



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,

It is wonderful to note that we were authorized to open the College side of FCCU to 100 percent on-campus teaching beginning on Tuesday, October 12, marking the first time that we have had a full complement of students on-campus at the same time since March 2020. What a wonderful development, one that we hope continues long into the future.

At the same time, this important step does not mean the end of the pandemic and we will need to continue to observe relevant Covid-19 health and safety protocols including masks, hand-sanitization, thermal scanning, and other measures for the foreseeable future. We will also need to maintain 100 percent vaccination coverage including for students above the age of 15 who must be vaccinated before October 29 to ensure continued campus access.

So far my October has centered primarily around a trip to the United States for multiple purposes including outreach related to Forman; a Friends of Forman board meeting; and continued engagement on the accreditation process involving the New England Commission on Higher Education (NECHE). The outreach aspect of the trip has been especially gratifying, involving conversations and presentations in Michigan, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Georgia, and Washington, DC. As I often comment to a variety of audiences, I am always happy to talk about Forman -- anytime, anywhere, and to anyone!

One aspect of my visit to Washington, DC included a meeting with Jean Ann Beasley who lived in Lahore for two years as a child during the early 1960s when her father volunteered as a doctor at United Christian Hospital in Lahore. Her late husband Ken was a long-time USAID officer and earlier this year Jean donated his entire economics library consisting of well over 1,000 books to Forman while also funding all shipping costs. I very much appreciated this gift, especially given the personal connection to a colleague from my previous life as a USAID officer.

The recent NECHE virtual site visit involving many members of Forman's faculty, staff, and students (as well as other stakeholders including members of Forman's Board of Directors and Board of Trustees) was arguably the most important event of the month. Although we won't know the results for several weeks, the verbal version of the final report was both positive and laudatory. Accreditation in this case is a long process, possibly up to seven years. But based on the virtual visit which the NECHE team just completed, we are hopeful that we are now well along the path toward achieving "eligibility status".

This month we said farewell to Amber Mall, long-time Director of Admissions who has left a big mark on Forman and whose shoes will be difficult to fill. It is hard to imagine anyone more dedicated to Forman or more familiar with the entire Admissions process, from start to finish. At the same time, we wish her every blessing as she departs for the United States and as she looks forward to spending more time with her family.

Despite Covid-19, Forman continued to move forward in a variety of ways. For example, the Physics Department sponsored a webinar on "Recent Trends in Materials Science and Nanotechnology" in mid-September involving dozens of participants from both Pakistan and abroad. Also, Professor Raja M. Ali Saleem presented at an online conference on "The Future of Islam and Humanity: Local and Global Challenges and Opportunities" hosted by the Australian National University in Canberra. Meanwhile, Dr. Samina Mehnaz was a lead speaker at a webinar conference on sustainable agriculture and ecotourism involving more than 200 participants and hosted by Udayana University in Bali, Indonesia; she also spoke at an online conference for Humboldt Fellows on the impact of Covid-19 on the mobility of scientists, researchers and the general public.

Other faculty contributions include Dr. Maryyam Khan's recent role in moderating a panel discussion in Sialkot at a center for the production of sports and surgical goods; focusing on marketing "Made in Pakistan" as a brand, the program was part of a recent EU-Pakistan Business Forum sponsored by the European Commission. Meanwhile, Dr. Ashar Ghulam headed a team organized by Pakistan's Higher Education Commission (HEC) to develop teacher manuals as well as a curriculum for two courses on quantitative reasoning, both of which will be used to meet general education requirements for a four-year undergraduate degree.



Along with others on the Forman faculty and in the Forman administration, I take great pride in the success of our students and alumni. One example is graduating political science major Shah Ameer who has been offered a teaching assistantship as well as a sizable fellowship to attend the University of Waterloo in Canada. Another example are the eight Forman undergraduates who have been awarded U-Grad grants to study for a semester at various colleges and universities across the United States, possibly the single largest number of U-Grad selections for Forman in a single year ever.



In addition, former Executive Master's student Ashab Lodhi recently attended an international conference titled "Eurasia Global," held in Orenburg, not far from Russia's border with Kazakhstan. Sponsored by the Russian government, the event brought 4,000 young people together from more than 70 countries. Lodhi's presentation focused on youth, skills, and the job market. On his return to Lahore, he described the experience as "life-changing," crediting Forman's Centre for Public Policy and Governance with providing him with the skills and knowledge needed to contribute effectively at international forums like this

Forman graduate Syed Muneeb Ali continues to undertake impressive work related to science journalism, especially related to better understanding the universe in which we live. Recently that included a Celebration of "World Space Week 2021" to observe earth's low-lying moon along with Jupiter and its four prominent moons as well as the rings of Saturn. Tayyab Ifikhar Sherazi, President of Forman's Benade Physics Society, ably helped manage the program.

The completion of the oral history project ("Advancing Female Literacy and Empowerment in Pakistan and India Through Life Writing") involving a partnership between Forman, the University of Sheffield in the UK, and the local NGO Bunyad was another highlight, culminating in the distribution of certificates to several Forman students who assisted in producing the text as well as artwork for a series of six books in Urdu and English highlighting the contributions of various women to Pakistan over the decades. For a useful summary of this project and other items, it is worth also googling Dr. Nukhbah Taj Langah's interesting article titled "Building Online Bridges: Ethnography Across 'Partitioned' Nation-States during Covid-19" which was just posted on the Society for Cultural Anthropology website.

Forman's Internal Audit Department as well as its Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) regularly provides informative analyses on various elements of FCCU, to strengthen management and improve operations. Most recently, that included a QEC survey of college faculty views which yield interesting results. Some 73 (out of 93) college faculty responded, with 87 percent indicating overall satisfaction (a three percent increase from two years ago). Areas of college life that respondents stated that they especially "like" included Forman's working environment (82 percent), campus (82 percent), and core values (77 percent).



As regards university faculty, there was a 70 percent response rate (219 out of 311), with 73 percent expressing overall satisfaction. Areas of high satisfaction here included harmony (90 percent). Factors considered as especially attractive features of the Forman working experience included core values (78 percent); working environment (74 percent); location (68 percent); and campus (68 percent). Both university faculty (85 percent) and college faculty (94 percent) described themselves as either "aware" or "very aware" of Forman's sexual harassment policy.

Finally, some on-campus might have noticed the recent visit by a professional photographer taking pictures of our campus for a forthcoming book on architecture in Punjab. It is wonderful to see Forman recognized in this fashion, both for its older buildings as well as for its newer ones. While proud of the "garden" aspect of our campus, we can also take pride in the various "iconic" buildings on our campus including Sinclair Hall -- designed by the same architect who designed the Minar-i-Pakistan!



**Dr. Jonathan Addleton**  
*Rector, FCCU*