



FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

Rector's Update

The latest news and announcements from Dr. Jonathan Addleton

In This Issue

Campus Updates

Faculty Publications

Partnerships &
Collaborations

Recent activities



Dear Fellow Formanite,

What a joy to see Forman students return to campus on June 7 to start the final four weeks of this spring semester! In fact, only university students with "even" ID numbers returned on this day while those with "odd" ID numbers continued to receive instruction online. Roles should be reversed on June 21, highlighting the main features of a "blended" system involving both in-person and online instruction. While 2020-2021 will always be remembered as a year dominated by Covid-19, here and elsewhere the Forman family demonstrated strong resilience in many gratifying ways.

Congratulations to Ms. Qurratulaen Liaqat and Dr. Ashar Johnson Khokhar, editors of the Spring 2021 edition of Forman's *Research and Review Club Newsletter*, for their latest effort highlighting more than 30 publications by various faculty members in recent months in publications ranging from the *British Medical Journal* to the *Journal of Religious Studies*, *Food Biochemistry* to the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*.

This may become a recurring feature in subsequent Rector Updates -- but I am pleased to note the launch of the *Forman Journal of Social Sciences*, managed by an editorial team that includes Dr. Sikandar Hayat, Dr. Muhammad Younis, and Dr. Sara Razvi Jafree. The first issue of this peer-reviewed journal which will be published twice annually is anticipated in December, with submissions for the inaugural issue due on August 31, 2021.

Two new books are written by Forman faculty also came to my attention this month: *Islam and Religious Change in Pakistan: Sufis and Ulema in 20th Century South Asia* (Routledge) by Saadia Sumbal, Assistant Professor in the History Department; and *A Leadership Odyssey: Muslim Separatism and the Achievement of the Separate State of Pakistan* (Oxford University Press) by Sikandar Hayat, Dean of Forman's Faculty of Social Science.



Having spent a number of years in various countries either bordering China or in the vicinity of that country, I also read with interest the article by Ayesha Siddique and Saeed Shafqat titled “How Belt and Road (BRI) and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are Reshaping China’s Soft Power” in the Spring 2021 issue of the *Journal of South Asia and Middle Eastern Studies*. Dr. Shafqat is the founding director of Forman’s Centre for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG) and Ayesha Siddique is a Research Associate there.

Forman’s Population Research Center headed by Dr. Mohammad Vaqas was the catalyst for a new Certificate in Demography and Population Studies, available to Forman undergraduates starting this fall. The certificate highlights the interdisciplinary nature of demography and involves contributions from Sociology, Statistics, Economics, and Geography.

Other notable academic developments include a partnership agreement between Forman and Lahore College for Women University, culminating with an International Conference next year on Gender Studies. The cooperative effort is supported by the US Education Foundation and also involves George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Also, Dr. Hassan Shah, Professor of Physics and Dean of Science, organized a partnership between Forman and the Pakistan Physical Society to launch a three-day online international conference starting on May 19-21 on *Recent Trends in Plasma Physics*. More than 200 scholars participated including keynote speakers from Australia, Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, the UK, and the US.

Congratulations to the five Forman graduates who recently passed Pakistan’s prestigious and notoriously difficult Civil Service Selection (CSS) Exam for 2020: Anum Aslam, Ayesha Siddiqua, Hafeez Ur Rehman Hadi, Muhammad Idrees, and M. Umar Tufail. More than 18,500 aspiring civil service officers appeared for the exam in 2020, of whom only 376 passed, a passing percentage rate of just over two percent.

Sadaf Qayyum, a 2020 graduate in Sociology, is another Forman student who has achieved success, in this case as an Erasmus Mundus Scholar for 2021-2023. This prestigious award from the European Commission will fund her two-year graduate program in Development Studies via a consortium of four universities in four countries: Germany, Scotland, Spain, and Cyprus.

Visitors to campus this month included Ambassador Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, Pakistan’s former High Commissioner to both the UK and Malaysia. He dropped by to collect in person his honorary degree, providing an opportunity to discuss our respective diplomatic careers. Now serving as a Member of Pakistan’s Federal Public Service Commission, he encouraged Forman students including minority students to consider civil service careers.





IT also figured prominently as part of my own outreach in recent days, including a meeting with "Old Formanite" Attiazaz "Bob" Din, President of Khazana Industries; founder of DinCloud and EnPoint Technologies; and one of the few Pakistani-American entrepreneurs to have his company listed on NASDAQ.

At the invitation of Forman's International Affairs Society, I participated in a TED Talk organized around the theme *One Step Forward* and focused on life-changing moments; other participants included writer Aman Chaudhry, artist Aamina Hashmami, culinary designer Hamza Hayauddin and policewomen Kainat Azhar Khan. Also, I participated as a panelist in a program on "International Development Memoirs" held via Zoom at the annual Society for International Development (SID) conference in Washington, DC on May 27.

Finally, a special "shout out" to Anthony Richards, Forman's Chief Information Officer, in this case for his contributions outside Forman: on June 14, he received Rotary International's highest honor for a Rotarian, the *"Service Above Self Award"*. On July 1 he will also assume his new responsibilities as Rotary Foundation Chair of District 3272, Pakistan for 2021-2022.

Anthony Richards also oversees Rotary's "Gift of Life" grant project, facilitating surgeries for children with congenital heart defects through a Rotary District 3272 partnership with the Pakistan Children's Heart Foundation and the University of Lahore Teaching Hospital. So far 65 children have benefitted, with another 75 children scheduled to benefit by the end of the year.



As a matter of interest, Forman hosts a Rotaract Club and four Interact Clubs on campus. In addition, there is now a Rotary Club at Forman involving faculty and staff, established on March 23, 2021. This too is another way in which Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) embodies its long-standing motto: *"By Love Serve One Another"*.

Dr. Jonathan Addleton
Rector, FCCU