



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,

Forman's academic year concluded at the end of June, the final four weeks of the final semester involving a "blended mix" of both in-class participation and online learning. Congratulations to the Class of '21 for their resilience during an especially challenging time. We look forward to celebrating their achievement with our annual Forman Commencement ceremony, scheduled for late November 2021.

It was a pleasure to welcome to campus the two daughters of "Old Formanite" Abdul Sattar, Pakistan's former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador to India and the USSR, among other diplomatic assignments. Simeen teaches at Bard College in New York and Sarosh works at the World Bank in Washington, DC, both of them together contributing to launching a scholarship at Forman in the name of their parents.

"I chose to join FC college because of its reputation for high academic standards as well as the friendly personal attitude of teachers," former Foreign Minister Sattar had written several years ago in a short essay remembering his time at Forman. *"The large campus with wide green lawns and superb hostels particularly attracted me. My first encounter with a teacher convinced me that I had made the right choice."* Recalling his former professors with nostalgia, he especially singled out English Professor Sankey Sheets, Principal C.H. Rice, and Vice Principal E.J. Sinclair for leaving an especially strong impression.

Congratulations to Adeel Riaz and his colleagues in the Forman Advancement Office for their work throughout the year in engaging with a large number of partners and potential partners, ranging from alumni to faculty, corporations to foundations, students to government organizations. As the 2020-2021 fiscal year concludes, it is gratifying to note that this office was the catalyst for more than 50 million rupees in donations, much of it directed toward scholarships, Covid-19 relief and Forman's growing endowment fund. This figure includes an end-of-fiscal-year contribution from Dr. J. Peter David to the Forman scholarship fund.

Contributions received through both the Forman Advancement Office in Pakistan and Friends of Forman in the United States is what makes our robust scholarship program possible: together, they are responsible for approximately two-thirds of our annual scholarship budget (the remaining one third is financed either through Forman's operational budget or by our endowment fund in which "named" scholarships are playing an increasingly important role).

According to preliminary figures, Forman granted scholarships valued at nearly 210 million rupees in fiscal year 2020-2021, providing at least some measure of support to more than 2,200 students. This number includes both full and partial scholarships, further contributing to the diversity which is a hallmark of the Forman experience. Let me also provide a "shout out" to our Financial Aid Department which plays a vital role, both in processing financial aid applications and in facilitating the decision-making process.

I am pleased to note that IT entrepreneur Attiazaz "Bob" Din has assumed his responsibilities as President of the Forman Alumni Association, following former chairperson Shaukat Tarin's recent appointment as Pakistan's new Minister of Finance. The entire Alumni Board met recently at Forman to confirm the change.

Other meetings this month included a discussion with the Pakistan branch of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) on a new water initiative funded by Pepsico. Very likely, it will result in the installation of a recharge well on the Forman campus to conserve groundwater while also establishing useful links with Forman's Environmental Studies Department. One member of the four-person WWF team that visited Forman to discuss the proposal was himself a recent Forman graduate.

In addition, Forman signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Khazana, in this case highlighting cooperation with an innovative IT company based in Lahore that will strengthen our IT capabilities, among other things assisting Forman in establishing a digital library, launching a media center and deploying various apps on the Khazana Cloud. Here and elsewhere, we continue to look for ways to build partnerships, both locally and internationally.

Forman's growing German connections also came to the forefront in recent weeks. First, I met a representative from the German Embassy to receive scientific equipment donated to Forman under the Humboldt Fellowship program; both Dr. Samina Mehnaz and Dr. Saeed Shafqat are former Humboldt Fellows and now serve as Humboldt Ambassadors in Pakistan. Second, Dr. Mehwish Reza from Forman's Department of Education is joining with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) to implement an education-related program called "KASpaces" as part of a multi-national alliance involving 11 countries. And, third, Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan met with representatives of both GTZ and the Lahore Arts Council to launch a Freedom of Information initiative in which Forman is also a partner.

The terms of service of a diminishing number of Forman faculty and staff span the three main phases of Forman's history -- the pre-nationalization phase prior to the early 1970s; the nationalization phase up until 2003; and, most recently, the post-nationalization phase beginning in the early 2000s. Two of them retired during June, Mr. Emmanuel Gill who joined Forman in 1972 (and had previously been a student) and Mr. P.L. Nasir who first joined Forman in 1970. Together, these two remarkable long-time staff members provided more than a century of service to Forman, a contribution for which we will remain forever grateful.

I expect this only scratches the surface. However, congratulations are due to several members of the Forman faculty including Professor Sana Tariq who was awarded an International Research Support Fellowship from the Punjab Higher Education Commission for Research involving the Vienna Institute of Technology; and Professor Muhammad Bilal Sadiq for being selected to participate in a virtual multicountry visit on advanced food safety in late June sponsored by Japan and also involving Pakistan's Ministry of Industries and Production.

Congratulations also to Sarah Anthony -- a Forman graduate continuing her service to Forman as both an Adjunct Lecturer and Campus Counselor -- who was selected to participate in the Fulbright PhD program, beginning in fall 2021. She will pursue her PhD in Counseling Psychology at Louisiana State University.

It was a pleasure to participate in several faculty-led events this month, both in-person and online. This included a very informative lecture on the implications of aging in Pakistan, delivered by Government College University Vice Rector Ashgar Zaidi; a webinar on the Pakistan Budget by Dr. Wasim Shah from the University of Peshawar; and a webinar on Population and Family Planning in Pakistan featuring Dr. Iqbal H. Shah from Harvard University.

Having arrived at Forman less than a year ago, I am now catching up on some fascinating work published by faculty prior to my arrival. This month I came across a couple of interesting items from Forman faculty in the Department of Sociology including Dr. Julie Flowerday's intriguing article in the *Journal of South Asian History and Culture* (2019) titled "Identity Matters: Hunza and the Hidden Text of Britain and China" and Dr. Raja M. Ali Saleem's book *State, Nationalism and Islamization: Historical Analysis of Turkey and Pakistan* (Palgrave/MacMillan, 2017).

Old Formanite" Noel Kokhar, currently Pakistan's Ambassador to Ukraine, wrote a fascinating op-ed for *The Nation* on Muhammad Asad who was born in what is now Ukraine, offering interesting glimpses into the life of a European who made Pakistan his "adopted" homeland and whose books are still widely available in bookstores in Pakistan. The article was appropriately titled "Muhammad Asad: A Bridge Between Pakistan and Ukraine".

Meanwhile, two Formanites -- staff member Sylvia De Souza and recent graduate Malik Sheryhar -- contributed to the inaugural issue of the on-line magazine *Creative Commitment*, published by the Center for Global Citizenship Education at LeHigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. This first issue appropriately focused on a post-Covid 19 world. Sylvia's poem was titled "Open Ended" and Malik's contribution was in the form of a song, the lyrics of which concluded with this final line: *"Hold on to those things that make us human"*.



Although not directly related to Forman, in my prior life as Executive Director of the American Center for Mongolian Studies (ACMS) I had a hand in supporting a variety of research proposals, writing a reference letter for a project that was just approved for funding involving archaeologists Will Taylor from the University of Colorado and Muhammad Zahir from Hazara University, along with ACMS and the National Museum of Mongolia. Among other things, the project will promote "ice patch archaeology" related to melting glaciers in Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan that provide clues to the emergence of nomadic pastoralism as well as human links between the mountain chains of northern Pakistan; the Tian Shan mountains in Central Asia and the Altai mountains in western Mongolia. I am excited about what I believe is the first-ever research project involving Pakistan, Mongolia and the US and hope that when the project concludes the principals will talk about their findings to members of the Forman community here in Lahore.

Finally, for those in the Forman community who have taken out a membership and are now registered to use it during this very hot month of July: the Olympic-size Forman swimming pool is now open!



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