



FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

Rector's Update

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

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I am all too aware that the length of the monthly *Rector's Update* is increasing over time, reflecting both the vibrancy and impressive level of activity on the Forman campus. While looking for ways to "shorten" it, the reality is that I continue to enjoy highlighting the wide range of programs from across our institution while realizing that not everyone has the time or inclination to read all of it.

That is fine! However, my sincere hope is that casual readers will at least "dip into it", reading some items or sections of particular interest while skimming over other ones. Also, if it is true that a picture is worth a thousand words, even the busiest readers should enjoy glancing at the illustrations which help tell the remarkable story of our institution!

Looking ahead, I plan to reserve the first few paragraphs of each issue of the *Rector's Update* for "special highlights" and "amazing events," headlining items of special note to a wider audience.

So here it is for this month: Five Amazing Events featuring Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) at its best:

1

First, Forman's English Department organized a fantastic Literary Festival on June 3-4 on *Living the Narrative: From the Silence of the Page to the Symphony of Life*, perhaps best described by a perceptive journalist who covered the story:

<https://minutemirror.com.pk/a-festival-to-empower-through-literature-400437/>.

Topics covered included Bapsi Sidhwa's influence on South Asian literature; Pakistani Fiction in the Contemporary Age; Modern Storytelling; Marginalized Narratives; and the Evolution of Pakistani Entertainment. Also, playwright Usman Ali read from his work; Timsal Fatima performed Khathak dancing to poetry by Faiz Ahmed Faiz; and Kamran Sarfraz and Ubaid Ayub performed on the flute and tabla.



2

Second, Forman's Mass Communication Department launched the International Communication Association's (ICA) Regional Hub in Pakistan on June 13, providing an opportunity to connect with the main annual ICA conference in Denver, Colorado as well as seven Regional Hubs in Kenya, China, India, Indonesia, Egypt, Nigeria and New Zealand. The event also marked the 75th anniversary of ICA as the premiere global organization promoting research, dialogue and scholarship on communications. A special shoutout to Dr. Firasat Jabeen who played a critical role, both in obtaining ICA funding and organizing the Pakistan part of the program.



3

Third, Forman's Computer Science Department hosted COMSPEX 2025 on June 17, providing an opportunity to display 35 innovative projects developed by more than 110 graduating seniors. Usman Asif, CEO of Devsinc, served as Chief Guest, providing extemporaneous reflections in an inspiring TED Talk type monologue that left the large audience spellbound.



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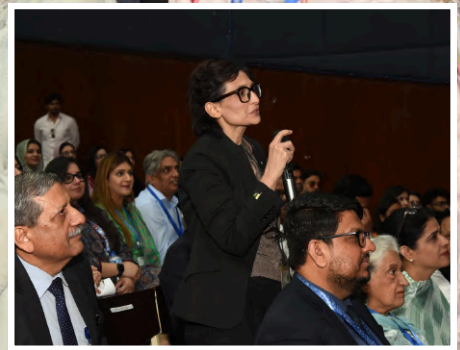
Fourth, Forman's Faculty of Social Sciences and Population Research Center, supported by the National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS), hosted a *Dissemination Seminar on the Longitudinal Panel Study in Punjab*, spotlighting critical insights into the realities of family planning and public health in Punjab based on data provided by the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). NIPS Director Samina A. Hasan opened the proceedings, followed by data-driven discussions on both the failures and successes of family planning in Pakistan which remains one of the fastest-growing countries in the world.



5

Finally, Lieutenant General Syed Fayyaz Hussain Shah, Commander of Lahore's 4th Corps, visited Forman on June 17, briefing several hundred students, faculty and staff in Sinclair Hall on the recent four-day conflict with India and answering a diverse range of questions related to the present-day situation in Pakistan and beyond.

Part of a series of similar talks held at several institutions of higher learning across Pakistan, Forman was one of four Lahore-area universities selected to host this high profile event: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/19WcekoQUn/>. Thanks especially to Registrar Dr. Nayer Fardows and many colleagues across FCCU who contributed and assisted, ensuring that this visit was interesting, informative and above all successful.



STUDENT NEWS



Recent Sociology MPhil graduate Ravail Hassan published her research in the highly regarded journal *Development and Practice* (Taylor & Francis). Co-authored with Dr. Sara Rizvi Jafree, the study is titled "Empowered by Survival: Women Street Vendors in Pakistan's Informal Patriarchal Economy": <https://lnkd.in/d3CbJTqZ>. Ms. Ravail dedicated this pioneering work on one of the most vulnerable segments in Pakistan society to her late father who was a "a constant source of strength throughout her academic journey".

Several of our CPPG MPhil students participated in the *Dastoor-e-Aman Policy Dialogue*, hosted by the Young Peace and Development Corps at FCCU on June 16-17. Team "AIK" from CPPG placed first for their policy proposal titled *A Framework for Interfaith Harmony Through Inclusive Education*. Also, team "Climate and Hydro Guardians", also from CPPG placed second for their proposal *From Scarcity to Sustainability: Addressing Agricultural Water Challenges through SDG6 in Pakistan*.



Several other students, this time from Forman's Computer Science Department, brought honor to FCCU through their participation in TECHVERSE 2025, hosted by the University of Management and Technology (UMT) in Lahore. Forman teams placed first in two categories: *Project Showcase* (Abdul Basit and Jawaria Majid) for a project focused on mental wellness; and *Web Development* (Ahmad Daud, Alizay Nasir and Warda Irfan) for a project focused on reconnecting people with their lost belongings.

The Lucas Economics Society organized an "Economic Role Play" event to discuss a very timely topic in early June: *Jobs or Just Promises? A Nation at the Crossroads*.

I also enjoyed participating in the June 16 launch of the latest issue of *Miller's Dream*, one of my favorite student publications. The theme this time was "Female Philosophers" and the contents did not disappoint, starting with the opening lines by editor Muskaan Khan, a Psychology Major, who cites Socrates ("The unexamined life is not worth living"); describes him as "The eternal troublemaker of Athens and patron saint of questioning"; and then goes on to introduce the issue in her own memorable words:

In the endless pursuit of answers, perhaps the most courageous act is to embrace the questions themselves. That is where philosophy comes in and that's precisely where I fell in love with it. Not for its promise of definite conclusions but for its relentless curiosity. Philosophy, at its heart, is the permission slip to question everything. It is the bold, untamed terrain where one is not only allowed but encouraged to ask: What is truth? What is justice? What does it mean to live a good life? And, perhaps most importantly, why do we believe what we believe?



FACULTY ACTIVITIES

I am pleased to note that the FCCU list of Professor Emeritus that have contributed so much to Forman over the years (and continue to contribute in a variety of ways) now numbers five: Dr. Rehan Siddiqi; Dr. Hamid Saeed; Dr. Kauser Abdulla Malik; Dr. Saeed Shafqat; and Dr. Arfa Sayeda Zehra.



Dr. Samina Mehnaz continues to provide impressive support for research at FCCU, in this case assisting her PhD students in placing research articles in three major scientific journals: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11274-025-04413-8>; <http://doi.org/10.1007/s00203-025-04345-9>; and <https://doi.org/10.4014/jmb.2311.11041>

Sociology Professor Dr. Sara Rizvi Jafree recently published a prestigious Springer journal article on the use of machine learning and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to predict high risk pregnancies among Pakistani women, presenting it as a low-cost mechanism to predict health risks and meet health targets in resource-constrained economies. Although Dr. Rizvi has many publications to her credit, she views this as "possibly the most difficult research I have completed": <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11135-025-02210-x>



Forman's Statistics Department headed by Dr. Sharoon Hanook organized a two-day hands-on workshop on *Image Analytics in Data Science* at the end of May, bringing together faculty, students and professionals interested in applying AI to data science. Students and faculty from several other universities also attended including National University of Science and Technology, Kinnaird College, Lahore College for Women University, University of Lahore, and Government College University Faisalabad.



Forman's Computer Science Department sponsored a guest lecture on June 2 on *Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) and its Transformative Role in Natural Language Processing (NLP)*, delivered by Fezan Rasool, Lead Machine Learning Engineer and PhD candidate in Computer Science at LUMS. Highlighting the limitations of large language models such as ChatGPT and DeepSeek, he explained how RAG can enhance accuracy, reduce hallucinations and integrate real-time knowledge retrieval.

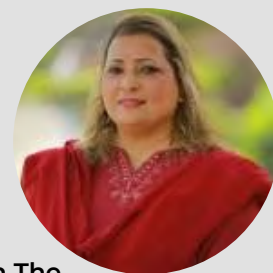


Also, the Computer Science Department hosted a guest lecture by Dr. Usman Nazir, Assistant Professor at Beaconhouse National University and head of the Center for AI research (CAIR). In this case, discussion focused on AI and the ways in which it can address "real world" challenges and become more efficient.



Forman's Sociology Department in partnership with the Forman Sociology Society organized a lecture on *Rethinking Ethnographic and Social Theories from a Grounded Perspective*, moderated by Sociology Lecturer Ammar Yasir and delivered by Dr. Muhammad Kavesh, Associate Professor Anthropology and Director of the South Asian Research Institute at Australian National University.

A special thanks to Dr. Noureen Khokhar and other members of the Urdu Department for representing FCCU at the Al-Hamra Urdu Festival.



English Department Chair Dr. Fatima Syeda was Guest Speaker at a research seminar organized by the University of Management and Technology (UMT) on The *Critical Lens: Literary Scholars at a Digital Crossroads*. Also, several FCCU faculty and staff partnered with the University of Lahore (UOL) on a special "digital literature" program, this one titled *The Future of Words: Digital Literature and Linguistics Expo 2025*.

I continue to appreciate the ways in which our faculty creatively work to introduce Forman students to the world beyond the four walls of our institution. Examples this month include a trip to the Lahore Museum organized by the Sociology Department and involving Sana Shahid's *Socio and Cultural Anthropology* Class and Tehniyat Fatima's *Sociology of Art and Culture* Class, providing opportunities to reflect on heritage, identity, collective memory and Pakistan's diverse cultural legacy. Also, Dr. Rovidad organized a visit to the Governor's House for twenty of his Center for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG) MPhil students, which was an enriching experience for everyone involved.



I am pleased to report that the keys to the Pharmacy Department's new Animal House have been turned over to Senior Lab Attendant Shah Pervaiz, along with all equipment and furniture. Four new Pharmacy Labs are also being built as part of this initiative aimed at improving the facilities available to our Pharmacy students.

Finally, following are the links to the latest editions of two academic journals published by Forman:

First, here is the June 2025 issue of the *Forman Journal of Social Sciences* (Volume 5, Issue 1): <https://www.fccollege.edu.pk/forman-journal-of-social-sciences/>, covering topics ranging from youth perceptions in conflict-affected areas to Urdu literature as Social History in the works of Ismat Chughtai and Rasheed Jehan; other topics addressed in the seven articles cover a range of issues including disability, gratitude, and gender. Contributors to this issue come from not only several universities in Pakistan but also Turkey and Malaysia.

A special thanks to the three editors who made this issue possible: Dr. Sikandar Hayat, Dean of Social Sciences (Editor in Chief); Dr. Aaisha Amjad, Sociology (Editor); and Dr. Sarah Shahed, Psychology (Managing Editor). Praise for the issue has already been received, most recently from Iftikhar H. Malik, Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and Professor Emeritus at Bath Spa University in the UK, who noted that *"the contributions here are quite significant . . . I am sure many other scholars in the field and students at large will find this academic effort helpful."*

And, second, here are the links to the latest issues of the *Forman Journal of Economic Studies* (Volume 21, Issue 1), a HEC-recognized Y category journal that has been published since 2005. This latest edition includes research work undertaken by senior and emerging scholars from Cyprus, Nigeria, and Pakistan covering a number of themes including climate change, economic growth, banking, trade, and investment in education. This latest edition can be accessed online here: <https://www.fccollege.edu.pk/forman-journal-of-economic-studies/> and here: <http://ojs.fccollege.edu.pk/index.php/FJES/issue/view/34>

In this case, a special thanks to Dr. Muhammad Ali Bhatti, Chairperson, Department of Economics (Editor in Chief); Dr. Ghulam Shabbir, Economics Professor (Editor); and Dr. Talah Numan Khan, Associate Professor (Managing Editor).

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Imran H. Khan (Forman '81), Professor in the School of Medicine at the University of California/Davis, was recently interviewed on a UK-based science channel on the dangers of infectious diseases and global pandemics in the wake of Covid-19: <https://scitube.io/professor-imran-khan-a-ticking-time-bomb-deadly-infections-can-wipe-out-our-civilization/>

Ismail Ahmed Khan was awarded a full merit-based scholarship to pursue his graduate studies at Villanova University in Pennsylvania, a highly competitive honor awarded only to the top ten applicants. He is currently pursuing research in cancer immunotherapy, a promising new approach in the global fight against cancer.

Two Forman graduates -- Mehwish Aslam and Ezza Haroon -- have been accepted into the Master of Arts in Higher Education and Student Development (HESD) program offered by Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois. In addition, both students have been offered assistantships and other financial support to help cover the costs of their postgraduate education.

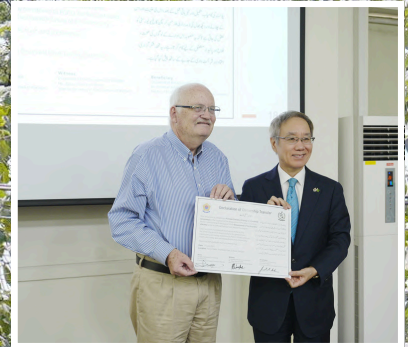


Deputy Commissioner Waqar Karim, a rising star in Pakistan's Civil Service, met with Forman students on the Forman campus, providing advice and guidance on how to prepare for Pakistan's annual Civil Service exams, one of the most competitive such exams in the world. The well-attended session was both informative and beneficial, receiving very positive feedback from the students who participated.



CAMPUS VISITORS

Visitors this month included Mr. Kijun Park, the Korean Ambassador to Pakistan who dropped by our new Water Analysis Lab and inaugurated the Pilot Water Treatment Plant in Kasur described elsewhere in this newsletter; he was accompanied by Mr. Abdul Rehman Shah (Special Secretary to the Governor of Punjab) and Syed Zahid Aziz (CEO of Punjab Saaf Water Authority).



In addition, we welcomed Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan, the head of the Punjab Higher Education Commission to our campus. Also, the Punjab Minister for Minority Affairs and Human Rights visited Forman to congratulate the 200 graduates of the eight-week summer Coaching Program organized annually by Forman's Church Relations Office to expand educational opportunities for minorities in Pakistan.



Finally, Dr. Muhammad Imtiaz, Director of ICARDA, visited Forman's labs on June 19. Among other things, the visit included the formal handing-over of a new Fermentor, purchased through a grant to ICARDA from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) that serves to further strengthen our research capacity.



OUTREACH



Several faculty and staff presented Forman in a variety of media forums. Examples over the past few weeks include an excellent interview with Chief of Staff Eileen Dass and Head of Health and Safety Major Kanwal on *Lahore Rang*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIIWcYrp-l>

Vice Rector Dr. Douglas Trimble's insightful article on AI and accreditation was published on June 20 in *The Nation*. From my perspective, it provides an excellent introduction to both issues as they pertain to FCCU and I hope that the article is spread as far and wide as possible!

My interview with *Academia Magazine*, conducted in early June, was later shared as an Academia podcast: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ph5VfTeRyqE>



I was also invited to speak at the CEO Club Pakistan on June 22, providing a forum to share some of the more personal aspects of my journey from Pakistan to the United States followed by a career in development, diplomacy and education.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS



The Campus Counseling Center, situated in the Mercy Health Center, hosted a one-day workshop on May 30 on *Building Resilience: Bouncing Back from Setbacks*, open to students, faculty and staff and aimed at helping to build a more resilient campus community.

The Forman Psychological Services Center, an outreach project led by Forman's Psychology Department and situated on the TSA/FCCU campus, organized a June 21 webinar on *Healing the Mother Wound* and a Focus Group Discussion on *Living with Toxic Relationships: Finding Balance and Boundaries*, both delivered by Clinical Psychologist Mahnoor Munawar.



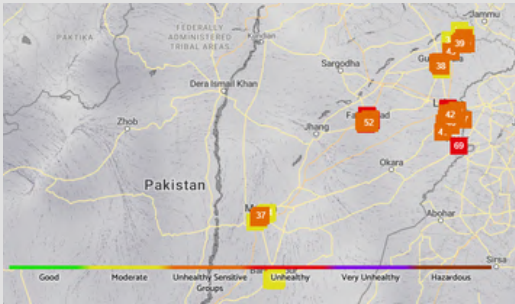
Let me express special appreciation to Major Kanwal, Head of Forman's Health and Safety Office who has taken a number of measures to improve our planning and performance in this vital area. The positive impact of this effort was demonstrated on June 21 when a major fire adjacent (but not on) our campus threatened some of our residences near Light of Hope School. Led by our Health and Safety Office, several Departments responded immediately, ensuring that the fire did not spread any further.

As some members of the Forman community may have noticed, Major Kanwal is also working with Mercy Health Center to install First Aid Location stickers across all campus buildings. Each sticker clearly indicates the specific location, office or room where a First Aid Kit has been placed for easy identification during emergencies.

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS



The Punjab Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established an emissions testing booth on the Forman campus on June 13 and June 16, providing an opportunity to students, faculty and staff to test their vehicles and obtain the "green stickers" necessary for driving in Punjab without waiting in line. A special thanks to Dr. Shazia Ilyas, Assistant Professor in Forman's Environmental Sciences Department, for working with the Punjab's EPA to launch this convenient one-stop arrangement.



Dr. Shazia also reports that an air quality monitoring device has been successfully installed at the entrance of "S" block, providing real-time air quality data via an Air Gradient Dashboard. The installation is part of an air quality monitoring initiative supported by the University of Chicago's Air Quality Fund which aims to deploy 160 air quality monitors across Pakistan including 20 in the Lahore area. Those wishing to access this air quality tool should access the following: <https://www.airgradient.com/support/kb-install-as-app/>

Forman's Computer Science Department which launched the innovative PecoDrop recycling program on the Forman campus organized an awareness session on June 2 to introduce a new environmental program launched by the Punjab government, providing incentives to individuals and organizations that "go green": [Punjab Green Credit Program](#).



Fiona and I were delighted to join Korean Ambassador Kijun Park in attending the inauguration of two pilot water treatment plants capable of providing 10,000 liters of safe drinking water to 5,000 people each day, one on the FCCU campus and the other at Sarhali Kalan Village in Kasur District. A third pilot rural water treatment plant at Kot Maiga Village in Kasur District is also included in the project, along with the establishment of a state-of-the-art water analysis lab at FCCU.

Thanks to Dr. Shinho Chung and his colleagues in the Environmental Sciences Department for partnering with the Government of Korea and Dankook University to obtain a \$1.2 million contribution from a three-year Korean development project (*Scientific and Sustainable Application of Groundwater Treatment Technology for Safe Drinking Water Supply in Punjab, Pakistan*). As it happens, this is also the first Korean water project ever awarded to a private university in Pakistan.

Clean and tested drinking water from the FCCU campus pilot water treatment plant is now available to members of the Forman community between 6 AM and 9 PM each day via five outdoor taps on the wall of the plant, situated at the "Old English Mess" between Newton Hall and Velte Hall. A bottled water option using water from the same source will also be launched soon.



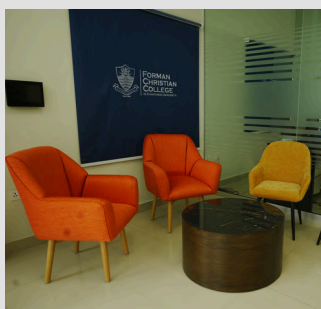
SPORTS UPDATE

The University Sports Department joined with Student Affairs to host a "Last Man Stands" cricket tournament in late May involving 12 universities. In the end, the University of Punjab prevailed, defeating the University of Education in a thrilling final.

In addition, the University Sports Department joined with Student Affairs to organize the *First FCCU Annual Athletics Event* in late May, bringing together more than 200 participants from across FCCU in an impressive display of talent as well as vibrant community spirit. Dr. Ayesha Anwar as Guardian for Hope Tower was the Guest of Honor, launching a five day event that included long jump, shotput, relays and various running races. Special recognition goes to Wafia Khalid as Best Female Athlete and Abdullah Khan as Best Male Athlete.



OTHER NEWS



I am pleased to note that Forman has officially launched its Business Incubation Center (BIC), co-located and under the direction of the Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC). Students, faculty and alumni are invited to make use of this facility which is designed to nurture innovation, entrepreneurship, and start-up success. For more information, please direct questions here: bic@fccollege.edu.pk.

Forman's Center for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG) hosted an important session on Child Labor involving civil society, academia and the government; thanks especially to Assistant Professor Abdullah Khoso for drawing attention to some of the extensive media attention related to this event:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1919929/civil-society-for-sustainable-strategy-to-end-child-labour> and

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1322034/civil-society-academia-and-nchr-urge-punjab-government-to-adopt-a-sustainable-strategy-to-end-child-labour/>



The Art Gallery in the Jim Tebbe Campus Center continues to be used, most recently for an Art Exhibition showcasing the work of students from ARTS 111 and ARTS 102 during the Spring semester.

I am also pleased to note that Dr. Sadia Kamran, formerly from the National College of Arts (NCA) in Lahore and now Chair of our Visual and Performing Arts Department, will serve as the curator of our Art Gallery, bringing the creativity and professionalism needed to ensure that it becomes a vibrant part of our shared campus life.

Both Fiona and I were delighted to attend Poetry Day", focused on the subject of food and organized by the Center for Language Development headed by Uzma Khan. Poems were recited in several languages including German, French, Chinese, Kalash and Urdu. The Korean contribution included a well-received "Ode to Kimche" while Fiona ensured that Lowland Scots was represented by her authentic rendition of "A Selkirk Grace".



Finally, many on the Forman campus will remember Dr. Charles Ramsey who served on both the Forman faculty and staff for several years before returning to his home in Texas. Against that backdrop, I am pleased to announce Dr. Ramsey has been appointed as University Chaplain at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

On assuming his new post, Dr. Ramsey commented (in words that very much reflect my own views on Forman!), *"Baylor is a vibrant community committed to the spiritual formation of all students, faculty and staff, and I am delighted to listen, to learn and to walk alongside individuals of all backgrounds and beliefs as we navigate life's questions, challenges and celebrations as a people united by the University's mission".*



DR. JONATHAN S. ADDLETON
RECTOR