



FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

Rector's Update

The latest news and announcements from Dr. Jonathan Addleton

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For Forman Christian College (A Chartered University), the biggest event in November always comes during the later part of it -- Commencement. While next month's *Rector's Update* will include more details as well as photographs, the number of this year's graduates exceeds 1,200. Recognizing the hard work, sacrifice and sense of achievement that lies behind every degree, whether at the Bachelor's or the PhD level, I am gratified and honored beyond measure to personally sign each one of them.

VISITORS

Visitors to our campus in recent weeks included the Head of the EU Mission in Islamabad, Ambassador Riina Kionka; having held senior positions in Estonia's Foreign Ministry, she previously also served as her country's Ambassador to Germany as well as the EU Ambassador to South Africa.



Other visitors included Dr. Vali Reza Nasr, a prolific author and speaker on topics related to the Middle East and South Asia as well as the former Dean of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and former senior advisor to US diplomat Richard Holbrooke, among other positions. Invited by Dr. Saeed Shafqat on behalf of Forman's Center for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG), I made a special point to attend the first part of his talk on *China-US Relations and Its Impact on the World*, in part because we were graduate school classmates as we pursued our respective PhD programs at Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy all those years ago!



Also, CPPG hosted the launch of Dr. Rabia Chaudhry's interesting and highly informative monograph *Qazi Ahmed and Transformation of the Jamaat-i-Islam of Pakistan*, the product of a multi-year research project involving interviews with some of the main historical figures involved. As it happens, Qazi Ahmed's daughter Summaiya Raheel Qazi drove down from Islamabad to join the event and participate in the animated discussion that followed.



In addition, we hosted Dr. Seok Dockko from Dankook University near Seoul and Patent Lawyer Minsoo Park, both of whom are working with Dr. Shinho Chung and his colleagues in Forman's Environmental Sciences Department. Perhaps the most important part of this visit was to sign an MOU further strengthening our partnership in this, the final year of a three-year \$1.2 million effort funded by the Korean government to establish a Water Analysis Center at Forman and introduce pilot water treatment plants at three locations in rural Punjab. The program for the two-person Korean delegation also included a visit to a village near Kasur, another part of this joint effort aimed at removing arsenic and improving water quality in rural Punjab.





A special thanks to our Advancement and Alumni Office for organizing our annual Corporate Connect event in the James Tebbe Campus Center in early November, bringing the senior leadership of Forman (including Deans and Office Chiefs) together with business leaders from some of the most well known local and international companies working across several of Pakistan's vital economic sectors including banking, chemicals, textiles, telecommunications, and agro-industry, among others.



Several honorary consuls representing the diplomatic community in Lahore also attended, along with three senior officers from the Chinese Consulate. As part of the evening program, participants to the event were also introduced to Forman's new Business Incubation Center, operating under the umbrella of our Office for Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC).



The late General Musharraf's daughter Ayla who heads the non-profit All Pakistan Music Conference also attended, providing a reminder of the important role that General Musharraf as an "Old Formanite" played in the denationalization of our institution more than two decades ago. At one point during the evening, Ayla mentioned to me that her late father often talked about Forman but that this was her first visit to the Forman campus.



We also welcomed several other visitors to our campus during November including a six-member delegation from Friends of Forman led by Friends Executive Director Dr. Roger Dermody who was making his seventh trip to Pakistan. As Forman's US-based support organization, Friends plays a major role in funding scholarships at Forman; in addition, it has contributed significantly to some of our major infrastructure projects including the new Jim Tebbe Campus Center. In addition to Dr. Dermody, the Friends delegation this year included Rev. Brandi Drake, Rev. Graham Baird, Nancy Bertram, John Gill and Trey Adams.



Finally, we hosted John Hudson and two of his colleagues (Timothy Wang and Kristin Lee Boyer) from 100 Fold Studios, an architectural firm based in Montana that developed Forman's current Campus Master Plan in 2018 and is now working to update and revise it. In addition, the group was joined by David Wood representing Brass Tacks, a UK-based NGO with an international focus on design and construction. I look forward to sharing their recommendations with members of the Forman community during the weeks and months ahead.



UNIVERSITY NEWS

Forman's ongoing partnership with Oslo Metropolitan University in Norway focused on "Peace Journalism" continues to grow from strength to strength. In November, that partnership included a two-day conference to which journalists and journalism professors from each of Pakistan's four provinces were invited. As Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan who plays a key role in this initiative in coordination with Forman's Department of Mass Communication commented afterward, the event served as "a testament to the power of collaborative learning and the shared commitment of promoting peace through journalism".





A special word of appreciation to Assistant Professor of Management Maryyam Khan for bringing *Shark Tank Pakistan* to Forman, providing an opportunity for serious discussions on entrepreneurship, financing and other key business topics while also further strengthening ties to Pakistan's business community. A number of other leading universities competed with Forman to conduct this event, making me especially proud that Forman was given the opportunity to host it.

Forman's Management School organized a workshop on *Systematic Literature Review for Management and Social Sciences*. Designed to strengthen the research capacity of our faculty, the event provided hands-on experience in systematic literature review techniques and featured Dr. Waris Ali who has written more than thirty research papers and has advanced degrees from Middlesex University (UK) and the University of Waterloo (Canada)

The ACS International Student Chapter at FCCU in cooperation with Forman's Department of Chemistry, Speers Chemical Society and ORIC organized a community event to celebrate National Chemistry Week, highlighting the role that chemistry places in our daily lives.



A special note of appreciation to Syed Jaffer Gardezi in Forman's Education Department for his role in launching impactful community service projects for our Education students. This initiative involves underserved communities and focuses on health, hygiene and environmental conservation while also emphasizing the importance of education. Activities include interactive workshops, providing a dynamic learning environment aimed at fostering both curiosity and engagement among children.



In addition, Forman's Education Department partnered with Beaconhouse to form an Evaluation Committee for fifth and sixth grade STEAM Projects. Led by Forman's Ammar Husnain Khan, our Education Department enlisted four senior students with STEM expertise to work with younger students to address global issues, with a particular emphasis on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



While more than a few previously scheduled campus activities have been affected by the cloud of toxic smog hanging over Lahore for much of November, some programs successfully shifted to an online format; examples here include the seminar on *Sustainable Fashion and Resource Efficiency in the Textile Sector* sponsored by Forman's Environmental Sciences Department, providing an opportunity to hear from Saqib Shahzad (Head of Sustainability at Sapphire-Diamond Fabrics) and Ms. Iqra Inam (Head of Sustainability at Sapphire Textile Mills, Ltd.). In this case, the focus was on efforts to align their organizations with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while also discussing the evolving role of Pakistan's all-important textile industry in working toward environmental sustainability and net-zero emissions.



Similarly, the seminar on *Safeguarding the Future: Advances in Infection Control and Disease Prevention* -- organized by the Kauser Abdulla Malik School of Life Sciences, Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC), and Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD)/Pakistan Chapter

with support from UNESCO -- switched to an online format, ensuring that the substance of the event could proceed as planned, providing participants with an opportunity to learn about the latest innovations in preventing and controlling infectious diseases.

Looking ahead, I am pleased that Forman is hosting the first day of a much-anticipated three-day conference on *Christianity and Christians in Pakistan: History, Identity and Social Role* starting on December 10 (Information Technology University (ITU) will provide the venue for the next two days). Dr. Yaqoob Bangash who previously taught at Forman and now teaches at ITU has played a catalytic role in making this event possible while partnering with Forman's Department of Religious Studies to organize the Forman part of it.

I am also pleased to announce that Forman will host the Fourth International Conference on Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences in late January 2025. Abstracts and poster presentations are invited on a broad range of topics including Nanomaterials, Polymer Chemistry, Pharmaceuticals, Food Chemistry, "Green" Chemistry, and Natural Products, among others. Those interested in registering should contact kashifmasih@fccollege.edu.pk

FIELD TRIPS

More than 40 MPhil university students and faculty from Forman's Kauser Abdulla Malik School of Life Sciences visited the Centre of Excellence for Olive Research and Training at the Barani Agricultural Research Center in Chakwal, discussing future possibilities for olive farming and processing in Pakistan.

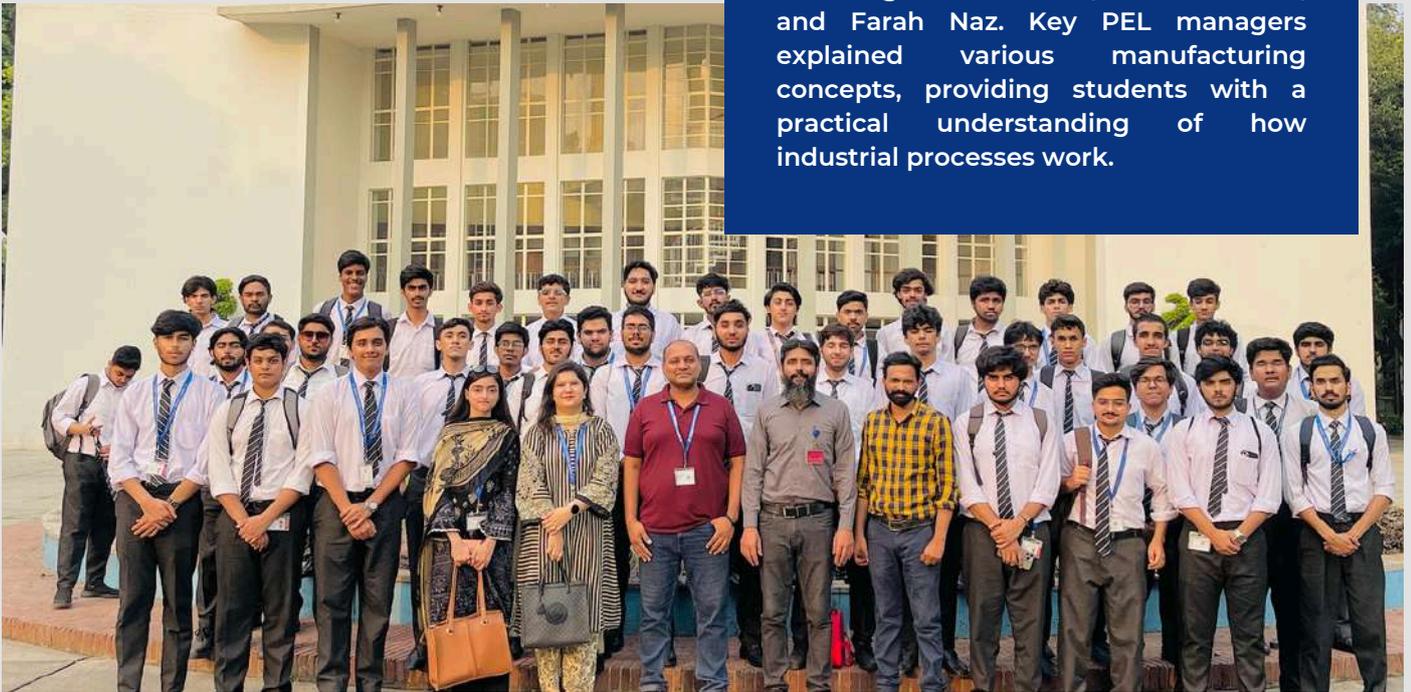


Forman's Chemistry Department organized a series of educational trips to various industrial and geological sites throughout the fall, enhancing their practical understanding of how industry works. This includes a visit focused on textile dyeing, finishing and quality control. Also, undergraduates majoring in Chemistry had the opportunity to visit the world's second largest salt mine at Khewra, producer of the pink Himlayan rock salt famous throughout the world. Finally, Chemistry MPhil students visited DIC Pakistan Limited, producer of printing inks.





Intermediate students also participate in field trips including most recently members of the Forman Tycoons Club which organized an educational visit to the PEL Factory in Lahore for 55 second year College students, accompanied by their advisor Ms. Momina Hamid and other Commerce faculty members including Rizwan Sabir, Usman Saeed, and Farah Naz. Key PEL managers explained various manufacturing concepts, providing students with a practical understanding of how industrial processes work.



OTHER STUDENT ACTIVITIES



I appreciated the opportunity to attend part of the three-day debating competition organized by the Formanites Debating Society (FDS) in early November. As this year's FDS President Sahil Bhatti noted in his initial e-mail on the subject, this showcase of talent involving both declamation and parliamentary participants speaking in both English and Urdu served to "challenge your perspectives and ignite your passion for debate".

One unique feature of this competition is that it involves both College and University students, with Alumni returning to coach the debaters as well as evaluate them. Afterwards Sahil mentioned to me that 65 teams had participated in the parliamentary portion of the event with another 45 teams joining in the declamation part of it. He also noted that this highly successful and well attended event concluded with a *Mushaira*.

Economics Chair and Associate Professor Dr. Hafeez Muhammad Ali Bhatti shared news highlighting the achievements of several Forman students, starting with PhD student Anum Abdullah who has been selected to attend the 8th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting on Economic Sciences in Lindau, Germany in August 2025. Ms. Anum was selected after a rigorous interview process, providing her with an opportunity to become part of a global network that links Nobel Laureates with promising young economists.



Also, a group of 14 students from Forman's Economic Department recently completed a two-day training program on the Fundamentals of Islamic Banking and Finance, organized by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). In addition, four talented Forman students have been selected as Student Ambassadors by the State Bank of Pakistan. A special "shout out" to Dr. Abdul Jalil Khan, the SBP focal person, for both these initiatives which also benefit our students.

At the College level, students in the College 1B2 class celebrated Global Dignity Day in October by producing an impressive video focused on dignity and what it means at FCCU: https://drive.google.com/file/d/17eE-d_rNYulpcM_e35ERDjdpD0QPEGQU/view?usp=drive_link

PUBLICATIONS



Assistant History Professor Dr. Khizar Jawad whose PhD was mentioned in the November *Rector's Update* reports that he has co-authored three articles in HEC-recognized journals: "The Role of Religious and Secular Dynamics in Shaping Pakistani National Identity (*Annals of Human and Social Sciences*): [https://doi.org/10.35484/ahss.2024\(5-II\)59](https://doi.org/10.35484/ahss.2024(5-II)59)); "Religious Identity and Political Mobilization: A Comparative Study of Hindu and Muslim Leadership in British India" (*Pakistan Social Sciences Review*: [https://doi.org/10.35484/psr.2024\(8-II-S\)23](https://doi.org/10.35484/psr.2024(8-II-S)23)); and "Charismatic Leadership in South Asian Political History: A Comparative Analysis of Jinnah and Gandhi" (*Journal of Development and Social Sciences*: [https://doi.org/10.47205/jdss.2024\(5-II-S\)34](https://doi.org/10.47205/jdss.2024(5-II-S)34)).

Two Forman faculty members -- Dr. Abeeda Qureshi and Abdul Ahad -- co-authored "Beyond Economics: The Political-Cultural Implications of Chinese Economic Engagement with Pakistan": <https://journals.iub.edu.pk/index.php/pjes/article/view/2730>



Adeel Khalid, Lecturer in English, co-authored a book chapter exploring the integration of Digital Multimodal Composition in English classrooms within the context of Pakistan, contributing to the growing body of research on innovative teaching methodologies and digital literacy (connect here [to access](#)).

A special thank you to Urdu Professor Dr. Ashfaq Ahmad Virk who passed on four of his books to be added to Ewing Library, along with the comment "I am proud to be part of the FCCU family": *Sharir-e-Khama* (a collection of articles and columns); *Tere Afwe Banda Nawaz Mein* (a Hajj travelogue); *Khaleed e Urdu* (a collection of research articles); and *Asnaf e Nazam o Nasr* (containing various literary genres).



FACULTY NEWS



History Professor Dr. Arfa Sayeda Zehra was formally approved as Professor Emeritus by Forman's Board of Governors. One of Forman's most well-known and beloved professors, Dr. Arfa joined Forman in 2009 and was declared Distinguished Professor in 2023. Holding a Doctorate in History from the University of Hawaii, she was recognized throughout her 50-year academic career in a variety of ways including as both East-West Center Fellow and Distinguished Alumni; Chairperson of the National Commission on the Status of Women; Principal of Lahore College for Women; and recipient of the Fatima Jinnah Award. Her passion has always been for Urdu and its history and literature, a subject about which she has spoken and written about in many forums in Pakistan and beyond. Estd. 1864



Urdu Professor Dr. Abida Batool was awarded the Allama Iqbal Gold Medal by the Kashaf Darwaish Foundation. The ceremony took place at Alhamra Hall on November 14 in recognition of her academic and literary services. Waleed Iqbal, grandson of Allama Iqbal, attended as Chief Guest.



Congratulations to Dr. Ashar Johnson Khokhar, Associate Professor and Chair of Forman's Education Department, for receiving the "Best Paper Award" at the Seventh International Conference on World Religions hosted by Minhaj University in Lahore in late October.

Three members of Forman's Physics faculty -- Dr. Sadia

Zaheer (chairperson), Dr. H. Latif and Dr. Laila Kahlon -- participated in the Asia Pacific Conference on Plasma Physics (AAPPS), presenting their research to scientists from across the region.



Forman Assistant Professors Dr. Abeeda Qureshi (Political Science) and Dr. Shahid Rashid (Sociology) participated in a roundtable discussion involving faculty from LUMS, Punjab University and Beaconhouse National University focused on Issues and Politics of Diversity in Pakistan: Promoting Inclusive Approaches.



Environmental Sciences Associate Professor Shinho Chung passed on the welcome news that Forman MPhil graduate (and visiting faculty member) Zia ul Islam is one of only three Pakistanis selected as a finalist for the US Department of State's prestigious International Visitor's Leadership Program (IVLP). As an IVLP Fellow, he is scheduled to depart for the US in June 2025 for a three-week program involving visits to four cities and multiple meetings with counterparts in both the public and private sector focused on water-related diseases and climate change. An Assistant Guardian at West Hall, Zia also serves as a Research Assistant for Forman's new Water Analysis Center. Two years ago he was awarded third prize among the several hundred presenters at the International Water Industry Conference held in Korea.

SPORTS NEWS

Forman participated in LUMS Homes Fixtures 2024, a major event involving both men and women competing in eleven different sports, ranging from basketball to table tennis, netball to futsal. In addition to receiving the "Best Delegation" Award, Forman placed first in cricket and volleyball and second in football; in addition, Forman received gold and silver medals in the athletics side of the competition for their performance in the 100 meter sprint.



FCCU's male Futsal team placed second at the Lahore Youth Festival 2024 following a closely-fought game that was ultimately decided by a penalty shootout. The event was hosted by Beaconhouse National University. Congratulations, too, to the Forman tennis team which placed third in the Inter Collegiate Tennis Championships 2024 held at Government College Lahore.



The Forman Sports Department organized the FCCU Open Intramural Championships 2024, attracting more than 300 participants in badminton tennis, table tennis and volleyball. Dr. Gloria Calib, Associate Vice Rector for Academic Affairs, was Chief Guest for this week-long event showcasing sports talent within the Forman community.



As for College sports, the Computer Coyotes Seniors emerged victorious over the Afternoon Senior Cubs in the FC College Intramural Cricket Championship 2024, organized by the College Health and Physical Education Department and involving 16 teams. In this case, it was Dr. Lubna Amer, College Coordinator, who served as Chief Guest.



The 12th Inter School and Inter College Games (aka the "Punjab Olympics") took place during the first week of November, with 1,100 schools and colleges from across the province participating. A special shoutout to our College athletes who finished third in several events including volleyball, lawn tennis, table tennis and taekwondo, as reported by Babar Kamil from our Sports Department.



In addition, Forman College organized the 2024 Intramural Table Tennis Championships, this year involving 16 teams; Chief Proctor Muhammad Umer Chaudhry served as Chief Guest. In the end, the Medical Cougars walked away with the first place trophy while the Afternoon Senior Cubs finished in second place.

Also, the College organized the 2024 Intramural Badminton Championships, again involving 16 teams; in this case, Biology Department Head Dr. Muhammad Umar Bhatti served as Chief Guest, distributing awards to the Newton Titans which placed first and Velte Hall which finished second.

Finally, Forman College joined nineteen other colleges as part of the Legacy Edition Colosseum sponsored by Beaconhouse. Once again this tournament showcased several sports -- and once again our College athletes excelled, securing first place in basketball, volleyball and soccer and second place in badminton.



Many readers of the *Rector's Update* will be familiar with the impact that Forman Coach Brian Furches is having on the development of baseball in Pakistan, including construction of Pakistan's first purpose-built university baseball field (informally referred to as "The Field of Dreams"!) on the Forman campus; he has also spearheaded excellent relations with the Baseball Federation of Pakistan. As a result of these contacts, he was recently asked to attend the Middle East Classic Baseball Tournament in Dubai featuring teams from both South Asia and the Middle East in which Pakistan placed first. Parenthetically, Coach Brian was also asked to coach the Afghan National Baseball team which flew down from Kabul to participate in the event.

Finally, although a number of sports events have taken place over the last several weeks, I would be remiss if I did not mention that some sports events have had to be cancelled or postponed because of the toxic smog enveloping Lahore at this time of year including the Women's Sports Fest 2024 which will hopefully be rescheduled for a later date!

MEDIA COVERAGE

Dr. Rao Hashmi from Forman's Business School was featured in a long and informative article in the print publication *Family Magazine*.



Forman's Registrar Dr. Nayer Fardows was featured in two interviews, one involving Neo TV and the other posted by *Lahore Rang*:

<https://youtu.be/EO-FkFF4ea8?si=T8xqgQycp6pzX-2g> and



<https://youtu.be/yrH0kSjWSyY?si=cyRKDI7PopCsGf5W>



Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan, Dean of Humanities, was interviewed by *Lahore Rang*, speaking at length about the qualities of a liberal arts education, as offered by FCCU: <https://youtu.be/L6UQin7onLQ?si=NIO3rZ7PrBCyGQ97>

ALUMNI NEWS



Forman's Advancement and Alumni Office hosted an alumni gathering in late October, bringing more than 50 Forman graduates from Newton Hall's 2000-2004 batch to campus. Many of the attendees who had come from across Punjab shared details from the diverse career paths that they have since taken in law, business, farming and entrepreneurship, among other fields.



Forman graduate Malik Ahad Allah Yar Khan, former President of Forman's Political Science Society and former Director of Logistics at Forman's Armacost Psychological Society, received word that he had been selected by the Punjab Civil Service Commission for the position of Psychologist in the Special Education Department.



Toqeer Zafar who completed his Bachelor's degree in Physics at Forman in 2014 recently provided an update on his post-Forman journey over the past decade. Among other things, that journey includes a Master's degree from the University of Siegen in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, followed by an opportunity to join Deutsche Post DHL at its global headquarters. He now serves as an Internal Auditor for that organization, working to modernize audit processes and ensure compliance across DHL's global operations.



Earlier this year Forman graduate Hamza Butt passed away suddenly of cardiac arrest in Lahore at the age of 33 while on a break from his PhD program in Biotechnology at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Honoring his parent's wishes, his family including his sister Aleena gathered outside the Jim Tebbe Campus Center in November to dedicate a bench in his memory, recalling what Dr. Ruksana Shah, family friend and wife of Forman faculty member Dr. Hassan Shah, described as a "brilliant, talented, social, lovable and perhaps the kindest person I have ever met".

Hamza had many talents but perhaps the most notable one was music: He could play cello, violin, piano, guitar, sitar, harmonium and sing beautifully in Urdu, English, Spanish and Chinese. As an eighth grader, he represented his school at a music festival in India. Later, on a trip to Uzbekistan, he saw a dombra and surprised the shopkeeper by immediately playing it. As a student at Forman, Hamza joined two classmates in forming a popular band known as the *Three Musketeers*. As Dr. Rukhsana Shah wrote in a moving tribute to Hamza read at the dedication, *"It will take a lifetime to understand why he is lost to us"*.



OTHER NEWS

It was my privilege to attend meetings with two high level provincial officials in recent weeks, one involving Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan and the other involving Speaker of the Punjab Provincial Assembly Malik Ahmed Khan. The meeting with the Governor included lunch, arranged at the Governor's House to honor our visiting Friends of Forman team. In addition, it was my honor to accompany our Registrar Dr. Nayer Fardows to meet with the Speaker in his Provincial Assembly office. As always, I welcome these opportunities to present Forman before a larger audience.

At the invitation of Board of Directors and Board of Governors member Bishop Azad Marshall I was honored to serve as Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker at the Ninth Graduation of the Lahore School of Theology in Raiwind, just outside Lahore. At the reception following the graduation I met several Forman graduates including at least two who have become pastors.

Chief Engineer Tajammul John represented Forman at *Together We Build*, an all-day event sponsored by USAID in Islamabad. Pictures of both the Cheryl Burke Hope Tower and the Peter Armacost Science Building were featured in the program, given USAID's role in providing financial support to both buildings.



I should add that Tajammul and his engineering team will be launching two new construction projects during the coming weeks, one aimed at constructing four new Pharmacy Labs (as well as a new Animal Lab) as an "Annex" to the

Armacost Science Building; and the other involving a new structure next to Mahmood Brothers Cafe to house Forman's Center for Biblical Teaching and Research (CBTR), headed by Dr. Bob Wetmore from our Christian Studies program.



Also, I am pleased to note that two much-needed renovation projects on the College side of our campus -- A Block and D Block -- are largely complete. Looking ahead to next year, we hope to embark on another major College renovation project, this one involving the much larger P Block.

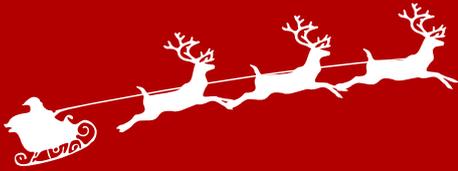


I am very pleased to mention here that Forman received a 17.4 million rupee donation from UK-based Barnabas Aid, all designated for need-based scholarships, launching a partnership that we hope will continue well into the future.

Dr. Vaqas who heads Forman's Population Research Center (PRC) reports that thanks to the UNFPA Capacity Building Initiative, the PRC has received three computers and two printers, providing the equipment needed to set up a small computer lab.

Like last year, Forman will provide the venue for Theological Expo 2024, an event organized by former FCCU Board Chairperson Dr. Qaiser Julius and his team at the Open Theological Seminary and scheduled for early December.





A special word of thanks for Chief of Staff Eileen Dass along with other members of her team including Sheeza James for organizing this year's Christmas Carol event on the top floor of the Jim Tebbe Campus Center, launching the start of the Christmas season at Forman. In addition to a spectacular Forman choir introduced by QEC director Sarah Suleman which sang traditional carols in English and Urdu, the event included video reports from the four corners of the Forman campus followed by the simultaneous "switching on of the Christmas lights" featuring stars, angels, Christmas trees, reindeer and Santa on his sleigh. December is a special time at Forman and I look forward to more such events during the coming weeks!

ESTD. 1864



Finally, let me conclude this issue of the *Rector's Update* with a "Merry Christmas" to all who celebrate it. As I note in my annual Christmas message to members of the Forman community, this time of year focuses attention on the love, compassion and humility of Christ, as expressed in the Gospel of John: "*And the word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth*". At the same time it provides an important reminder to follow in His footsteps with respect to the love, compassion and empathy that we should seek to display towards others. In that spirit, may this Christmas season bring peace to your hearts, even as the New Year that follows brings blessings to you and your loved ones including a spirit of joy, renewal and hope.



DR. JONATHAN ADDLETON
RECTOR