



FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

Rector's Update

The latest news and announcements from Dr. Jonathan Addleton

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CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

Forman's *Annual Cultural Day & Concert* held on February 13 was one of the "signature" events of the month, appropriately described as a "Mega Event"; a "fantastic showcase of our university's rich cultural tapestry and immense talent"; and a "vibrant celebration of diversity at FCCU".

I followed some of the activities -- which included games, student performances, cultural stalls, food stalls, horse and carriage rides, photo booths and other activities -- from a distance via social media. The day concluded with a wonderful concert featuring nationally renowned singers and supported in part by Red Bull, Samsung, Habib Bank, ONIC Pakistan and the TUC biscuit company.





Dr. James Appleton, former president of University of Redlands in southern California and a member of the Friends of Forman Board, spent part of February at Forman, partly to help Forman faculty and staff prepare for the upcoming accreditation visit by a team from the New England Commission on Higher Education (NECHE). In addition, he led a certificate course on Leadership for Forman faculty and staff and was the featured speaker at a Seminar on *The Role of Leadership in Quality Assurance*.



The latter Seminar was another “signature event” that took place during February; organized by Dr. Nayer and our Registrar’s Office, it also involved Dr. Shahid Munir (Chairperson of the Punjab Higher Education Commission) as Chief Guest and Dr. Rukhsana David (Principal of Kinnaird College and Chairperson of the Forman Board of Directors and Board of Governors) as Guest of Honor.



Attendance included 100 in-person participants from FCCU and Kinnaird College, along with on-line representation from 155 universities from across Pakistan and another 10 universities in the UK. According to Dr. Nayer, “*Feedback received has been overwhelmingly positive, underscoring the seminar’s impact and value. Proceedings of the seminar are currently being prepared for distribution to all participants*”. The event was also widely covered in the Pakistan print and electronic media.

As February concludes, we look forward to welcoming the accreditation team from the New England Commission on Higher Education (NECHE) in early March (March 3-6), led by Dr. William Clements (Norwich University); other team members include representatives from Rivier University, California State University, Fairfield University, Harvard University and Al Akhawayn University in Morocco. This is another important step in our continued journey as we seek to move from Eligibility to Candidate status, based on both this visit and the comprehensive self-assessment recently completed under the leadership of Dr. Trimble and Dr. Gloria from FCCU’s Vice Rector’s Office.



The Advancement and Alumni Office organized *Grand Alumni Reunion 2024*, our annual alumni Founder’s Day gathering taking place on the main FCCU grounds. Event highlights include the Distinguished Formanite Awards; a lucky draw sponsored by Barry Furniture; and a music performance by Sanam Marvi.





The Career Services and Internships Office headed by Adnan Ilyas Aziz organized another outstanding *Mega Job Fair* on February 21, bringing together students, employers, experienced professionals and entry level job applicants to explore job opportunities.

More than 125 companies from both the public and private sector – ranging from Pepsi to Bata, Netsol, Dunya News, Honda, Hyundai, McDonald's, Servis Industries, Bank of Punjab and the State Bank of Pakistan -- participated, setting up stalls to provide information, share employment and internship opportunities and conduct on-the-spot interviews. Nearly 3,500 students and alumni attended, showcasing the strong connection between our academic community and the professional world.



Thanks to Dr. Atiq-ur-Rehman and other members of his Faculty Advising Team for organizing *Advising Fair 2024* in late February, providing an important opportunity for university undergraduates to learn more about their prospective majors and plan “roadmaps” to help guide their academic, social and personal experience at Forman.



Forman's English Department continues to bring outstanding speakers to campus via the *Writer's Lounge Series*, among other programs. This month those speakers included Sarbpreet Singh to discuss *Dard Vichode Da Hall – The Sublime Poetry of Shah Hussain*. A playwright, writer, and podcaster, Singh has authored several books including *Kultar's Mime* (2016), *The Camel Merchant of Philadelphia* (Westland, 2019), *The Night of the Restless Spirits* (Penguin 2020), *The Story of the Sikhs* (Penguin 2021) and *The Sufi's Nightingale* (Speaking Tiger, 2023). His podcast, now in its fourth season, has listeners in 90 countries, was featured on BBC and NPR, and has drawn comparisons with the work of documentary filmmaker Ken Burns.

Also, MPhil scholars in ENG 610 (Digital Approaches to Literature) presented their work as part of a collaborative poster project on “Digital Humanities”, held at the University of Punjab and involving a number of universities from across Lahore on February 15. Among other things, this initiative introduced “critical and diverse viewpoints” while also using “*innovative methods to study, interpret and understand literary works*”.



Forman's Education Department hosted a conference on *RE(forming) and RE(imagining) Education* on February 23-24. International speakers included Dr. Toshi Sasao from International Christian University in Japan; Dr. Heather Sottong from FLAME University in India; and Dr. Kate Roy from Franklin University in Switzerland while Dr. Uzma Qureshi from the Lahore College for Women University delivered the keynote address.



Forman's first Scholar-in-Residence program was launched with the arrival of Dr. Joel Gordon to the Forman campus for several weeks. I especially appreciated attending his presentation on *Key Tips for Publishing Research in International Journals*, held on February 26 and jointly organized by the Center for Learning and Teaching, Research and Review Club and Sociology Department.

Other international visitors during February included Professor Elisabeth Eide from Oslo Metropolitan University in New York speaking on *Journalism Under Pressure in an Era of Democratic Decline* (February 21) and Dr. Chris Galloway from Massey University in New Zealand speaking on *AI and Advertising: Trends, Tactics and Transformations* (February 22).

Forman's Physics Department chaired by Dr. Sadia Zaheer held its conference on *Recent Trends in Material Sciences* from February 29 to March 1, providing a platform for students and faculty to explore themes related to nano technology, material sciences and space exploration. A much-appreciated grant from the Higher Education Commission (HEC) helped fund this event which also involved international participation.

The Environmental Sciences Department was also busy during February, organizing a workshop on *Occupational Health and Safety:*

Empowering a Safe University Campus that featured guest speaker Fauz Ul Azeem from Interloop Limited.

The venerable Formanite Debating Society (FDS), headed this year by Usama Zulfiqar, hosted the 47th edition of the three-day Forman International Parliamentary Debating Championship, now referred to as the *Forman Debate Open XIV*. More than 400 delegates representing dozens of universities from across Pakistan attended the program which featured a formal dinner and qawali night as well as the usual highly competitive debate competition held on the Forman campus during February 16-19.

In particular, Usama requested that I thank Dr. Ambreen Javed (*"the one woman army behind this success"*) who has advised FDS for the last seven years for assisting in every way possible; he also mentioned Kamil (*"always helping everyone"*) and Faiqa (*"the best student activities manager"*) from Student Affairs for contributing to the success of this impressive event, launched by what is often described as *"the oldest student-led debating society in Asia"*.

As always, Fiona and I appreciated attending the Annual Staff Club Dinner, this year taking place in Sinclair Hall. Thanks especially to Dr. Nayer and his Registrar's Office team for taking the lead in this wonderful event, bringing members of the



Forman community together for a special evening of camaraderie, dining and music. This year, fourteen members of staff, nominated and voted on by their peers, were recognized with our first ever “Forman’s Finest” awards.



Other programs organized on campus during February include an *Open House* implemented by our Marketing and Outreach Department at the Jim Tebbe Campus Center on February 22; focused on graduating High School, Intermediate, A Level and IB students and their families, it was designed to showcase our Baccalaureate programs for prospective students who might wish to apply for admission to Forman in the future. Thanks, too, to the Mercy Health Center and Forman Pharmaceutical Society for working with the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital to host a *Blood Donation Drive* on our campus on February 22 in Sinclair Hall.



PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Nukhbah Taj Langah, currently teaching in Malaysia while remaining affiliated with Forman, continues to be impressively productive in terms of both research and publications. One example is this article on Siraiki speakers in London in *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, based on work undertaken under a Charles Wallace Fellowship during her tenure as a member of the Forman faculty:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00856401.2023.2289743?src=exp-la>

Also, Dr. Nukhbah recently co-authored a chapter on “Childhood Trauma and Ableism in Partition Fiction” in a recent book titled *Articulating Childhood Trauma* (Routledge India, 2024), edited by Kamayani Kuma:

<https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781032710600-5/childhood-trauma-abelism-partition-fiction-nukhbah-taj-langdah-sobia-kiran?context=ubx&refId=130106ac-1a4b-4fc3-85ee-2742cf26c922>

Dr. Sara Rizvi Jafree’s book on *Social Policy for Women in Pakistan* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2023) continues to receive favorable notice, as indicated most recently by a review published in the *Journal of South Asian Research* (Sage Publications) by Dr. Nasir Iqbal from the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics.

Dr. Qurratulaen Liaqat, Associate Professor of English Literature, was interviewed on literary analyses as it relates to “Posthuman Theory” by Turkey’s Posthuman on-line publication *Pentacle*. The full text of this fascinating and informative interview is available here: <https://thepentacle.org/2024/02/11/interview-with-qurratulaen-liaqat/?amp>

Dr. Saeed Shafqat, Founding Director of Forman’s Center for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG), published a timely review of Dr. Niloufer Siddique’s book *Under the Gun: Elections, Political Violence and Democracy* (Cambridge University Press, 2023) in the *Friday Times*:

<https://thefridaytimes.com/28-Jan-2024/book-review-under-the-gun-elections-political-violence-and-democracy>

A special thanks to Dr. Ashfaq Ahmad Virk from Forman's Urdu Department who passed on copies of several of his books published in 2023 covering both creative writing and academic research, first for me to look through in the Rector's Office and then for placement in the Forman library: *Majaal* (Collection of Poetry); *Urdu Mazah ki Tareek* (History of Humor in Urdu Literature); *Jo Amaan Mili to Kahan Mili* (Travelogue of Hijaz, 2nd edition); and *Kaleed-e-Urdu* (Academic Research, 23rd edition).

I am also proud of the several research journals published by Forman including the *Forman Journal of Economic Studies*; launched by Forman's Department of Economic in 2005, the latest issue (Volume 19, Issue 2) is now available:

<https://www.fccollege.edu.pk/forman-journal-of-economic-studies/>.

Also, let me express appreciation to Raheem ul Haque, Assistant Professor at Forman's Center for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG), for his recent book titled *De-securitize, De-colonize and Industrialize: A Manifesto for Structural Reform* (Sanjh Publications, 2023).

STUDENT/ALUMNI SUCCESS

Forman graduate Komal Javed from Burewala was one of only three students from Pakistan to be selected as a finalist for a McCall MacBain Scholarship (mccallmacbainscholars.org), the premiere fellowship for graduate study at McGill University in Canada. She was also one of only 37 finalists from around the world, selected from more than 2,250 applicants to travel to Canada later this month for a final round of interviews.



Komal completed her Bachelor's degree from FCCU in 2021. The first female president of Forman's Geography Society, she currently serves as a Research Fellow at the Office of the Ombudsman for Punjab and intends to pursue a Master's degree in Urban Planning or Geography.

"Being a McCall MacBain Scholarship finalist marks the peak of my journey, starting from uncertain roots in rural South Punjab," stated Komal in the official McGill press release that accompanied the announcement. *"FCCU shaped my skills and sparked a deep passion for creating meaningful change".*

I mentioned previously that Forman graduate Zaman Faraz Karamat who earned his Bachelor's Degree (Summa Cum Laude) in Political Science with a minor in Sociology had gained admission at Oxford to study for his MSc in Refugee and Force Migration Studies. However, reflecting on his Forman experience now that he is studying in the UK, Zaman writes that *"The Department of Sociology offered a diverse variety of intellectually challenging courses such as Demography, Sociocultural Anthropology and Sociology of Genera which trained me for my current educational pursuits. The Sociology faculty was always supportive, spotlighting opportunities to grow and prioritizing student learning"*.

In other news, the Sociology Department reports that Hania Khan who graduated with a double major in Sociology and Political Science is having an impact as Director and Co-Founder of Lok Sujag Academy, pioneering an innovative e-learning platform covering such topics as Religious Inclusion, Gender Rights, Health Care, Climate Justice and Electoral Knowledge.



Let me also congratulate two students in the Department of Environmental Sciences:

BS student Ameena Haroon who studied in the US for a semester last year under the Global Undergraduate Exchange Program (UGrad) received a small grant through the U-Grad community development initiative to organize a workshop on the *Importance of Occupational Health and Safety at Workplaces*; and MPhil student Faseeh Ahmed was selected for the SPAR6C Research Mentorship Program to explore *Potential and Willingness of the Textile Sector to Participate in the Carbon Market in Pakistan*.

Dr. Shazia Ilyas from the Environmental Sciences Department who brought both these “student success stories” to my attention also reports that two officials from the UN Environmental Program Climate Center in Copenhagen, one a Climate Advisor and the other a Senior Economist, recently visited Forman to meet with Faseeh, providing guidance as he launches his research.

OTHER NEWS

During recent national elections, Forman served as a voting venue, cooperating with the Punjab Election Commission to open 13 rooms in “P Block as polling stations as part of a tradition that included a similar contribution during each of Pakistan’s previous general elections in 2008, 2013 and 2018. As reported by Head of Security Khaqan Mahmood, “Voter turnout from diverse political affiliations was significant, with the polling process commencing at 8:00 AM and concluding at 5 PM”.

Most *Rector’s Update* readers by now know that Forman is home to Pakistan’s first purpose-built university baseball field, thanks to the efforts of Coach Brian Furches and others. The impact of that initiative is now beginning to have impact, starting with our hosting of Pakistan’s National Women’s Baseball Championships involving teams from WAPDA, HEC, Pakistan Army, Pakistan Police, Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, KPK and Islamabad in late February. Looking ahead, we look forward to hosting an International Baseball Tournament in April, accompanied by the formal inauguration/dedication of the field on April 21.



Congratulations to Firaset Jabeen in the Department of Mass Communications for accessing another grant from the International Communication Association (ICA), this time for \$4,140 to establish an “ICA Hub” that will provide livestreaming for an upcoming ICA conference which will take place in Australia in late June covering such topics as *Grant Writing in Communications and Publishing in ICA Journals*. Other approved ICA Hubs include institutions from China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Kenya and Nigeria.

Regarding the upcoming ICA conference that will be hosted by Forman's Mass Communications Department in December 2024, please also note that the deadline for the submission of papers is March 18; topics covered include climate change and communications related to health and environmental issues, among other concerns. All queries can be directed toward ica.pakistan@fccollege.edu.pk. Also, those interested in submitting a paper should follow this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeeEywNxXyZGqiQoRDT-kymdYJ8LR_PbMIOS7IBbFmqzY65dw/viewform?usp=pp_url

I was delighted to receive an unsolicited e-mail from Dr. Doreen Pastor at the University of Bath in England thanking Khizar Jawad from Forman’s History Department for assistance rendered in January 2023 and again in January 24 as a participant in the EU RISE research project on *Disputed Territories and Memory* involving several other international partners including from Poland, Lithuania, and Armenia ([DisTerrMem - Disputed Territories and Memory](#)). Dr. Pastor’s visit included trips to meet with museum curators in Islamabad and Taxila as well as a visit to a village outside Lahore, the highlight from which included an interview with a 105-year-old witness to partition, described as “an incredible experience”.

Congratulations to Dr. Sayed Muhammad Saqib Saleem, Assistant Professor in Forman’s Department of Mass Communication, who was recently awarded a PhD from the University of the Punjab, having completed his doctoral dissertation on *Pakistani Media and Climate Change Literacy: A Study of Media Frames in Promoting Climate Mitigation and Adaptation*.

In College news, Forman welcomed the opportunity to meet recently appointed Lahore Board of Intermediate and Secondary Chairperson (Dr. Syed Ansar Azhar) and Secretary (Dr. Bushra Bibi), inviting them to attend *SciNovation*, the College's Annual Science Fair. As always, the Science Fair was a big success, resulting in favorable coverage on local television news channels.

This year's Science Fair was also the venue for the launch of our new College Song, an effort led by Vice Rector (College) Dr. Ivan Suneel and reflecting the amazing talent of Miss Joy who heads the College Music Program. The inaugural version of the School Song was presented by members of our College Choir, the first of no doubt many more performances in the months and years ahead!



I also much appreciated attending the annual English play performed by our college students. This year, that annual drama production featured *Fools* by Neil Simon.

Finally, let me express my thanks and appreciation for the warm welcome provided by many members of the Forman community upon my recent return from the US. Although I will soon be taking another trip to the United States, this time for the Friends of Forman Board meeting and to meet with prospective donors, it is great to be back in Lahore and take part in some of the many activities that make the Forman community so special.



DR. JONATHAN ADDLETON
RECTOR