



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 Update* is being written during the Eid holidays, providing a brief respite from both the busyness of campus life and what must surely rank as one of the hottest summers in Punjab ever. Despite the high temperatures, a lot has been happening:

Joining Registrar Dr. Nayer Fardows, I met Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman, the new Governor of Punjab. He is from Bahawalpur and previously served as State Minister for Education. As with all Governors, he also serves as FCCU's Patron and will hopefully visit our campus at some point.

Joining Central Bank Acting Governor Dr. Murtaza Syed, I spoke on migration issues at the launch of a new report on *Migration and Pakistan* hosted by the Lahore School of Economics (Burki Campus). Given that my PhD dissertation analyzed the economic impact of migration from Pakistan to the Middle East, I welcomed this opportunity to catch up on recent developments in the migration field.

I attended a breakfast sponsored by the American Business Forum (ABF) featuring Dilawar Syed, one of the highest-ranking Pakistani-American officials in the Biden administration. An entrepreneur in Silicon Valley who grew up in Sialkot, Dilawar emphasized the importance of economics as the strongest foundation on which to build international partnerships.

Thanks to Adeel Riaz and the Forman Advancement & Alumni Office, I participated in a 20-minute interview on Discover Pakistan's *Good Morning Show*. Host Iqra Haris focused the conversation on FCCU and it was wonderful to have this opportunity to share the Forman story with a wider audience.

As many as 25 Forman students participated in a "Poster Board" competition sponsored by both our Computer Science Department and Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC) highlighting various Apps that students have developed. As it happens, the two winning entrants reflected Forman's motto ("*By Love Serve One Another*"), one of them designed to make life easier for the hearing impaired and the other aimed at benefitting those who have lost their sight.

Joining Forman Chief of Staff Eileen Dass and Chief Engineer Tajammul John, I participated in the official opening of a new hostel for single female faculty and staff from outside Lahore. The idea was first discussed exactly one year ago; twelve months later, FCCU can be proud of this beautiful new on-campus facility that provides seven comfortable studio apartments for female faculty and staff.

Korea's Ambassador to Pakistan Suh Sangpyo and his wife made their first visit to Forman last week. As I mentioned to them, two Korean families are already part of the Forman community here in Lahore and a third is about to join them. Also, I met with Czech Ambassador Tomas Smetanka, a long-time friend who we first met in Jordan many years ago, on one of his recent work-related trips to Lahore.

I was honored to attend two retirement events for Dr. Hamid Saeed whose associations with Forman date back to the 1960s when he was a student. Much later, he played an influential role as Registrar, working with Dr. Peter Armacost throughout the challenging denationalization process. We will no doubt continue to see him on campus as Professor Emeritus.



Let me express my appreciation to Dr. Farzand Masih, History Professor and Head of Forman's Church Relations Office, for his leadership role in planning and implementing a tutoring program involving 220 students from Pakistan's Christian community, most of whom will start college this fall. In addition to classroom instruction, students participated in several other activities including visits to the Lahore Fort, National History Museum, and the Pakistan Bible Society Museum in Anarkali.

Forman is a member of the Global Liberal Arts Alliance (GLAA), providing opportunities for faculty in a number of areas. Most recently, this membership facilitated a training opportunity at the American University in Paris as well as a co-teaching opportunity for Dr. Qurratulaen Liaqat (from Forman) and Dr. Curtis Grunler (from Hope College in Michigan)

Many faculty and some staff regularly publish articles in both academic journals and the popular media. While realizing that my occasional references to some of these publications only barely scratches the surface, I did note with interest that Dr. Naila Sahar's paper "Double Bind of Muslim Women's Activism in Pakistan: The Case of Malala Yousafzai and Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy" appeared in a special issue of the peer-reviewed *Journal of International Women's Studies and WAGADU: A Journal of Transnational Women's & Gender Studies*.

It is appropriate to highlight Dr. Naila Sahar's work for other reasons as well: she is spending this semester in the US as a 2022 American Association for University Women (AAUW) Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University of Buffalo in upstate New York where her research focuses on Muslim women as migrants and refugees. Previously a Fulbright scholar, the prestigious AAUW award further strengthens her reputation while also providing an opportunity for additional research on a timely topic. Her work was also recently featured in *UBNow*, the University of Buffalo magazine for alumni, faculty, and staff.

Dr. Arfa Syeda Zehra is understandably viewed as a Forman "legend," noted for her impressive combination of compassion, intellectual depth, and beautiful Urdu. Many honors have come her way and I am happy to mention the latest one here: Iqra University in Karachi recently wrote a letter to me, asking if she could be declared "Professor Emeritus" at that institution and stating that such an affiliation would benefit "students, faculty, and society at large". I am happy to see Dr. Arfa recognized in this unusual fashion. As I might have mentioned previously, her recent Commencement address at LUMS was also well received, providing yet another example of how the impact of Forman extends well beyond the walls of our University.

Forman's Griswold History Society sponsored a day in Lahore's Old City on June 25. The program looked fascinating and my only regret was that I was unable to join it myself!

The Forman Debating Society kindly invited me to their farewell dinner at the Luxus Grand Hotel, an impressive event that reminded me yet again of the vital role that student societies play in deepening the quality of student life at Forman. Last year, the Forman Debating Society sponsored 15 events while also sending no less than 80 teams to various debating competitions throughout Pakistan covering everything from International Relations to Human Rights, Women's Empowerment to Climate Change.

Another student organization, Forman's Rotaract Club, received several honors including eight distinguished awards at the 12th Rotaract District Conference. Forman Chief Information Officer Anthony Richard, himself an active Rotarian, provides advice and support to student-led Rotaract activity on campus.

Our School of Management recently organized several events including a Seminar on the *Circular Economy and its Implications*, implemented in partnership with Derby University in the UK. In addition, it organized a session on *Corporatization and its Compliance* in partnership with Pakistan's Security and Exchange Commission. Also, the School of Management organized a *Marketing Symposium 2022* focused on e-commerce and involved prominent names involved in business and marketing in Pakistan. Finally, it hosted a *Biz Strategy* event and *Management Talks* program, providing opportunities for students to showcase final projects and interact with Pakistan's business community.





Forman's Economics Department hosted a timely review of the new Pakistan budget for 2022-2023, led by Dr. Waseem Shahid who teaches at the University of Peshawar and has worked for Quaid-i-Azam University, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, and the World Bank.

Meanwhile, the School of Education sponsored the fourth session of *EdForum*, a talk series involving experts from other educational institutions. The most recent one discussed skill sets needed for the next decade and featured Dr. Amber Mustafa (Fulbright PhD student at Florida State University) and Kamil Majeed (Chief Operating Officer at Nordic International School in Lahore).

Forman's Chemistry Department organized a Symposium on *Chemistry and Drug Discovery* that I was privileged to attend. Forman's Speers Chemical Society also supported the event which included guest speakers from LUMS as well as Austria and Turkey.

Forman's Environmental Sciences Department notes that Assistant Professor Dr. Sohaib Aslam was awarded an equipment grant of 20,000 Euros from Germany's Humboldt Foundation. The equipment will be used to monitor and track various particulates in both soil and air.

Our new Media Center continues to make important contributions to media programs at Forman, producing a daily news podcast that I occasionally enjoy watching. Also, Adeel Ahmed Aamir organized a speaker series for his class on *News Reporting*, among other things involving a visit by Awais Hameed from the *Daily Tribune* to talk about newsroom management. As part of a separate effort, Fayyaz Ahmed Khan, producer of *Bol*, was invited to speak on *Film and Drama as Channels for Social and Behavioral Change*.

Forman's Center for Learning and Teaching (CLT), headed by Rukhsana Zia, continues to offer an impressive array of study opportunities, each of them aimed at strengthening learning and teaching at FCCU. In fact, CLT's success has also caught the attention of Pakistan's Higher Education Commission (HEC) which with Forman's concurrence invited 175 universities across Pakistan to participate in various online trainings, one of which recently focused on online publishing. Another webinar, sponsored by both ORIC and CLT, featured Dr. Sikandar Hayat speaking on *Theories of Research (Epistemology)*.

The final list of HEC-funded National Research Program for Universities (NRPU) grants received by FCCU this year was issued, with Forman once again impressing: 11 out of the 18 grant applications submitted by FCCU to HEC were approved, covering not only Natural Sciences but also Social Sciences and the Humanities. Total NRPU funding awarded to FCCU this year exceeds 65 million rupees and covers several departments including Life Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Physics, Chemistry, Statistics, Sociology, and Mass Communications. Let me also thank the deans, department heads, and professors who made this impressive performance possible.



Members of the Forman community have probably noticed a "ramped up" effort on the part of our new Office of Marketing and Outreach headed by Badia Raza to publicize programs at Forman, especially as the Admissions season approaches. One such initiative involved "Open Houses" at the School of Management and Center for Public Policy and Governance, designed to encourage Forman undergraduates to consider applying for some of Forman's more specialized post-graduate programs.

Also, Forman's Advancement & Alumni Office launched *Formanite Talkies*, bringing together alumni from similar professional backgrounds and experiences to talk about areas of mutual interest and concern. The first such event included blogger Kashah Shah (known as the "Shah of Lahore"), aspiring singer Sheheryar Malik, upcoming actor Saud Javed Malik and experienced YouTube Professor Rufruf.

In addition, the Marketing & Communications Office organized a *Meet & Greet* in our Media Center in late June for journalists involving myself and most of our deans. Several students also talked about their Forman experience. The turnout far exceeded expectations and included several dozen editors and reporters from *Dawn*, *Jang*, *Express Tribune*, *Narwairwaqt*, *Pakistan Today*, *Business Recorder*, *Pakistan Observer*, *Daily Jahan*, *Nai Baat*, *Academia Magazine*, *Bol*, *Ausaf Daily*, *Dunya Newspaper*, *City 42*, *Minute Mirror*, *Roznama. Pakistan*, *Express News*, and *Samaa TV*. Later, several journalists commented to me that they appreciated the event as well as Forman's willingness to reach out to them to discuss what we mean when we talk about Forman as a "liberal arts university".

Finally, during this Eid season which highlights the importance of sacrifice, I might mention that Zakat contributions this year provided more than 6.3 million rupees for scholarships, nearly double last year's effort. Scholarship assistance is important for everything we do at Forman, and I very much appreciate this continued indication of sacrificial support.



**Dr. Jonathan Addleton**

***Rector, FCCU***