



FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

Rector's Update

The latest news and announcements from Dr. Jonathan Addleton

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This may well have been the busiest four weeks since I arrived at Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) in Fall 2020 -- almost every day included multiple meetings, events, or activities of one kind or another. We also had a number of visitors. And, as is typically the case in late May, the month ended with meetings involving both our Board of Directors and Board of Governors.

VISITORS

Visitors this month included Ambassador Wadi Mitsuhiro from Japan who participated in a donation involving 140 new books valued at \$3,400, provided by the Read Japan Project, funded by the Nippon Foundation and facilitated by the Japanese Embassy in Islamabad. Aamir H. Shirazi, Honorary Consul General of Japan in Lahore and Patron in Chief of the Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association attended as well.

Ambassador Donald Blome from the

United States also visited the Forman campus during May, in this case to meet with Forman students and visit the Cheryl Burke Hope Tower, Forman's main female hostel, built several years ago with funding from USAID.

Dr. Matthew Cook, President of the American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS) and Professor of Postcolonial and South Asian Studies at North Carolina Central University, visited Forman in late May, delivering one lecture to Forman's Research and Review Club on *Research and Research Culture on American Campuses* and another lecture to faculty and graduate students on *The State of Pakistan Studies in the United States*. Dr. Cook is one of the foremost international experts on Sindh, making it a special honor for Fiona and myself to host lunch for him during his visit.

I welcomed the opportunity to meet Dr. John Geir Peturrson from the University of Iceland at an informal lunch arranged by Forman's Center for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG) on May 23. Earlier, Dr. Peturrson met



with our faculty and MPhil students, accompanied by his student Ahmed Nawaz who graduated from Forman in 2016 and is now pursuing a PhD in Protected Areas Management at the University of Iceland. As I mentioned to CPPG Director Dr. Saeed Shafqat, it is gratifying to realize that Forman's extensive network of international connections includes Iceland!



Finally, Friends of Forman Board member Michael Murphy and his spouse Marianne Murphy (along with several family members) visited Forman in early May. As many will remember, both Michael and Marianne taught at Forman and continue to maintain an interest in our institution. Forman's Security

Department, headed by Col. Khaqan, made the family visit especially memorable by including visits to Kartarpur, the Wagah Border and Lahore Fort at night on their schedule: <https://youtu.be/1jlcXG6jirA?si=qJJu9t6PuvDPWR8j>

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Forman's Department of Psychology launched its *First International Conference on Psychology* focused on "Innovative, Futuristic and Ethical Practices in Psychology", setting the stage for three days of presentations and discussions involving dozens of original papers. As Vice Rector Dr. Douglas Trimble noted in his introduction to the conference, psychology has long been taught at Forman. In fact, this year marks a special milestone -- the 100th anniversary of Forman's offering Bachelor degrees in the discipline.

Not surprisingly, an event of this size and magnitude involves a large core committee that included Dr. Ivan Suneel (Department Head) and Dr. Sarah Shahed (Conference Secretary) as well as Dr. Abia Nazim, Dr. Afshi Khan, Aisha Ateeq, Dr. Elizabeth Schwaiger, Nazia Asif, Rehan Sohail, Dr. Saima Majeed, Umer Chaudhry and Dr. Uzma Ashiq. Other faculty and staff who worked hard to make the conference happen include Easha Shahid, Mahnoor Ali, Khola Tahir, Alina Sajid, Dr. Shaista Jabeen and Haroon Sabir.



Separate from the conference, the Psychology Department organized a program titled *Breaking Stigmas: Raising Awareness About Mental Health* that featured videos prepared by undergraduates to shed light on the realities of mental health concerns while also encouraging a culture of openness and acceptance.



Somewhat related, Forman's Campus Counseling Center introduced a series of Group Therapy sessions on May 13 to address Anxiety Management and Emotional Regulation concerns. As described by the organizers, such sessions "provide a supportive environment where participants can share their personal growth experiences, gain valuable insight, and learn coping strategies from both professional facilitators and peers facing similar challenges".

Forman's Department of Mass Communication sponsored several events in May that further highlighted our continuing and very productive partnership with Metropolitan University in Oslo, Norway. In particular, this included a Journalists Safety Training Workshop and a Climate Journalism Workshop to which faculty and students from other universities were also invited.



Forman's Geography Department sponsored a talk on May 15 on *Changing Climate and its Impact on Tourism* delivered by Yasir Usman, Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at Government College University. Also, on May 6 the department organized an introductory talk on *Geospatial Technology* featuring Ahsan Iqbal. Finally, the Geography Department arranged for an interactive session on *Air Quality* facilitated by Dr. Sahar Zia, Assistant Professor at the Lahore College for Women University.



Forman's Earth Watch Club organized a seminar on May 24 titled *Breaking Ground on Sustainability: The Cement Industry's Role in Decarbonization* with Dr. Arif Bashir from DG Cement serving as guest speaker.

Forman's Benade Physics Society hosted a talk on NASA's Artemis program titled *Return to the Moon and Onwards to Mars* delivered by Mansoor Ahmed, recently retired from the Goddard Space Flight Center where he served as Associate Director in the Astrophysics Projects Division.



Forman's English Department hosted several events including a series of lectures on Science Fiction that concluded with Dr. Sobia Kiran from York University in Canada speaking on the *Origins and Evolution of South Asian Science Fiction*. More than 200 people participated including many who joined online from other universities in Pakistan, India, Spain, Turkey and the UK.



Another highlight was the Third Annual Forman Literary Festival, hosted by the Ewing English Society and held on May 8-9. As Forman's Dean of Humanities Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan

noted, "Literature gives meaning to life. It also brings the human out of us". Let me express special thanks to the many people who made this event possible including Dr. Fatima Syeda as well as Ewing English Society President Mr. Irfan, Vice President Mr. Umair and Faculty Advisor Naomi Justin, among others.



In addition, the Ewing English Society hosted a lecture by Dr. Ayesha Jalal on May 23 titled History and Literary Imagination. I happily attended this talk, in part because Dr. Jalal is on the faculty of my alma mater, Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts.



Both Fiona and I participated in the Polyglot event, organized by Forman's Center for Language Development and headed by Uzma Khan. The program included a variety of performances delivered by students and faculty in all four languages taught at Forman (French, German, Korean and Chinese). As I observed, the passages from the Qu'ran and the Bible, read at the start of the event in Arabic, English, Chinese and Korean, were especially timely, speaking directly to the occasion: "And of His signs is . . . the diversity of your languages and colors" (taken from Surah Rum) and "If I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner" (taken from I Corinthians 14)!

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Forman's School of Management in partnership with The Leadership Forum and Young Entrepreneurial Platform organized a program on *Empowering Students: Paths to Financial Independence* on May 13. Among other things, the seminar aimed to equip students with the knowledge and tools needed to foster financial independence and responsibility.



Associate Professor Dr. Hira Khalid from Forman's Chemistry Department was featured on a Fulbright Women Podcast, providing an opportunity for her to reflect on her experience in the United States. Having received a Fulbright Fellowship in 2021, she was also asked to discuss her academic journey including the inspiration behind her passion for science and the challenges that she has faced as a female scientist in Pakistan:



https://youtu.be/udi76yY3yxU?si=M2O_RK28dmfXWz5. Meanwhile, Irtifa Nasir, Assistant Professor in Forman's School of Management, was interviewed by NEO TV on April 30.



Forman's Population Research Center (PRC) organized a one-day workshop on data management for FCCU students on May 25 with Dr. Sharoon Hanook, Assistant Professor in the Statistics Department, serving as facilitator.

Forman's Center for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG) hosted several outstanding programs during May including a presentation by retired General Noel Kokhar, Pakistan's former Ambassador to Ukraine, based on his recent monograph titled *National Commission for Minorities Act 2023: An Expectation for a Better Tomorrow*. Former Chief Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani presided over the well-attended session as Chief Guest. Both General Kokhar and Chief Justice Jilani are Forman graduates.

CPPG also hosted the launch of Dr. Sara Rizvi Jafree's pioneering book *Social Policy for Women in Pakistan* (Palgrave 2023), with Dr. Asghar Zaidi, former Vice Chancellor of Government College University, serving as Guest of Honor. A few days later, CPPG presented the launch of the latest edition of Dr. Sikandar Hayat's book *Leadership Odyssey* (Oxford University Press, 2023), with Dr. Umber and Dr. Bangash serving as discussants. I was privileged to speak at both events.



CPPG Assistant Professor Dr. M. Rovidad was awarded a three-month Ernst Mach Fellowship from the Austrian Agency for Education and Internationalization. Based in Vienna, he plans to take up this Fellowship in Austria from July to September.



Forman faculty member Adeel Khalid has been very productive during his time as a Visiting Scholar at Leeds University. For example, he presented papers at the Schools of Education at Oxford, Cambridge, and Leeds on various aspects of language development. He has also published several articles including in the *Sindh Journal of Linguistics* ([Click here to access](#)), *Migration Letters*, and the *Research Journal of Language and Literary Studies*. Finally, he is organizing a *Digital Humanities in Linguistics* course while also preparing for an upcoming *Global Course Connections Workshop* at the American University of Bulgaria which several other Forman faculty members also plan to attend.



Congratulations to Sociology major (and current President of the [Forman Sociology Society](#)) Farhan Khan who published his undergraduate thesis in the HEC-approved *Global Sociological Review*. The study investigates the predictors of religiosity in youth who studied at Madrassas and then enrolled at universities in Punjab and KPK: <https://gsrjournal.com/.../predictors-of-islamic...> Congratulations, too, to Zeeshan Saif Chadhar for his recent publication in the *Journal on South Asian Studies* on "Political Attitudes of Slum Dwellers".



PhD scholar Rhea Aqueel from Forman's Kauser Abdulla Malik School of Life Sciences successfully defended her PhD dissertation titled "*Comparative Microbiome Analysis for Viral Disease Suppression in Cotton*" on May 29.



Congratulations, too, to Associate Professor Muhammad Zubair Yousaf from Forman's Kauser Abdulla Malik School of Life Sciences who completed his NRPU research project titled *Development and Evaluation of Lab Scale Integrated Biotech Refinery to Convert Poultry Wastes into Industrially Important, Safe and Useful Products*.

I joined with others from Forman's Center for Learning and Teaching (CLT) to celebrate the numerous CLT programs organized during 2023 as well as to honor the various experts who made these training sessions possible. While many of the 3,200 people who participated in CLT programs last year were from Forman, CLT also reached out via Zoom to individuals from 85 universities spread across Pakistan and another 20 institutions of higher learning situated outside the country.

Also, CLT secured its first international research grant, having been awarded funding for a 12-month project on diversity, equity and inclusion from the Professional and Organizational Development in Higher Education.

In addition, CLT organized an online course titled *Shaping the Future of Education: AI Across Campus*, starting with an initial webinar titled *Demystifying AI for Educators* on May 13 that attracted more than 1,000 registrations from across Pakistan and beyond. Several international speakers from Egypt, Armenia, Malaysia, Australia and the UK participated via Zoom.

UK-based AI expert Ali Chaudhry led an on-line session on *AI: Charting through Ethical Dilemmas, Equity and More*, a talk that in this case attracted more than 1,200 registrations from around the world. Yet another AI-related webinar was organized by CLT during May, this one titled *Crafting Effective Prompts* and led by AI expert Danny Liu calling in from the University of Sydney in Australia.

Looking ahead, some readers of this newsletter may wish to enroll in CLT's free online course on [Research Methodology](#). Consisting of 20 separate webinars, the course is scheduled to commence on June 3. Please note that there is a single registration for all sessions: [Registration Form](#).

Finally, I am pleased to note that Dr. Mehwish Raza has been appointed Deputy Head of CLT. A member of the FCCU community since 2019, she served as Dean of the Faculty of Education from 2020 until early 2023, after which she was a Fulbright Scholar at Arizona State University where she developed a framework for advancing digital competency for faculty in higher education.



FIELD TRIPS

May provided several wonderful examples of various Field Trips, organized by faculty and staff to introduce students to various places and activities beyond the four walls of our campus.



For example, Forman's Department of Mass Communication arranged a day trip to the Sikh pilgrimage site at Kartarpur where students were warmly welcomed in ways that also promoted interfaith dialogue, cross-cultural understanding, and experiential learning.

Forman's Geography Department organized a field trip along Trail 5 in Islamabad's Margalla National Park, providing students with a hands-on learning experience via direct interaction with the natural environment. Among other things, the trail hike featured discussions on the region's geographical history, soil types, and the impact of human activity.





In addition, Forman's Career Services and Internships Office worked with our Chemistry and Pharmacy Departments to organize an industrial tour of Citi Pharma Limited. More than 75 students from both departments participated, visiting different plants and units. Several faculty and staff contributed to this visit including Dr. Shazma Azeem and Dr. Dildar Ahmad (Chemistry); Dr. Laiba and Dr. Shujaat (Pharmacy); and Adnan Ilyas Aziz (Career Services and Internships).

ALUMNI NOTES



I am thrilled to mention that Dr. Riaz Hussain, Professor Emeritus at the University of Scranton, has joined with his wife Atiya in contributing \$100,000 through Friends of Forman to establish an endowment in honor of his parents, Noor Hussain and Barkat Bibi; income from the endowment will be used to support *Sagheer Manzil Scholarships*, awarded to students who have attended various Islamia high schools in Gujranwala.



Professor Dr. Tariq Salahuddin who completed his Intermediate from Forman during 1971-1972 has published his first book, *Manual of Neurosurgery*. Dr. Salahuddin is one of the pioneers of neurosurgery in Pakistan and I look forward to attending the official launch of his new book in Lahore in June.



Alumni visitors in recent weeks included Parkash Singh who has just completed his first semester as a graduate student in computer science at Ohio State University. He also mentioned that he had met Dr. Syedah Zahra Atiq, a previous teacher at Forman who is now on the faculty at Ohio State.

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Meanwhile, Forman's Advancement and Alumni Office met with "Old Formanite" Sajjad Suleman Malik, CEO of Emkay Seeds; his father Muhammad Khan Malik was also a Formanite whose legacy continues through the *Muhammad Khan Malik Endowment Fund*.



Forman's Alumni Office organized another in a continuing series of *Formanite Talkies*, this one held on May 9 and focused on Forman alumni involved in education. Given Fiona's background as a teacher, she served as Guest of Honor at the event which attracted more than one hundred alumni of all ages who have devoted their lives to education, whether as teachers, professors or administrators. Each attendee introduced themselves, recalling cherished memories from their time at Forman while commenting on the ways in which Forman had shaped their lives while also preparing them for future challenges.



Very sadly, Forman graduate Anthony Shoukat's life was tragically cut short in a senseless act of violence in which he was accidentally caught in the middle of an armed robbery in Portugal. According to news reports, he had visited Portugal for a research project undertaken on behalf of Shaukat Khanum Memorial Hospital, having studied for his Master's in Sweden and his PhD in Germany. Social media posts appropriately used the tagline "GoneTooSoon" to report his passing.

SPORTS NEWS

On the sports front, Forman's University Sports Office reports that the FCCU female badminton team placed third at an intercollegiate competition organized by the Punjab Sports Board and held at Punjab Stadium. Eighteen universities from across Punjab participated.

Forman women also participated in the HEC Intervarsity Women's Weightlifting Championships held at Sindh Agricultural University, with Wafia Khalid securing a Gold Medal while Emaan Fayyaz was awarded a Silver Medal in their respective weight categories. Let me also note that this was Wafia Khalid's second consecutive win in her event.

While participating in various sports events outside the walls of Forman, the FCCU University Sports Office also held a signature event of its own in early May: Forman Olympiad 2024, involving male and female athletes from more than 15 other universities competing in 14 different sports. FCCU teams won several categories including Athletics (men), Basketball (men and women); Cricket (men and women); Table Tennis (men and women); Tug of War (women); Tennis (men and women); and Volleyball (men and women); in addition, Forman was runner-up in several other categories including Arm Wrestling (men and women); Athletics (women); Baseball (men); Netball (women); Rugby (men); and Tug of War (men).





Special thanks to the several sponsors of Forman Olympiad 2024 including the Alkhidmat Foundation, Kohat Cement, Afsana, Al-Ghous Garden, Malik Homes and Hex Solutions.



OTHER NEWS

In keeping with guidance provided by the Higher Education Commission (HEC), an HEC team visited Forman on May 16-17 to assess our adherence to the HEC's Quality Assurance standards as they relate to Post Graduate programs. Many thanks to various members of our faculty and staff who also participated.

Some alert observers may have noticed that during May the "Jim Tebbe Campus Centre" was suddenly changed overnight to the "Jim Tebbe Campus Center". That's right, given our American roots, we have decided to use "American English" rather than "British English" when it comes to the spelling of our buildings!



Dr. Ghazala Irfan who as President of Pakistan's Japan Cultural Society in Lahore played an important role in the Japanese Ambassador's recent visit to FCCU to deliver new books for our library, organized an evening of *Classical Dances of the Subcontinent* delivered by Sheema Kermani. In addition to serving as Arts Coordinator for Forman, Dr. Ghazala chairs FCCU's Philosophy Department.

Forman sent two delegations to the University of Central Punjab's Youth Leadership Parliament, returning with several awards including recognition as "Best Delegate" (Hunzla Faiz) and "Outstanding Diplomat" (Rahim Ullah, Faseeh Gul, Ali Raza, Hassan Khan Niazi, and Shawn Saleem).



Forman's Admissions Office hosted an Open House at the Jim Tebbe Campus Center on May 23 showcasing our Postgraduate programs, providing an opportunity for aspiring Master's, MPhil and PhD students to explore various options. Looking at the Facebook post publicizing the event, I noticed that more than 7,000 readers indicated that they "liked" the event!



As part of its continued outreach, Forman's Admissions Office also represented Forman at the National University Fair hosted by Sadiq Public School in Bahawalpur in late April. The Forman stall attracted more than 200 prospective university students with the largest number expressing an interest in computer science, business and psychology. As is often the case, some mentioned that their siblings had studied at Forman.



Forman's Faculty Advising Office under the leadership of Dr. Atiq-ur-Rehman organized its *Annual Advising Lunch* on May 7 to recognize the services of faculty advisors, especially those assisting our entering Bachelor students as UNIV-100 instructors. The tradition of such annual recognition ceremonies commenced in 2012, providing a wonderful opportunity to express appreciation to the many individuals who have contributed to these orientations.



Also, our Advising office organized *Advising Week* at the end of May, providing an important opportunity for students to discuss their academic plans and goals in detail with faculty advisors, prior to registering for their Fall semester courses.

Forman's new Strategy covering the period 2024-2030 is very much on my mind, especially following the recent approval of that Strategy at the Board of Directors (BOD) and Board of Governors (BOG) meetings held in the Jim Tebbe Campus Center on May 24 and May 25. The result of a two-year journey that started with a "Stock-Taking Exercise" to review the previous Strategy, other "landmarks" along the way included various consultations with faculty and staff as well as a day-long review session facilitated by Dr. James Appleton, former president of University of Redlands in California. As it happens, the "final" consultation in this journey was "A Conversation with the Rector about the new FCCU Strategy," prompting a wonderful discussion with students to which the heads of our various Student Societies were invited.

The recent Board meetings were presided over by our new Board Chair (Dr. Rukhsana David, Principal of Kinnaird College in Lahore) and Vice Chair (Steve Rasmussen, Financial Inclusion Specialist and former CEO of the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), Aga Khan Rural Support Program (AKRSP), Pakistan Micro Finance Network and Karandaz Pakistan, among other assignments). As an aside, Dr. Rukhsana David is the first female Board Chair in Forman's history -- and very possibly the first university Board Chair in Pakistan's history!

While mentioning the very recent BOD and BOG meetings, let me also provide a huge shoutout to both Dr. Nayer as Registrar and Eileen Dass as Chief of Staff who along with their respective teams do such a great job in planning, organizing and implementing FCCU Board meetings twice each year, both in the Fall and in the Spring.



THE STRANGE TALE OF OPPENHEIMER AND COMPTON, FORMAN'S NOBEL LAUREATE IN PHYSICS



Finally, let me conclude this month's *Rector's Update* with a "Fun Fact," targeted especially on those members of the Forman community who might have seen the recent movie *Oppenheimer* which won several major awards including an Oscar and a BAFTA for Best Picture.

While regarded as historically accurate for the most part, there is one scene that does not stick to the facts, namely when Oppenheimer as the "father of the atomic bomb" travels to Princeton to discuss with Einstein the possibility that a nuclear explosion might end up unleashing a chain reaction that ultimately destroys the world. Such a conversation did in fact take place. However, it did not involve Oppenheimer traveling to Princeton to meet Einstein, rather it involved Oppenheimer traveling to a vacation cabin on Lake Michigan to meet Forman's Nobel Laureate Arthur Compton where he posed the fateful question!

Compton subsequently worked on the Manhattan project and later became President of Washington University in St. Louis, even as his brother Karl became president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and his other brother Wilson became President of Washington State University.

As it happens, the fourth Compton sibling Mary (widely viewed as the most brilliant of the four Compton children) married Forman Psychology Professor C. Herbert Rice who became Principal of Forman Christian College; it was this connection that ultimately brought Arthur Compton to Lahore where he taught for one year as a Guggenheim Fellow (1926-1927) at both Forman Christian College and Government College. After Pakistan's independence, Compton visited Lahore (and presumably also Forman) at least twice, suggesting that his associations with Forman lasted several decades.



DR. JONATHAN ADDLETON
RECTOR