



**FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE**  
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

# Rector's Update

*The latest news and announcements from Dr. Jonathan Addleton*

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I appreciated the opportunity to participate in three separate orientation programs involving three new MPhil offerings at Forman Christian College (A Chartered University): Education, Clinical Psychology and Mass Communications, marking the launch of new post-graduate programs in areas that are both in high demand in Pakistan and important to the future well-being and prosperity of this country.

Another highlight was the official inauguration of our Alumni Lounge, formerly known as the Executive Lounge. Situated on the ground Floor of "E" building, this spacious room already includes plaques honoring many distinguished "Old Formanites". We look forward to seeing it used as the venue for many alumni events in the months and years ahead.





The Alumni Lounge naming ceremony included the launch of a new booklet titled *Notable Female Formanites* featuring sixty Forman alumni who have left an enduring mark in education, science, banking, literature, politics, popular culture and other fields. While some entrants made their contributions more than a century ago, one notable feature of this publication is that it features a large number of recent female graduates who are already making an impact.



On the sports front, Coach Brian Furches in mid September announced tryouts for Forman's nascent baseball team, the first stage in Forman's plans to field baseball teams for our College men and our University men and women. More than 150 prospective players (including 35 female students) attended the tryouts. The new field is wonderful and I look forward to hearing the words "*Play Ball!*" echoing across it during the coming months. Or, to paraphrase a line from the movie *Field of Dreams*: "*First you build it and then they will come!*"

September was one of the hottest months on record in Lahore, causing special concern in our classrooms and offices that lack air-conditioning. This is an especially acute issue in our older buildings, designed for a pre-airconditioning era and including high ceilings with *roshandan*-based ventilation systems.

Over time, efforts to transform Forman by introducing solar panels across the campus may provide some measure of relief, especially if we are able to then retrofit some classrooms in our older buildings to include air-conditioners. In the meantime, I can only express my thanks and appreciation to students, staff and faculty for their patience and forbearance as we made our way through an exceptionally hot summer which I hope is now behind us.

Our faculty as well as some students regularly publish articles in both academic journals and the popular media. Recently one such newspaper article came to my attention, written by an MPhil student Beenish Fatima from the Sociology Department and focused on the inflationary pressures faced by citizens across Pakistan: <https://tribune.com.pk/.../food-water-taxes-now...>

Meanwhile, Paria Anjum Rajput, another Forman student, published an insightful blog at the Albion College Human Rights Lab in Michigan: <https://humanrights.albion.edu/2023/09/25/religious-rights-and-riots-in-pakistan/>

Congratulations, too, to Ali Raza, a student in Forman's Psychology Department, who just received word that he has been selected as a principal candidate for a Fulbright Master's Program in the US starting in 2024.



On September 19 I had the pleasure of distributing certificates to a number of Forman students who participated in the "Soliya" initiative connecting our undergraduates with those studying at other universities in several countries including the US, Germany, Turkey, India and Iraq. Interestingly, "Soliya" combines the Latin word for "sun" with the ancient Arabic word for "light," underscoring that a key goal of this eight-week on-line program is to bring people together to build bridges and shed light on a wide range of common concerns.

Designed to contribute to Global Engagement, the Soliya program provides multiple opportunities for in-depth conversations on a variety of issues in what some participants have described as a "transformational" experience. A special thanks to Dr. Atiq-ur-Rahman, head of Forman's Advising Office, for his leadership role in this ongoing program.

Assistant Professor Dr. Firasat Jabeen, head of Forman's Mass Communication Department, was featured on the Pakistan Television (PTV) program *Lamhay* ("Moments") in which she describes both her career at FCCU and her family life (along with efforts to effectively balance the two). Her husband Dr. Saleem Abbas (who also teaches at Forman) and their two children are featured in the program which was broadcast on September 8, providing a wonderful glimpse of both family life and some of the major cultural and historical sites of Lahore: <https://www.facebook.com/PTVCHome/videos/211221735041479>



In addition, Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan, Forman's Dean of Humanities and a champion of our Mass Communications Department, was the subject of a brilliant television interview, this one on "Discover Pakistan": [Dr. Altaf's Interview on Discover Pakistan.mp4](https://www.facebook.com/PTVCHome/videos/211221735041479)



One of my goals when I became Rector three years ago was to strengthen our international connections. To cite one recent example, I am pleased to note that KAM Professor M. Arslan -- along with his collaborator Professor Philippe Froguel from the University of Lille (France) and an international team of researchers from the University of Cambridge (UK) as well as Pakistan -- have found genetic mutations in three Leptin genes related to severe obesity in children, resulting in a high rate of mortality and morbidity. Their pioneering work was published in a recent edition of *Cell Report Medicine*, with important findings from that more detailed study then picked up by *Nature* for the "Highlights" section of *Nature Reviews Endocrinology*.

Dr. Muhammad Bilal Sadiq, Associate Professor and Chairperson of the Kauser Abdullah Malik (KAM) School of Life Sciences, attended the Annual Conference of the International Association of Food Protection (IAFP) in Toronto during the summer where he received an Outstanding Food Safety Professional award. The award -- long delayed because of Covid 19 -- was for contributions in the area of food safety and covered all conference costs including travel:

[https://www.facebook.com/InternationalAssociationforFoodProtection/posts/2578042425693469/?v=e&extid=MSG-UNK-UNK-UNK-AN\\_GKOT-GKIC](https://www.facebook.com/InternationalAssociationforFoodProtection/posts/2578042425693469/?v=e&extid=MSG-UNK-UNK-UNK-AN_GKOT-GKIC)

A special shoutout to Dr. Rabia Chaudhry who teaches at Forman's Center for Public Policy and Governance on the publication of her new scholarly work *Changing Dynamics of Civil Military Relations in Pakistan: Soldiers of Development*, published by Routledge (London).

Meanwhile, Assistant Professor Shakila Noor Sindhu from Forman's Political Science Department was invited by Pakistan's Higher Education Commission (HEC) to serve on the Course Design Committee for "*Civics and Community Engagement*", part of a new curriculum under consideration as part of the HEC's new Undergraduate Education Policy.

Congratulations to Dr. Afshi Yahya Khan for receiving the official notification that her PhD from the University of Punjab's Centre for Clinical Psychology has been approved. Her dissertation is titled *Development of Impulsivity Scale and Manifestation of Impulsivity in Clinical and Non Clinical Populations of Pakistan*.

Outside visitors continue to provide opportunities for our faculty and students to hear from various speakers including from the private sector. For example, in early September Forman's Computer Science Department sponsored a talk on "*AI for Education*" by Jibrán Jamshad, Education Lead for Microsoft in Pakistan, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan.

Also, Forman graduate Dr. Mariam Saeed Shafqat who recently earned her PhD from Ohio University spoke on "*The Role of Organic Synthesis and Medicinal Chemistry in Drug Development*", providing useful information based on her seven years of experience as a synthetic organic chemist researching, developing and characterizing compounds as pharmaceutical drugs.



Meanwhile, the Department of Statistics in partnership with the Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) organized a workshop on September 25 on "*Data Analytics Essentials with Python*," with Dr. Muhammad Farooq from Government College University in Lahore serving as lead resource person.



Thanks, too, to eminent author, essayist and educationist Fakir Aijazuddin whose insightful and well-attended talk "*Pakistan in 2047*" delivered on September 25 helped launch the Ewing English Society's program for the year.

As for Forman's English Department, Professor Dr. Fatima Syeda started the Fall semester with a theatrical performance led by playwright Usman Ali Shah Jahan who has written 16 plays in English including *The Prisoners*, *The Last Metaphor*, *The Odyssey*, *The Breath* and *The Flute*. Two of his plays are included in the HEC MPhil course titled "*Pakistani Writings in English*" and his work is also scheduled to be performed at the Royal Court Theatre in London.

Forman's Church Relations Office headed by Dr. Farzand Masih organized a gathering on September 8 of faculty from the Christian community teaching at both the College and University, providing an opportunity for them to meet in an informal setting at the start of the school year. Dr. Farzand and his team also briefed faculty on the work of the Church Relations Office as it pertains to Forman's Christian students.



A special thanks to two English professors -- Adeel Khalid and Muhammad Saleh Habib -- for serving as judges at the annual Inter-School English Debate Competition held on September 22 and involving 13 schools. Sponsored by the Presbyterian Education Board, the event was hosted by Kinnaird Academy High School on Empress Road in Lahore.



Meanwhile, Forman's Environmental Science Department hosted an all-day gathering of 70 students from across Punjab on September 14 to discuss issues related to climate change. Other partners included UNICEF, UNDP, Pakistan's Ministry of Climate Change and Green Growth Consultants.



Forman's Center for Learning and Teaching (CLT) headed by Dr. Rukhsana Zia continues to offer a range of impressive courses for members of the Forman community as well as others. Given our efforts to extend Forman's reach beyond the four walls of our campus, I am especially pleased to note that the HEC reached out to faculty and staff from more than 165 universities in Pakistan with information on a summer course offered by CLT on "Research Methodology," with AMICAL extending the invitation to another 30 of their members. In the end, more than 7,000 individuals from 55 universities in Pakistan (plus eight international universities outside Pakistan) registered for the course. For more information, see [CLT@FCCU](mailto:CLT@FCCU) [Research Methodology Course 2023](#).

Forman's Population Research Center (PRC) organized a Webinar via Zoom on September 20 titled "Are There Any Prospects of Population Decline in Pakistan? Birth Cohort Analysis of Fertility Desires and Goals," with Dr. Saima Bashir from the Population Council of Pakistan serving as keynote speaker.

Also, on October 3 the PRC organized an in-person seminar featuring Dr. Nasra Shah, President of the Population Association of Pakistan, speaking on "Skilled and Unskilled Migration from Pakistan: What Brain Drain?"

Dr. Shah taught and conducted research for many years at Kuwait University and before that at the

East-West Center in Hawaii -- which is where we first met more than forty years ago when she invited me to speak at a conference in Honolulu on labor migration from South Asia to the Middle East, an invitation that became the catalyst for my first book *Undermining the Center: The Gulf Migration and Pakistan* (Oxford University Press). I mention this partly to publicly express appreciation to Dr. Shah for the helping hand that she extended to an aspiring PhD student all those years ago -- and also to underscore the lifelong impact that academic connections can have, especially when they are accompanied by simple yet unexpected acts of kindness!

Looking ahead, Forman's Population Research Center in partnership with the Population Association of Pakistan will host a conference from November 21-22 on "Healthy Families and Communities in a Changing Society: The Role of Family Planning". For more details, see [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe-cAW0\\_oRAIqyEzUq1k9Wr5fE160kqb1LUGB3RpvUrMkpmNA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe-cAW0_oRAIqyEzUq1k9Wr5fE160kqb1LUGB3RpvUrMkpmNA/viewform)

Alumni visitors to my office this month included Arshad Liaquat, a senior civil servant who graduated from Forman in 1992. His daughter is now enrolled in the FCCU Bachelor's program, making her a second-generation member of the Forman community.

In other Alumni News, Ahmad Aziz who

graduated in 2020 with a Major in Sociology was recently appointed as a Sub Inspector in the Punjab Police, having passed the highly competitive Punjab Public Service Commission exams.

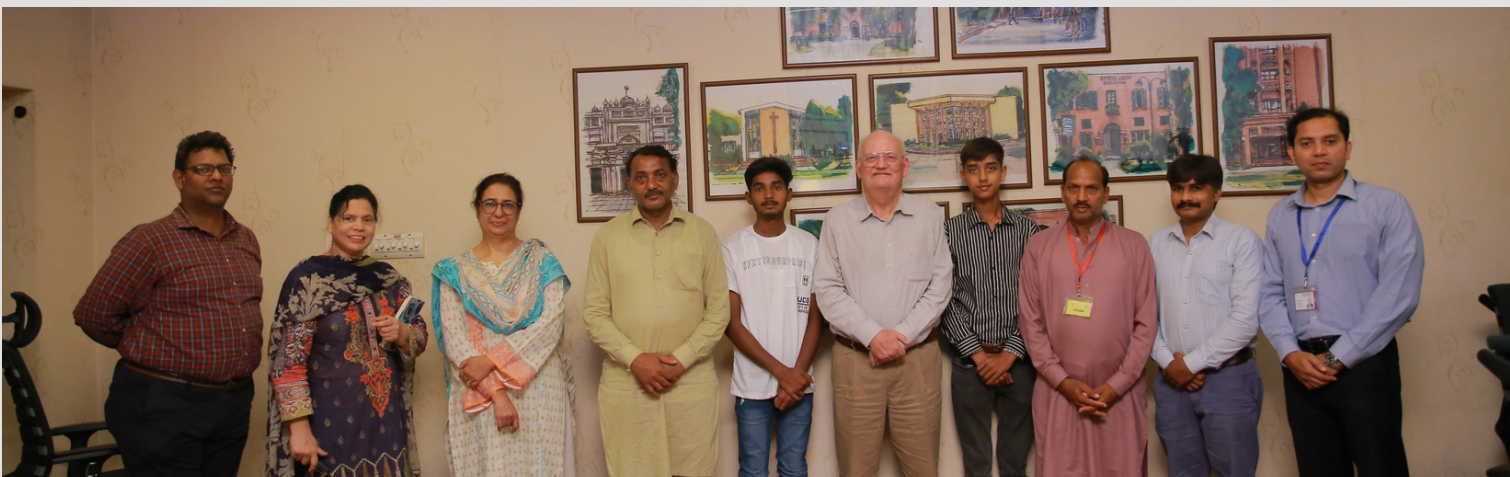
Most heart-warming of all, I travelled to Islamabad at the end of the month to attend the 100th birthday celebrations for distinguished Old Formanite Roedad Khan, who joined the ranks of the Civil Service of the then-new nation of Pakistan in 1949, one year after the death of Quaid-i-Azam; by the time he retired in 1993, he was widely viewed as one of the most respected officials to ever scale the ranks of country's civil service.

I am pleased to note that the *Forman Journal of Social Sciences* has just received notification from the HEC that it is now listed in the prestigious "Y" category of HEC-approved journals. A special shoutout to the editorial team consisting of Dr. Younis, Dr. Sara, and Ms. Tehniyat for their efforts. I should also note that since 2005 Forman has been publishing the *Forman Journal of Economics*, contributing further to the development of economics as an academic discipline in Pakistan.

I am also pleased to note that *Pakistan Studies: A Book of Readings*, edited by Dr. Sikandar Hayat and containing contributions by nine members of the Forman faculty, has begun to receive royalties -- all of which have been donated to the Forman scholarship fund for needy students. Special thanks to Dr. Sikandar and his eight contributors, all with Forman connections, as well as to the publisher Sang-e-Meel for making this possible.

Our Marketing, Communications and Outreach Office (which also includes Advancement, Alumni Affairs and Admissions) headed by Badia Raza plays a vital role each Fall in ensuring that we meet our enrollment targets and start the new school year with full classes. Applications are an essential "first step" in the process -- and I am happy to report that at the Bachelor's level, the number of applications increased from 2,691 in Fall 2022 to 3,090 in Fall 2023; as for post-graduate applications, they increased from 699 in Fall 2022 to 838 in Fall 2023. In both cases, admission targets have also largely been either met or exceeded.

Among the new students starting their studies at FCCU this Fall are two boys from Jaranwala, both of whom received high scores on their Matric exams and both of whom are now enrolled as college students at Forman, fulfilling a pledge on our part to offer scholarships to qualifying young people from the Jaranwala community and its surrounding areas in the aftermath of the violence that occurred there in August.



As the new academic year commences, members of the Forman community will also note an important name change -- beginning with Fall 2023, the University Proctor's Office will now be known as the Student Conduct Office (SCO). Let me also offer my sincere thanks to Abdul Rehman for heading the Proctor's Office for the last five years as he returns to his faculty position in the Physics Department while also welcoming Rashid Noor as he assumes his new responsibilities as head of this new office within the Student Affairs Division which works to build a safe, inclusive and respectful campus environment in which everyone feels welcome, secure and valued.

Unsolicited comments from students or former students are always welcome, whether they include constructive criticism or expressions of sincere thanks and appreciation. This month, the College received the following note from a student who received an A in his Intermediate results: *"The college has been an incredible source of support, inspiration, and knowledge throughout my academic journey. The faculty and staff have been truly exceptional, going above and beyond to ensure that every student receives the best education possible"*.

Also, during that same week a University student from a remote part of Balochistan wrote a moving thank you note, expressing his appreciation to several members of staff from Student Affairs, Financial Aid and the Rector's Office, among others. According to this student, *"I had never thought of going to a prestigious institution like FCCU due to financial challenges, geographical constraints, and lack of information"*. However, as a result of the *"generosity"* and *"kindness"* of Forman staff committed to *"making dreams come true,"* he completed his studies, in part through a financial aid package that included participation in Forman's work/study program.

Our diverse campus -- including as it does students from many geographic areas, ethnic groups, religious traditions and socio-economic backgrounds -- continues to set an important example. In this regard, I was intrigued and gratified to learn about some of the evaluation feedback that Dr. Abdul Ghani, head of Forman's Religious Studies Department, received following his course on Inter-Faith Relations in which he asked students if their attitudes toward other religions had changed as a result of taking the course. To my mind, the paraphrased response to this question reflects Forman at its best: *"Just by being at Forman Christian college, our attitudes have changed so much about dealing with other religions. This course simply enhanced what we've already learned"*!

Finally, it is with a combination of immense pride and pleasure that I note the high honors recently accorded to two distinguished members of the Forman faculty during September:



First, Dr. Ghazala Irfan, head of Forman's Philosophy Department, received the *"Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays,"* conferred by the Japanese Ambassador on behalf of the Emperor of Japan. The impressive ceremony, held on September 23 at the Avari Hotel, was attended by the Governor of Punjab Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman along with family members and many friends from Forman.

Second, Dr. Kauser Abdullah Malik, distinguished Forman graduate, Dean and Professor, recently joined Pakistan's caretaker cabinet in Islamabad, serving as Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, a fitting appointment given his extensive background and experience in both areas:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1775036/caretaker-federal-cabinet-gets-another-minister>



Congratulations to Dr. Kauser Abdullah Malik and Dr. Ghazala Irfan for their continuing achievements as well as for the special recognition that these latest honors bring, both to them as individuals and to the institution to which they have contributed so much!



DR. JONATHAN ADDLETON  
RECTOR

