



**FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE**  
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

# Rector's Update

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

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*This Golden (Fiftieth)*

issue of the monthly *Rector's Update* is being prepared while I am en route from Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) to the American University of Cairo where I am joining Dr. Gloria Calib as well as presidents and other senior administrators from the Global Liberal Arts Alliance (GLAA) network for three days of meetings and consultations.

Forman is the only university in Pakistan to have been invited to join GLAA. We benefit in many ways, in part through the "Global Connect" initiative that provides a platform for our students to engage directly with other students from around the world by "twinning" classrooms in one country with those of another one. I was recently asked to join the GLAA Advisory Committee and Dr. Gloria plays a key role in "Global Connect", with Forman regarded as one of its most active participants.



Another area of interest in Cairo will be Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its impact on higher education. In this regard, I very much appreciate the proactive approach that Dr. Trimble and others have taken in discussing and developing the details of FCCU's own approach to AI. Also, Dr. Rukhsana and Dr. Mehwish at our Center for Learning and Teaching (CLT) have been very forward-looking in informing faculty and staff about the latest developments as well as creative approaches to learning and teaching associated with AI.

Given the growing importance of AI, let me take the opportunity to include in this edition of the *Rector's Update* five elements of Dr. Trimble's own vision for a positive and constructive approach to AI at Forman, one that I hope also helps frame our path going forward: (1) every FCCU graduate should be skilled in AI; (2) all courses will expect students to use AI; (3) we will develop a positive approach toward the potential positive uses of AI; (4) we will work to ensure that FCCU is a leader in AI pedagogy; and (5) AI will be shaped to improve student outcomes, not undermine them.

## VISITORS AND OTHER ENGAGEMENTS

Although I was out of Pakistan at the time, Forman hosted Dr. Rana Hajjeh, President and Executive of the New York-based Population Council which helped establish and fund Forman's Population Research Center, accompanied by Dr. Zeba Sathar, President/Director of the Population Council of Pakistan.



Vice Rector (University) Dr. Douglas Trimble represented Forman at a reception in Lahore hosted by the American Business Forum (ABF) for Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Rizwan Saeed Sheikh.

Also during my absence, Vice Rector (University) Dr. Douglas Trimble attended the official US Embassy farewell in Islamabad for outgoing US Ambassador Donald Blome, connecting with several other attendees who expressed special interest in Forman.

Afterwards Dr. Trimble provided his reflections on a number of conversations, not only with Ambassador Blome but also with Consul General Kristen Hawkins; Public Affairs Management Officer Erik Pugner; Political/Military Chief Teresa Grantham; and French Deputy Chief of Mission Jean-Charles Allard.

Perhaps most intriguing, Dr. Trimble mentioned to me his discussion with Adnan Asad from the Venus Group who in turn noted that his cousin General Pervaiz Musharraf was a proud "Old Formanite". In particular, Adnan recalled that when Musharraf was a student at Forman and he was a student at Aitchison College, the two of them would sometimes bicycle down the Mall and go to movies together!

## CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND OTHER EVENTS



Forman's School of Management hosted a well received workshop on *"Leading With Inclusion"* on January 8. Organized by School of Management Assistant Professor Dr. Afaf Khalid, the program included talks delivered by Dr. Faisal Khosa, a radiologist visiting from British Columbia who is actively engaged with diversity issues in Canada.

With ORIC support, the Sociology Department and Sociology Society organized a Departmental Thesis Display in early January featuring the outstanding work of both undergraduate and postgraduate students.



Forman's Chemistry Department organized Forman's Fourth Annual Chemistry Conference, an impressive event that received funding from several sources including the HEC and involved presenters from Mexico, Malaysia, the US and elsewhere. Thanks especially to Department Chair Dr. Shazma Massey Azeem and her team for organizing such an impressive event.



Forman's English Department hosted a webinar titled *Digital Humanities for Literature and Linguistics*, presented by Dr. Emily Bell from Leeds University (UK). In addition, Forman's English Department organized a Postgraduate Colloquium on *Literature, Film and Art*; special thanks to Dr. Amna Umer Cheema from the Institute of English Studies at the University of Punjab for participating as Guest of Honor.



Forman's English Department also organized an international symposium and exhibition on *Artificial Intelligence (AI): Bridging Language, Literature and Learning in the Digital Age*. Designed to benefit both faculty and students, the program featured several speakers providing insights that will hopefully "inspire our Forman community and contribute to our critical perspectives on how these digital intersections with the emerging technology landscape advancements are reshaping the literary and linguistic landscape of the country".





Forman's Computer Science Department organized a special exhibition held on January 13 to showcase 17 senior student projects. Invited guests from various IT companies including Devsinc, Arbisoft, Venturenox, Aircod, and Prexite also attended as students competed in two prize categories, Best Poster Award and Best Project Award.

The Best Project prize was awarded to Hassan Adil, Shaharez Malik and Faizan Imtiaz for their project *FallX: Airbag Safety Vest for Vulnerable Individuals*, with Dr. Sidra Minhas and M. Rauf Butt serving as Advisors. As for the Best Poster Award, it was secured by Shaeen Amir, Maryam Iqtidar and Asama Ayub for their project *Real-Time Monitoring of Electrolyte Imbalance Using ECG Signals*, advised by Dr. M. Rauf Butt.



Associate Professor Syeda Shabbir reports that Forman has received partial HEC funding to organize a *Third Conference on Recent Trends in Physics* later this month, adding further to a growing list of special academic events that Forman will host during the early months of 2025.

Finally, Forman hosted a two-day workshop sponsored by the American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS) on "*Heritage and Technology*" on January 15-16. Featuring Dr. Uzma Rizvi from the Pratt Institute in New York, the event included participants from across Pakistan. A special thanks to Dr. Sikandar Hayat for his leadership role, both in this event and in strengthening our ongoing partnership with AIPS.



## MEDIA AND OUTREACH

Adnan Ilyas, Forman's Head of Career Services and Internships, was interviewed on Lahore Rang:

<https://youtu.be/OiBQFPcrwLs?si=f0lDSqHHE9ZF55Fj>



**Tajammul John Munir**

Currently working as Chief Engineer, FCC College, Lahore. Tajammul holds an M.Sc. Degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of Engineeri...

[Read more](#)

Forman Chief Engineer Tajammul John was featured in the "Success Story" section of the most recent University of Engineering and Technology (Taxila) alumni magazine: <https://web.uettaxila.edu.pk/Alumni/Index>

At their request, our Hostel Office provided a personal tour of Hope Tower for a visiting group from Lahore College for Women University which is building its own new female hostel and wanted to take a look at ours first.



One impressive feature of Forman is that outreach to external audiences is not only conducted solely by faculty and staff; students also become involved, often at their own initiative. This month, I was gratified to receive this heart-warming account from Kamran Noor from Panjgur (Balochistan):

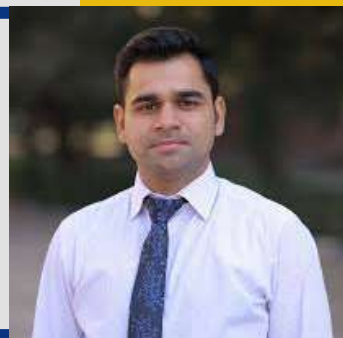
*I am writing to share the activities that I undertook during my winter vacation, aligned with FCCU's motto 'By Love Serve One Another'. During my break, I travelled many kilometers across Balochistan, especially in the Panjgur district, to visit schools and teach students about the values of becoming a good human being. I also conducted sessions in my hometown about FCCU, discussing its environment, academic activities, and the dedicated faculty and staff... on behalf of the Baloch Council, I would like to thank FCCU for supporting such initiatives.*

## PUBLICATIONS



As part of Oxford University Press's "Jinnah Birth Anniversary" campaign, Dr. Sikandar Hayat appeared on two YouTube videos highlighting two of his widely acclaimed books on Pakistan's founder Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, The Charismatic Leader and A Leadership Odyssey: [https://www.youtube.com/shorts/vH7\\_BzxTa04](https://www.youtube.com/shorts/vH7_BzxTa04) and <https://youtube.com/shorts/KgnjoubGhw?feature=shared>

Associate Professor and Biology Department Head Dr. Umar Bhatti co-authored a chapter on "Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR)" in a book titled *RNAi and CRISPR Gene Editing in Plants*, potentially assisting in the development of vaccines and antibodies through chloroplast transformation: <https://therunningline.com/rnai-and-crispr-gene-editing-in-plants/>

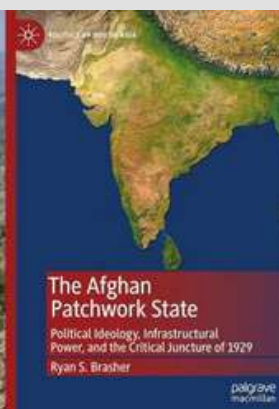


Affiliated Forman professor Dr. Nukhbah Taj Langah, currently teaching at the University of Malaysia, reports the publication of her outstanding book on *Narratives of Loss and Longing: Literary Developments in Postcolonial South Asia*, co-edited with Roshni Sengupta and published by Taylor Francis: <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/edit/10.4324/9781003570752/narratives-loss-longing-nukhbah-taj-langah-roshni-sengupta>

Also, Dr. Nukhbah is editing a special issue focused on travel writing for *Critical Pakistan Studies*, an emerging international academic journal covering a range of issues related to Pakistan.

Dr. Abeeda Qureshi's Political Science students continue to develop an impressive track record in terms of publications. This includes a recent article by Arooba Younis (<https://pu.edu.pk/home/journal/24/Current-Issue.html>), with another two articles under preparation. Arslan Ahmad, another student supervised by Dr. Abeeda, has also published an article based on his MPhil thesis: <https://al-salihah.com/index.php/Journal/article/view/51>

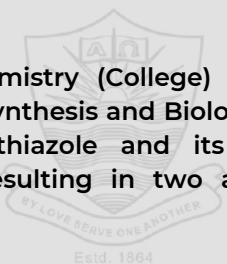
Our ongoing partnership with the American International Consortium of Academic Libraries (AMICAL) continues to have impact, in this case via an oral history project titled "Voices of Pashtun Students" that was first developed as part of one of Dr. Zamurad Awan's courses in Political Science in Fall 2022. Most recently, this two-year project has resulted in an informative AMICAL publication and website presence as part of its Digital Oral History program: *Voices of Pashtun Students: Stories of Their Struggles in Punjab*.



Dr. Saeed Shafqat, Professor and Founding Director of Forman's Center for Public and Policy and Governance (CPPG), wrote a review for the *Friday Times* on former Forman faculty member Dr. Ryan Brasher's latest book on Afghanistan: <https://thefridaytimes.com/18-Jan-2025/unpacking-afghanistan-s-state-formation-a-review-of-ryan-s-brasher-s-book>

For my part, I appreciated that *Global Atlanta* once again reached out to me to select and review one book that I read with particular interest over the past year. For 2025, I selected and reviewed what I truly believe is an interesting, informative and well-written publication, Jack Weatherford's latest book, *Emperor of the Seas: Kublai Khan and the Making of China*.

Assistant Professor Chemistry (College) Syeda Khair-ul-Bariyah completed her PhD on Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of New Derivatives of 2-Aminothiazole and its Analogues from the University of Punjab, resulting in two articles in W category journals.



## STUDENT AND FACULTY SUCCESS



Forman students performed exceptionally well at a recent LUMS Computer Science Society event involving hundreds of participants from across Pakistan. As it happens, the Forman team consisting of Subhan Rauf, Abdul Basit and Muhammad Mamoon clinched the top spot in the AI Nexus category while fellow team members Ahmad Daud, Muhammad Meeran and Hammad Medhi reached the semi-finals in the Speed Programming category.



Forman Debate Society (FDS) President Sahil Bhatti reports that the Forman debating team excelled at the recent Debating Championships organized by the University of Engineering and Technology (UET), with several students winning individual awards including in both the Novice and Open category.



Forman's Education Department is thrilled to announce that Dr. Ashar Johnson has been awarded a research fellowship from the Leibniz Institute for Educational Media/Georg Eckert Institute in Germany. Activities under the fellowship will focus specifically on research related to textbooks.



Also, Dr. Hafiz Muhammad Mazhar Asjad from Forman's Pharmacy Department was just notified that he has been awarded a Joint Excellence in Science and Humanities (JESH) grant from the Austrian Academy of Sciences, providing a wonderful opportunity to conduct research in Austria over a six-month period beginning in July 2025.

## SPORTS

Thanks to a partnership with the Global Sports Program (GSP) and Pakistan's Higher Education Commission (HEC), Forman is hosting the All-Pakistan Inter-University Baseball Championship for both men and women in early February. Those within our community who might not be familiar with baseball or have not yet seen Forman's premiere baseball field at the edge of our campus may want to take a look once the tournament is underway!



Babar Kamil, Associate Professor and Chairperson, Health & Physical Education Department, reports that the Forman College Taekwondo team competed in the Inter-Collegiate Taekwondo Championships for 2024-2025, held at the Punjab College Gymnasium in Lahore on January 15. Congratulations to Maaz Choudhary who placed third in the 48 kg category.

On the intramural front, the 2024-2025 Intramural Lawn Tennis Championships concluded on January 23. Physics Department (College) Head of Department and Associate Professor, Muhammad Iqbal served as Chief Guest, awarding the first place trophy to Mr. Shabieh Ul Hassan and the second place trophy to Mr. M. Hassaan Mirza.



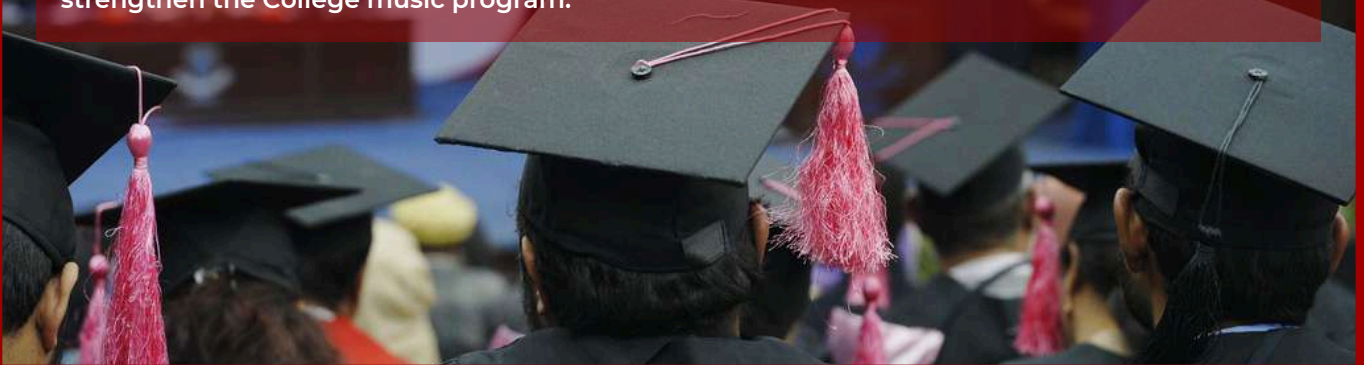
Also, the Engineering Crusaders senior team defeated the Medical Cougars senior team in the fiercely competed FC College Intramural Football Championship which also concluded on January 23. Sixteen teams participated, with Professor Muhammad Iqbal once again serving as Chief Guest and handing out the prizes.

I missed reporting earlier on the FCCU Open Intramural Championships held in December, bringing more than 300 Forman male and female students together for competition involving cricket, basketball and rugby. A special shout out also to Dr. Elizabeth Schweiger who heads Forman's Student Affairs Office and has now assumed the title Dean for Student Affairs for making events like this possible.



## OTHER NEWS

I was delighted to provide remarks at the Forman College Annual Valedictory, held in Sinclair Hall on the morning of January 24. College faculty also participated in the event which included an Awards ceremony for some of our outstanding College achievers over the past year, united by a shared vision of excellence and celebration. As for the Outstanding College Teacher Award, this year it went to Ms. Joy from South Korea who has done so much to strengthen the College music program.





I was also invited to speak at the Fulbright Alumni Night, held at the US Educational Foundation (USEF) Offices on the Forman campus, also on January 24. On this occasion which involved nearly 200 Fulbright alumni, it was especially gratifying to meet several alumni with strong Forman connections including Dr. Ghazala, Dr. Rehan Siddique, and Dr. Waseem Anwar who have taught at Forman and Ejaz Hussain who graduated from Forman.



On January 22 Forman's Advancement and Alumni Office hosted a group of "Old Formanites" who have dedicated their lives to teaching and have been associated with Forman for the past six decades. After introductions and an engaging discussion among the self-described "*Oldies but Goldies*", the group which included Professor Emeritus Dr. M. Rehan Siddiqi visited the College Biology Department where Dr. Umer Bhatti hosted tea, followed by a campus tour that included the Jim Tebbe Campus Center; the Biology Department in the Peter H. Armacost Building; and the Campus Security reception area.

A special shoutout to the more than 230 Faculty Advisors who participated in training sessions offered by Head of Faculty Advising Dr. Atiq-ur-Rahman and his team. This function is crucial to our efforts to strengthen student success and encourage timely graduation. This year, the training sessions focused on "Advising on Life Perspectives", offering personal guidance on degree requirements, course selection and academic challenges.

Looking ahead, Forman's Thirteenth Annual Advising Fair 2025 will be on February 25-26 on our "Main Ground", based partly on updated Academic Plans/Road Maps and other required materials/handouts/standees. This year, Alumni will also be invited to share their experiences with students.



Forman's Environmental Sciences Department organized a field trip involving 16 MPhil Environmental Studies students led by Dr. Muhammad Shahbaz and Dr. Sohaib Aslam to Faisalabad. Featured institutions included the National Institute for Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering and the Forestry Research Institute, with a view toward better understanding the use of wetlands in treating domestic and industrial wastewater as well as the use of plants in remediating pollution. The program also included a visit to the Gatwala Wildlife Park which provides a breeding facility for crocodiles, blue bucks, peacocks and various deer species.





Chemistry Associate Professor Dr. Seemal Jelani organized a "Green Approach" event as part of the Forman Experience as well as her Introduction to Chemistry class, both involving first-year students. Interactive activities were included on the program, providing opportunities to discuss important social issues such as child labor, harassment, gender equality, and human rights. The Institute of Legal Studies also contributed,

The Forman Psychological Services Center (FPSC) situated on the nearby TSA/FCCU campus is organizing a half day workshop led by Clinical Psychologist Dr. Kiran Ishfaq on Managing Obsessive Compulsive Disorders through Culturally Adapted Cognitive Behaviour Therapy. Another in a continuing series of outreach programs provided by FPSC, the event which takes place on February 6 is open to students, faculty and staff as well as members of the broader community outside the walls of Forman: <https://forms.gle/qzkX5TegMGGpkzR98>

With ORIC support, Forman's Population Research Center (PRC) is conducting its third Research Essay Competition 2025 for undergraduate students, organized around the theme "Data and its Role in Social Development". All entries must be received by February 23. An awards ceremony is tentatively scheduled for March 28. Please contact the PRC under the subject line Research Essay Competition 2025 for more information: [prc@fccollege.edu.pk](mailto:prc@fccollege.edu.pk)

## "BY LOVE SERVE ONE ANOTHER"



Reflecting on the recent holiday season, I was touched by a note received from Administrative Associate/Academic Adviser Fayyaz Raza in the Faculty of Social Sciences and a heart-warming program sponsored and supported by a number of Forman faculty and staff:

*"As you may be aware, the Lahore Faisal Town community recently endured a deeply traumatic incident involving the assault of a six-year-old Christian girl, Minahil, in her school on the 30th of October. The heart breaking event has left the community in distress and fear. To help alleviate the tension and emotional stress, we initiated efforts to engage the community's children in meaningful activities. We believe such acts of kindness contribute significantly to the healing process, fostering resilience and hope in these young minds.*

*In addition, we prepared to celebrate Christmas on Brick Kiln, a program dedicated to bringing joy and happiness to children in need. This event aims to spread the spirit of the season by creating a*

*memorable experience for these children through engaging activities, thoughtful gifts, and shared moments of joy. We wanted to share an update on our efforts while spreading positivity, kindness, joy and love throughout the festive season.*

*This impressive display of Christmas spirit and support included a series of gift-giving programs in the final week leading up to Christmas to Baghbanpura (50 gifts), Lalpul Mughalpura (40 gifts), Faisal Town (300 gifts), brick kiln settlement near Kasur (215 gifts) and Bahar Colony. The gift bags included items such as toys, caps, socks, keychains, toothbrushes, children's Bibles and more while the program included singing, puppet shows, outdoors games and a video on "Good touch, Bad Touch"*



Partnering with the Network of Organizations Working for People with Disabilities Pakistan (NOWPDP), Forman's Human Resources Office arranged a 90-minute training session aimed at *"fostering empathy, raising awareness and equipping participants with practical skills for engaging with persons with disabilities, ultimately encouraging more inclusive behaviors and attitudes"*. The program was presented by Ms. Noor Ulain who studied at LUMS and has experience working with JAZZ focused on financial inclusion for marginal groups.



Finally, a special thanks to Chief of Staff Eileen Dass, Sheeza James and several others including Head of Admissions Suleman Khairullah for providing a warm welcome and campus tour to the "Khushali Fellows", a group of students from Jaranwala and elsewhere whose parents are sanitation workers.



Forman graduate Mary James Gill who heads the Lahore-based Center for Law and Justice was the major catalyst for this program which provides informal educational opportunities for the children of sanitation workers, some of whom will now have the opportunity to be the first in their families to attend university. The Forman tour involved 42 students and staff from the Khushali program and included a visit to Forman's Museum of Natural History and Botanical Garden; according to Mary Gill, *"this visit was one of their dream exposure experiences"*.



**DR. JONATHAN ADDLETON**  
**RECTOR**