



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

# Rector's Update

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

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## NECHE UPDATE

This edition of the *Rector's Update* is written from Boston as part of a longer trip to the US organized around briefing donors, meeting a potential campus architect, attending an upcoming Friends of Forman Board meeting -- and joining Dr. Trimble in representing Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) at the Fall meeting of the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) held on September 26.

I am pleased to report that our presentation before the 27 NECHE Commissioners representing a wide range of institutions including Harvard, Wellesley, US Coast Guard Academy, Boston University, University of Massachusetts, University of Connecticut, and University of New England, among others, was a

success, concluding with the words we have long wanted to hear: **"Congratulations, Forman has been approved by NECHE for Candidacy status!"** This is good news indeed and means that Forman has ascended to the third stage of a three-step process that includes (1) eligibility; (2) candidacy; and (3) initial NECHE accreditation.

While additional work lies ahead, this is truly a moment for celebration, especially given the contributions of so many within the Forman community who helped make this day possible, including the dozens of faculty and staff who contributed to the various NECHE accreditation standards committees. Although other universities from both Pakistan and Bangladesh are applying for NECHE accreditation, this makes Forman the first institution of higher learning in South Asia to attain NECHE candidacy status.



This is also an appropriate time to acknowledge with thanks and appreciation the vision and inspiration of former Rectors Dr. Peter Armacost and Dr. Jim Tebbe who launched and supported the accreditation process throughout their tenures. Also, a special thanks to Dr. Gloria Calib for her continued leadership on all aspects of our engagement with NECHE, working closely with colleagues across the Forman community to further advance the process.

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

I much appreciated the opportunity to attend the welcome dinner for

more than 2,000 new College students,

the largest and most diverse first-year College class ever. In addition to student readings from the Holy Quran and Holy Bible, this year's program included readings from the Sikh and Hindu scriptures, further reflecting the diversity of this year's entering class.



Several academic departments organized orientation and welcome events for entering university students. I was privileged to attend one of them, held in the Jim Tebbe Campus Center, in this case to welcome the first "batch" of 26 entering MS students majoring in Clinical Psychology.



I also participated in a number of outstanding campus activities throughout the month including the Senior Academic Leadership Retreat involving Deans as well as Department Heads. As with the Faculty Retreat held earlier, I found the program both interesting and informative.



It was an honor to speak to 40 mid-career civil servants as part of a program organized by our Center for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG) headed by Dr. Saeed Shafqat in partnership with Pakistan's Lahore-based Punjab Institute of Management and Professional Training. Later in September I participated in another CPPG event, this one involving 50 senior career civil servants studying at the National School of Public Policy. From my perspective, it is a singular honor to have the opportunity to speak to these officials representing a wide range of departments at both the federal and provincial level.

Estd. 1864



We welcomed German Deputy Head of Mission in Pakistan Arno Kirchhof to our campus in September, taking the opportunity to tour Forman's Media Center which was partly equipped with German support. The program at the Media Center was led by Dr. Firasat Jabeen; Dr. Altaf Khan and Dr. Samina Mehnaz -- both holding advanced degrees from Germany -- also participated.



Forman's Department of Environmental Sciences partnered with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to organize a one-day symposium on *Environmental Conservation* involving outside visitors as well as members of the Forman community. Guests included senior government officials and senior WWF staff from both Pakistan and abroad.



The *Formanites Debating Society* (FDS) celebrated Pakistan Defence Day with a closing ceremony to mark the conclusion of their *Summer Debate Series* involving twelve other institutions from across Pakistan. Labeled as an "Intellectual Showdown," the series of virtual events was launched on July 20 and continued through September 6, providing opportunities to present the full range of parliamentary debating skills.



As described by FDS President Sahil Bhatti, "The event was a testament of the power of debate in fostering intellectual growth, critical thinking and a culture of intellectual curiosity, leaving participants eagerly awaiting future collaborations". A special thanks, too, to FDS Advisor Ms. Alvina Waseem for her long-standing support for one of Forman's oldest and most active student societies.

Joining with the Computer Science Department, the Office of Career Services and Internships hosted a well-attended session on *Building Brilliance: Shaping Student Character for Success* featuring the renowned coach, humorist and trainer Mr. Adeel Hashmi.





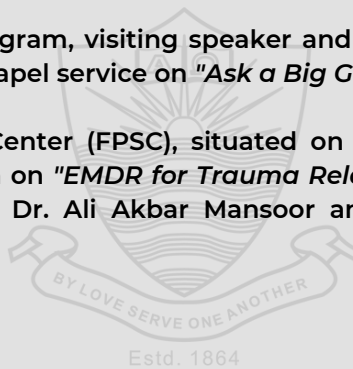
As Mariam Khalil reported afterwards, "In my eight years at FC, I have never witnessed such an engaged audience . . . he spoke for over an hour and a half and yet not a single student made a sound or left the room". Further elaborating on the session, Mariam also notes that "Mr. Hashmi's presence and message were truly transformative. He reminded us of the importance of stepping away from materialism and reignited our thirst for learning, growth, and reflection on the true essence of life".



Forman organized a special program in the Jim Tebbe Campus Center on October 3 to celebrate Teacher's Day. The event was graced by several prominent figures including Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora (Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs), Mr. Ajmal Chandio (Parliamentary Secretary for Higher Education), Tariq Masih Gill (Member of the Provincial Assembly, Punjab), as well as students, faculty, staff and other distinguished guests.

As part of Forman's Christian Life program, visiting speaker and former US-based campus minister Steve Shadrach spoke at the FCCU Friday chapel service on "Ask a Big God for Big Things".

The Forman Psychological Services Center (FPSC), situated on the TSA/FCCU Partnership campus near China Chowk, is organizing a program on "EMDR for Trauma Related Disorders" on October 10 and will be delivered by consultant psychologist Dr. Ali Akbar Mansoor and open to all members of the Forman community.



## FACULTY CONTRIBUTIONS



A huge shoutout also to Professor Dr. Samina Mehnaz from Forman's Kausar Abdulla Malik School of Life Sciences for once again being included in the Stanford University annual list of the

"top two percent"

of researchers world-wide; this is the fourth consecutive year that Dr. Samina has received this honor, introduced by Stanford in 2019 to recognize notable researchers and based in part on publications.



Saadia Sumbal, Associate Professor of History, published articles in two international journals, "Voices from the Periphery: Punjabi Poetry, Resistance and Anti-Colonial Nationalism" (*South Asian Studies* Volume 40 Issue 2, 2023: <https://doi.org/10.1080/02666030.2024.2396182>) and "Parsi Identity and Community Legislation in Colonial Punjab" (*Journal of Punjab Studies* Volume 30 Number 2, 2023: <http://jiss.org/researchnew.html>). Her book *Islam and Religious Change in Pakistan: Sufis and Ulema in 20th Century South Asia* (Routledge, Taylor & Francis, 2022) was also recently reviewed in two international publications, *Journal of Religious History* and *Journal of Sufi Studies*.

Dr. Firasat Jabeen from Forman's Department of Mass Communication was invited to join the International Communication Association (ICA) task force on Global Representation and Engagement. In addition, Dr. Firasat received a \$2,000 Fulbright grant to help support the ICA Regional Conference scheduled to be hosted by Forman in December.



Dr. Adeel Ahmad Aamir, Assistant Professor in our Department of Mass Communication, served as a communication expert in a panel discussion on urbanization and air pollution organized at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) in partnership with the British High Commission.

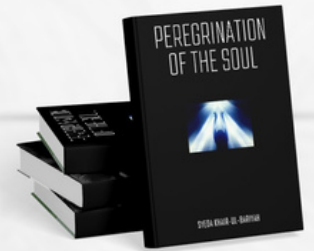
Irtiza Shafaat Bokharee, Lecturer in Forman's Political Science Department, reports that his department recently partnered with the Strategic Vision Institute (SVI), an Islamabad-based think tank, to expose students to national security issues and the role that youth can play in helping to advance them. During their visit, SVI Executive Director Dr. Naeem A. Salik (a Forman graduate) joined with SVI Director of Research Dr. Nasir Hafeez to brief the students.

Later SVI hosted a day-long workshop at the University of Punjab in which six Forman Political Science students -- three at the MPhil level (Safi Ullah, Momina Afzal and Murtaza Khan) and three at the Bachelors level (Kawish Sani, Arooba Iqbal and Ali Amman) -- participated, accompanied by Professor Muhammad Usman Farooq. Discussion at the workshop covered many topics including civil-military relations and their influence on policy making.



Maheen Zia from our English Department reports two notable achievements over the summer, starting with her selection as the only participant from Pakistan to attend this year's Digital Humanities Summer School at Oxford University (only 11 out of the more than 80 teachers who applied were selected). In addition, Maheen was awarded second prize in the ELT Lesson Design Competition organized by Education University Hong Kong.

Syeda Khair-ul-Bariyah, Assistant Chemistry Professor (College), was invited to attend the Pakistani Writer's Retreat, sharing her long journey as a writer that started at the age of four and has included publications in both English and Urdu, culminating most recently in her novel *Peregrinations of the Soul* which reflects the values and character-building that are so much a part of the Forman college experience.



Urdu Professor Dr. Shahida Dilawar Shah's debut novel *Zindagi Aik Naraaz Matan* ("Life is an Anguish Text"), published in 2023, was recently selected as the subject of a post-doctorate research thesis at International Islamia University in Islamabad, having been singled out as a pioneering example of metafiction in Urdu literature.

Dr. Sulman Munir, Assistant Geography Professor (College), successfully defended his PhD ("*Drought Monitoring and Hazard Assessment for Climate Resilience in the Punjab, Pakistan*"), in this case from the University of Punjab's Institute of Geography.

Forman's Geography Department was officially certified under the UPG Sustainability Leadership Program, having completed a departmental "mini course" on promoting sustainability.

Forman's Department of Sociology has issued a Call for Abstract Submissions for the Sixth Annual Conference on Marginalized Populations, scheduled to take place on December 11: <https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSe9B5iISnE.../viewform...>; the deadline for submissions is October 14.

FCCU Physics Professor Dr. Hamid Latif spoke to the "Forman Einsteins" (College Physics Club) as part of a lecture titled *From the Mysteries of Quantum Mechanics to the Nobel Prize-Winning Quantum Dots and their Interdisciplinary Applications*, encouraging students to explore the field of quantum physics while also offering a glimpse into the exciting possibilities available to those studying physics in the future.



## STUDENT SUCCESS

Congratulations to Dr. Sara Rizvi Jafree from Forman's Sociology Department who co-authored with two of her MPhil students -- Sajida Yaqoob and Fareeha Habib -- an article titled "Predictors of Help-Seeking Behaviour for Women Domestic Violence Victims of Pakistan and the Gaps in Networks of Support" that was just published in the *Pakistan Journal of Gender Studies*, an HEC-accredited journal:

<https://socialsciencejournals.pjgs-ws.com/.../view/778/747>

I was delighted to meet three of our students from Balochistan: Kamran Noor from Panjgoor; Shayhak Qambrani from Awaran; and Haroon Rahmet Baloch, also from Panjgoor. All three are recipients of scholarships from the Balochistan Education Endowment Fund (BEEF), helping to pave the way for their enrollment at Forman. More remarkably, each of them are "paying it forward," participating in an initiative to present Forman to students from their home areas and encourage them to apply, both for admission to Forman and for BEEF scholarships.

As Kamran Noor describes it, "Getting admission in FCCU has been a dream of mine and I feel incredibly fortunate to have achieved it . . . I have conducted several awareness sessions in different areas of Balochistan to introduce FCCU to students". He adds that "I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to FCCU for giving me the opportunity to study here. The university has truly changed my life. Every time I see the diverse environment and the writing center, I feel proud not only for myself but also for my family and my district . . . I am (also) committed to sharing this opportunity with others".



Team FORMUN represented FCCU at the Model UN conference hosted by the University of Management and Technology (UMT) in early September, returning with several accolades including Best Delegate (Maria Waqar and Salaar Ali); three other Forman students received Special Mention recognition including Faseeha Gul, Shawn John, and Hunzla Faiz.

**ALUMNI NEWS**

I always appreciate welcoming alumni back to campus. This month those alumni included Abraham Stephen who received his BS in Business Management and was recently admitted to Westminster University in London for graduate studies. As it happens, his brother Abeshai Stephen is currently enrolled at Forman and his father Stephen John, Forman's Deputy Manager for Admissions, is also an "Old Formanite". Moreover, Abraham's grandfather John Roshan served as Dr. Peter Armacost's chef from 2005 until 2010 while his great grandfather Samuel Jacob served as a security guard at Forman for 35 years, contributing to a family tradition of Forman connections that by now extends to four generations!







Recent Forman graduate Shahrukh Baloch shared with me the wonderful news that he has been admitted to the University of Washington's Jackson School of International Studies to pursue an MA degree in South Asian Studies. In addition, he received both a full tuition waiver and a Margaret C. Mykut Fellowship to support his studies.

Baloch graduated from Forman with a BA degree (Cum Laude) in Political Science in April 2018, having served as a Resident Assistant in West Hall and a Teaching Assistant for Physics Professor Dr. Pervez Hoodbhoy for a course entitled "Science and the World Around Us"; he later served as an Administrative Assistant for Shawna Person in the Student Affairs office. During his journey to Seattle, he visited two great cities (Istanbul and New York), noting that "since the focus of my research is going to be urban anthropology, I am fascinated by cities and every city has a distinct character emitted by its buildings, crowds, transportation, music, food and aromatic profile".



Kanza Noor who studied Physics at Forman and earned a Bachelors in 2019 and an MPhil in 2022 is now pursuing a Master's in Material Science and Engineering, also at the University of Washington. In addition, she is working as a Silicon Fabrication Engineering Intern at Intel Corp. in Portland, Oregon. According to Kanza, "The education and experiences I gained at FCCU play a significant role in helping me achieve these milestones".



School of Management Assistant Professor Faiza Tasneem reports that two Forman graduates focused on HR issues have already achieved early career success, one (Minahil Aslam) securing a position in the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris while studying for her Master's at the ESC Clermont Business School in France and another (Mavra Tabeer) working as a Senior Compensation Analyst at the *Washington Post*, having previously completed her Master's degree at Georgetown University.

Forman's Alumni Office has also been busy, launching an "Alumni Open Day" involving a presentation and campus tour on October 1 followed by a reception and refreshments in our Alumni Lounge.

On September 18 Forman's Marketing & Outreach team (which includes our Alumni Office) hosted a launch ceremony for two booklets, one honoring Forman graduates who have made contributions to Pakistan's IT sector (*Notable Formanites in the IT Sector*) and a second recognizing the many achievements of our current students (*Formanite Achievers, 2023-2024*).



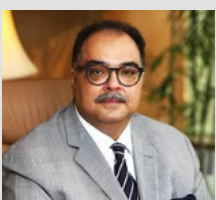
Chief Marketing & Outreach Officer Mrs. Badia Raza warmly welcomed attendees while highlighting Forman's commitment to our alumni. Prominent Formanites in the IT sector who attended include Mr. Attiazaz Munawwar Ud Din (President of the Forman Alumni Association and Chairman of Khazana Enterprises); Mr. Najeeb Ghauri (Group CEO, Chairman and Co-Founder of NetSol Technologies); Mr. Anthony Richards (Founder of Digital Office System and FCCU's Chief Information Officer); and Mr. Muhammad Taimoor Ali (Chief Operating Officer of Bookme Tickets), all of whom spoke on the role that Forman played in shaping their IT careers.



As regards the second booklet, this one focused on student achievers, this part of the program included remarks by three current students: Mr. Obil Abid Nathaniel (this year's Rector's Scholar); Mr. Hamza Ahmed (founder of Forman's OmniLife Society); and Ms. Wafia Khalid (national medalist in weight-lifting).



"Old Formanite" Khunshan Ahmed, co-founder and CEO of EvolveDash, provided a detailed account of the entrepreneurial path that he has taken since graduating from Forman: *"I fondly remember my time at FCC, where the financial aid provided by the university, combined with my part-time job, enabled me to complete my degree in computer science"*. Embarking on a career as a software engineer, he entered various programming competitions and "hackathons" before joining with his wife to found the tech company EvolveDash in 2019, hiring several other Forman graduates along the way.



Finally, congratulations to President and CEO Mr. Zafar Masud and his entire team at the Bank of Punjab for the honors that they received at the recent CFA Society's 21st Annual Excellence Awards ceremony, sweeping three of the most prestigious ones: Corporate Finance House (Fixed Income), Best Transaction, and Gender Diversity at Workplace.

## OUTREACH

While in the US, I joined Friends Executive Director Roger Dermody and Friends Board Chair David Renwick for a morning program at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church outside Washington, DC. Guests included senior retired Pakistan civil servant Mohawid Hussain Shah, a prominent Forman graduate who held senior positions in the Pakistan government during the early 2000s, providing an opportunity for him to play a key role in the Forman denationalization process. A true friend of both Dr. Peter Armacost and Forman Christian College, Mohawid continues to follow developments at our institution with interest and enthusiasm.



Forman's Dr. Bilal Sadiq from the Kauser Abdulla Malik School of Life Sciences was interviewed by *Lahore Rang*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-ElQUPGjZ>

Three Forman female sports champions including Wafia Khalid (weightlifting), Adeen Daud (boxing), and Esha Umar Shafi (swimming) were interviewed on a television show at *Lahore Rang*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7avobhIXvwo>

Dr. Omer Salman Qureshi, Chairperson of the Department of Pharmacy, which was interviewed by *Lahore Rang*: <https://youtu.be/oZAJNweG4Kc?si=FWm10qSX4jcOIFy>

Irfan ul Haq, President of Forman's Ewing English Society and Resident Assistant at Velte Hall, appeared on this youtube interview on sports at Forman, recorded shortly after he won his third gold medal in basketball: <https://youtu.be/xRXC0tevYz0?si=f-qbVpFlkLS184BX>



I was also interviewed this month, in this case by the Pakistan-based business magazine *Profit*: <https://profit.pakistantoday.com.pk/2024/09/30/profit-e-magazine-issue-317/>

## OTHER NEWS

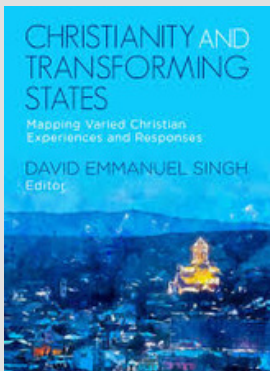
Just as I was finalizing this edition of the Rector's Update, I received news that the Forman Journal of Social Sciences and the Forman Journal of Economic Studies have both received HEC accreditation, designating them as "Y" category journals for 2024-2025: <https://www.hec.gov.pk/english/services/faculty/journals/Pages/default.aspx>

With respect to the *Forman Journal of Social Sciences*, Dr. Sikandar Hayat as Dean of Social Sciences is designated as Editor-in-Chief while Dr. Sara Rizvi Jafree serves as editor and Dr. Muhammad Younis serves as Managing editor; other names appearing on the masthead include Associate Editors Dr. Salma Majeed (Psychology), Dr. Umer Bin Ibad (History), and Dr. Aisha Ajmad (Sociology); and Assistant Editors Ms. Tehniyat Fatima and Mr. Ammar Yasir.

Meanwhile, Dr. Muhammad Hafiz Ali Bhatti serves as Editor-in-Chief of the *Forman Journal of Economic Studies*, working closely with several other members of the Forman faculty including Dr. Ghulam Shabir (Editor), Dr. Talha (Managing Editor), and Mr. Shuja Waqar (Editorial Assistant). A shoutout also to former Managing Editor Dr. Naveed Tahir who helped make this latest editor of the *Forman Journal of Economic Studies* possible: <http://ojs.fccollege.edu.pk/index.php/FJES/index>

A special welcome to Dr. Grace Clarke as Visiting Professor in Forman's Department of Sociology for the Fall semester. Many in the Forman community will already be familiar with Dr. Clarke and her contributions during her previous years at Forman during which she at various times chaired the Sociology Department and served as Dean of Social Sciences. In addition to teaching undergraduate and MPhil classes, she will serve as a senior mentor for both faculty and students. Her research interests include public policy, religion, aging, cities, urban life, gender and poverty.

Writing from "retirement" in Minnesota, Forman Sociology Professor Dr. Julie Flowerday mentions that she is contributing a chapter ("Early Fault Lines: Britain and China's Hunza Stalemate") to the Oxford University Press Handbook on South Asian Borders; she also mentioned that she is working on the final chapter for a small book titled *David Lorimers's Hunza Slide Catalog, 1934-1935* which will be published by the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies.



Congratulations to Dr. Gloria Calib, Associate Vice Rector for Academic Affairs whose chapter titled "Fear and Inwardness: An Examination of the Responses of Church of Pakistan and Full Gospel Assemblies in Modern Pakistan" is included in David Singh, ed., *Christianity and Transforming States: Mapping Varied Christian Experiences and Responses* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2024).

A special thanks to Brian Furches for his follow-up regarding a sports partnership involving the US Department of State, Baylor University in Texas and several cooperating universities in Pakistan including FCCU focused on female empowerment in sports; former Forman faculty member Dr. Charles Ramsey, now at Baylor, was also involved.

As part of this program, Forman received a donation of new sports equipment including two ping pong tables as well as basketball, baseball, badminton, cricket, football, frisbee, boxing, and volleyball equipment. As Brian noted when thanking Baylor for the equipment, "I have witnessed firsthand how these added resources have enhanced our sports curriculum and provided our students with new avenues for physical activity and skill development."



In partnership with the American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS), US Embassy and Digital Rights Foundation, Forman hosted a *"Digital Literacy Boot Camp"* involving several dozen Forman students. *"I genuinely enjoyed the boot camp and it was great to connect with exceptional individuals who share a passion for digital literacy,"* writes student Syeda Hadia Khubaib. *"Thanks to the entire Digital Rights Foundation team for their exceptional organization, support and expertise. I am excited to apply my learnings and continue growing in the digital landscape!"*



The Forman Writing Center headed by Ms. Mussarat Shahid has moved from E-028 to its new home, Room 113 in the Jim Tebbe Campus Center. Nearly 80 students participated in an orientation program organized on September 16. All students and especially first-year students should visit and become acquainted with this new facility which can make an important contribution to academic success!

The TSA/FCCU partnership reached a new milestone with the opening of the TSA/FCCU hostel for female students. Situated in a large renovated building on a small "garden campus" off China Chowk near FCCU, this facility officially welcomed several dozen graduate and undergraduate students at the start of the new semester, providing a new "home away from home", especially for female students from outside Lahore.

TSA  
FCCU



Finally, I would like to express my deep gratitude and sincere appreciation to Forman graduate Dr. Riaz Hussain for two successive donations to Forman's scholarship and endowment funds, each amounting to \$100,000. The first gift was provided last year to establish the Noor Hussain and Barkat Bibi Endowment Fund; the second, recently received, is to establish the Syed Muhammad Shaffi and Zubaida Begum Endowment Fund; both endowments are used to fund Sagheer Manzil Scholarships for students graduating from specific high schools in the Gujranwala area, providing them with the opportunity to attend Forman.

As Dr. Riaz describes it, he graduated from Forman in 1954 and was a lecturer at Forman Christian College during 1956-1960: *"It is a pleasure for me to connect with FC College and give back to it, in small measure, in appreciation of what I received from it: a gift of knowledge."*

His note to me also includes references to several teachers who inspired him including J.M. Benade, W.C. Thoburn and J.H. Martin, all faculty in Forman's Physics Department; in his words, "*These were some of the most productive years of my life*". Finally, Dr. Riaz mentions that he taught for 51 years at the University of Scranton, a Jesuit institution in Pennsylvania, retiring in 2018: "*The building where I taught prominently displays a saying in the lobby: 'Of those to whom much is given, much is expected' (Luke 12:48)*".

DR. JONATHAN ADDLETON  
RECTOR

