



FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

Rector's Update

The latest news and announcements from Dr. Jonathan Addleton

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The start of Fall semester means that Forman students are once again back on campus in large numbers, starting with second year college students (August 21) and continuing on to first year college students (September 12); as for the Bachelor's program, orientation for first year university students began on August 28 while classes for the rest of our undergraduates start on September 11. Both the college and the university arranged excellent one-day faculty retreats as well as various orientation programs prior to the start of the new semester.

According to the latest enrollment figures, Forman's first-year college class numbers more than 1,600. As regards the university, class lists are now being finalized. However, more than 800 students applied for admission into our post graduate programs (a record number) while more than 2,600 students applied for admission into our various Bachelor's programs.

Undergraduate programs receiving an especially high degree of interest in terms of number of applications include Business and Computer Science. As for postgraduate study, our MPhil programs in Clinical Psychology and English have attracted a large number of applications while our new MPhil in Mass Communications has garnered considerable interest as well, given that this is the first year that it has been offered.



Faculty with connections to Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) were well represented in a recent issue of the *Review of Faith and International Affairs* (<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rfia20/21/3>), published by Taylor & Francis and focused on the Regional Borderlands of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Former Forman faculty members Dr. Charles Ramsey and Dr. Ryan Brasher played a key role as part of a partnership that involved not only Forman but also Baylor University and the University of Notre Dame in the United States.

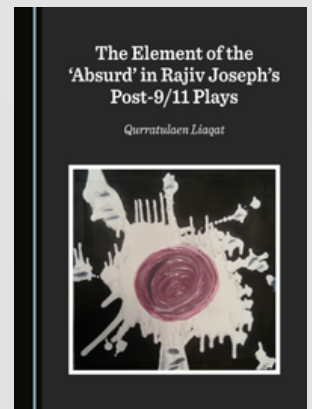
Several current Forman faculty members contributed to this effort including Dr. Abdullah Khoso and Dr. Muhammad Rovidad who co-authored an article on Pakistan's ethnically-based parties. The special issue was based on a conference hosted by FCCU's Center for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG) several months ago that also involved a number of international speakers including one connecting via Zoom from the University of Kabul.

Congratulations to the editorial team – including Dr. Sara Rizvi Jafree as Editor and Dr. Sikandar Hayat as Editor-in-Chief – of the *Forman Journal of Social Sciences* for obtaining formal approval from the Higher Education Commission. For a look at past issues and further details on submitting articles, visit the following website: <https://www.fccollege.edu.pk/forman-journal-of-social-sciences>

Congratulations also to Associate English Professor Qurratulaen Liaqat on the publication of her first book, *The Element of the 'Absurd' in Rajiv Joseph's Post 9/11 Plays* (<https://www.cambridgescholars.com/product/978-1-5275-1894-0>).

Separately, Dr. Qurratulaen Liaqat has played a key role in working with the Global Posthuman Network based in New York to establish the Pakistan Posthumanism Network (<https://www.posthumans.org/pakistan-posthuman-network.html>). As part of this initiative, she recently attended a summer program organized by the Global Posthuman Network in Italy.

Dr. Sara Rizvi Jafree reports that the fourth and final article from an ongoing women's microfinance development project, funded by our Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC), has just been published in the *Journal of Poverty and Public Policy*: <http://doi.org/10.1002/pop4.380>.



The article, based on a survey of 442 women representing all four provinces of Pakistan, provides a sobering picture of females living below the poverty line and facing a variety of concerns including housing, food insecurity, health challenges, and lack of savings. While microfinance is often viewed as a path out of poverty, for many of these women a microfinance loan by itself is insufficient.

Other recent Forman authors include Dr. Muhammad Younis (Associate Professor) and Iqra Riaz Ud Din (Visiting Faculty) whose research paper "Political Implications of Unplanned Urbanization in Pakistan: A Case of Punjab" was published in the *Journal of Development and Social Sciences*.

During the summer months especially Forman faculty sometimes have an opportunity to teach in other settings. For example, Syed Muhammad Saqib from the faculty of Mass Communications was invited by the Christian Journalists Association of Pakistan to serve as guest speaker at a four-day conference on Environmental Journalism held at a retreat center in Donga Gali near Murree in early August. Several Christian students from Forman also attended.



Our students continue to excel in a variety of ways including first-year university student Muhammad Amir who was selected as a cultural ambassador for Pakistan under the prestigious Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study Program, providing an opportunity to study in the United States for one academic year (August 2023-June 2024).

In another example of student success, Computer Science students Sawaiz Naseem and Omer Farooq, working under the supervision of Dr. M. Haroon Shakeel, won the 500,000 rupee first prize for their final year research project “2D Face Frontalization” at the Artificial Intelligence Education Foundation’s National Artificial Intelligence Championship hosted by the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS).

Two Chemistry students – Ms. Anum Hayat (“Synthesis, Characterization and Bioavailability Study of Iron Complexes with Some Carbohydrate Polymers”) and Ms. Aafia Sheikh (“Interaction, Dynamics and Speciation in Binary Solution of Choline based Green Solvents with Molecular Solvents”) successfully defended their PhD dissertations during August.

A number of FCCU graduates are pursuing higher education abroad including Zaman Karamat who majored in Political Science and Sociology at Forman and will be attending Mansfield College at Oxford University this Fall to study issues related to refugees and forced migration. Looking back, Zaman refers to his time at Forman as an “eye-opening experience which exposed me not only to diverse sets of people and ideas but also those I now call friends . . . I am excited to carry these values with me to graduate school and beyond”.



Meanwhile, Ahmad Saleem will be attending the J. Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver to pursue an MA in International Security; he was also accepted at both Penn State and Syracuse University with offers of scholarship funding by all three institutions. He credits his family as well as his professors at Forman for setting him on this pathway toward success.

Dheraj Behram Randhawa, a Forman graduate who majored in economics and later worked at LUMS, is now enrolled in a Master’s program at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota where he serves as a Teaching Assistant. His friend and fellow Forman graduate Hanan Ejaz who also previously worked at LUMS has arrived in Scotland to begin his Master’s program in Human Resources Management at the University of Stirling. Meanwhile, Forman graduate Sijjal Shafique was awarded a prestigious Erasmus Mundus Scholarship to study in Europe.

A special note of thanks to Ch Ali Ahsan Malhi who recently travelled with his father Ahsan Ullah Malhi to Forman from their home village near Kartarpur to express appreciation for the nearly eight years that he spent at Forman, starting with college and continuing through university and graduate school.



Ahsan mentioned during our meeting that he was about to depart for Canada to further his education at the University of Victoria in British Columbia – the same institution which our daughter attended and from which she recently received her Master’s degree in Public Health. He also noted that two of his own siblings are Formanites – and that twenty students from his home village have enrolled at Forman over the years. According to Ahsan’s facebook page, *“I am super proud that I am a student of Forman Christian College and University”!*

Meanwhile, 2019 Sociology graduate Surteel Ali Siddiqui was recently appointed as an Editor of *Bayan Journal*, a legal journal focused on human rights and women’s issues in Pakistan.

Thanks to Adeel Riaz and his colleagues in the Advancement & Alumni Office for organizing an unforgettable reunion for the MA English Class of 1993 involving both heart-warming stories and much laughter. Highlights included return visits to several familiar places including D Block, Ewing Library, Sinclair Hall and Lucas Café.



Also, on August 18 the Advancement & Alumni Office hosted a *“Formanite Talkies, Doctor’s Edition,”* providing a platform for alumni who are doctors to reconnect, catch up and reminisce about their college experiences. Professor Syed Moazzam Ali Naqvi who was part of the Forman Pre-Medical track during 1979-1981 and now heads the Interventional Cardiology Department at the Punjab Institute of Cardiology attended as Chief Guest.



Let me also commend Forman alumnus Abdullah Burki who earned his MPhil in Political Science in 2021. The following year he participated in the US State Department’s International Leadership Visitor Program (IVLP), visiting several US states including my home state of Georgia on a program focused on youth and civil engagement. And now, having returned to Pakistan, he was recently announced as one of ten winners of a 2023 IVLP Impact Award for a seven-month project titled *Social Inclusion, Self-Sustainability and Media Representations of Pak-Afghan Community*. Among other things, the Peshawar-based program will involve English language instruction and vocational training.



Various academic departments at Forman have launched several initiatives including the School of

Management which once again hosted the annual Falling Walls competition under the leadership of Mariam Khalid. Supported by a German NGO to promote entrepreneurship and creative ideas, the event took place on August 3. A distinguished panel of eight jurists heard ten “pitches” addressing everything from an AI-based beehive monitoring system to smart solar power systems, with the top two entries invited to present their ideas in Berlin later this year.

Looking ahead, Forman’s Sociology Department has issued a call for submissions for the *Fifth Conference on Marginalized Populations*, scheduled to take place on the Forman campus on November 29; those interested in submitting research articles should contact the following e-mail address: marginalizedpopulationsfccu@gmail.com.

The Center for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG) under the leadership of Dr. Saeed Shafqat has also been very active, supporting mid-career training for civil servants in partnership with the Civil Service Academy of Pakistan. In addition, it sponsored a week-long program in research methodology, critical thinking and grant writing in partnership with the Center for Security, Strategy and Policy Research (CSSPR) at the University of Lahore.

Another very recent CPPG program involved a policy dialogue focused on *Police Responsiveness and Protection for Religious Minorities in Punjab*. And, finally, CPPG completed its final training session focused on Juvenile Justice under a grant from the Washington-based US Institute for Peace (USIP) and led by Dr. Rabia Chaudhry.



Also related to CPPG, Deputy CPPG Program Manager Shaleem Kokhar was recently selected to participate in the International Leadership Visitor Program, providing him with an opportunity to spend nearly three weeks in the US on a program organized round the theme of promoting tourism involving historic religious sites.



Forman's Chemistry Department sponsored several events in recent weeks including a visit to our campus by Herbion, the well-known Pakistani company that focuses on natural products and is interested in forming partnerships with FCCU. The CEO of All-Cure Pakistan, a company sharing a similar interest in natural products, also dropped by the Forman campus during August.

Dr. Samina Mehnaz representing the School of Life Sciences returned to Lahore in late July, having attended events in both Istanbul and Aksaray (Turkey), the latter involving an *International Conference on Advances in Biosciences and Biotechnology* at which she was the only female plenary speaker. Two Forman PhD students also presented at the event online.

Adeel Khalid kindly provided a detailed report on the *Oral History in the Liberal Arts* workshop that he attended at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio in late July. Sponsored by the Global Liberal Arts Alliance, the goal of the event was to impart skills needed to effectively conduct, record and preserve oral history using digital tools and techniques. As Adeel noted, he departed with a “deeper understanding of the ethical considerations involved” as well as an expanded “appreciation for the power of oral narratives in shaping historical understanding and fostering cultural exchange”.

Meanwhile, the college English Department organized a timely workshop titled *The Psychology of Resilience*, drawing on Assistant Professor Nabila Naphtali as a main resource person. More than 50 faculty members from various college departments attended.

Also on the college front, earlier this summer Dr. Iram Naseer Ahmed received an award and honorarium from the World History Association (WHA) in the US, based on her paper *History of Energy Crisis in Pakistan* and her course design *Energies in World History*. She also attended pedagogical skills workshops organized by Columbia University, New York University and the University of Pittsburgh. Later in the summer she presented a paper on *Christian Contributions for Muslim Minority Rights before Partition* at the Next Generation Research Conference organized by Oxford University.

Service has been embedded in Forman's DNA from the beginning, a quality that was amply reflected at the recent Annual District 3272 Rotary Conference in which the Rotaract Club of FCCU was awarded several prizes including the “Best President Award” conferred on Samra Arshad; the club was also singled out for several appreciation awards related to medical camps, polio activities, climate sustainability, and flood relief. Thanks, too, to Anthony Richards, Hina Yousaf and Rohail Roy for advising and supporting Forman's Rotaract Club in various ways.

We often talk about “lifelong learning” as being one of the guiding principles of FCCU. One recent example is provided by Sociology Assistant Professor Dr. Shahid Rasheed who, having studied classical



Arabic and Persian, has now earned a diploma in Hindi and a certificate in two more classical languages, Gurmukhi and Sanskrit!

For those interested in following Dr. Shahid's example, the Forman Language Center (FLC) is now offering instruction in Chinese, Korean, French and German at the Bachelor's level. This semester, classes in all four languages are also available to FCCU faculty and staff. Classes begin on September 11, will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, last for 75 minutes each and are being offered at a discounted price.

Our "garden campus" continues to make further steps in this direction, in this case via an initiative sponsored by Forman's Department of Sociology under the direction of Assistant Professor Dr. Shamaila Athar; organized as part of her *Introduction to Social Work* class, it involved the planting of 150 fruit trees on August 17 in the space behind the Forman Day Care Center, among other locations. Four days earlier, I also joined several Forman staff in planting a number of trees on the College grounds.

Once again, the Forman Security Department under the leadership of Colonel Khaqan and his team organized an impressive Independence Day ceremony in front of Sinclair Hall on August 14. Many families on the Forman campus participated in this special event that involved music, speeches and the raising of Pakistan's flag, just as it would have been raised for the first time at Forman 76 years ago.



Also on August 14, Dr. Ghazala Irfan -- head of Forman's Philosophy Department -- was invited to the Governor's House to receive the Governor's Certificate of Recognition on Independence Day.



Last month I mentioned that I wanted to include a focus on health and safety during the coming months. Already, that has proved to be an important theme, given that an electrical fire broke out in one of the offices at the back of Sinclair Hall on a recent Saturday evening. Thanks to Farzand Masih, an alert security guard who first saw the smoke, emergency services were called immediately, putting out a fire that might otherwise have had catastrophic results.

From time to time, I provide details on recent successes at the Light of Hope School, established and supported for the children of our service workers. This month, I am delighted to report that ninth grade students at Light of Hope achieved a 100 percent pass rate on this year's BISE exams, with half of this class, consisting of five boys and five girls, earning either an A or a B. Congratulations to Principal Furry George and her team for achieving these results!

For those who haven't seen it, I highly recommend the following video featuring the Forman chapel, as produced by the popular television channel *Discover Pakistan*: <https://fb.watch/m8PYBDSDN1/?mibextid=6aamW6>

Also, thanks to the Forman Marketing and Outreach Department for arranging an interview with me at NEO TV: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Fe6Rk68MwpxhPOM0gmRzJl3aXlZ_j3Us/view?usp=drive_web



I realize I don't thank our US-based support organization Friends of Forman enough for their continuing contributions, most especially in the area of scholarships and capital projects such as the new Campus Center. However, given that so many readers of the *Rector's Update* use the Ewing Library I do want to give a special "shout out" to Friends for their most recent donation – a gift from the Stamps Foundation that has been designated for the purchase of twenty desktop computers for library use.

Also, Friends mentioned to us that they had recently received a contribution to our scholarship fund for female students from a first-time donor, now in his eighties, who graduated from FC College in 1957, later moved to Seattle and then worked with the New York Life Insurance Company for fifty years. This gift also reminds me of the phrase that I often mention when I meet Forman graduates, whether in Pakistan or beyond – "Once a Formanite, Always a Formanite"!

The FCCU community, along with many others from across Pakistan, were stunned and saddened by the destruction of more than twenty churches and dozens of houses at Jaranwala near Faisalabad. In the aftermath of that attack, several members of the Forman community visited Jaranwala including members of two of the churches that meet regularly on the Forman campus. Dr. Matthew, head of the TSA/FCCU partnership, who responded in similar fashion after the attack on All Saint's Church in Peshawar exactly ten years ago this month, also visited, as did several other members of our faculty and staff.

In addition, several institutions connected to Forman's alumni network in one way or another have also reached out to Jaranwala in recent days including the Cecil & Iris Chaudhry Foundation, Pak Mission Society and Center for Law and Justice, among others. Reflecting on the level of destruction that was quickly amplified further in various ways by social media across the country, it does seem that the example set by Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) is more vital than ever, providing an important space for diverse communities to connect with each other while also living and working together in an atmosphere of mutual respect, understanding and trust – all rooted in our enduring motto that will never grow old: *“By Love Serve One Another”*.



**DR. JONATHAN ADDLETON
RECTOR**