



FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE  
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

# Rector's Update

*The latest news and announcements from Dr. Jonathan Addleton*

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## Dear Fellow Formanite,

This may turn out to be the longest *Rector's Update* on record – our campus has been as busy as it has ever been since my arrival in Lahore two years ago, with a wonderful mix of visitors, activities, and special events! It was a special pleasure to welcome former Rector Dr. James Tebbe back to campus for several days earlier this month, his first such visit since departing Pakistan in November 2020. His packed schedule included meetings, dinners, and informal get-to-gathers with faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends, all recalling his wonderful times at FCCU and his many contributions to shaping Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) into what it is today.

Among the many events that coincided with Dr. Tebbe's visit was a "Gala" to mark progress on the TSA/FCCU partnership that by Fall 2023 should result in the renovation of a historic building not far from the Forman campus, transforming it into a hostel accommodating at least 80 female undergraduate students. As most readers know, our hostel space is in high demand and we cannot provide housing for every student who requests it. However, the completion of this new space should help. Already, 16 female hostel students are staying in a nearby building, providing a peaceful and congenial place to live while studying for their advanced degrees.

The TSA complex also includes a vibrant Special Needs School as well as a women's handicraft training project; plans are underway to develop a community counseling center there as well. Collectively, this initiative should eventually provide internship and/or volunteer opportunities for Forman students, especially those students with an interest in education, design, marketing, and psychology. Let me also once again thank Dr. Matthew and his wife Sue for their leadership role in this program.

Dr. Sikandar Hayat's latest book, an edited volume geared toward undergraduates completing their mandatory Pakistan Studies courses, includes several chapters written by various members of the Forman faculty. Published by Sang-e-Meel, it will be available in bookstores soon. Remarkably, Dr. Sikandar has requested that all royalties for this textbook be directed toward FCCU's needs-based scholarship program, a generous and much-appreciated gesture of support.

Also, congratulations to Dr. Shahid Rashid who teaches in Forman's Sociology Department on his forthcoming book *Muslim Attitudes Toward Political Modernity*, published by the Institute of Islamic Culture in Lahore. In addition, Dr. Naila Sahar, currently at Buffalo State University in New York on a Fellowship funded by the American Association of University Women (AAUW), has just published an interesting article titled "Muslim Women's Activism in the USA" in *Religion*, a prestigious journal exploring various aspects of religion in its many forms. Among other things, the article looks at the challenges faced by three female Muslim activists in the United States, Amina Wadud, Linda Sarsour, and Asra Nomani.

Dr. Waseem Anwar, a former English professor at Forman and now head of Kinnaird College's International Center for Pakistani Writing in English, recently arranged an official launch of his latest book at Quaid-i-Azam Library in Lahore's Jinnah Bagh. The edited collection of essays is titled *Transcultural Humanities in South Asia: Critical Essays on Literature* and was published by Routledge. FCCU MPhil graduate Nosheen Yousuf who now teaches at Government College in Faisalabad co-edited the volume. As it happens, the genesis for this book was a three-day international conference hosted by Forman in 2017 which was in turn inspired by a then-new course on the same subject that has since become the widely popular "face" of our MPhil English program.

Let me also give a shout-out to Dr. Ayesha Anwar who recently successfully defended her dissertation from Government College University in Faisalabad on *Economics of Crime and Punishment: An Aggregated and Disaggregated Analysis*. An Assistant Professor in Forman's Economics Department for the last ten years, Ayesha also serves as Guardian at Forman's largest female hostel, Hope Tower.

Meanwhile, Forman's Center for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG) headed by Dr. Saeed Shafqat continues to bring interesting and informative speakers to campus. This month, that included an invitation to Christophe Jaffrelot from France to speak on his latest book *Modi's India: The Rise of Hindu Nationalism and Ethnic Democracy* (Princeton University Press, 2021). Also, Andrew Schofer, Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy in Islamabad, recently led a roundtable discussion at CPPG on *Climate Change and its Relation to Social and Gender Equality*.

Based on contacts from the ten years I spent as a student at Murree Christian School all those decades ago, I received three visitors with strong Scottish connections whose parents worked in Punjab during the 1960s and 1970s: Graham Duncan, Ian Anderson, and David Chirside. Graham, a graduate of St. Andrew's University in Scotland, went on to have a stellar career in the British Civil Service. Recently retired, he drew on that experience to deliver two lectures at CPPG, one in-person and the other online, reflecting on his own years as a public servant.

Once again, Forman's Media Center partnered with Oslo Metropolitan University, this time to host a three-day workshop on climate journalism. Participants included working journalists from around Pakistan. In the days that followed this event, Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan traveled to Oslo to further strengthen our partnership with OsloMet while Assistant Professor Syed Saqib traveled to Cairo to represent Pakistan at a conference organized by the Media Climate Network and held at the American University in Cairo, in this case, focused on finding hope amidst global fears over climate change. This was also the last media-related event at Forman in which Associate Professor Rachel Hassan played a key role – Forman is grateful for her many contributions; by now she will be on Prince Edward Island in Canada, having received all the necessary approvals to migrate there.

Forman's Second International English Conference sponsored by Forman's English Department received a \$2,000 grant from the US Education Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP) in support of its efforts. The hugely successful event involved a mix of both online and in-person presentations. One of the Chief Guests and speakers -- Dr. Amrit Singh, Langston Hughes Professor Emeritus of English and African American Studies at Ohio University in the US -- was later invited to give talks on other topics, both at Forman and at various other institutions in Lahore. He later led a group on a visit to the historic Sikh Gurdwara at Kartarpur; Dr. Iftikhar Malik (Oxford) and former Forman professor Dr. Waseem Anwar (Kinnaird) joined in the visit, along with several members of the Forman community including a member of faculty Dr. Nukhbah Langha and Forman student Parkash Singh.

Meanwhile, U-Grad alumnus Jawad Dastgir was awarded a Community Development grant, also from USEFP (with added support from USAID and IREX), providing him with an opportunity to organize a well-attended on-campus seminar on *Domestic Violence and the Importance of Consent*.

Forman's Education Department organized a two-day conference on *Lessons and Legacies of the Pandemic in Education: The Future of Research Trends, Pedagogical Approaches, and Leadership Challenges*. Professor Dr. Shahid Munir, Chairman of the Punjab Higher Education Commission, attended the opening session as Chief Guest; Dr. Sajid Ali from Aga Khan University provided the keynote address; and Dr. Frances Schoonmaker from Columbia University joined on the final day via Zoom to discuss the implications of Covid-19 on educational curriculums, leadership, and policy in the Post Covid era. A group of 35 leaders and teachers from various schools in Pakistan also attended.

Forman's Sociology Department has also been busy as it prepares for the Fourth Conference on *Marginalized Populations*, scheduled to take place in early December. This year's event will cover several areas of interest including religious minorities, urban impoverished groups, informal workers, vulnerable women, and third-gender communities. Joining Forman's Sociological Society, the Department also hosted a talk on Career Opportunities for Sociology Students: A Talk with Mohin Muslim, a Gallup Consulting Fellow, IVLP Fellow, and prominent marketing researcher who has worked in Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, and Kuwait.

Meanwhile, Forman's Population Research Center (PRC) joined with the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), World Health Organization (WHO), Population Council, National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS), and National Committee on Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health (NCMNH) to analyze, discuss and issue a report on Pakistan's most recent Maternal Mortality Survey (2019), designed to identify the major determinants of maternal mortality in Pakistan. In addition, PRC is launching a two-day workshop on *Data Types and Analysis* facilitated by Ch. Sjaïd Rasul (Director General, Bureau of Statistics, Government of Punjab) and Isaac Shahzad (Assistant Director, Survey Design and Research Division, Bureau of Statistics, Government of Punjab).





Earlier this month Forman's Department of Environmental Sciences organized a public seminar on a timely topic for this time of year: *Air Pollution and Smog*. Separately, it also hosted a World Wildlife Fund (WWF) event titled *Community Water Stewardship: Replenishing Groundwater Resources in Lahore and Multan*, discussing the importance of water conservation. As was mentioned in a previous edition of the *Rector's Update*, WWF has also constructed a groundwater recharge well on the Forman campus on an experimental basis.

More details will be provided in the December 2022 *Rector's Update* – but we also welcomed a six-person Korean team to the Forman campus from Dankook University in Seoul, marking the launch of a new, \$1.2 million initiative funded by the Korean aid program that will focus on the use of technology to deliver clean water to villages in Punjab. In addition to the visiting delegation from Korea, the Korean Ambassador to Pakistan also participated in the event.

Further related to the environment, Dr. Uzma Hanif attended a World Bank workshop focused on strengthening the capacity of academic institutions to address environmental concerns within the context of the World Bank's social framework comprising ten environmental and social standards related to health and safety, in turn sharing her perspective with other members of the Forman community on her return.

Dr. Samina Mehnaz, Professor and Chairperson of Forman's Kauser Abdulla Malik School of Life Sciences, has just been appointed Vice President for the Regional (Pakistan) Office of the Asian Federation of Biotechnology (AFOB), Pakistan having just joined the organization on October 1, 2022.

In case some readers of this monthly *Rector's Update* have not seen them, I might mention that various College and University departments regularly issue very informative Departmental Newsletters which are in turn typically circulated still further via the *Daily Buzz*. I always read these newsletters with interest, learning a lot from them.

As Dr. Sikandar wrote recently, referring to a specific departmental newsletter produced in the College but illustrative of many other such newsletters being issued on a regular basis across FCCU, "*Heartiest congratulations on this inspiring Newsletter depicting the achievements of the College's Department of History and Pakistan Studies under the able leadership of Dr. Suneel, the Vice Rector, and the guidance of Dr. Saleem Masih, the Head. Well done! I feel so proud of your achievements and the resultant growth and development of both the department and the disciplines of History and Pakistan Studies. You have come a long way. I am sure there are 'Miles to go before I sleep!'*"

A number of Forman graduates have received Fulbright Fellowships to study in the United States; others have been awarded Erasmus Fellowships to study in Europe; however, Forman graduate Aleezay Anjum Ahmed recently made history by receiving *both* a Fulbright *and* an Erasmus Fellowship, in the end making the difficult decision to choose the latter for her two-year post-graduate studies at the Master's level focused on sustainable biomass development that will include research opportunities in Poland, Spain, and Finland.

Aleeza majored in Chemistry and minored in Mathematics at Forman. A two-time Gold Medalist at FCCU for having the highest GPA in Chemistry as well as the Faculty of Sciences, she also received an offer of a full scholarship from the University of Massachusetts to study for her PhD in Chemistry there.

Congratulations to two Forman students who recently received certificates for their exceptional performance at the All Pakistan Music Conference in Lahore, specifically organized to promote classical music in Pakistan: Samuel Fiaz was awarded a second place certificate in the solo *tabla* while Suleman Gilbert Bhatti finished third. I have always been impressed with the high quality of those who play the *tabla* at Forman and these results confirm that this is another area in which Forman students excel!

Congratulations also to four students from Forman's Computer Science Department for bringing the prestigious P@SHA ICT Award home to Forman for the first time. Competing against 90 other short-listed projects, four Forman students – Hassan Shakoor Rana, Ahmed Yasser, and Rifa Salman -- turned a thesis conducted by Sharoon Nasim into an android mobile application called "*Sunno*" to help English and Urdu speakers communicate with deaf people. Already, the development of this application has received a number of other awards including a Runner-Up Award at a similar competition hosted by the National University for Science and Technology (NUST) in Islamabad and a Best Project Award at Forman's own Computer Science Senior Project Exhibition in Lahore.

Forman's 10-person Swim Team participated in the Lahore Inter-Collegiate Swimming Championship 2022-2023, joining six other teams in the Punjab International Swimming Pool. Forman placed third in the competition, securing third-place positions in two relays (4x100-meter freestyle and 4x100-meter medley) and one individual race (50-meter freestyle).

Dr. Gloria Calib continues to play a leadership role in Forman's ongoing quest for accreditation by the New England Commission on Higher Education (NECHE). Most recently, that included a Zoom call involving many members of the Forman community with a senior NECHE administrator who reviewed the first draft of our 100-page self-study assessing our progress in addressing advancing nine different NECHE standards. In December Vice Rector Dr. Douglas Trimble will attend the annual NECHE conference, with a view toward further strengthening Forman's case for membership.

Dr. Farzand Masih, wearing two hats as both Chair of Forman's History Department and Head of Forman's Church Relations Office, continues to look for opportunities to strengthen our connections to Pakistan's Christian community. Most recently, that included a meeting with the Heads of the Lahore Diocese Board of Education and the Catholic Education Board, with a view toward providing further information about FCCU – including our financial aid programs -- to the many students from these institutions graduating each year. At least eighteen principals of schools operated by these organizations also attended as part of our ongoing effort to increase applications, in this case from the many faith-based schools operating in Lahore.

Looking ahead, Forman in early December will host an expo on theological education in Pakistan as part of an ongoing outreach effort conducted by Pakistan's Theological Educators' Forum in partnership with the Lahore-based Open Theological Seminar (OTS), headed by FCCU's Board Chairman Dr. Qaiser Julius. Over 30 institutions working in areas related to theological education are expected to attend, providing another opportunity to connect FCCU (including FCCU's own Department of Religious Studies) with these other programs in Pakistan.



Many readers of this *Rector's Update* will also have recently received a three-page information sheet providing an update on various Forman initiatives related to flood relief. Taking into account support provided through a number of different mechanisms – including funds raised *collectively* by Forman and our US-based support group Friends of Forman as well as *individually* by various members of our Forman community – the total value of these contributions is now approaching \$50,000.

Against this backdrop, let me also mention that Forman's Population Research Center (PRC) is sponsoring a Research Essay competition under the title *The 2022 Floods in Pakistan: Ensuing Challenges and Possible Solutions*. Interested undergraduates have been invited to submit 1,500-word essays covering such topics as internal displacement, water security and food security, public health issues, economic challenges, and risk reduction. The winners of the top three essays will be announced later.



Also related to recent flooding, Wasif Khan from Forman's Business School was interviewed by the alumni magazine published by the Yale School of Management where he previously attended. To my mind, this interview ranks among the single best articles produced on both the short and long-term impacts of the catastrophic floods experienced by Pakistan thus far.

Some readers will recall that I visited Northern Ireland last summer and met several people with Forman connections including former Philosophy Professor Sean Moran who took public transportation all the way from southern Ireland to connect, warmly welcoming this opportunity to talk about Forman and how much it meant to him. Sadly, Sean passed away on the evening of October 15 after a short illness in which he displayed the same grace that also inspired his classroom teaching. At this point, I am working with several others to endow a Medal in Sean's memory that would be given to an exceptional Philosophy student at Commencement every year. If any faculty, staff, or former students wish to be involved in this effort, please let me know.

Next month's *Rector's Update* will no doubt feature the Commencement, Family Reception, and Party for the Class of 2022. However, in advance of those events, we hosted the Class of 2020 (with a Family Reception and Party) and the Class of 2021 (with a Party), both classes having missed out on these events due to the global Covid-19 Pandemic. It was wonderful to welcome members of both these classes back to campus for these long-promised (and long-awaited) celebrations. With respect to both class parties, I specifically requested the DJ to play the song classic *Kya Hua, Tera Vada* ("What Happened to Your Promises?"), in recognition of the fact that this was one long-standing promise that has finally been fulfilled!

From time to time, we receive queries not only from Forman graduates but also from the children, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren of "Old Formanites" who wish to visit our beautiful campus. One such request recently came via Tariq Rehman who mentioned that he had friends visiting from Indian Punjab by way of California whose grandfather had attended Forman back in 1939. Of course, we are always happy to arrange campus visits when we receive such requests.



*Finally, here is an interesting factoid for November:* While at times concerned about disruptions caused by international cricket matches held periodically at nearby Gaddafi Stadium, I only recently became aware of one of the more “positive” aspects of these widely viewed spectacles, namely that the part of the stadium closest to Forman is routinely referred to as “the FCCU end”. Put another way, every time a cricket match takes place at Gaddafi Stadium, the television and radio commentators bring FCCU to the attention of a wide international audience that at times numbers in the millions. Given this information, I will now cheer the Pakistan national cricket team with renewed vigor whenever they play an international match at Gaddafi Stadium – and especially when the Pakistan National cricket team hits towering sixes in our direction, toward the FCCU end of the stadium!



**Dr. Jonathan Addleton**  
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