



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,

Let me start this month's *Rector's Update* with a big thank you to every member of the Forman community for an amazing holiday season that included a memorable Christmas and New Year and a lot of wonderful days in between!

The beautiful light arrangements placed across our campus by Buildings & Works featuring trees and angels set the tone early on, while the entire month of December was filled with a series of remarkable office parties, department celebrations, special programs, and carol singing. Fiona and I much appreciated everything about our first post-Covid 19 holiday celebrations here at Forman and we will never forget it.

Amidst the celebrations marking this season of peace, joy, and love, members of the Forman community reached out to others in a number of ways. For example, Forman's Rotaract Club connected in an especially meaningful way with Forman's Light of Hope School, raising funds for a "Secret Santa" initiative that ensured that each student went home on the last day of term with a Christmas present.

Also, Aneel Munir Kokhar from Forman's Food Services Department forged a link with the NGO Magis Pakistan to provide groceries, bedding and other supplies to flood victims in Nowshera District (KPK), with a particular focus on single parents. Forman's own Flood Relief Fund which a number of members of the Forman community have contributed to also helped support this effort.

Earlier, Aneel had participated in similar hands-on flood relief efforts in southern Punjab. Also, at different times Forman's Rotaract Club, Islamic Society and the Ewing English Society have assisted flood-affected areas in various ways, with the English Society recently collecting more than 1,500 books to help replenish libraries destroyed or damaged by the flooding.

As part of its renewed effort to encourage high school graduates to consider attending Forman, the FCCU Admissions Office headed by Suleman Khairullah organized a "Lunch & Learn" session for career counselors and program coordinators from a number of leading schools offering A Levels and International Baccalaureate (IB) programs. Educational institutions represented included Aitchison College, Beaconhouse, City Schools, Lahore Grammar School, Pak-Turk Maarif International Schools, Roots Millennium Schools and the International School of Choueifat. As part of the program, several students currently enrolled at Forman including Arooba Saif and Zaman Faraz Karamat also shared details of their Forman experience.

Several programs related to the environment took place on the Forman campus during the last four weeks involving students, faculty, and staff including a "Clean Lahore" and "Clean Campus" event involving the Deputy Commissioner of Lahore and a second international conference on "Climate Journalism Education" sponsored by our Department of Communications.

Also, a student-led initiative titled "Green Approach," was organized under the guidance of Dr. Seemal Jilani who teaches one of Forman's first-year UNIV-100 courses. The program was designed "to highlight sustainable solutions to the growing problem of environmental decay and man-made pollution". Adding to the impact, the class partnered with the Punjab Department of Forestry and the Pakistan Society for Rehabilitation for Differently-Abled (PSRD) as part of its outreach efforts.

Meanwhile, a student group from Forman's Computer Science Department which won a PASHA award in November participated in the Asia Pacific ICT Alliance Award competition (APICTA 2022) involving 160 projects from 16 countries in the Asia/Pacific region. The APICTA 2022 competition -- which took place in December -- was hosted in Pakistan for the first time, providing an opportunity for the Forman group to receive another Gold Award for their "Sunno" application, winning praise after a well-organized 10-minute pitch for its "uniqueness, quality, responsive to need, business perspective and growing modeling".

Dr. Nazish Shahid, Associate Professor in Mathematics, forwarded to me links to two of her recent education-related publications, one focused on digital learning and the other on information technology:

<https://doi.org/10.1080/10494820.2022.2061011>

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s44217-022-00020-z>

Also, Maryyam Khan from Forman's School of Management spent part of her holidays in India where she served as a panelist for a UNESCAP (UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) program on policy dialogue, e-commerce, and digital marketing within the context of female-led small and medium-size enterprises. Maryyam, the only participant from Pakistan, was also officially given the Priyadarshini Award for her leadership and contributions in this important area.

The third issue of the *Forman Journal of Social Sciences* was published in December and included seven articles from various disciplines including psychology, political science, sociology, public health, gender studies, and international relations. Topics covered ranged from internet addiction to the challenges faced by female domestic workers; other areas of interest include the quality of life of TB patients; inclusive education for special needs children; the impact of globalization on gender roles; trade relations between Iran and Pakistan; and defense cooperation between China and Pakistan.

Let me especially thank Dr. Sikandar Hayat (Editor-in-Chief), Dr. Sara Rizvi Jafree (Editor), and Dr. Muhammad Younis (Managing Editor) for their leadership in making the Forman Journal of Social Sciences possible; an open access link to this latest edition (as well as previous issues) is available here:

<https://www.fccollege.edu.pk/forman-journal-of-social-sciences/>



On occasion I receive notes of appreciation from Forman students, written to thank our donors for making their needs-based scholarships to attend Forman possible. This month I unexpectedly received two such notes including one that read as follows: *"I am very thankful to you, FCCU donors and financial aid staff who enabled a son of class four salaried parents to study (at Forman) . . . FCCU has students who belong to different social classes and backgrounds. And this is the beauty of FCCU"*. In a similar vein, another student stated that *"I was not even able to pay my fee"* while also suggesting that the opportunity for her to attend Forman was a *"miracle"*.

In another example of Forman student success, I am happy to report that Forman graduate Bilal Masih recently wrote to his former professor Dr. Ashar Ghulam, informing him that he had been awarded an Erasmus Fellowship to study for his Master's Degree in Applied Mathematics in Europe. The message was written from Italy and the note went on to say that he would be spending his second semester in Hamburg, Germany before returning to Italy to write his thesis and finish the second year of his program on *"Mathematical Modeling and Optimization"*.

Bilal concluded his note to Dr. Ashar with the kind of praise that I would like to think captures the views of many of our graduating students, recalling with gratitude and appreciation the dedication of particular faculty members who made a big impact during their years at Forman:

I want to thank you for always being an inspiration to me and for guiding me to achieve my future goals. I still remember my first course with you and it just seems like yesterday. The courses (Calculus II, Real Analysis, and PDEs) taught by you are extremely helpful in my Master's degree. I am currently taking advanced analysis and applied PDEs but luckily I am not facing any difficulty studying these courses since I already have sufficient background.

I consider myself fortunate enough to have you as my teacher and you are one of the best teachers I have ever studied from. I appreciate your efforts for me because you didn't just teach-- but you prepared me for the road ahead. Thanks again for everything.

On that gratifying note, let me wish every member of the Forman community including students, faculty, staff and alumni every blessing, both now and throughout 2023!



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