



FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

Rector's Update

The latest news and announcements from Dr. Jonathan Addleton

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Dear Fellow Formanite,

As this month's *Rector's Update* is being finalized, the impact of flooding across the country continues to cast a dark shadow, constituting Pakistan's worst natural disaster since the massive earthquake in northern Pakistan in 2005 and flooding that spread across much of the country in 2010. The photos and videos showing the devastation have touched everyone. In response, both Forman and Friends of Forman have launched their own coordinated flood relief appeals. Please consider a generous donation!

Prior to the flooding, Pakistan's 75th Anniversary of Independence on August 14 was celebrated in a number of ways, including by a beautiful Sinclair Hall lit up in green and white with Pakistani flags. Col. Khaqan, Head of Security at Forman, arranged a wonderful flag-raising ceremony featuring speeches, poems, and music provided by the Forman College Choir. Kudos also to Col. Khaqan for recently being awarded the Dewan Bahadur S.P. Singha Achievement Award 2022 by the Governor of Punjab, in recognition of his service, dedication, and community development work.

Two days later, we officially launched a special booklet linking 75 Years of Independence with 75 notable Forman alumni who made a difference. Participants at the launch ceremony included Attiazaz "Bob" Din, entrepreneur, CEO of Khazana, and head of the Forman Alumni Society.

As an aside, I hasten to add that the 75 names featured in this booklet only scratch the surface in terms of the many thousands of individuals with a Forman connection who served their country well, whether as diplomats, politicians, business leaders, entrepreneurs, soldiers, spiritual leaders, academics, or in a range of other occupations. Some have done so to widespread acclaim and public recognition; in other cases, dedicated individuals from all walks of life and from all parts of the country have labored anonymously within their communities to serve those around them and make a difference.

It was gratifying to recently read a review of Dr. Sikandar Hayat's landmark book *The Charismatic Leader*, written by Forman's Dean of Social Sciences, in which it was stated "*There are four great names in Jinnah studies: Hector Bolitho, Stanley Wolpert, Z.H. Zaidi, and Sikandar Hayat*", plaudits that seem especially appropriate given the recent celebrations marking 75 years of independence on the Forman campus and across Pakistan!

As another indication of the continued benefits of our partnership with the American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS), Dr. Matthew Cook (North Carolina Central University) and Dr. Walter Hakala (the University of Buffalo and State University of New York) recently delivered a one-and-a-half-day workshop on the Forman campus on developing doctoral proposals. Those attending included students from Forman as well as other area universities.

Let me also thank Forman's Center for Learning and Teaching (CLT) headed by Dr. Rukhsana Zia for hosting a course on Research Methodology. Such sessions have been offered for the last ten years, winning praise from the Higher Education Commission (HEC) which for the last two years has invited faculty from dozens of universities across Pakistan to also participate via Zoom. Nearly 2,000 people participated in the 16 webinars that were part of this program last year.

The Center for Learning and Teaching, working with the Vice Rector's Office, also played a lead role in organizing this year's Faculty Retreat, involving a combination of in-person and online presentations. Remarks delivered by Vice Chancellor Dr. Arshad Ahmad from the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) reminded me of the multiple ways in which our two universities are having a strong positive impact on higher education in Pakistan. A few days later, Vice Provost Dr. Anjum Halai from Aga Khan University was scheduled to cover similar themes at Forman's Academic Leadership Retreat. Using Zoom, the Faculty Retreat also connected Forman faculty with educational leaders from around the world including in Hong Kong, Morocco, and the United States.

The third issue of the *Forman Journal of Social Sciences* will be published in December 2022. A call for papers and reviews has been issued -- no charges or fees are involved. Dr. Sara Rizvi Jafree is the editor and all queries can be sent directly to her.

Forman's English Department chaired by Dr. Fatima Syeda has also issued a call for papers, this one in connection with an upcoming international peer-reviewed conference on *Inter/Dis-connections of the Prefix "Post" in Contemporary Literary, Linguistic and Cultural Studies*, scheduled to take place October 19-20, 2022 at Forman. Keynote speakers include academics from Ghent University and New York University.

Also, Forman's Education Department has issued a call for papers, in this case in connection with its first Educational Conference to take place September 23-24. The theme is *Lessons & Legacies of the Pandemic in Education: the Future of Research Trends, Pedagogical Approaches, and Leadership Challenges*. The event will include a discussion involving both students and faculty of shared experience in teaching during the Covid-19 pandemic as well as various teaching techniques developed to help respond to it including in both online and hybrid settings.

Forman's Career Services and Internships Office, headed by Adnan Ilyas Aziz, held a seminar in partnership with Punjab's Social Welfare Department titled *Save a Life* as part of our ongoing efforts to address drug abuse concerns. The event included special speakers, a musical performance -- and a cake-cutting ceremony marking the 75th Year of Pakistan's Independence. Separately, I am pleased to note more than 420 students registered for the Internship course organized by the office, with many of those attending subsequently spending part of the summer in various internships related to their academic majors.



Forman's International Education Office headed by Sylvia de Souza organized a combined "Welcome Home" and "Send-Off" event for dozens of Forman students participating in various overseas exchange programs in Turkey, Malaysia, Belgium, Hong Kong, the US, and elsewhere. Despite the lingering effects of Covid-19, invitations went to 38 students returning to the Forman campus after Spring or Summer programs abroad as well as another 16 students preparing to fly out for the Fall semester to participate in a range of academic exchange opportunities.

As another example of strengthened international engagements, the French Educational Attache in Pakistan and the head of the USAID Education Office in Islamabad both recently visited Forman. Also, Forman's Mass Communications Department worked with the US Educational Foundation (USEF) and the Pakistan-US Alumni Network (PUAN) to host a week-long conference on "Fake News" bringing journalists, educationists, and others from across Pakistan to the Forman campus. Let me also thank Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan, Rachel Hasan, Syed Saqib, and other members of their team for making this event possible.

The newest Forman Student Society -- OmniLife -- partnered with the Forman Computer Science Department to sponsor an event titled *Interaction of the Blockchain with the Metaverse*. Derick Smith, former Chief Operating Officer of Ethereum, was Chief Guest.

This is the season for major fellowship announcements and I am pleased to highlight another one: Aleezay Anjum Ahmed was awarded one of this year's prestigious Erasmus Fellowships, offered by the European Commission. Her Master's Degree program focuses on Sustainable Biomass and Bioproducts Engineering and will be in effect from September 2022 until September 2024, involving study in several countries including Poland, Spain, and Finland.

Also, Amna Maryam -- a member of the FCCU Class of 2021 with a double major in Sociology and Psychology -- was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to pursue her Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology at Columbia University in New York.

Last month I mentioned that I had met Forman alumnus Dr. James Shera, former Lord Mayor of the town of Rugby, during my recent trip to the UK; this month I am pleased to report that Dr. Shera was awarded the Hilal-e-Quaid-i- Azam on Pakistan's Independence Day on August 14. Dr. Shera is known for his outstanding services in politics, interfaith harmony, community cohesion, education, and health, for which he has been awarded many honors including an Honorary Doctorate from FCCU.

Thanks, too, to our Alumni Office for organizing an on-campus gathering of "Old Formanites" on September 9, bringing at least a couple of hundred alumni back to campus for a special program followed by dinner. The Honorable Muhammad Sibtain Khan, Speaker of the Punjab Assembly, was the Guest of Honor; he recalled several humorous anecdotes from his time at Forman while also mentioning that this was his first visit back to campus in more than three decades.

I met several Old Formanites afterward including one successful businessman whose four sons also attended Forman and an impressive retired military officer whose daughter now teaches at Forman. Such encounters provide wonderful examples of the strong positive impact that Forman can and does have, *"from generation unto generation"*.

Over the last few weeks, I was invited to two events sponsored by Superior University, the first in cooperation with the Association of Private Universities in Pakistan (APUP) and the second in conjunction with the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC). Forman connections were apparent in both of them: at one, I was seated next to Shahzad Sikandar, an "Old Formanite" who is now the Vice Chancellor of Garrison University; at the other one, former Forman faculty member Haseeb Khan (now Director of Communications for the Superior Group) served as Master of Ceremonies and "Old Formanite" Dr. Muhammad Ali Shah, Vice Chancellor of Quaid-i-Azam University, followed my speech with remarks of his own.

After a hiatus due to Covid-19, the Pakistan Bible Society (PBS) launched its ever-popular 21st PBS Sports Festival on the Forman campus with the theme "Peace through Sports." Nearly 500 people from various faith communities participated in the opening ceremony and several sports featured in the days that followed included cricket, football, basketball, wrestling and track and field.

This is also the season in which test scores are announced including at Light of Hope School, established on the Forman campus to ensure that FCCU's service workers have access to a quality education for their children.

With this in mind, I am delighted to acknowledge the impressive scores achieved by departing Grade 10 Light of Hope students following completion of their Matriculation Exam conducted by the Lahore Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education. A total of 22 students --12 girls and 10 boys -- took the test, one third of them (seven students) achieving an A+ grade and another third (seven students) achieving an A grade.

Laiba Basharat, the highest scoring Light of Hope graduate, received 1032 out of a possible 1100 marks. All 22 students passed and most are enrolling at either Kinnaird College or Forman College in the fall, in almost every case the first in each of their families to attend college. While discussing Light of Hope School, let me also acknowledge the outstanding contributions by Education Dean Mehwish Raza, Light of Hope Principal Furry George and everyone on their team for their hard work and commitment, leading to these outstanding results.

Finally, a shout out to Head of Operations Suneel Chohan and his team for planting nearly 1,000 trees and bushes -- including Magnolia trees, Sheesham trees and various floral bushes -- in recent weeks, further enhancing the beauty of our already very green campus!



Dr. Jonathan Addleton
Rector, FCCU