



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,

This Rector's Report #12 marks the completion of my first year as Rector of Forman Christian College (A Chartered University). Looking back, I am grateful for the support received from the entire Forman community. Looking ahead, I am immensely proud of the resilience displayed by all those associated with Forman as we anticipate the New Year.

Recent weeks have involved two especially significant events: (1) an in-person, on-campus Commencement for the Class of 2021 held on November 27; and (2) Alumni Appreciation Day held on the evening of December 4, providing an opportunity to recognize several outstanding Forman graduates as well as a number of individuals and companies who have donated generously to Forman in the recent past.

This was my first in-person Commencement on the Forman campus and it was gratifying to distribute various prizes, medals and diplomas while also meeting with the families of our graduates afterwards. As always, it is especially touching to meet "first generation" college graduates whose parents understandably are proud of their children's achievements.

Nearly 1,000 graduates received diplomas covering many fields including Business (190); Computers Science (124); Education (25); Humanities (146); Natural Sciences (203); and Social Sciences (261). Of that number, 773 received Bachelor's degrees and another 176 received graduate degrees including both MPhils and PhDs.

Those receiving degrees immediately joined the ranks of "Old Formanites" -- and one week later our campus hosted the biggest alumni event since my arrival in Lahore in September 2020, in this case taking place in Sinclair Hall. Finance Minister (and Forman graduate) Shaukat Tarin served as Guest of Honor in a wonderful ceremony led by IT entrepreneur Aitizaz Munawaruddin, head of the Forman Alumni Association.

Four individuals received Forman's Distinguished Alumni Award including Sahibzada Sultan Abdul Hameed (former Federal Secretary); Salim Ghauri (CEO, NetSol); Dr. Akhtar Sohail Chughtai (CEO, Chughtai Labs); and Chaudhry Ahmed Javed (Chairman, Servis Group). Servis Group, Honda Atlas and Dr. Peter J. David received recognition as "generous donors" while Tajammal Jafri received a special award for his much-appreciated contributions to Forman's Advancement team headed by Adeel Riaz. Numerous other Appreciation awards were included as part of the program, providing further opportunities to recognize the services and contributions of other Forman alumni.

This evening concluded with a spectacular Qawali concert by members of the Sundoo family, reminding me once again why I have long been an admirer of the late Nasrat Fateh Ali Khan and the wonderful music tradition that he represents.



Once again, various Forman departments arranged an impressive number of symposiums, talks, webinars and other events covering a range of topics; indeed, this edition of the Rector's Update will only be able to highlight some of them:

-- Forman's Computer Science Department organized several lectures including one on "*Blockchain Technology*" involving Ahmed Manzoor, founder, and CEO of the Pakistan Blockchain Institute, and another on "*Biomedical Signal and Image Process*" involving Dr. Farhan Riaz, Associate Professor at the National Institute of Science and Technology (NUST)

-- Forman's English Department hosted a seminar on "*Girish Karnad and his Dramaturgy*" featuring Dr. Amara Khan from the Lahore College for Women University. Karnad is widely regarded as one of India's most celebrated and prolific dramatists.

-- Forman's Chemistry Department organized a webinar on "*Asymmetric Organocatalysis*," inviting Dr. Wesley Moran from the University of Huddersfield to deliver a talk on this very technical subject.

-- Forman's Population Research Center in partnership with the Pakistan Population Council and UN Fund for Population Activities organized an all-day seminar on "*Opportunities and Threats: Population Growth and the Way Ahead*". Featuring an impressive list of speakers from both Pakistan and beyond, the event covered several themes including population growth, migration, urbanization, gender, old age, poverty, and public health. Participants noted that Pakistan is now the fastest-growing country in South Asia, diverging in important respects from the demographic path now being taken by several neighboring countries including India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bangladesh.

-- In partnership with Lahore's Center for Law and Justice (CLJ), Forman's Centre for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG) marked International Human Rights Day on December 10 with an event focused on "*Humanizing Sanitation Workers in Pakistan*".



-- Forman's Mass Communications Department hosted a workshop on "*Peace Journalism*," partnering with Norwegian colleagues in an event that also included on-line participants from Germany, Australia, and New Zealand. Academics and journalists from across Pakistan who attended also received their first glimpse of Forman's new Media Center, the recent recipient of new IT equipment from the German aid organization GIZ valued at 4.5 million rupees.

-- Virtual workshops organized during the last few weeks included one on "*Postcolonial Feminism: Women's Digital Activism in South Asia*". The event also involved the Lahore College for Women University (LCWU) and was developed as part of the US-Pakistan Partnership Grant Program (UPGP) supported by the United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP). In addition, Forman worked with LCWU, UPGP, and USEFP to sponsor a virtual workshop delivered by Dr. Khilji from George Washington University on "*Effective Strategies in Instructional Design and Teaching*".

Special thanks to Computer Science Chairperson and Professor Aasia Khanum for forwarding an e-mail from San Francisco-based MindStorm Studios describing the success of ten Forman Computer Science students participating in a highly competitive Summer Internship and Fellowship program, in this case, focused on Game Development. "I cannot begin to explain the amount of talent and passion these students carry for game development," commented program organizer Mohsin Mehmood. "The program is a success due to them".

Mohsin noted that one FCCU graduate has already been hired by his company. As for MindStorm, its products have been downloaded more than 100 million times, highlighting Pakistan's increasing involvement in a global computer games market valued at more than \$150 billion. FCCU recently signed an MOU with MindStorm to further strengthen cooperation. Also, the Forman Computer Science Department is now developing a new course on "*Game Design and Development*".

With students back on campus, Student Societies are beginning to once again make their mark with a variety of new programs. As a former journalism student, I was especially happy to see the Forman Journalism Society host a visit on December 7 by prominent journalist Rana Salman Abid. Organized in cooperation with the International Association for Leadership Development, the talk focused on media entrepreneurship.

Distinguished visitors to the Forman campus this month included Androulla Kaminara, the European Union Ambassador to Pakistan. Her visit was arranged by Forman's Center for Public Policy and Governance and included a talk on the EU as well as its role in supporting development in Pakistan.



Meanwhile, College Vice Rector Dr. Suneel and his colleagues organized a training session on "*How the Teacher/Student Relationship Can Impact Classroom Management*". Heads of Departments and others at the College attended the session, which was delivered by Stacy Cortez, Teacher/Trainer for the Presbyterian Education Board. College students also recently received their Lahore Examination Board results, with several College merit scholarship holders receiving marks higher than 99 percent, among the highest in their class.

Thanks also to Forman's Light of Hope School, established as a "lab school" for the children of Forman's service staff, for another spectacular Christmas program involving drama and music. In addition, Light of Hope partnered with TNS Beaconhouse for a truly wonderful expression of the Christmas spirit: as part of this initiative, each Light of Hope student will receive a card and gift from their "Secret Santa" at Beaconhouse. In addition, Forman's Academic Advising Center is working to provide sweaters for students at Light of Hope School during this Christmas season.

Another highlight of this special season was to attend a dinner welcoming 16 female MPhil students to Forman's new hostel "annex," developed a short distance from the Forman campus as part of a new partnership between Forman and TSA, an NGO established during the late 1940s by two Swiss siblings. Hopefully, this new hostel space will be expanded during 2022 as we seek to renovate another TSA building on the same premises, this one intended to eventually provide housing for more than 80 female Forman students.

As it happens, I am writing this *Rector's Update* from Boston, Massachusetts where both Dr. Trimble and myself are attending the annual meeting of the New England Commission on Higher Education (NECHE), the parent body for the accreditation process that Forman is now pursuing. The presentations are especially useful as we prepare for the long accreditation journey that lies ahead, one that should further deepen the quality of a Forman education while also strengthening our international connections.

Finally, as I look out on a wintry New England landscape with flurries of snow filling the night sky, let me take the opportunity to wish everyone in the Forman community, wherever you might be, Season's Greetings, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!



Dr. Jonathan Addleton

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