



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

# Rector's Update

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

## In This Issue

**Campus Updates**

**Faculty & Staff Achievements**

**Recent activities**



Pakistan has been very much in the news in recent weeks, in significant part for its role in facilitating a rare direct diplomatic engagement between Iran and the United States. For me this was reminiscent of the similar role that Pakistan played in the early 1970s in connecting China and the US. I was a high school student in Murree at the time and took pride in the way in which Pakistan, against all odds, helped bring the two countries together. My sincere hope is that there will somehow be a similar result this time around.

For my part, I spent most of April in the US, partly to attend the spring Friends of Forman Board meeting in Atlanta and partly to be there for Fiona's hip replacement surgery and at least part of the recovery period that followed. Also, we were able to spend some precious moments with our two grandsons and two granddaughters, each aged three or under!



CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND LECTURES

Conferences hosted by Forman in recent weeks covered a number of important topics including *Pakistan's Water Issues: Beyond Infrastructure to Climate-Resilient Governance*, held on April 14 and organized by our Center for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG).





Similarly, FCCU hosted the *International Conference on Life Sciences for Resilient Systems and Sustainable Future* on April 21-23, bringing together leading national and international experts, researchers, policymakers, and students to discuss ideas, research projects, and practical solutions aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On a personal note, I was delighted that our son-in-law Dr. Harley Gordon who teaches Biology at the University of the Fraser Valley in British Columbia joined online to deliver a paper.



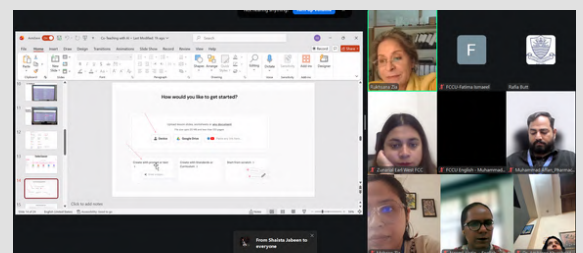
Forman's Sociology Department and Population Research Center jointly sponsored an insightful guest lecture on April 20 arranged by Dr. Mohammad Vaqas Ali featuring Dr. Syed Kaleem Imam, a retired police officer with more than three decades of national and international experience including with both Pakistan's civil service and the United Nations. Focusing on the dynamics of policing, crime, and justice, the talk covered a broad range of topics including trust, legitimacy, community participation, social development, and good governance.



Forman's English Department arranged an online lecture by Dr. Paula Wieczorek from Poland on *The Many Shades of Dystopia: Changing Definitions in Indigenous and Feminists Contexts*. Part of an English class on Dystopian Fiction, the lecture explored how understandings of dystopia have evolved beyond its original classical Western formulations and have since been redefined across a wide range of different cultural contexts.

Forman's **Center for Learning and Teaching** organized a Panel on *Co-Teaching with AI* on April 15, one of a number of initiatives underway at Forman to focus on the use of Artificial Intelligence in a university context.

Forman's School of Management conducted its *Knowledge Academia Partnership* program on April 16, bringing together leading academic institutions as part of an effort to strengthen cooperation in research and innovation. Participating institutions included Bahria University, Beaconhouse National University, Comstats University, Lahore Garrison University, Riphah International University, Rashid Latif Khan University, and University of Management and Technology (UMT)



Looking ahead, Forman will host its Third International Conference on Connecting Voices: Equitable Experiences in Linguistics, Languages, and Literature featuring speakers from Pakistan as well as the UK, US and Switzerland on November 3-4, 2026: [Please click here to access](#). Paper submissions are due by May 10.

Finally, a special shoutout to Registrar Dr. Nayer Fardows for organizing a workshop on *MOUs in Higher Education: Legal Status and Quality Assurance Under the Pakistani Regulatory Framework*; the workshop which involved attendees from a number of other universities also included a discussion on the *Review of Institutional Performance and Enhancement (RIPE) Framework*.



**OTHER CAMPUS EVENTS**

Forman's Career Services & Internships Office organized a *Career Readiness* event involving a series of sessions conducted by speakers from various industries and focused especially on final year students about to enter an increasingly competitive job market.



Forman's Career Services and Internships Office hosted an on-campus recruitment drive launched by the Packages Group, attracting more than 70 participants from diverse academic backgrounds. Six FCCU graduates from the Class of '25 with backgrounds in economics, business, and computer science, recruited by Packages last year, were also on hand to share their experiences and encourage this year's cohort of graduating Forman students to consider a Packages career.



Let me also express appreciation to the Center for Biblical Teaching and Research (CBTR) which hosted an Open House attended by approximately 150 people in their new building on April 10, providing an opportunity for both internal and external audiences to learn about programs offered by the Center.





A special thanks to the Student Discipline and Support Office for organizing a series of awareness activities for the incoming Spring 2026 first-year class. This included a Code of Conduct Poster Exhibition; a series of Mini-Lectures on the Code of Conduct; and a first Year Awareness and Commitment Walk, all designed to encourage responsible campus citizenship.



Forman's Writing and Communication Center organized its fourth annual *Ink-It* competition, culminating in the final round and prize distribution ceremony held on April 13. More than 50 people registered, joining a series of creative writing exercises starting with a Round One focused on various genres including horror, magical realism, and creative non-fiction; 18 participants were then registered to take part in Round Two, focused on script writing. This was followed by Round Three involving nine participants who then presented their dramatic readings before a live audience.

A special thanks to four judges from the English Department -- Dr. Subbah Mir; Ms. Maheen Zia; Mr. Shahan Pervaiz; and Mr. Noor Rehman -- for volunteering to assess all three Rounds and select the ultimate *Ink-It* winners: Abdul Mannan for his monologue "Hypocrite" (first prize); Irum Arif for "Unchild" and Maham Mubashir for "Friction" (sharing second prize); and Noor-e-Asim for her monologue "Her" (third prize).



## FIELD TRIPS

Forman's Center for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG) organized an educational visit to the Khewra Salt Mine on April 10. One of the oldest and largest salt mines in the world, the site is significant for historical, economic, and geological reasons. In addition, students visited "Salt Village," operated by the Punjab Small Industries Corporation to promote local craftsmanship.



Led by Ms. Ayesha Saddiqua, a group of CPPG students also visited the Lahore Council on World Affairs (LCW). Shahid Kardar, former Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, led the discussion that followed, providing a candid reflection on Pakistan's political economy which underscored key weaknesses including bureaucratic paralysis, poor coordination, inefficient public spending, and low tax collection, savings, and investments rates. On a more positive note, the discussion also highlighted several encouraging economic developments including a growth in remittances and an emerging IT sector.

In addition, Dr. Adeel Khalid's Writing and Communication class visited the National History Museum on April 22 where they were warmly received by Museum Director Awais Malik, himself a Formanite: *"Students had a highly enriching experience as they explored the museums diverse cultural artifacts and engaged with Pakistan's rich oral history traditions"*.



## CAMPUS VISITORS

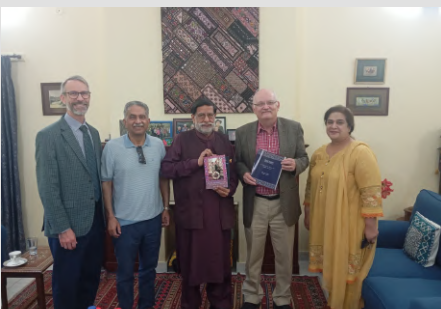
I was honored and delighted to welcome our distinguished alumnus Mohammedmian Soomro to my residence and our campus on March 29. A prominent Pakistani statesman, he has served in several key leadership positions including as Acting President, Caretaker Prime Minister, Chair of the Senate, Governor of Sindh, President of the National Bank of Pakistan, and Federal Minister for Privatization and Aviation. Beyond that he has also held senior leadership positions at Bank of America, the International Bank of Yemen, and the Faysal Islamic Bank of Bahrain.



Vice Rector Dr. Douglas Trimble, Chief Marketing and Outreach Officer Badia Raza, Advancement and Alumni Head Adnan Ilyas, and Formanite Alumni Association President Attiazaz Munawwar Ud Din also joined me for this memorable visit which concluded with a walking tour of our beautiful campus in the Spring.



On his departure, Mr. Soomro shared the following remarks in our Guest Book: *“Honored and delighted. Praying we continue this contact. Thanks. May Allah Almighty always bless our dear institution and its families, especially the ones who have served and developed it.”*



## FACULTY AND STUDENT PUBLICATIONS



Dr. Sikandar reports that his edited manuscript *Social Sciences Research Methods Manual* has been accepted for publication by Oxford University Press. The book will include twelve chapters, each contributed by a different member of Forman's Faculty of Social Sciences.

Similar in some respects to a well received earlier book titled *Pakistan Studies: A Book of Readings* that drew on contributions from nine members of the Forman faculty, this latest volume, also edited by Dr. Sikandar, will no doubt be included on reading lists for courses at multiple universities across Pakistan.

Several scholars with Forman connections including Nukhbah Taj Langah, Akhtar Mirza, and Charles Ramsey contributed to a Volume 14 of *Christian-Muslim Relations: A Bibliographical History*; focused on South Asia and covering the period 1800-1914, this volume is part of a monumental series edited by David Thomas and John A. Chesworth that was **issued online** by the respected Dutch publisher Brill earlier this year.

Christian-Muslim  
Relations.  
A Bibliographical  
History

Volume 14,  
Central and Eastern Europe  
(1700-1800)

Edited by David Thomas and John Chesworth



With  
Santaleen Groot  
Emma Gene Lophin  
Rishi Prasad  
Mehdi Sidi  
Corinna Sussler

BRILL



In addition, Dr. Nukhbah who is expected to rejoin Forman's faculty during the coming months following a stint at the University of Malaya in Malaysia **published a review** of Amitayu Chakraborty's *Ngugi wa Thiong'o: Nationalism Ethnicity and Resistance*, noting in particular Ngugi's role in bridging "historical, anthropological, and literary studies in the context of Kenyan nationhood".

Congratulations to English MPhil student Wareesha Batool Qureshi for having her research paper on Posthuman Virtual Spaces published in the HEC-recognized, W-category journal *Literature & Aesthetics* (Sydney University Press).

Congratulations also to Department of Sociology faculty member Ammar Yasir who completed the Urdu translation of *Bombay Brokers*, edited by Lisja Bjorkman. The book profiles 36 brokers, fixers, and intermediaries who keep Mumbai running, paralleling a system that also prevails in urban Pakistan. Originally published by University of Minnesota Press, the Urdu translation has been issued by Folio Books in Lahore.

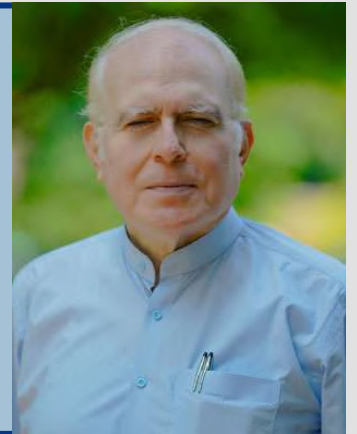




Finally, congratulations to College faculty member Shahida Dilawar Shah who is continuing her literary journey in impressive ways, having had her third Urdu novel *Unpublished Life* (Ghair Albooa Jeewani) issued by the Indian publisher Matterlink; her fourth Urdu novel *The Plectrum of Dust* (*Mizraab-e-Khak*) has also been issued by the same publisher, making it accessible to Urdu readers in Delhi, Lucknow, and elsewhere.

Dr. Farid Malik continues to share his views with a wider audience on the op-ed pages of *Minute Mirror*: [Unsung heroes of our bomb](#); [Fighting falsehood](#); [Does Pakistan need metals?](#); [Pakistan's Nuclear Program: The Untold Story of Silent Heroes](#); [Scale down the government, let the country run](#); and [Bringing back the wealth?](#)

Dr. Farid also [appeared on television](#), making the case for coal from the Thar region in southern Sindh at a time when Pakistan continues to face many energy-related challenges.



Also, Associate Sociology Professor Dr. Sara Rizvi Jafree contributed an op-ed to the April 12 edition of *The News* on internet memes as an intriguing aspect of political humor in Pakistan, noting especially the sociological and psychological implications of addressing serious issues in this way.

As a closing comment, I am pleased to note that plans for a new academic publication -- the *Forman Policy Journal* -- continue to move forward, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Muhammad Rovidad, Assistant Professor at Forman's Center for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG), who serves as Editor.



## HEALTH AND WELL-BEING INITIATIVES

Mercy Health Center marked *International Wellness Day* on April 15-16 by implementing a deworming campaign at Light of Hope School. Interactive sessions focused on personal hygiene and healthy eating habits, accompanied by a fresh fruit distribution among students; other aspects of the program included multimedia presentations, fostering active participation among students in various other activities including drawing and painting. A special thanks to Dr. Sarah Bashir and other members of her team who conceived, launched, and delivered the program.



The Forman Psychological Service Center (FPSC) organized a three-hour workshop at the TSA/FCCU "satellite campus" on April 22 on *Systematic Review and Meta Analysis*, led by Usman Arshad, a researcher from the University of Manchester in the UK. Thanks also to Dr. Nashi Khan who leads the FPSC and Dr. Ivan Suneel who heads Forman's Psychology Department.



Forman's Psychology Department organized a workshop on April 13 on *Forgiveness, Education, and Therapy*, delivered by Dr. Iffat Batool and held at FCCU in partnership with the Pakistan Psychological Association.



Forman's Residential Life Office partnered with the Campus Counseling Center to organize a *Psychological First Aid Workshop* aimed at preparing Assistant Guardians, Resident Assistants, and Hostel Management Staff to effectively handle incidents involving psychological concerns.



Finally, under the umbrella of the Office of Student Activities, the Forman Sports Society invited students to attend Athlon X, Forman's first multi-station sports event held on April 13; activities included free BMI calculations, body composition analysis, dietary guidance, and physiotherapy.



## SPORTS UPDATE

I neglected to report earlier on the memorable Closing Ceremony of the four-day Forman Women's Sports Fest 2025 which took place in late February, "providing a platform for female athletes from across Pakistan to showcase their talents". Lahore College for Women University (LCWU) emerged as the overall winner, followed by FCCU in second position.



Two female athletes from FCCU -- Hajra Iqbal (Boxing) and Samrose Samrina (Football/Basketball) were featured in a fascinating interview on *Lahore Rang* on April 1 that you won't want to miss.

## ALUMNI NOTES

On April 20 Forman's Advancement and Alumni Office hosted 25 graduates who studied Urdu at Forman during the 1980s and later embarked on successful careers as academics, poets, and writers. Thanks especially to Badia Raza, Adnan Ilyas, and Muhammad Talal for arranging this meaningful journey "down memory lane," rekindling emotions, experiences, and memories from more than three decades ago!



This was followed three days later on April 23 by a second Alumni event as part of a series of "Networking Cafes", in this case involving more than one hundred alumni engaged in mass communication careers involving a range of areas including print and electronic media, digital platforms, marketing agencies, IT firms, academia, and others.



As part of the proceedings, Mass Communication Department chair Dr. Firasat Jabeen provided an update on recent developments in this popular academic area which continues to attract large numbers of students. In addition, Dean of Humanities Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan commended the attendees on their remarkable contributions across diverse media sectors.



Hania Khan who doubled-majored in Political Science and Sociology at Forman reports that she is now a Fulbright Scholar at the Humphrey School at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Remarkably, her Capstone advisor is Professor Eric Schwartz, a long-time friend and colleague who I first met when we both served as interns at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace many decades ago!

I was delighted to hear from BS student Sara Shahid who mentioned that she is a third generation Formanite, a chain that started with her grandfather Imtiaz Ali who joined Forman Christian College in 1948 bearing Roll Number 562:

*"By the grace of God he is 94 and still alive and narrates to me his unforgettable experiences as an old Formanite. He retired as a Civil Engineer from the Building Department. He speaks very highly of his teachers like M.S. Bhatti (English), Dr. Thoburn (Physics) and Dr. Sinclair . . . he narrates his experiences regarding his two year stay with pride and delight and may be one of the oldest Formanites alive. His real brother Sayed Ifazal Hussain, six years younger, joined in 1952. After completing his FSc he joined the Pakistan Army. He retired as Brigadier and also served as Logistics Area Commander, Lahore.*

*"My father Shahid Imtiaz, second generation of our family of Formanites, joined FCC in 1975 . . . he later joined his Alma Mater as lecturer in English in 1986 and served FCC for 18 years in various capacities. He was Superintendent of Newton Hall, professor in-charge of Ewing Library, Deputy Chairman of the Sports Board, and President of the cricket team. Under this coaching, FCC beat Government College in the Lahore Commissioner's Cup for the first time . . . He was also in charge of College 15 (a literary society) and editor of the Folio. He left FCC in 2003 to do his PhD in English Literature . . . Dr. Fatima Syeda, the current Head of the English Department, was his student. Currently my father is serving as head of the English Department at Riphah International University in Lahore.*

*"The real sister of my father Taskeen Imtiaz is also a Formanite. She did her MA in Urdu in 1989. My two elder brothers Farid Khan and Uzair Shahid are also Formanites. Both have done their intermediate and BS from this prestigious institution. Uzair Shahid is a Flying Officer in the Pakistan Air Force".*

Sara concludes by noting that her grandfather Imtiaz Ali *"is sitting with me and is desirous of visiting his Alma Mater"* -- a visit that we very much hope to facilitate!



My Tufts University classmate Shazia Rafi recently reached out to note that her family has been connected to Forman for three generations including her great grandfather (Sir Mian Muhammad Shafi) as well as her grandfather (Mian Muhammad Rafi) and father (Mian Munir Akhtar Rafi).

Highlighting the career accomplishments of her grandfather in particular, she notes that he attended Oxford and later produced four volumes of personal notes on parliamentary procedures that were used in developing Pakistan's first Constituent Assembly and first Constitution. A self-taught watercolor artist and gardener, his sweet peas regularly grew beyond six feet and regularly won first prize at the Delhi Floral Show; he was also an accomplished calligraphist.

Like more than a few prominent Formanites of that generation, the Rafi family lived near Forman and the family home in Gulberg is now up for sale -- feel free to contact Shazia at WhatsApp (+1646256647) if you are interested!



Following my participation in a Quality Circle Zoom meeting on March 27, Forman graduate Amna Anjum Awan who attended the same meeting reached out to mention that she *"especially appreciated the discussion on how FCC supports its students in research . . . from my own experience, I can genuinely relate to this; my supervisor has been incredibly supportive, and even faculty members outside my discipline have been kind enough to offer guidance whenever I needed it. It really speaks to the collaborative and encouraging environment at FCC where students feel comfortable reaching and improving their work"*.



Friends of Forman drew my attention to Nabaha, a Forman graduate currently working with both the Aga Khan Foundation and UNDP in Kenya; previously, she contributed to FAO initiatives in Balochistan while also supporting international efforts in public health and youth engagement.

Badar Munir who attended Forman during the 1960s visited our campus after a gap of more than 50 years. Part of the Services group, he later worked in the Gulf as a recruitment manager in the aviation industry before returning to Pakistan where he established himself as an industrialist in the chemical sector. During his return visit, he stopped by to see his old room in West Hall. In addition, he presented a 15-volume encyclopedia set to the Forman library.



Heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and classmates of Dr. Hanan Haroon who recently passed away. A member of the Forman Christian College Pre-Medical Class of 2012, Dr. Haroon left a lasting mark on all who knew him, as reflected in the comments made by a friend who described him on Instagram as *"A kind soul, a gentle heart, and a presence that brought light to every room -- he will be missed beyond words"*.

## OTHER NEWS

Joining with the French Ambassador who participated online from Islamabad, Forman students, faculty, and staff observed *French Day* on April 27, providing for a vibrant celebration of language, culture and creativity that included French cuisine, French language sessions, a French film, French-related quiz activities, and information on studying in France. Special thanks to Ruth Park and her team at the Forman Language Center for making this event marking the formal establishment of a French Minor at Forman possible.





Congratulations to Dr. Samina Mehnaz (Kausar Abdulla Malik School of Life Sciences) and Dr. Dildar Ahmed (Chemistry) for being recognized among the Stanford/Elsevier "Two Percent Scientist List for 2025", based on their outstanding research contributions and global academic impact! Both members of the Forman faculty were recognized at a special ceremony organized by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to honor distinguished researchers from across Pakistan.

The Center for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG) recently highlighted the achievements of several of its students on the global stage, mentioning in particular Saad Bin Sarfraz, selected as one of only 80 "Ambassadors" world-wide to be part of the International Youth Council on Gender Equality (IYCGE); at the same time, Muqadassa Shah, another CPPG MPhil student, was selected as an IYCGE Research Fellow.



Also, CPPG notes that their student Muhammad Waseem Ashraf successfully completed his PHD in Public Policy, culminating with his dissertation titled *The Paradox of Local Government: Challenge and Opportunity for Democratic Decentralization and Governance in Punjab (2001-2021)*.



Yousaf Kamran Bhatti from the college English Department successfully defended his PhD dissertation at Qurtuba University (Peshawar). Titled *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*, his intriguing work involves an exploration of female representation across two distinct literary contexts, one involving a female author reflecting on the American South and the other involving a male author reflecting on South Asia. His research journey also produced eight research articles, reflecting a sustained contribution to scholarly excellence.



I am pleased to report that we have received the official accreditation letter covering a period of three academic years for our Computer Science program from the National Computing Education Accreditation Council (NCEAC). Thanks especially to Computer Science Department Chair and Associate Professor Dr. Mubashar Mushtaq and his team for this success.

A special thanks also to our Advancement Office as well as the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) for providing 10.4 million rupees to support our Honhaar Scholarship initiative.



As part of Student Affairs, the Residential Life Office also reports on a series of events focused on our "Hostelites," providing a range of both structured and informal events including movie nights, small group discussions, a Sports Week during Ramadan, and kite-flying during Basant, all part of a continuing effort to maintain a true "home away from home".





On a personal note, I was delighted to attend the wedding of Chief Proctor Abdul Rehman's daughter Ayesha Rehman, herself a Forman graduate. Her marriage to Husnain Raza was held at The Palace in Etihad Town, resulting in a memorable wedding photo that I was proud to be part of! As I sometimes tell friends in the United States, there is nothing like a Pakistani wedding!



Marking a welcome milestone in advancing science-led development at Forman, FCCU signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Punjab Agriculture, Food and Drug Authority (PAFDA). Formalized in my absence by FCCU Vice Rector Dr. Douglas Trimble and PAFDA Director General Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha, the agreement promotes joint research, analytical testing, laboratory capacity building, and professional training in agriculture, food, water, and the pharmaceutical sector.



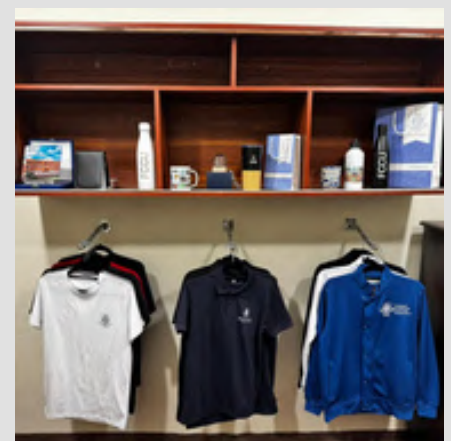
Meanwhile, Forman's Business Incubation Center (BIC), a vital part of our Office for Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC), signed two MOUs, one with the Youth Development Foundation and the other with the Christian Businessmen's Fellowship of Pakistan. Both MOUs were signed by Dr. Trimble on behalf of FCCU.



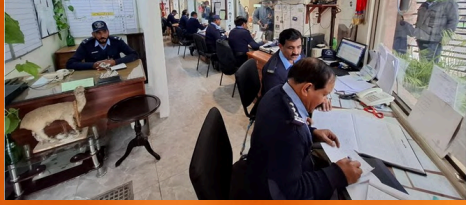
The College Media Team under the auspices of the College Student Activities Office produced two informative videos as part of its College Interview Series, one focused on the [Rector](#), the other on the [Registrar](#). Hosted by College student Ryan Daniel, the cameras were operated by several other College students including Dawood Owais, Fahad Shahzad, Sheharyar Shoaib, Rehan Ahmed, and Hamza Muhammad.



As most members of our campus community know, our campus shop has been functioning for several months on the ground floor of the Jim Tebbe Campus Center. Thanks to a coordinated effort involving the College, Accounts Office, IT Office, and Building and Works Office, a second shop opened near Sinclair Hall on April 20, offering a variety of branded items including hats, t-shirts, jackets, scarves, notebooks, keychains, mugs and other items to College students.



Finally, I appreciated attending the official opening of a renovated and much improved Main Campus Security Reception, located at Canal Gate. Among other things, the new facility includes a comfortable waiting area; five independent service windows; three water coolers; two washrooms; a kitchenette; dedicated dining space for staff; and spacious storage capacity. Friends of Forman Executive Director Dr. Roger Dermody who was visiting at the time also participated in the opening.



DR. JONATHAN ADDLETON  
RECTOR