



FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

Rector's Update

The latest news and announcements from Dr. Jonathan Addleton



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This month's edition of the *Rector's Update* is being written from Saudi Arabia where I am leading an eight-person accreditation team from the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE), here to assess Effat University in Jeddah. Fellow team members are from universities situated in three countries on three continents.

Just prior to leaving for Jeddah, I signed three Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) including one with the Orange Tree Foundation to provide scholarships for Forman students and a second with NETSOL to provide training in AI, cybersecurity, and other IT-related topics to up to 40 students from our Computer Science Department.

In addition, it was a delight to welcome French Ambassador Nicolas Galey to our campus on January 23 to sign an MOU to strengthen French language training at Forman. A special thanks to Ruth Park, Korean Instructor and Head of the Forman Language Center, for working with colleagues to make this partnership with the Alliance Francais possible.



Later that same day (and just before I departed for Saudi Arabia) I also attended a reception at the Sir Ganga Ram House, organized to honor Forman alumni Mr. Shaukat Hassan (CEO MAS Group and Chairman Hi-Tech Lubricants Ltd), with one of France's most distinguished national honors, the *Ordre national du Mérite*, by the French Republic. The decoration was bestowed by H.E. Mr. Nicolas Galey, Ambassador of France to Pakistan, in recognition of Mr. Shaukat Hassan's sustained leadership and contributions to enhancing cultural, educational, and economic cooperation between France and Pakistan, notably through his roles with the Pakistan France Business Alliance and the Alliance Française de Lahore. Not surprisingly, I met many other Forman graduates that evening including Major General Iftikhar Ali, Mr. Noor ul Amin, Dr. Amir Malik, Mr. Abid Askari, Mr. Abdul Basit, Col. Moeen Ud Din, Mr. Muhammad Ali Hassan, Mr. Dawood Barry, Ms. Babar, and Mr. Najam Hafeez.



ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

The latest issue of the *Forman Journal of Economic Studies* (Volume 21/Issue 2) is now available. Topics covered range from US monetary policy in Africa to cashless economies, fossil fuel subsidies to the impact of e-government on economic growth.



Also, the latest issue of the *Forman Journal of Business and Innovation* (Volume 1/Issue 2) is now available and features five scholarly contributions as well as two case studies from various institutions including not only Forman but also Kinnaird College, University of Management & Technology and Muhammad Ali Jinnah University. Issues addressed include supply chain management in the Pharmaceutical industry; green engagement in Pakistan's service sector; and Artificial Intelligence.

Associate History Professor Saadia Sumbal's article "Prisoners as Convict Labor and Canal Colonization in Punjab, 1872-1933" was recently published in the *Journal of Sikh and Punjab Studies*, issued by the Global Institute for Sikh Studies based in New York.



English Lecturer Dr. Adeel Khalid's article "Narratives Across Media: Cultural and Structural Transformations in Literary Adaptations for Screen" was recently published in the *Wah Academic Journal of Social Sciences* 4(2), an HEC recognized journal (Y category).

In addition, he presented a paper on "Voices from the Periphery: Punjabi Poetry, Resistance and Anti-Colonial Nationalism" at the 53rd Annual Conference on South Asia organized in Fall 2025 by the University of Wisconsin's Center for South Asia in Madison, Wisconsin.

Shahida Dilawar Shah has written her third Urdu novel. Titled *Ghair Matboo Jeevan* (غیر مطبوعہ جیون), it was published in India by Matterlink, making it available to readers in Delhi and Lucknow.



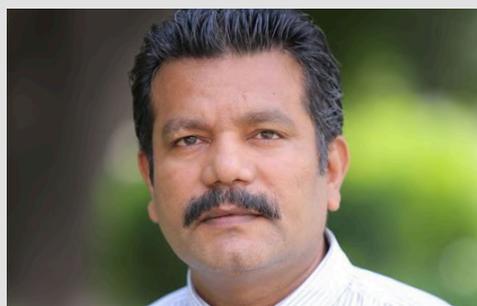
Seven FCCU MPhil students (Areen Ansari, Areena Zaman Bodla, Aisha Khan, Haidar Ihsan Dewar, Hamza Ashfaq, Syeda Maham Fatima, and Wareesha Batool Qureshi) had their research papers published in *Social Communications* as part of a special issue on "Shapes of Dystopia" issued by the University of Information Technology and Management in Poland.



The papers were written under the supervision of Dr. Qurratulaen Liaqat, Associate English Professor and Postgraduate Studies Coordinator, as part of her course on *Dystopian Fiction* offered in Fall 2024. As she notes, she is "super proud" of her students for their achievement.

Dr. Keneth Pervaiz, Assistant New Testament Professor in Forman's Religious Studies Department worked with Handong Global University in South Korea to organize an international conference as part of the International Network for Christian Higher Education.

Exploring the theme *Holistic Intelligence in Higher Education: A New Paradigm in the AI Era*, the gathering focused on "how higher education can promote holistic development -- cognitive, spiritual, emotional, and ethical -- as AI technologies continue to reshape learning environments and social structures". In keeping with that focus, Dr. Pervaiz himself presented a paper titled *Theology and Technology: A Biblical Perspective on AI*.



Congratulations to English Lecturer Yousuf Kamran Bhatti who successfully defended his PhD dissertation in English Linguistics from Qurtuba University in Peshawar. Bearing the title "Discursive Construction of Women's Image: A Transitivity Analysis of Zora Neale's *Their Eyes were Watching God* and Ahmed Ali's *Twilight in Delhi*," the research explores female representation within two distinct contexts, one involving a female writer from the American South and the other involving a male author from South Asia

Notably, Dr. Bhatti's PhD journey has included the publication of no less than eight journal articles along the way in journals such as *Journal of Arts and Linguistics Studies* and the *Journal of Positive School Psychology*.

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, AND WORKSHOPS

Dr. Saleem Abbas, Associate Professor in Forman's Mass Communication Department, presented a paper on *"The Korean Wave in Pakistan: How K-Dramas Drive Cultural and Behavioral Shifts"* at the 2026 Annual Conference of the Korean American Communications Association, hosted by the University of Hawaii.



Three faculty members along with seven students participated in a seminar on Emerging Technologies and the Future of Warfare, hosted by the Pakistan Navy War College in late January.



English Chair Dr. Fatima Syeda served as Guest Speaker at a January 21 Seminar organized by the Lahore College for Women University, sharing her thoughts on *Beyond the Weeping Walls: The Evolution of Women's Voice in the Theatre of War*. Her comments focused on Queen Hecuba's character during the Trojan War, as depicted in various plays over time.



Also, Dr. Fatima was invited as Keynote Speaker at the *First International Colloquium on Language and Interdisciplinary Research* held on January 20, sponsored by the University of Management and Technology's Center for Foreign Languages, and attended by Rana Sikandar, Provincial Minister of Education.



Titled *Lexicon in Flux: Language in the Wake of Digital Transformation*, Dr. Fatima's remarks reflected on the transformation of language in a digital world, noting that it has become "more democratically porous yet more insidiously controlled; more creatively expansive yet more ephemeral and unstable; more globally connected yet more prone to fragmentation."

OP-EDS, INTERVIEWS AND OTHER MEDIA APPEARANCES



Several Formanites were interviewed in recent weeks including Dr. Kauser Abdulla Malik, Dean of Postgraduate Studies and Director of ORIC, whose wide ranging comments on Forman, agricultural research and other topics were featured in the January 16 edition of the *Daily Times*.

Meanwhile, Dr. Atiq Ur Rehman, Head of Faculty Advising, was featured on the popular television program *Lahore Rang*.



Associate Sociology Professor Dr. Sara Rizvi delivered a *TedX* Talk on problems facing the elderly in Pakistan, based on an old age home study she had conducted and providing policy recommendations aimed at reducing the gap between generations in Pakistan.



Dr. Farzand Masih, Head of Forman's Church Relations Office, joined with Assistant Professor Arif Allah Rakha on a *Barkat TV* program hosted by Rev. Anees Javed and titled *God is Love*. Much of the discussion focused on Forman College with respect to both its history and current contributions to the Christian community in Pakistan.



Dr. Farid Malik was featured in a recent *television interview*.

As highlighted in previous editions of the *Rector's Update*, Dr. Farid also regularly writes op-eds for *Minute Mirror*; I count at least ten during January including *Missing my University*; *Remembering the Raj*; *My Lahore from 1940 to 2026*; and *Buried wealth of Pakistan*.



Dr. Adeel Ahmad Aamir, Associate Professor in Forman's Department of Mass Communication, also wrote an article for *Minute Mirror*, in this case on Donald Trump's "Pursuit of Greenland".

Meanwhile, Usama Malik wrote a nostalgic piece for *The News* on old Anarkali.



Dr. Zamurrad Awan, Associate Political Science Professor, returned from a five-day academic conference hosted by the American International University Bangladesh (AIUB) in Dhaka, prompting several reflections in *The Nation* including one titled "Post-July Bangladesh" (December 25) and two others titled "Post Awami League" (January 6 and January 7).



As she describes it, "These pieces reflect not only my on-ground experience but also the broader socio-political learning drawn from academic and societal engagement during the visit", noting that academics have a responsibility that extends beyond conference participation to also include translating "knowledge gained" into "informed public discourse".

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Forman's Department of Psychology announced the formal launch of the Forman Psychological Services Center (FPSC), a community-based initiative located on the nearby TSA/FCCU campus near China Chowk.

While members of the Forman community have access to on-campus mental health support, this project aims to extend mental health services to a wider public in three key areas: (1) Therapy and Psychological Support; (2) Workshops and Training Programs; and (3) Community Outreach. For more information, please contact the FPSC by phone (0334-4330049) or e-mail (fpsc@fccollege.edu.pk)

Recent FPSC offerings include a half-day workshop on January 15 on *Motivational Interviewing* led by Dean of Student Affairs and Associate Psychology Professor Dr. Elizabeth Schwaiger.



Also, on January 10 the FPSC organized a webinar titled *Overwhelmed by Over-Thinking: Learn to Shut Down the Mental Noise*, conducted and led by Ms. Momina Yahya, Clinical Psychologist and LUMS Research Assistant.

In addition, the FPSC conducted a *Mental Health Hygiene Awareness* program at the TSA Female Hostel. Organized by Assistant Psychology Professor Dr. Uzma Ashiq and led by Clinical Psychologist Ms. Mahnoor Munawar, the interactive program covered several important topics including self-care, psychological well-being, and emotional resilience.



Finally, under Dr. Matthew's leadership, Forman organized a one-day International Symposium on *Psychosocial Trauma and Its Management in Pakistan*, held on the last day of January at FCCU.

Drawing on his work in dealing with trauma after the All Souls Church Bombing in Peshawar in September 2013 that left many dead, orphaned or widowed, Dr. Mathew has also become a catalyst for the establishment of the Pakistan Society for Traumatic and Stress Studies (PSTSS), linking it to a comparable organization founded in the aftermath of the April 2014 ferry disaster in South Korea that resulted in the death of more than 300 passengers and crew.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND STUDENT SUCCESS

Team 051 from FCCU's Computer Science Department secured the runner-up position at HackX2025, a four-day hackathon hosted by the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) in late December. Team members -- including Saria Mahmood, Ahmed Hamza and Muhammad Shamoon Butt -- presented "LUMEN", a generative AI platform for video-based conversational chatbots.



Eleven FCCU College students represented FCCU at two competitive events hosted under the umbrella of the University of Central Punjab's *Science and Engineering Fest 2026* held on January 7.

First, Team One (Ahmad Salman and Abdullah Javaid) won First Prize and Team Two (Joshua Rang and Usman Ali) won Second Prize in the 3D Model and Project Contest involving a total of 42 teams.

Second, the FCCU team (Manan Saleh, Ibrahim bin Usman and Sohaib Ramazan) won Third Prize in the Maths Treasure Hunt, in this case in a competition involving 53 teams from various institutions and cities in Pakistan.



For the second consecutive year the University Sports Office partnered with Student Affairs to organize a match showcasing the traditional Punjabi sport of Kabaddi. This year's match featured the Sharif Kabaddi Club and the Bhatti Kabaddi Club, with the Sharif Kabaddi Club registering a closely contested 28-24 victory. Held on our main ground, in the words of one of the organizers, "The venue echoed with traditional Punjabi energy, music, and enthusiastic support, capturing the spirit and cultural richness of Kabaddi"



Student athlete Samrose Samrina achieved notable success in basketball at the 35th National Games held in Karachi in December, securing a Silver Medal.



Meanwhile, Kalsoom Khan, another outstanding athlete from Forman, achieved success at those same National Games, in this case winning several medals in Table Tennis including one Gold (Mixed Doubles), one Silver (Team Events), and two Bronzes (for both Singles and Doubles).



Forman exchange student Syed Hassan Abbas Bukhari is making the most of his time at Lingnan University in Hong Kong. Most recently, this includes setting up a booth to represent Pakistan and its culture as part of the university Chinese New Year celebrations. According to Syed, the theme of the cultural booth that he is organizing is "By Love, Serve Pakistan!"

ALUMNI NEWS

A special shout out to Hasaan Mansoor who received his Bachelor's and Master's degree in Psychology from Forman and now serves as an Assistant Psychologist with the National Health Service in the UK.



I was delighted to hear from Forman graduate Dr. Adnan Rasool who serves as Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Tennessee in Martin. He also serves as an External Examiner for Forman PhD students and most recently donated the Honorarium ordinarily provided to such academic referees directly to the Forman scholarship fund.

OTHER NEWS

Associate Environmental Studies Professor Dr. Shinho Chung who also heads Forman's Water Analysis Center reports that our Environmental Laboratory Certification was just signed by Punjab's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The certification process started last spring and involved a detailed look at the equipment, staffing, processes, and standard operating procedures provided by the Center. Most importantly, the certification formally recognizes the Center as an authorized laboratory for testing drinking water in Punjab and making the results of those tests available for communities, government agencies, NGOs, and research institutions.

Dr. Noel Khokhar, Director of Forman's Center for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG), notes that the 14th Mid-Career Management Course delivered by CPPG to Pakistan's Civil Service Academy commenced on January 27 with fourteen participants. CPPG faculty members Dr. Kokhar and Dr. Vaqas Ali will serve as supervisors as students develop policy papers for the class which runs through February 27, 2026.



Dr. Shamaila Athar, Chair of Forman's Sociology Department, delivered a lecture title *From Control to Change: Leadership in Probation and Parole Practices* for newly inducted Probation and Parole Offices at the Punjab Probation and Parole Service, focusing especially on leadership grounded in legitimacy, trust and community-centered rehabilitation.



As part of the Global Liberal Arts Alliance (GLAA), Assistant Chemistry Professor Dr. Hina Abid reports that she connected her Industrial Chemistry class with a comparable class at Effat University in Jeddah, a linkage that she describes as having gone "extremely well". Subsequently the partnership was written up as a positive example of a [GLAA partnership](#).



Dr. Farzand Masih who plays a number of roles at FCCU including organizing coaching classes for prospective students from minority communities took a number of students on a guided tour of Kinnaird College; the participation of Principal Dr. Iram Anjum and several members of faculty made the visit even more memorable.



In addition, Dr. Farzand led a meaningful visit for Forman students to Fountain House, providing insights into the unique programs offered by that institution to those with special needs; among other things, the program highlighted not only the importance of care and rehabilitation but also compassion and kindness.



Forman's Admissions Office invited students from Intermediate through Master/MPhil programs to visit an Open House for Bachelor's and Graduate Programs held on Forman's Main Ground on February 3. Designed to introduce prospective students to FCCU's program offerings as well as campus life, many Forman offices including Admissions, Career Service & Internships, Financial Aid & Scholarships, Residential Life, Student Activities and Church Relations were well represented.



Meanwhile, the Faculty Advising Office led by Dr. Atiq-ur-Rehman held a session on *The Heart of Advising: Notifications and Counseling that Build Confidence*, further demonstrating the importance of this function at Forman.

As part of the program, faculty advisors were urged to (1) issue early notifications to students at the start of each semester; (2) provide advising alerts promptly when students are at academic risk; and (3) engage in supportive counseling and follow-up when needed, ensuring that interventions are timely, respectful, confidential and where appropriate student-centered.



Nearly 200 faculty members spread across various academic departments participated in the session, providing a range of positive feedback. For example, 45 percent of the responding faculty rated the program as "excellent" and another 39 percent ranked it as "good".



Forman's Business Incubation Center (BIC), managed under the Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) is now accepting applications for Cohort 2, noting a special emphasis on innovative business ideas that contribute to at least one of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Scan the QR code to apply.



Major Kanwal, Head of Health and Safety, reports that a special training for FCCU drivers was conducted on January 14. Areas covered included fire safety in campus vehicles; safe and defensive driving practice; driver fitness; passenger safety responsibilities; and accident prevention and reporting.



Finally, thanks to a \$17,000 donation from the pre-school at Noroton Presbyterian Church in Connecticut we are working to develop a new playground for younger students at Light of Hope School. Several parts of FCCU are involved in planning this facility including our Education Department, Buildings & Grounds, and Office of Health and Safety.



DR. JONATHAN ADDLETON
RECTOR

