



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,

T.S. Eliot once wrote that "April is the cruelest month", and that certainly seems to be the case when reflecting on the recent death of Professor Kamal ud-Din, head of Forman's English Department and an inspiration to all those privileged to study under him. Professor Kamal taught at Forman for several decades, despite losing his sight as a teenager due to meningitis. Several years ago Professor Kamal commented in a Fulbright essay that he led a "very fulfilling life," adding that "I have a loving and supportive family and I look forward to going home and playing with my grandchildren every day". Even now, it is hard to put into words just what Professor Kamal meant for Forman and how heartbroken the Forman family is at his passing.

While visiting the United States, I also became aware of the recent passing of another academic legend with Forman connections, that of Professor Charlie Ratliff at Davidson College in Davidson, North Carolina. Professor Ratliff is described as "one of the long-tenured members of the Davidson faculty, teaching economics from 1947 until his retirement in 1992". Like Forman, Davidson was founded by the Presbyterian church in the 1800s. As for Professor Ratliff, I discovered that he taught at Forman for four years during the 1960s -- and that it was this experience in Pakistan that became the catalyst for his deep interest in development, "further extending the impact of his life of leadership and service". An active member of the Davidson United Methodist Church, Professor Ratliff contributed to a wide range of organizations with international connections ranging from Habitat for Humanity to Bread for the World. The Ratliff Endowment Fund at Davidson Methodist Church also regularly makes an annual contribution to Forman and its work in Pakistan.

Over the years many Forman faculty and students have participated in a variety of Fulbright programs including Professor Kamal who credits his time as a Fulbrighter in the United States as teaching him important lessons in living independently, despite his blindness.

Continuing with the Fulbright theme, Adeel Riaz who heads the Forman Advancement Office and participated in the Fulbright undergraduate program in 2006 was recently asked to join the Fulbright Alumni Network's Central Punjab Executive Council, along with four other Fulbrighters with Forman connections including two who participated in the Forman Master's program in public policy: Fouad Bajwa, co-founder of Agriculture Republic, Pakistan's first and largest agricultural policy and digital innovation network; Mary James Gill, human rights lawyer, former member of the Punjab Provincial Assembly and co-author of "Shame and Stigma in Sanitation"; Fahad Kazmi, Assistant Professor at Punjab University; and Anam Shahzad who now works in Forman's Business Department.

Let me also congratulate Maryyam Khan, Assistant Professor in the School of Management on her recent appointment as the Vice President of the South Asian Women's Development Forum (SAWDF), a member-based regional body advocating for female entrepreneurship across the region. She also continues to serve as President of the Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Bahawalpur.



Congratulations are also in order for Team Forman Christian College A, consisting of Muhammad Dawood Khan, Ayesha Ali and Fasahat Chohan who won the open finals of the 25th Government College University International Parliamentary Debating Championship 2021. Also, Muhammad Dawood Khan, president of Forman's Debating Society, was declared "Best Speaker" of the tournament in the Urdu category. Ayesha Ali and Fasahat Chohna were declared second and third best speakers in that category as well!

Despite the continued pandemic, the internet has provided important opportunities to connect Forman with other individuals and institutions in a variety of ways. One recent example is the webinar on the "Relationship between Sufism and Eastern Christianity," sponsored by Forman's Religious Studies Department and led by the Honorable Michael Nazir-Ali, 106th Bishop of Rochester. Also, Dr. Kausar Abdulla Malik, Dean of Graduate Studies, organized a successful webinar focused on the launch of his recent book "Current Status of Agricultural Biotechnology in Pakistan" and involving senior officials including Punjab's Minister for Agriculture.

The Forman faculty continues to achieve success in publishing both books and academic articles, as reflected in the publication of "Muslim Separatism and the Achievement of the Separate State of Pakistan" by Sikandar Hayat, Distinguished Professor of History and Public Policy and Dean of Forman's Faculty of Social Sciences. As with Dr. Hayat's illuminating book on Quaid-i-Azam Jinnah as a charismatic leader, this volume is published by Oxford University Press.



I realize that the books and articles that I occasionally mention in these monthly Updates only scratch the surface in terms of faculty publications. For example, reading through the recent Department of Education newsletter I noticed a wide range of articles published by Department Chair Ashar J. Khokhar and others in a variety of online and print version journals including the "International Journal of Educational Science," "Journal of Elementary Education," "Frontiers in Psychology," "Journal of Research in Special Educational Needs" and "Pakistan Journal of Women's Studies". A number of Forman departments routinely issue similar newsletters, providing important opportunities to introduce new professors, highlight the achievements of faculty and celebrate the accomplishments of students.

Forman's Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) continues to implement and analyze surveys providing useful data on Forman in all its many aspects. One such survey recently directed questions toward students admitted to Forman who for a variety of reasons elected not to enroll. More than 250 students responded, with 20 percent indicating that they had decided not to attend university at all, perhaps a reflection of the tough challenges faced by many students during the ongoing pandemic. Another 18 percent elected to attend the Lahore School of Economics, followed by Punjab University (9 percent), Lahore University of Management Sciences (8 percent), Kinnaird College (8 percent), University of Southern Punjab (7 percent) and Government College University (7 percent). Important factors when choosing a university include quality of education; job opportunities; reputation; strength of academic program; and quality of faculty.

During my recent trip to the United States, I participated in a number of outreach events on Forman, most conducted via Zoom. I was also interviewed by GlobalAtlanta, providing further opportunities to weave both Forman and Pakistan into the discussion. That in turn led to a request to participate in an evening sponsored by the Atlanta literary group "Bazm-e-Adab", focused on Urdu and involving Americans with prior roots in both Pakistan and India. Indeed, several were graduates from Aligarh University founded by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, a nineteenth century contemporary of Charles W. Forman. As I observed, Aligarh alumni remain dedicated and committed to their university, in the same way that so many Forman graduates remain committed to theirs, no matter where they end up in the world.



Holidays celebrated at Forman since the last Rector's Update include Pakistan Day and Easter, a time of love, sacrifice, hope and renewal. Also, Ramadan Mubarak to members of the Forman community at the outset of this season of empathy, introspection and prayer.

Finally, friends and colleagues have sometimes heard me describe the Forman campus as "one of the largest and most beautiful parks in Lahore". In maintaining that reputation, I am pleased to note that the Forman Plant Operations Department recently marked the arrival of spring by planting 67 flower shrubs, 71 citrus trees, 35 fruit trees and six nut trees. It is sometimes said that one of the best things one generation can do for the next one is to plant trees that will long outlive all of us -- a tradition to which Forman is a proud contributor!

**Dr. Jonathan Addleton**  
*Rector, FCCU*