



FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

Rector's Update

The latest news and announcements from Dr. Jonathan Addleton

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Happy Easter and Eid Mubarak! Amidst alarming levels of conflict across the region, members of the Forman community continue to show resilience in a variety of ways, using Zoom for meetings and adapting study habits to include on-line teaching and learning. For my part, I continue to be impressed, amazed and inspired by the ways in which our students, faculty and staff have responded to situations that previously would have been considered unlikely if not almost unthinkable. Like many, I am also hoping and praying for better times as spring gives way to summer, even as our campus seems more beautiful than ever.



As I finalize this 64th edition of the *Rector's Update*, I am also preparing to travel to Atlanta to attend the next Friends of Forman Board meeting, providing a useful opportunity to connect with our Atlanta-based support organization which remains vitally interested in Forman and does so much to support our various scholarship and other programs.

Most recently, Friends of Forman have arranged for Kristen Boyer from 100 Fold Studios to serve as Campus Architect, working to further support our Campus Master Plan. Already she has contributed to number of projects including a prospective new playground for Light of Hope School, a refurbished College auditorium in the recently expanded "P" Block, and a proposed renovation of the FCCU Chapel, built in 1957 and now in need of major upgrades.

IFTAR EVENTS

I attended several *Iftar* events during Ramadan, both on-campus and off-campus. One of the more memorable ones included the *Iftar* dinner hosted by our Security Office headed by Col. Khaqan on Friday, March 13, providing a hospitable venue for breaking the fast with members of our all-important security team.



Outside *Iftar* events during Ramadan at which FCCU was represented included the reception organized by the American Business Forum, held at the Fuschia Restaurant in Gulberg. As always, I especially enjoy the conversation at such events as well as the fresh dates and refreshing *Rooh Afza*; as is often the case, I met several Formanites in attendance as well.

In addition, Dr. Nayer as Registrar represented Forman at the Ramadan meeting of the Lahore-area Vice Chancellor's/Rector's Group, this month hosted at Minhaj University. Topics covered included Artificial Intelligence, Visiting Faculty Management, and Developing a Mental Well-Being Framework for Universities.



Finally, a special "shoutout" to our Advancement and Alumni Office for organizing our *Annual Iftar Dinner and Zakat Drive*, attended by some 250 people and raising funds for the 2026 FCCU Zakat scholarship fund.

A special thanks to Professor Dr. Tahir Shaheer for serving as 'Master of Ceremonies' for the evening as well as Formanites Alumni Association President Attiazaz Munawwar ud Din, Head of Advancement and Alumni Office Adnan Ilyas, Assistant Manager Alumni Relations Muhammad Talal, Database Officer Nabira John, and many others for planning this memorable *Iftar Dinner* and for encouraging Alumni to remain actively engaged with Forman in this way.



"BY LOVE SERVE ONE ANOTHER"

Our HR Office assisted in the distribution of Ramadan food packages valued at PKR 10,000 each to 43 Forman employees. In addition, HR assisted in providing ration cards for 398 support staff (with another 169 now in process), making further non-monetary assistance available to less privileged members of the Forman community.



Under the supervision of Dr. Shamaila Athar, students in Forman's *Introduction to Social Work* class organized a clothing drive in partnership with the Akhuwat Foundation. While promoting community engagement, the initiative also demonstrated important themes such as empathy, community, responsibility, and collective action. Drawing on support from advisor Athar Azeem, Forman's Sociology Society also joined in this effort.



HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The Forman Psychological Services Center organized a webinar on *Wise-Reasoning: How to Apply Wise-Reasoning to Solve Everyday Conflicts*. Held on March 12, the event was led by Rameesha Mahtab, a Doctoral Researcher at the Catholic University of Louvian in Belgium.

Our HR Office conducted a comprehensive workshop on *Conducting Staff Performance and Development Appraisals* as part of an effort to strengthen understanding of the performance management process.



MIAN NISAR ELAHI PHARMACY LABS

It was an honor to attend the formal inauguration of the Mian Nisar Elahi Pharmacy Labs, adjacent to the Peter Armacost Science Building. Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Faheem ur Rehman Saigol attended as a special guest while SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vice President Mian Anjum Nisar officially inaugurated the well-designed Annex containing four Pharmacy Labs and an Animal House.

Speaking on the occasion, Mian Anjum Nisar, Chairman of the ATS Group, noted that his father had a deep attachment to FCCU, highly valuing the education he received; he also highlighted the importance of linking the Forman Pharmacy Department to the industry as well as providing students with further opportunities for both practical training and high quality research.



While thanking the Mian Nisar Elahi family for their continued generosity and support, let me also thank Chief Marketing and Outreach Officer Badia Raza, Corporate and Foundation Relations Manager Jaweria Iqbal, and other members of their team for their role in launching this event during Ramadan.

Parenthetically, the construction of a four-lab Pharmacy Annex stemmed partly from a recommendation made a couple of years ago by the Pharmacy Council of Pakistan -- making it especially gratifying to note that the Mian Nisar Elahi Pharmacy Labs were inaugurated not long after the Pharmacy Council of Pakistan conducted its annual accreditation renewal inspection of our Pharmacy Department in February 2026!



RESEARCH CENTER PROGRAMS

Accompanied by several colleagues, Commodore Ehsan Ahmed Khan, President of the Maritime Center of Excellence, visited Forman's Center for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG), meeting with CPPG director Dr. Noel Khokhar and other members of the CPPG faculty to discuss potential future areas of cooperation.

CPPG also sponsored a seminar on March 17 on *Political Agency or Party Proxy: The Representation Crisis*, focused on minority representations in Pakistan's political system.



Forman's Population Research Center (PRC) organized a seminar on *Population Dynamics and Demographic Dividend*. Dr. Luay Shabaneh, head of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) in Pakistan, served as keynote speaker.



OTHER CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

The FCCU School of Management will be hosting the *5th Forman International Conference on Business and Innovation* on May 19. Organized under the theme "Business, Digital Innovation & Sustainability," the event aims to promote industry involvement, academic engagement and interdisciplinary dialogue on topics ranging from AI to Business Ethics, Entrepreneurship to Knowledge Management. Paper abstracts are due by April 20. To register, visit <https://forms.gle/8iEEz42wYDWVj1Sp8> or contact ficbi@fccollege.edu.pk.



Let me take the opportunity to include in this section of this month's *Rector's Update* a sincere "Mea Culpa", acknowledging that errors on occasion inadvertently find their way into this newsletter. While this one goes back to the Fall, I do want to rectify it by noting that FCCU Associate Professor Department of History, Saadia Sumbal, attended the *53rd Annual Conference on South Asia* at the University of Wisconsin in October, presenting a paper titled "Voices from the Periphery: Punjabi Poetry, Resistance and Anti-Colonial Nationalism".

In addition, she presented a paper virtually at the *28th European Conference on South Asian Studies* at Heidelberg University in Germany, also in October. Both the Wisconsin and Heidelberg conferences are major annual events in their field and I am immensely appreciative that faculty from Forman were present and actively involved in both of them!

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS



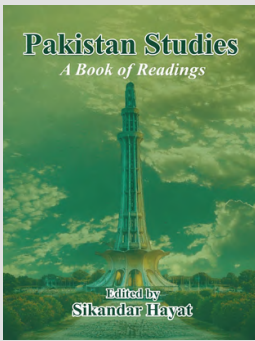
Chemistry Department Chair Dr. Shazma Massey Azeem presented her research paper at the *Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy*, held in San Antonio, Texas from March 7-11.



As Pakistan's only member of the Global Liberal Arts Alliance (GLAA), Forman continues to reap benefits from the GLAA Global Course Connect program, as recently featured on the [Liberal Arts Alliance website](#) and as explained further in Education Department faculty member Dr. Ashar Johnson Khokhar's [research](#).

Most notably, Dr. Ashar's study titled "[Small Shifts, Big Impacts](#)" provides measurable evidence that short-term virtual collaborations can significantly improve intercultural skills, suggesting that "impactful global learning doesn't always require a passport". For further details, read the full post here: [Faculty Collaboration Across Borders Yields Measurable Gains in Student Intercultural Competence](#)





As some readers of the *Rector's Update* will remember, several years ago several members of our faculty contributed to a well-received volume titled *Pakistan Studies: A Book of Readings*. Dr. Sikandar Hayat who edited the volume recently noted that this book now appears as number five in a Higher Education Commission (HEC) list of "Suggested Instructional/Reading Materials," recognition that should be a source of pride for all of us.

Although largely focused on events and publications that have occurred over the previous four weeks, occasionally I dig deeper into the past to illuminate certain aspects of Forman's history or provide a reminder of the Forman legacy. Recently Head of Faculty Advising Dr. Atiq-ur-Rehman reminded me of this, recalling an article he had written in 2025 and an [interview](#) he had conducted at FCCU in 2011 with the well-known best-selling religious writer Karen Armstrong.



FORMAN IN THE MEDIA

Many members of the Forman community add their voices to the "public square", writing op-eds and posting stories from a variety of perspectives on issues related to both Pakistan and the world.



For example, Dr. Farid Malik regularly publishes op-eds in the *Minute Mirror*, covering everything from [coal gasification](#) to [Pakistan's huge energy bill](#).

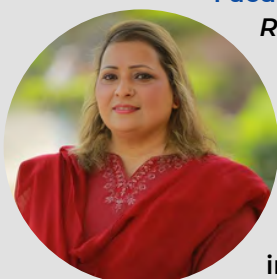
More recently, he has also been featured in several TV interviews including one on [Thar coal](#); another on [China](#); and a third on [technological self-reliance](#).

Dr. Adeel Ahmad Aamir, Associate Professor Mass Communication, also occasionally contributes to *Minute Mirror* on a range of issues. One of his recent *Minute Mirror* op-eds was especially timely, reflecting in particular on the sinking of an Iranian naval vessel with a heavy loss of life off the coast of Sri Lanka following a naval exercise in India.



In the wake of the conflict in Iran, Dr. Sara Rizvi Jafree wrote a perceptive op-ed for the *The News* on the [costs of that war on Pakistan](#).

Head of Advising Atiq-ur-Rehman also participated in television interviews related to the all-important advising function: [Effective Faculty Advisor](#); [Why Is Faculty Advising Need of the Time?](#) on *Lahore Rang*.



Forman TV's podcast *Formanites*, managed by the Forman Mass Communication Department, regularly conducts interviews with members of the Forman community. While I can't reference all of them, I especially appreciated this one featuring Dr. Noureen Khokhar, former Chair of our Urdu Department, reflecting on the challenges of the denationalization period including efforts by colleagues at the time to revitalize both the Forman Dramatics Society and *Folio*, the university student magazine.





Finally, let me provide a "shout-out" to Usama Malik, a non-Formanite whose articles I always enjoy on topics that might be of interest those of us living in Lahore; among other things, this includes an article in *The News* on [Anarkali](#) where Forman's historic Ewing Hall is located; an article in the *Friday Times* discussing an Indian diplomat nostalgically recalling his [childhood in Lahore](#); and a third article in the digital magazine *From Lahore With Love* on [Basant](#). He has also expressed an interest in visiting Forman's Ewing Hall in Anarkali as the possible subject for another article.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The student-led Forman Finance Society secured first position at the Commerce Innovation Summit organized by Government College University in partnership with the Lahore Chamber of Commerce. The FCCU team included Ali Jaffar, Noor Fatima Iqbal, Zainab Rizwan, and Ali Siddique; titled *Khali Jagah Pur Karay*, their project was recognized for its creativity and purpose-driven approach.

Forman exchange student Syed Hassan Abbas Bukhari, currently spending the semester at Lingnan University in Hong Kong, provided an update following the recent passing of both his father and uncle, difficult events to experience from a distance.

He also mentioned a group presentation for a Global Business Environment class on Foreign Direct Investment; a visit to Hong Kong Disneyland with a number of classmates as part of an International Marketing course; a basketball competition in which he represented his Hostel; *Nowruz* celebrations with fellow students from Turkey, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan; a beach gathering involving classmates from Gambia, Tunisia, and Morocco; and a program during Ramadan at the local *Imam Bargah* in central Hong Kong in which he also participated.

In addition, Syed attached a photo of one of the "iconic" Hong Kong buildings which I still recall from my own visit to Hong Kong several decades ago, bearing in large letters the acronym "FCC"; no, this was not a new Forman Christian College "satellite campus" in Hong Kong, rather the three letters stood for a venerable Hong Kong institution, known over many decades as the "Foreign Correspondent's Club"!

While many Forman students participate in various semester abroad initiatives, Syed's recent e-mails accompanied by photographs have given me new insights in the extent to which our student immerse themselves in the culture of another university and just how transformational such programs can be. I am also proud of the way our students participating in such programs become informal "ambassadors" for Forman Christian College (A Chartered University)!



SPORTS NEWS

I appreciated the opportunity to participate in the official inauguration of this year's Swimming Pool season on March 4. Hours are being posted to ensure Lifeguard coverage at all times. Please contact the FCCU Sports Office for details on membership, guest registration, and fees, especially given the subsequent closure of the FCCU swimming pool during the government-mandated curtailment of working hours at educational institutions across Punjab.

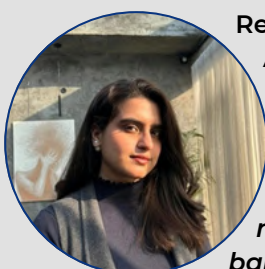


Prior to this announcement, the FCCU University Sports Office hosted the Third Edition of its Last Man Stands (LMS) Cricket Tournament, featuring an eight-aside T20 format first developed in the UK in 2005 which has now spread to at least 15 other countries. Six universities participated in the Forman tournament, resulting in highly competitive matches that showcased skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship.



In other sports news, the University Sports Office also worked with Phygital Games Pakistan to host Pakistan's first-ever National Phygital Basketball Championship featuring Pakistan's top 16 basketball teams in a format "blending physical performance with digital platforms to enhance athlete engagement and audience experience".

ALUMNI UPDATE



Recent FCCU graduate Rehma Rabi has been accepted into the Master's in Business Analytics program at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia; having served as a Residential Assistant at Hope Tower and a Program Officer for the FCCU/Atlas Honda staff training program, she was offered a sizeable scholarship and a Residential Assistantship as well. As Rehma describes it, *"Coming from a small village . . . I doubted whether I would even be able to continue my education. However, FCCU nurtured me, polished my potential, and instilled in me the belief that no financial barrier or societal imitation can define my future"*.

Dr. Sadia Zaheer, Chair of the FCCU Physics Department, kindly forwarded a [link](#) to Kaunas University of Technology in Lithuania describing the success of PhD student Muhammad Haris who earned his MPhil and BS from Forman.



As the article recounts, *"Originally from Lahore, Muhammad studied physics at Forman Christian College University, where he completed his Master's degree and graduated as a Gold Medalist. During his Master's studies, his interest gradually shifted toward renewable energy, as he began to see physics not only as theoretical knowledge but also as a tool for addressing global energy challenges. His academic path was shaped by his teacher Dr. Najma Yaqoob, who encouraged him to explore research opportunities abroad"*.



On a more personal note, Muhammad is also quoted as stating that *"I found Lithuanians to be incredibly open-hearted and welcoming; the community accepted me wholeheartedly, far exceeding my imagination"*.

In other Alumni News, one of Dr. Sikandar Hayat's former students -- Shahrukh Baloch who earned a BA in Political Science and History from Forman in 2018 -- recently completed his MA in International Studies from the University of Washington in Seattle and has now returned to Pakistan where he is looking for teaching opportunities.

OTHER NEWS

I appreciated the opportunity to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on March 18 with Shahwaiz Nadeem, Founder and President of the Parvarish Foundation, formalizing an initiative to provide financial aid to orphans and other underprivileged children attending Forman. Thanks also to the FCCU Advancement and Alumni Office for facilitating this partnership and arranging this event.



FCCU's Office for Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) and Business Incubation Center (BIC) held an *Idea Pitching and Screen Session* on March 9, providing an opportunity for applicants to present their start-up ideas before a Selection Committee that included Dr. Bushra Usman, Dr. Khalid Javed, Dr. Mubashar Mushtaq, Dr. Muhammad Irfan, and Mr. Waqar Azeem. In the end, eight start-up teams were selected to form BIC Cohort #2, working to transform their entrepreneurial ideas into successful and sustainable commercial ventures.



Forman's Visual and Performing Arts Department invited visiting Thai artist Dr. Nawat Lertsawaengkit for an online artist talk on March 18. Working across mixed media, painting, installation and participatory processes, his work explores connections between traditional Thai and China traditions while also engaging on ideas related to identity, diversity, and contemporary society.

Monsignor Dr. Michael Nazir-Ali, former Bishop of Rochester (UK) and former Bishop of Raiwind (Pakistan), gave a lecture via Zoom on April 1 on "*Revelation and Reason in Islam and Christianity*", sponsored by Forman's Center for Biblical Teaching and Research (CBTR).



Five members of Forman's Economics Department including Dr. Muhammad Naveed Tahir, Dr. Abdul Jalil Khan, Dr. Humna Ahsan, Mr. Nazeef Ishtiaq, and Dr. Muhammad Salahuddin Ayyubi delivered a five-session Artificial Intelligence (AI) training workshop to CPPG faculty, providing yet another example of the ways in which AI is being integrated into programs across FCCU.

Congratulations to Dr. Uzma Ilyas, Senior Psychology Lecturer, for successfully completing her PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Punjab. Conducted under the supervision of Dr. Saima Dawood, her dissertation is titled *Psychological Correlates of Social Anxiety and the Therapeutic Efficacy of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) in Its Treatment*.



Associate Vice Rector Dr. Gloria Calib has two international trips planned, one to the American University of Greece in Athens to serve on a NECHE accreditation team led by the Deputy to the President of Harvard University and another to Crans Montana in Switzerland to attend a NECHE conference involving a number of NECHE's international partners.



Applications to FCCU continue to increase, led in part by an active outreach program conducted by our Marketing and Outreach Office. Recently those efforts included an outreach initiative on March 7 at a Youth Retreat involving 300 young people and 20 pastors. A special thanks to Nasir Gill from Forman's Admissions Office for representing Forman at this event, delivering a comprehensive session explaining Forman's history as well as its academic programs for those interested in applying for admission in Fall 2026.



We have held several meetings with the Walled City of Lahore Authority (WCLA) which is committed to renovating and preserving some of the outstanding buildings of Old Lahore. In particular, their Lahore Heritage and Area Revival (LHAR) Project focused on Anarkali has opened a dialogue with Forman on potentially upgrading the facade at Forman's historic Ewing Hall.

I joined with CPPG Director Dr. Noel Khokhar on March 10 to meet with two retired Ambassadors -- Javid Hussain who represented Pakistan as Ambassador in Iran, South Korea, and the Netherlands; and Ashraf Qureshi who was Pakistan's High Commissioner in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and South Africa -- to discuss potential areas of cooperation between CPPG and the Lahore Council of World Affairs, an organization in which they are both actively involved.



Another recent Ambassadorial meeting involved a campus "drop by" and tour with Zulfiqar Gardezi, Pakistan's former Ambassador to the US, UK, and Denmark. Although not a Forman graduate, several members of his family have either studied or taught here. A member of the prominent Gardezi family centered in southern Punjab family, I was also fascinated to hear about his family manuscript collection including several hand-written Qurans and other religious documents dating back many centuries.

I was privileged to attend this year's Pakistan Bible Society Annual General Meeting. Held at the Cathedral Church of the Resurrection on the Mall, the program also included the official launch of two Sindhi New Testaments, one referred to as the "Common Language Sindhi" version and the other as the "Hindu Sindhi" version.



Forman's contribution in providing space for the Pakistan Bible Society's Annual Sports Competition was duly noted and widely praised. In addition, I was delighted to participate because my late father was deeply involved during the early part of the Sindhi New Testament translation project, contributing especially to the "Common Language Sindhi" version of the Four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) as well as the books of Acts and Romans.



Finally and looking ahead, please remember to note this year's annual Staff Club Dinner on your calendar, scheduled for Saturday, May 9, beginning at 6:30 PM in Sinclair Hall. The program will also include light entertainment; recognition of our retirees; acknowledgement of staff who have enhanced their academic qualifications; presentation of the "Forman's Finest" Award; and opportunities for Forman staff and their spouses to spend informal time together. Those interested in attending this year's Staff Dinner should register by April 15 by contacting Deputy Registrar Cassian Rozario: cassianrozario@fccollege.edu.pk.



DR. JONATHAN ADDLETON
RECTOR