



FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

Rector's Update

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



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This edition of the *Rector's Update* is being written from the Forest Home Retreat Center in the beautiful San Bernardino mountains near Los Angeles where I am attending the biannual Friends of Forman Board Meeting, chaired by David Renwick and including Roger Dermody, Executive Director, both of whom know Forman well.

As always, let me express my deep appreciation for the many ways that Friends contributes to our institution, mostly notably with respect to support for scholarships and capital projects such as the Jim Tebbe Campus Center and the Center for Biblical Training and Research (CBTR); Board members also contribute in a variety of ways including Dr. Jim Appleton, former president of nearby Redlands University who continues to make his counsel and expertise available to us on a range of matters including accreditation. Work aside, one highlight was to see a brown bear amble across the path of the Forest Home Retreat Center while we were eating breakfast!



Returning to Lahore for a moment, I appreciated the opportunity to attend the closing ceremony at Pakistan's Civil Service Academy marking the completion of a month-long enrichment program focused on aspiring minority candidates for the Civil Service exam. Approximately 40 students from Pakistan's Christian and Hindu communities participated, some of them from FCCU.

I also appreciated the opportunity to join in a certificate distribution ceremony on October 7 for participants in the *Soliya Connect Program*, implemented and organized by Dr. Atiq-ur-Rehman. Part of a global engagement initiative, the purpose of the program is to connect students from classrooms around the world while also developing empathy and understanding as participants engage, share and learn from each other.



In addition, we were honored to have Bank of Punjab CEO (and Forman graduate) Zafar Masud visit Forman to present to a full house of students, faculty, staff and visitors his new book *Seat 1C: A Survivor's Tale of Hope, Resilience and Renewal*, a remarkable account of his experience as one of only two survivors of the PIA air crash in Karachi in April 2020 that left 98 others dead.



While the book provides a moving account of that tragedy, much of it details his reflections in the months that followed, culminating with the challenge that all of us should surely confront at one time or another in our own lives: if you had thirty seconds left to live, what would you do with those final thirty seconds; how would you want your life to be remembered; and which loved ones would you think of first?



Finally, let me take a moment to honor the memory of police officer Shahzad Nawaz who completed his BS (Hons) in Political Science from FCCU in 2011 and recently made the ultimate sacrifice in service of his country. As one friend commented on Facebook, quoting an Urdu poem, "You left but your fragrance remains; your smile, your words, the light of your eyes, still shining in the mirror of the heart". I sometimes mention to external audiences that the history of Forman is interwoven with that of Pakistan -- as this tragic incident suggests, those connections are very real and continue into the present day.



ACADEMIC NEWS

Congratulations to Adeel Khalid, Lecturer in Forman's English Department, on receiving his PhD in English Linguistics from the International Islamic University in Islamabad, having completed his dissertation on *Digital Multimodal Composition in an English Language Classroom: Pedagogy, Evaluation and Practicum in Pakistan*. While working on his dissertation, he attended academic conferences in the UK, US, and the Netherlands. Publications include a forthcoming chapter in a book on *Digital Multimodal Composition* published by Routledge (UK).



Congratulations also to Zubda Zia from Forman's Center for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG) who successfully defended her PhD dissertation on *the Role of the Gender Dividend in Minimizing the Socio-Economic Costs through Public Policy Reforms: The Case of Punjab*.



Maryam Khan from Forman's Management School has been invited to serve as a judge for the Women in Management "Top Fifty" Global Awards 2025 in Colombo (Sri Lanka). Having been the recipient of the same award in 2023, her participation as a judge is especially meaningful; joining with many others from around the world, she will also have an opportunity to attend the Global Economic Forum held at the same time.





Dean of Natural Sciences Dr. Hassan Amir Shah joined Associate Professor Dr. Laila Zafar Kahlon and PhD candidate Ammarah Sheikh in attending the *Asia Pacific Conference on Plasma Physics*, held this year in Fukuoka (Japan).

Dr. Farid Malik presented his paper on *Large Scale Gasification of Thar Coal in Pakistan* at the Pittsburgh Energy & Carbon Management Conference, this year held in Beijing on October 23. Dr. Farid's paper was the only entry from Pakistan.



Forman's Kauser Abdulla Malik School of Life Sciences organized a conference on October 22 focused on *Climate Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Pakistan*, purposefully aligning it with World Food Day 2025 while also providing a forum for meaningful discussion on food systems and climate resilience.



Forman's Environmental Sciences Department organized a seminar on October 25 titled *Pakistan's Readiness for Carbon Markets under the Paris Agreement: Unlocking Opportunities through Article 6 for Academia*. Part of the UN Environment Program, the seminar discussed the fundamentals of carbon markets with a particular focus on Pakistan's climate policy.



Forman's Faculty of Humanities in partnership with Oslo Metropolitan University and the Media Climate Network organized *Climate Journalism Workshop 2025* under the title *Climate Narratives a Decade After Paris Agreement: Teaching, Training and Telling Stories of Change*, bringing together journalists, academics, and postgraduate students to the Forman campus from Lahore and beyond. The workshop was moderated by Associate Mass Communication Professor Dr. Syed Muhammad Saqib Saleem who noted that "*climate communication must move beyond crisis reporting to stories that empower communities to act*".





Partnering with the German Academic Exchange Service, the Forman International Education and Global Engagement Office of Student Affairs organized an informative session on October 31 on *Opportunities for Higher Studies in Germany*.

Looking ahead, readers of the *Rector's Update* may want to mark on their calendars the *Fourth International Conference on Education (Re)imagining) and Re(forming) Education: Navigating the New Educational Frontier*, scheduled to take place on February 13-14 2026. Abstract submissions are due by December 25, 2025 and the registration deadline is January 25, 2026: [Link for the abstract template](#) and [Link for abstract submission](#)

GUEST SPEAKERS

Forman's History and Pakistan Studies Department sponsored a talk by historian, columnist and public intellectual Professor Dr. Tahir Kamran, head of the Department of Liberal Arts at Beaconhouse National University (BNU), on his latest book *Chequered Past, Uncertain Future: The History of Pakistan*.

Forman's English Department hosted another session as part of *The Writer's Lounge Series* on October 23, this time featuring Lahore-based author Arslan Athar whose books include *Forty Days of Mourning* and *Partition After 1947: The Story of Hyderabad through Fiction*.

Forman's Geography Department hosted a guest lecture on *Geospatial Artificial Intelligence*, delivered by Dr. Adeel Ahmad, Assistant Professor of Geography at the University of Punjab. Areas covered include GIS, Remote Sensing, Google Earth Engine, and Machine Learning, among other topics.

In addition, Forman's Geography Department celebrated *National Resilience Day* on October 9, starting with a five-minute documentary paying tribute to the Pakistan Armed Forces, National Disaster Management Authority and Provincial Disaster Management Authority for their efforts in responding to and mitigating the impact of natural disasters in Pakistan since 2005. This was followed by an interactive session conducted by guest speaker Dr. Nausheen Mazhar, Geography Department Chair at the Lahore College for Women.



FIELD TRIPS AND INTERNSHIPS

As readers of the *Rector's Update* are well aware, I welcome it when our students are able to expand their horizons beyond the four walls of Forman while also gaining valuable hands-on experience. Examples of such field trips this month include the Chemistry Department field trip to Service Industries on October 2, led by Dr. Shazma Massey Azeem, Dr. Hina Qamar and Dr. Mariya Al Rashida.



Similarly, Forman's Center for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG) as part of its academic program for MPhil Public Policy students arranged a visit led by Dr. Rabia Chaudhry to the Punjab Assembly on October 6, touring the facilities and meeting with various Members of the Punjab Assembly. Highlights included a detailed orientation to both the old and new Assembly buildings, providing valuable practical exposure to how policy making and governance processes work in practice.



Also, the Linguistic Program within Forman's English Department arranged a field trip to the *Punjab Forensic Science Agency* on October 23, providing a unique opportunity to students to explore the intersection of language, communications, and forensic investigation, illustrating how linguistic analysis contributes to the pursuit of justice. This innovative field trip was organized by two members of our English faculty members, Dr. Adeel Khalid and Professor Alvina Wasim.



As regards the College, the student-led Tycoons Club arranged a trip for its members to visit the Lahore Chamber of Commerce on October 9, providing practical exposure to the workings of an important business institution. Intermediate students were warmly welcomed and the program included a tour, briefing on the functions and activities of the Chamber, and a question-and-answer period: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pns8wPAA6sGJKSaZnBG5P_9wTHQXaASs



(Parenthetically, as an indication of a particularly active October, the College Tycoons Club also celebrated International Teacher's Day in a thoughtful and inspiring way, greeting the Vice Rector and conducting short interviews with teachers to learn more about their own academic journeys while also noting that "A teacher takes a hand, opens a mind, and touches a heart": https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lrozpv20SRVxs8pHKMWjWipoTbUpchXT/view?usp=drive_link)



And, to mention yet one more example, the Career Services & Internships Office in coordination with Associate Professor Dr. Asher Ramish from Forman's Management School organized a visit to Orient Electronics, providing students with an opportunity to witness the intersection of technology, innovation and industrial excellence as part of a broader effort to "bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world industrial practices".



Forman's Career Services & Internships Office also partnered with the School of Management to organize an insightful session titled *From Classroom to Boardroom: What Young Professionals Must Know About Workplace Culture and Expectations*. Facilitated by Assistant Professor Faiza Tasneem, the program featured guest speaker Muhammad Faisal Latif, HR head for the Dolmen Group.



In addition, the Career Services & Internships Office hosted a session of the *Suno TV Talent Hunt* aimed at recruiting creative individuals for key roles in the digital media industry. More than 45 students from diverse academic backgrounds participated, providing an opportunity to assess their creative, communication, on-camera and other skills as potential digital anchors, content creators, researchers and graphic designers.



Finally, a special thanks to Dr. Ayra Indrias Patras from Forman's Political Science Department for working with the Election Commission of Pakistan to place several Forman students including Paria Anjum, Faran Feroz, Muhammad Shahzad and Gohar Shabib on three-month internships with the Election Commission.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The Forman Psychological Services Center (FPSC) continues to offer a number of workshops including one on *Assessment and Management of Non-Suicidal Self-Harm*, led by Forman Associate Psychology Professor Dr. Saima Majeed; several attendees came from other Lahore area universities and organizations, highlighting the importance of this sensitive yet significant area of clinical practice.



Other recent FPSC programs include a webinar on October 25 on *Understanding Cultural Conditioning and Emotional Freedom*, organized by Umul Baneen Rizwan, Lecturer and Clinical Psychologist. Similarly, Clinical Psychologist M. Munib ur Rehman conducted a webinar on October 18 on *Mental Health in Men: A Cultural Reflection on Autonomy and Emotional Wellbeing*.

Meanwhile, the Campus Counseling Center organized a timely workshop at the start of the Fall Semester on *Finding Your Footing: Adjusting to Campus Life*.



In addition, Forman's Mercy Health Center in partnership with the Forman Women Empowerment Society and Shaukat Khanum Memorial Hospital organized a *Breast Cancer Awareness Seminar* on October 20, spreading awareness about the importance of early detection as well as the fight against breast cancer more broadly.



SPORTS UPDATE



The University Sports Department in partnership with the Forman Sports Society successfully hosted *Azaadi Sports Fest 2025*, organized to commemorate Pakistan's 78th Independence Day while also highlighting a spirit of sportsmanship, unity, discipline and achievement. Six competitive sports were included in the program: basketball, cricket, futsal, table tennis, volleyball and, for the first time, teqball.



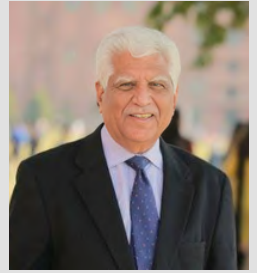
The College Sports Department organized the Intramural Cricket Championship for 2025 from September 29 through October 3. Sixteen teams participated, with the Humanities Tigers in the end prevailing over the Newton Titans.

MEDIA OUTREACH



Congratulations to Dean of Humanities Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan who has been asked by *Lahore News*, an affiliate of *Dunya News*, to appear on their morning talk show twice each month to talk about educational issues.

Thanks also to Dr. Saeed Shafqat for his article in the *Friday Times*: <https://www.thefridaytimes.com/10-Oct-2025/technology-causing-chaos-transforming-world-order>



In addition, Dr. Shakila Noor Sindhu, Head of Forman's Political Science Department, was featured in an October 2 interview with *Lahore Rang*: <https://youtu.be/S-pKF-FY4KA?si=E8RnSBpZAYsi8ISs>



Meanwhile, Dr. Samina Mehnaz from the KAM School of Life Sciences was featured in an October interview on PTV Home: <https://youtu.be/4-O24OKmmQE?si=IX-tQj9CzQoVP5yG>

Also, Dr. Firasat Jabeen's TEDx interview that took place in May now appears on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tH9kLmMbvbA>. A former Fulbright scholar, Dr. Firasat serves as Chair of FCCU's Mass Communication Department.



Dr. Farid Malik continues to publish in a number of popular media outlets including the *Minute Mirror*: <https://minutemirror.com.pk/rise-and-fall-of-soes-441455/>; <https://minutemirror.com.pk/reko-diq-the-game-changer-444900/>; <https://minutemirror.com.pk/restoring-merit-445577/>; <https://minutemirror.com.pk/reko-diq-gold-reserves-surge-but-pakistan-risks-repeating-mistakes-421396/>; <https://minutemirror.com.pk/national-standards-the-pathway-to-development-449139/>; <https://minutemirror.com.pk/disaster-of-imported-fuel-plants-446548/>; <https://minutemirror.com.pk/benefitting-from-our-mineral-wealth-446551/>; and <https://minutemirror.com.pk/positive-investment-in-land-of-pure-443812/>



ADVANCEMENT AND ALUMNI UPDATE



Forman's Alumni Board chaired by Bob Din met on October 10 with discussion centering on scholarships as well as the upcoming Alumni Reunion, scheduled for early 2026.

A special thanks for the latest contribution toward scholarships involving Forman students majoring in Computer Science by Najeeb Ghauri who lives in the US but visits Lahore from time to time. A proud Forman graduate, Najeeb is Chairman and CEO of Netsol Technologies, Pakistan's first IT company to be listed on NASDAQ.



Thanks also to Dr. Peter David, another "Old Formanite", who has contributed one million rupees annually since 2003 to Forman's scholarship fund. A Senior Partner at the Kenton Clinic in Middlesex (UK), Dr. Peter is also an Honorary Senior Lecturer at Kings College Medical School in London.

Forman's Advancement and Alumni Office recently provided details on what has been a very successful 2024-2025 financial year in terms of fundraising. In particular,

PKR 204.8 million

was raised from within Pakistan for scholarships allocated to Forman students.

While generous alumni provided much of this amount, I am pleased to note that at least 216 individual Forman faculty and staff contributed, raising more than

PKR 5 million

in scholarship funding. For further information, feel free to contact advancement@fccollege.edu.pk.



As for recent Alumni News, congratulations to FCCU Biotechnology graduate Samrina Hussain who is now pursuing her PhD at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark, embarking on an academic program that also includes conducting research at Cambridge University in the UK.



OTHER NEWS



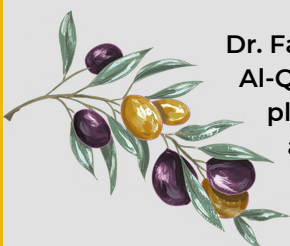
A special note of appreciation to Chee Wah, a cyber security specialist from Singapore who has worked closely with Chief Information Officer Anthony Richards and his team to assess, identify gaps and make recommendations related to cyber security tools, policies and processes. Forman is fortunate that it has friends around the world who are able and willing to contribute in this fashion and on an entirely voluntary basis, in this case further strengthening our IT security. Thank you, Chee Wah!

A warm welcome to Zainab Humayan Sanik who recently joined FCCU as the new Head of Admissions, bringing with her valuable experience learned while holding a similar position at Beaconhouse National University (BNU) in Lahore.



Forman's Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) reports that it has filed two patent applications with Pakistan's International Property Organization (IPO), one involving a smart edible paper for food packaging using Betalains from Red Beetroot and the other involving a smart edible paper for packaging pH responsive food materials. Both Dr. Iqbal ul Haq and Dr. Bilal Sadiq from the Kauser Abdulla Malik School of Life Sciences contributed to this work while Ayesha Aslam at ORIC assisted in submitting the patents.

Thanks to the lead role played by Forman's Business Incubation Center (BIC) as well as ORIC, Forman has just become the only university in Pakistan to achieve recognition as an Authorized University Provider by the Global Innovation Institute, setting the stage for further training, certification and collaboration with industry.



Dr. Farid Malik informed me that fifty olive trees were recently planted at Al-Qadir University near Jhelum, following in the footsteps of FCCU which planted fifty olive trees in 2024; both universities can now claim to have among the largest olive plantations in Punjab! Typically newly planted olive trees start to bear fruit after five years.



Light of Hope principal Furry George reports that Light of Hope students participated in the SMETA Visual Art Olympiad for the second year, resulting in a Silver medal for Ryan George (Grade 8) for exceptional artistic expression and Bronze medals for Shekainah Iqbal (Grade 8) and Danyah Joseph (Grade 2) for their artistic contributions focused on the theme "Beauty of Nature".



As might be expected, we continue to receive tributes from across the world recalling Dr. Peter Armacost and his many contributions to Forman over the years. Among those tributes is a recent e-mail from Adeel Riaz, now in the UK, who attended Forman starting in 2003 as part of the first batch of post-denationalization undergraduates and later served Forman as head of our Advancement and Alumni Office. As Adeel commented, *"Everybody who has been in contact with Dr. Armacost can never forget the visionary leadership as well as the compassionate wisdom of this great man of God"*.



Dr. Armacost's historic contributions to FCCU were further highlighted by countless others at a Celebration of Life Service held at Sinclair Hall on October 9 and involving more than 600 guests from Forman and beyond, further affirming Dr. Armacost's enduring legacy as well as the pivotal role that he played in the rebirth, renewal and transformation of Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) following denationalization.

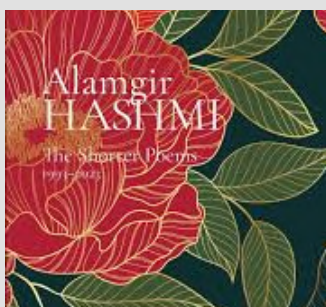
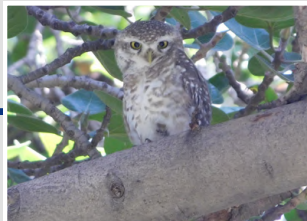
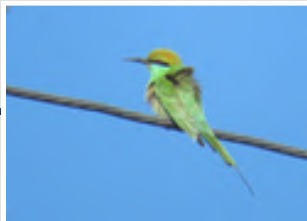


FINAL PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

I was delighted that our visitors this month included Dr. Daniel Segar who grew up on the Forman campus during the time his father served as a doctor at nearby United Christian Hospital (UCH). At least four other UCH families shared in this experience including not only the Segar family but also the Ritzes, Dunlaps and Bowes, Dr. Bowes having undertaken the first open heart surgery ever conducted in Pakistan. Dr. Segar himself later became a doctor, now lives in Oregon, and was in Pakistan to attend a medical conference. For my part, I appreciated the fact that he took the time to visit our campus twice, evoking many memories.

In addition to meeting with members of the Forman community including some of our "freshies", he walked the campus many times, met several Light of Hope students and attended Friday chapel. Reflecting on his visit, Dr. Segar noted that *"The FCCU campus is full of life and the future is very bright here. I look forward to sharing my experience with close and extended family"*.

Many readers of the *Rector's Update* are aware that the Forman campus is a "birder's paradise", with Fiona often taking photos and commenting on her latest observations. She recently shared one of her photos with another Lahorite with similar interests who quickly commented: *"You have some species which one hardly sees anywhere like the Munias and this Black Redstart,"* adding *"You could have FCCU registered as a reserve area; it's really amazing the diversity you have in a little area!"*



Given my interest in history, readers of the Rector's Report will not be surprised if I mention that the late Alamgir Hashmi's book *The Shorter Poems 1993-2023* has just been published in London. Remarkably, Alamgir Hashmi -- recognized by such major poets as Richard Wilbur, Anthony Hecht, Donald Hall, William Stafford and Ted Hughes and regarded as one of Pakistan's foremost poets to write primarily in English -- once taught at Forman! *World Literature* recently also published a favorable review of this collection of poems: <https://worldliteraturetoday.org/2025/july/shorter-poems-1993-2023-alamgir-hashmi>.



On a different matter entirely, I was invited during October to participate in the Mongolia Society's 2025 Annual Conference in Washington, DC featuring all ten US ambassadors who have served in that country since diplomatic relations were first established in 1987 -- seven of them participated in person and three including myself joined on-line; this was a rare and even historic event, providing an unexpected opportunity to reflect on various developments which during my own tenure as US Ambassador to Mongolia (2009-2012) included visits by then-Vice President Joe Biden and then-Secretary of State Hilary Clinton, one of whom later became president and the other of whom later ran for president but lost.



DR. JONATHAN S. ADDLETON
RECTOR