



# Rector's Update

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

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### TRAVEL

July involved several trips including one to Switzerland to attend the first international conference on accreditation sponsored by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) and hosted by the EHL School of Business and Hospitality in Lausanne. NECHE President Lawrence Schall and NECHE Chairperson Michael Whelan were included among the featured speakers.

Associate Vice Rector Dr. Gloria Calib joined me at the NECHE event which was attended by more than sixty presidents, deans and others representing universities that are either NECHE members or, like Forman Christian College (A Chartered University), on a path toward becoming one. Many countries were also represented including Bangladesh, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, and Vietnam, among others.







Closer to home, I attended two separate National Day celebrations in Islamabad, one hosted by US Ambassador Donald Blome and the other hosted by French Ambassador Nicolas Galey. As always, I use such occasions to talk about Forman and invite representatives of embassies and international organizations to consider visiting Forman.

This time, I met Ambassadors and other senior officials from several countries including Japan, Nepal, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and the Czech Republic. Separately, the US Consulate in Lahore hosted its own Fourth of July celebration – providing an opportunity to meet not only members of the diplomatic corps but also two current Forman students, both working as interns at the US Consulate for the summer.

I look forward to other road trips to Islamabad during the coming months, this time in a Hyundai Santa Fe, the new hybrid vehicle assigned to the Rector's Office to improve fuel efficiency. After seven years in a sedan, both Anjum and I will now need to become accustomed to a vehicle that rides smoothly and makes virtually no noise!

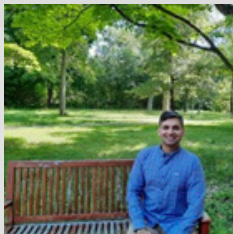
## FACULTY SUCCESS



Assistant Professor History, Dr. Khizar Jawad completed a productive Honorary Research Fellowship at Queen's University in Kingston (Ontario), Canada. Welcomed warmly by colleagues there, he stayed at the university guesthouse and participated in several events. The Research Fellowship lasted from June 29 through July 15, providing an opportunity to work with faculty from the Queen's University History Department on a prospective paper focused on *Public Health and Medicine During Ranjit Singh's Rule in Punjab, 1800-1849*.

While in Canada he witnessed several pedagogical practices that may be relevant for Forman including incorporating museum visits into the syllabus, providing students with a tangible connection to the subjects they are studying. He also noted the usefulness of walking tours as a teaching tool, providing opportunities for students to learn in an immersive and interactive teaching environment.

"Dr. Sen said that students from her history of pandemics class learned much more on cholera, typhus and grave robbing by walking on campus than learning in the classroom," he commented, referring to one of the Queen's University professors with whom he interacted. He also learned more about the history of Kingston including the fact that it served as Canada's first capital, hosting the first Canadian parliament in 1841.



Adeel Khalid from Forman's English Department attended Lancaster University's Summer School in Corpus Linguistics, a fully funded gathering of scholars that took place in June, was focused on analytical techniques, and involved participants from more than thirty countries. As part of the same trip, he also participated in a Postgraduate Seminar on *Shaping the Future of Postgraduate Access and Success* hosted by the London Business School and supported by Leeds University.

No less than thirteen Forman faculty members participated in a Global Course Connections Workshop held at the American University in Bulgaria in late June. The workshop was truly international, involving eighteen colleges and universities from five continents. Faculty joined together to identify course objectives and develop activities, assignments and assessments aimed at helping students develop global competencies in a variety of academic disciplines. Forman faculty members who attended included Adeel Khalid, Ammar Khan, Syeda Khadija Burhan, Maheen Zia, Hafsa Batool, Azeem Alphonse, Mehwish Raza, Shazma Azeem, Ahmad Nisar, Shamail Zehra, Naomi Justin, Rimesha Farooq, and Zaneera Azam.

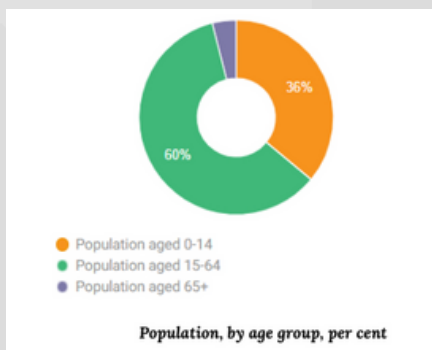
At least two Forman faculty members were recently awarded PhDs. First, Dr. Rabia Naz, Associate Professor in the Mathematics Department and Advisor to the Forman Pythagorases Club, successfully defended her dissertation in early June. Second, Dr. Azma Batool, Assistant Professor in the Economics Department, defended her PhD thesis titled *A Hierarchical Analysis of Tax Compliance: A Case Study of Pakistan* at the Islamic University in Islamabad in late May.



Several academic journals are regularly published at Forman, strengthening our academic credentials while also providing opportunities to bring important research to the attention of a wider audience. Volume 20, Issue 1 (June 2024) of the *Forman Journal of Economic Studies* is now available, providing insightful policy-oriented research from scholars across Pakistan: <https://www.fccollege.edu.pk/forman-journal-of-economic-studies/>

The latest issue includes articles on the well-being of working and non-working women; the relationship between happiness and incomes; the effects of monetary policy on asset prices; renewable energy, internet adoption and inclusive growth in East Asia; and the extent to which changes in central bank policy translates into retail bank rates. A special shoutout to Dr. Hafiz Muhammad Ali Bhatti and his editorial team for their contributions in making this latest issue possible.

While attempting to provide an “overview” of academic developments and faculty success each month in the *Rector's Update*, I would also commend all readers to the several departmental newsletters published periodically across both the college and university and often distributed further electronically via the *Daily Buzz*, providing in impressive in detail news about various publications, seminars, workshops and other events while often touching on broader developments within Pakistan as well.



This month I was especially impressed with the bi-annual newsletter edited by Khizra Nasir and issued by Forman's Population Research Center (PRC), containing interesting information on events as well as publications produced by the center. A brief section on *Population Facts You Need to Know About Pakistan* also caught my eye: Pakistan's total population now stands at 245.2 million and is on course to double every 36 years; Pakistan's fertility rate currently stands at 3.3; and life expectancy for men in Pakistan is estimated at 65 years, compared with 70 years for women.

## ALUMNI

Forman graduate Yasir Ali Khan who completed his English Literature MPhil at Forman and now teaches at Edwardes College in Peshawar provided details on the *National Conference on Literature, Culture and Climate* that he helped organize in coordination with Khushal Khan Khattak University and the University of Chitral on July 2-3. Titled *Voices for the Earth: Literature and Culture in the Era of Climate Change*, the event brought more than 80 scholars, policy makers and intellectuals together to discuss one of the most critical issues of our time through the lens of literature and culture.



Faculty from Forman's English department including Dr. Qurratulaen Liaqat (Associate Professor) and Dr. Ambreen Javed (Assistant Professor) participated virtually. Several Forman MPhil students including Aniba Hassnain, Areen Ishtiaq Ansari, Fiza Sami, Madiha Khan, Kushmala Mariam Moghal, Syeda Affaf Bilal, Haider Ihsan Dawar and Muhammad Hama Ashfaq were also involved.



Forman graduate Mary James Gill received a prestigious McCain Fellowship from the International Republican Institute (IRI), traveling to Washington, DC to discuss policy reforms aimed at advancing social justice. A highly competitive program, she was one of 40 participants world-wide (out of more than 400 applicants) so honored.

Reflecting on this unique opportunity to represent Pakistan, she reported *“feeling overwhelmed and filled with pride! No matter how tough the journey gets, my heart skips a beat every time I see my beautiful flag, especially when it is on foreign soil.”*

On the sports front, two Forman graduates – Amjad Khan ('17) and Khurram Wattu ('21), both of whom served as cricket captains during their time at Forman – participated in the Pakistan Cricket Board’s President’s Trophy competition (Grade 2).



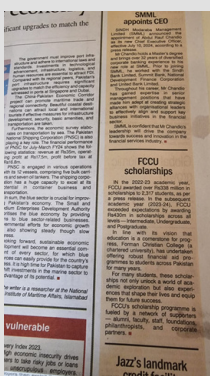
### OUTREACH

Forman’s efforts to strengthen outreach this summer included a program involving approximately 45 students from underprivileged communities from across Pakistan, preparing them to take the admissions test for the Bachelor program. A variety of students participated as boarders including six from Sindh’s Hindu community; a Christian student from Balochistan; six students from Jaranwala, and five students from southern Punjab; another 20 students from Lahore are participating as day scholars.

In other outreach, Forman participated in the Education Expo

sponsored by *The News* on July 6-7 at the Lahore Expo Center in Johar Town, providing an opportunity to showcase opportunities available on our campus for aspiring university students.

Joined by several student volunteers, staff members Nasir Gill, Fakhra Edina, Rohama Waseem, Angel Safdar and Sofia Shahzad were available to answer questions posed by the more than 120 people who visited the Forman stall to express interest in studying at our university. Speaker of the Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan also visited the Forman stall, lending his support.



As potential students look forward to the Fall 2024 semester, Forman’s extensive financial aid programs were featured in sixteen different English and Urdu newspapers across the country including *Dawn*, *The News*, *Express Tribune*, *The Nation*, *Jang* and *Nawaiwaqt*. Drawing on the headline “Empowering Education with Financial Aid and Scholarships,” the articles noted that during the 2022-2023 academic year Forman awarded 338 million rupees in grant assistance to more than 2,300 students; for 2023-2024, the figure exceeded 430 million rupees.



Many individuals have been involved in these outreach programs, making it difficult to list names without inadvertently leaving some out. However, I do want to recognize Suleman Khairullah (Admissions), Phool Shahzad (Financial Aid), Haroon Christy Munir (MarCom) and Badia Raza (Marketing and Outreach), among others, for their vital work in this area, especially as we look toward the Fall semester and the hoped-for attainment of our enrollment targets.

## OTHER NEWS

I am pleased to note that the new Friends Digital Library has now opened! Located in the basement of the Jim Tebbe Campus Center, the library provides users with online access to a range of e-resources including the HEC Digital Library, FCC Digital Archives, Forman Digital Repository, JSTOR, Ebscohost Academic e-Book Collection, Chronicle of Higher Education and much more. For more information, please contact the information desk in person or enquire via e-mail: [digitallibrary@fccollege.edu.pk](mailto:digitallibrary@fccollege.edu.pk)

"Opening Day" on Monday, July 29 was especially exciting with dozens of students, faculty and staff visiting and using the facility. While the information available in the Friends Digital Library can be accessed electronically anywhere on campus and off campus, what the library also provides is wonderful study space, ranging from carrels to lounge chairs; it also provides several very attractive meetings rooms that are already being heavily used as well as knowledgeable library staff to help guide in the search for information.



Forman's Center for Learning and Teaching (CLT) continues to offer an impressive range of courses, both on-line and in-person. Recent examples include a series of *Webinars on Research Methodology* (July 3 - July 31), with topics ranging from "Reading, Writing and Publishing in Natural Sciences" (led by Saqlain Abbas

Shah) to “Research Writing and Publishing for the Humanities” (led by Dr. Waseem Anwar) to “Grants and Proposal Writing” (led by Dr. Kauser Abdullah Malik). Many hundreds of students and faculty representing universities from across Pakistan and around the world have registered for these courses.

I look forward to the opportunity to attend the annual FCCU Faculty Retreat, scheduled to take place on August 20, with the Center for Learning and Teaching (CLT) headed by Dr. Rukhsana Zia playing a key organizing role. This year’s focus is especially timely, highlighting two main themes: Artificial Intelligence and Campus Culture.



I continue to be impressed by the innovative pedagogical tools used in some of our classrooms. For example, the Mass Communication Department’s Media Lab (MCOM 430) focused on how media “works” in the “real world,” inviting the anchorperson for *Dunya News*, to speak. Also, the class together walked through the Lahore Walled City, providing students with an opportunity to gain skills in photography, videography, lighting, editing and graphic design. As faculty member Shahid Ali Naeem explained afterwards, “Thank you dear students for your active participation and thoughtful contributions; I look forward to continuing our journey together”.



Forman’s Center for Public Policy and Governance organized a seminar on *Research Methods and the Public Policy Process* featuring Dr. Ryan Brasher, former head of the Forman Political Science Department who now teaches at Simpson University in California. Sharing aspects of his own research conducted in the US, UK, Germany and Switzerland, his talk provided a comprehensive overview of various research methodologies and their significance in shaping public policy. During this same visit to Forman, the Political Science Department organized a seminar led by Dr. Brasher on *Ethical Considerations and the Use of AI*.

As part of its continuing Writer’s Lounge series, Forman’s English Department chaired by Dr. Fatima Syeda sponsored an interactive lecture on July 25 on *The Agony and the Ecstasy: Reclaiming Stories from a Dying City*. The talk was delivered by Dr. Usman T. Malik, the Pakistani-American author of *Midnight Doorways: Fables from Pakistan* (2021) and winner of Bram Stoker, Crawford, and British Fantasy awards:





"Dr. Malik provided students with a roadmap to understand the writing process. Through practical advice, he unlocked the art of writing . . . he also explained how science fiction explores the boundaries of knowledge through the power of imagination . . . Dr. Malik emphasized that students need to develop a health interest and curiosity in science, culture and ethics as it opens one's mind to new perspectives".



The Forman Psychological Services Center, managed by Forman's Department of Psychology and located on the TSA/FCCU campus near China Chowk on Racecourse Road, organized a one-day workshop on July 5 on *Dialectical Behavior Therapy*, led by Clinical Psychologist Dr. Mirrat Gul.



Forman's Department of Pharmacy signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Punjab's Center for Applied Molecular Biology to foster a range of collaborative activities related to research, scholarly publications and the sharing of resources and expertise.





Forman's International Education Office organized a visit to the Campus France center in Lahore, providing Forman students with firsthand information on France's Eiffel Excellence Scholarship for study in France as well as on study opportunities in France more broadly.



In partnerships with the American Institute for Pakistan Studies (AIPS), the Digital Rights Foundation and the US Embassy, Forman will host a ten-day *Digital Literacy and Citizenship Bootcamp* on our campus from August 26 through September 6. Please contact Ms. Eman Ahmed in the Student Affairs Office right away if you are interested in participating in this pioneering program!

Sociology major Khurram Abid published his thesis on "Gender Bias and Workplace Satisfaction in Faculty" in the *Journal of Research in Psychology*, issued by the Lahore College for Women University: <https://lnkd.in/dPjBBCgx> or <https://jrplcwu.pk/index.php/JRP/article/view/24>



Once again, our Light of Hope school graduates received commendable results: All eleven students who took the test passed, including six who received A's; four who received B's; and one who received a C; the top two Light of Hope students tied for 926 marks out of possible 1,100 marks, both receiving an A plus grade. Also, as some members of our community might have noticed, significant progress has been made on the construction of a second Light of Hope academic building (known as the "Rose of Sharon" building) and we look forward to occupying it in the Fall.

Against the backdrop of Shawna Person's recent departure on Home Leave, I am happy to welcome Dr. Elizabeth Schwaiger, Associate Professor in the Psychology Department, as Forman's new Acting Chief of Student Affairs, which at a US university, would be more familiarly known as Dean of Student Affairs. Among other things, this involves preparing the hostels for the arrival of a new set of students at both the college and university level for the Fall semester. In this regard, we look forward to the opening of a new hostel for at least 80 female university students at the nearby TSA/FCCU campus off Racecourse Road in September.





Given that it is now Dengue Fever season, please follow the Advisory notices issued by Forman's Health and Safety Office in the *Daily Buzz*; among other things, those notices highlight the importance of safety measures to minimize the chances of insect bites, both indoors and outdoors; other important measures include maintaining a clean environment and removing standing water from residences and various other campus locations.

Also, as we enter what I hope and pray is the downward slope of possibly the hottest Lahore summer on record, let me also thank Health and Safety Officer Major Kanwal and his team for issuing guidelines for dealing with the extreme temperatures that all of us have experienced in recent weeks, once again reflecting some of the most important precepts of our shared community life: *Don't forget the importance of self care; please take the appropriate precautions; and at all times please take care of yourself!*



DR. JONATHAN ADDLETON  
RECTOR