



FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

Rector's Update

The latest news and announcements from Dr. Jonathan Addleton

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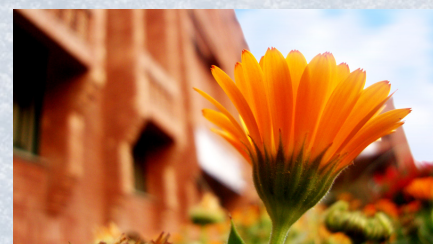


I initially thought this month's *Rector's Update* might be relatively short. However, I realize more than ever that life never slows down at Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) -- on the contrary, summer in Lahore is just as busy as any other time of year!

Right now we are in the midst of the Fall 2023 "Admissions Cycle". As part of this effort, our Marketing and Outreach Office participated in a two-day Education Expo organized in mid-July by the *Jang* Group at the Lahore Expo Center. Some 35 educational institutions attended with Forman represented by Admissions Office staff members Nasir Gill and Fakhra Edina along with four work/study students. Fifty potential students and/or their parents visited the Forman stall on the first day, followed by nearly 150 others on the second day.

On the infrastructure front I am happy to note that members of the Forman community will soon see solar panels begin to appear on the Forman campus, the result of a recent State Bank of Pakistan loan that will finally allow us to launch this latest "green initiative" that should lower our electricity bills while also contributing to a cleaner environment.

I was also pleased to welcome Dr. Matthew Cook and Dr. Noman Baig to the Forman campus at the end of July. Dr. Cook serves as President of the American Institute for Pakistan Studies (AIPS) while Dr. Baig was recently appointed as AIPS Country Director, based in Islamabad. Hopefully such meetings will further strengthen the partnership between FCCU and AIPS in the months and years ahead.



Once again we made our campus facilities available to the Pakistan Bible Society for its annual sports festival, an event that draws hundreds of young people from church communities from across Lahore and beyond engaged in friendly competition in cricket, basketball, soccer and athletics.

So much happens at Forman's Center for Learning and Teaching (CLT) that most CLT-organized events never find their way into this monthly report. However, I do want to acknowledge CLT's success in organizing a five-day workshop on *Developing Classroom Observers*, a key component in FCCU's *Core Pedagogy Certificate Program* and a requirement for all new faculty. Among other things, the program promotes both self-assessment and self-reflection as part of an effort to strengthen the quality of teaching at Forman. Thanks, too, to the outstanding Forman teachers who voluntarily devote their time, skills and expertise to support this effort.

Also, Anish Arif, Education Developer and Coordinator at CLT, joined with colleague and fellow Forman graduate Kashf Shah from MilKar in an entirely different role, this time as part of her volunteer work as a Global Leader for the Queen's Commonwealth Trust, helping install 10,000 bird feeders across Lahore. The FCCU part of the program included the placement of 30 bird feeders in the Botanical Gardens and other places on the Forman campus. The timing was especially propitious, given the rise in temperatures during the summer months that would otherwise leave birds dying due to dehydration.

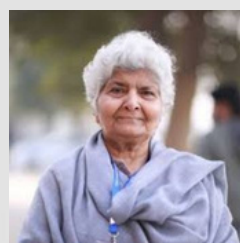


Eisha Mehtab, a graduating senior majoring in Psychology and English Literature, was recently singled out to receive a Diana Award, named in honor of Princess Diana and given to those *"going above and beyond in their daily life to create and sustain positive change."* An advocate for women's empowerment and mental health awareness, Eisha co-founded "The Mirror" at age 17 to address gender violence concerns, in part through outreach programs focused on schools. In addition to her volunteer work, Eisha has also received an Erasmus Fellowship for graduate study in Europe.



In other student news, Muhammad Munib Khan from Jhang will be departing this Fall to pursue a PhD in Organic Chemistry from Georgia State University in downtown Atlanta, having received a fully-funded scholarship from that institution. He first enrolled at Forman in 2016 and has since received both his Bachelor's (2020) and MPhil (2022) degrees. Reporting this wonderful news, he notes that *"I am thankful to FCCU, my department and my teachers for providing a competitive study and research environment . . . I am (also) thankful to my parents for their tremendous support"*.

It gives me immense pleasure to report that following approval by the Forman Board of Governors Dr. Arfa Sayeda Zehra and Dr. Saeed Shafqat have been awarded the title 'Distinguished Professor', a fitting tribute to honor their scholarship, teaching skills and contributions to Forman over many years.



Dr. Nukhbah Taj Langah's guest-edited volume *Religion, Secularism, and Nationalism: Literature of South Asia* has just been published as part of the *SARE: Southeast Asian Review of English* (Volume 60, Number One, July 2023).

Dr. Langah worked with Dr. Goutam Karmakar from the University of Western Cape in South Africa in editing this publication which includes contributions by two Forman students, one a short story translated by [Akhtar Mirza](#) and the other a translation of a poem by Faiz Ahmed Faiz provided by [Yasir Sarmad](#).



Working with Pakistan's Higher Education Commission (HEC), Forman's Department of Chemistry partnered with our Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) to host a two-day workshop on drug delivery and design in late July involving Bachelor, MPhil and PhD students.

Forman's English Department organized an interesting graduate seminar titled *Making a Case for Pakistani Science Fiction in Global Studies*, led by Ms. Sobia Kiran who taught at Forman for many years and is now working toward her PhD at York University in Canada. Also, Dr. Fatima Syeda, Chair of Forman's English Department, mentions that Forman will offer a full semester-long course on Science Fiction during the next academic year.



Dr. Zamurrad Awan, Associate Professor in Forman's Political Science Department, recently participated in three international conferences hosted by universities situated on three continents: Albion College (USA), Liverpool University (UK) and Akhawayn University (Morocco). The conferences covered a range of topics including human rights, political science and higher education.

Also, Adeel Khalid who lectures in Forman's English Department attended a five-day program on Oral History at Antioch College in Ohio. Sponsored by the Liberal Arts Alliance (of which Forman is a member), the 14 participants included representatives from Nigeria, Morocco, Pakistan and the Ivory Coast as well as from the United States.

All the best to Sylvia de Souza, head of Forman's International Education Office, as she embarks on her year-long Hubert Humphrey Fellowship in the United States. She will be based in State College, Pennsylvania. Thanks, too, to the Aligarh Alumni Association in Atlanta which is providing additional scholarship funding in support of this wonderful opportunity.

Several members of the Forman faculty and staff are pursuing advanced degrees in their respective fields. This month I want to congratulate Dr. Ayesha Junaid, a faculty member in Forman's Center for Language Development, for recently completing her PhD from the University of Management and Technology (UMT) in Lahore. Her thesis is titled *An Analytical Study on Doctor-Nurse-Patient Communication to Improve Healthcare Practices in Lahore, Pakistan*.

Forman's Center for Public Policy and Governance headed by Dr. Saeed Shafqat hosted a consultative workshop on *Democracy, Human Rights and Governance* involving three outside facilitators, Dr. Niloufer Siddiqui (Assistant Professor, State University of New York/Albany), Dr. Asma Faiz (Assistant Professor, Lahore University of Management Sciences) and Dr. Umair Javed (Assistant Professor, Lahore University of Management Sciences). Both faculty and students attended.

The latest issue of the *Forman Journal of Economic Studies* (Volume 19, Issue 1) is now available, this one including contributions from both senior and emerging scholars affiliated with the International Islamic University, Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives (IDEAS), Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Management and Technology (UMT) and University of Punjab covering a range of areas including social safety nets, child labor, international trade and urbanization, among other topics. The issue is available at the following link: <https://www.fccollege.edu.pk/forman-journal-of-economic-studies/>



Forman's history and the archives that help support our understanding of it is very much on my mind. In this regard, let me take the opportunity to draw attention to the material available at the [Forman Digital Repository](#), accessible online through the [ORIC](#) and [Library Website](#). While the site includes photographs and publications (including early issues of the Forman magazine *Folio* going back decades), new material is also routinely archived there including departmental newsletters and each issue of the *Rector's Update*.

Chief Librarian Farrukh Shahzad who with his colleagues manages this archive recently attended a fully funded three-day workshop at the University of Maryland in College Park, sponsored by the *Open Islamicate Text Initiative Project* and focused on digitizing manuscripts involving "right to left script languages" including Arabic, Persian and Urdu. At the end of the conference, Farrukh was presented with a new book scanner valued at \$2,800, a valuable addition to our library that will further strengthen our digitization and archiving programs.

My own travels during the last four weeks included a one-day visit to Islamabad to attend the Bastille Day celebrations at the French Ambassador's residence and a five-day trip to Pakistan's magnificent Northern Areas including Gilgit, Nagar, Passu and Hunza. On each occasion, I was astonished at the various Forman connections that emerged, often after only a brief conversation.

For example, at the French National Day celebrations I met a retired Pakistani diplomat who also happened to be an "Old Formanite". Similarly, we repeatedly encountered individuals with Forman connections throughout our travels to the Northern Areas. Examples here included Hamid Hussein, head of the Gilgit operations for the NGO "Shining Light"; Misbah Uddin Khawaja who leads tours of Altit Fort during the summer months; and current student Jawad Karim, spending the summer with his family in Hunza.

We also met other random travelers with Forman connections at various points along the way including one Forman graduate who was part of a family group of 21 visiting Hunza from Karachi and another Forman graduate who lives in Beijing and promotes trade between Pakistan and China.



A Journey Through Time: Dr Jonathan Addleton reflects on his life in Pakistan and his leadership at FC College University

Dr Addleton says we have a socio-economic, ethnic, and religious diversity at FCCU | Despite AI's current limitations, it is essential to keep up with technological advancements

SALMAN MASOOD/ALI HAMZA ISLAMABAD

Born in Pakistan in 1957, Dr Jonathan Addleton, the current President of Forman Christian College University (FCCU), shares a deep, multi-faceted relationship with Pakistan. His initial 18 years in Pakistan were pivotal, carving out a deep-seated affinity for the country that he carries with him to this day. "I spent the first 18 years of my life here. Pakistan is not just a place I was born in, it is a part of who I am," Dr Addleton shares passionately. His journey includes a 30-year-long career in the Foreign Service, with a focus on development systems in several countries, including Pakistan.



Dr Addleton, President Forman Christian College, during his visit to The Nation Islamabad office.

Dr Addleton vividly recalls his return to Pakistan after the heart-breaking earthquake of 2005, a disaster that claimed the lives of more than 60,000 people and resulted in the loss of homes for approximately three million people. These experiences shaped his perspective on resilience, service, and the power of communities, which would later inform his approach at FCCU. From a young learner at Marjorie Christian College to the President of FCCU in 2019, Dr Addleton has witnessed Pakistan's transformation first-hand. He noted the stark contrasts between the Pakistan of his childhood and the one he now serves, emphasizing the country's significant strides in development and global connectivity. "In

the early 1960s, they pointed to a place and said, 'This is where they are going to build the capital.' Now, it's a bustling city testament to the country's remarkable progress," Dr Addleton reflects.

Transitioning from Pakistan to North-western University was not an easy feat in a pre-internet era. Dr Addleton reminisces about the hardships he faced when applying to foreign universities through traditional mail. Despite the struggles, he shares that the experience instilled in him a resilience and determi-

nation to seize every learning opportunity. "I had to communicate through letters. It was difficult, but the experience taught me resilience and to seize learning opportunities," he said.

On discussing FCCU's rich legacy, Dr Addleton notes the institution's remarkable history, dating back to 1864. He deeply appreciates the tenacity of the alumni who reversed the nationalization of FCCU and rejuvenated its stature. Having seen FCCU's transformative journey, he takes his leadership role

His optimism shines through, providing a beacon of hope for the future of education in Pakistan

very seriously. "I bring my diplomatic background to FCCU, but the challenge lies in the academic side. We focus on fostering critical thinking here, not just rote memorization," he explains.

Dr Addleton is optimistic about the future of education in Pakistan. He acknowledges the hurdles, particularly around quality assurance, but believes that FCCU and its graduates will play a crucial role in shaping the educational landscape. "Our students embody the ethos of FCCU, car-

rying forward the liberal arts tradition. I have high hopes that they will help shape the future of higher education in Pakistan," he emphasizes. With the rise of artificial intelligence (AI), Dr Addleton discusses its potential impact on students and education. He believes that despite AI's current limitations, it's essential to keep up with these technological advancements. "AI applications have their limitations and still need human intervention. Our faculty is very aware of this and actively engaged in discussions about it," he shared.

FCCU under Dr Addleton's leadership, is also a beacon of diversity. The institution boasts a wide array of students from diverse religious, socio-economic, and ethnic backgrounds. Dr Addleton takes pride in this diversity, noting that the first Sikh officer in the Pakistan Army is a Forman graduate. "We have a socio-economic, ethnic, and religious diversity at FCCU. Students from all walks of life and parts of Pakistan join us." Despite the current political and economic uncertainties in Pakistan, Dr Addleton remains hopeful, drawing inspiration from the resilience and vibrancy of Pakistan's youth. "There is incredible resilience among Pakistanis. We have vibrant, outstanding young people here. Education matters, and I believe in a national consensus that upholds it, even amidst governmental changes," he concluded. His optimism shines through, providing a beacon of hope for the future of education in Pakistan.

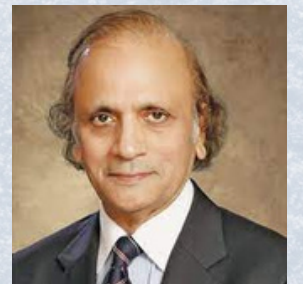
By complete coincidence, while in Islamabad to attend the French National Day celebrations I came across an oral history of individuals present at the creation of Pakistan titled *Azaadi: 47 Stories from '47*. Among other things, it was interesting to learn that at least a couple of stories in that impressive book were narrated by Forman graduates including one by Akram Khatoun, one of the female pioneers in Pakistan's banking sector:

I did my graduation from Lahore College for Women and my Master's in Economics at FC College. I began my career in banking as a trainee at the State Bank of Pakistan. I was one of the few applicants selected on merit among hundreds that had applied from both East and West Pakistan. When Benazir announced the establishment of the First Women Bank in 1989, I was appointed as CEO and went on to become its founding president as well as the country's first female bank president. I would not have had these opportunities had we remained in India . . . we should be grateful that we have a country of our own. Here we are free and shall always be. So give back to Pakistan. Work sincerely for Pakistan. Help us progress as a nation.

I am also happy to share the news that another "Old Formanite," Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani, has just been presented with the American Bar Association's Annual International Human Rights Award. The award recognizes "exceptional achievements by an individual or organization as a champion and/or defender of human rights" and was conferred at the Annual ABA meeting in Denver (Colorado) on August 3. Justice Jilani was appointed as a Justice to the Pakistan Supreme Court in 2004 and served as the 21st Chief Justice of Pakistan from 2013 to 2014.

On a personal note, my sister Nancy and nephew John recently visited Lahore for a few days. Among other things, we travelled to both Wagah and Kartarpur, experiencing the Pakistan/Indian border in two very different ways. Once again we also encountered a Forman student, in this case meeting recent Forman graduate Parkash Singh from Sukkur who was visiting the Kartarpur Gurdwara on the same day that we happened to drop by. Thanks also to Colonel Khaqan and his security team, for making both trips possible.

As this *Rector's Update* is being finalized, we just received the Secondary School Certificate/Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education results for the Light of Hope School's class of 2023, consisting of seven boys and five girls. I am pleased to note that seven of our graduating students received an A+ grade; four received an A grade; and one received a B grade. Daud Arif "topped" the boys in the class with a score of 1030 while Percicla Anjum was the top female student with a score of 921. Let me also congratulate Light of Hope School Principal Furry George and her entire team for these exceptional results!



Finally, let me close this month's *Rector's Update* by highlighting the importance of health and safety as a major theme for the coming academic year. Whether it involves the Forman swimming pool, construction sites, cars on campus, home appliances or faulty electrical wires, all of us need to be both mindful and vigilant, looking out for the well-being of others while also reaching out to Major Kanwal when noticing situations on campus that require attention or pose a danger to students, faculty, staff and visitors alike.



DR. JONATHAN ADDLETON
RECTOR