



**FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE**  
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

# Rector's Update

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

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April concluded with several visitors and two wonderful events which Chief of Staff Eileen Dass played a key role in organizing, ably assisted by a wonderful team from across the Forman community.

First, former Rector Dr. Jim Tebbe returned to campus with his brother Bob and nephew Matthew to participate in the dedication of Forman's Jim Tebbe Campus Centre, an impressive state-of-the-art facility expected to officially open this fall. This new building should be transformational and is designed to serve as the center of student life, providing university students with a digital library, conference rooms, coffee shops, multiple lounges, student affairs offices, auditoriums, and, eventually, a Business Incubation Lab.

Second, former Dean for Student Affairs Cheryl Burke returned to campus to participate in the renaming of Hope Tower, our main hostel for female students, as Cheryl Burke Hope Tower in recognition of the deep imprint that Cheryl made on several generations of FCCU students.

**JIM TEBBE  
CAMPUS CENTRE**



**CHERYL BURKE  
HOPE TOWER**



Friends of Forman Executive Director, Roger Dermody and long-time Forman supporters Steve and Rose Shabet also attended, adding immensely to the occasion and making it even more special. Truly, we are grateful, amazed, and blessed by the support that Forman receives from friends around the world as well as by the long line of people who have worked at Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) to make it what it is today.

As it happens, the simple task of meeting our international visitors on their arrival at Allama Iqbal Airport in Lahore resulted in no less than three encounters involving Forman students or alumni: first, one of the immigration staff stamping passports was a Forman graduate; second, while waiting for our visitors to emerge from Arrivals, a current Forman student kindly introduced herself to me, mentioning that she was waiting for her sister returning from *Umra*; and, third, as we departed in our FCCU vehicle, a recent Forman graduate welcomed our visitors to Lahore, adding that his family had the contract for managing parking arrangements at the airport.

As readers of the *Rector's Update* are well aware, I welcome opportunities to highlight various accomplishments involving both current students and Forman graduates, even while realizing that I can barely scratch the surface in terms of the names mentioned as well as the breadth of achievements associated with them.

However, I did want to share this word of appreciation from Forman graduate Khawaja Ahmad Aman who is studying at the University College of Medicine & Dentistry in which he mentions that he will be the first dental surgeon ever produced by his home village:

*"Hailing from one of the most scenic regions of Pakistan (Gilgit/Baltistan), I grew up . . . looking towards the world with a unique lens. At the dawn of*

*the 21st century, I was born in Gilgit city which is known for its diverse culture, eye-catching landscapes, one of the highest mountain peaks, super-cool glaciers, fascinating lakes, and most importantly the hospitality of the indigenous people. I started my educational career in public schools -- by the time I completed my tenth standard, I was keen to join the best of all institutes in Pakistan for my Intermediate. The*

*choice I made was none other than Forman Christian College. Moving to Lahore was an ever-cherishing moment for me. Here in Lahore, I experienced the ever-diverse humor of local people, the rich historical monuments, and most importantly the progressive mindset of the youth. In addition, I was a proactive member of different societies in FC College . . ."*

Highlighting the various paths taken by Forman graduates as well as the fact that our alumni are literally "going places" I was delighted to learn from our Alumni Office that prominent GEO journalist Muhammad Junaid participated in the Boston Marathon on April 17, representing the South Asian Circle of the town of Hopkinton, Massachusetts. From there he flew to England to run in the London Marathon, held only six days later on April 23! Junaid ran his first marathon in Istanbul in 2021. Since then, he has completed more than 50 half-marathons in Pakistan, Albania, the UK, and the US while training with the Seaview Runners Club in Karachi: <https://hopkintonindependent.com/pakistani-journalist-set-to-run-boston-for-sach/>



As the pre-partition generation of Old Formanites passes away, our condolences are extended to the family of Sardar Prakash Singh Badal, a five-time Chief Minister of India's Punjab state. Badal graduated in 1945 but always remembered his ties to Forman. Indeed, after his recent death at the age of 95 several journalists in India recalled his ties to Forman and one called up our Alumni office to request a comment from his alma mater!

Let me also acknowledge long-time postman Muhammad Iqbal Kamboh who recently retired after 42 years of service, 37 of those years having involved Forman. Born in 1963, he joined the Pakistan Post in 1981 at the age of eighteen; six years later he was assigned to FCCU/Garden Town, serving as "our" Postman ever since. He officially retired on the Wednesday before Eid which this year fell on a Friday. However, in a gesture that reflects his generous personality as well as his enduring commitment to service, he voluntarily spent Thursday on the job, delivering cards, packages, and other mail so that his customers would not have to wait until after Eid to receive their mail!

In other news, Formanite Syed Nawaz Shah reports that he has been awarded an Erasmus Fellowship, one of the most prestigious scholarships provided by the European Union for graduate studies in Europe. Also, undergraduate Eisha Mehtab, an undergraduate majoring in Psychology and English, just received word that she has been awarded an Erasmus Fellowship for further studies in Europe as well.

Another Forman student, Muhammad Lutf-Ullah Khan who is completing a minor in Sociology and has a certificate in Demography & Population Studies from Forman's Population Research Center (PRC), was selected for a highly competitive research internship at the Centre for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP).

Also, congratulations to Forman's YourGuide start-up team which competed earlier this year in the final round of the National Ideas Bank country-wide competition, receiving the Innovation Award for the Services Sector from the Honorable Arif Alvi, President of Pakistan. The event was held at the Sir Syed University of Engineering and Technology in Karachi and the Forman team included Sakhawat Ali (Founder), Raahim Asad Shah (Founding Partner), Amna Tahir (Business Development), and Zahra Afsar (Marketing).

More than 5,000 applications were received before the competition, with YourGuide distinguishing itself as a peer-to-peer marketplace for promoting authentic and sustainable travel experiences aimed at helping rural and community based tourism operators succeed at a local level. Forman's Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC) helped sponsor and support the team.



Dr. Samina Mehnaz, Professor and Chairperson of Forman's Kausar Abdulla Malik School of Life Sciences reports on several interesting events, starting with her attendance at an *Iftar* dinner hosted by the German Embassy to meet Germany's senior representative for Pakistan on his first visit to this country. Five women including Dr. Samina were invited to speak on education issues, resulting in a two-hour discussion in which Forman's contribution to both Pakistan and minorities in Pakistan was highlighted.



Also, both Dr. Kausar Abdulla Malik and Dr. Samina Mehnaz were invited as guest speakers to a seminar titled *Challenges, Opportunities, and Trends in Biotechnology in Pakistan*, organized by Pakistan's Environmental Protection Agency. Dr. Kausar talked about the *Status of Agricultural Biotechnology in Pakistan* while Dr. Samina focused on *Microbes for Climate Resilient Agriculture*. As it happens, Islamabad experienced a small earthquake shortly before the seminar started -- dare I speculate, to possibly mark Dr. Samina's singular role as the only female speaker at this event involving scientists from across Pakistan.

In addition, Dr. Matthew Jeong is providing Psychological First Aid to 20 trainers-of-trainers and up to 80 additional participants at Bahria University in Islamabad. As some

readers may know, Dr. Matthew and his wife Sue both have qualifications in this area from South Korea and have reached out on repeated occasions to those whose lives have been radically affected by violence and terrorism. I, too, appreciate the fact that members of the FCCU community are committed to reaching out to others in this fashion.

While faculty on occasion take their classes on field trips, I was intrigued to hear about a recent hands-on visit to the sericulture facilities at Changa Manga south of Lahore, one of seven such sericulture centers in Pakistan. The trip was arranged by course instructor Dr. Seemal Jelani for MPhil students in Chemistry. While sericulture techniques used for silk production once thrived in Punjab, the sector is now moribund -- though there is hope that it might yet be revived as a way to improve economic prospects in rural Pakistan.

Thanks to the Chemistry Department chaired by Dr. Mariya al Rashida for arranging a Chemistry Lab Safety Workshop earlier this year to highlight all-important lab safety and security concerns. Dr. Shazma Massey Azeem, Dr. Christy Munir, Dr. Hira Khalid, and Dr. Dildar spoke, followed by hands-on training provided by retired Major Kanwal Arune Isaacs. The program was implemented in partnership with the Pakistan chapter of the American Chemical Society (ACS).

Congratulations, too, to Qurrat-ul-aen Liaqat from Forman's English Department for her remarkable online paper titled "The Notion of the 'Subaltern' and Drone Victim Subjectivities in Pakistani Anglophone Fiction" recently



**FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE**  
A Division of Forman University

**Chemistry Lab Safety Workshop - March 13, 2023**  
from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM in 5009

Organized by the Department of Chemistry, FCCU  
in collaboration with

American Chemical Society (ACS - Pakistan Chapter)



**Organizing Committee**

Chairperson: Dr. Mariya al-Rashida  
 Coordinators: Dr. Dildar Ahmed & Dr. Shazma Azeem  
 Members: Dr. Muhammad Abbas  
           Dr. Hira Khalid  
           Dr. Hina Abid  
 Speakers: Dr. Shazma Azeem  
           Dr. Christy Munir  
           Dr. Hira Khalid  
           Dr. Dildar Ahmed  
 Fire Extinguisher Demonstration  
           Maj (Retd.) Kanwal A. Isaacs

**Registration**

For registration please contact Mr. Anmol Victor (anmolvictor@fccollege.edu.pk)  
 Registration deadline is March 11, 2023  
 Certificate of Participation will be provided

*"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."*



**Safety in the Science Lab**







published in the well-known journal *Interventions* (Taylor & Francis) and available at this link: <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369801X.2023.2190906>

In College news, let me offer a special shoutout to faculty member Shahida Dilwar Shah for her sixteenth book, an Urdu-language novel titled *Life is an Anguished Text* ( زندگی ایک ناراض متن ), now available in bookstores.

Also, the college Social Sciences Club organized a prize distribution on March 30, recognizing the many activities organized by this student society throughout the academic year including quizzes, poster competitions, and a special observance to mark International Peace Day. Dr. Lubna Amir, attending as Chief Guest, distributed shields and certificates among several deserving students.

Unusually, Easter and Eid-ul-Fitr this year occurred in close proximity to each other, providing important opportunities for reflection and renewal. Also, members of the Forman community hosted a number of *Iftar* dinners throughout the month of Ramadan including one arranged by Forman's Advancement and Alumni Office on March 30 to

promote Zakat giving toward scholarships for needy students. Vice-Rector Dr. Douglas Trimble and Dr. A.S. Chughtai, CEO of Chughtai Lab and a Forman graduate, were among the guests, passing out certificates of appreciation to those contributing to this year's successful Zakat campaign. Thanks also to Badia Raza, Adeel Riaz, and other members of their marketing, advancement, and alumni teams for making this wonderful event possible.

Finally, a special reminder from Chief Librarian Farrukh Shahzad for those readers of the *Rector's Update* who want to do a "deep dive" into Forman history: many interesting items related to Forman's past including old issues of *Folio* magazine, Forman's long-time literary magazine; historic copies of *Nur-i-Afshan*, a pre-partition inter-faith magazine; and approximately 500 historic photographs are readily available at this link, all very suitable for on-line browsing during the upcoming hot summer months in Lahore: <https://fccdigitalarchives.contentdm.oclc.org/>



DR. JONATHAN ADDLETON  
RECTOR