



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

# Rector's Update

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

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September is always a special time, marking the start of a new Academic Year. This year, that means welcoming **2,265 new College (Intermediate) students along with another 1,255 first-year University (Bachelor's) students.**

While newly enrolled post-graduate students will be added to these figures later, these numbers are encouraging, reflecting the positive reputation that Forman enjoys in Lahore, Punjab, and beyond.

**From my perspective, these 3,520 new students are the latest "shining stars" added to the Forman universe,**

each with a family, story, perspective and voice of their own. I am certain that we will make a difference in their lives, just as they will add richness and understanding to our own.



I also appreciate the ways in which this latest cohort of students will add to our "coat of many colors," arriving in this case from all corners of Pakistan, from Gilgit-Baltistan in the far north to Umerkot and Tharparkar in the far south. This year, the entering class includes at least four students from the Kalash Valley bordering Afghanistan and close to China and Tajikistan, thanks to our ongoing partnership with the Kalash Development Authority (KDA) and the outreach programs developed by our Admissions and Outreach Offices in partnership with other offices and departments.



Parenthetically, as part of this outreach program 13 students (including seven girls and six boys) from the Kalash community were invited to a month-long summer academic enrichment program hosted on the Forman campus, four of whom were subsequently admitted to Forman. As part of our partnership, KDA covered transportation costs for the students. A special thanks to Shahid Ali Naeem, a Lecturer in our Mass Communication Department, for serving as an informal "Ambassador", linking FCCU to one of Pakistan's smallest and most remote minority communities.



Our successful Admissions season also provides an appropriate if bittersweet conclusion to Suleman Khairullah's tenure as Head of Admissions -- we certainly wish him the very best as he departs for Virginia to start his PhD program at the College of William & Mary, one of the oldest and most distinguished universities in the United States.



## FACULTY SUCCESS



Professor Emeritus Dr. Arfa Sayeda Zehra was selected as a recipient of the Tamgha-i-Imtiaz in recognition of her contributions to public service focused on education, social justice and ethical leadership. The award was announced by President Zardari on Independence Day (August 14) and will be conferred on Pakistan Day (March 23).

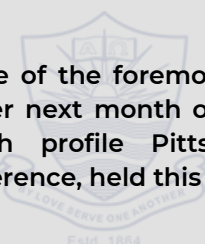


Congratulations to Dr. Kauser Abdulla Malik, Dean of Postgraduate Studies and Director of Forman's Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC), on his recent appointment as Chair of the Federal Committee for GMO Biosafety Concerns as well as Policy Regarding Seeds and Crops.

Dr. Samina Mehnaz from Forman's KAM School of Life Sciences was Guest Speaker at a Training Workshop on *Emerging Biotechnological and Bioinformatics Approaches for Data Analysis* hosted by the Lahore University of Biological and Applied Sciences in July. In addition, she co-authored a chapter on "Disentangling the contribution of genetics in rhizomicrobiome recruitment for climate resilient agroecosystems" in *Microorganisms Resilience to Climate Change* (Singapore: Springer): [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-96-3748-5\\_6](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-96-3748-5_6)



Dr. Farid Malik, one of the foremost coal specialists in Pakistan, will present a paper next month on gasification using coal from Thar at the high profile Pittsburgh Energy and Carbon Management Conference, held this year in Beijing.



Dr. Abdullah Khoso from Forman's Center for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG) published a number of recent articles including "The Government's Policy and Practical Response to Contain the Spread of COVID-19 and Its Impact on Juveniles' Rights in Detention Centres in Sindh-Pakistan" (<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/14732254251357557>); this follows on the heels of several other articles on topics related to children of incarcerated parents (<https://www.ohchr.org/en/events/days-general-discussion-dgd/2011/2011-day-general-discussion-children-incarcerated-parents>); violence related to the migration of Pakistani workers abroad; issues involving conflict, justice and resilience facing rural youth in Sindh; treatment of female children by police; and funding for human rights organizations in Pakistan.



Political Science Associate Professor Dr. Shehzadi Zamurrad Awan co-authored two recent articles based in part on field work and surveys conducted during her sabbatical, one in the *FWU Journal of Social Sciences* on "The Plight of Shia Hazaras in Balochistan" (<https://doi.org/10.51709/19951272/Summer2025/1>) and a second in *Geopolitics Quarterly* on "Voices of Tribal Residents on the Merger of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa" (<https://doi.org/10.22034/igq.2025.489903.1979>).



In addition, Dr. Zamurrad Awan completed a fully funded summer course at Central European University in Budapest (Hungary) on "Patronal Democracies in Ukraine". As the only South Asian academic selected for this highly competitive program, she was able to deepen her knowledge of post-communist political systems, especially in Central and Eastern Europe.



Dr Zamurrad Awan with faculty, Bálint Magyar (expert on post-communist oligarchies), Bálint Madlovics (scholar of hybrid regimes), & Mikhail Minakov (authority on Ukraine's political transformations) at CEU.



Associate Pharmacy Professor Dr. Hafiz Muhammad Mazhar Asjad reports that he has started his research project at the Medical University of Vienna (Austria). Titled "GABA Transporter 1 (GAT-1) Variants in Epilepsy: Molecular and Rescue Mechanisms", it is supported by the Austrian Academy of Sciences under Austria's Joint Excellence in Science and Humanities (JESH) program.

Dr. Afaf Khalid, Assistant Professor in Forman's School of Management, presented her research paper on "Navigating Intersections: An Agency, Resilience and Emotional Intelligence Perspective of Coping Strategies" at the 85th Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management (AOM) held in Copenhagen in late July, taking the opportunity to present emerging research, engage with leading scholars, gather insights to enhance Forman's own curriculum and strengthen FCCU's presence in international academic circles.



Maheen Zia from Forman's English Department reports that she received two prizes in corpus-based lesson design and teaching as part of a video competition organized by the Education University of Hong Kong, this year focused on integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other digital tools with lesson planning. In addition, she received a grant to attend online the Oxford Digital Humanities Summer School as part of her initiative to use digital approaches to the humanities while also looking into ways to ethically integrate AI into courses at FCCU.





Several FCCU faculty members including Dr. Mussarat Shahid, Dr. Abeeda Qureshi, Dr. Abid Naeem, Dr. Ambreen Javed, Dr. Hina Abid, Maheen Zia, Malik Taimoor Farouk, and Mehwish Batool participated in the Global Course Connections workshop held at the American University in Bulgaria in July (several other members of our faculty including Dr. Muhammad Saqib Saleem and Zaneera Ahmad joined online); faculty from eighteen other colleges and universities from across five continents also

participated. An outgrowth of Forman's membership in the Global Liberal Arts Alliance (GLAA), the intent is to develop activities, assignments and classes aimed at connecting students taking a similar course in another country while also helping students to build global connections and global competencies.

Assistant Professor of Linguistics Dr. Ayesha Junaid was selected for the UKRLP Alpha Exchange Program, joining a cohort of international educators as part of a 10-month "Train the Trainers" initiative in the UK beginning this month. One of 15 candidates selected out of more than 1,500 applicants, upon completion of the program Dr. Ayesha is expected to contribute by training future trainers in the fields of Artificial Intelligence, Languages and Linguistics.



## STUDENT SUCCESS



Several recent Forman graduates have already made a mark in a number of impressive ways. For example, Saqib Rabbani mentions that one of his research papers undertaken while studying for his BS at FCCU has been accepted for publication in The Journal of Membrane Biology. He also provides a special shout-out to his co-authors *"especially Dr. Muhammad Sohail without whom this would not have been possible"*.

Similarly, Sharmeen Saqib who earned both her Bachelor's and MPhil at Forman has just secured a fully-funded PhD scholarship to study Medical Sciences at the University of South Australia in Adelaide, indicating yet again that Forman is a place "where academic excellence meets global opportunity".

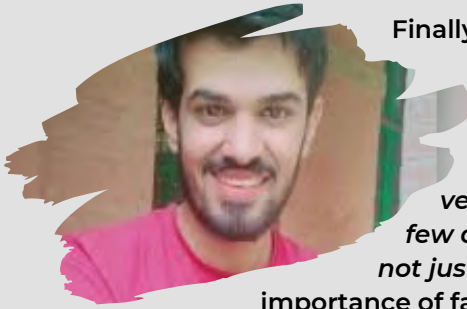


Also, I just received word that recent Forman graduate Ahsan Sabir from Gilgit-Baltistan has been accepted in the EU's prestigious Erasmus Mundus program, paving the way for a potential Master's degree in Public Policy that would involve spending one year at the Institute of Social Studies in the Hague and a second year at York University in the UK.

Similarly, Salman Khan Niazi has been accepted into the Erasmus Mundus Program in Education Policies for Global Development, in this case spending his first year at the University de Autonomia Barcelona and his second year at the University of Glasgow.







Finally, FCCU graduate Aaraaf Tariq who studied Economics and Data Analytics at Forman has been admitted into the MS in Information Systems program at Northeastern University's Silicon Valley campus. As he reports, *"Until my seventh semester I had never thought about studying in the US. One day I had a conversation with a very dear friend . . . We talked about my goals and dreams. He asked me a few questions, and that's when I realized that to do what I want, I need to be not just in the US but in Silicon Valley"*. Like many of us acknowledging the

importance of family as part of our journey through life, he also expresses special thanks to his father, noting the sacrifices he made, the strength he showed and the love he gave, making this next step in Aaraaf's journey possible.

## ALUMNI UPDATE



Forman alumni mentioned in this year's Independence Day Honor's List include the late Malik Muhammad Atta, renowned equestrian and champion tent pegger who was awarded the Hilal-i-Imtiaz posthumously in recognition of his contributions to developing the sport in Pakistan and beyond.

Also, Brigadier Sikandar Hayat Chaudhary, Commander of Punjab's Anti Narcotics Force, was announced as a recipient of the Sitara-i-Imtiaz.





Alumni visitors this month included Najeeb Ghauri, Founder, CEO and Chairman of Netsol Technologies, Inc., USA, the first IT company from Pakistan listed on Nasdaq. Having just arrived from southern California, he also shared photos of the Pakistan Independence Day celebrations held on August 14 in Los Angeles at which he was honored by the Mayor, Chief Sheriff and other senior city and county officials.



I appreciated attending the inauguration ceremony for the Guard Rice Researchers Room, part of the Digital Library located in the Jim Tebbe Campus Center. Shahzad Ali Malik, Guard CEO and a proud Formanite (Class of '78) "cut the ribbon" for this new facility which also honors his pioneering work in agricultural research that helped revolutionize rice cultivation in Pakistan by introducing hybrid varieties, in turn doubling yields while also boosting Pakistan's earnings from rice exports from under \$300 million to more than \$5 billion in recent years.





After the naming ceremony, Dr. Kauser Abdulla Malik led a personal tour of our KAM School of Life Sciences, showing Shahzad Ali Malik (CEO) and Ghazanfar Ali (Chief, Research & Development) the Armacost Science Building while also providing insight into our research facilities; in addition, they were able to discuss potential future areas of cooperation, perhaps including not only rice but also wheat and cotton.

Forman's Advancement Office reports that "Old Formanite" Dr. Riaz Hussain who taught for many years at Scranton University in Pennsylvania has contributed another \$100,000 toward the Noor Hussain and Barkat Bibi and Syed Shafi and Zubaida Begum Endowment Fund. Thanks also to Donor Relations Officer Roshni Das who has maintained regular contact and produced periodic reports on how this fund has been used to support scholarships for Forman students.



Very sadly, in this issue of the *Rector's Update* I must report the sudden and unexpected passing of Osama Khan Sherwani, a Forman graduate who left a strong mark, not only as a journalist and anchorperson covering political affairs, social issues and breaking news but also as a friend and encourager to the many people whose lives he touched along the way.

## MEDIA OUTREACH

I appreciate it when our faculty and staff appear on local television channels or write for the popular news media, viewing it as an opportunity to further spread the "Forman story" to diverse audiences.

Several recent examples include a touching article by Sadia Kamran, Chair of Forman's Department of Visual and Performing Arts, on "Unblossomed Flowers" in *Express Tribune* (<https://share.google/I23BPoqMqDHNN24M8>); she also contributed another article, also in *Express Tribune*, on art and design education in Pakistan ([https://share.google?link=https://tribune.com.pk/story/2562452/rethinking-art-and-design-education-in-pakistan&utm\\_source=igadl&utm\\_medium=igatpd&utm\\_campaign=share-sdl-iga-3p](https://share.google?link=https://tribune.com.pk/story/2562452/rethinking-art-and-design-education-in-pakistan&utm_source=igadl&utm_medium=igatpd&utm_campaign=share-sdl-iga-3p))



Dr. Farid Malik was interviewed as part of a *Special TV* podcast on Pakistan's gold resources: <https://youtu.be/KI1TIPIUAfc?si=cgsdBjAnOwU9AD8J>. Also, one of his op-eds recently appeared in the daily *Minute Mirror*: <https://minutemirror.com.pk/creating-space-for-the-public-422539/>

In addition, he published another article, also in the *Minute Mirror*, this one on the glory days of cricket and hockey in Pakistan, among other things, noting that prior to the high-altitude Mexico City Olympic Games in 1968 Pakistan's national hockey team trained in Gharial in the Murree Hills. As it happens, I was a ten-year-old student at nearby Murree Christian School at the time and watched with admiration some of Pakistan's future hockey greats practicing on that field -- a few weeks later the team travelled to Mexico City where they won the

Olympic Gold Medal!



Meanwhile, Associate Dean for Student Affairs Kamil Shamsad was part of an engaging interview on the television channel *Lahore Rang*, focusing on how extracurricular activities contribute to education: <https://youtu.be/keLM-uu6xk?si=eHfNHgrHnbxrJwE>



## VISITORS AND NEW ARRIVALS



I am very pleased to welcome Dr. Hee Sook Song from South Korea as Forman's new Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, joining Dr. Trimble and Dr. Gloria at the center of the academic heart of our university.

I missed the opportunity last month to highlight the visit of 10 psychology students and two faculty members from Handong Global University (HGU) in South Korea during the second half of July, mostly because I was away at the time. As I subsequently learned, the group spent two weeks on our campus to develop an AI Chatbot in multiple languages to use for counselling. Initial interviews with 15 FCCU students followed by discussions with 32 other individuals (including widows and orphans from All Saints Church in Peshawar) also helped shape this initiative. Thanks especially to Dr. Matthew and the Christian Trauma Care and Research Center that is part of the FCCU/TSA partnership for making this visit possible.



Let me also express my personal thanks and appreciation to Dr. David Renwick, Chair of the Friends of Forman Board, for spending most of what turned out to be a very hot summer on the Forman campus, teaching a well-received four-week course on *Prayer in the Old Testament* to more than twenty of our Christian Studies students. At the end of his teaching program, he was joined by his wife Currie and daughter Mairi, providing an opportunity for all three of them to fly to Skardu and see something of Pakistan's magnificent Northern Areas.

I was also pleased and honored to welcome the new US Consul General Stetson Sanders to the Forman campus. Having previously served in Islamabad, he is already very familiar with Pakistan. He was accompanied by Raquel King-Nicudemus, Public Engagement Officer at the US Consulate in Lahore.

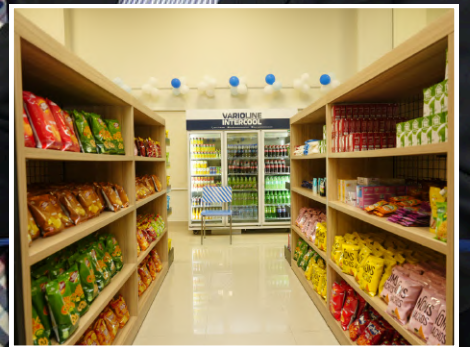




OTHER NEWS



August 25 marked the long-awaited official opening of the Forman Shop (Campus Store @ FCCU), located on the ground floor of the Jim Tebbe Campus Center. Products for sale include FCCU souvenirs and branded items as well as snacks, drinks, stationary and other products. A special shoutout to Store Manager Numan Hadayat as well as many others in Purchase, IT, B&W, Inventory, Operations, Finance and elsewhere for making this day possible!





# FRIENDS LIBRARY

Once again the start of the new academic year was preceded by a Faculty Retreat organized by our Center for Learning and Teaching in which Dr. Rukhsana Zia and Dr. Mehwish Raza play key roles. As I have observed, this year's program involving nearly 300 of our university faculty ranks among the "best ever" and included panels by leading educationists including Dr. Ali Cheema, Vice Chancellor of LUMS.







Also, Dr. Douglas Trimble as FCCU's Vice Rector for Academic Affairs organized two important sessions, one on Academic Freedom and another on the ethics of academic publishing, for the latter drawing on work conducted by the American University of Beirut that highlights growing concerns in this area, made worse by an emphasis on quantity (measured by the number of academic articles published) rather than quality (measured by the depth of analysis and the impact of such articles).

The Faculty Retreat was followed a few days later by a Senior Academic Leadership Retreat, again organized to prepare for the new academic year.





Thanks to our Career Services & Internships Office headed by Adnan Ilyas for placing approximately 500 Forman students in internships with various partner organizations over the past year. In recognition of those partners, the Office will host an Appreciation Ceremony on September 2 in honor of those organizations which participated in the program.

Head of Advising Dr. Atiq-ur-Rehman reports that his office launched the "first-ever Freshman Advising Quiz Competition" as part of this year's Freshman Advising Workshop to promote awareness while fostering a sense of collaboration among our Faculty Advisors. Themes covered included the meaning of a Liberal Arts education; approaches to advising; degree and general education requirements; academic policies; artificial intelligence; and counselling.



Forman's School of Management arranged a Workshop on Smart-PLS and AI for Research Excellence on August 25. The all-day event was led by trainer Dr. Khawaja Fawad Latif and was designed to enhance research design, analysis and interpretation among faculty, post-graduate scholars, research professionals and industry analysis.

Thanks to Major Kanwal who heads our Office of Occupational Health & Safety for elevating health and safety concerns across the campus. This month that included working with HR to arrange an Emergency Preparedness and Safety Training Class for Faculty and Staff.

In addition, Mercy Health Center partnered with Rescue 1122 to deliver a two-day session on Basic Life Support and First Aid as part of an effort to further cultivate a cadre of campus first responders to help deal with emergency situations.





I am pleased to report that our Grade 10 Light of Hope School students did well on their end-of-year Matric Exams, achieving a 100 percent pass rate. The male and female "toppers" in the graduating class each exceeded 1,000 out of a possible 1,100 marks. Also, the seven girls taking the test achieved one A plus and four A's while the five boys achieved three A pluses. A special thanks to Principal Furry George and other members of her team for their contributions in maintaining Light of Hope as yet another "center of excellence" on our campus.



Thanks also to Dr. Farzand Masih and his colleagues in the Church Relations Office for organizing this year's Summer Coaching Class for prospective students from minority backgrounds. Among other things, this year's program included a visit to the Bible Museum near Anarkali for 170 students who found the various historical artifacts including a replica of the "Cyrus Cylinder" especially interesting.



Once again, a special word of appreciation to Computer Science Professor Dr. Sidra Minhas for organizing Forman's PecoDrop program, a worthy effort to promote recycling on campus: [www.pecodrop.com](http://www.pecodrop.com). Fiona and I have begun dropping off our discarded plastic bottles at various PecoDrop collection points and we hope that others living and working on the Forman campus will begin to do so as well!

Our 2024-2030 *Strategic Plan* continues to be on my mind, in part because of the recently concluded 13-page assessment of progress made during the first full year of that Strategy. If any readers of the *Rector's Update* would like a copy, I would be happy to share it with them. Also, I was pleased to see that the Information Technology (IT) Office headed by Anthony Richards used both the *Strategic Plan* and the first-year assessment report during their recent office retreat, working to develop their own Departmental Strategy based on that document.



As part of this year's Independence Day celebrations I participated in three different events. First, I joined Chief of Staff Eileen Dass and colleagues from our FCCU Campus Services Team to plant several trees on campus -- the first of more than 1,300 trees slated to be planted at Forman this financial year under the slogan "Green Pakistan, Green FCCU".



Second, I participated in an Independence Day celebration organized by our University Sports Department outside the Lucas Center that included speeches, a martial arts display, a tree-planting and cake-cutting ceremony and a traditional flag-raising event followed by the launch of green and white balloons.





Third, I joined in the Independence Day celebrations organized by Col. Khaqan and members of his Security team on the morning of August 14, starting with a flag-raising ceremony outside Sinclair Hall and continuing with a program inside Sinclair Hall involving speeches and a wide range of musical performances including contributions by the Light of Hope School Choir, College Choir and others. *Pakistan Zindabad!*





## A TIME FOR MOURNING

Finally, as this month's *Rector's Update* concludes, we mourn the loss of three "giants", each associated with Forman in a number of ways:

First, we learned of the passing of Lord Swaraj Paul, a Forman graduate and recipient of the Distinguished Formanite Award. Born in Jalandhar (Punjab) in 1931, he was a noted British business magnate, philanthropist, and life peer in the House of Lords, serving for a time as Deputy Speaker. He was also the recipient of many awards and honors including honorary degrees from 15 universities in the UK, US, India, Russia and Switzerland. His books included *Beyond Boundaries: A Memoir*, published by Penguin Books in 1998.

Following his early education at Forman, Lord Paul earned a degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, returning to India to work for the family business before relocating to England in the 1960s where he founded the Caparo Group. A highly successful business magnate, he was later listed by the *Sunday Times* as the "38th richest person in Britain" though he claimed to take public transportation in London "like everybody else".

In addition to holding many public positions, Lord Paul was well known for his philanthropy including his support for a family foundation named after his daughter Ambika who had died of leukemia. For example, he was Honorary Patron of the Zoological Society of London and funded a number of major projects including the Ambika Paul Children's Zoo. He also took an active interest in international affairs, having been appointed by the UK government to act as an Ambassador for British Business from 1998 until 2010. In addition, was heavily involved in bringing the Summer Olympic Games to London in 2012.





Second, we received news that Dr. Parvez Samuel Din who taught in the Forman English Department from 1968 to 1981 and then again from 2003 to 2010 has passed away. Having retired to Asheville (North Carolina), he visited FCCU earlier this year and was delighted to see Forman flourishing. Regarded as an excellent basketball player while at Forman, he also played an important role as Associate Director for Academic Affairs, working with Dr. Peter Armacost during the immediate post-denationalization period. Remarkably, his former students during the early years in which he taught English at Forman included Dr. Kamal, Dr. Sufian and Anthony Richards.





Third, as we finalized this newsletter we received the sad news that Dr. Peter Armacost, our first post-denationalization Rector, has passed away. Born in 1935, Dr. Armacost was President Emeritus of two institutions of higher learning: Forman Christian College in Pakistan (2002-2012) and Eckerd College in Florida (1977-2000). In between these posts he served as senior advisor to the Council of Independent Colleges (2001-2003). He also spent 10 years at Ottawa University in Kansas where he served as president and professor of psychology.

If Dr. Charles Forman was the founder of our institution in 1864, Dr. Peter Armacost was the architect of its renewal and "second birth" following denationalization in 2004. Under his visionary leadership as the first post-denationalization Rector, Dr. Armacost's enduring impact is visible across all aspects of Forman and his legacy will continue for a long time to come.

Many members of our faculty and staff were hired during Dr. Armacost's tenure as Rector and served under him; some were students as well, benefitting from his commitment to strengthen the academic side of our institution. Supported by his wife Mary-Linda, both reflected the caring face of Forman, embodying our enduring motto: *"By Love Serve One Another"*.

I also want to take this opportunity to personally express my thanks, gratitude and deep appreciation for the life of Dr. Armacost and all that he contributed to our institution, touching thousands of lives -- indeed we would not exist in our current form without his life of dedication, commitment and service and we will always remember, appreciate and remain grateful for his many contributions: *"Truly a giant has fallen"*.

Our empathy, condolences and prayers go out especially to Mary-Linda and the rest of Dr. Armacost's family at this time. While we will want to mark and celebrate Dr. Armacost's life and legacy in other ways during the coming weeks, for now I want to extend my deepest sympathies to the Armacost family while also acknowledging with thanks and gratitude the many ways in which Dr. Armacost's life of service has blessed all of us.



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