



FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

Rector's Update

The latest news and announcements from Dr. Jonathan Addleton

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CAMPUS ACTIVITIES



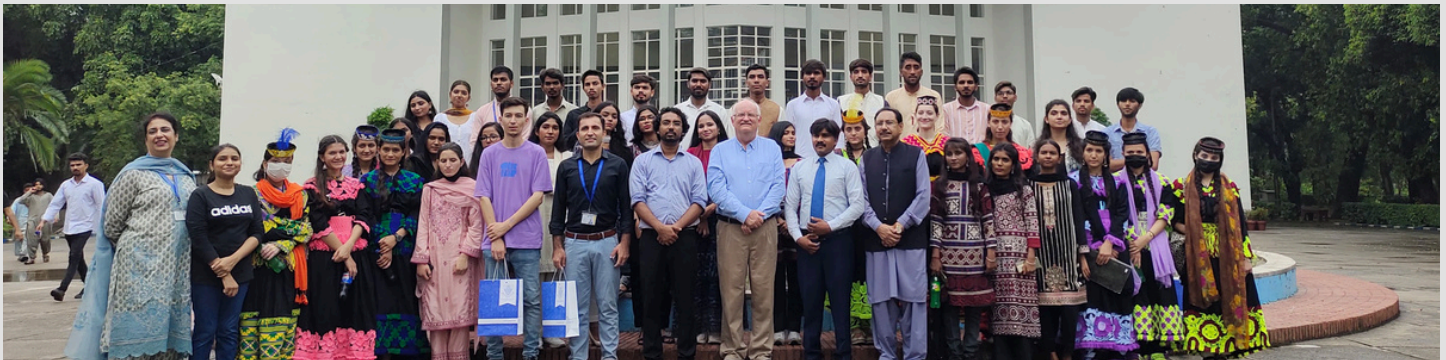
Despite the lingering hot weather and humidity, the early Fall is a great time of year as we welcome a new class of incoming students, both to the college and the university. The number of applicants for some departments is reaching record levels, with some fields such as Computer Science, Business and Mass Communication proving to be especially popular. At the graduate level, Psychology and English have also attracted a lot of applications, making admissions in those areas even more competitive than usual.

More problematically, the Fall semester also highlights the reality that the demand for hostel space at Forman exceeds supply, a long term problem that will take time to resolve. That said, I am pleased to report that a newly renovated hostel with 85 beds on the nearby TSA/FCCU campus is opening this Fall, providing additional hostel space for female university students. Combined with a smaller hostel for female graduate students that opened its doors last year, we now have an additional 100 hostel beds available on the TSA/FCCU campus for female students. And, like our main campus, the TSA/FCCU facility is a very attractive "garden campus" with lots of green space.

Our entering classes are also as diverse as ever, including representation from many communities across the country. This year, that diversity also includes three new college students from Afghanistan and several Bachelor students from the remote Kalash valley in Chitral. In terms of numbers, the entering intermediate class exceeds 2,000 while the entering Bachelor's class exceeds 1,000.

A summer academic enrichment program providing pre-test coaching for aspiring university students organized by our Financial Aid Office headed by Phool Shahzad has also worked hard to maintain and expand the diverse community that is so much a part of the Forman experience. This year, that program included male and female students from a wide range of areas, from the deserts of Tharparkar in the far south of Pakistan to Chitral in the far north.

This outreach program was especially intriguing and involved support from many directions including students and faculty from Chitral, Gilgit and Baltistan who reached out to members of the Kalash community in amazing ways, inviting students from that area to the Forman campus. Once on campus, a number of people including Ayesha Anwar (Guardian) and Rimesha Farooq (Assistant Guardian) along with Eileen Dass and Sheeza James from the Rector's Office did their best to welcome the students and make them comfortable. Dr. Shahid from the Mass Communication Department who is from the Northern Areas also did much to facilitate this program and make it possible.



I appreciated the opportunity to meet three visiting officials from the Quetta-based Balochistan Education Endowment Fund (BEEF) which provides scholarships for students from Balochistan to attend Forman. Last year, two dozen of our students from Balochistan received BEEF scholarships; this year the number is expected to increase to more than thirty.

We received welcome news from the Higher Education Commission's Quality Assurance Agency that the provisional score of Forman's Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) has increased from 38.16 during 2018-2019 to 75.80 during 2022-2023. This is a major accomplishment, thanks largely to the leadership, dedication and work of Sarah Suleman and her QEC team.

Thanks to our Advancement and Alumni Office for hosting another in the continuing series of "Formanite Talkies," this one held on August 8 and focused on Forman graduates working in the media. Several graduates cited specific members of Forman's faculty including Dean of Humanities Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan and Mass Communication Chairperson Dr. Firasat Jabeen for playing an important role in shaping their careers. Given that my first degree was from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, I especially appreciated this opportunity to learn more about what our graduates are doing in this vital area.





The late summer monsoons brought flooding to Lahore including to our campus, briefly turning Main Field into a small lake that attracted many water birds seeking relief from the summer heat and prompting a visit by the Director of WASA to explore potential ways to mitigate water accumulation during the monsoon season. Against that backdrop, the seminar hosted by Forman on August 23 titled "*Climate Change, Mega Cities and Urban Floods*" seemed especially timely.



Dr. Vaqas and his team at Forman's Population Research Center (PRC) played an essential role in organizing this event which also involved several external partners including the UN Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), the latter represented by Abid Qaiyum Suleri who introduced himself as an Old Formanite; other attendees included Punjab Provincial Assembly Member Ahmed Iqbal. The importance of data and information emerged as a recurring theme

throughout the seminar, along with a recognition that policy frameworks are vital and all sections of society need to become involved.



FACULTY ACHIEVEMENT

I welcomed the opportunity to attend part of this year's Faculty Retreat held on August 20, described by some participants as "*the best Faculty Retreat ever*". Focusing on Artificial Intelligence, the one-day event involved several impressive outside speakers and was definitely thought-provoking, especially in highlighting the many ways in which technology is changing education as well as society more broadly. Dr. Rukhsana Zia (Head) and Dr. Mehwish Reza (Deputy Head) from Forman's Center for Learning and Teaching (CLT) assumed a lead role in organizing the event, providing yet another reminder of why Forman can be proud of what is surely one of the best CLT's in Pakistan.



We always look for opportunities to pass on core Forman values to our students including integrity, respect, excellence, discipline, fairness, service and community. In this regard, I especially welcomed an e-mail from Associate Physics Professor Dr. Fareeha Hameed. As she described it, several years ago she somewhat reluctantly "volunteered" to teach an introductory course outside her specialty to first-year students, none of them Physics majors: "The core values part of the course left a deep impact on me as a person. I consciously and passionately started making an effort to uphold these core values. In the process, I have a very strong relationship with the students of that class. I continue to advise and mentor those students who are now working in different positions in Pakistan and abroad." She adds that she has since started each of her classes including her Physics classes with a discussion on the importance of core values, not just at university but throughout life.



I am pleased to note that Pakistan's Prime Minister has just appointed Dr. Ayra Indrias Patras, Assistant Professor in Forman's Political Science Department, as a member of the National Commission on the Status of Women, a high profile appointment that makes all of us proud!



Dr. Kauser Abdullah Malik -- Dean of Postgraduate Studies; Director of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC); and HEC Distinguished National Professor of Biotechnology -- has contributed to both Pakistan and Forman in so many ways, most recently as Minister of Agriculture in the previous caretaker government in Islamabad; this tradition of service also extends to his current tenure as President of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, a position that in late August required him to travel to Minsk to sign an agreement between the Pakistan Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus!

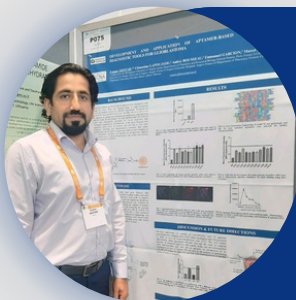


Dr. Sikandar Hayat -- Dean of Social Sciences; Distinguished Professor of History and Public Policy; and Editor-in-chief of the *Forman Journal of Social Sciences* -- is a frequent contributor to *Hilal*, the popular magazine published by the Pakistan Army. This month, his contribution to the August 2024 issue of *Hilal* included an interesting article titled "Quaid, World War II and the Pathway to Pakistan".



Dr. Shehzadi Zamurrad Awan, Associate Professor in our Political Science Department, rejoined Forman after spending a semester at DePauw University in Indianapolis where she had been invited to serve as a Visiting Fellow under a program supported by the Great Lakes College Association (GLCA) and the Global Liberal Arts Alliance (GLAA). During her stay, she worked with Dr. Naima Shifa from DePauw to conduct a joint research project while also delivering lectures, engaging in discussions and participating in various other events.

Dr. Shujaat Ali from Forman's Pharmacy Department has been selected as a "Visiting Scientist" at Aptagen, a commercial company based in Pennsylvania. The program starts in mid September and is initially for six months, providing an important opportunity to enhance research skills and keep abreast of the latest advancements in the field.



Assistant Professor Dr. Usman Akhtar, also in the Pharmacy Department, reports that he presented a poster related to her postgraduate research at the 58th International Conference on Medicinal Chemistry held in Bordeaux (France) in late July.

Dr. Shinho Chung from Forman's Environmental Sciences Department mentions that two Formanites serving as Senior Research Associates within the department have been accepted as PhD students with full scholarships from Korea and Japan. Both students -- Jennifer Rose (University of Seoul) and Sikandar Altaf (Nagasaki University) -- will start their advanced studies in the Fall.

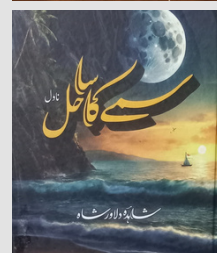
Dr. Farid Malik's abstract for his paper on "Building an Energy System Based on Thor Coal" was accepted for presentation at the upcoming Pittsburgh Energy and Carbon Management Conferences, scheduled for October 7-9. The paper will be presented virtually: <http://www.pccpitt.org>

Dr. Fatima Syeda, Professor and Chair in the English Department appeared as a guest speaker on Sunno TV's "Youth Pakistan", leading to a wonderful interview

that included several references to Forman: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzMY9c5U6Q8>

Dr. Sara Rizvi Jafree participated in a two-day symposium organized by the University of the Punjab's Department of Gender Studies to discuss an advanced diploma course on "Women, Peace and Security". Representing Forman, she shared her thoughts on how such a course should be developed, introduced and launched at public sector universities and colleges across Pakistan.

Congratulations to Ms. Shahida Dilawar Shah from the Urdu Department on the publication of her second Urdu novel, *Samay kaa Saahil* ("Bank of Time"). This is Shahida's seventeenth publication, in this case using fiction to explore society and the diverse layers of characters who contribute to it.



STUDENT NEWS



Forman undergraduate Aziz Ahmed reports that he is very much enjoying his experience as an exchange student at Emporia State University in Kansas under the UGRAD program, a highly competitive scholarship awarded to students from across Pakistan via the US Educational Foundation (USEF). He also notes that "I am not facing much difficulty with the American liberal arts education system," contrasting his experience to that of fellow UGRAD students from elsewhere: "I am so thankful to FCCU; it has really helped me to understand the essence of the American liberal arts education system".



I mentioned in last month's *Rector's Update* that I appreciated having the opportunity to attend the American Independence Day celebrations hosted by the US Consulate in Lahore where I met Forman student Manahil Noureen Shahid, assisting as part of an eight-week internship hosted by the Consulate's combined Political/Economic section. A Political Science Major with a specialization in International Relations and Public Policy, she reports that she has had a wonderful experience that will "stay with me for my whole life".



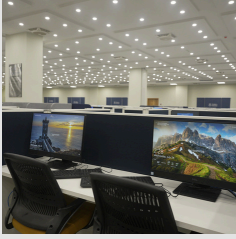
Forman School of Management graduate Muhammad Talha Rana wrote a note of thanks regarding Forman's Internships and Career Services Office while also expressing appreciation to Maryyam Khan, one of his professors "who supported me throughout the MBA program . . . she taught Marketing so well that I secured a job in the Fatima group, one of the biggest groups in Pakistan . . . whenever you let any marketing GM know that you studied with Maryyam Khan, they are like 'okay, you have great knowledge!'"

Elaborating further, Adnan Ilyas Aziz who heads our Career Services and Internships Office commented that "Indeed, credit goes to the faculty of the School of Management which has prepared students in a way that allows them to shine in the competitive world . . . I am also delighted to share that not only this student but also three other students from MBA II have been selected by the Fatima Group as Management Trainee Officers". As Adnan points out, this means that four of the fourteen Management Trainee Officers in this particular "batch", selected by the Fatima Group from all over the country, were Forman graduates.

CAMPUS INFRASTRUCTURE

Thanks to Chief Librarian Farrukh Shahzad, Chief Information Officer Anthony Richards and many others, our new Digital Library in the basement of the Jim Tebbe Campus Center opened on July 29 and is already heavily used. In addition, entering university students starting the Fall semester will be able to access the MCS Lounge as well as the spacious dining room facilities on the ground floor of that building.





Looking ahead, other sections of the Campus Center will be opening during the coming weeks and months including a large auditorium, small auditorium, rehearsal rooms, various lounges, shops and several student offices. From my perspective, the new Campus Center offers endless possibilities to Forman's student community and may well prove to be transformational! Launch of the Campus Center will also have an important "knock on" effect across FCCU, freeing up lounges, offices and other spaces in other buildings for potential alternate uses.

Both the Campus Center and the renovated hostel on the nearby TSA/FCCU campus represent major steps forward, thanks to the work of Chief Engineer Tajammul John and his team (not to mention Anthony Richards as Chief Information Officer and Furqan Seith as Chief Supply Chain Officer and their teams, among many others). In addition, Light of Hope students will now have the benefit of a building, resulting in a new computer lab, an increase in enrollment and the launch of separate facilities for boys and girls.

The transformation of Forman into an all-solar campus is continuing apace, with several buildings including Mercy Health Center, Ewing Library, West Hall, Shirazi Hall, B and C Block, Faculty Block and the Media Center all now "energized" and connected to our energy grid.

SPORTS NEWS



Forman's Sports Department successfully launched our first Azaadi Cup in basketball during August 21-23. As the Daily Buzz described it, the event was "packed with energy, determination and some incredible performances on the court". I dropped in for part of one afternoon, watching the Forman men's basketball team defeat King Edward's Medical College.



However, I missed the excitement of the finals in which Kinnaird College defeated Forman in the female category to win the championship trophy; in the male category, it was a different story with Forman emerging victorious in their final match with the Lahore School of Economics. Other participants included FAST, Minhaj University, Shalimar Medical and Dental College, King Edward's Medical College, University of Health Sciences and Government College University.

The tournament was held to mark Independence Day, promoting the spirit of sportsmanship as well as the values of unity, discipline, achievement, teamwork and fair play. Several prominent visitors attended including representatives from the Alkhidmat Foundation and Alkhidmat Sports Club; Malik Mutahir, Coach of the Pakistan Basketball team also watched some of the games along with international basketball players Aimen Mehmood, Alishba Martin, and Hamda Khalid.



OTHER NEWS

A special note of appreciation to the many people who made the Independence Day celebrations at Forman this year so memorable. In fact, two such celebrations were held this year, one on August 13 in front of the Jim Tebbe Campus Center and the other on August 14 outside Sinclair Hall.



Student Affairs Office took the

lead on the former celebration which involved students and included the college choir, speeches, poetry and a wonderful drama featuring a very believable Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad ^{td. 18}Ali Jinnah reflecting on the meaning of independence.



As for the community-wide Independence Day

celebrations held outside Sinclair Hall on August 14, this is traditionally organized and led by our much appreciated security force headed by Colonel Khaqan; the fact that many members of our security force are military veterans who have served in the defense of Pakistan makes the flag-raising ceremony on Independence Day all the more meaningful.



A large number of families living on our campus also participated and it was wonderful to see so many people including children dressed in green and white celebrating the occasion. I also have to acknowledge that I feel very patriotic whenever I hear the words *Dil Dil Pakistan* and *Yeh Watan Tumhara Hai*, both included among the lyrics of two memorable songs that are an inevitable part of such occasions!

Let me also thank Dr. Ashfaq Ahmad Virk from Forman's Urdu Department for his poem "FC College," recited as part of this year's Independence Day celebrations. Thanks, too, for Alfred Yaqub, a lecturer in our Center for Language Development, who provided this translation of the opening couplet of a much longer poem, written in traditional *ghazal* style:

*I hold my FC at a lofty height
A star that shines every night*



Ms. Furry George, principal of the Light of Hope School, reports that 12 students in Class Nine including seven girls and five boys appeared in the recent Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) exams, nine of them achieving a grade B or higher.

It was an honor for me to officially launch the ten-day *Digital Literacy and Citizenship Boot Camp* on August 27, the result of a partnership involving Pakistan's Digital Rights Foundation, American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS) and the US Embassy; others involved included Dr. Sikandar Hayat as Dean of Social Sciences and Dr. Elizabeth Schwaiger as Acting Chief of Student Affairs, among others. More than 40 Forman students registered to participate in this innovative class focusing on some of the most important technology issues of our time.



More disappointingly, I regret to report that two computers belonging to Forman students were stolen from Ewing Library in recent weeks. Working with local authorities, our Security Office was able to track down and eventually apprehend the perpetrator, providing a timely reminder of the importance of remaining vigilant at all times.



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FORMAN PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES CENTER
MEMBER OF FORMAN COLLEGE



PARENTING TECHNIQUES

By Ms. Wajeeha Zahra
Principal Clinical Psychologist
Sir Ganga Ram Hospital
PhD scholar,
MScPsy, ADCP, MSCP



AUTHORITATIVE



AUTHORITARIAN



PERMISSIVE



UNINVOLVED

The Forman Psychological Services Center is organizing a one-day workshop on September 12 focused on "Parenting Techniques", delivered by Ms. Wajeeha Zahra, Principal Clinical Psychologist at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital. The workshop is open to Forman faculty, students and staff, providing yet another example of the positive results of the TSA/FCCU partnership. I am delighted to see such programs move forward in ways that serve the needs of both Forman and the wider Lahore community.

I participated in two important Zoom calls during August, one involving the Friends of Forman Board and the other involving my first meeting as a member of the five-person Global Liberal Arts Alliance (GLAA) Advisory Group, along with the provost of the American College of Greece and the presidents of Al Akhawayn University in Morocco, International Christian University in Japan, and Allegheny College in Pennsylvania.

Let me also express my deep appreciation to our Vice Rector's Office including Associate Vice Rector Dr. Gloria Calib who serves as Forman's main contact with GLAA and has been instrumental in cultivating a number of GLAA partnerships. As reported in last month's *Rector's Update*, one recent example of the impact of those partnerships includes funding for ten members of our faculty to travel to the American University in Bulgaria, joining with 40 other faculty members from around the world to plan ten Global Connections courses that will be available to Forman students during the coming academic year.

Finally, I should mention that I will be departing for the United States later in September, both to attend the Fall meeting of the Friends of Forman Board and to present the case for Forman accreditation to the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE). The latter involves a presentation before seventeen NECHE Commissioners (many of them college and university presidents), based on the March 2024 NECHE Accreditation visit to which many members of the Forman community contributed. While in the US, I also plan to engage in outreach with various Friends of Forman constituencies. In addition, I am scheduled to join with Friends of Forman Executive Director Roger Dermody to meet with an architect who will hopefully become part of a new initiative to update our Campus Master Plan.



DR. JONATHAN ADDLETON
RECTOR