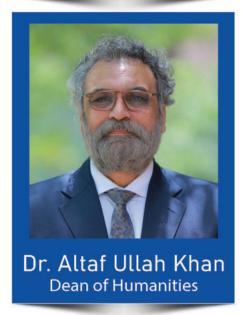




# Humanities Newsletter



#### **DEAN'S NOTE**



## From Data to Wisdom: Higher Education's Mission in the Al Landscape

The rise of generative AI is not the downfall of higher education, much less that of our civilization. We should be clear about this. However, there are other considerations, beyond the immediate and ordinary, that demand our attention. The most significant question concerns the character building role of universities. Shouldn't students be able to make good use of AI (such as ChatGPT and similar technologies) while avoiding the transgressions we fear?

This question leads to another related one: Where do we teach such values? The idea that the pursuit of knowledge is valuable in itself, regardless of the market benefits it yields, is particularly relevant here. Without delving into the debate over whether we have failed to instill the humane judgment necessary to discern what is right as a human society, we must explore the intrinsic benefits of valuing the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake.

The human intellect is the capacity of the mind to make independent, novel decisions upon receiving any set of information about a given issue. Thus, the intellect decides wisely on its own after considering any data or advice. A wise decision is not merely the sum total, average, or any specific part of the data received. It is a decision made in the service of a community, a human situation, or humanity at large, using the information as a tool to assist in the decision-making. No matter who the immediate beneficiary is, the ultimate victory belongs to humanity at large.

We need to join heads to ensure that the rise of AI does not deprive us of our intellect. We must remain human, continuing to contribute to this wonderful world of ours, grounded in the values of love for one another, compassion, and the zeal to make the earth a better place to live.

There are innumerable ways to reach this ideal state. Empowering youth to transform into wise citizens and lifelong contributors to humanity's service is best achieved by instilling in them the values of aesthetics. Art and the humanities are poised to save the day with their compassionate insights into the human soul. It is high time to adopt a holistic, cross-disciplinary approach to higher education, aligning all disciplines toward a single goal: the elevation of the human mind in the service of humanity. This is the way forward, the only way to ensure that Al serves humanity, instead of us becoming the willing victims of our own Frankenstein.

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## **Department of English**

### **Events & Activities**

#### **Graduate Seminar Series**

Can We Bypass Rules in Word Building: The Department of English hosted an interactive session under 'Graduate Seminar Series' on Thursday, June 8, 2023, titled 'Can We Bypass Rules in Word Building' by Dr. Muhammad Aslam and Dr. Tahir Saleem moderated by Mr. Azeem Alphonce and Mr. Fahad Aftab.





Graduate and postgraduate students attended this session. The students gave positive feedback, and they learned new insights in the field of 'Word Building'. Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda and other faculty members from the Department of English also attended the event. Ms. Aleena Karim, the coordinator of GSS, helped the Department in organizing this event.







### **Graduate Seminar Series**

The Department of English at FCCU hosted an interactive session under 'Graduate Seminar Series' on Wednesday, June 7, 2023 titled 'American Literary Studies' by Mrs. Iffat Sayeed with Dr. Faiza Zaheer as the moderator. This session was attended by graduate and post-graduate students.







## MAKING A CASE FOR PAKISTANI SCIENCE FICTION (SF) IN GLOBAL SF STUDIES:

The Department of English at FCCU hosed an interactive session under 'Graduate Seminar Series' on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, titled 'Making A Case for Pakistani Science Fiction in Global

Science Fiction'. Graduate and postgraduate students attended this session. It helped boost their Fiction in Global





interest in Pakistani Science Fiction by making it more relevant, meaningful, and understandable

from the perspective of global studies. The coordinator of GSS, Ms. Aleena Karim, helped the understandable

Department in organizing this event. The session ended with a souvenir presentation by the helped the understandable

Chairperson, Department of English, Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda to Ms. Sobia Kiran.

#### SEMINAR ON POSTMODERNISM:

The Department of English, Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) hosted a seminar on "Postmodernism and Postmodern Fiction" on May 31, 2023, in E-001

The seminar helped students understand and appreciate art, literature, philosophy, and culture through seeking answers to critical questions.



Professor Dr. Rizwan Akhtar from the Institute of English Studies (IES) was the chief guest at this event and faculty, as well as students from various disciplines such as Philosophy, Media Studies, History, Political Science, Sociology, and Literature, attended this thoughtful session. The seminar ended with a souvenir presentation by the Dean of Humanities Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan to the chief guest.

#### FACULTY RESEARCH FORUM (FRF)

#### FEEDBACK TO FEEDFORWARD - TEACHING SHORT STORY:

The Department of English hosted its Faculty Research Forum Session titled "Feedback to Feedforward - Teaching Short Story" to explore the traits of a short story.

This interactive session was arranged for the faculty of the English Department and was conducted by Ms. Mussarat Shahid, who shared her teaching experiences from the course in Advanced Creative Writing. The facilitator highlighted various generic features that build a narrative and develop characters in a short story.





During the workshop, several notable works from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries were closely discussed with the exchange of views on different teaching methods adopted by instructors in their respective lessons.

Kate Chopin's 'The Story of an Hour' (1894), U A Fanthorpe's 'Not My Best Side' (1978) and Paolo Uccello's painting 'Saint George and the Dragon' remained central in drawing intertextuality across themes and genres among the attendees. The participants stepped forward to share their own successful classroom

experiences, where they managed to provoke' the creative muse in their students.

At the end of the workshop, the Head of the English Department, Professor Dr. Fatima Syeda thanked Ms. Shahid for an intensive session which was concluded by awarding certificates to all the participants.



# STUDENTS LED INITIATIVES Baccalaureate Poster Presentations:



The event was attended by the Rector Dr. Jonathan Addleton,
Dean of Humanities Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan, Department Chair Dr.
Fatima Syeda, Dean of Post-Graduate Studies, Office of Research,
Innovation and Commercialization - FCCU Dr. Kausar Abdullah
Malik, Coordinator Linguistics Program Mr. Azeem Alphonce,
Ms. Anish from Center for Teaching and Learning and other faculty
members including course instructors Mr. Adeel Khalid, &
Mr. Muhammad Saleh Habib.



#### WORKSHOP ON APA AND MLA FORMAT:

The Department of English conducted a workshop on APA and MLA format organized for the Class LING 495 - Advanced Research Methods in Linguistics, and ENGL 331 - Research Methods in English Literature and Language in collaboration with the Writing Center Forman Christian College.



The session was held on May 24, 2023. It was an extremely informative session, and students learned the intricacies of both APA and MLA formats. The workshop was a great initiative to help students in their research



#### WRITING PROJECTS PRESENTATION:

The Students of WRCM 101 Sections D and E presented their final projects under the supervision of their instructor Ms. Tazeen Bokhari.





The participants
researched diverse issues
like the James Webb Space
Telescope, Metaverse,
Clean Water Crisis, etc.,
and showcased their
findings through
audio-visual presentations.

Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda and other faculty members from the Department of English appreciated the students' effort in organizing such an informative and engaging session.



#### SEMINAR: FCCU WORKING STAFF, ISSU

The students enrolled in the Spring '23 course of Creative Nonfiction (ENGL 318) in the Department of English explored the es & Concerns condition of working staff at Forman Christian College University (FCCU).

In the seminar, the students shared different problems faced by the working staff and gave viable suggestions to address those issues.

This Narrative Journalism project, along with sharpening their writing ability, encouraged students in civic engagement and community activism. They realized how their work had a deeper significance by contributing towards the betterment of their community, with their course instructor, Dr. Mir!





### PICTORIAL REPRESENTATION OF RUMI'S VERSES:

Ms. Aleena Karim's Critical Thinking and Reading arranged a pictorial representation of Rumi's verses. It was an interactive activity as students thoroughly enjoyed reading and learning from each other!

### RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS LING 370: LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND IDENTITY:

Under the Digital Oral History Project, the linguistics students presented final presentations of the course Ling 370: Language, Culture and Identity.

By employing the method of Oral History, the students investigated into the linguistic identity of the female residents from other linguistic and ethnic backgrounds. The final presentations shared interesting findings. Dr. Ambreen Javed led this astounding project.



#### **OPEN HOUSE FOR MPHIL ADMISSIONS:**

The Department of English played an active role in the Open House for MPhil Admissions. It was a great opportunity for potential students to meet people whom they would be interacting with regularly. The faculty members from the Department of English effectively guided the aspirants about the MPhil English degree program



#### MPHIL ENGLISH ADMISSION TEST AND INTERVIEWS:

The MPhil English admission test was conducted on August 8, 2023. The Department ensured the smooth administration of the admission test. Special arrangements were made by the Coordinator of Post Graduate Studies, Dr. Faiza Zaheer



MPhil English interviews were conducted on the 11th & 15th of August 2023. The Chairperson of the Department, Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda, headed the interview panel. The senior faculty members of the department were the other panelists. All the members contributed efficiently to the overall interview process



#### **ENGLISH DEPARTMENT DELEGATE:**

A faculty delegate from the English Department at FCCU attended a thought-provoking literary event on "Ghalib's Andaz-e-Bian: Poetics, Praxis, Posterity - A Panel Discussion on Thinking withGhalib: Poetry for a New Generation by Amit Basile and Anjum Altaf" organized by International Centre for Pakistani Writing in English (ICPWE) and Departments of Urdu and English at Kinnaird College for Women University, Lahore, on 16th May 2023.

The panel discussion, followed by the author's reading of the book, involved a variety of Ghalib's poetic themes, literary genius, and the universality of his messages in a fresh new perspective.



#### **EWING ENGLISH SOCIETY**

#### FORMAN LITERARY FESTIVAL 2023:

Forman Literary Festival 2023 was the second edition of the literary festival organized by the Ewing English Society. The event took place in May, 2023. A great number of literary representatives, writers, scholars, and experts participated in the event. It turned out to be a huge success



#### LITERARY FESTIVAL DAY 1

The Forman Literary Festival started with the arrival of the worthy Rector Dr. Jonathan Addleton. The Chairperson of the Department of English Language and Literature, Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda, on behalf of the department, expressed her gratitude to the speakers, scholars, faculty members and students for becoming part of the literary festival





The opening session was followed by a discussion on the importance of poetry and how it should be read. The speakers at the talk were Prof. Dr. Amara Raza and Dr. Nasir Abbas Nayyar. There was a Q&A session which made the discussion interactive. The speakers highlighted how reading poetry enhances our understanding and cognitive abilities, enables us to connect with and recognize the emotions the poet portrays, provides us with fresh insights into commonplace objects, and expands our viewpoints







The session ended with the presentation of award shields by the Chairperson of the Department of English, Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda to both the guest speakers



There was also a workshop on poetry in the Forman Literary Festival 2023. The speaker of this workshop was Dr. Shirin Rahim, who gave useful insights into poetry. The workshop assisted students with reading and analyzing poetry, thinking about poetic devices that they might wish to employ in their writing, and eventually creating original poems of their own. Students were able to comprehend poetry better as a result. It helped them grasp the true meaning of poetry.



**DAY 1** of the Forman Literary Festival 2023 concluded with a mushaira. Famous poets of the region joined the poetry recital. Students and faculty members also participated in the event. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the last session of Day 1 of the Forman Literary Festival.



#### LITERARY FESTIVAL DAY 2

**DAY 2** of the Forman Literary Festival 2023 started with a session by Prof. Saleema Hashmi and Prof. Dr. Shamaila Dodhy. Both speakers engaged the audience with their vast experience and deep insights. The session was interactive as students also participated in the discussion.







**DAY 2** of the Forman Literary Festival 2023 progressed with a talk on 'Pakistani Theatre, Film and TV for 21st Century.' The panelists of the talk were experts on theatre and famous literary figures. They discussed how theatre has changed in the 21st century and highlighted modern trends in the field of film industry. The panelists especially shed light on the importance of adopting contemporary trends in the Pakistani film and media industry. The session ended with the presentation of award shields to the guest speakers.





The Forman Literary Festival 2023 concluded with a session by the famous Pakistani poet Anwar Masood. The audience loved Anwar Masood's poetry and highly appreciated his art. They were amused by his amazing sense of humor and ability to embellish poetry with an aesthetic sense.



The Forman Literary Festival 2023 was a huge success, and it came to an end with a group photo of the organizers and the faculty members from FCCU.



#### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### MR. ADEEL KHALID

Scholarly Publications in HEC Recognized Journals:

- Khalid, A., Ajmal, A., & Javed, A. (2022). Language and Gender in Pakistani Newspaper: Use of Interactional Metadiscoursal Markers in Male and Female Bloggers. Journal of Social Sciences Review, 2(3), 119-129 (HEC Recognized – Y Category) **URL: Click here to Access**
- Khalid, A. Janjua, F. & Ajmal, A. (2022) Narratological Analysis of English as a Second Language Students' Success Stories. Journal of Social Sciences Review (JSSR), ISSN 2789-4428,2789-441X, Vol. 2 No. 4 (HEC Recognized – Y Category)

**URL: Click here to Access** 

 Ajmal, A. Liagat, M. & Khalid, A. (2022) Communitarian Perspective on Autonomy and Human Identities. Pakistan

#### CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

#### PROF. DR. FATIMA SYEDA

#### LITERATURE IN THE DIGITAL AGE: 1ST NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LINGUISTICS & LITERATURE

Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda was invited as a Panelist for a panel on "Literature in the Digital Age", at the 1st National Conference on Linguistics & Literature, held at the University of Central Punjab on 1st & 2nd June, 2023.





The other panelists included Dr. Waseem Anwar, Director ICPWE, Kinnaird, Dr. Amra Raza, Dean of Humanities & Director IES, Punjab University, Dr. Farooqi, Assistant Professor in Humanities Department at COMSATS Lahore Campus, and Dr Zia Ahmed, Chairperson English Department, University of Multan.

#### FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023: CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES AND PRACTICES IN SOCIAL SCIENCES, MEDIA STUDIES, ART & DESIGN

Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda presented her paper at the Fifth Annual Conference 2023 organized by Lahore School of Economics. The theme of the conference was Contemporary Perspectives and Practices in Social Sciences, Media Studies, Art & Design.





#### SEMINAR: HUMAN RIGHTS: WOMEN EMPOWERMENT & RELIGIOUS VALUES IN DIGITAL AGE

Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda, delivered a keynote speech at the event "Human Rights: Women Empowerment & Religious Values in Digital Age" organized by the Department of Religious Studies at FCCU. The topic of the Keynote speech was "Reclaiming Agency: Women & Religion in the Digital Era".

#### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON APPLIED LINGUISTICS

Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda delivered a Keynote Speech titled "Pakistani Theatre in English: Linking the Imaginative & the Rational in Social Formations" in the International Conference on Applied Linguistics organized by Department of English Linguistics & Literature at Riphah International University Islamabad, on 10-12 March, 2023.



#### FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LINGUISTICS & LITERATURE:

Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda was invited as a Session Chair for a panel on literature, at the 1st National Conference on Linguistics & Literature, held at the University of Central Punjab on 1st & 2nd June, 2023







#### INTERNATIONAL FORUMS:

Global Course Connection:

Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda completed a four (4) day international workshop on Global Course Connections organized by GLCA, from 30th July to 3rd August, 2023, at Antioch College



## NeMLA: Northeast Modern Language Association, 54th Annual

Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda presented a paper titled "Stories of Honour, Heroism & Martyrdom: Representation of Women in Partition Narratives" at NeMLA: Northeast Modern Language Association, 54th Annual Convention (RESILIENCE), March 23–26, 2023, Niagara Falls, NY.



#### MR. AZEEM ALPHONCE

Mr. Azeem Alphonce was invited by ICLEC to their 5th International Conference as a keynote speaker. The theme of the conference was Language Education and Culture, so he was asked to talk about it in the context of Pakistan.



Mr. Azeem Alphonce was invited by the Directorate of Special Education, Punjab, to have a session on Professional Communication Skills and English Language Proficiency Skills with their principals and senior teachers in grade 17.



Mr. Azeem Alphonce was invited by the Lahore Diocese Board of Education to be a judge for the annual English Debates Competition.





#### Ms. FARHEEN SAEED

Ms. Farheen Saeed attended two days of English language teacher training at Allama Iqbal Open University Lahore. This training was sponsored by the Regional English Language Office of the USA, Lahore. At the end of the training, Mr. Paul Garr – Cultural Affairs Officer U.S. Consulate General Lahore, distributed certificates among all the participants.



Ms. Farheen Saeed attended the Pakistan US Alumni Network's Conference on the emerging theme of Employability & Skills Conference, 2023.



Ms. Farheen Saeed also attended the 2023 Global Liberal Arts Alliance Institute on Oral History in the Liberal Arts, held from July 23-30, 2023, at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, USA. Her participation in this 39-hour faculty development program was mandatory to qualify for the faculty research project offered by GLCA/GLAA, that aims to support the community-based learning initiatives she plans to undertake in the 2023-2024 academic year.

Throughout the five-day workshop at Antioch College, participants immersed themselves in the best practices of oral history methodology within higher education. The program covered tactical strategies for conducting interviews and imparting effective teaching techniques. Additionally, attendees were introduced to digital tools for building exhibits and explored pedagogical frameworks that facilitatecommunity-based research.



#### Ms. MAHEEN ZIA

- Ms. Maheen Zia attended the annual AMICAL Conference 2023 (24–26th May) at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco, and presented her digital humanities research on "DATA DRIVEN LEARNING (DDL) APPROACH".
- She also attended a pre-conference workshop titled 'DIGITAL
  METHODS AND TOOLS: Sharing, Connecting and Collaborating'
  which allowed the participants to connect with AMICAL members in
  different institutional positions and disciplines, share experiences, and
  learn from others about the affordances and limitations of digital
  methods and tools.



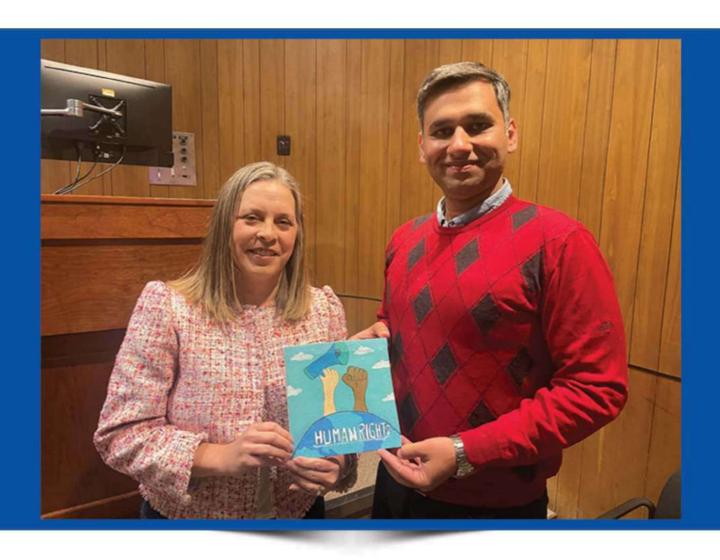


#### MR. ADEEL KHALID

- 2023 Khalid, Adeel. 'Digital Multimodal Composition Engagement in English Language Classroom' at AMICAL 2023 Conference, Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco May 2023
- 2023 Khalid, Adeel. "Pedagogy Roundtable" 'Human Rights and Experiential Learning' at the Challenging Borders in Domestic and International

Human Rights Conference, Albion College, Albion, Michigan, U.S.A May 2023

This pedagogy roundtable focused on integrating experiential learning in the human rights classroom with faculty from 5 GLCA and GLAA institutions. Roundtable participants presented on their innovative classroom techniques, including community partnerships, teaching through art, and engagement with digital learning and digital projects.





### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

## MR. ADEEL KHALID

Project Incubator follow-up: Adoption of Open Educational Resources at FCCU (Forman Christian College)

Mr. Adeel Khalid attended Project Incubation Workshop at AMICAL Consortium for Adoption of Open Educational Resources (OERs) at FCCU,

held at the University of Al Akhawayn in Ifrane (AUI), Morocco, in May

- Incorporating OER into his Writing and Communication course would encourage collaboration and creativity not just for him but for his students too. For instance, he would encourage his students to find and evaluate OER resources relevant to their topics, fostering their critical thinking and research skills.
- Another important reflection point added to his perspective was to not alter the entire course at once but to make alterations step by step.

Link: https://www.amicalnet.org/blog/project-incubator-oer-at-fccu



# DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

#### A GRAND WELCOME TO OUR MPHIL SCHOLARS!

On September 12, 2023, we welcomed the first-ever batch of our postgraduate students. With 25 talented scholars joining our MPhil batch, it was an occasion of camaraderie, knowledge sharing, and the beginning of an exciting academic journey.

The event was graced by the presence of our esteemed Rector, Dr. Jonathan Addleton and his wife Fiona Addleton. Vice Rector, Dr. Douglas Trimble and Dean Faculty of Humanities, Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan were also present on the occasion.

Chairperson Department of Mass Communication, Dr. Firasat Jabeen briefed the students about the MPhil program and wished them good luck for their academic aspirations. Later, MPhil faculty helped the students with course registration and











#### INAUGURAL AND NAMING CEREMONY OF THE MEDIA CENTER, FCCU

Forman Media Centre, an innovative hub dedicated to fostering excellence in media education and production, was inaugurated on June 7th, 2023, at Forman Christian College.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by the presence of esteemed guests, including Dr. Jonathan Addleton, Rector of FCCU; Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan, Dean of Humanities; Mr. Sanjeev Pokharel, Chief Technical Advisor at GIZ; Mr. Muhammad Atif, Senior Technical Advisor, State Citizen Dialogue, Support to Local Governance Programme GIZ; and Dr. Firasat Jabeen, Chairperson of the Department of Mass Communication at FCCU. We were also honoured to have distinguished members of the faculty and respected industry professionals from the media and communications sector in attendance.

The Forman Media Centre stands as a symbol of our commitment to providing an exceptional learning environment equipped with the latest technology and resources for our media

students. This state-of-the-art facility is poised to shape the future of media education at FCCU.

With cutting-edge equipment and an array of advanced facilities, the Forman Media Centre will empower our students to explore their creativity, develop their skills, and thrive in the ever-evolving media landscape.















# FCCU'S POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMS OPEN HOUSE: A RESOUNDING SUCCESS FOR THE M.PHIL MASS COMMUNICATION PROGRAM LAUNCH IN FALL 2023

An 'Open House' was arranged on Friday, May 26, 2023 for the Postgraduate programs at FCCU. Faculty members from the Department of Mass Communication were present there to guide the prospective students about the highly anticipated M.Phil Mass Communication program, set to begin in Fall 2023. This was an excellent opportunity where students explored admission criteria and undertook the guided tour of Media Center to familiarize themselves with the facilities the department has to offer. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who joined us and made the event a tremendous success.







# FACULTY OF HUMANITIES HOSTS INSIGHTFUL LECTURE ON REDUCING HEALTH INEQUITIES BY DR. SAYYED F. A. SHAH

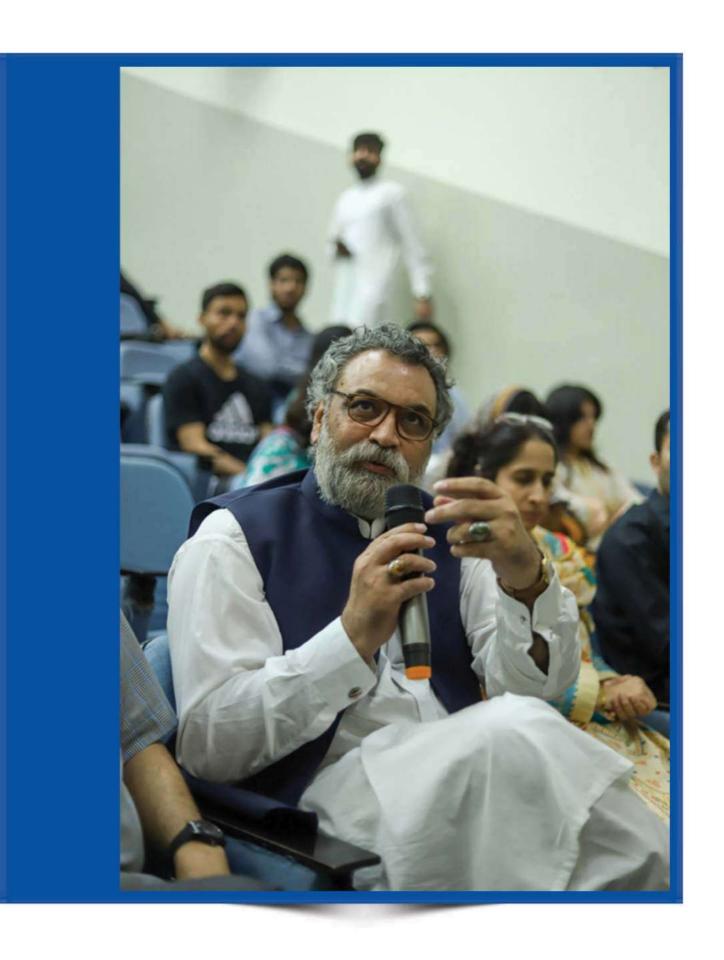
The Faculty of Humanities at Forman Christian College University organized a guest lecture on May 4, 2023, titled "The Role of Communication in reducing Health Inequities in Socially Disadvantaged Populations".

The guest speaker for the event was Dr. Sayyed F. A. Shah, an Associate Professor of Communication at Jacksonville State University. Dr. Shah is an expert in the fields of Journalism and Health Communication, with extensive experience as a journalist in Pakistan and the United States. He is a sought-after speaker and researcher in his areas of specialization and has published his work in reputed journals such as Journalism and Vaccine.

Dean of Humanities, Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan, Chairperson Department of Mass Communication, Dr. Firasat Jabeen, other faculty members and students were present on the occasion.





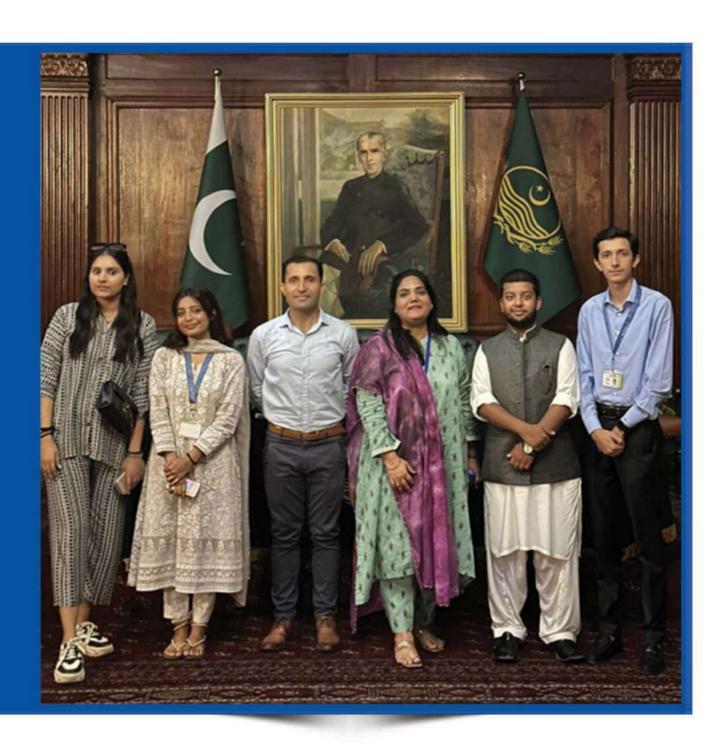


# DEPT OF MASS COMM. DELEGATION MARKS INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION AT GOVERNOR HOUSE SESSION

A delegation from the Department of Mass Communication at Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) came together to celebrate the International Day for Universal Acces to Information at a special session organized by the Punjab Information Commission (PIC) at the Governor House in Lahore.

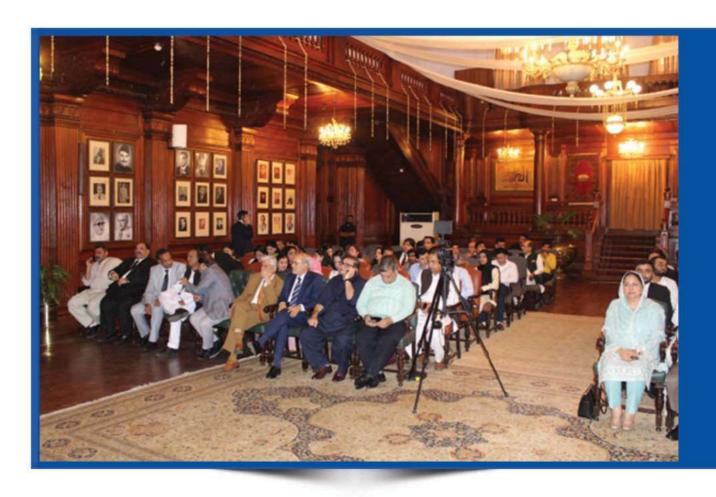
Representing FCCU, our distinguished faculty, Ms. Mehwish Batool and our visiting faculty, Mr. Shahid Ali Naeem, were accompanied by four dedicated students. The Honorable Governor of Punjab, Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman, graced the event as the Chief Guest.

In recognition of their participation, certificates of achievement were awarded to all the attendees. The event concluded after a profound discussion on the significance and practical implementation of the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act, 2013.









DR. ALTAF ULLAH KHAN, DEAN OF HUMANITIES AND PROFESSOR MASS COMMUNICATION, WAS FEATURED ON DISCOVER PAKISTAN DISCUSSING THE "FUTURE OF MEDIA STUDIES IN PAKISTAN."

During this engaging conversation, Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan delved into the fascinating world of media studies. He shed light on the growing importance of digital media in today's dynamic landscape, highlighting the vast opportunities it presents for graduates in this field. He emphasized on the essential skillset that media graduates should acquire in order to thrive in this ever-evolving industry. He also talked about international collaborations and training opportunities provided by the Department of Mass Communication, FCCU. He further underscored the significance of integrating service learning in university education to foster character development in our youth



INTERACTIVE SESSION ON JOB MARKET PREPAREDNESS BY FCC'S MASS COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT FEATURING ESTEEMED ALUMNUS MUHAMMAD JUNAID, GEO NEWS ANCHOR, AND MARATHON ACHIEVER

Department of Mass Communication, Forman Christian College organized an interactive session with Muhammad Junaid on "Job Market Preparedness" for our senior students. Muhammad Junaid is an esteemed news anchor and analyst from Geo, who is also an alumnus of our

department. He recently made the country proud as he became the first ever Pakistani journalist to participate in the Boston Marathon and the London Marathon.

The session was attended by Dean of Humanities. Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan; Chairperson Department of Mass Communication, Dr. Firasat Jabeen, and respected faculty members. Rector FCCU, Jonathan Addleton also met Muhammad Junaid and spoke to him about strengthening industry-academia linkage.









#### LAUNCH OF THE 'MASS COMMUNICATION READING CLUB'

Department of Mass Communication is pleased to launch the "Mass Communication Reading Club," an initiative aimed at nurturing enriching discussions and exploring profound literary works that spark critical thinking and meaningful conversations.

The inaugural session was held on August 16, 2023 at the Forman Media Centre. The session set the stage for an enlightening journey through Friedrich Nietzsche's philosophical insights shared in his thought-provoking work "Beyond Good and Evil."

Dean of Humanities, Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan, graced us as the principal speaker for this session. The discussion was guided by Chairperson Department of Mass Communication, Dr. Firasat Jabeen. Faculty members appreciated this initiative as it allows a vibrant exchange of ideas and intellectual growth.







# ENSURING JOURNALISTS' WELL-BEING: FCC'S FACULTY OF HUMANITIES HOSTS WORKSHOP IN COLLABORATION WITH JMIC, OSLOMET UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Humanities, Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) in collaboration with Journalism & Media International Center (JMIC), Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway organized a three-day workshop on "Journalist Safety; Ensuring Physical and Mental Safety of Journalists Amid Violent Events." Our lead trainer for Journalists' Safety Workshop was Abeer Saady. She is a trainer and Media Consultant at Journalism and Media International Centre (JMIC), Oslo Met. University. Abeer Saady is a former war correspondent with 30 years of experience operating in conflict and crisis zones.

Lead trainer, Abeer Saady and Dr Altaf Ullah Khan discuss crowd management, covering

demonstrations, parades, looting, or public disorder. Participants were divided into groups to discuss media strategies, propaganda in wars and conflict, safety and ethics covering wars, risks of investigative journalism and everyday critical reporting. They received hands-on training on covering of demonstrations, conflicts and sensitive issues. They learned of situational awareness and how journalists should plan for various risks with a holistic approach.

A book on 'Safety Handbook for Women Journalists' was launched at FCCU. The book launch event was organized by the Faculty of Humanities at Forman Christian College (A Chartered

University) in collaboration with Journalism & Media International Center (JMIC), OsloMet - Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway. Dr. Douglas Trimble, Vice Rector for Academic Affairs at FCCU was the guest of honor on the occasion.

The book has been written by the International War Correspondent and Media Trainer, Ms. Abeer Saady, and has been translated in Urdu by Ms. Sabahat Afsheen. Dean of Humanities FCCU, Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan shared his views about the book. He said that the Urdu version of the book will equip the women journalists of Pakistan to perform their duties

efficiently and safely. The book launch event was moderated by Syed Muhammad Saqib, Assistant Professor at Department of Mass Communication, FCCU. Journalists, students and participants from Journalists Safety Workshop at FCCU attended the book launch.







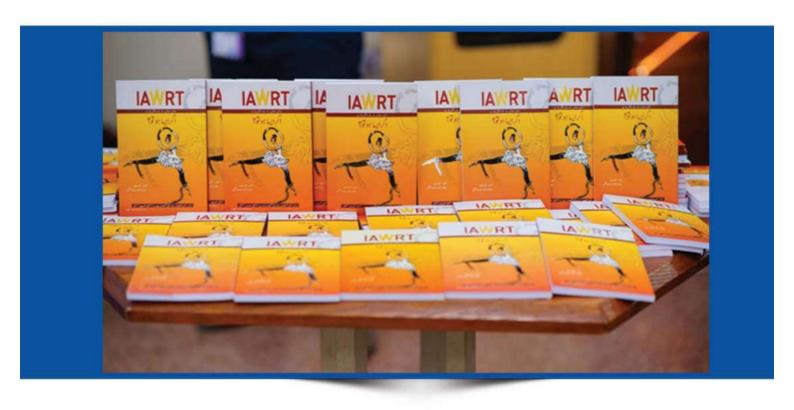












# **PUBLICATIONS**

#### DR. SALEEM ABBAS

#### 1. THE FORMAN JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES (FJH)

The Forman Journal of Humanities (FJH) has now made its presentation online at

http://ojs.fccollege.edu.pk/index.php/fjoh/Home.

With the esteemed patronage of Rector, Dr. Jonathan S. Addleton, the journal is currently engaged in the careful process of collecting and evaluating research articles for its inaugural issue, set to be published in December 2023.

Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan, the Dean of Humanities, is heading the editorial team. While Dr. Saleem Abbas is the Editor, and Dr. Qurratulaen Liaqat is the Journal Manager of FJH. Additionally, the journal benefits from the expertise of section editors from all departments of Humanities, including Dr. Ateeq Anwar (Urdu), Dr. Adeel Ahmed Amir (Mass Communication), Ms. Nadia Iftikhar (English), Dr. Nisar Ahmad (Religious Studies), and Mr. Taimoor Farouk (Philosophy). This dedicated team is working diligently to bring insightful and diverse scholarly content to readers worldwide.

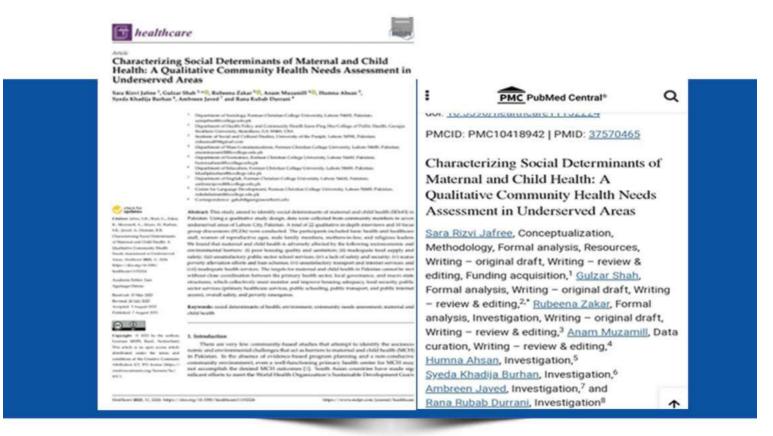


#### DR. ANAM MUZAMILL

1. Dr. Anam Muzamill co-authored community need assessment regarding social determinants of maternal and child health in underserved areas of Lahore. The publication is part of evidence-based intervention to improve social policy for maternal and child health funded under NRPU, HEC Pakistan 2022-24.

The article can be accessed at:

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10418942/



2. Dr. Anam Muzamill published another article titled "Unveiling Women's Empowerment: Exploring the Liberation Movement in Saudi Arabia." The article can be accessed at:

https://www.gsrjournal.com/article/unveiling-womens-empower-ment-exploring-the-liberation-movement-in-saudi-arabia

3. FCCU published its first ever catalogue on Notable Female Formanites and it is a great honour for Department of Mass Communication that Dr. Anam Muzamill's name is included in the catalogue's first edition. The catalogue is a collection of success stories of Forman Women that are creating impact in community and beyond.



## DR. SYED MUHAMMAD SAQIB

- 1. Dr. Syed Muhammad Saqib published his research article in the HEC recognized journal, titled, "Pakistani Print Media and Climate Literacy: A Study of Formal-stylistic Frame Analysis during 2018-19". The article can be accessed at https://doi.org/10.56976/rjsi.v5i1.61
- 2. Dr. Syed Muhammad Saqib published his research article in the HEC recognized journal, titled, "Unveiling Women's Empowerment: Exploring the Liberation Movement in Saudi Arabia". The article can be accessed at https://doi.org/10.31703/gsr.2023(VIII-I).15
- 3. Dr. Syed Muhammad Saqib published his research article in the HEC recognized journal, titled, "Social Media and Perception of Feminism: Comparison of Generation X and Y in Lahore". This article can be accessed at https://doi.org/10.31703/gdpmr.2023(VI-I).04
- 4. Dr. Syed Muhammad Saqib published his research article in the HEC recognized journal, titled, "Online News Displaces Print Newspaper: Media Students' Preferences and Perceptions". The article can be accessed at https://doi.org/10.31703/gdpmr.2023(VI-II).18

- 5. Cizmeci Ümit, E., & Saleem, S. M. S. (2023). An Exploratory Cross-Cultural Study On Social Media Use In Leisure Time And Its Impact On Happiness. Yalova Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi, 13(1), 87-100. Https://Doi.Org/10.17828/Yalovasosbil.1118057
- 6. Dr. Syed Muhammad Saqib published his research article in the HEC recognized journal, titled, "Media conformity with foreign policy in India and Pakistan: Frame analysis of Baluchistan Separatists' Movement and Khalistan movement". The article can be accessed at http://jmc.ilmauniversity.edu.pk/arc/Vol3/3.2/5.pdf

#### DR. ADEEL AHMAD AAMIR

 Dr. Adeel Ahmad Aamir published an article titled "Relationship between Consumption of Electronic Media and Adoption of Best Practices in Agriculture Sector of Central Punjab, Pakistan" in HEC Y category journal.

The article can be accessed at:

Akhtar, P., Aamir, A. A., & Ismail, M. (2023). Relationship Between Consumption Of Electronic Media And Adoption Of Best Practices In Agriculture Sector Of Central Punjab, Pakistan. Journal of Journalism, Media Science & Creative Arts, 3(1), 66-81.

# Ms. Shamail Zehra

Ms. Shamail Zehra published her first article titled "Theatre in the Digital age: Challenges and Audience Viewing experience" in HEC Y category journal. The article can be accessed at:

https://pjsr.com.pk/wp-content/up-loads/2023/10/67.-Vol.-5-No.-1-March-2023-Zehra-Karamat-/Qureshi-Theatre-in-the-Digital-Age.pdf

# Ms. Amna Malik

 Ms Amna Malik published an article titled, "Social Media and Perception of Feminism: Comparison of Generation X and Y in Lahore". The article can be accessed at https://doi.org/10.31703/gdpmr.2023(VI-I).04

## GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

#### DR. ALTAF ULLAH KHAN

Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan

In another year of collaboration, the Faculty of Humanities at Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) proudly continues its

partnership with the Journalism and Media International Centre (JMIC), Oslo Metropolitan University. Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan, the Dean of the

Faculty of Humanities, has formalized this ongoing alliance by signing a yearly Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with JMIC at OsloMet. The MOU outlines the commitment to conduct three significant

international activities focusing on Journalists' Safety, Peace Journalism, and Climate Journalism. Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan, in his role as a dedicated host, oversees these impactful international events, creating a

collaborative platform where journalists and academia from various parts of Pakistan come together. The inclusive nature of these workshops ensures active participation from our students, providing them with rich experiences and exposure to diverse perspectives. This strategic partnership continues to strengthen the academic and professional landscape, fostering an environment of shared learning and global awareness at Forman Christian College, University.

#### Research Grants

#### DR. FIRASAT JABEEN

Dr. Firasat Jabeen has recently won a grant of USD 10,000 for a regional convention of International Communication Association (ICA) at FCCU in November, 2024. The funding agency, ICA, is world's biggest academic forum of Communication; their annual convention draws a couple thousand media and communication scholars every year. The proposed convention is now an officially designated ICA regional conference at FCCU.

#### Other Activities

#### DR. FIRASAT JABEEN

• Dr. Firasat Jabeen, Assistant Professor and Chairperson of Mass Communication, and Dr. Saleem Abbas, Associate Professor of Mass Communication, were featured in a Pakistan Television (PTV) program titled Lamhay (Moments). The program was broadcast on September 08, and focused on family life and work/life balance routine of Dr. Jabeen. With that, the program also provided glimpses of some of the famous historical and cultural sites of Lahore. Here is the link to the program:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qenn8gfuqLc&t=209s







Dr. Firasat Jabeen & Dr. Saleem Abbas with PTV producers for program Lamhay

# DR. SYED MUHAMMAD SAQIB

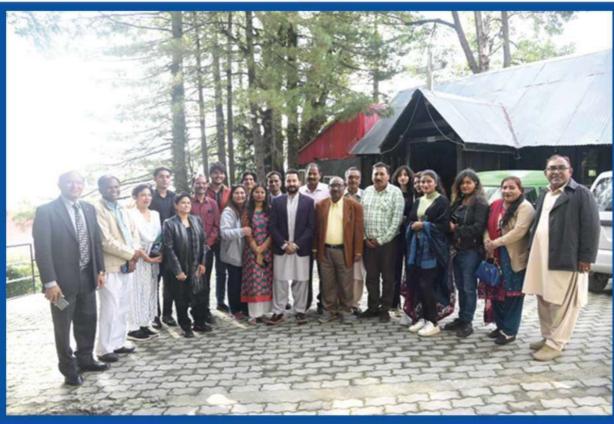
 Dr. Saqib moderated the launch of the Safety Handbook for Women Journalists at Forman Christian College University (FCCU) during the Journalists Safety Training Workshop organized by the Faculty of Humanities in collaboration with the Journalism Media International Center (JMIC) at Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway.



Dr. Saqib had the honor of being invited as a Guest Speaker & Trainer by the Christian
Journalists Association of Pakistan (CJAP) for their transformative workshop on
Environmental Journalism. The workshop, tailored for Christian Journalists across
Pakistan, was held from August 1-3, 2023, at the Training and Retreat Centre in Donga ali.
Throughout the workshop, Dr. Saqib supervised and guided attendees through
engaging group activities and fieldwork in Donga Gali. Together, they delved into
environmental reporting from marginalized perspectives, highlighting the pivotal
role journalists play in addressing the challenges faced by vulnerable communities.
Fieldwork activities provided participants with firsthand exposure to the impact of
environmental crimes on local residents, reinforcing their commitment to advocate for
positive change through journalism.







 Dr. Saqib organized a guest lecture on "Persuasion Strategies for Climate Change Messaging During the Climate Crisis" for students enrolled in the summer course "Risk and Crisis Communication" (MCOM350) at Forman Christian College (A Chartered University). The webinar featured Dr. Chris Galloway from Massey University, New Zealand, as the guest speaker. Dr. Galloway provided invaluable insights into effectively communicating the urgency of climate issues.

His impactful discourse emphasized tailoring messages for diverse audiences, fostering collective action, and promoting behavior change. The lecture equipped students with practical tools to address complex global challenges and work towards a more sustainable future.





• On August 17, Dr. Saqib organized a guest lecture for his Summer Course, "English Writing for Journalists, (MCOM110)," featuring Dr. Qurratulaen Liaqat from the English Department at Forman Christian College (A Chartered University). The lecture focused on "English Grammar and Smart Al Language Learning Strategies for Modern Journalism." Collaborating closely, Dr. Saqib and Dr. Qurratulaen aimed to create an interdisciplinary learning experience for the students. During the session, Dr. Qurratulaen shared valuable insights on utilizing functional English, proper grammar, tenses, and sensitive language in journalism. She emphasized the significance of language proficiency in storytelling, conveying accurate information, and engaging with readers effectively. Additionally, Dr. Qurratulaen discussed the use of technology such as Smart Al to enhance language skills, particularly relevant in today's journalism landscape. Given Dr. Qurratulaen's expertise and pivotal role in crafting the course, her lecture held special significance.





• Dr Syed Muhammad Saqib was honored with an invitation as a guest speaker at the esteemed International Youth Summit Dubai 2023, held from August 25th to 27th. This notable event

attracted over 80 delegates from more than 20 countries, both in-person and online, and was co-hosted by Voice for Rights International Canada and Teaching Pakistan. Dr Saqib's engaging presentation, titled "Empowering Youth Leaders for Effective Climate Change Communication and Action," captivated the audience as he delved into the vital role of youth leadership, emotional intelligence, empathy, entrepreneurship, and self-awareness in addressing the global

climate crisis. Throughout his session, Saqib showcased a series of compelling case studies,

spotlighting the achievements of various global youth leaders and changemakers who have made significant strides in combating climate change. He underscored the pivotal role these young leaders play in driving positive environmental change on a global scale.







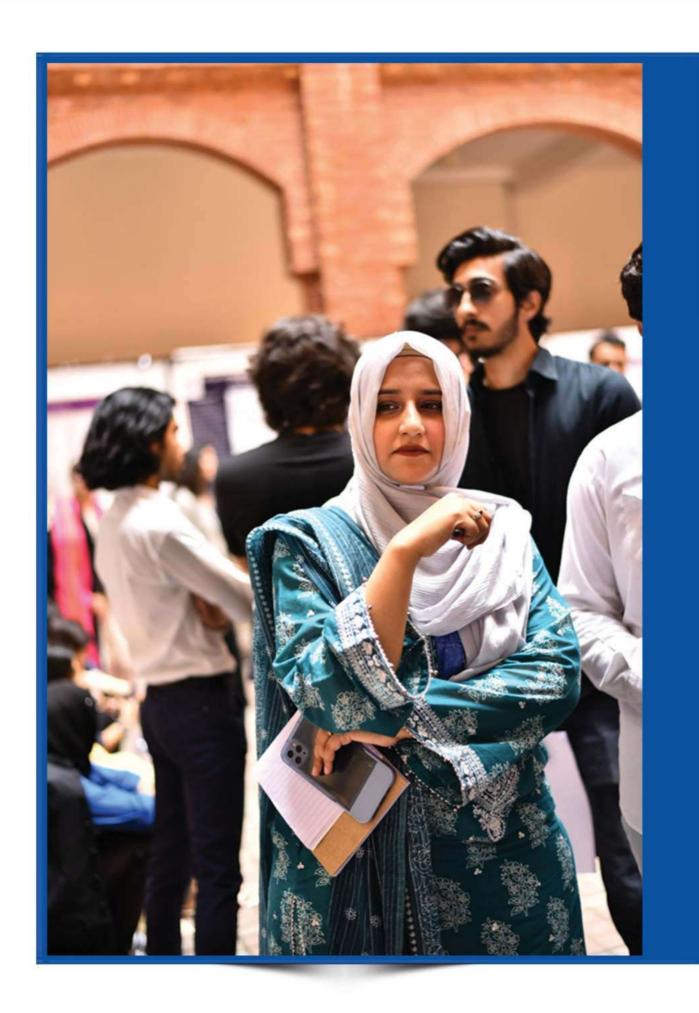
#### Ms. SHAMAIL ZEHRA

• Ms. Shamail Zehra, one of our esteemed faculty members at the Department of Mass Communication, recently organized a captivating poster exhibition of research proposals in collaboration with the Forman Journalism Society. The exhibition showcased the outstanding work of her MCOM 290 (Fundamentals of Research) students, highlighting their innovative research ideas and proposals. The event was a resounding success, with participants exuding enthusiasm as they passionately shared their research concepts. It was truly inspiring to witness thededication and hard work put forth by our talented students.

We were honoured to have all the faculty members from the Department of Mass Communication visit the exhibition, where they engaged in fruitful conversations with the participants. Our faculty listened attentively to their ideas and provided valuable feedback, nurturing an environment of academic growth and exploration.









Ms. Shamail Zehra invited renowned senior journalist, Mr. Mubashir Bukhari, as a guest speaker for her MCOM 302 - Opinion Writing course. Mr. Bukhari's extensive experience in the field of opinion writing presented a valuable opportunity for our students to enhance their professional skills in editorial writing and its structuring, steps and strategies for conducting research and identifying authentic and fake news sources for editorial writing.



Ms. Shamail Zehra had the privilege of hosting a guest lecture on Radio Broadcasting for our MCOM 401 students. Ms. Neelma Ahmer, a talented RJ and esteemed faculty member from UMT Radio, graced us with her expertise and insights into the fascinating world of radio. Under the guidance of our dedicated faculty member, Ms. Shamail Zehra, this guest lecture provided students with a unique opportunity to learn from an industry expert and gain valuable knowledge of the art of radio broadcasting. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Ms. Neelma Ahmer for sharing her valuable experiences and inspiring our students.





#### DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

On 20th of March 2023, the Department of Philosophy conducted a special session on the Japanese-British novelist and Nobel Prize winner Sir Kazuo Ishiguro. The session was held during the festivities to celebrate 70 years of relationship between Pakistan and Japan. Dr. Qurratulaen Liaqat and FCC students were the speakers who highlighted the work and contribution of Ishiguro in literature. The forum proved to be profuse in underlining the great accomplishments of the Nobel Laureate. Ms. Rinna Tominaga, Deputy Head Public Affairs Section of Embassy of Japan, and Mr. Amir Shirazi, Honorary Consul General of Japan, graced the occasion.



As part of the festivities to celebrate 70 years of relationship between Pakistan and Japan, the Department of Philosophy & Pakistan Japan Cultural Association organized a Japanese Haiku Mushaira (Urdu) on 17th April, 2023. Twelve Urdu poets presented their Haikus. The event was conducted by Professor Shahid Ashraf of the Urdu Department and the Chief Guest was Mr. Amir Shirazi, Honorary Consul General of Japan.

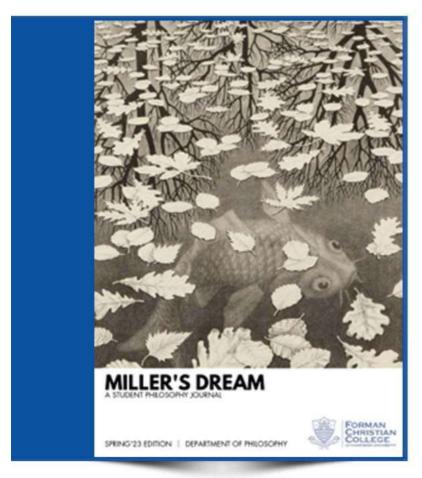


The Forman Philosophy Society organized a conference 'How Philosophy Shapes Culture' on 19th May, 2023. The two speakers were Dr. Amber Riaz, Associate Professor at the Philosophy Department at LUMS, and Qalander Bux Memon, Assistant Professor of Political Science at FCC.



THE SPRING 2023 EDITION OF 'MILLER'S DREAM'- Pakistan's only student-led philosophy Journal was launched by The Department of Philosophy on 9th June, 2023. The

moderator of the event was the editor: Usama Faraz. Each speaker was invited to present a short summary of their paper.

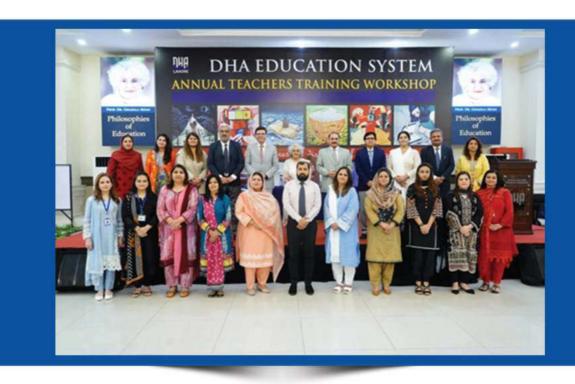


# Conferences and Seminars

#### Dr. Ghazala Irfan

On 17th August, 2023, Dr. Ghazala Irfan the Head of the Department of Philosophy delivered 2 lectures at the Annual Teacher Training Workshop in DHA, on the topics:

- 1. Towards Critical Enlightenment
- 2. Theories of Education



# **Awards**

### Dr. Ghazala Irfan

On August 14, 2023, Dr. Ghazala Irfan, the Department of Philosophy Head, was invited to the Governor's House to receive the Governor's Certificate of Recognition on the Independence Day.



# DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES Events & Activities

Department of Religious Studies has always been proactive and productive in terms of arranging intra-institutional and collaborative initiatives that promote the culture of learning, professional and personal growth. Tenure of Spring 2023 was no exception.

#### Congratulations!

The Department offers proud congratulation to Dr. Abid Naeem on his well-earned promotion to Associate-Professorship. Dr. Abid has immensely contributed in the growth of department and has been a devoted asset.

#### Activities of R & D Forum

- Research and Development Forum organized their first event of the tenure "The Scope of Research Methods in Teaching Islamic Education" on 17th of March, 2023. It was an online session delivered by Dr Muhammad Akram from IIUI.
- Popular scholar/academician Prof. Dr Amir was invited to deliver a webinar on 17th of May, 2023, on the subject of Fatwa-Giving Today: Usul ul Ifta and Social Scientific Research". The event was very well received by the faculty and students.

# Activities of Forman Islamic Society (FIS)

Forman Islamic Society is a highly efficient student body striving to help students learn and grow in terms of their character and moral values. Forman Islamic Society, under the advisory of Ms. Zaneera Azam, arranged the following intra-institutional events:

#### FIS Events:

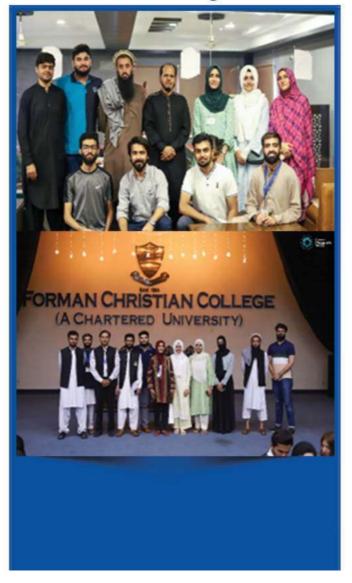
- Ramdan Specials: FIS arranged Seerah Circles throughout Ramzan with the collaboration of faculty members, and Prof. Shuja Waqar was invited to deliver the talk
- Quran Circles: To make Ramzan more useful, FIS conducted three Quran circles on different subjects.
- USAID x FIS: With the exchange students of USAID programme FIS conducted a talk on the subject of 'Islam and Conservation of Environment'.
- FIS arranged a Ramadan Ration Drive for the underprivileged.
- FIS x Economics Deptt: FIS arranged a talk with Prof. Shuja Waqar and Dr. Saeed Ahmed on the subject of Transition from Madarsah to University Education.
- FIS arranged around nine Study Circles on numerous topics; it also collaborated with Christian Life Study Program, USAID, and Economics Department to educate students on the subject of religious tolerance, diversity and holistic lifestyles.

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FIS Council Farewell

FIS arranged a council farewell for the hardworking council of 2022. FIS' outgoing council served dedicatedly and played a pivotal role in educating students about FCCU core values through the lens of religion. DRS wishes the outgoing council all the best and welcomes the incoming council.



#### **PUBLICATIONS**

Dr. Hafiz. Abdul Ghani (Associate Professor, Chairperson Department of Religious Studies)

Dr. Hafiz Abdul Ghani's studious efforts brought along a highly productive academic year; his diverse academic and non- academic achievements for the institutional and departmental growth are proven through following endeavors:

 Dr. Ghani's research article on the subject of 'Islamic Codification of Meaningful life and Mental Wellbeing' was published in a research journal named Nugta.

Dr. Abid Naeem (Associate Professor Department of Religious Studies)

# **Scholarly Contributions:**

Dr Abid's intellectual endeavors included:

- An analysis of the sources used in al Milal wa al-Nihal and Allama Shahrastani's methodology while citing them in his book.
- An Analysis of the Foundations for Christian-Muslim Relations in the Light of Selected Urdu Quranic Exegetes of Surah al-Māidah.
- A Research Study of the Causes of the Qur'anic Inimitability and Literal Inimitability of Quranic Fāsilah.

## Journal Associate Editorship:

Dr. Abid served as an Associate Editor of an HEC recognized Islamic Studies research journal, Nuqtah, Journal of Theological Studies and Chief Executive Nuqtah JTS Research Board, Resurgence Academic and Research Institute, Sialkot.

Ms. Zaneera Azam Lecturer Department of Religious Studies and Advisor Forman Islamic Society)

Ms. Zaneera has recently published (Co-Authored with Dr. Hafiz Abdul Ghani) an article in research journal Nuqta, titled "Islamic Codification of Meaningful life and Mental Wellbeing"

#### Conferences & Seminars

# Dr. Hafiz. Abdul Ghani

Academic Contributions/ Initiatives:

Dr. Ghani spoke as a panelist at the International Conference on World Religions arranged by Minhaj ul Quran University, Lahore.

Professional Trainings:

Dr. Hafiz Abdul Ghani proudly served as a CLT designated trainer in numerous workshops and training sessions held at FCCU. Developing Teaching Philosophy, Writing a Professional Statement and Course Designing Workshop are to name a few.

# Dr. Nisar Ahmed (Associate Professor Department of Religious Studies, Coordinator R&D Forum)

Dr. Nisar Ahmed's academic year brought along numerous remarkable feats comprising of:

- Departmental Contribution: Dr. Nisar, through the Research and Development Forum, arranged webinars and in-person seminars on topics circling around religion, ethics and morality.
- Research and Development Forum: Through R&D forum, Dr. Nisar organized three major seminars on departmental level. The seminars focused on the following topics:
- 1) "The Scope of Research Methods in Teaching Islamic Education"
- 2) "Fatwa-Giving Today: Usul ul Ifta and Social Scientific Research"



Dr. Keneth Pervaiz (Assistant Professor Department of Religious Studies)

Dr. Keneth had a very productive tenure during Spring 2023, details of which are following:

# Scholarly Activities:

An interactive session was organized for interfaith harmony in which undergraduate as well as postgraduate Christian students were present at FCCU small chapel. The session was chaired by Dr. Keneth Pervaiz on the subject "Religious Minorities in Pakistan: Identities, Citizenship with a Special Focus on Issues, Challenges and Solutions."

# International Paper Presentation:

Dr. Kenneth presented a research paper online on the platform of 'International Network for Christian Higher Education (INCHE)' in collaboration with Handong University in South Korea, titled as The Identity Crisis of Pakistani Christians and the Role of Theological Education.

#### Non-Academic Activities:

Dr Kenneth was invited as the guest speaker by Theological Educators' Forum (TEF) for a training workshop on "Research and Writing." The main objective of the workshop was to equip the participants with international research & writing standards and provide a guideline for writing a compelling proposal/ thesis for pursuing M. Div., M.th, and PhD.

# Ms. Zaneera Azam

- Guest Speaker: Ms Zaneera Azam was invited by Griswold History Society on the event of Tareekhfest FCCU, on 30th May, 2023, to speak on the topic ' Historical Women of Quran'.
- On 24th May, 2023, Miss Zaneera Azam delivered a talk on the subject of Islam and Conservation of Environment, arranged by USAID exchange students.
- Advising Activities: Ms. Zaneera, through the forum of FIS, delivered a dedicated talk on the subject of "Reasons of Islamophobia and Augmenting A theism"
- On 28th March 2023, she attended a virtual conference "Should we be alarmed? Chatbots, Al, and the Humanities" conducted by the University of Tennessee.
- In June 2023, she attended a three-day virtual conference on the subject of
- 'Anti-Feminism and Anti-Gender Politics in Authoritarian Regimes' organized by Herder-Institute Germany.



#### THE WRITING CENTER

Report on Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) between Lehigh University US and Forman Christian College University (FCCU) Pakistan.

COIL Engagement: 3rd October to 24th October 2023.

Courses involved: ENGL 250 (Creative Writing, FCCU)

Foundational English (Lehigh University)

Facilitators: Mussarat Shahid & Jessica Harbaum

With the purpose of invoking and facilitating cross cultural dialogue, Lehigh US and FCCU Pakistan collaborated for a seven-session online writing workshop from the 3rd to the 24th of October, 2023. The seminar, centering memoir writing, aimed at creating an international learning experience for students from drastically different backgrounds, equipping them in navigating intercultural communication as well as improving their non-fiction writing. A total of students from FCCU and 11 students from Lehigh University agreed to participate in this

### experience.

To initiate dialogue and warm the diverse student body towards each other, an ice breaking activity that invited students to describe one's writer self through a metaphor, was employed. This was followed by an edifying presentation on cross-cultural exchange with the analogy of peach versus coconut cultures for the students to grasp an understanding of the upcoming sessions. Steadily, students were introduced to their groups, with activities involving reflections and analysis on assigned memoir readings giving them the opportunity to get to interact meaningfully and purposefully with each other. This strategy helped students at both ends to be prepared for the eventual peer review task. The concluding sessions involved peer reviewing for the students' memoir write-ups, which granted them an opportunity to refine their writings, as well as demonstrate effective communication skills to negotiate with their peers and eventually produce interculturally accessible work.

#### **Outcome:**

The COIL experience was valuable in providing students with a unique learning opportunity, through which they were able to interact with a diverse peer group hailing from a variety of backgrounds. Moreover, this distinct platform allowed students to participate in one-on-one dialogue with their age group and get a chance to explore similarities and differences in the cultures to which they belong. The students discussed the particulars of their college life such as midterms, which were a point of similarity in their lives as students, but also points of difference such as the languages they spoke at home, and how their particular cultures viewed the nature of friendship. Moreover, the sharing of personal anecdotes by the students created an enriching learning environment.

The hindrances in the learning process were few, but technical difficulties did, at times, create a barrier in communication. It was occasionally difficult to hear students due to them being seated farther away from the microphone, and internet connection difficulties were present, if few. That

being stated, however, the online meetings did serve their overall purpose in providing a platform upon which to conduct the exercise, and were, for the most part, consistent.

## **Conclusion:**

The final question which arises is whether this exercise was able to achieve what it set out to achieve. The answer is affirmative, as the COIL experience was able to successfully facilitate a dialogue between students from two completely different cultural backgrounds. The students emerged with knowledge of a culture they had not experienced before and most likely developed a sense of and appreciation for cross-cultural communication.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF URDU**

**Events & Activities** 

#### Mission and Vision

Forman Christian College University's Urdu Department takes pride in its history, tradition, and heritage. The mission of the Urdu Department is to contribute to the establishment of a healthy society in the region. The department serves as an advocate for peace, friendship, and love within the society. Its foremost priority is to mentally, socially, and ethically train students. The Urdu Department is dedicated to fostering civilized citizenship and shaping a better society; and to achieve this, it has designed curriculum-level courses aimed at guiding students to uphold moral values and historical traditions. To realize these objectives, the Urdu Department consistently organizes both curricular and co-curricular activities, promoting a positive role for students on the global stage.



Chairperson Department of Urdu Forman Christian College (A Chartered University),



# Urdu Department Semester Kickoff Meeting with Dean and Faculty: Strategic Plans and Collaborative Initiatives

At the commencement of the semester, the Urdu Department convened a meeting with Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan, the Dean of Humanities. The entire faculty of the Urdu Department was in attendance. Dr. Noureen Khokhar, the Chairperson of the Urdu Department, presented a comprehensive report on the previous semester, shared strategies for the upcoming term, and outlined the department's plans. Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan commended the Urdu Department for their efforts and assured them of his full cooperation. As the program concluded, Dr. Noureen Khokhar, on behalf of the department, presented flowers to Dr. Altaf Khan. The meeting participants included Dr. Najeeb Jamal, Dr. Ashfaq Virk, Dr. Muhammad Tahir, Dr. Ateeq Anwar, Dr. Shahid Ashraf, and visiting faculty members Dr. Ali Muhammad Khan and Ms. Saulat Tahir.



# **OTHER DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES**



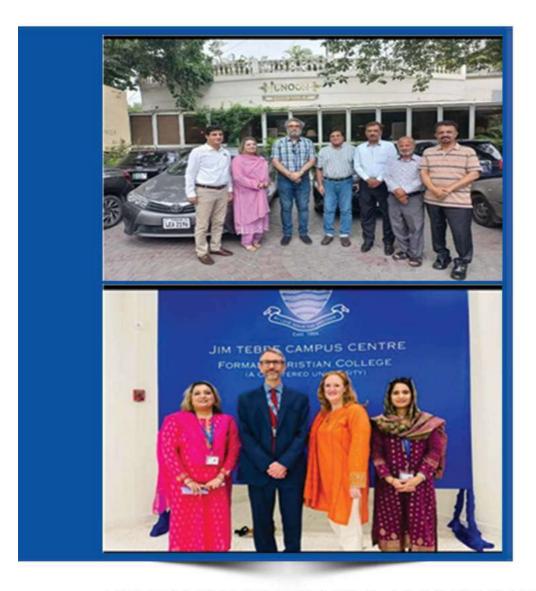
CONDOLENCE REFERENCE OF LATE DR. AKHTAR SHUMAAR



ADVISING FAIR 2023 DAY 1 & 2



**ACADEMIC FAIR 2023** 



GET TOGETHER WITH DEAN DR. ALTAF ULLAH KHAN INAUGURATION OF STUDENT'S CENTER



THESIS FINAL VIVA DAY CONVOCATION 2023



MPHIL ORIENTATION FALL SEMESTER 2023



DR. GLORIA CALIB WITH FACULTY MEMBERS IN BAZAM E URDU



MPHIL STUDENTS ON IQBAL'S THOUGHT & SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION





DR. GHAFOOR SHAH QASIM'S FAREWELL PARTY

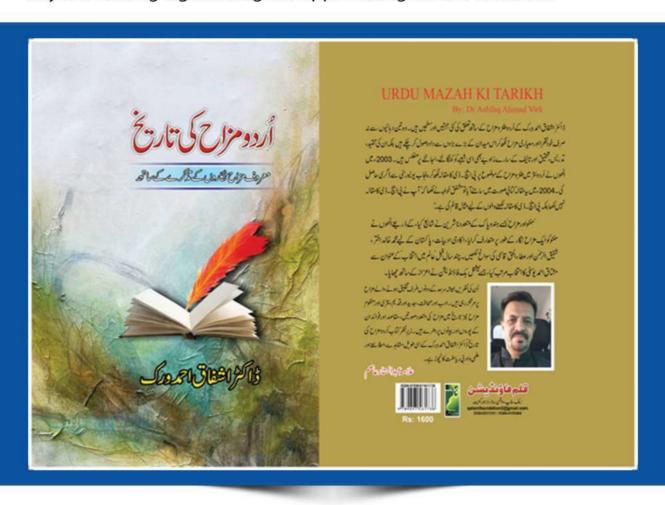


STUDENT'S TRIBUTE TO CHAIRPERSON DR. NOUREEN KHOKHAR

#### **Publications**

### Dr. Ashfaq Ahmad Virk

Dr. Virk published his book "The History of Urdu Humour" (اردو مزاح کی تاریخ), which introduces readers to a rich and diverse landscape of humor in Pakistan and India. Within its pages, the readers will discover a tapestry of comedic geniuses, from legendary satirists to contemporary humorists; each with their unique voice and style. It celebrates humour as a testament to the shared laughter that transcends borders, languages, and cultures. This book invites readers to join the hilarious and heartwarming adventure of exploring the tales, jokes, and musings of these talented individuals who have brought joy and laughter into the lives of many, making it a delightful companion for anyone seeking a good laugh or appreciating the art of humor.



## **Conferences and Seminars**

# Dr. Shaheer Tahir international Mushaira

The Urdu Department and Forman Urdu Society organized International Mushaira at FC College University, with Dr. Tahir Shaheer as the event organizer. Poets from around the world

participated, including Federal Minister and renowned poet Wasi Shah, and well-known actor and writer Sohail Ahmed. The famous comic poet Salman Gilani presided over the mushaira, while the

Honorable Rector, Dr. Jonathan Addleton, graced the occasion as the chief guest. Associate Vice Rector, Dr. Gloria Calib, made a special appearance, and Dean of Humanities, Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan, cooperated throughout the organization of this Mushaira. At the beginning, the Chairperson of the department, Dr. Noureen Khokhar, warmly welcomed all the participants. The event was attended by the Student Advisor, Kamal Shamshad, Students Activity Manager, Faiqa,

Discipline in-charge, Mr. Rashid, Director of Security Col. Khaqan, Hostel Manager Haroon Dawood, and a significant number of faculty members from the university. A large audience of students from across the university applauded the poets. A noteworthy aspect of the Mushaira was the Christmas cake cutting ceremony which took place during the event. In conclusion, Dr. Noureen Khokhar, Chairperson of the Urdu Department, and Society Advisor Dr. Muhammad Tahir presented flowers and gifts to the guests. A dinner was also arranged after the

mushaira.



















## Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed Virk

MPhil Seminars Organized by Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed Virk featuring Prominent Figures Salma Awan and Neelam Bashir Ahmed

Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed Virk organized seminars, and discussions for MPhil students. Well-known personalities from the country were invited to provide academic and literary education to the students.



Meeting individuals like Salma Awan and Neelam Bashir Ahmed was a matter of honor for both the students and the department, significantly enhancing the department's reputation and the institution's overall prestige.





### Dr. Ateeq Anwar Bazm-e-Urdu

Dr. Ateeq Anwar, Coordinator of the Urdu Department, founded Bazm-e-Urdu, marking a historic moment for the department. Dr. Noureen Khokhar, Chairperson of the department, elucidated the significance of this literary

platform. Dr. Ateeq Anwar presented the aims and objectives of Bazm-e-Urdu. The chief guest for the program was Associate Vice Rector, Dr. Gloria Calib. A large number of students participated in the event, with M.Phil student Sabtain Zahoor reading a short story (fiction) and Hasnain Ahmed presenting a ghazal. Dr. Gloria Calib appreciated the program and assured full support for its success.





### Bazm-e-Urdu's Second Program

The second program under Bazm-e-Urdu took place on 23rd November 2023, organized by Dr. Ateeq Anwar, with Dr. Shahid Ashraf serving as the stage secretary. The esteemed chief guest for the event was Dr. Saleem Abbas from the Department of Mass Communication. Dr. Farasat Jabeen, Chairperson of the Department of Mass Communication, also graced the occasion. M.Phil student Saira Cheema presented her short story, and Bilal recited a ghazal. All the teachers from the Urdu Department actively participated, engaging in critical evaluations of the presented fiction and ghazal. In closing, Dr. Noureen Khokhar, the Chairperson of the Urdu Department, expressed gratitude to the audience for their participation.















#### **IQBAL'S THOUGHT AND SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION SEMINAR**

The Urdu Department organized a seminar on the topic of "Iqbal's Thought and Social Reconstruction" with Dr. Ateeq Anwar as the organizer. The seminar was held under the supervision of the Dean of Humanities, Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan. The speaker for the seminar was Dr. Tahir Hameed Tanoli, and the Honorable Rector, Dr. Jonathan S. Addleton, was invited as the chief guest. Dr. Noureen Khokhar, the Chairperson, welcomed the guests. The faculty of Urdu, including Dr. Najeeb Jamal, Dr. Ashfaq Virk, Dr. Muhammad Tahir, Dr. Shahid Ashraf, Dr. Ali Muhammad Khan, Prof. Saulat Tahir, along with the Head of the English Department, Dr. Fatima Syeda, Head of Religious Studies Department, Dr. Hafiz Ghani, Dr. Atiq-ur-Rehman, Dr. Abida Batul, Prof. Sameera Kanwal, Prof. Alvina Wasim, Prof. Nisar, and a large number of students participated. At the closing of the program, Chairperson of the Urdu Department, Dr. Noureen Khokhar, presented souvenirs and flowers to the guests.







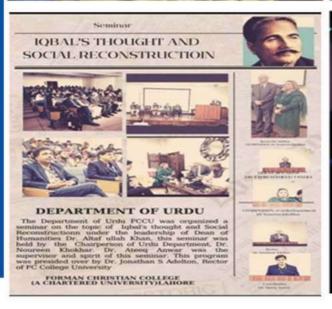














#### Other Activities

# Academic Excellence and Achievements: A Glance at the Urdu Department's Success in 2023

The Urdu Department has been striving for academic excellence right from the beginning as

evidenced by the examination and evaluation of MPhil students' coursework and theses. The Urdu Department achieved success by successfully defending the majority of students in the Spring of 2023, and they received their degrees during the 2023 Convocation. Hasnain Ahmed, a brilliant student of the Urdu Department, was awarded a gold medal. The Urdu Department is dedicated to promoting various curricular and co-curricular activities to encourage students in every possible way.



# **EDITORIAL TEAM**

# **FACULTY EDITORIAL TEAM**



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