



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



Forman's Annual Staff Club Celebration and Dinner held on May 9 in Sinclair Hall was one of the highlights of this very busy month. Organized to celebrate the achievements of members of our community, several were singled out for special recognition including each of our retirees; each member of our faculty and staff who were awarded advanced degrees last year; and each of the fourteen expatriates who serve on the FCCU faculty or staff.

In addition, fourteen recipients of this year's *"Forman's Finest"* Award were formally announced: Asher Anwar (Senior Purchase Executive); Muhammad Umer Chaudhry (Chief Proctor, College); Furry George (Principal, Light of Hope School); Mazhar Hussain (Security Guard); Waqas Iqbal (Building Manager); Naveed James (Library Helper); Asher Masih (Office Attendant); Shaheen Pervaiz (Deputy Manager, Human Resources); Daud Rafique (QEC Officer); Angel Safdar (Senior Admissions and Recruitment Officer); Shahid Samson Samuel (Senior IT Manager); Alina Tiwana (Student Support Officer); Hanook Walter (Head, Events and Facilities); and Salman William (Senior Food Services Officer).

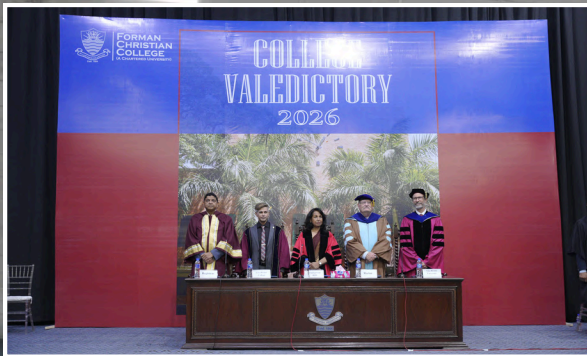


As Assistant Professor, Department of English, Fahad Aftab noted afterwards, *"Those handshakes and moments of conversation both on the stage and during the dinner have become priceless memories that nearly all the retirees will cherish for the rest of their lives . . . thank you for nurturing the ever-growing spirit of love, respect, and dignity in accordance with the motto of our university"*.

Against this backdrop, let me also thank our Registrar Dr. Nayer Fardows and all the members of his team who spent countless hours in planning, organizing and implementing this wonderful annual event.



OTHER CELEBRATIONS



Thanks to everyone who participated in the *College Valedictory* ceremony held in Sinclair Hall in early May to honor the achievements of graduating Intermediate students. In particular, more than sixty outstanding students were honored with prestigious medals and certificates to celebrate their character, hard work, excellence, and service while also marking the culmination of their college academic journey in front of an audience that included family members as well as Chairperson FCCU Board Dr. Rukhsana David and College Vice Rector Dr. Ivan Suneel.



This was followed on May 7 by a wonderful *Farewell Dinner* for our College graduates, held under the stars on North Field. More than 1,500 graduating students participated, providing a fitting close to a memorable chapter in their personal and academic journey. Other highlights included a performance by the College Choir and a heartfelt farewell speech by one of the graduates.





A *Forman Legacy Dinner* hosted on May 19 by our Advancement & Alumni Office in partnership with the Formanites Alumni Association offered another occasion to celebrate all that is good about Forman. The Honorable Mohammedmian Soomro - former Acting President, Interim Prime Minister, Senate Chair, and Governor of Sindh -- served as Chief Guest, one in a long list of highly distinguished alumni who gathered under one roof on the top floor of the Jim Tebbe Campus Center to spend the evening together, rekindling old memories while also making new ones.



Thanks especially to Formanites Alumni Association President Attiazaz ("Bob") Munawwar Ud Din and FCCU Chief Marketing and Outreach Officer Badia Raza (as well as their respective teams) for organizing this wonderful event. Farhan Aziz Khawaja, Director General of Pakistan's Civil Service Academy and Rector of the National School of Public Policy also spoke.



Other highlights included the presentation of Forman's Distinguished Alumni Awards, given this year to Aezaz Hussain (Chairman and CEO of Systems Limited and a pioneer in Pakistan's IT sector) and Zafar Masud (President and CEO of Bank of Punjab). Other "Old Formanites" attending included two former Chief Justices (Tassaduq Hussain Jillani and Jawwad S. Khawaja) as well as Akram Sheikh (former President, Supreme Court Bar Association), Asim Ahmad (former Chair, Federal Board of Revenue), and Omer Saeed (CEO, Servis Tyres and Servis Foundation), among many others.



FOREIGN LANGUAGES

The Forman Language Center headed by Ruth Park organized a *One Campus, Global Harmony* Festival on May 12 at Sinclair Hall, drawing nearly 700 people while showcasing the skills of Forman students studying French, German, Spanish, Korean, and Chinese. Individual performances included songs, skits, poetry, dance, and short dramas, all of them outstanding!



Several outside guests participated including Fabrice Didier (Director of the Alliance Francaise Lahore Office); Naurin Ahmad-Zaki (Director of the Annemarie Schimmel Haus in Lahore); and a representative from the Japanese Embassy. Several FCCU language instructors also participated including Miao Chien Wei and Zhan Kexin (Chinese); Anum Anwar and Ludivine Pelata (French); Eni Usman and Hina Mahmood (German); Keumsook Shim and Ruth Park (Korean); and Nuria Medel and Jennifer Saez (Spanish).

As an added bonus, the *One Campus, Global Harmony* program concluded with an impressive performance by Pakistan's National Taekwondo Team. The Islamabad-based team was housed in the Christy Munir Guesthouse and accompanied by Colonel Nabeel Ahmed Rana, President of the Pakistan Taekwondo Federation.

As most readers of the *Rector's Update* will know, Taekwondo is very much associated with Korea; indeed, "Master Choi" from South Korea who accompanied the team serves as both trainer and coach. Against this backdrop, I am pleased to announce that Master Choi will be travelling to Lahore from Islamabad each week during the Fall semester to teach Taekwondo to Forman students!





Thanks to Ruth Park, the Forman Language Center (FLC) conducted its first IB German Language Mock Tests involving three students studying German at Forman, all of whom passed and were awarded their German Language Proficiency Certificates. The pilot program was developed in partnership with Internationaler Bund (IB), a leading German provider in youth services, social work, and education.

FLC also worked with the Goethe Institute to conduct German proficiency exams for students from Aitchison College, LGS Paragon, and other Lahore area schools, another important step in Forman's journey to become a German language testing center.

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

As Pakistan's only member of the Global Liberal Arts Alliance (GLAA), Forman continues to benefit from it, most recently as part of a Global Course Connection that also involves Al Akhawayn University in Morocco.

Pairing FCCU's Department of English Assistant Professor Dr. Adeel Khalid who teaches *Research Methods in Linguistics* with Dr. Awatif Boudihaj from Al Akhawayn who teaches *Critical Thinking and Research Methods*, the result is an intercultural academic partnership involving students from Pakistan and Morocco. Centered on critical enquiry, sustainability, and collaborative research practices, students in both classes explored a number of themes related to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) throughout the semester.



Forman's International Education Office partnered with Campus France Lahore to host an informative session on study opportunities, scholarships, and admissions procedures in France.



Muhammad Yalmaz Alam, a sixth semester Linguistics major with minors in Political Science and Sociology, contacted me following his semester as an exchange student to mention that his research on gendered metaphors and cognition was accepted for presentation at the 32nd Lavender Languages and Linguistics Conference hosted by the University of Edinburgh in September.

Syed Hassan Bokhari, another Forman exchange student, returned to Lahore in early May following his own transformative semester at Lingnan University in Hong Kong. Serving as an informal but effective "Ambassador" for Forman, he had the opportunity to meet the Lingnan president, presenting him with souvenirs from FCCU on his departure.



During Syed's last weeks in Hong Kong he wrote a blog published on the official Lingnan website titled [From Pakistan to Lingnan: How I Found Family, Friendship, and Growth in Hong Kong](#). Among other things, the blog highlights opportunities for interaction with students from several different countries including Wales, Spain, Ethiopia, Myanmar, and India.

As always, departures are "bittersweet" and involve many farewells, in this case including final cups of chai and an exchange of souvenirs with fellow students including Philip from Sweden, Aya from Morocco, Sevinc from Estonia, Leon from China, Lochan from Nepal, Dominic from the UK, and Joseph from the US.

For my part, I have much appreciated this unexpected "inside look" into one of Forman's exchange programs through the eyes of one of our students, gaining important insights into our global engagements while also highlighting yet again the wonderful opportunities that a semester abroad can provide. As Hassan commented when reflecting on his Hong Kong experience, this is "*the best memory of my life*"!

RESEARCH CENTER PROGRAMS

Forman's Population Research Center (PRC) organized a screening of the documentary *Return to Sender: Women of Color in Colonial Postcards & the Politics of Representation* as part of its ongoing research initiative titled "Exploring Women's Rights and Gender Equality".

Film director Mara Ahmad then led an interactive discussion on colonial images of women as depicted in widely circulated postcards during the British Raj. As the film funded by the New York State Council on the Arts noted, these postcards typically depicted females as exotic, passive, and voiceless, reinforcing stereotypes that continue to have an impact to this day.



Forman's Center for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG) organized a two-day International Conference on *Navigating Future Trends and Transformative Pathways for Pakistan*. Topics covered included Pakistan's strategic role in the Middle East; Pakistan's Relations with India and Afghanistan; and internal security challenges.

Outside speakers included several former Pakistan Ambassadors including Shaukat Umer (UN/Geneva, Austria, South Korea), Asif Durrani (UAE), Shahid Malik (India, Canada, Venezuela), and Aizaz Chaudhry (Netherlands, US); a number of academics including Dr. Aamer Raza, Dr. Jean-Luc Racine and Dr. Ryan Brasher who previously taught at Forman; and several writers, commentators and media figures including Fakir Syed Aijazuddin and Mubasher Lucman.



Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, a Forman graduate who now serves as Vice Chancellor of Quaid-i-Azam University in Islamabad also spoke. Joined by Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Dr. Douglas Trimble and CPPG Director Dr. Noel Khokhar, the four of us enjoyed a memorable breakfast in my home just prior to my own departure to Islamabad to attend the US Educational Foundation Board meetings.

Having returned to Forman after many years, Dr. Jaspal also took the time to visit our Alumni Office where he met Adnan Ilyas, and Muhammad Talal; this was followed by a walking tour of our campus, providing an opportunity to recall fond memories from long ago.



Finally, CPPG Director Dr. Noel Khokhar notes that CPPG will provide research support for an upcoming Civil Services Academy mid career management course from June 8 to July 9 focused on the 26 million Pakistani children who do not attend school. Among other things, Forman will provide supervision and research support for the month-long course that includes a field trip to Sindh. FCCU Education Dean Dr. Martin is also scheduled to participate, providing his expertise.

OTHER CENTER PROGRAMS

FCCU's [Center for Learning and Teaching \(CLT\)](#) headed by Dr. Rukhsana Zia is one of the "shining stars" of our institution. Although not mentioned in the Rector's Update every month, CLT maintains a full schedule of workshops and other trainings, some of which are online and also offered to other universities. One such opportunity involving a free month-long Research Methodology course starts on June 17 ([Registration link](#)). Last year, a similar course reached 80 countries and involved more than 35,000 participants.



CLT held its annual recognition celebration on June 3 to honor the many experts who voluntarily contributed their services throughout the year. The impact during 2025 was impressive, involving 95 sessions and workshops led by 54 resource persons including 29 from Forman, 5 from other institutions in Pakistan, and 20 from abroad.



While focused on FCCU, CLT often makes its resources available to others, especially when webinars and online instructions are involved. Bearing this in mind, CLT programs last year attracted more than 40,000 participants, with registrants coming not only from Forman but also from more than 50 international universities as well as more than 100 campuses from across Pakistan.

The FCCU Writing Center headed by Dr. Mussarat Shahid held a Research Showcase on April 30, providing a venue for tutors to present their research on a range of issues including student behaviours and teaching practices. For example, Syed Faiq, Zainab Ghazanfar, and Vania Nasir presented a paper on the impact of culture on teaching practices; similarly, Khadija Zahra presented a paper on how ecological enquiry can help students better understand, write about, and relate to the natural world around them.

Reflecting on the event afterwards, Dr. Ayesha Aziz who was one of the judges commented that *"what stood out the most was the way these studies move beyond academic inquiry and spoke directly to lived educational experiences . . . I found the presentations intellectually engaging and methodologically thoughtful"*.



FCCU's Business Incubation Center (BIC), operating under the Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC), is now an official Community Partner of [See Pakistan 2026](#), a prominent entrepreneurial event that showcases creativity and innovation among Pakistan's youth.



Meanwhile, BIC organized a mentoring session on start-ups with Syed Nadeem Ejaz Shamsi from [Boardroom.pk](#), accompanied by Murtaza Subhani, Managing Director, Value Group Pakistan.

In addition, I attended the BIC Advisory Committee meeting convened by Dr. Kauser Abdulla Malik in May. Industry leaders participating included Dr. Khalid Ahmad Khan (President, Project Management Institute in Lahore); Sadaf Abid (Circle Women); and Sabiha Shaheed (BARGAD). As part of the meeting, the Advisory Committee approved the new BIC five-year plan. In addition, each member of the first cohort of BIC entrepreneurs was recognized and received certificates.



VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS INITIATIVES

The Forman College Visual and Performing Arts Department held its Annual Prize Distribution Ceremony, celebrating the hard work and dedication of the many College students who showcased their music abilities at a variety of community events including the Annual Christmas Gala and Music Recital.

In addition, certificates were awarded to students contributing to various College events including plays, dinners, and special programs arranged for international visitors including Friends of Forman. Photographs and videos related to this very special event are included [here](#).



Meanwhile, the University Visual & Performing Arts Department arranged a *Spring 2026 Exhibit* in the Jim Tebbe Campus Center Art Gallery featuring the work of Forman students, with Associate Dean Dr. Hee Sook Song attending as Chief Guest.



In addition, the Visual and Performing Arts Department conducted a *Plein Air Workshop and Artist Talk* on April 23 featuring Dr. Naela Amir, an artist and educator from the University of Punjab who shared her creative vision as well as her digital portfolio with FCCU students followed by an "open air" art demonstration.



Finally, special thanks to Forman's Arts Committee whose members include Dr. Ghazala Irfan and Alvina Wasim for bringing the founders of the Lahore Kathak Chapter (Maan Sayeed, Momina Farooq Khan, and Rameesha Muzaffar) to campus on April 30 to explore the history and evolution of Kathak dancing in Pakistan.



CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, AND LECTURES

Under the leadership of Assistant Professor (and Program Director for Research) Mariam Rao, Forman's School of Management launched its *Fifth International Conference on Business & Innovation* on May 19, a flagship event involving academics, researchers, policymakers, industry experts, students and others from across Pakistan and abroad.

This year's conference featured more than 40 external sessions, 100 research papers, and keynote speakers and senior guests from Samsung, Khazana, Unilever, LUMS, Lahore School of Economics, University of Management and Technology, and the University of Maryland, among others. Organized partly to foster networking and partnership opportunities among academia and industry, the program also included a Dean's Panel Discussion on *Leading Business Schools in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Strategy, Innovation and Impact*.





Forman's Economics Department organized a research workshop on *Exploring Future Research Questions and Writing Literature Reviews* on May 7. Directed primarily toward members of the Forman community, a number of faculty and students from Lahore College for Women University also attended.

Thanks especially to Dr. Farhan Ahmed, a prolific researcher and Assistant Professor at NED University of Engineering and Technology in Karachi, for facilitating this workshop, one of many that he has conducted both in Pakistan and abroad. A four-time recipient of the Best Researcher Award at NED (2022-2025), he was also the first nominee from Asia for the Moskowitz Prize offered by Northwestern University, the school in Illinois which I attended.

Forman's Sociology Department headed by Dr. Shamaila Athar hosted a panel discussion on May 13 on *Gender Disparities in Pakistan: Structures, Silences and Struggles*, bringing together scholars from FCCU as well as Lahore's universities including the University of Punjab, University of Management and Technology, and University of Home Economics to reflect on gender inequality in Pakistan and ways to address it. FCCU Sociology lecturers Ammar Yasir and Muhammad Taqveem served as moderators, leading discussions on a range of topics including inheritance rights, social expectations associated with manhood, gender disinformation, and cyberbullying, among others.

In addition, Sociology Lecturer Ammar Yasir organized a talk titled *Critical Theory: A Decolonial Critique*, delivered by Muhammad Qasim, a specialist in postcolonial thought and the history of Punjab.

Under the leadership of Dr. Abeeda Qureshi, Forman's Political Science Department partnered with the Forman Political Science Society to organize a seminar on *Engagement with Text in the Age of AI*. The session featured Asif Iftikhar, a distinguished academic with more than thirty years of experience in teaching and research.

Forman's Psychology Department organized a faculty development workshop on *Factor Analysis*. Conducted by Dr. Shah Rukh from Government College Women University, the workshop provided hands-on training in data analysis and interpretation.

Forman's Statistics Department organized two seminars during May, the first on *Estimating Crop Area Through Remote Sensing* (May 6) led by Muhammad Farooq from Pakistan's Department of Agriculture Statistics and the second on *Implications of Advanced Statistical Tools in Environmetrics: Strengthening Environmental Monitoring Procedures* led by Dr. Zulfiqar Ali from the University of Punjab (May 18).

Forman's Department of Chemistry chaired by Dr. Shazma Massey organized its annual *Lab Safety Workshop* on May 7, aimed at promoting a culture of safety, responsibility and awareness in our laboratories. Convened by Dr. Muhammad Abbas, the workshop also included remarks by Dean of Faculty for Natural Sciences Dr. Hassan Amir Shah as well as insightful presentations and hands-on training provided by Dr. Mariya al-Rashida and Dr. Muhammad Saeed Iqbal.

I continue to appreciate our English Department for bringing writers to campus as part of its *Writers Lounge Series*. This month those writers included Jamile Naqi, a Kinnaird College graduate and member of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan who lived in New York from 1979 to 2008, inspiring her book *Though Much is Taken Much Abides* published by Paramount in 2022.

A second *Writers Lounge Series* was held on May 13, this time featuring Dr. Shahid Imtiaz who discussed his latest publication *Janus Lahore and Other Poems* (2026). A Forman graduate who later earned his PhD in English Literature from the University of Punjab and heads the English Department at Riphah University (Lahore campus), Dr. Shahid writes for many publications on topics related to art, culture, and history; he also authored *Amorphous Lahore Colonial and Postcolonial: A Journey Through History and Fiction* (2021).

Thanks also to our two panelists who further enriched the discussion, Dr Waseem Anwar (a Fulbright scholar who previously taught at Forman and is now Director of the International Center for Pakistani Writing in English at Kinnaird College) and Dr. Rizwan Akhtar (Professor of English at Punjab University whose debut poetry book *Lahore, I Am Coming* was published by Lahore University Press).



FIELD TRIPS

Students enrolled in *News Reporting* and *Introduction to Mass Communication Studies* visited the Dunya Media Group, meeting industry professionals and gaining firsthand insight into how media operations work.

Meanwhile, Career Services partnered with Environmental Sciences to visit the Nishat Chunian Factory. Focused on MPhil students enrolled in Dr. Shazia Ilyas's *Cleaner Production and Pollution Control Technologies* course, the visit provided participants with practical exposure to various production processes including dyeing, printing, and stitching for home textile products such as curtains, bed linens, and table linens. Maryam Khalil and Sana Komal from Career Services also participated.

In addition, Career Services partnered with Forman's Department of Sociology to visit Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital, in this case involving students enrolled in the *Health and Health Systems* class taught by Sociology Lecturer Tehniyat Fatima. Providing first-hand familiarity with one of Pakistan's leading healthcare institutions, the visit covered a number of areas including quality, safety, management, and patient empowerment. Syed Farqaleet Kausar Bukhari from Career Services also participated.



OUTSIDE FACULTY ENGAGEMENTS

Forman's Psychology Department participated in the 16th International Conference of the Pakistan Psychological Association, held this year on the COMSATS University Lahore campus on April 30. Dr. Nashi Khan and Dr. Sarah Shahed served as Co-Chairs for a panel discussion on *Collective Action for Sustainable Social Change and Community Well Being* that also involved Psychology Department Chairs from other universities in Pakistan.





Given his foundational contributions to the discipline, FCCU's Dean of Social Sciences Dr. Sikandar Hayat was one of two distinguished speakers invited to a workshop hosted by the University of Punjab's Pakistan Study Center on May 11 to discuss *Pakistan Studies in the 21st Century: Teaching, Narratives, and Perspectives*.

Associate Professor and Chairperson, Department of Sociology, Dr. Shamalia Athar and Assistant Professor Dr. Aaisha Amjad participated in the *Third International Conference on SDGs: Perspectives and Policy Pathways*, hosted by the University of Home Economics in Lahore during April 28-30. Serving as Co-Chairs of the session on Health, Well-being, and Population Studies (SDG 3), their panel featured research presentations on issues related to student well-being, parenting, autism, and maternal healthcare during flooding disasters in Pakistan.



Also, FCCU Sociology lecturer Ammar Yasir was part of a panel discussion on *Sustainable Development Goals and the Global South: A Critical Examination of Universality in Global Governance and its Political Economy* at that same conference.



Attending as Guest of Honor, CPPG Director Dr. Noel Khokhar spoke at the inaugural session of the *Third Annual Conference on History and Society* hosted by Beaconhouse National University. Focused on *Multipolarity, Wars, and Resistance*, the conference brought together leading academics, policy experts, journalists, students, and others to discuss regional conflicts within the context of changing global power dynamics.



PUBLICATIONS



Urfa Naseer John from the College English Department has authored entries on Talib-ud-Din and Samuel Knowles in Volume 24 of *Christian-Muslim Relations: A Bibliographical History*, issued by the respected Dutch publisher Brill and contributing to ongoing scholarship on Christian-Muslim intellectual and historical interactions during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Nukhbah Taj Langah who plans to return to the Forman faculty following her time teaching in Malaysia forwarded a link to her article "[Siraiki Trimti \(Feminism\): An Autoethnographic Account](#)" which recently appeared in *Feminist Theology* 34(3), pages 261-275.



School of Management Professor Dr. Aamir Chughtai's paper *Can Humble Leadership Spark Change-Oriented Organizational Citizenship Behavior? A Moderated Mediation Study* has been accepted for publication in *Evidence-Based HRM: A Global Forum for Empirical Scholarship* (EBHRM), a leading journal in Organizational Behavior and Human Resource Management.

Professor Emeritus Dr. Saeed Shafqat wrote an outstanding review of Amjad Saqib's new book *Moloo Musalli* in the *Friday Times*.

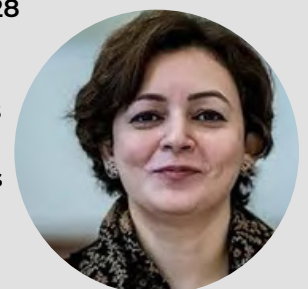


MEDIA OUTREACH



Maryam Khalil, Head of Career Service & Internships, was featured in an interview aired on April 28 on [Lahore Rang](#).

Sadia Kamran, Chairperson of Forman's Visual & Performing Arts Department, reached out to a wider audience, in this case reflecting on Art in the Age of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in [Express Tribune](#).





Forman TV's podcast initiative labelled "Formanites" continues to produce interesting and insightful podcasts. Most recently, Registrar Dr. Nayer Fardows was interviewed, sharing an inspiring message on the one year anniversary of *Marka-e-Haq* and *Operation Bunyan ul Marsoos* that emphasized patriotism, unity, sacrifice and the ways in which education contributes to national strength.

Dr. Farid Malik continues to contribute interesting and informative op-eds on a diverse range of topics to the *Minute Mirror*, of which this is but a sampling: [Correcting the Fault Lines](#); [Give Me Loan and Leave Me Alone](#); [Containing the Executive](#); [Working Together for Pakistan](#); [Quitters Never Win](#); [Victims of our own Mistakes](#).



Dr. Farid occasionally appears in *Minute Mirror* podcasts as well: [FCC Verdict on Balochistan Chief Secretary Case](#) and [Will Pakistan Miss the Asian Century?](#)



CIVIL SERVICE SUCCESS

Several Forman graduates deserve recognition for their success in Pakistan's Central Superior Services (CSS) exam, one of the most competitive such exams on the planet: between 25,000-30,000 aspiring civil service officers take the test each year, with only one in two hundred of them ever offered a position.



Against such odds, at least five Formanites are part of the most recent intake including Mir Ahmed Jalal who secured fourth position and has been assigned to the Pakistan Administrative Service (Assistant Commissioner) track. A Physics/Math Double Major, Mir Jalal was also an FCCU Valedictorian and Gold Medalist who qualified for scholarships at Harvard and MIT.

In addition, Political Science graduate Ubaid Khan successfully cleared the CSS exam and has also been assigned to the Pakistan Administrative Service. After graduating from FCCU, Ubaid Khan pursued a Master's degree at the University of San Diego on a Fulbright scholarship, a tribute to both his leadership skills and academic excellence.



Also, Forman graduate Usama Ehsan Butt, a Psychology major who minored in Political Science, passed and was assigned to the Police Services of Pakistan where he placed first in Punjab. Ranking 30th overall across Pakistan among all who took the exam, Usama attributes his success to the "enlightenment I received during my time at FCCU" while also thanking members of the Forman faculty who served as his mentors.

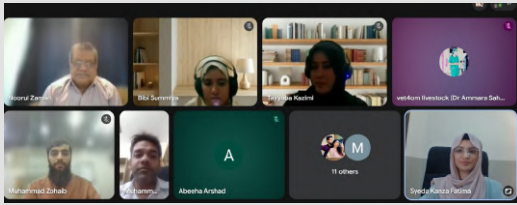
Similarly, Nawal Saif who graduated with a degree in Pharmacy successfully cleared the 2025 CSS exams in her first attempt and has been assigned to the Commerce and Trade group. As the Pharmacy Department reported, "her dedication, perservance, and pursuit of excellence have brought great pride and honor to our institution . . . her achievements serve as an inspiration for our students and alumni community alike".



Finally, FCCU congratulates School of Management graduate Fatima Khalid for securing the 22nd position overall in the CSS exam, leading to her assignment to the Pakistan Administrative Service while also providing yet another example of a Formanite "dreaming big and leading with purpose".



HEALTH AND WELL BEING



The Forman Psychological Services Center organized a webinar on *Recent Trends of Use of Electronic Cigarettes and Vaping in Pakistan and its Prevention*. Conducted on May 21, the session was led by Dr. Noor-ul-Zaman Rafiq, Director of Research Administration and Engagement at the Pakistan Institute of Living and Learning (PILL).

Working with Mercy Health Center, our Residential Life Office organized a *Basic Life Saving Workshop*, providing First Aid training to Guardians, Assistant Guardians, Resident Assistants, and Hostel Management. Focused on appropriate medical responses in an emergency, the hands-on session covered CPR, bandaging and other responses in situations involving injuries, burns, fainting, choking, and snake bites.



In addition, Mercy Health Center observed *International Nurses Day* on May 12, honoring our nursing staff while also recognizing the importance of compassion in providing support to patients. A special thanks to Dean of Student Affairs Dr. Elizabeth Schwaiger and Associate Dean of Student Affairs Riffat Zahir for attending and supporting this event.



"BY LOVE SERVE ONE ANOTHER"

Dr. Farzand Masih, Chairperson Department of History and Head of FCCU's Church Relations Office, reports that the latest edition of our Pre-College Summer Coaching Class was launched in late April. Dr. Noel Khokhar served as Chief Guest at the Opening Ceremony held in the Jim Tebbe Campus Center. More than 230 students participated, selected from among 375 applicants.



Although I have not mentioned it in previous issues of the *Rector's Update*, our Education Department continues to support a Female Literacy Program as part of a long-standing community-oriented activity associated with the Madeleine Case Sorber School initiative. Both FCCU support staff and members of a neighboring Abaadi community are eligible to participate in the program which promotes literacy in Urdu and English for adult learners.



The program currently enrolls at least nine adult students, five from Forman and four from the neighboring Abaadi. As noted by the Dean of Education Dr. Martin Thomas, *"Most students are now able to read and write simple Urdu passages with greater confidence and understanding"*. Underscoring Forman's continued commitment to reaching underserved populations, he also mentions that *"Several learners are now able to read the Urdu Bible independently, reflecting significant improvement in their literacy skills"*.

Forman's Christian Life Office is partnering with Mercy Health Center and the Shaukat Khanum Cancer Research & Treatment Center to sponsor a Blood Drive on June 8 outside Sinclair Hall. Donors who provide blood will in turn have access to free medical tests valued at 35,000 rupees in recognition of their contribution.

TRANSITIONS

As I finalize this newsletter, we have just received news of the passing of Sultan Dawood Barry, General Secretary of the Formanites Alumni Association. As I have discovered over the past five years, Mr. Barry was not only a proud Formanite but a true pillar of the FCCU community, committed to strengthening the institution while also uplifting countless students. His presence as well as his wisdom, strength, generosity, inspiration, and sense of service to all those who had the privilege of knowing him will be deeply missed.



On the same day, we also heard the sad news that Shahzad Nazir, Head Coach, Manager of the University Sports Office, and Chair of the FCCU Health and Physical Education Department, had also passed away. A frequent presence on campus who was often accompanied by his delightful small children, this too is another heavy blow to bear, not only for his family but for all of us in the Forman community.

OTHER NEWS

Forman graduate Imran Ashraf Cheema was recently elected as the Deputy Mayor of Crawley, a town south of London with a population approaching 120,000. Imran studied at Forman from 1990 until 1992, living in Griswold Hall where he met Dr. Aneel Samuel who now heads our Urdu Department. Moving to the UK in 1999, he qualified as a Chartered Accountant three years later, working as an Audit Manager with Haines Watt before founding his own successful Accountancy practice in 2009.

A proud Formanite, Imran Ashraf Cheema credits FCCU with shaping his early understanding of respect, tolerance, interfaith harmony, and service to others. From his perspective, the diverse and inclusive environment at FC College helped prepare him for life and public service in the UK, where working with people from different faiths, cultures, and communities is essential.





Meanwhile, recent Mass Communication graduate Rana Abdullah Hammad is already making a mark on the global stage, having been selected by Pakistan Television to travel with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to cover his official state visit to China. Described by Associate Professor Adeel Ahmad Aamir as "one of our finest journalism graduates from last fall", let me join others in the Forman community in congratulating Rana for this impressive achievement, only six months after graduation!

Visitors to our campus this month included Dr. Sam Pak who teaches Anthropology and conducts research on cultural identity and media studies at Kenyon College (Ohio). Linked in large part to his role in the "Global Classroom Connect" program under the Global Liberal Arts Alliance, Dr. Pak also gave lectures to students from both our Sociology and Mass Communication Departments before concluding his trip with a visit to see the Wagah border crossing ceremony.



Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan visited the Forman campus as part of a program initiated by the FCCU Chapter of the Young Peace and Development Corps (YPDC), headed by FCCU Computer Science undergraduate Mohammad Sachal Jawad.



In addition, YPDC President Mohammad Sachal Jawad shared interesting insights into his experience as part of the URAAN Peace and Development Fellowship for Young Leaders, a fully-funded initiative organized by the Ministry of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, describing it as *"a highly enriching experience . . . (as well as) a platform to engage deeply with ideas surrounding policymaking, leadership, and governance"*.

Joining in Islamabad with 130 student leaders from across Pakistan, he represented Forman in a series of intensive workshops covering leadership, policy development, active listening, and critical thinking. In addition, the program included visits to the Senate, National Assembly, and Planning Commission, among other institutions.





Reflecting further, he notes that *"This experience has had a lasting personal impact. It challenged me to think more critically, listen more intentionally, and lead with greater responsibility. Since returning, I have been consciously working to apply these learnings within my community—particularly through my involvement in student initiatives—while also striving to pass on these insights to my peers as I continue my journey"*.



Forman's Board of Directors (BOD) and Board of Governors (BOG) met on May 22 and May 23, providing an opportunity for our two Boards to review several aspects of our institution including next year's budget (2026-2027) which was approved; a new multi-year budgeting process is also being introduced. As always, I appreciated the role of Board Chairperson Dr. Rukhsana David in leading these meetings as well as Registrar Dr. Nayer Fardows and Chief of Staff Eileen Dass in helping to organize them.



Also, this meeting was used to introduce Kristen Boyer to Board members as our new Campus Architect. Having helped develop our new Campus Master Plan during a previous visit, she is no stranger to Forman; however, she will now be living in one of our housing units, working closely with Chief Engineer Tajammul John and his team to help shape the future of our beautiful campus.



I appreciated the opportunity to attend a farewell lunch on May 13 for two long-time Kauser Abdulla Malik School of Life Sciences (KAM) colleagues who are retiring, Dr. Kauser Malik and Dr. Aftab Bashir. As KAM-SLS Chairperson and Associate Professor Dr. Muhammad Bilal Sadiq notes, *"both have contributed significantly to the academic and institutional growth of the university"* and both have had a *"lasting impact"*.



Forman's Faculty Advising Office headed by Dr. Atiq-ur-Rehman arranged FCCU's 14th Annual Advising Fair in early May, held for the first time at the Jim Tebbe Campus Center. This year's theme was also new: *Faculty Advising in a Changing World: Artificial Intelligence (AI), Advising and Counselling, New Policies and Our Responsibilities*, providing an opportunity for students to explore potential academic pathways and future career opportunities while directly engaging with faculty advisors, departmental representatives, and support offices.



As for the College, it held an interactive in-house conference on May 12-13 for faculty and staff to reflect on the last academic year while also preparing for the new one. Assistant Professor Department of Psychology, Nazia Asif led the opening session followed by several other sessions covering various aspects of College life including student discipline and workplace concerns. The final session was led by FCCU Psychology Postgraduate Program Coordinator Dr. Abia Nazim and focused on relationship building among students, colleagues, and others.



Although I was unable to attend in person this year, TEDxFCCU President Hamail Fatima sent me details regarding the second edition of TEDxFCCU/Women 2026, held on May 18 under the title *Rewriting the Narrative* and featuring an entire day of interesting, informative, thought-provoking, and -- above all -- challenging speakers.



The Career Services & Internships Office hosted an NGO networking event on May 21, providing students with a valuable opportunity to connect directly with leading NGOs and explore internship and volunteer opportunities.



The Christian Life Program organized a "Salvation Story" program in the FCCU Chapel in late April, followed by a spiritual retreat for students held at Rana Resort, providing an opportunity for reflection and renewal.



FALLING WALLS SCIENCE SUMMIT

Many readers of the *Rector's Update* will be familiar with Falling Walls, a partnership involving FCCU and a German NGO established to promote entrepreneurship. Those interested in participating in this year's Falling Walls program which will take place on June 20 in the Jim Tebbe Campus Center should explore the following: <https://falling-walls.com/falling-walls-lab-lahore-pakistan>

Thanks to FCCU Board Member George Boota and Forman's HR Department headed by Douglas David and supported by Nazeef Pervaiz for organizing a four-day Supervisory Skills workshop for 22 of our administrative staff. Among other things, the training sessions covered positive approaches, team dynamics, effective communications, and handling conflict.



Thanks also to HR for arranging an Orientation Session for 37 new faculty and staff on May 25. I always appreciate providing opening remarks at such events, followed by several other presentations covering our mission, vision, core values, and campus facilities; other items are also addressed including health and safety issues as well as our performance appraisal system and sexual harassment policy.



Business Analyst Rafia Irshad Akhtar reports that our IT section conducted a Modern Microix Workshop on April 30, introducing a new web-based user interface to the Points of Contact in our various offices and departments, each of which playing a vital role in shaping effective and efficient business processes across FCCU.





First year Computer Science student Syed Ebtisam Ali surprised me with an e-mail in which he described his college research paper titled The Ultimate Showdown, providing a critique of globally known AI models such as Chat GPT, Gemini, Grok, Deepseek, Claude Perplexity, and Llama. From my perspective, the paper was intriguing and informative enough to share with others. You can read it [here](#).

Finally, a quick *mea culpa* regarding an error that appeared in the May *Rector's Update*, namely a comment indicating that the father of Shazia Rafi, one of my graduate school classmates at Tufts University in Boston, attended Forman; in fact her father Mian Munir Akhtar Rafi attended Government College and MIT, *not* Forman; rather it was her grandfather (Mian Muhammad Rafi) and her great grandfather (Sir Mian Muhammad Shafi) who were both Formanites! Again, my apologies for this inadvertent mistake!



DR. JONATHAN ADDLETON
RECTOR