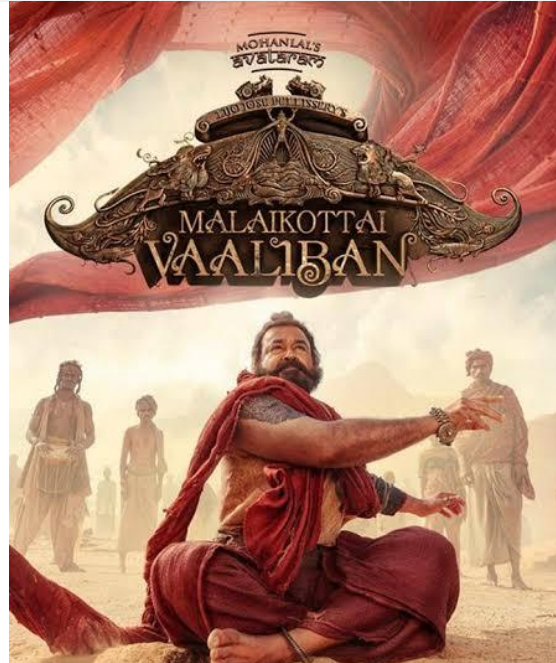


Hidden Gems Unveiled: One of the highlights are the enthusiastically shared lesser-known films that left a lasting impression, sparking curiosity and prompting fellow cinephiles to add these treasures to their watchlists.

From beloved childhood favorites to recent discoveries, each member brought their unique perspective to the table, enriching the club's collective cinematic experience

Latest Releases and Trends: As always, the coordinators introduce latest cinematic trends, with members discussing recent releases and upcoming projects.

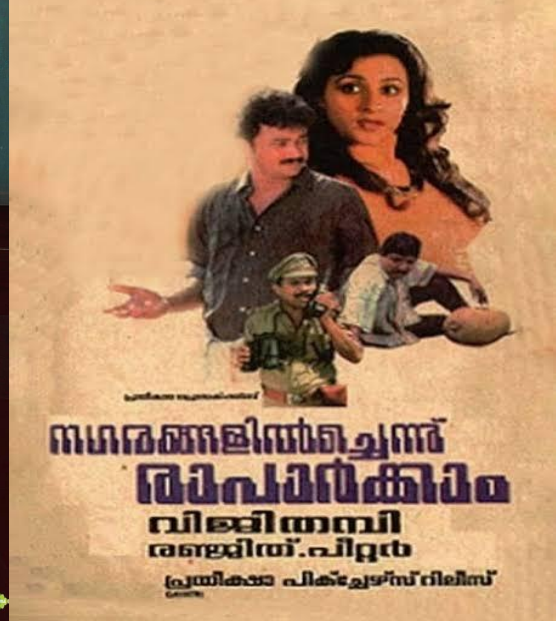
As the club looks ahead to future meetings, members can anticipate even more enriching discussions, exciting discoveries, and shared cinematic experiences.



MOHANLAL'S
ഭവാലോകം
മിജിക്സ്
MALAIKOTTAI
VAALIBAN
JOHN & MARY CREATIVE
CENTURY MAXLAB SAREGAMA
LIJO P. S. RAJEEV MADHU NEELAKANDAN PRASHANT PILLAI TINU PAPPACHAN
JOSEPH GOKUL DAS RATHEESH MICHAEL SUIJITH SUDHAKARAN VIKRAM MOOR RONEX
SAMANTH VINIL RENGANATH RAVEE FAZALA BACKER ANSON ANTONY L. B. SHYAMLAL
UN KALLINGAL K. P. MURALEEDHARAN KRISHNA CHANDRAN VINAYAKRISHNAN OLDMO



BHANSALI PRODUCTIONS & PEN INDIA LTD. PRESENT
A FILM BY SANJAY LEEA BHANSALI
GANGUBAI
KATHIAWADI
PRODUCED BY SANJAY LEEA BHANSALI & DR. JAYANTHIL GADA (PEN)
IN CINEMAS FEB. 25, 2022
72th International Film Festival of India
Bertram Special Gala
VISHVA
SANGHATANA



നന്നൻ നാലിൻ
വിപിവിപി
വിജിതമ്പി
രണ്ടിത് പിറ്റർ
ശ്രീധർ പിക്ചേഴ്സ് പ്രിസന്റ്



**Prof. Joji George
MBA**
Former HoD of
Business
Administration, Marian
College Kuttikkanam

Recalling Marian...

While looking back at my 'good old days' in Marian I want to precisely call the above, the days of 'Formation and Transformation'. This is applicable not only in my case but also in the case of the majority of my students who were with me during my comparatively short term tenure at Marian...

A hard-core 'pedagogue' transforming into 'HOD PAPPA'. Many of my students from their conventional style into self - confident 'BUDDING MANAGERS

My first and foremost task was to introduce and establish 'BBA', something which had been totally alien to the then educational scenario of Kerala.

With a Master's degree in Business Administration and a few years of experience in the training field in a few prestigious institutions like EDII, Ahmedabad (Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India), I felt the task, though a bit challenging, was more or less in tune with my passion.

The first thing was creating a right mindset among the students who were used to conventional methods of learning only.

A future Manager has to be confident in the use of English language. So that was my first priority. Our first Principal Rev. Dr Philips Wadakkakkalam gave me ample support. At least in the initial two or three batches I never used to utter a single word in Malayalam during my lectures. It went up to the extent of complaints to my nephew a third batch BCA student, "Tell your Uncle that we are hard - core Malayalees...".

I tried to introduce the same methodology of training which I had imbibed from the School of Management studies, CUSAT for my MBA. Lecture classes were substituted by Seminars and Discussions. Moreover an unfortunate incident that happened in the first month itself in the College gave me the realisation that students need something more than mere finishing the syllabus. I understood their emotional issues had also to be attended with top priority. So I believe, there itself I started giving practical advices from the real life. At least the initial batches welcomed it whole heartedly. So that turned to be a regular practice till my last day in Marian. Even now I am getting good feedbacks from my old students.



So the University results of the first batch... (1995-98). It was really amazing.. Highest pass percentage with four University ranks. We bagged the very first rank of the University followed by third, fourth and sixth ranks. These rank holders are enjoying a very good position in life, I understand ...

I was a strict disciplinarian too... But my students of the first batch at the time of their farewell acknowledged to me that my style should be continued for the future batches coming as they have benefited a lot out of it.

You all know every day is preceded by night only. The year 2000 was a big trial period for me on the campus. To add fuel to the fire I lost my beloved mother also in the early 2000. So naturally from the same year there was a slight reduction in my overall vigour and enthusiasm. I became closer to God which made me a regular church goer..

Still there was no shift in my style till the year 2007. My interaction with the 2007 passed out batch was a really an eye-opener to me. I became more casual in my approach with the students after that batch. Our Cine Artist Asif Ali was a student of the same batch. His acknowledgement towards me in Malayala Manorama daily on Teacher's day of 2014, I believe was much more than any official awards.. For the first time in life I felt I was a successful teacher.

My elder son Jude joined a seminary for his priestly studies in 2011. His exit created a big vacuum in my life initially. But God really strengthened me through nice promptings in my heart. I got the realization from the Almighty that though he had separated my son from me for his service temporarily he had left with me so many children as my students. There was a sea change in my whole outlook of life... I started viewing every student especially the boys in the place of my son.

Moreover with Fr James Kozhimala's coming to the campus took me to a different plane. I became an effective preacher under the guidance of Fr James on and off the Campus. I started lending my ears to students who were undergoing emotional stress. So during the last few years in Marian God has used me as an effective preacher and counselor.

While turning the pages back, I realized how a few students got hurt because of my strict disciplinarian attitude. But what was amazing was that the majority of the students with whom I had been strict apparently, later acknowledged to me that they have benefited a lot. I now understand that the so-called 'uzhappans' uphold a lot more sense of gratitude than the so called 'padippists'...

Before winding up, I would like to state that though I did not excel high career wise in Marian, I had undergone the transformation in to comparatively better human being. I could not attain a Doctorate or such credentials in my career, but I have the treasure of the love and affection of many of my past students, at least a few who regard me next to their parents. I have also my loving colleagues Mr Joshy, Ms Melby and Mr Arun. Here Ms Melby was the student of my fourth batch who still extends me a helping hand any time.

Yes... that is just wonderful...





MCom 2001 - 2004



BBA 2001 - 2004



The Official Newsletter of
Marian Alumni Association Kuttikkanam



Cover Photo by: MCA Alumni Batch of
2001 - 2003

Onam celebrations in college are always special. Wearing traditional clothes and participating in various cultural activities, the procession, games is fresh in our memories. In this edition's cover page you'll find the 1st batch MCA. Year 2001 was a milestone for Marian as it introduced Post Graduate programmes to the campus.



Share the news!

#peoplemustknow

We love to hear from our alumni and share their stories in MAAK BOOK. This newsletter is just a glimpse of the amazing things you 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

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