



FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

Rector's Update

The latest news and announcements from Dr. Jonathan Addleton

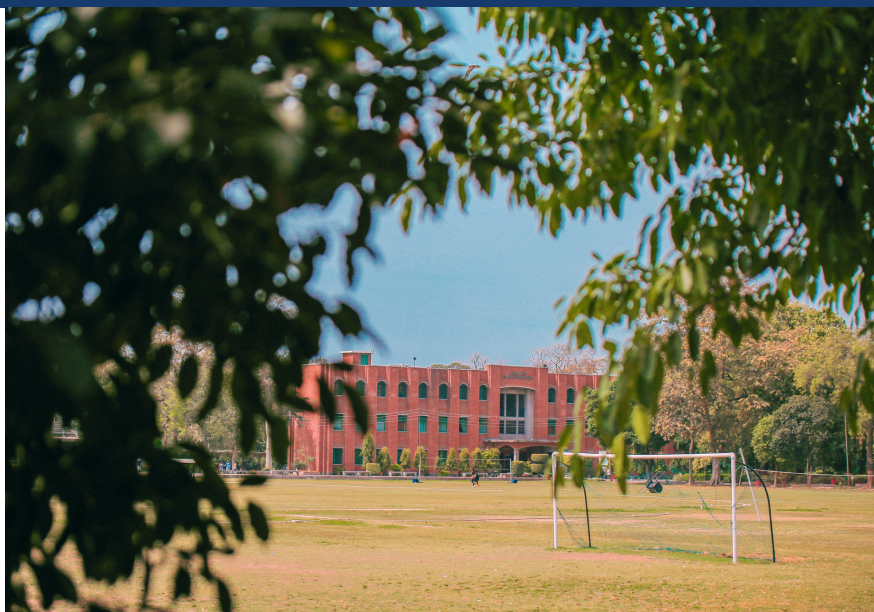
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Dear Fellow Formanite,

The highlight this month was undoubtedly the trip I took to Gilgit and Hunza in early August to meet with members of the Gilgit-Baltistan Forman Alumni Association, headed by Haider Ali.

Accompanied by Adeel Riaz, who heads Forman's Advancement and Alumni Office, we attended a meeting involving nearly 50 Forman alumni held in the impressive Business Incubation Center at Karakoram International University (KIU) in Gilgit. Several deans from KIU spoke, along with the Minister of Finance for Gilgit/Baltistan and the youngest member of the Gilgit/Baltistan Assembly, Javed Munwa -- a Forman graduate. He was accompanied by other dignitaries including Law Minister Syed Sohail Abbas. Among other things, the meeting highlighted for me the many gratifying ways in which Forman plays an important part through its graduates in strengthening and developing Pakistan's Northern Areas, especially in the field of education.

I met many people on this trip including one young man, age sixteen, who stated that he hoped to enroll at FCCU one day, mentioning other family members who have also attended. This example further strengthens my view that "word of mouth" is often the most effective way to attract new students. And if this involves multiple students from one extended family, so much the better. The fact that Forman's friends and supporters in Pakistan and beyond provide scholarships for young people from the Northern Areas also makes a big difference.

A special "shout out" to Hamid Hussain from the village of Chalt between Gilgit and Hunza for providing many of the arrangements for this trip. Hamid studied for his MPhil at Forman and truly embodies the Forman motto: *"By love serve one another"*.

Let me also extend a special thanks to Zarina Baig and her family for hosting dinner along with other members of the Baig family in their home in Haiderabad, north of Karimabad in Hunza. Zarina graduated from Forman in 2016 with a degree in biotechnology and now teaches at the Hunza branch of Karakoram International University. The Baig family also remembered with appreciation Julie Flowerday -- now a professor in Forman's Anthropology Department -- from the time when she taught at their school in the Hunza valley many years ago.

Parenthetically, another intriguing example involving family connections to Forman was recently provided by former Forman Professor Ahmad Wasif who penned an online article titled *"Serving Forman: A Voyage Across Three Generations,"* in this case mentioning his paternal great uncle Muhammad Ashraf Siddique who served as a Physics Professor at Forman and was a colleague of Pakistan's Nobel Prize-winning Physicist Dr. Abdus Salam; his father Wasif Siddique who graduated from Forman and taught Economics at Forman for more than two decades; and Ahmed Wasif himself who also taught at Forman College for many years and helped reestablish the Forman Physics Museum. As he points out in his article, *"Forman's interest in both teaching and research also contributes in important ways to the ethos of this historic institution of higher learning."*

Another highlight this month was joining Vice Rectors Dr. Trimble and Dr. Suneel to attend the first graduation of the Light of Hope School, established in 2015 for the benefit of Forman staff. Fifteen students were part of this first graduating class and their talents were on full display including in the form of music, poetry, and speeches, drawing in part on the work of John Keats and T. S. Eliot, among others. Enrollment of Light of Hope now stands at 250 students. It was also gratifying to receive the final chalan from the Lahore Development Authority last month, the final step required for issuance of the Building Permit required for the second academic building at the Light of Hope School.

Last month's *Rector's Update* mentioned several academic connections established between Forman and Germany including support from the German Embassy, GTZ, Humboldt Fellowship Program, and Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

In fact, there is at least one more German connection that should be included on that impressive list, the "Falling Walls" initiative launched in the wake of the tearing down of the Berlin Wall more than three decades ago and now providing an opportunity for Forman students, Ph.D. candidates, professionals and entrepreneurs up to the age of 35 to present their research project, business plans or social initiatives in three minutes or less (*"Three Minutes, Three Slides, One Idea"*) before a panel of distinguished jurors at Forman's School of Management on September 24, 2021. The winner will then be given the opportunity to participate in the Falling Walls Global Lab Final scheduled to take place in Berlin on November 8, 2021.



Parenthetically, while in Gilgit I met an "Old Formanite" who was in Berlin when the Wall "fell" in November 1989 -- Raja Saeed Anwar, at that time General Manager of the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) who happened to be attending a tourism conference in Germany at the time. He also mentioned that Bob Tebbe -- Dr. Jim Tebbe's father -- was Principal of Forman College when he attended in the early 1970s.

Congratulations to Mariam Naveed, a 2020 graduate from the Department of Sociology recently awarded a Fulbright Scholarship for a postgraduate program to study "Urban Placemaking and Management" at Pratt Institute. In her words, *"My connections with friends and professors at FCCU have always been special and essential in defining my future interests. My department and FCCU remain a place of nostalgia and good memories for me"*.



Also, congratulations to Dr. Bushra Usman, Associate Professor in Forman's School of Management, recently appointed as the Honorary Head of Research and Development for the Women's Chamber of Commerce in Lahore. Her appointment to this position also recognizes her contribution to academic research on business and entrepreneurship.

In addition, we welcomed the announcement that Dr. Hira Khalid, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, has been appointed as Advisor to the Punjab student chapter of the American Chemical Society (ACS). Dr. Hira Khalid has been associated with ACS as a member and volunteer for different programs since 2010. ACS Punjab is an international student chapter, chartered by ACS and providing opportunities to students in the fields of chemical sciences and biological sciences. This landmark sets Forman apart as the first university in Pakistan to launch an ACS international chapter.

One important faculty publication that came to my attention this month was *Film, Media, and Representation in Postcolonial South Asia: Beyond Partition* (Routledge, 2021), co-edited by Dr. Roshni Sengupta and Forman Associate Professor Dr. Nukhbah Taj Langah. At least two Forman professors contributed chapters to the book, Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan and Dr. Waseem Anwar.

Eid was relatively quiet this year due to the continued persistence of Covid-19. However, with assistance from the Forman Advancement Office, Fiona and I hosted an Eid reception in the garden outside our home for CEOs and other corporate leaders, some but not all of them Forman graduates. The intent was to introduce Forman to business leaders within Pakistan's private sector.

Forman Alumni Chairperson (and Khazana Enterprises CEO and Chairman) Attiazaz Munawaruddin, often referred to simply as "Bob" Din, provided remarks, as did Netsol CEO Salim Ghauri, another "IT success story" who attended Forman. Other guests included Samsung Head Umar Ghumman; Kamil Saroop Khan, Servis Group Director Omar Saeed; Hyundai Vice President Sohail Nawaz; Zich Hi Tech Lubricants Chairman Shaukat Hasan; Regional Jazz Business Head Tariq Durrani; Zong Director Farhan Zakir; Popular Chemical Works Ltd. CEO Misbah ur Rehman; and Head of Sales for Nivea Pakistan Nadir Wasim, among many others.

I also appreciated the opportunity to meet recently with Syed Babar Ali, well-known philanthropist and founder of the Lahore University of Management Studies (LUMS), among other things discussing ways to strengthen cooperation between Forman and LUMS. As a junior officer at the USAID Mission in Islamabad back during the late 1980s, I participated in discussions that eventually led to a significant USAID grant to LUMS more than thirty years ago, an important milestone in their own journey toward becoming one of the outstanding institutions of higher learning in Pakistan.

Finally, I might mention that my own perspectives on higher education are shaped in part by what I have learned from the various institutions which members of my immediate family have attended, whether involving Fiona and myself or our three children. These include the University of Victoria (Canada); Strathclyde University (Scotland); and Northwestern University, Tufts University, Georgia Tech, and Davidson College (USA). Davidson College is the smallest of these six institutions but bears certain similarities to Forman, given its nineteenth century Presbyterian origins as well as the fact that one of the "legendary" Davidson economics professors taught at Forman early in his career during the 1960s and, on returning to the United States, established a scholarship fund for Forman students through his church.

Because our oldest son attended Davidson, we regularly receive the "Parent's Letter" from the Davidson College president. On reading the most recent such letter, I was especially struck by this statement, given by one of Davidson's recent graduates who received a prestigious fellowship to undertake post-graduate studies in the UK:

"One of my takeaways from Davidson is working with a sense of goodwill, under the assumption that people have good intentions," she said. "We live in such a fragmented world, I find that really rare. The influences I had at Davidson were some of the most generous and humane . . . My friends who went to a different college didn't seem to have that experience -- to leave with the sense that a personal commitment to human decency is the most important thing you can bring away from your time in college".

Certainly, my hope and prayer is that all Forman graduates will depart from our institution holding a similar perspective about the importance of kindness and decency as well as the need to work together to help heal a fractured world.



Dr. Jonathan Addleton
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