



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

Connections & Partnerships

Recent Activities



Dear Fellow Formanite,

Happy New Year! It was wonderful to return to the Forman campus on January 10 and see more Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) students than ever before. While Covid-19 continues to leave its mark and its future direction is uncertain, it is also gratifying to see what FCCU might once again look like in a post Covid-19 world.

My own December was dominated by a visit to the US involving three main elements: (1) participating for the first time in the annual President's conference hosted by the New England Council of Higher Education (NECHE) in Boston; (2) traveling with Sam Schreiner who heads Friends of Forman to explore possible funding opportunities from private foundations headquartered in Colorado and Washington; and (3) spending Christmas with family in Georgia. That said, having by now been at Forman for more than a year, I viewed my return to Lahore very much like "going home". I also look forward to the opportunities and challenges that all of us will undoubtedly face in the year ahead.

Pakistan's Higher Education Commission (HEC) recently announced that Dr. Kauser Abdulla Malik will chair the HEC Research Ethics Committee regarding Retractions of Research Articles, an important position that is vital to ensure integrity and accountability within Pakistan's scientific and research community. The Committee's assigned tasks cover a number of important areas including fraud, misconduct, plagiarism, conflict of interest, and fake peer review.

Meanwhile, Dr. Ashar Ghulam, Assistant Professor in FCCU's Mathematics Department, was commended for leading an HEC effort to develop two Quantitative Reasoning courses, along with Teacher Manuals to accompany them. This was part of an initiative under the HEC's undergraduate education policy and the manuals will be used by universities across Pakistan.

The *Forman Journal of Social Sciences* (FJSS) is now available online, marking a significant milestone for Forman's Faculty of Social Sciences which also publishes the *Forman Journal of Economic Studies*. A dedicated editorial team including Dr. Sara and Dr. Younis helped make this possible and all six departments within the Faculty of Social Sciences have participated in the effort.

Once again Dr. Michael Nazir-Ali, former Bishop of Rochester, delivered an informative, erudite, and inspiring lecture sponsored by Forman's Religious Studies Department, this one titled *Love and Law in Christianity and Islam*. I learn something new every time I hear Dr. Nazir-Ali speak and on this occasion, it was an interesting perspective on the importance of working toward achieving not only law-abiding societies but also caring and loving ones.

Meanwhile, Forman's English Department hosted its third session of The Writer's Lounge, titled *Musings: An Exploration of Zakia Nasir's Poetry* and featuring remarks by guest poet Zakia Nasir, former Chair of the English Department at Lahore College. Held on December 15, The Writer's Lounge is an outgrowth of an international conference convened by Fatima Syeda at Forman in 2019 and involves different writers and poets reflecting on their work.

Supervised by Ms. Rachel Hasan, Assistant Professor and Chair of the FCCU Mass Communications Department, several Mass Communications students attended a training workshop in Islamabad organized by the German aid agency GIZ in cooperation with both the Punjab Information Commission and the Pakhtunkhwa Information Commission. The purpose of the session was to build social media capacity and strengthen storytelling skills. Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan, FCCU Dean of Humanities, a key player in this initiative, also moderated a panel on *Mandates and Citizen Facilitation* organized as part of the workshop.



As for student success, Asia Khanum who heads Forman's Computer Science Department reports that the FCCU Computer Science student team is included among the regional winners of the Microsoft Imagine Cup *Epic Challenge* for 2022, qualifying for the World Finals. The team includes MS Computer Science student Mehr-un-Nisa Kitchlew and BS Computer Science students Shahreyar Arif Kitchlew, Hamza Asaad and Ahmed Saad. Their project focused on using Artificial Intelligence to detect breast cancer.

The Imagine Cup initiative was launched two decades ago to encourage student innovators while also developing their technical skills. Most recently, three top teams out of the hundreds that participated were chosen from Asia, the Middle East and Africa and the Americas, winning an initial grant of \$1,000 for research and development and paving the way for participation in the Imagine Cup World Finals in May 2022.

Let me also commend Dr. Aneel Samuel and others in the College Urdu Department who helped ensure Forman participation in both the Urdu and English sections of the 2021 Quaid-i-Azam Declamation Contest involving participants from across Punjab. Contestant Muhammad Aahil Kamran from FCCU was awarded third prize in the Urdu section, receiving many positive comments along the way.



Also, congratulations to the five "Top Achievers" from Forman Christian College for their outstanding performance in the most recent Lahore Board Exams: Muhammad Fasih Iqbal (1098/1100); Hassan Ahmed Rana (1092/1100); Salman Khawar (1091/1100); Rafay Waheed (1087/1100); and Muhammad Shah (1085/1100).

On the sports front, FCCU's tennis team achieved third place in the Lahore Board's Inter-Collegiate Tennis Championship for 2021-2022, held at Government College University (GCU) on December 17.

Meanwhile, FCCU student Hanzala Ahmad -- who is also Executive Vice President of Forman's Debating Society -- won the Bronze Medal in the HEC Intervarsity *Kamyab Jarwan Gala Boxing Championship* for 2021. When I congratulated Hanzala for his strong performance (I had seen him practicing beforehand on the Forman grounds), he thanked FCCU Boxing Coach Abdul Ghaffar for support as well as Mr. Shezad from the FCCU Sports Office staff for standing in his corner during the semi-final match.

Finally, while often highlighting the work of FCCU professors in the *Rector's Report*, this month I might mention a recent book that came my way from outside FCCU, one of many received from various authors which are usually in turn placed in Ewing Library. This latest book is titled *Covid-19 Crisis and Asian Migration* and includes a collection of essays on the impact of Covid-19, not only in Pakistan but also in Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and elsewhere. The book is edited by Dr. Nasra M. Shah from the Lahore School of Economics -- reminding me that it was Dr. Nasra who extended an invitation to me to present a paper at a conference on international migration hosted by the East/West Center in Hawaii back in the early 1980s when I was researching my own Ph.D. dissertation. It was a happy surprise for our paths to cross again in Lahore after all these years -- and a timely reminder of just how much a compliment, kind word, and gesture of support can mean in the life of a student; at the same time, it also highlights the important role that professors everywhere can play in shaping the lives of the various students they encounter along the way, even students from other academic settings and other universities.



Dr. Jonathan Addleton

Rector, FCCU