



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,

This month started with an invitation for me to speak on "Identity" at the annual launch of Pakistan's Inter-Services Selection Board (ISSB), designed to select new military officers and held this year at GHQ in Rawalpindi. Vice-Chancellor of Government College (University) in Lahore Asghar Zaidi also delivered remarks, along with academics from various universities. This year's theme focused on selecting Pakistan's next generation of leaders during a period of rapid change in which long-held values are undermined by new communication and other technologies. COAS General Qamar Javed Bajwa also attended the event.

COVID-19 continues to be a dominating theme, both at Forman and around the world. At a campus level, we adhere closely to guidance provided by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) as well as by the medical authorities at both the federal and provincial levels. Given the constantly changing situation, it would be premature to provide a "final" fall calendar here -- these updates are provided as and when required. However, each adjustment in the calendar reflects input from many sources and attempts to achieve a "balance" among the many demands placed on Forman at this time.

This is the season for retreats, with the college holding its retreat in late August and the university retreat scheduled for late September. I welcome this tradition, especially at a time when it is important to come together and reflect on both past challenges and the year ahead. Thanks to both Dr. Trimble and Dr. Suneel for leading this effort along with their colleagues and thanks also to all who participate. Among other things, the recent college retreat recognized several "Teachers of the Year" while also looking at issues related to "staff care" and "student care". In addition, the college retreat emphasized the importance of character development as a core part of our college curriculum.

Despite challenges presented by the pandemic, I am impressed with the resilience that is repeatedly demonstrated on this campus by faculty, staff, and students alike. Walking around the campus one afternoon, two college students recently approached me with the request to hold a party -- a sentiment I fully understand, given the importance of both college and university as a meeting place for events of all kinds. It has definitely been a long 18 months!



Yet members of the Forman community have been both creative and effective in ensuring that our community life has continued in various ways. Recent examples include an impressive online job fair led by Sara Pervaiz Chughtai; the launch of an online coaching program for new students organized by Church Relations Director Dr. Farzand Masih; and continuing efforts to build linkages between FCCU and other institutions, the latter effort including the signing of MOUs or contracts with Ufone, a private university in South Korea and the Punjab Information Commission, among others. I also visited the nearby Dar Hockey Academy, dedicated to restoring Pakistan to its rightful place among the field hockey "powerhouses" on the international stage. As part of this visit, I met several former Pakistan Olympians who would like to see field hockey more actively supported on the playing fields of Forman.

Our Chief Financial Officer recently reported that the Forman endowment in Pakistan now exceeds 200 million rupees, crossing an important threshold and reflecting significant support for Forman from within Pakistan. The endowment initiative was launched shortly after de-nationalization with support from the Government of Punjab; since then several "named" endowments have been launched reflecting support from corporations (Atlas, HBL) as well as a desire to honor certain individuals (Ahmad Saeed, Jahangir Tareen, Mohammad Basit Hasan, Hasan Mohammad Khan, Cheryl Burke, Robert, and Rowena Tebbe and Jim and Beth Tebbe, among others). The effort is led by our Advancement Officer which has also prepared information packages for those wishing to support Forman through scholarships or the new Campus Center which is now more than 70 percent complete. For those wishing to "name" Campus Center offices, lounges, and other areas after loved ones, there will be many opportunities during the months ahead as part of our continued fund-raising in this important area.

Events in Afghanistan have dominated media headlines in recent weeks, leading to invitations for me to participate in webinars hosted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC and Baylor University in Waco, Texas, the latter hosted by former Forman professor Charles Ramsey. Having visited Afghanistan multiple times starting in the late 1950s when my parents first took me there as a one-year-old (I also visited Pakistan's neighbor to the west at least once during the 1960s and 1970s and again in the 2000s and 2010s), my views are perhaps best summarized in the following lines from a Pushtun poet written on a concrete wall in Kandahar: *"If the desert becomes a garden, it will be good; and the people become happy, it will be good; and if the child of the Afghan is freed from the claws of war and the trap of poverty, it will be good"*.

Two women closely connected with Forman received invitations to attend Governor's Award ceremonies at the Governor's House in Lahore. One was Associate Professor Bushra Osman for her work with young entrepreneurs. Another was Dr. Mariam Malik, a member of the Forman Board of Governors, recognized for her work as an advocate for women.





Sylvia De Souza from Forman's International Education Office reports a number of recent successes including four acceptances to the US Department of State's UGrad Program, providing international study opportunities for Hania Khan (Idaho), Jawad Dastgir (West Virginia), Sumaiya Shamshad (South Dakota) and Kamal Zareen (Wyoming). Also, Atika Qasim received a fully-funded scholarship award to study for her MA in International Relations at Corvinus University in Budapest, starting in Fall 2021.

Meanwhile, Kamran Gul Hassan was selected for three prestigious summer school programs including one based in Hong Kong and another in Austria. And, closer to home, Zeeshan Saif, a Forman graduate student focusing on Political Science, received a fellowship to attend the Sixth Annual Baragali Summer School sponsored by the University of Peshawar.



Forman's success rate in the Fulbright program has always been gratifying. This month, that includes the announcement that Bakhtawar Ali, a recent graduate from FCCU's Psychology Department (who also majored in Biotechnology) was awarded a Fulbright to study this fall at the University of Massachusetts. Also, Chemistry Associate Professor Hira Khalid will be pursuing post-graduate studies at the University of Minnesota, as well as Forman Psychology graduate and Campus Counselor Sarah Anthony at Louisiana Tech.

In late August I received an unexpected office visit from Danish Maqbool, who graduated from Forman in 2008 and is now serving at a Pakistan Air Force Base in Sindh. He is also a part-time artist, gifting Forman with a wonderful large portrait of Quaid-i-Azam that will hang at Forman for a long time to come.

Given the increasing number of books and articles written by Forman faculty, it is hard to track or acknowledge all of them. However, this month I did notice two articles linked to Pakistan's Independence Day on August 14: Dr. Sikandar Hayat's article "Quaid's Political Strategy and the Creation of Pakistan," published in the August issue of *Hilal*; and Assistant English Professor Azeem Alphonse op-ed titled "Jinnah's Christians: From Pakistan Movement to the Formation of Pakistan," published in *Pakistan Today* on August 16.

Forman also marked Independence Day on August 14 with a wonderful ceremony in front of Sinclair Hall organized by Colonel (retired) Khaqan Mahmood, Head of Security. The Forman security force played a key role in the flag-raising ceremony which lies at the heart of his annual event. Although the lingering impact of Covid-19 prevented this year's program from becoming a family occasion involving hundreds of people, it was nonetheless a moving way to celebrate this important holiday. In addition, Forman marked Independence Day with a campus tree-planting ceremony attended by Lahore Commissioner Usman Younus.





It is not often that undergraduates have their research published in prestigious international online journals. However, Ajwa Zulfikar, a sociology major and a member of the Forman class of 2020, recently had her undergraduate thesis on domestic labor in Pakistan published in the open-access Gettysburg Social Science Review. Dr. Sara Rizvi Jafree served as her advisor for this impressive effort.

It is always a pleasure to hear from Forman graduates, whether old or new. This month those communications included a note from Hafiz Fawad Ali who first joined Forman in 2010 at the College and then returned several years later to earn a Forman MBA, in turn paving the way for several international study opportunities as well as numerous publications. He now lectures at a public university in Punjab. In his words, *"I owe a lot to Forman Christian College and I will strive to continue my association with FC College for the years to come. May God bless this institute and shower blessings on the students, faculty, and staff."*

Another graduate, Don Joshua who now lives in Canada, attended Forman many decades earlier, during the 1950s. Yet he remembers Forman with similarly strong feelings of affection, as described in his short memoir titled "Memories of an Undergraduate at FC College" that was recently forwarded to the FCCU Advancement Office: *"Whatever I may have achieved in life, I owe to the foundational study, principles and work ethics that were instilled in me as an undergraduate at Forman Christian College, an institution that lives up to its motto: 'By love serve one another'."*



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