



FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

Rector's Update

The latest news and announcements from Dr. Jonathan Addleton

In This Issue

Campus Updates

Faculty & Staff Achievements

Recent activities



The biggest on-campus event this month was undoubtedly the official inauguration of the Jim Tebbe Campus Center, named after former Rector Dr. James Tebbe. This student-centered state-of-the-art facility provides the largest covered space at FCCU and includes a digital library, meeting rooms, student activity offices, dining hall, lounges, store, art gallery, smart bank, auditorium, and business incubation center, among other facilities.

Forman's own Dr. Kauser Abdullah Malik, now serving as a Cabinet Minister in the caretaker government, travelled down from Islamabad to participate in the opening along with Attiazaz Munawar Ud Din who heads Forman's Alumni Association; a number of diplomats, artists and members of the business community also attended. Those involved in the actual construction of this \$13 million facility received special praise.

The event also featured an exhibition of more than 150 photographs taken by the late Shahid Zaidi as well as his father and grandfather who founded Zaidi's Photo Studio in Lahore nearly a century ago; various Zaidi family members also attended. The series of remarkable photos selected were divided into four sections including (1) those taken prior to 1930; (2) those depicting Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and other major figures of the Pakistan movement such as Fatima Jinnah and Liaquat Ali Khan; (3) those showing famous personalities and celebrities; and (4) those related to Forman, a fitting tribute given that Shahid Zaidi was himself an "Old Formanite".





The photo exhibit remained in place for another three weeks, providing an opportunity for others in Lahore as well as members of the Forman community to see images of various historical figures who have lived in or visited Lahore including Jackie Kennedy, Faiz Ahmed Faiz, Parveen Shakir, Abrar-ul-Haq, assorted Maharajahs and Governors and even Forman's own Dr. Peter Armacost who had his photo taken by Mr. Shahid Zaidi nearly two decades ago.

Shortly before the official inauguration of our new Campus Center, Chief Engineer Tajammul John provided a personal tour of the new building to Samar Bashir, a fellow engineer who now lives and works in Texas where he operates his own contracting firm. As Samar describes it, *"I am impressed with the quality of construction for the student center . . . this building is not less in any way than construction done in the United States"*.

Although construction of the Campus Center is virtually complete, the building still needs to be furnished; at this point, the expectation is that we will start making use of the new facility early in the New Year, beginning with the completion of the digital library and then continuing with the furnishing of the remaining three floors.

Also, I am pleased to note that the renovations of "A" Block (also known as the Peter J. David building) are now complete. The results are excellent, with the number of classrooms having doubled from five to ten. The newly renovated classrooms are already in use for "regular" students during the day -- and will soon be used for Peter Armacost Coaching Classes in the evening, an initiative of our Church Relations Office aimed at preparing students from the Christian community for College.

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

I always appreciate "plantation drives" on the Forman campus, adding further to our reputation as one of the "greenest campuses" in Pakistan. This month, that included a tree-planting event sponsored by the Forman Earth Watch Club in partnership with the Al Khidmat Foundation.

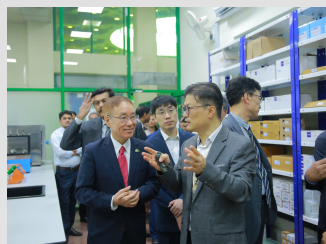
The Lucas Economics Society brought Ghazi Taimoor from LUMS to the Forman campus on October 4, providing an opportunity for him to share insights obtained during his graduate degree program at Harvard's Department of Education.

Forman's Population Research Center is organizing a one-day workshop on November 11 for FCCU students titled *Data Types and Analysis*, facilitated by Isaac Shahzad, Assistant Director in the Survey Design and Research Division in the Government of Punjab's Bureau of Statistics.

Thanks to the Campus Counseling Center for organizing several activities to mark Mental Health Week during October 16-18, in part meant to dispel some of the stigma associated with mental health concerns in Pakistan. The packed schedule included poetry, art therapy workshops and a poster competition titled *Mindful Masterpieces: Visions of Well-Being*. Both the Art Junction Society and the Armacost Psychological Society worked with the Campus Counseling Center to plan and implement some of the events.

Estd. 1864

Departmental and office newsletters which are typically distributed within the Forman community via the *Daily Buzz* provide a wonderful window into the range of activities taking place on campus. Most recently I was impressed with the first issue of *The Sanctuary: A Safe Space*, circulated by Forman's Campus Life and Wellness Office and described as a place for "self-expression, reflection and healing".



Senior visitors this month included the Korean Ambassador to Pakistan, joined by eight academics and administrators from Korea to launch a two-day workshop on October 23-24 focused on the joint Forman/Korean project titled *Scientific and Sustainable Application of Groundwater Treatment Technology for Safe Drinking Water Supply in Punjab, Pakistan*.



Thanks to Dr. Shinho in particular for his leadership role in making this partnership, focused on arsenic contamination in groundwater and involving Forman, the Pakistan Science Foundation and Dankook University in South Korea, possible. Forman's new state-of-the-art water analysis lab was inaugurated at the same time, accompanied by the signing of an MOU between FCCU and the Punjab Aab-e-Pak Authority.



As it happens, the week of October 23 was marked by a series of events with an international dimension almost every day: as mentioned, on Monday the Korean Ambassador arrived along with several visitors from South Korea to inaugurate the water workshop as well as Forman's new water analysis lab; on Tuesday, a "Peace Journalism" workshop supported by Oslo Metropolitan University in Norway was launched, an especially timely topic at a time when too much of the world is engulfed in horrific violence; on Wednesday, the new USAID Mission Director visited our campus including Hope Tower, our main hostel

for female students which was constructed with USAID support; and on Friday a delegation from Henan University in China spent the morning on our campus. Put another way, in the space of five days Forman featured events involving four countries on three continents!



FACULTY AND STAFF RECOGNITION



Maryam Khalil from Forman's Career Services Office recently received a highly competitive Charles Wallace Visiting Fellowship Award through the British Council providing an opportunity to spend two weeks at the University of Essex in England to observe and learn how British universities assist students with their career development.

Forman also featured in a lengthy book review in the *Friday Times* discussing the publication *China/Pakistan Relations in the Twenty-first Century*, written by Research Associate Ayesha Siddque from our Center for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG): <https://thefridaytimes.com/06-Oct-2023/book-review-china-pakistan-relations-in-the-21st-century>.



Dr. Samina Mehnaz, a senior faculty member at Forman's Kausar Abdullah Malik School of Life Sciences, achieved recognition as one of the "top two percent" of researchers in 2022, as ranked by the Elsevier Data Repository Version Six. Using comprehensive standardized citation indicators, the ranking reviews the "top 100,000 researchers" using an extensive set of author databases from across the global scientific research community. As Dr. Samina has remarked, "I have always felt proud to be a member of the Formanite family and now I am glad that I can give something back to my institution".



Having studied in Germany under a Humboldt Fellowship, Dr. Samina has also served as both a Humboldt Ambassador Scientist of Pakistan and Coordinator for the Pak/German Alumni Association, Punjab Chapter. Reinforcing these important connections, the German Consulate in Karachi recently asked her to write an article on the postdoctoral fellowships offered to Pakistani citizens by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, further strengthening academic ties between Germany and Forman.

In addition, Dr. Samina was honored at the most recent meeting of the Forman Research and

Review Club, with Dr. Sikandar Hayat playing a catalytic role in this initiative designed to promote scholarship, research and publications among our faculty.

OTHER ACADEMIC NEWS

Dr. Farid Malik attended the International Pittsburgh Coal Conference in the US, presenting a paper titled *Experience of SNG Production from Thar Coal in Pakistan*. He also reports positive results from South Africa where coal from Thar in southern Pakistan has been successfully gasified, demonstrating that it can be used to produce urea, diesel and natural gas.

Dr. Derk Bakker and Dr. Shazia Ilyas in our Department of Environmental Sciences attended a meeting on *Water, Environment and Agriculture* sponsored by the Water Resource Accountability in Pakistan (WRAP) initiative and organized by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) in late September.

Among other things, this meeting provided an opportunity to highlight a number of Forman activities related to climate change including (1) the pilot recharging well in "D" ground installed by the World Wildlife Federation (WWF); (2) use of canal water rather than groundwater for our lawns and gardens across the campus; (3) mandatory water education session provided to new students by the Earth Watch Club during Freshman Week; (4) the ongoing shift to solar energy on the Forman campus; and (5) the range of research undertaken by our faculty and students related to climate change, agricultural development and water management.



Forman's English Department sponsored a lecture by Dr. Wasim Hasan on *Language Documentation*, providing a global perspective on the documentation and revitalization of indigenous languages.

Closely related, Adeel Khalid notes that the linguistics program within the English



Department continues to involve Forman students in a fascinating initiative that explores the diversity of Pakistan's languages and cultures as well as the historical contexts in which they have developed. Most recently, this initiative included a field trip to the Old City as well as Pakistan's National History Museum while also introducing students to oral histories focused on the partition of the Indian Subcontinent in 1947.





Dr. Fatima Syeda, Chair of the English Department, delivered the keynote address at the launch of Athar Tahir's novel *Second Coming*, hosted by the University of Education on October 19. In addition, Assistant Professor Azeem Alphonse delivered the keynote speech at the Fifth International Conference on Language, Education and Culture (ICLEC) in Turkey. Also, he was asked by Punjab's Directorate of Special Education to conduct a session for principals and teachers focused on communication skills; as a

further contribution, he volunteered to adjudicate the annual English Speech Competition Organized by the Lahore Diocese Board of Education.



Forman's Department of Chemistry in partnership with ORIC organized a two-day workshop on *Computational Tools for Drug Design and Discovery* during October 17-18. Dr. M. Qaiser Fatmi, Head of the Department of Biosciences at COMSATS University in Islamabad, served as the main external resource person. Faculty and staff from other universities in Lahore, Okara, Peshawar and Gujrat also attended the event which included representation from Hong Kong.

A week earlier, the Chemistry Department arranged an industrial visit to Kaizen Paints, conducted under the guidance of Department Head Dr. Shazma Massey Azeem along with Dr. Hina Abid, Dr. Tariq Qamar and Dr Seemal Jelani, providing students with a practical first-hand look at potential research, employment and professional opportunities for chemistry majors.



Forman's Department of Geography reports that Dr. Khadija Shakrullah (Chairperson), Ms. Hafsa Batool (Lecturer) and Abdul Waseh and Muhammad Umer Adrees (former students) all attended and presented papers at the *Second International Conference on Climate Change and Disasters* on October 5-6, hosted by Government College University in Lahore.

Dr. Farzand, Head of FCCU's History Department organized a fascinating lecture on the petroglyphs of Mongolia by Dr. Richard Kortum, professor emeritus at East Tennessee State University. Fiona and I first met Dr. Kortum and his wife Theresa Markiw in Mongolia many years ago when he was conducting research on Mongolian rock art in the Altai mountains of western Mongolia, some of which bear a striking resemblance to similar rock art found in Gilgit and Baltistan in northern Pakistan.

Syed Muhammad Saqib conducted a two-day training workshop on *Climate Justice and Climate Activism* in Faisalabad in late September. The event was organized by the Christian Study Center in Rawalpindi and included participants from across Pakistan.

Looking ahead, Forman will host a conference next year on *Christianity and Christians in Pakistan*, a follow-up to a similar event held at Oxford University earlier this year. Scholars working in the areas of history, politics, economics, anthropology, sociology, gender studies, literature, law, international relations and other fields are encouraged to attend. For more information, see the following links: <https://bit.ly/2024ChristianityandChristiansinPakistan> and <https://ohh.web.ox.ac.uk/.../call-for-papers>.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Forman students routinely participate in Model UN programs across Pakistan, often winning honors along the way. Most recently, this includes participation in the *UMTMUN'23* during October 6-8, resulting in several prizes including for Maria Waqar (Outstanding Diplomacy) and Eesha Akbar (Best Delegate).

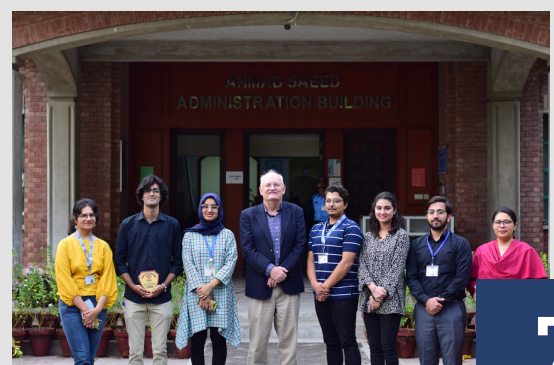
One week later, members of the Forman Model UN team participated in a similar event, this one hosted by the University of Central Punjab during October 13-15. Honors on this occasion included the "Best Delegation" award.

As with its participation in Model UN events, debaters from the Formanites Debating Society are well recognized and also achieve notable success. For example, Shoab Khan, President of the Forman Urdu Society, represented FCCU and the Formanites Debating Society at the prestigious all Pakistan Declamation Contest held in Lahore on October 10, securing second place.

Other recent success at competitions held in the Lahore area include Runner's Up at *Debatemania* hosted by Allama Iqbal Medical College; Best Speaker Award and Third Best Speaker Award at the debating championship hosted by King Edward Medical College; and Semi-Finalist at the debating championship hosted by the Services Institute of Medical Sciences. Dr. Ambreen Javed serves as Advisor to the Debating Society and it was an honor to recently meet her and several members of the Society in my office to further recognize their success.

On the sports front, two College students from the Forman Swim Team (Rayyan Munir and Abdullah Nauman) were selected to represent the Lahore Board Swimming team at the All Pakistan Inter-Board Swimming Championship where the Lahore team placed first. Also, the six swimmers representing Forman placed third in the Lahore Board Inter-Collegiate Swimming Championship for 2023-2024 hosted by Punjab College/University of Central Punjab.

Moving on to other sports, our College team was awarded the "Best Delegation Trophy," having participated in the *ParaKnight 'Lympics Sports Festival* hosted by the Lahore Grammar School on Barki Road on October 13.



ALUMNI NEWS

ISSUE 35

In alumni news, Math major Muhammad Mustafa Ajmal who graduated from Forman in 2022 is now enrolled in the MPhil Data Analytics program at Queen Mary College in London. Writing to thank his former professor Dr. Ashar Ghulam, he also notes that he was hired as a "Math Ambassador" to provide outreach for Queen Mary.

Congratulations to Department of Education alumna Sahar Basit on successfully securing a Fulbright Scholarship, providing an opportunity for her to commence her studies in Language, Literacy and Culture at the University of Washington in Seattle. Sahar completed her Bachelor's in Education at Forman in 2021, graduating as a Gold Medalist before beginning her career as an IB teacher in Lahore.

Alumni visiting my office this month included Dr. Junaid Patel who finished his FSc (Pre-Medical) at Forman College in 1963 and then attended dental college, spending much of his life in dental practice in the UK. He was accompanied by former classmate Aijaz M. Khan who completed his FSc (Pre-Engineering) at Forman in 1963 and his Bachelor's, also at Forman, in 1965; he later founded Polycon Pakistan, becoming one of the early pioneers in Pakistan in manufacturing and selling moulded water tanks.

Other alumni visitors include Anwar Kabir who completed his FSc at Forman in 1997 before attending Government College. He later completed his MBA at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) and now serves as president of the Suleman Dawood School of Business Alumni Association while also heading the marketing company Brand Spectrum.

As always, I welcomed several opportunities to connect with Attiazaz Munawar-Ud-Din, president of the Formanite Alumni Association who completed his Intermediate at Forman in 1970, working for several years in the IT industry in the US before returning to Pakistan; he is also well known as the founder and CEO of Khazana Enterprises.

Meanwhile, Distinguished Professor of History Dr. Arfa Sayeda Zehra travelled to London to participate in the Jashn-e-Rekhta Literary Festival there. Invited by Rekhta India for her work as an Urdu scholar, her visit also prompted a gathering of the FCCU Alumni Chapter for the UK, hosted by Pakistan's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.

Finally, we received the heart-breaking news that recent Forman graduate Saad Irfan passed away far too soon. A Global Leader in the Queen's Commonwealth Trust Network, Saad earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology with a minor in Sociology from Forman. During his time as a student at Forman, Saad was part of a student research team organized by Dr. Sara Rizvi to produce papers on such topics as *Special Needs Children and Women Microfinance Borrowers and Poverty Alleviation*.

OTHER ACTIVITIES



It was my honor to be unexpectedly invited to the Governor's House on October 10 to receive a United Nations Excellence Award on behalf of Forman for our effort to promote Environmental Sustainability, in turn supporting the UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The award was conferred by Governor Muhammad Baligh-Ur Rehman. Reflecting further, I recall that over the last several months my travels have involved visits to the President's House in Islamabad (to receive an Educational Excellence Award); the Prime Minister's Secretariat in Islamabad (to witness a Forman student receiving an Entrepreneurship Award); and the Governor's House in Lahore (to receive the UN MDG Award)!

Our admissions office headed by Suleman Khairullah participated in several college fairs and education expos in recent years, taking early steps to encourage students in various places in Pakistan to consider attending Forman. While these included a Forman presence at the Beaconhouse National College Fair, I was especially appreciative of the photographs taken at the Lawrence College Education Fair in the Murree Hills, reminding me of the ten years I spent in a similar boarding school only a few miles away back in the 1960s and early 1970s.



Meanwhile, on October 10 the Forman Career and Internships Office headed by Adnan Ilyas organized an impressive *Employer Appreciation Ceremony and Engagement Meet-up* in front of Sinclair Hall to express gratitude to dozens of our partner organizations which provide internships and jobs to Forman students, ranging from Sapphire Textiles to Tetra Pak, Hyundai to Jazz. This year, our Internship Office helped arrange such internships for more than 400 Forman students.



Also, thanks to Uzma Khan and her colleagues for organizing an *Incredible Edibles* fundraiser, partly to commemorate the 10th anniversary of our Intensive English for Academic Preparation (IEAP) program. As Fiona and I can attest, the food was delicious. Rs. 50,000 was also raised for our Student Scholarship Fund through a combination of sales and donations.



Working with Dr. Sara Rizvi Jafree from the Sociology Department, I am pleased to note that the Advancement and Alumni Office helped establish two annual awards named after her father (Syed Ali Rizvi) and grandfather (Syed Kazim Hussain Rizvi), to be given out at commencement each year for the best thesis in the Sociology Department, both at the graduate and the undergraduate level.

Let me also congratulate Adeel Riaz and his colleagues in Forman's Advancement Office for their success in raising funds for student scholarships, ensuring that Forman can continue to help meet the financial needs of students who might otherwise be unable to attend university.

Thanks to contributions from many readers of this newsletter, during the last fiscal year (July 2022-June 2023) Forman received more than 60 million rupees in donations from within Pakistan; nearly six million rupees of this amount came from 218 faculty and staff from within the Forman community. Thank you for this continued support, here and in other areas. And for those who wish to discuss Forman's approach to giving or make a contribution this fiscal year, please e-mail the Forman Advancement Office at the following address: advancement@fccollege.edu.pk

Finally, let me conclude this month's *Rector's Update* by expressing appreciation to everyone who is part of the Forman community and especially to those who provide services to all of us, often anonymously, in countless ways. "Uncle Hameed" as he is often referred to, now in his late seventies, is one such individual, having been associated with Forman for more than six decades, starting at the age of sixteen when he assumed responsibility for a nearby shop originally established by his uncle in 1962.

A dedicated family man, Hameed raised two daughters and a son; one daughter went on to complete her Bachelor's degree at Forman and the other obtained her Master's degree from Forman. Such individuals are also an integral part of the historical fabric of our institution, further deepening the true meaning of the oft-repeated phrase: "*Once a Formanite, Always a Formanite!*"



DR. JONATHAN ADDLETON
RECTOR

