



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,

In recent weeks, there have been several important developments that should further strengthen opportunities for women at Forman Christian College (A Chartered University).

First, an important partnership agreement was signed between FCCU and TSA, an NGO established by two Swiss siblings shortly after Pakistan's independence in 1947 to support women's development and female empowerment. Even as the agreement was signed, renovations commenced on the original TSA building situated a couple of miles from the main Forman campus to transform it into a hostel for at least 80 female students, increasing the number of hostel beds available to female students at Forman by more than 20 percent. The renovations will take one year to complete. In the meantime, other activities on the beautiful TSA "campus" including a school for special needs children are continuing.

Second, construction was completed on an entirely new housing unit on the Forman campus designed as a "group hostel" for at least seven single female faculty and staff, providing a suitable place for women from outside Lahore who are working at Forman to live.

Third, an ongoing collaboration involving Forman and Lahore College for Women University concluded in late April, marking the end of a University Grants Partnership program funded by the US Educational Foundation in Pakistan. The initiative involved training, workshops, papers, and a conference, setting the stage for the development of a Gender Studies program at Forman.

Another important event, also in late April, was a four-day conference ("*Journalists' Safety During Conflicts*") organized by Forman's Department of Mass Communications with support from Oslo Metropolitan University in Norway. Dr. Abeer Saady, an international correspondent with connections to both Egypt and Germany who has reported extensively across the Middle East and Africa, made an especially notable contribution, as evidenced by the extensive coverage received following her visit to the Lahore Press Club.



Overall, this event received more coverage in both the print and broadcast than any other such event hosted by Forman since my appointment as Rector nearly eighteen months ago. Let me especially thank Dean of Humanities Altaf Ullah Khan, Mass Communications Department Chair Rachel Hasan and other members of their team for making this conference so successful.

The conference took place in Forman's new Media Studies Center, providing a wonderful demonstration of how that center will be used in the months and years ahead. At the same time, the Center launched its own YouTube Channel for podcasts as well as radio and television shows produced by Forman students. Early projects included a *Naat* recitation to mark Ramadan and a music performance to mark Easter. Such productions will be regularly posted on the following link, making them available to the entire Forman community and beyond: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNnJxohocognUxJgyv3a3GQ>

Forman College students performed two wonderful dramas, one sponsored by the English Department (*Lend Me a Tenor*) and the other by the Urdu Department (*Dastaan-e-Bismil*). The acting was superb, as was the direction and set design. Local media including *Dawn* and *The News* also recognized the performances. Given that annual dramas could not be held last year due to Covid-19, it was especially gratifying to see our college students return to the stage in such spectacular fashion.

Professor Kenneth Marc Strzepe from the MIT Research Center for Global Change Science reached out to Professor Mohammad Vaqas Ali, Director of Forman's Population Research Center, for demographic data needed to complete a World Bank report on Climate Change, hopefully setting the stage for further cooperation in the future.

Also, Professor Sara Rizvi Jafree was recently notified that her application for a research grant to the National Research Program for Universities (NRPU) has provisionally been approved. The project is titled "*Evidence Based Interventions to Improve Social Policy for Maternal and Child Health Care Using a Pre-Post Test Design*" and Dr. Rizvi will serve as Principal Investigator.

Earlier work which helped to inform that application has also just been published by Health Care Research and Development (Cambridge University Press) under the title "*Infection Preparedness of Community Health Workers: Implications for Maternal and Neonatal health Services in Pakistan*", another remarkable achievement for which Dr. Rizvi praises her research team including an impressive number of FCCU research students serving as research assistants.

During April the FCCU Advancement and Alumni Office hosted an on-campus Iftar Dinner and Zakat Drive to thank Zakat donors from previous years while also seeking new donors for Forman's Zakat scholarship fund. Approximately 200 people attended including alumni donors, student society presidents and members of Forman's alumni board including General Secretary Dawood Barry and member Shafaat Ahmad. The event raised more than 500,000 rupees from 31 donors, bringing the total Zakat funds raised this year to more than 3.1 million rupees.

In other alumni news, recent Forman graduate Basil Dogra reports that he has joined the Liberia office of Innovations for Poverty Action as a Research Associate. His initial focus will be on intergenerational knowledge transfers among rural communities in Liberia. Also, I was delighted to receive a copy of a new book written by Dr. Durre-e-Sabih from Multan, another Forman graduate; titled *Practical Ultrasound*, it is the first of a projected three-volume set that will be of immense value to those working in ultrasound clinics across Pakistan and beyond. Dr. Durre-e-Sabih's daughter, a surgeon practicing in the United States, is co-author.

Finally, I am pleased to note that a proposed \$1.2 million, three-year project developed by Dr. Shinho Chung and Forman's Department of Environmental Sciences titled *Application of Sustainable Groundwater Treatment Technology for Safe Drinking Water Supply in Punjab, Pakistan* continues to move forward. Funding will come from the Government of Korea and prospective partners including that country's Ministry of Science. Anticipated outcomes include investigations of groundwater quality in Punjab, with a special emphasis on arsenic removal; installation of three water treatment plants; provision of safe drinking water to local villagers; and establishment of a water analysis center at Forman.



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