



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,

Greetings during this season of Easter, Eid, and Ramadan, a time for both serious reflection and joyous celebration!

This month's *Rector's Update* is written from the US where I traveled to attend the Friends of Forman spring board meeting, held in Atlanta, Georgia. The fact that Friends Executive Director Sam Schreiner had himself just visited the Forman campus made the meeting all the more meaningful. In addition, I accompanied Sam Schreiner on outreach trips to Birmingham, Alabama, and West Palm Beach, Florida. As always, I appreciate the opportunity to talk about Forman "anytime, anywhere, and with anyone"!

I continue to track with interest efforts made by Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) to strengthen our international connections. In recent weeks, two such examples came to my attention:

First, Dr. Shafqat and Dr. Rabia report that the US Institute for Peace (USIP) based in Washington, DC has awarded Forman's Centre for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG) a grant to conduct research, develop a manual and provide training focused on Pakistan's Juvenile Justice Act (2018).

Second, Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan announced that OsloMet University based in Oslo, Norway has provided a follow-on grant to Forman to host a workshop on digital security later this month. A Berlin-based trainer is also involved and should arrive on campus shortly. In addition, a related workshop is anticipated for this fall. Conversations are also underway with OsloMet on activities focused on the environment, possibly also including a student exchange.

Forman's Career Services and Internships Office hosted its annual Job Fair on the Forman campus on March 29 -- the first such in-person event since the start of Covid-19 more than two years ago. Some 115 companies participated, bringing together under one roof students and faculty as well representatives from various governmental, non-governmental, international and commercial organizations.



Jahanzeb Khan, CEO of Finca Microfinance Bank, served as Chief Guest. I also note with appreciation the "social evening" following the Job Fair, featuring a Qawali concert highlighting Bakhtiyar Alli Santu, a prominent member of the well-known Santu family.

Some observers may have noticed the special blue lighting installed in Hope Tower in recent days, used to draw attention to World Autism Awareness Month. We are pleased that we have once again been able to show solidarity, understanding, and acceptance of people with autism in this fashion.

On the sports front, I am happy to report that FCCU's female university team was awarded a trophy for placing second in the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) Women's League 2022 tournament, featuring six universities including LUMS, FCCU, Lahore School of Economics (LSE), Lahore College for Women University (LCWU), University of Management and Technology (UMT) and Beaconhouse National University (BNU). Forman participation included teams in badminton, basketball, cricket, futsal, netsal, squash, table tennis, tennis, and volleyball, with Forman teams doing especially well in doubles badminton (silver medal), volleyball (silver medal), and tennis (gold medal and silver medal).

As for the men's university cricket team, they won both their first match (against the Foundation for Advancement of Science and Technology, commonly referred to as FAST) and their second match (against Lahore School of Economics) in the LSE cricket championships, also held in late March. Following this auspicious start, the Forman team continued on their winning ways, defeating host LSE in Model Town by three wickets in the penultimate championship fixture, successfully chasing a target of 180.7 in 19.4 overs. FCCU's team captain Khurram Wattu who scored 24 runs and took two wickets was declared "Man of the Match".

Meanwhile, Forman's Mathematics Department fielded a team of senior BS (Hons) students (Lintha Nadeem, Sundus Rehman, Areesha Mahik, and Husbana Ghafoor) at the Seventh Regional Student Olympiad of Mathematics (CRSOM-7) on March 31, organized by the Center for Advanced Studies in Pure and Applied Mathematics (CASAPM) at Bahauddin Zakariya University in Multan. Forman's participation was sponsored by our Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC). Dr. Shabnam Malik, Associate Professor and Chairperson of the Department of Mathematics, accompanied the team to the competition.

Also, ORIC reached an agreement with the Center of Language Engineering at the University of Engineering and Technology (UET) in Lahore, providing for the free use of the Urdu plagiarism detection software called “*Parakh*”. The software is designed to check similarities in an Urdu text, thereby identifying examples of plagiarism in academic and other writing, as and when they occur. For further information on this new software, feel free to contact Haroon Sampson directly at haroonsampson@fccollege.edu.pk.

Dr. Maryyam Khan from the Forman School of Management was recently honored with India's coveted *Priyadarshini Award*, recognizing women with exemplary achievements related to female empowerment and entrepreneurship. Sponsored by the Federation of Indian Women Entrepreneurs (FIWE), Dr. Maryyam Khan was the only person from Pakistan to receive the award this year; other awardees came from India as well as Nepal, Singapore, Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Sri Lanka.

It was an honor to participate in a well-attended dinner in Islamabad sponsored by the Forman Alumni Islamabad chapter. Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin served as Guest of Honor for the event which also involved many other prominent "Old Formanites" including active and retired government officials, judges, ministers, industrialists, businessmen, and others. The evening ended with a distribution of tokens of appreciation, as well as a word of thanks from Islamabad chapter president Malik Fateh Khan.

Also, the Forman Alumni Office arranged a reception for Cheryl Burke, returning to campus for a visit after more than eighteen months away. Forman faculty and staff also welcomed her back to FCCU and she participated in a number of events, both formal and informal, all aimed at honoring her for her sixteen years of wonderful service to the Forman community, with students both past and present expressing deep appreciation for her unfailing interest and support. Other highlights included the recording of a podcast at Forman's new Media Centre and inclusion as Guest of Honor at a reception sponsored by Pushtun students at Forman.

Litigation cases are a reality in any institution of higher learning in Pakistan, with Registrar offices typically taking the lead in handling such cases. Although not often highlighted in these monthly reports, I do want to express appreciation to Dr. Nayer and our Registrar's Office for a recent positive ruling in the Lahore High Court involving three Forman graduates whose BS (Hons) equivalences were not being equated by the Government of Punjab with an MA in Sociology. Dr. Sara Rizvi also provided important support, making the successful case before Punjab's Qualification and Equivalency Determination Committee (QEDC) to equate the two.

Looking ahead, Forman's Department of English Language and Literature has issued a call for papers for a second international conference focused on "*Inter/Dis-connections of the Prefix 'Post' in Contemporary Literary, Linguistic and Cultural Studies*". The conference will be held on the Forman campus from October 29-30, 2022. For further queries and to submit a paper, please contact english.conferences@fccollege.edu.pk by May 15 at the latest.



Finally, let me conclude this month's *Rector's Report* with heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the many expressions of prayer, comfort, and support received from across the Forman community following the recent death of my father. His memorial service reflected both the grieving of an irreplaceable loss and the celebration of a long life well-lived, more than three decades of which were spent in Pakistan's southern Sindh province.

Against this backdrop, our family especially appreciates the many condolences received from across the Forman community as well as from both the Pakistan Consul-General in Houston and the American Consul-General in Lahore, confirming yet again that informal people-to-people connections are ultimately more important, as well as more enduring and long-lasting, than more formal -- and usually more fraught -- official relationships between governments. During this time of reflection and gratitude, I have also especially appreciated these lines from the great Persian poet Rumi, who strongly influenced other literatures around the world including Urdu, Sindhi, and Pushto: *"The body goes its dusty way; the spirit walks, with Jesus, on the sea"*.



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