



**FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE**  
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

# Rector's Update

*The latest news and announcements from Dr. Jonathan Addleton*

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A major highlight this month was the two-week visit by Dr. Jim Appleton, former President of Redlands University (and former Vice President of the University of Southern California). While his visit focused on strategy development at Forman Christian College (A Chartered University), he also offered important assistance related to NECHE accreditation and leadership development.

Two former FCCU professors also made return visits to our campus including Dr. Ryan Brasher (now at Simpson University in California) and Dr. Charles Ramsey (now at Baylor University in Texas). As I on occasion reflect, *"You may leave Forman, but Forman never leaves you"*. Somehow, more than a few former faculty, students, and staff always figure out ways to keep returning to our campus, at least for a visit!

My one trip outside Lahore this month was to Islamabad on June 19 where I attended a program chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to recognize youth entrepreneurship. I was immediately greeted by several Forman alumni including the Vice Chancellor of Arid Agricultural University in Rawalpindi, a professor from the University of Bannu, and a graduate student enrolled at Government College University in Lahore.







The Prime Minister's National Innovation Award which precipitated the event focuses on youth between the ages of 14 and 30 and this year received more than 250 applications. One awardee was Hamza Islam, a Forman graduate who teamed up with his colleague, Raees ur Rehman, from the Agricultural University in Faisalabad, to develop a new date product, building on Pakistan's status as the world's fifth largest date producer. Also, the Master of Ceremonies was a Forman graduate while the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Youth Affairs who organized the event mentioned that her father-in-law had attended Forman.

Trips within Lahore during the last few weeks included a visit to the TSA/FCCU partnership project site situated near Forman. I am pleased to note that the renovation of a hostel on the premises expected to house more than 80 female Forman undergraduates is going well and should open in the Fall. Also, I joined several others from FCCU to visit Ewing Hall, a former Forman hostel which housed nearly 100 male students as recently as five years ago. At this point, we are looking at the possibility of once again returning it to its original use.

I also contributed via Zoom to the Oxford Conference on "Christianity and Christians in Pakistan", hosted by Kellogg College in mid-June. Abraham Murad from Kellogg College, who is also a Forman graduate from the Class of 2012, and Dr. Yaqoob Khan Bangash, previously at Forman and now at Harvard, played major roles in convening the event. Bishop (retired) Nazir-Ali and Dr. Ayra Indrias Patras from FCCU presented papers, among many others.

Topics covered included Christian support for the Muslim League, Christians as portrayed in Urdu novels, Christians in Saleem Haroon's short stories, Pushto translations of the Bible, Pakistani Christians in the UK, and Christian contributions to Pakistani popular culture. A follow-on event is planned for next year, possibly at Forman. Papers presented will also be published during the coming months in book form.

Meanwhile, Registrar Dr. Nayer attended the International Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (INQAHE) conference in early June in Astana, Kazakhstan. Forman is an Associate member of INQAHE which has the highest endorsement from Pakistan's Higher Education Commission (HEC). In addition to participating in discussions on quality and accreditation, Dr. Nayer used the opportunity to introduce Forman to a larger international audience.

More recently, on a visit to HEC in Islamabad, Governor Secretariat of the Punjab introduced Ms. Shezray Hussain to Dr. Nayer Fardows, Registrar FCCU. On learning that FCCU is offering naming opportunities in the Jim Tebbe Campus Centre, Ms. Shezray immediately wrote a two million rupee cheque in memory of her late grandfather, a proud "Old Formanite" who, she reported, always spoke fondly of what in his student years was routinely referred to as FC College. The reception on the ground floor in the Campus Center will be named after him.



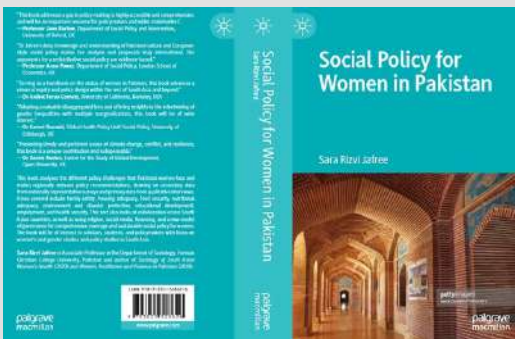


As anticipated in last month's *Update*, Forman's new Media Center equipped with German support was officially inaugurated in early June, providing FCCU with one of the best such facilities in Pakistan. A few days later prominent television news anchor (and Forman graduate, class of 2003) Muhammad Junaid engaged with students at the

Media Center, providing yet another boost for our Mass Communications faculty and students alike.



The June 2023 issue of the *Forman Journal of Social Sciences* is now available and includes six articles written by scholars working at such institutions as the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Asian Development Bank, University of Punjab, International Islamic University, University of Sargodha and the School of Public Policy at Central European University in Vienna. Several relevant disciplines are covered in this latest issue including economics, public policy, education and psychology. Dr. Sikandar Hayat serves as Editor in Chief while Dr. Sara Rizvi Jafree serves as Editor. The entire issue is available here: <https://www.fccollege.edu.pk/forman-journal-of-social-sciences/>



Congratulations, too, to Dr. Sara Rizvi Jafree from the Sociology Department on the recent publication of her latest book, *Social Policy for Women in Pakistan* (Palgrave/MacMillan): <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-32863-3>

As with so much else at FCCU, Forman's Center for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG) headed by Dr. Saeed Shafqat recorded an exceptionally busy schedule in recent weeks. Notable events included the May 29 "kickoff" of a partnership with the Civil Services Academy of Pakistan under which CPPG will teach mid-career civil services officers "Research and Policy Brief Writing".



CPPG is also moving forward with several other partnerships including with the US Institute for Peace (for which Assistant Professor Dr. Rabia Chaudhry presented a preliminary draft report) and the Punjab Culture Department (for which a preliminary dialogue was held focused on artists and musicians). Meanwhile, Assistant Professor Dr. Abdullah Khoso's Discussion Paper on Human Rights Institutions in Sindh was published as part of CPPG's ongoing Discussion Paper series and is now available to anyone who requests it.

Finally, CPPG welcomed Additional Secretary Kamran Akhter from Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to campus, providing an example of a scientist who shifted to diplomacy and has held several senior posts related to nuclear issues, disarmament and science diplomacy.





Congratulations to Dr. Romel John, Assistant Professor in Forman’s Business School, on the completion of his PhD in Business Administration from Superior University (Lahore). His dissertation is titled *“Role of Religiosity in Developing Entrepreneurial Intentions Among University Students in Pakistan”*.

Also, congratulations to Dr. Ayesha Saleem Siddiqui, Lecturer in the College Physics Department, on the completion of her PhD in Physics from COMSTATS University (Lahore Campus). Her dissertation is titled *“Doped Graphene Oxides and Its Composites for Sensing Applications”*.

Environmental concerns continue to figure prominently in various FCCU events, as reflected in the one-day workshop titled *“Graphene-Based Nanomaterials: Environmental Applications and Arsenic Removal”*, hosted by the Department of Environmental Sciences in early June and attracting more than 100 participants.



In the lead-up to the end of the semester, I attended several student-led poster exhibitions and other special programs hosted by various academic departments including the *“Computer Science Senior Project Poster Exhibition”* (COMSPEX-SP-23) hosted by the Computer Science Department in partnership with ORIC and Career Services; an exhibition of posters on *“Research Methods in Literature, Language and Linguistics”* organized by the English Department; and two poster exhibitions sponsored by Forman’s Psychology Department, one highlighting the *“History of Psychology”* and the other presenting final projects undertaken by our graduating seniors.

Also, I appreciated the opportunity to see several projects organized by students attending the Communications Campaign Design Course hosted by Forman’s Department of Mass Communications. In this case, campaigns were organized around the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to water, education and other themes.





Meanwhile, Dr. Qurratulaen Liaqat from Forman's English Department organized a seminar on "Postmodernism", presenting the work of novelists such as Don DeLillo, Martin Amis, Orhan Pamuk, Haruki Murakami and Toni Morrison.

Dr. Asia Khanum representing Forman's Computer Science Department was recently elevated to the grade of Senior Member of the US-based Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), the world's largest technical professional organization dedicated to advancing technology for the benefit of humanity. Only ten percent of the IEEE's 400,000 members have achieved this senior level, the highest such rank offered by IEEE to its diverse and highly qualified international membership.



Maryyam Khan from Forman's School of Management travelled to Sri Lanka in June to receive a Top Global Fifty Award for "Leadership in Women Development and Entrepreneurship". Maryyam is Vice President of the South Asian Women Forum (Pakistan Chapter) and was one of 500 exceptional female entrepreneurs nominated from around the world. As part of the event, sponsored in part by the International Finance Corporation, Maryyam also served on a panel focused on "Asian Women Stories".

For its part, Forman's School of Management hosted its Second International Conference on Business and Innovation in early June, with Health Minister Dr. Javed Akram, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Health Services, attending as Chief Guest. The event also had an international flavor, with Dr. Bushra Usman inviting a Swiss venture capitalist as well as a senior leader at the University of British Columbia in Canada to participate via Zoom.



Looking ahead, Mariam Khalid, also from the school of Management, will once again serve as Convener for the Falling Walls Lab, targeted on entrepreneurs and supported by a German NGO bearing the same name. The event will take place at Forman on August 3 and the deadline for applications is July 20, with winners given the opportunity to "pitch" their proposals in Berlin: <https://falling-walls.com/lab/apply/fccu-lahore/>

**CALL OPEN**

AUG 03, 2023

## FALLING WALLS LAB IS COMING TO FCCU LAHORE

As part of an effort to strengthen links with the private sector, Forman's Chemistry Department hosted visits from members of its Advisory Board. Guests included Farooque Sarwar, Director of Plant Operations at Herbion Ltd., along with Malik Khalid Pervaiz, Head of Quality Operations. Dr. Mariya al-Rashida, Dr. Dildar Ahmed, Dr. Athar Yasin Khan and Dr Muhammad Abbas were also present to discuss ways to strengthen academia/industry linkages. Later, Muhammad Idrees, CEO of NovaMed Pharmaceuticals, Ltd. visited, having supported international conference attendance, internships and employment for Forman students over the last several years. For this visit, Dr. Dildar Ahmed, Coordinator of the Chemistry Department's Advisory Board, again played an important organizing role.

Dr. Samina Mehnaz, Chairman of Forman's School of Life Sciences and Coordinator of the Pak/German Alumni Group, travelled to Islamabad to participate in a German Embassy program where she was the only female speaker on a panel organized to discuss environmental-friendly, non-toxic approaches to food security. About 100 alumni from various German academic programs (including the Humboldt Fellowship program in which Dr. Mehnaz participated) attended.



Several FCCU faculty and staff joined an American International Consortium of Academic Libraries (AMICAL) conference held at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco in late May, with Forman's Center for Learning and Teaching headed by Rukhsana Zia and Forman's Chief Librarian Farrukh Shahzad playing a prominent role; other participants included Anish Arif (CLT), Mehreen Tahir (Library), Madiha Asghar (Library), Maheen Zia (Writing and Communications), and Shehzadi Zammurad Awan (Political Science).

Adeel Khalid from Forman's English Department had the opportunity to attend both the AMICAL-sponsored program in Morocco and a Human Rights Conference hosted by Albion College in Michigan (USA), in this case sponsored by another notable FCCU international partner, the Global Liberal Arts Alliance.



The most recent TEDxFCCU event presented a spectacular range of speakers, all organized around the theme "The Spectrum of Change". Speakers included fashion designer and visionary Hassan Sheheryar Yasin and Forman's own Dr. Arfa, among several others. Thanks to Jaffer Gardezi and his colleagues for organizing such an informative and inspiring event!



As the spring semester winds down, I attended several "Farewell Dinners" sponsored by three of our hostels: Kennedy Hall (College boys); Shirazi Hall (University boys), and Hope Tower (University girls), each entertaining, informative and memorable in their various ways. A hostel experience often results in lifelong friendships, and I especially appreciated gaining a glimpse of this at each of these events. Thanks, too, to the Hostel guardians and wardens who contribute so much to this experience.





I am always alert to examples of student outreach and service. This month, that included a note from Ghouri Tofan from District Musakhel in northeast Baluchistan, ranking near the bottom in terms of district development in Pakistan. Yet he has worked tirelessly to establish six libraries at various government schools and colleges across the district and is now planning to include the only female high school in Musakhel in the mix.

Two Forman students – Muhammad Fird Uddin (Mathematics, Computer Science and Statistics) and Dania Mahmood (Business) – have been awarded fully-funded Bestway Foundation scholarships to attend the University of Kent in England starting this Fall. Dania will pursue a Master’s degree in Applied Actuarial Sciences while Muhammad will pursue a Master’s degree in Biomedicine. Dr. Ahmad Mahmood Qureshi (Dean of Faculty for Computer and Mathematical Science) and Sylvia De Souza (Senior Manager for International Education) assisted in the application process, as a result of which two of the five Bestway Foundation Scholarships allocated to Pakistan this year were awarded to Forman students.



Other examples of student success, this time in the sports arena, include Wafia Khalid who was selected to join the Punjab Weightlifting Team; she received a bronze medal for third position in the 87kg category at the 34th National Games recently held in Quetta.

On the cricket front, three players from the FCCU cricket team were selected by the Pakistan Cricket Board for regional tournament teams: Mashud Rasheed (Lahore West); Abraham Stephen (Lahore East); and Sameed Farhan (Lahore North).

Despite the scorching heat, the Alumni vs FCCU match took place on our “main field” as planned, providing an opportunity for “Old Formanites” to return to campus and test their cricket skills. According to the match report, *“Both sides displayed exceptional sportsmanship and entertained the spectators with their remarkable performances”*.

The alumni team captained by Kamran Shafqat batted first, putting an impressive 210 runs on the scoreboard led by Shan Khan with 52 runs not out. Ali Raza emerged as the star player on the current FCCU team, knocking in 76 runs. In the end, the current team captained by Hashir won the “*nail-biting contest*” by five wickets. Thanks to the Forman Advancement Office for arranging this wonderful event!



As readers of this Update know, I have a strong interest in Forman’s history including the lives of the men and women who turned FCCU into what it is today. This month I was given another glimpse into that history by reading the obituary of Marguerite Helen Velte Hasbrouk who passed away on June 4 at the age of ninety. Marguerite was born in Lahore in 1933 where her father Mowbray Velte served as Professor of English:

*When she was three years old, her parents brought her back to the US in search of better treatment for tuberculosis and osteomyelitis in her legs. A year later, she was told she could give up hope of walking unaided. ‘That’s what you think’, she told the doctor, sticking out her tongue at him. She cast off her leg braces and crutches not long after, became a strong walker, swimmer, and paddler, and delighted in defying anyone who underestimated her strength, endurance – or wit.*





Marguerite Helen Velte graduated from high school at age sixteen, attended Barnard College, worked at Wellesley College, raised three children, and was actively involved in various Quaker causes including peace, justice, conservation, prison reform and support for refugees. Velte Hall on the Forman campus is named after Marguerite’s father and her sister Lois Velte Carstens recently made a donation to FCCU, indicating a long-standing family interest in our institution.

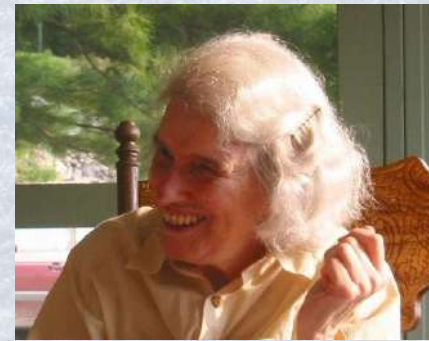
Thanks to Forman’s Outreach and Advancement Office, we hosted a highly successful “Corporate Connect FCCU” dinner on June 22 to celebrate “Two Decades of Denationalization”. Alumni Association President Attiazaz Munawwar ud Din (CEO Khazana Enterprise) and Alumni Board Member Dr. A.S. Chughtai (Chairman Chughtai Labs) gave very moving remarks, recalling both their past associations with Forman and their confidence in its future; I also provided my reflections on the current state of the university, followed by comments from Badia Raza and Adeel Riaz who along with other members of their team played a major role in organizing the event.

More than 50 senior industry leaders, some of them Forman graduates, attended including Mian Muhammad Mansha (Chairman Nishat Group), Zafar Masud (CEO Bank of Punjab and Chairman OGDCL), Mian Asad Hameed (CEO Sazgar Engineering Works Limited), Muhammad Adrees (CEO Sitara Chemical Group), and Hammad Naqi Khan (CEO World Wildlife Fund Pakistan) attended, along with senior representatives from other companies including Systems Limited, Packages Group, Bestway Group, Netsol Technologies, among others. While focused on the renewal of FCCU over the last two decades, the event also had a forward-looking aspect to it, both in terms of shaping our future strategy while also looking for ways to strengthen ties between Forman and Pakistan’s corporate sector.

I received an interesting package this month from Dr. Imran Khan who sent me a copy of his fast-paced adventure thriller *Gambit on the Devil’s Chessboard*, set partly in Pakistan. Imran graduated from Forman in 1981 with a Bachelor’s in Biology and Chemistry; he is now Professor in the School of Medicine at the University of California/Davis, having earned his PhD from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York.

In Dr. Imran’s words, *“I have extremely fond memories of my time at FCC. It was a tremendous experience. I sure learned a lot. I also developed lifelong friendships with classmates and hostel mates”*. While at Forman, he stayed at both Griswold Hall and Newton Hall. Acknowledging some of the turmoil that Pakistan faced at the time, he added *“My friends and I tried to have as much fun as we could. This taught me a lesson that one should always be optimistic and find a way to achieve inner satisfaction”*.

In a major step toward turning Forman into an even greener campus, Chief Financial Officer Furqan Seith Mall reports that Forman has received a major low-interest loan from the State Bank of Pakistan, allowing us to proceed with plans to introduce solar power to FCCU. More on this important development





later. However, the coming twelve months should see important steps in this direction including solar panel-covered parking lots and “solar farms” on some of our rooftops. Chief Engineer Tajammul John and his team are also playing a major role in this effort.

This year Forman launched a Summer Camp for the children of faculty, staff and students from June 5 through August 13. Participants are between the ages of three and seven and included both a half day and full day option. While the focus is on fun, participants are also introduced to theme-based projects and craft activities designed to promote greater understanding of science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM).

Finally, and with great sadness, I must end this Update with the heart-breaking news that Joshua Perwaiz, one of the high school students in Forman’s eight-week Summer Coaching Class whose uncle Kenneth Iqbal Perwaiz serves as Forman’s HVAC Supervisor, died in a tragic accident at the Forman swimming pool on June 20. In addition to academic coaching, this long-stand summer program offers both sports activities and off-campus field trips. Although a lifeguard was on duty at the time and administered CPR, he was unable to save Joshua’s life. This is the greatest tragedy that any family can ever face and we mourn with the Perwaiz family during this very difficult time.



DR. JONATHAN ADDLETON  
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