



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 past four weeks have been incredibly busy though mostly in a "good" way. Memorably, my schedule during these weeks included encounters with several well-known personalities including the Archbishop of Canterbury (at a gathering that also involved bishops from across Pakistan); the President of Pakistan (at the BizNet 2022 gathering in Islamabad); and the Governor of Punjab (at the Bosnian National Day celebrations in Lahore). At the latter event, I was seated between the Consul-General of China and the Consul-General of Iran, both resident in Lahore. No, we didn't solve the problems of the world -- but it did make for interesting conversation.

Last year's Staff Club dinner was canceled due to Covid-19. However, the tradition was revived this year in a memorable event that included good food, memorable poetry, and wonderful music. Thank you, Dr. Nayer and others in the Registrar's Office for making this evening possible.

Founder's Day, celebrated every year on March 3 to mark the birthday of Forman founder Charles W. Forman in 1821, this year involved a wreath-laying ceremony at the Forman gravesite in old Lahore as well as a ceremony in front of Sinclair Hall to launch the booklet summarizing presentations made at the Symposium held last year to mark the 200th anniversary of Forman's birth. Extra copies of the booklet are available and we welcome queries from anyone who would like a copy of their own.

I am always thrilled when members of our faculty and staff are recognized by others outside the Forman community. On February 18, FCCU's own Dr. Kauser Abdullah received the prestigious Governor Award at the Governor's House in Lahore for his outstanding work and wonderful contributions. Awardees were selected from different walks of life and included philanthropists, social workers, educationists, scientists, and medical doctors. As Dr. Kauser told me later. *"During my brief chat with the Governor, I asked him to visit FCCU!"* As it happens, Dr. Bushra Usman from the Forman Business School helped organize the event. *"In addition, there were several young people working there who came up to me and introduced themselves as Formanites"*.

Last month I reported on the success of our college cricket team. This month, I am happy to note that the university team won the first match of the HEC Intervarsity Cricket Championship for 2021-22 against LEADS University. The match was played in late February at Government College University and Kanwar Hashir from Forman was declared "Man of the Match".

Congratulations, too, to the Lahore Qalandars for winning the Pakistan Super League Cup, and congratulations to the Australian cricket team for their ongoing tour of Pakistan, bringing international cricket back to the Pakistan stage. For Forman, such matches, while welcome, also pose special challenges, especially in cases where they are held at nearby Gaddafi Stadium, resulting in disruptions at Forman including at times a return to online classes, given the traffic jams and parking problems that they engender.

One product of Covid-19 has been the emergence of Virtual Workshops as a form of engagement involving students, faculty, and others, not just on the Forman campus but also from around the world. One recent example is a workshop on *Gender: A New Island of Psychology*, held at the Prometrics Center on the Forman campus on March 11 and involving FCCU as well as Lahore College for Women University (LCWU) and the US Educational Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP). Another is a similar Virtual Workshop on *Ethnography*, held on March 1 and featuring Dr. Subha Malik and Dr. Amina Obaid Khawaja, also from LCWU and also involving support from USEFP.



I appreciated the invitation to both open and close the Model UN organized by the student society FORMUN. Some may have seen their video products on the internet -- truly outstanding. The three-day event brought dozens of participants from across Pakistan to the Forman campus. Another highlight was a wonderful qawali night, organized by FORMUN and featuring Zain Zohab, the grandson of Haji Rehmat Ali who often performed with Fateh Nasrat Ali Khan.

Alumni news that came my way this month included the announcement that Romale Naeem John cleared the annual CSS exam, having been selected as Assistant Commissioner with the Pakistan Administrative Services (PAS group). The process for selection is one of the most rigorous and selective anywhere. Congratulations to Romale, not only as a Forman graduate but also for his service to the entire Forman community while working in our Career Services and Internships Office.

At the same time, we also celebrate the achievement of another member of the Forman staff -- Nadeem James in the Supply Chain Office -- for receiving his license as a Supreme Court Advocate from the Punjab Bar Council. Already, Nadeem's legal background and work have been vital in pursuing Forman's interests in Customs, Excise, and other departments, and this new qualification, added to his law degree, will strengthen Forman's capacity in this area still further.

I am also pleased to highlight the arrival of Mrs. Badia Raza as a new member of Forman's senior executive team, heading a new combined Office for Marketing, Communications, and Outreach. Badia previously established the Marketing Department at the Institute of Chartered Accounts of Pakistan (ICAP) and I know everyone will welcome the dynamic skills, enthusiasm and professionalism that she brings to the position.



As I write this *Rector's Update*, we are concluding a visit by Friends of Forman, our international support group headed by Sam Schreiner from New Hampshire; the visiting four-person group this year also included Friends Board Member John Gill (Connecticut), Joel Huang (Washington) and David Watermulder (California).

This is an important trip and I appreciate the support from everyone within the Forman community including students, staff, faculty, and board members. As the first in-person Post-Covid visit from Friends, we welcomed their decision to travel to Pakistan, the first-ever visit to Pakistan for John, Joel, and David. While the trip focused on the Forman campus, memorable outside activities included dinner on Food Street; Lahore Fort; and the Wagah Border. Rachel Hasan from the Department of Mass Communications also interviewed all four of our visitors, taking the opportunity to launch the "first" radio program hosted by Forman's new Multimedia Center.

As I conclude this update, let me also take the opportunity to personally thank Sam Schreiner for his wonderful contributions to FCCU over many years. Sam's mother was born in Rawalpindi and his grandfather taught at Forman during the 1930s. Given these antecedents, it is probably fair to say that both Pakistan and Forman were "in his DNA" from the very beginning.

Sam will relinquish his position as Executive Director of Friends at the end of the year while remaining involved with Forman through his continued membership on the Forman Board of Directors and Board of Governors. A person of prayer, faith, and service, we will always be grateful for Sam's catalytic role in making some of the most important aspects of the Forman community including scholarships as well as the new Campus Center and Multimedia Center possible.



Rector, FCCU

Dr. Jonathan Addleton