



FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

Rector's Update

The latest news and announcements from Dr. Jonathan Addleton

In This Issue

Campus Updates

Faculty & Staff Achievements

Recent activities



Dear Formanites,

This edition of the *Rector's Update* is written from the United States where I just attended the latest Friends of Forman Board meeting held in Birmingham, Alabama. In addition, I had the opportunity to accompany Friends Executive Director Roger Dermody on outreach trips to "tell the Forman story" in both Michigan and Florida.

Such travels as well as the fact that Roger recently visited the Forman campus for the second time in six months further strengthens the important connection between Forman and Friends of Forman, our US-based international support group. During his most recent visit to Lahore, we introduced Roger and the group that accompanied him to the Wagah Border ceremony and the Lahore Fort by Night tour, both memorable events. The Friends group also entered into the life of Forman in several ways during their brief visit -- including participating in Forman's first large post Covid-19 alumni gathering in observance of "Founder's Day" in early March, a wonderful event involving hundreds of guests.

Of course, the biggest event of the last four weeks -- and one that also coincided with the Friends of Forman visit -- was the return to campus by the first two post-denationalization Rectors, Dr. Peter Armacost and Dr. Jim Tebbe, both of whom participated in various campus activities while making themselves available for numerous "historical photographs" that no doubt will one day find an honored place in the Forman archives.



As one of his many engagements, Dr. Armacost was Guest of Honor at an event organized by Forman's Center for Learning and Teaching (CLT) to honor volunteer speakers from Forman as well as other institutions of higher learning who have contributed so much to strengthening the teaching skills of Forman's faculty through various peer-to-peer initiatives. The fact that CLT was founded under Dr. Armacost's direction soon after denationalization made his presence all the more appropriate.



Various celebrations associated with International Women's Day have also been an important theme in recent weeks. Against this backdrop, Maryyam Khan who teaches in Forman's Business Department recently returned from New York where she attended the 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women as a representative of the South Asian Women's Development Forum; the event was sponsored by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and hosted by the United Nations, with the UN General Assembly Hall serving as one of the venues.



Also, Dr. Bushra Usman, Associate Professor in Forman's Business Department, recently returned to Forman following a sabbatical leave, among other things participating in a post-doctoral program at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Canada. As part of her time there, she established a productive partnership with a UBC colleague, intending to develop a research protocol to explore healthcare management in rural Pakistan. In addition, she serves as a mentor for entrepreneurship, helping to further maintain and deepen ties between FCCU and colleagues at UBC. Returning to Forman, Dr. Bushra immediately helped organize a Young Entrepreneurial Society "Gala" on the Forman campus, showcasing student ideas in this important area.



Event organized by CLT

I would also like to extend my congratulations to Associate Professor Hira Khalid in Forman's Chemistry Department on her selection to the prestigious grant program "Supporting Women in Science", managed by Oxford University, Aga Khan University, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Her project is titled "Design and Synthesis of Novel Small Molecule Inhibitors for Ovarian Cancer Treatment". In addition, Dr. Khalid was recently selected to represent FCCU as "an early career researcher", presenting a research poster at the Commonwealth Chemistry Congress hosted by the University of the West Indies. This event is scheduled to take place in Trinidad & Tobago in May 2023.



Young Entrepreneurial Gala

Forman's Admissions Office hosted an "Open House" in early March involving Intermediate students (and their parents), with a special focus on those studying for their A-levels or pursuing an International Baccalaureate (IB)

certificate. Students from many of the top Intermediate schools in Lahore attended. As this initiative suggests, the recruitment process for students enrolling in Fall 2023 is now in full swing.

As part of this continuing effort, Forman participated in the "Dawn Education Expo" organized at the Pearl Continental Hotel in Lahore, joining more than 30 other institutions of higher learning in setting up a stall. More than 100 students interested in attending university visited the Forman stall during this two-day event.

In addition, Suleman Khairullah, head of our Admissions Department, represented Forman at a "Dialogue on Challenges and Opportunities of Two Percent Minority Quota in Higher Education", sponsored by the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC). Forman, which does not maintain a quota system, is possibly the only university in Pakistan to far exceed this target figure, a success rate attributed to many factors including its tutoring initiative involving less privileged students; robust financial assistance programs; and outreach programs aimed at Pakistan's minority Hindu, Sikh, and Christian communities.

I continue to be impressed with the performance of Forman's sports teams, both at an intramural level and in competition with other colleges and universities. With respect to the former, this includes the recent FCCU "Sports Gala" organized by the College Health and Physical Education Department and involving team sports such as basketball and volleyball as well as a range of athletic competitions including shot put, discus, long jump, and various track events.

The fact that Forman College was awarded 12 gold medals, 5 silver medals, and 2 bronze medals at the recent Lahore School of Economics (LSE) Sports Gala 2023 is another source of pride. Meanwhile, FCCU's basketball team placed third in the Lahore Board Inter-Collegiate Basketball Championships, held on March 16 at the Punjab College Canal Road Campus. Later in the month, FCCU hosted its own sports competition, inviting other universities to participate.

Of course, competition with other schools is not confined only to the sports field - - on the contrary, Forman enjoys friendly competitions with any number of other institutions in Lahore and throughout Pakistan in a variety of areas. For example, last month FCCU's English Department participated in the Intercollegiate and Varsity English Literature and Linguistics Quiz Competition organized by Government College. Among other things, the event was designed to help prepare students for the upcoming Federal and Punjab Public Services Commission exams. Students from 15 institutions participated -- in the end, the Forman team consisting of students Hassan Abbas and Khadeeja Batool (accompanied by mentor Fahad Aftab and English Department chair Dr. Fatima Syeda) placed third.

A special thanks to Adnan Ilyas Aziz and his colleagues in Career Services & Internships for arranging an MOU with the microfinance bank FINCA, to facilitate future internships and employment opportunities for Forman students. Also, the Career Services & Internships Office organized a recruitment/information session involving Coca-Cola and its "flagship trainee program", providing potential trainees with the opportunity to gain valuable work experience.



FCCU Open House



Dawn Education Expo



FCCU Sports Gala



MOU with FINCA



Coca-Cola Drive

Various other offices organized a variety of special programs during the past several weeks including the Office for Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC) which sponsored its *"Third Workshop on the Fundamentals of Research for Undergraduates"*; the Population Research Center (PRC) which organized a seminar on *"The Ongoing Digital Population Census and Its Potential Impact on the Upcoming Elections"*; the Chemistry Department which joined with the Pakistan Chapter of the American Chemistry Society to organize a workshop on *"Safety in the Chemistry Lab"*; the Environmental Studies Department which recently implemented an *"International Conference on Soil Pollution and Remediation"*; and the Forman Counseling Center which organized a short course on *"Conflict Management"*.

Energy is a leading issue in Pakistan, costing the country more than \$20 billion in fuel imports in 2022 alone; it is also an issue that Dr. Farid Malik who teaches Operations Management at Forman's School of Management is actively working to address, both as a participant in a recent Coal Conference held in Karachi and as a consultant tasked with building an energy system based on the gasification of Pakistan's massive Thar coal reserves, estimated to reach 175 billion tons.



Seminar by ORIC

Group photo after the *International Conference on Soil Pollution and Remediation*

Several guest speakers gave presentations at Forman throughout March and I appreciated the opportunity to attend some of them including a well-attended talk by "Old Formanite" Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmed from the University of Stockholm on *"Jinnah: His Successes, Failures, and Role in History"*, sponsored by the Forman Political Science Society. Also, Dr. Michael Nazir-Ali will deliver a talk organized by Forman's History and Pakistan Studies Department in partnership with the Forman Church Relations Office on *"Contributions of Christianity to Human Rights Discourse"* on April 4th.

Meanwhile, Uzma Khan, head of Forman's Center for Language Development, worked with her students to celebrate World Poetry Day with a selection of poems and songs in several languages from a number of different countries including China, Korea, France, Germany, Pakistan, the

United States -- and Scotland, featuring Fiona reciting "*Tae a Mouse*" by Robert Burns in Scots.

Our faculty continues to make important contributions including via various publications, too numerous to list in their entirety here. However, I did find the following article by Dr. Sara Rizvi Jafree, published in *Conflict, Security, and Development* by Taylor & Francis online, especially interesting: Pakistani Hazara Shia victims: challenges, survival techniques, and protective needs.

Once again, the partnership between FCCU and the American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS) brought an interesting speaker to campus, in this case, Dr. Joel Gordon, Professor of History at the University of Arkansas, who led a two-day workshop on the popular history involving participants from both Forman and elsewhere.

Similarly, Forman's ongoing partnership with Oslo Metropolitan University in Norway is further deepening our international connections, in this case, related to journalism and mass communications. Recent events include a workshop on "*Ensuring Physical and Mental Safety for Journalists Amid Violent Events*", a three-day program that also provided an appropriate venue for the launch of the Urdu language version of trainer Abeer Saady's "*Safety Handbook for Women Journalists*"; guests on this occasion included the only female journalist from Pakistan to cover the fall of Kabul to the Taliban. As with AIPS events, the program included faculty and students from a range of other universities.



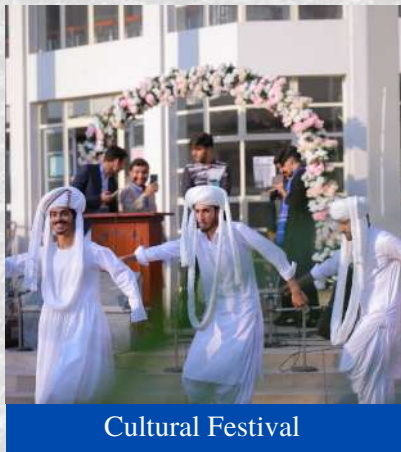
Award presentation for JSW



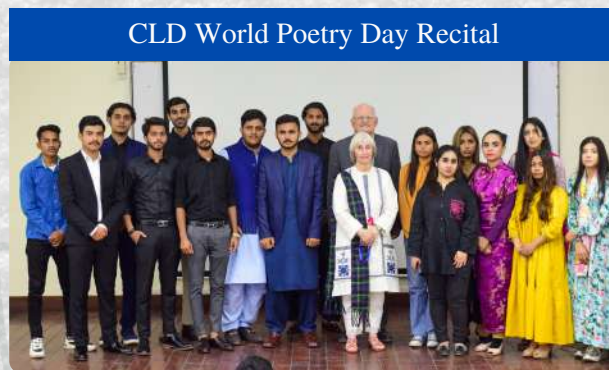
Group photo after the *Journalism Safety Workshop*

Let me also provide a special shout-out to Mehwish Batool and her colleagues from Forman's Communications Department for their work in organizing an "American Film Festival" showcasing the work of award-winning director Laura Nix who traveled to Lahore to engage directly with emerging female film producers from Pakistan. Featured films, shown with the cooperation of the US Consulate in Lahore, included "Picture a Scientist," "Fake Famous," "The Misfits", "Street Gang", and "Lily Topples the World".

Student societies at both the College and University contribute immensely to our community life at Forman. Most recently, this included the College Arts & Literary Circle that organized a "Spring Fiesta" on March 13 that included a celebration of regional languages, an art exhibition, cultural performances, and a poetry mushaira.



Cultural Festival



CLD World Poetry Day Recital



Decorations for Mathalon



Student performing at Theatro

As another example, the Forman Dramatics Club organized "Theatro 2023", an inter-varsity dramatics competition involving 12 other colleges and universities in Lahore. In the lead-up to this event, the Dramatics Club very creatively organized video greetings from both Bollywood singer Sukhbir Singh and Lollywood star Sohail Ahmad!

Also, Forman's Salam Mathematics Society organized a two-day "Mathalon 2023", the first such event sponsored by the Society, in this case involving a math competition among several institutions including LUMS, Punjab University, University of Central Punjab, Beaconhouse National University, and Aitchison College.

Meanwhile, Forman's Omnilife joined forces with the Women's Empowerment Society (WES) to host "Femme Tech: The Future is Female," focused on women in technology. Panel discussions featured leading names in the industry, followed by a gaming event involving female students involved in IT issues at Forman.

At the same time, another student organization -- FCCU's Youth Peace Development Corporation -- invited Dr. Tarunjit Singh Bataila, Associate Professor at Ohio State University, to deliver a lecture centered on cultural diversity in Pakistan.



Students at Femme Tech

Congratulations to Mrs. Barsila John, Operations Manager of the TSA/FCCU partnership initiative, on receiving the "*Minority Women Leadership Performance Award 2023*" from the Governor of Punjab at Governor's House on International Women's Day. Several contributions were cited at the awards ceremony including her leadership, community service, and support for the rights of special needs children.



Mrs. Barsila John accepting her award from the Governor of Punjab

I am always impressed with the range, breadth, and quality of our College activities. This month included two terrific plays, one in Urdu, "*Ward 47*", based on Manto's short story "*Toba Tek Singh*" and the other in English titled "*The Play That Goes Wrong*". In addition, the College hosted its first annual Science Fair featuring everything from "smart houses" to "smart cars" as well as a student-designed drone, an event that was well covered in the local print and television media.

A special thanks to those who contributed to the Light of Hope book drive, expanding further the range and number of books available to K-10 Light of Hope students while also seeking to instill a book-reading habit among Light of Hope students from an early age.

On the alumni front, Forman's Sociology Department marked International Women's Day in part by announcing that Sociology major Ayesha Shingruf (Class of 2019) had been admitted to the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) to pursue her MS in Human Rights Law. Also, I was delighted to learn even more recently



Light of Hope School Book Drive

that two students from our Psychology Department have been admitted to Columbia University in New York, yet another example of our undergraduates being offered opportunities to enroll in prestigious graduate programs abroad.

A few days ago Forman welcomed "Old Formanite" Dr. James Shera back to campus for a special ceremony to honor him for having been awarded Pakistan's prestigious Hilal-e-Quaid-i-Azam. One of Forman's most distinguished alumni, Dr. Shera served as Lord Mayor of the town of Rugby and is widely recognized for his services to religious and ethnic harmony in Britain. Dr. Shera's wife and two long-time friends from Scotland also attended the Forman ceremony.



Group picture with Dr. James Shera

Finally, one surprise visitor this month was Dr. Usman Bhatti who described and affirmed a long family history with Forman: *"Our family has a cherished history with the institution where my wife's grandfather Mohammad Shafi Bhatti served as a professor and retired as a vice principal . . . it gives me immense pleasure and contentment to tell you that the children and grandchildren have not only done well in their respective fields but have grown up carrying a strong moral sense of wanting to contribute back to the place that has given them so much"*.

As it happens, the Professor MS Bhatti Medal awarded each year to the Forman graduate with the highest GPA in the Faculty of Humanities is a concrete reflection of the continuing impact of this connection. As for Dr. Bhatti, he also remains engaged with FCCU, having served as a juror in the annual "Falling Walls" competition, hosted by Forman and supported by the German NGO of the same name to promote entrepreneurship in Pakistan!



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