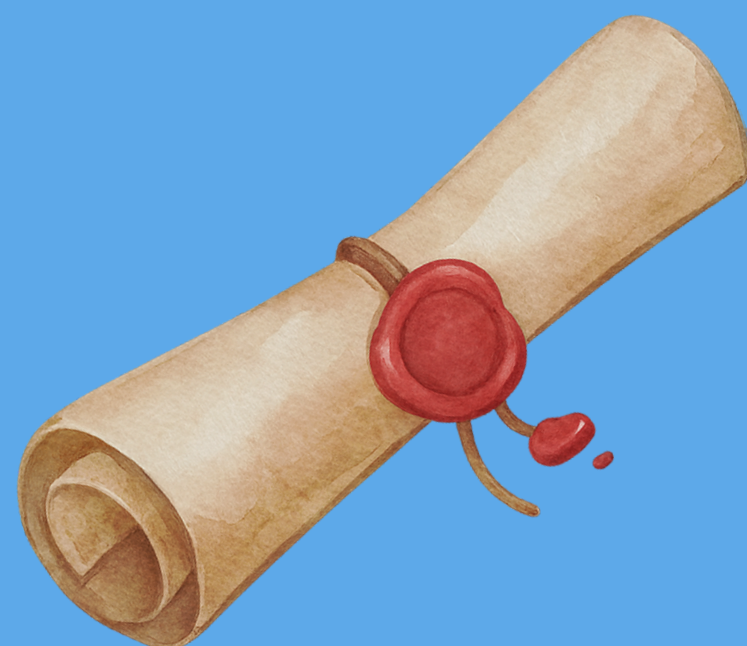




**FORMAN
CHRISTIAN
COLLEGE**
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

*Spring
2026*

THE ENGLISH DISPATCH: A BIANNNUAL INSIGHT





Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda
Chairperson, Department of English

In an age of ‘scrollable’ content and 15-second soundbites, the act of sitting down with a novel or engaging in a deep, hour-long discussion about a single poem might seem like a rebellious act. But it is a necessary rebellion. During these times when the global landscape is often defined by headlines of discord, the barrage of conflict, and the tragic reality of war, Literature acts as the most potent antidote to dehumanization. It builds empathy, preserves truth, and provides a bridge to eliminate differences and resolve conflicts. While propaganda seeks to simplify, Literature seeks to complicate, capturing not only the nuance of human suffering but also the resilience of the human spirit. Whereas History may provide one with the preservation of selective memory, Literature is polyphonic and multi-voiced in its appeal. When borders are closed and bridges are burned, stories still travel. Literature written in English provides space where voices from conflicting territories are heard and acknowledged making its study a sprawling, global conversation. The department of English at FCCU has always been a part of this conversation. Spring 2026 continued with the same resilience and fortitude engaging the students and the faculty in meaningful debates, literary celebrations (though rescheduled multiple times because of the global conflicts), and scholarly discussions. The highlights of this semester are Student-led initiatives, Graduate Seminar Series, The Writers Lounge, Faculty Research Forum sessions, and our 5th edition of Forman Literary Festival. Each session provided the participants with an opportunity to challenge set perspectives and to reinterpret their world anew.

THE ENGLISH DISPATCH: A BIANNUAL INSIGHT

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Graduate Seminar Series

Ali's Theatre: Its Creative Process & Targets - Usman Ali Shah Jahan



The Department of English, FCCU, organized an engaging session of the Graduate Seminar Series on April 7, 2026, titled “Ali’s Theatre: Its Creative Process & Targets,” featuring acclaimed playwright Usman Ali Shah Jahan. The session was moderated by Ms. Iffat Sayeed, a faculty member in the Department of English, FCCU.



Mr. Usman Ali talked about his journey as a playwright and shared his thoughts on the creative process in theatre. He offered insights from his own experiences and discussed various aspects of writing and inspiration. He also highlighted important elements that shape creative expression on stage. A special moment during the event was the reading of Mr. Usman Ali’s plays by Ms.

Ayesha Barque from the University of the Punjab, which was followed by the writer's own reading from his recently published book. This allowed the audience to experience his writing style directly.



The event brought together students and faculty from FCCU, as well as from other universities including Lahore College for Women University, University of the Punjab, and Riphah International University. It provided an excellent opportunity for everyone interested in creative writing and theatre to learn, share ideas, and connect with one another.

The Power of Hedging: How Small Words Shape Strong Communication – Rehan Khan

An interactive session of the forum of Graduate Seminar Series was organized on May 12, 2026, titled “The Power of Hedging: How Small Words Shape Strong Communication.” The session was led by Mr. Rehan Khan, ESL Trainer, who guided participants through the ways that careful language choices can strengthen communication.



Through lively activities and real-life examples, Mr. Khan encouraged everyone to look closely at how small words can change the tone of our conversations and open up space for understanding. Students and faculty took part in open discussions by sharing their own experiences and ideas along the way.



The session provided plenty of fresh perspectives and practical insights into how thoughtful language helps build better connections.



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The Writer's Lounge

David Wagner and Rainer Merkel

In partnership with Anne Marie Shimmel Haus (German Cultural Centre in Lahore), the Department of English organized an interactive session featuring two German authors: David Wagner and Rainer Merkel, along with Ms. Naurin Zaki (Director of the German Cultural Centre), held in E-021 on February 4, 2026, as part of its the Writer's Lounge Series.



David Wagner and Rainer Merkel began the session by introducing themselves and explaining why they chose to write in the German language. They also shared how their experiences living in Germany and other countries have influenced their writing. In response to questions from the faculty of the English Department and faculty and students from other departments.

David discussed his novel *Leben*, which translates to "Lives" in English, in which the protagonist undergoes an organ transplant—a real-life experience of the author. He also mentioned how original works in German and their translations reach a global audience. Rainer, a novelist, journalist, and psychologist, talked about his writing on displaced peoples in Afghanistan and Liberia. He emphasized that an author's tone and word choices in describing experiences are inherently subjective, blurring the lines between fiction and nonfiction, and that writing should be a daily practice for aspiring creative writers and published authors.

Dr. Ruth Jung-Ok Park (Chair, Forman Language Centre, FCCU) spoke about the success of the German Language Centre as a language-learning institution that also promotes multiculturalism and diversity through German-language studies. She also thanked Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda and Ms. Naurin for making the event possible.



Dr. Fatima Syeda (Chair, Department of English, FCCU) presented souvenirs to the three speakers. Ms. Naurin also presented souvenirs to Dr. Fatima Syeda, Ms. Uzma Khan (Chair, Centre of Language Development, FCCU), and Ms. Asfa Zia (Coordinator, Writers Lounge Series, Department of English, FCCU) for their efforts in ensuring the event's success. A large number of faculty members and students from various departments at FCCU attended the event.

Creative Writing Workshop by Hassan Siddiqui: Motivating Young Authors to Write for Social Change - Hassan Siddiqui

An interactive creative writing workshop titled “Creative Writing Workshop by Hassan Siddiqui: Motivating Young Authors to Write for Social Change” was organized on February 10, 2026, in E-001, as part of the Writers Lounge Series.



Hassan Siddiqui, a young Pakistani author and internationally exhibited writer, introduced students to his O.F.T.A. Framework™ (Observation, Feeling, Translation, Action), a structured approach to writing for social impact. Through a powerful opening story and reflective discussion, he demonstrated how responsible observation and ethical emotional processing form the foundation of meaningful social-change writing. The session emphasized that impactful storytelling begins not with issues but with disciplined human engagement with lived realities.



In a special segment on writing in the age of artificial intelligence, Hassan encouraged students to reflect on the distinct role of human writers in an AI-driven world. He highlighted that while AI can generate language, it cannot ethically observe, experience moral hesitation, or take on emotional responsibility, qualities essential to authentic creative work.

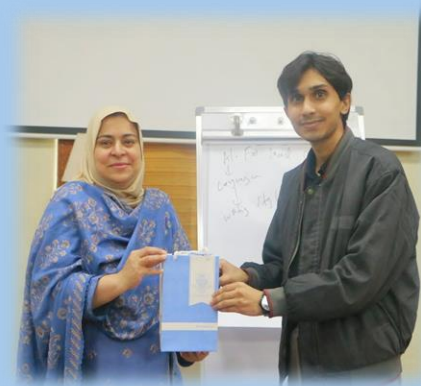


The workshop concluded with an engaging Q&A session in which students discussed storytelling, global literary platforms, and the role of writers as responsible citizens. Faculty

members and many students attended the session, making it a thought-provoking and enriching addition to the Writers Lounge Series.



Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda (Chair, Department of English, FCCU) presented the guest with a souvenir in appreciation of their contribution.



Though Much is Taken, Much Abides - Ms. Jamile Naqi

Another engaging session was organized with Ms. Jamile Naqi, author of the 2022 book *Though Much is Taken, Much Abides*, on April 30, 2026, in Jim Tebbe Campus Center.



The book features articles on Pakistani culture. During the session, Ms. Naqi shared how her time in Manhattan shaped her writing and how she viewed herself as a foreigner upon returning to Pakistan. She discussed her research for the book, which involved exploring heritage elements like the Hookah and Pandan, and even visiting a village with snake chambers.



She also encouraged close observation as part of her writing process and advised students to preserve their original words, emphasizing their value. Her experience of returning to Pakistan involved seeing daily life through a foreign lens, while reaffirming that Pakistan will always be her home. She compared Manhattan's lack of a concept of God and its highly individualistic nature with the spiritual connection she feels in Pakistan, especially after returning to Lahore.



The students posed insightful questions, enriching the session. In the end, Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda, the department chair, presented a souvenir to the speaker, commented on the literary appeal of her work, and thanked the audience for their participation.



Janus Lahore and Other Poems (2026) - Prof. Dr. Shahid Imtiaz

This session was based on the latest publication of Prof. Dr. Shahid Imtiaz, *Janus Lahore and Other Poems (2026)*, and was held on May 13, at 2 p.m. in E-001. The two guest speakers of the session were Prof. Dr. Waseem Anwar and Prof. Dr. Rizwan Akhtar.



In *Janus Lahore and Other Poems*, the city is not merely a geographic location but a psychic landscape. Prof. Dr. Waseem noted the recurring motif of the 13 gates, transforming them from physical historical markers into a personal mythology. He reiterated that to understand the city, one must have roamed it first, not just as a flâneur, but as one who intends to imbibe the spirit of its ancient stones.

Dr. Anwar stated that Shahid's Lahore is a city of dualities—a Janus facing both the grandeur of its past and the grit of its present. The tunnels mentioned in the work suggest a subterranean consciousness, a way to navigate the frenzy of modern life through the structured craft of verse.



For Prof. Dr. Rizwan, reading these poems felt like paying off a debt. He expressed his appreciation for Shahid's work and said there is a moral weight to Shahid's work, a sense that being a poet is a great responsibility. This was not a dry, academic duty for the poet, but a sinful delight—the intoxicating joy of finding the right cadence for a difficult truth. The influence of Mikhail Bakhtin was felt in the work's spirit, which pervades it, allowing for a polyphonic celebration of the city's chaos. The poetry functioned through osmosis; the poet absorbed the environment until the boundary between the self and the city dissolves.



While the impulse may be spontaneous, the execution is craft, balancing raw instinct with disciplined form. Ultimately, the dialogue concluded that poetry is subjective. Much like the *Basic Instinct* referenced (with a nod to the visceral nature of Sharon Stone's cinematic intensity), Shahid's poems are driven by a raw, foundational pulse.



The Janus figure reminded us that we're always looking in two directions: at the luminous responsibility of the artist and the frenzy of the world that demands to be written. Through these reflections, Janus Lahore emerged as more than a book of verse; it's a map of the tunnels connecting the poet's heart to the gates of his city.

As closing remarks, Dr. Jonathan Addelton, the Rector FCCU, shared his reflections on how artistic depth allows poets to express through the power of literature what largely remains unexpressed and unseen. He thanked the guest speakers for sharing their profound insights on Dr. Imtiaz's book. Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda, Chair of the English Department, also thanked the speakers and the audience for a meaningful gathering and sharing of intellectual knowledge. Souvenirs were presented to the guest speakers by the Rector and Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda.



Moolo Musalli - Dr. Amjad Saqib

The Writer's Lounge hosted another book launch featuring Dr. Amjad Saqib of Akhuwat Foundation on 4 June 2026. The session was moderated by Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda, Professor and Chairperson, Department of English, FCCU. The event started with an insightful review of the book by the Rector, FCCU, Dr. Jonathan S. Addleton. Dr. Addleton reflected on the book's civic resonance, praising its ethical urgency and its capacity to bridge scholarship and service.



The discussion was centered on Dr. Amjad Saqib's latest book, Moolo Musalli, and explored its themes of social justice, compassion, and community resilience. Dr. Saqib shared personal

anecdotes about the grassroots experiences that informed his writing, describing how encounters with ordinary people shaped the book's characters and moral vision. Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda offered a close literary reading, illuminating the novel's narrative voice, use of vernacular, and symbolic motifs; she emphasized how structural choices and recurring images invite readers to witness marginalized lives with dignity rather than pity, and suggested pedagogical approaches for integrating the text into courses on contemporary South Asian literature and community-engaged learning.



Dr. Amjad encouraged students to see literature as a catalyst for social responsibility and proposed potential institutional collaborations with Akhuwat to translate ideas into action. The session included readings from the text, Q&A by the audience, and thoughtful exchanges between faculty, students, and guests. At the close of the event, Rector Dr. Addleton and Dr. Fatima presented a commemorative souvenir to Dr. Saqib in appreciation of his visit and contribution to public discourse.



Faculty Research Forum

Teaching Emotional Intelligence through Literature in Age of AI - Dr. Qurratulaen Liaqat

The Faculty Research Forum (FRF) of the Department of English at FCCU, Lahore, organized its next session entitled Teaching Emotional Intelligence through Literature in Age of AI conducted by Dr. Qurratulaen Liaqat, Associate Professor of English, FCCU.



The multi-facet discourse exhibited by AI is acknowledged academically, however, the key question remains “What human skills does literature teach that AI cannot replicate?” which Dr Liaqat has approached theoretically through Daniel Goleman’s reflections in Emotional Intelligence (EI) in her research. She feared a decline in the EI of university learners because of the excessive usage of social-media.



However, Literature lessons encourage social responsibility and ethical awakening among the students. She elaborated on the pedagogical intervention of her research through Henrik Ibsen play ‘A Doll’s House’ (1879) that was used as a tool in an experimental method to enhance the personal responses of individual students towards key moments in the text.



Student Led Initiatives

The Department of English at Forman Christian College University celebrates the successful completion of a Global Course Connection (GCC) collaboration with Franklin University, Switzerland under the Global Liberal Arts Alliance (GLAA). Students from FCCU and FUS collaboratively worked on three (03) projects through cross-cultural research, critical thinking, and sustainability-focused research.



The collaboration connected two courses, i.e., ENGL 430: Postcolonial Literature & Theory (FCCU) by Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda and CLCS 254W: Introduction to Postcolonial Literature & Theories (FUS) by Dr. Kate Roy.



Speculative Fiction Writing: Setting the Scene - Ms. Sidra Fatima Sheikh

The Dystopian Fiction class ENGL 611 at the Department of English, FCCU, organized a workshop titled "Speculative Fiction Writing: Setting the Scene" on April 28th, 2026. To

commence the session, Dr. Qurratulaen formally welcomed and introduced the guest speaker, Ms. Sidra Fatima Sheikh, an accomplished poet, lawyer, and author of The Light Blue Jupiter Series, who guided participants about the art of world-building and narrative experimentation.



She mentored the students regarding ways to curate an impactful and captivating opening for their narratives that would immediately hook the reader. To exemplify this, Ms. Sidra read excerpts from her novels “The Light Blue Jumper” and “A Shade Darker” to the students, sharing her experience and planning during the writing process. The engaging session helped its attendees to analyze the use of science fiction, fantasy, and dystopian perspectives to challenge conventional realities and draft imaginative narratives.



Quiz Competition – Ms Rehana John

The students of LING 207 (History of the English Language), taught by Ms. Rehana John, organized a quiz competition with questions that explored the history of the English language over the years. The event was honored by the presence of Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda, Chairperson of the Department of English, and Mr. Fahad Aftab, Coordinator of the BS English Program.

The students performed exceptionally well and showed great interest and knowledge. Their efforts made the competition both engaging and productive, and left a lasting impression on everyone involved.



Goblin Market – Ms Sadiqa Maqbool

Students of ENGL-315 presented a captivating dramatic rendering of Goblin Market on 3rd June, 2026, under the supervision of their instructor Ms. Sadiqa Maqbool. As part of their course project and a creative out-of-classroom activity, the performance brought Christina Rossetti's evocative poem to life through expressive acting, visual imagination, and collaborative effort.

The event highlighted the students' interpretive skills and their ability to engage critically and creatively with literary texts beyond the traditional classroom setting. The Chairperson, Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda, graced the occasion along with esteemed faculty members including Dr. Faiza Zaheer, Mrs. Iffat Sayeed, and Mr. Fahad Aftab.



Dystopian Cosplay Extravaganza – Dr Quratulaen



The Dystopian Fiction class ENGL 611 at the Department of English, FCCU, concluded the semester in the most unforgettable way by conducting a Dystopian Cosplay Extravaganza on June 2nd, 2026. The students dressed up as a dystopian character of their choice or came up with a look that embodied their personal dystopia.





They took up the stage one by one to present their looks giving creative, personal expression to what a dystopia means to them. Each explanation exemplified how the course had inspired critical and imaginative thinking, turning literary themes into vivid, wearable stories.

The event started with a formal welcome by the course instructor and the organizer, Dr. Qurratulaen Liaqat who formally introduced the academic spirit of the event and welcomed Dr. Fatima Syeda (HOD of the English Department) and guests.



The cosplay was followed by a potluck where students, faculty, and instructors came together over food and conversation. The event proved to be the perfect way to wrap up the semester of exploring some of literature's most thought-provoking worlds.

The Many Shapes of Dystopia: Changing Definitions in Indigenous and Feminist Contexts - Dr. Paula Wiczorek

The Dystopian Fiction class ENGL 611 also hosted a guest lecture by Dr. Paula Wiczorek, Head of the Department of English Studies, Institute of Information and Technology, Poland. The title of her talk was “The Many Shapes of Dystopia: Changing Definitions in Indigenous and Feminist Contexts”. The course instructor, Dr. Qurratulaen, formally welcomed the guest.



The lecture explored how the understanding of dystopia has evolved beyond its classical Western formulations, and how Indigenous and feminist narratives reshape the genre by foregrounding issues such as environmental crisis, colonial histories, and gender. She included examples such as Louise Erdrich’s *Future Home of the Living God*, alongside other contemporary texts, to illustrate how dystopia is being redefined across cultural contexts. After the lecture, students and the guest speaker engaged in an interactive question and answer session.



Forman Literary Festival 5.0 (2026)

The Forman Literary Festival 5.0, held on 2nd June 2026, celebrated intellectual inquiry and creative expression. Under the esteemed leadership of our worthy Rector, Dr. Jonathan S. Addleton and our Department Chairperson, Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda, the event commenced with an insightful opening ceremony.



FLF 5.0 advisor, Dr. Adeel Khalid, worked with the president, Era Williams, and the vice president, Hamza Akram, and other team members of Ewing English Society to invite the prominent scholars and writers belonging to various English departments across Pakistan who engaged in rigorous academic discourse, exploring diverse themes and the evolution of contemporary reading cultures. The literary festival featured dramatic readings, insightful panel discussions, and a vibrant magazine launch, concluding with a dynamic costume presentation.



This successful event manifested the department's enduring commitment to cultivating critical thinking, fostering artistic innovation, and sustaining a sophisticated literary tradition within the academic community.



The event was closed by the Rector with the appreciation of the event and the efforts of the department and the society, and a vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda.



Departmental Updates

Session on Watermark – Mr Shehroz Asghar(QEC)

The Department of English organized a faculty session on Watermark on Thursday, January 29, 2026. The session covered best practices for managing data in Excel, maintaining assessments and rubrics, analyzing courses, and ensuring consistency across multiple sections.



Mr. Shehroz Asghar from the Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) facilitated the session and provided valuable guidance. The Department of English appreciates the participation of all faculty members and looks forward to continuing efforts that support academic excellence and quality assurance.

Postgraduate Open House

The Department of English participated in the Postgraduate Open House held on February 3, 2026. Faculty members engaged with prospective students, providing detailed information about the MPhil English program and addressing questions about course structures, career paths, and scholarships. These interactions helped students make informed decisions about their academic future at FCCU.





Professor Kate Roy – Franklin University, Switzerland

Professor Kate Roy from Franklin University Switzerland visited the Department of English. She visited Dr. Adeel Khalid's classes to discuss oral history projects with students.



During her visit, Prof. Roy shared her expertise on the power of personal narratives in understanding history and identity, offering valuable insights into ethical considerations when collecting and representing others' stories. Students had the opportunity to present their oral history project concepts and receive feedback on their interview methodologies and narrative approaches.

Prof. Roy's interdisciplinary perspective—drawing from postcolonial theory, translation studies, and narrative analysis—provided students with critical frameworks for thinking about how individual stories intersect with broader historical and cultural contexts. Her guidance on navigating the complexities of memory, representation, and the interviewer-subject relationship proved invaluable as students prepare to conduct their interviews.

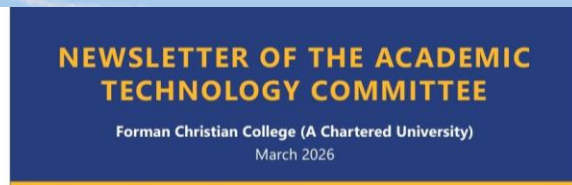
The department thanked Prof. Kate Roy for generously sharing her time and expertise with our students, and for enriching our students' understanding of oral history as both a research methodology and a form of storytelling.

Department of English Contribution to the Academic Technology Committee

The Department of English at FCCU has been sharing its contribution to the Academic Technology Committee over the past three years, marking the successful completion of the committee's tenure.

Representing the department, Dr. Adeel Khalid and Ms. Ayesha Fareed actively participated in a range of discussions and strategic initiatives focused on enhancing the university's academic technology ecosystem.

The committee collaboratively explored key areas such as the effective integration of Artificial Intelligence in teaching and learning, improving the functionality and pedagogical use of the Learning Management System (LMS), and evaluating emerging tools including BoodleBox.



NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADEMIC TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Forman Christian College (A Chartered University)
March 2026

Why Technology Matters to You

We've all been there: You walk into a classroom ready to deliver a vital lecture, only to find the HDMI cable is missing, or you are a student trying to download a research paper while the campus Wi-Fi fluctuates. These aren't just minor technical glitches; they are barriers to learning. As the rise of Artificial Intelligence begins to reshape the global academic landscape, the need for a seamless, forward-thinking digital environment at Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) has never been more urgent. This is where the Academic Technology Committee (ATC) steps in. Our mission is to ensure that the technology powering FCCU doesn't just work—it excels. We act as the bridge between the complex world of IT infrastructure and the daily reality of the classroom, advocating for solutions that empower both faculty and students to thrive in a digital-first world.

Meet the Academic Technology Committee

The ATC is composed of dedicated faculty, staff, and student members from diverse academic backgrounds, all working to improve your digital experience:

	Dr. Abdul Jalil Khan Abdul Jalil Khan is an Associate Professor of Economics. His countless contributions to the work of the committee include providing a faculty perspective on pedagogical needs, facilitating coordination between academic staff, IT, and administration, and advising on ethical, accessible, and academically sound use of technology, including identifying current limitations and recommending targeted upgrades to support effective teaching and learning.		Mr. Anthony Richards Anthony Richards serves as the Chief Information Officer and an ex-officio member of the committee. He provides the technical leadership and institutional oversight necessary to align the committee's digital initiatives with the university's broader infrastructure and strategic vision.
	Dr. Adeel Khalid Adeel Khalid is an Assistant Professor in English and a recipient of prestigious international fellowships, including the Global Cultural Relations Program and the IWM Vienna Fellowship. His research explores the intersection of digital media writing and multiliteracies, providing the committee with valuable academic insight into how digital humanities can transform contemporary scholarship.		Ms. Asma Basharat Asma Basharat is a Senior Lecturer in Computer Science and an HEC-certified Master Trainer. With over 12 years of experience in information security and machine learning, she brings a deep technical understanding of the security protocols and automated systems required for a modern campus.
	Ms. Ayesha Fareed Ayesha Fareed is an Assistant Professor in the Writing and Communication Program with		

These efforts were directed toward fostering a more responsive, innovative, and pedagogically sound digital learning environment at FCCU. The experience reflects the department's continued commitment to engaging with evolving educational technologies and contributing to institutional development.

Visit to National History Museum

Dr. Adeel Khalid led his Writing and Communication classes on an enriching academic visit to the National History Museum on April 22, 2026.

The group was warmly received by the museum's Director, Awais Malik, a proud Formanite, who welcomed students for an engaging learning experience. The visit featured a guided tour of the museum's remarkable exhibits, followed by an interactive session with Creative Manager Sana Maqsood. Her session focused on innovative ways to conceptualize and curate oral history projects, encouraging students to think critically and creatively about storytelling.



Students explored a rich array of cultural artefacts and immersed themselves in Pakistan's vibrant oral history traditions, making this visit a meaningful extension of their classroom learning.

Annual Advising Fair

The Department of English actively took part in the Annual Advising Fair on May 7th, 2026. Our faculty members offered support and advice to students regarding their academic plans, career aspirations, and university regulations. The department's participation was led by Mr. Fahad Aftab, Coordinator of the BS English Program, under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda, Chairperson of the Department of English.



Ink-It Competition 2026

The Writing and Communication Center FCCU, in collaboration with the Department of English, organized the fourth annual Ink-It competition, culminating in the final round and prize distribution ceremony that took place on April 13, 2026. The event aimed to encourage creativity and to revive the passion of writing in young adults.

A total of 53 participants registered to participate. During the first round, participants were provided with prompts from genres of horror, magical realism, and creative nonfiction, and asked to write a piece of flash fiction. 18 participants took part in Round 2: Dramatic Reading (Writing the Script), during which they were provided with themes to write scripts meant for dramatic reading. The participants were encouraged to experiment with the genre and form. The scripts went through a rigorous process of blind checking by a panel of four judges. 9 selected participants moved on to Round 3: Dramatic Reading (Performance) to perform their dramatic pieces.





The dramatic performances during round three were judged by a panel of four judges from the Department of English: Dr. Subbah Mir, Ms. Maheen Zia, Mr. Shahan Pervaiz, and Mr. Noor Rehman. The judges evaluated the performances in accordance with the provided rubric focusing on delivery and articulation, expression, pacing, stage presence, and audience engagement. The event was graced by the presence of two chief guests, Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda, Chairperson, Department of English, and Prof. Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan, Dean of Humanities.



The first cash prize of Rs 7000/- was given to Abdul Mannan for his monologue titled “Hypocrite.” The second prize of Rs 3500/- was shared between two participants, Irum Arif (who performed a monologue titled “Unchild”) and Maham Mubashir (for her monologue titled “Friction”). The third prize of Rs 1750/- was won by Noor-e-Asim who performed her monologue titled “Her.” Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda, in her closing remarks, congratulated the

winners, appreciating the range of topics and the enthusiastic participation of the students in this competition.

Eid & Easter Celebration 2026

The faculty members from the Department of English gathered for a delightful get together at Masalawala Restaurant, Lahore, on April 25, 2026. It was a relaxed and joyful afternoon as faculty members engaged in vibrant conversations and enjoyed a delicious meal. This gathering offered not only an atmosphere of fun and enjoyment but also provided an opportunity to connect with each other and create good memories.



Faculty Updates

Mr. Jonathan Caleb

Literary Carnival Week Fall 2025 at School of Liberal Arts at the University of Management and Technology (UMT)

Mr. Jonathan Caleb was invited as a guest speaker at the Literary Carnival Week Fall 2025, organized by the School of Liberal Arts at the University of Management and Technology (UMT). He delivered a talk titled “The Impact of Speculative Fiction on Culture, Identity, and Power”.



During his talk, Mr. Caleb explored how speculative fiction shapes cultural beliefs, challenges existing power structures, and influences identity. Drawing on a range of contemporary texts, he highlighted the ongoing importance of speculative storytelling in reflecting and reshaping society.

Mr. Fahad Aftab

Second Coming of Humanities: 2nd International Conference on Literature, Language, and Linguistics at University of Central Punjab, Lahore

Mr. Fahad Aftab, Assistant Professor in the Department of English, FCCU, presented a paper from his doctoral research work at the Second Coming of Humanities: 2nd International Conference on Literature, Language, and Linguistics held on January 8–9, 2026, at the University of Central Punjab, Lahore.



Dr. Fatima Syeda

Keynote Session at the 1st International Colloquium in Language and Interdisciplinary Research (ICLIR 2026) at University of Management & Technology, Lahore.

Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda, Chairperson, Department of English, FCCU, was invited as the keynote speaker at the 1st International Colloquium in Language and Interdisciplinary Research (ICLIR 2026) held on January 20, 2026. The event was organized by the Centre for Foreign Languages and the School of Liberal Arts at the University of Management & Technology, Lahore. The title of her keynote was “Lexicon in Flux: Language in the Wake of Digital Transformation.”



In her keynote, she discussed how language, in the wake of digital transformation, has become more democratically porous yet more insidiously controlled; more creatively expansive yet more ephemeral and unstable; more globally connective yet more prone to fragmentation. She further emphasized that scholars in Language Studies must play an important role in this regard, as the

focus should not be on resisting these shifts but on consciously and ethically steering them, ensuring that in this hybrid ecology, language remains a tool for human development, not merely a substrate for technological extraction.

Guest Speaker - Beyond the Weeping Walls: The Evolution of Women's Voices in the Theatre of War arranged by the Department of English at Lahore College for Women University (LCWU)

Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda was also invited as a guest speaker at a seminar arranged by the Department of English at Lahore College for Women University (LCWU) held on January 21, 2026. Dr. Syeda's topic for the seminar was "Beyond the Weeping Walls: The Evolution of Women's Voices in the Theatre of War."



She focused on Queen Hecuba's character as depicted in different plays selected from various times and places, establishing that the transformation in a single character, represented through theatre of different times and spaces, presents women going beyond the weeping walls, evolving into stronger, wiser, and more resilient beings.

Keynote Session at Literature, and Culture: Reclaiming Humanity in the era of AI at Riphah International University

Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda, was invited as opening keynote speaker at the 2nd International Conference on Language, Literature, and Culture: Reclaiming Humanity in the era of AI (3-5 April, 2026) arranged by the department of English at Riphah International University. Dr. Syeda and Dr. Kate Roy from Franklin University Switzerland, presented a keynote based on their ongoing project from their globally connected course on Postcolonial Literature.



Focusing upon the theme of Data Colonialism, the keynote was given the title: "From Empire to Datacracy: The continuation of Colonial Discourse in the Digital Systems". The keynote examined the phenomenon of 'othering' within the digital sphere. It also established that Datacracy encourages the colonisation of mind, knowledge, thoughts, and being through Data

and algorithms extracted from the digitally excluded or other educational subjects. The keynote concluded on the note that Datacracy is the new form of colonialism reinforced and continued by the new digital environment and data epistemologies.



Panel Discussion – Reimagining Literary Studies for Future at University of Central Punjab

Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda was invited for a panel discussion on “Reimagining Literary Studies for Future” arranged by the department of English at University of Central Punjab, Lahore on 11th June, 2026. The panel consisted of Prof. Dr. Waseem Anwar (KCWU), Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda (FCCU), and Dr. Sameer Ahmed (GCU). The panelists focused upon discussing the current state of literary studies in global and local academic contexts.



Dr. Syeda focused upon the importance of interdisciplinarity in the wake of current social, political & psychological scenarios. She highlighted the post pandemic shift in the perspectives to deal with a global landscape riddled with wars & conflict zones, rapid technological advancements, & other complexities of life. She suggested that the approaches towards

Literature, as well as other fields within the discipline of Humanities, are bound to reflect these changes as these deal directly with humanistic productions. She further reinforced the need for challenging the persistence of rigid canonical curriculum development, orthodox pedagogical practices and the application of traditional theoretical models in the discipline.

Ms. Nadia Iftikhar

Ms. Nadia Iftikhar, Assistant Professor, the department of English, FCCU, was invited as Session Chair at International Conference on Arts and Humanities: Developing Sustainable and Resilient Communities through Language and Literature organized by Government Gulberg College for Women on 29th January 2026. Her feedback on the papers and her views about the role of literature in the age of AI were highly appreciated by the audience.



Another honor for Ms. Nadia was to present her poster at 4th International Conference on Re (imagining) and Re(forming) Education: Navigating the New Educational Frontier organized by the Education department at Forman Christian College on 13th February. Her paper “Reimagining the Roles of Educators and their Professional Development through a Bloom’s-based Micro-Credential Ecosystem: Climbing the Cognitive Ladder” was well received by the Vice Rector, by Research fraternity and the by the faculty attending the presentation.

Another Academic venture aiming at enhancing experiential learning of students was to invite the acclaimed short story writer, Kanza Javed to her short story class. The students shared their comments about her newly launched book, *What Remains After a Fire*. She shed light on her writing process, her focus on characters to write a well-knit story and some publishing processes. Overall, the students got highly benefited by this session.



Re(imagining) and Re(forming)Education: Navigating the New Educational Frontiers

Faculty members from the Department of English played a vibrant and active role in the 4th International Conference "Re(imagining) and Re(forming)Education: Navigating the New Educational Frontiers" organized by the department of Education at FCCU on 13th February

2026. Professor Dr. Fatima Syeda, Chairperson English department, served as session chair, bringing academic moderation and providing thoughtful leadership to the proceedings.



Dr. Faiza Zaheer, Dr. Qurratulaen Liaqat, Dr. Farheen Saeed, and Dr. Adeel Khalid contributed as co-chairs, ensuring smooth coordination and engaging dialogue across sessions. Adding to the richness of the event, several faculty members from the English Department also presented their specialized research, including Ms. Sadiqa Maqbool, Dr. Mussarat Shahid, Dr. Subha Mir, Ms. Nadia Iftikhar and Ms. Naomi Justin, whose papers enriched the conference with interdisciplinary insights and innovative pedagogical perspectives.



This collective effort not only highlighted the academic excellence of the English department but also celebrated the spirit of collaboration, innovation, and scholarly dedication that defines Forman family.

Mr Saud Hanif

Book Review in Global South Literary Studies by Taylor & Francis Online

Mr. Saud Hanif, has authored a book review published in Global South Literary Studies by Taylor & Francis Online. The review examines Narratives of Loss and Longing: Literary Developments in Postcolonial South Asia, edited by Nukhbah Taj Langah and Roshni Sengupta, and published by Routledge in 2025. Mr. Hanif's insightful analysis, published on January 26, 2026, contributes to ongoing scholarly discussions on postcolonial South Asian literature.

Dreaming with The Ancestors: Three Perspectives," led by Ms. Linda Mastrangelo

He augmented his expertise in dream analysis by attending an exciting interactive webinar course titled, "Dreaming with The Ancestors: Three Perspectives," led by Ms. Linda Mastrangelo, the executive director of Institute for Dream Studies (IDS), New York City, USA.



The webinar provided a learning experience with various ancestral dream interpretation techniques discussed by Ms. Mastrangelo, Ms. Alejandra Perez Reguera, and Sahla Bilquis. The three perspectives presented by the speakers not only uncovered the value of ancestral dreams but also shed light on the emerging field of indigenous studies. This webinar was followed by the course content including handouts, recorded video lectures, and a quiz to be completed till the final certificate.

Dr Faiza Zaheer

Session Chair at the Two-Day International URISSE Symposium 2026 on “Culture, Food, and Literature in the New Millennium”

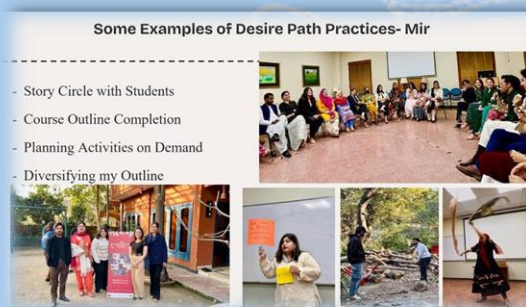
Dr. Faiza Zaheer had the honour of serving as a Session Chair at the Two-Day International URISSE Symposium 2026 on “Culture, Food, and Literature in the New Millennium” (25–26 March 2026), hosted by the School of Liberal Arts, University of Management & Technology, Lahore.



The session brought together a rich and engaging range of presentations exploring diverse themes, including identity construction through food in Pakistani television advertising, cross-cultural culinary exchanges in historical and global contexts, the role of food narratives in shaping memory and belonging in contemporary literature, and the preservation of cultural heritage through storytelling.

Dr Subbah Mir & Maryam Naeem (Graduate Student)

Dr. Subbah Mir, along with her brilliant graduate student Maryam Naeem, has co-authored a research work titled “The Monstrous Body as a Discursive Body: Umro Ayyar- A New Beginning Offering a Utopian Possibility for Pakistan.” After a long and arduous journey, their work has been published as part of the project “Monstrous Utopia.” The publication is now available for access on Google Books.



International Research Presentation under Supporting Learner’s Agency through Desire Path Pedagogy

Dr. Subbah Mir presented her research internationally under the umbrella of “**Supporting Learner’s Agency through Desire Path Pedagogy**” while co-presenting with Dani Dilkes, Jennifer Walsh Marr, and Kathryn Chow at the 2026 Teaching and Learning Innovations Conference (May 22, 2026)- University of Guelph.

Dr. Adeel Khalid

Multimodality and Translanguaging in a Multilingual Context - Language Education Webinar 2026

Dr. Adeel Khalid, Assistant Professor of English at Forman Christian College (A Chartered University), has successfully conducted an international masterclass for the Language Education Webinar 2026. Dr. Khalid led an essential and highly anticipated session titled "Multimodality and Translanguaging in a Multilingual Context". The masterclass engaged a global audience of educators, researchers, and students in critical discussions surrounding multilingual pedagogies and contemporary ESL classroom practices.



Orator's Quest (English) at Beaconhouse School System

He also served as an adjudicator for Orator's Quest (English) at Beaconhouse School System, Garden Town Campus, held on 31 January 2026.



The event showcased impressive oratory skills, critical thinking, and rhetorical confidence among participating students. Dr. Khalid's role as an adjudicator reflects the Department's ongoing engagement with academic outreach and its commitment to supporting language education, public speaking, and literary culture at the school level.

Dr. Qurratulaen Liaqat

Dr. Qurratulaen Liaqat was invited by Government College University Lahore to serve as a judge for the PhD English Literature poster presentations. Her invitation to evaluate advanced doctoral research at one of the country's most prestigious institutions reflects her recognized scholarly expertise and standing in the field of English literary studies.



Post 9/11 Wars and American Theatre of the Absurd
University of Information Technology and Management in Rzeszów, Poland



Dr. Qurratulaen Liaqat delivered a guest lecture at the University of Information Technology and Management in Rzeszów, Poland. The title of her talk was “Post 9/11 Wars and American Theatre of the Absurd”. The discussion focused on Rajiv Joseph's play ‘Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo’ and how it conveys the socio-political absurdity of the post 9/11 American invasion through its stylistics

Mr. Azeem Alphonse
International Leadership and Professional Development Training Program at Payap University in Thailand

Mr. Azeem Alphonse, one of our faculty members, recently participated in an enriching international leadership and professional development training program at Payap University in Thailand, held from May 3 to May 10, 2026. The experience offered valuable opportunities for learning, reflection, and cross-cultural collaboration.



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Student International Research Publication Achievements

Dr Faiza Zaheer & Aisha Khan (Postgraduate Scholar)

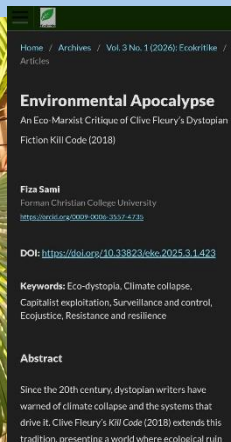
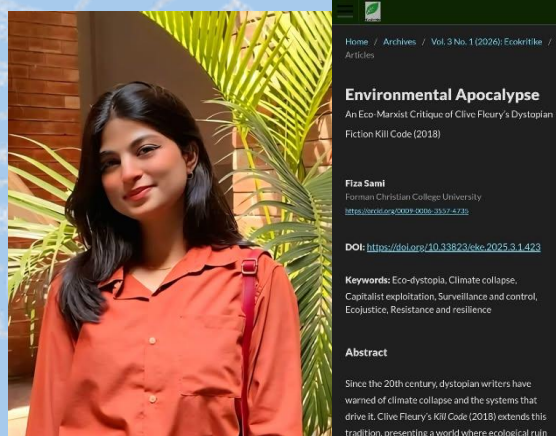
Aisha Khan, an MPhil scholar, in collaboration with Dr Faiza Zaheer, Assistant Professor in the Department of English, has successfully published their co-authored research paper in an HEC-recognized Y-category journal “Journal of Applied Linguistics and TESOL”



The article offers a critical reading of *Noor* (2003) by Sorayya Khan through the theoretical lenses of Jacques Derrida’s concept of hauntology and Marianne Hirsch’s notion of postmemory. Situated within the historical context of the Bangladesh Liberation War, the study examines how trauma extends beyond individual experience and continues to resonate across generations through inherited memory, affect, and silence. The study contributes to ongoing scholarly conversations on memory, trauma, and intergenerational transmission in postcolonial literature.

The Department of English, FCCU, proudly congratulates its postgraduate student Fiza Sami on the publication of her research article in the international journal 'Ecokritike'.

This achievement reflects the department’s commitment to cultivating rigorous academic research and mentoring scholars whose work meets international standards. Fiza’s work appears alongside contributions from established global researchers in the field, marking an important milestone in her emerging academic career.



MPhil 2023-2025 Batch Students

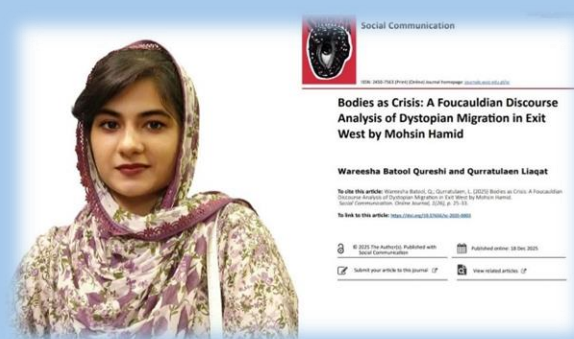
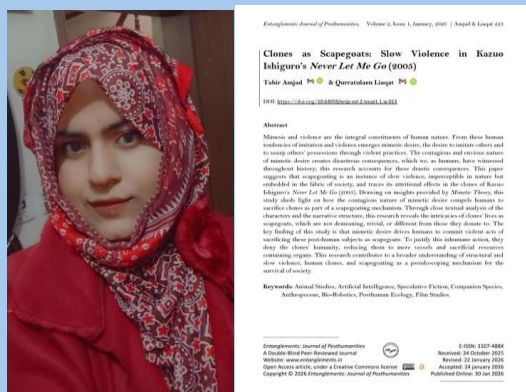
Seven brilliant students of our MPhil 2023-2025 batch students (Areen Ansari, Areena Zaman Bodla, Aisha Khan, Haidar Ihsan Dawar, Hamza Ashfaq, Syeda Maham Fatima, and Wareesha Batool Qureshi) got their research papers published in the special issue “Shapes of Dystopia,” vol. 26, no. 1 of the journal Social Communications, published by the University of Information Technology & Management, Republic of Poland.



They presented these papers at a conference in Poland in 2024 under the tutelage of their instructor Dr. Qurratulaen Liaqat, with whom they took the Dystopian Fiction course in Fall 2024, and later their papers were selected for publication. We congratulate all our brilliant internationally published postgraduate high achievers.



Tabir Amjad, an MPhil graduate, whose paper, “Clones as Scapegoats: Slow Violence in Kazuo Ishiguro’s *Never Let Me Go* (2005),” has been published in *Entanglements: Journal of Posthumanities* (Vol. 2, Issue 1, 2026).



Adapted from her MPhil thesis and written under the supervision of Dr. Quratulaen Liaqat, a leading voice in non-Western posthumanism, the study reads *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro to show how clones function as scapegoats within structures of slow violence. The paper makes an important contribution by linking mimetic theory with posthuman ethics to expose normalized forms of dehumanization.

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Wareesha Batool Qureshi, an MPhil graduate, got her research paper published in an HEC-recognized W-category international journal, *Literature & Aesthetics*, Sydney University Press. Her achievement is a testament to the finest research training we provide at our department.



Shadows that Beget: Autobiographical Fiction, Memory and Fragmentation of the Self in ‘Muttersterben’ and ‘Schattenfroh’ - Zarik Hussain, Saud Hanif

“Shadows that Beget: Autobiographical Fiction, Memory and Fragmentation of the Self in ‘Muttersterben’ and ‘Schattenfroh’”, published in Brolly. Journal of Social Sciences. Co-authored by Zarik Hasnain, an M Phil scholar, and Saud Hanif, lecturer at the department of English.



This paper explores the convergence of autobiographical fiction, memory, and the fragmented self in Michael Lentz’s Muttersterben (2025) and Schattenfroh (2025).

Editorial Team



Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda
Editor-In-Chief



Shahrukh Asghar
Editor



Department of English
Forman Christian College
(A Chartered University)
Lahore.

FCCU – Department of English

fccuenglishdept

FCCU – Department of English

englishdept@fccollege.edu.pk

