



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



Welcome to 2024! The pace of activity never slows at FCCU, even during the early days of the New Year which featured a wide range of events across the Forman campus. Although I was outside Pakistan during January, I appreciated following them from a distance.

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

Forman's Department of English sponsored several programs throughout the month including two events featuring Imran H. Khan who teaches at the University of California (Davis) School of Medicine. The first, part of the English Department's Graduate Seminar Series, was titled *Writing Popular Fiction: Dreaming of Authorship*; the second, part of the English Department's Writer's Lounge Series, included a discussion of Imran H. Khan's new novel *Gambit on the Devil's Chessboard*.



Other activities organized by the English Department during January included a Multicultural evening titled *Transcultural Contact Zones* representing the many cultures that are part of the Forman community; a one-day field trip for undergraduates to the Katas Raj Temple Complex in the Salt Range; and a poster presentation under the supervision of Alvina Waseem to showcase research undertaken by students as part of their course on English Writing and Communication. Also, Department Chair Dr. Fatima Syeda presented a paper on *Digital Literary Studies* at a seminar on *Trends in Linguistics and Literary Research* organized by the University of Lahore.



Meanwhile, Forman's School of Management kicked off the New Year with an innovative event led by Marryam Khan and held on January 8 titled **BoardBlitz: Crafting Marketing Magic on the Game Board**. Billed as a "revolutionary challenge where participants showcase their skills by developing innovative board games that align with the core principles of marketing," participating students presented their game prototypes and sales pitches to a distinguished panel of judges from a number of companies including Biersdorf, Jazz Cash, Activ8 and Samsung.

Two days later, School of Management's Assistant Professor Irtifa Nasir's Consumer Behavior class (BUSN385) organized **Business Bazaar 2024**, a popular FCCU shopping opportunity in which students designed, branded, produced and presented to a wider audience innovative products covering a number of categories including home decor, home care, personal care and hygiene, fashion, and entertainment.

Also, Associate Professor Dr. Bushra Usman from the School of Management reports that eight ideas developed at Forman were submitted to this year's provincial **National Idea Bank** competition, two of which were selected and now move on to the national stage, one contributed by a team led by Dr. Sidra Minhas involving a "Reverse Vending Machine" developed by the Computer Science Department and a second contributed by a team led by Muhammad Ahmad involving a "Shock Guard Helmet" developed by the School of Management.

Dr. Aneek Asif George visited the Forman campus during January, drawing on his experience in IT and Business Management including with Amazon Web Services to speak on **Professional Development Tips to Navigate Your Career Growth**.

Chemistry Associate Professor Dr. Seemal Jelani recently forwarded a couple of photos related to both the Freshman Experience and her Chem-100 course, noting in particular the way in which chemistry is "connected with everything" ranging from agribusiness to sustainability. In particular, her course provides an opportunity for students who did not study chemistry during their intermediate years to explore the discipline and link it to whatever major they plan to pursue.

A long (and by no means complete) list of other activities also helped "kick off" the New Year:

- Forman's Physics Department joined with the Benade Physics Society to sponsor the Second International Conference on **Trends in Material Science and Nanotechnology**.
- Forman's Computer Science Department hosted a **Computer Science Senior Project Poster Exhibition**, inviting guests from industry as well as other universities to hear the student presentations.
- Forman's Education Department organized a Webinar on **Policy Making, Analysis and Evaluation**, especially targeting MPhil and PhD students interested in conducting research on how policy is analyzed, evaluated, shaped and ultimately made.
- Forman's Center for Learning and Teaching (CLT) continues to maintain a full schedule of classes, both on-line and in-person. One recent session focused on **Turnitin Basics and Plagiarism**. For upcoming CLT programs, see this link: <https://www.spring2020teaching.online/>

UPCOMING EVENTS



Forman's **Annual Staff Club Dinner** is scheduled for February 24 and will involve a "meet and greet" followed by dinner and music. Spouses are invited to attend. Those who are not members of the Staff Club but are interested in attending should contact Deputy Registrar Cassian Rozario (cassianrozario@fccollege.edu.pk).

FLC

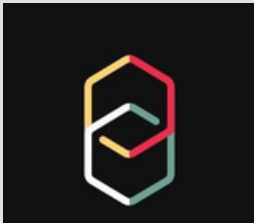
Forman's Language Center offers instruction at the Bachelor's level in four languages: **Chinese, French, German and Korean**. Beginning from last summer, classes in these languages have also been offered to FCCU faculty and staff as part of their personal development for a modest fee. For the Spring semester, classes are scheduled to commence on February 12; will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays; and will last 75 minutes on each day. Participants will receive both a grade and a certificate if they successfully complete the course.



We look forward to welcoming Dr. Joel Gordon, Editor of the *International Journal of Middle East Studies* and Professor in the Department of History at the University of Arkansas to the Forman campus for one month during this spring semester. The first in a pilot **Scholar in Residence Program** as conceived and spearheaded by Dr. Sikandar Hayat, Dr. Gordon has offered to provide guest lectures on a range of topics related to pop culture, history and Middle Eastern studies, among other topics.



Dr. Gordon's spouse Sanaa -- a Sociologist who teaches at Metropolitan State University in Denver and has expressed interest in Light of Hope School -- is likely to accompany him for at least part of the time. Dr. Gordon's earlier visit in which he held a two-day workshop on **Pop Culture and History** and **Archives and Graffiti** involving students from both Forman and other universities in the Lahore area was sponsored by the American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS).



Looking further ahead, FCCU's Department of Mass Communication was selected to host a major regional conference on December 5-6, 2024. Sponsored by the [International Communication Association \(ICA Official Page\)](#) which is providing grant funding for the event, the call for paper is now open, giving an opportunity for scholars in this field to present papers and participate in panel discussions or poster presentations.

ALUMNI NEWS



Esther Schlorholtz -- daughter of Rev. Al Schlorholtz who was both professor and chaplain at Forman during the 1950s and 1960s -- reported on a recent visit to Toronto where she met with the Joshua family, spending time with all four Joshua brothers; Ivor, Roy, Ronny and Donny, each of whom attended Forman and each of whom later migrated to Canada, raising their families and enjoying successful careers there, two as Chartered Accountants and two others in the insurance industry. Roy and his twin sister Joy recently celebrated their 90th birthdays; brothers Don and Ron, also twins, will celebrate their 90th birthdays in a couple of years. All of them have fond memories of their time at Forman.



Very sadly, "Old Formanite" Dr. James Shera passed away suddenly during a January visit to Pakistan. A 1969 Forman graduate, Dr. Shera also received an Honorary degree from Forman two years ago in recognition of his many contributions to interfaith dialogue and British-Pakistan relations, having also served as the first Lord Mayor of Rugby with origins in Pakistan.

I was privileged to connect with Dr. Shera during a trip to England a couple of years ago, meeting him in both his home and in the impressive mayor's office in Rugby.

Proud of his Forman connections, he noted that FCCU had played a "pivotal part in my life and played a huge role in constructing my personality". At the same time, he also commended Forman for its "dedicated and professional staff" and praised its "message of equality, fairness, and unity".

Given that many alumni receive this Update, let me remind everyone that the Annual Alumni Reunion for 2024 is scheduled for March 2, 2024. This is always a spectacular event and I look forward to seeing many of you there!

Grand Alumni Reunion 2024

02 MARCH
SATURDAY

PUBLICATIONS

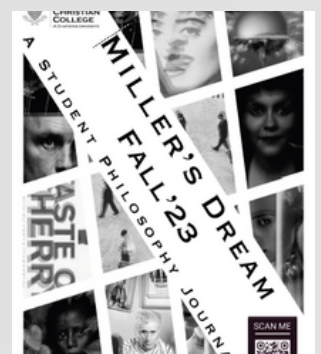
Congratulations to Forman's Faculty of Humanities and the entire editorial team for successfully publishing the first issue of the *Forman Journal of Humanities*:

<http://ojs.fccollege.edu.pk/index.php/fjoh/issue/view/60>. Submissions for future issues related to media and communications, digital humanities, religious studies, philosophy and English and Urdu literature are warmly welcomed. The open-access journal is published twice annually and involves a double-blind peer review process.

Forman's Center for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG) headed by Dr. Saed Shafqat also started the year with a new publication, in this case a

Discussion Paper written by Dr. Noel Kokhar, retired Major General, Forman graduate, former FCCU Dean and Pakistan's former Ambassador to Ukraine. Titled *An Expectation for a Better Tomorrow*, it focuses on minorities in Pakistan with specific reference to the National Committee for Minorities Act of 2023. The report is available on the CPPG website; printed copies are also available.

Finally, let me express appreciation to Editor Taha Nasir and his team for producing the latest issue of *Miller's Dream*, the student philosophy journal routinely filled with interesting and informative articles. Indeed, it is one journal that I always read from cover to cover!

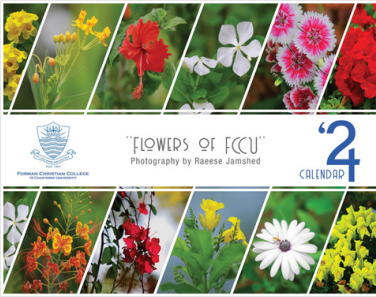


OTHER NEWS

Congratulations to Dr. Rana Salman Anjum, Assistant Professor in the School of Life Sciences, for being approved for a postdoctoral position at the Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in Buffalo, New York where he will receive further training related to cancer biology and neurological disorders.



Let me also provide a special shoutout to Phool Shahzad and his colleagues in the Financial Aid Department for conceiving, organizing and implementing a unique FEAT preparation program designed to further expand diversity at Forman. Initially involving eight disadvantaged female students from Sind, it was later expanded to include twelve other students from less privileged backgrounds living in and around Lahore. Early results have been encouraging, further expanding the range of students enrolled at Forman.



Some readers of this update may already have seen the Forman desk calendar for 2024, featuring the "Flowers of Forman". Let me especially thank our Marketing and Communication Office for the beautiful photographs featured in the calendar.

Marketing and Communication is also leading the way in terms of external media coverage focused on campus activities. As a reminder, all offices are requested to share details for which media coverage is requested two weeks prior to the event. Also, filming on campus including on private YouTube and Facebook channels needs to be cleared ahead of time. Queries should be directed to

communications@fccollege.edu.pk.



On the sports front, Forman participated in the *Intervarsity Women's Boxing Championship* recently held at the University of Engineering & Technology in Karachi and involving teams from nine universities competing in four different weight categories. Two Forman students -- Adeen Duad and Zainab Iqbal -- returned to Lahore with Silver Medals. Thanks, too, to Coach Abdul Ghaffar for the training that he and his colleagues from the Health and Physical Education Department provided beforehand.

Congratulations to the Forman Photography Society which continues to make important contributions to Forman while also adding to our reputation beyond the walls of the university. Most recently, this was reflected in their participation in the *LUMS Annual Photography Summit 2024* in which they secured top honors in the categories of Photography, Videography and Graphics!

Former Forman faculty member Dr. Charles Ramsey returned to Lahore and the Forman campus as part of a group from Baylor University and elsewhere, focused on developing female sports at the secondary level.



I am pleased to note that the project to improve and "beautify" the grounds between Lucas Center and the Ahmed Saeed Administrative Building by constructing walkways, gazebos and a planter is now complete! This wonderful and creative development provides flexible new space that is available to all members of the Forman community for outside meetings, informal gatherings, picnics and other purposes.



We look forward to welcoming several visitors in the coming weeks including Dr. Jim Appleton, former President of the University of Redlands in California, who will lead sessions on leadership for members of the Forman community; a team from Friends of Forman led by Executive Director Roger Dermody; and the upcoming New England Commission on Higher Education (NECHE) accreditation visit led by Dr. William Clements from Norwich University in Vermont.



With respect to NECHE, let me also provide a huge shoutout to Associate Vice Rector Dr. Gloria Calib and the hundred plus other members from the Forman community who drafted, critiqued and then finalized the NECHE Self-Study, a 293-page document that provides in encyclopedic detail virtually everything anyone might want to know about Forman, spread among nine chapters that detail our own candid assessment of Forman's performance in the Nine Standards that are required for NECHE accreditation: Mission and Purpose; Planning and Evaluation; Organization and Governance; Academic Programs; Students; Teaching, Learning and Scholarship; Institutional Resources; Educational Effectiveness; and Integrity, Transparency and Public Disclosure.

Finally, let me close this Update by noting that my return to Forman, originally anticipated for January 27, has had to be pushed into February, primarily on account of medical exams and procedures stemming from my annual medical checkup that is invariably included as part of my Christmas visit to family in the US. In this case, these medical consultations indicated that I should undergo what is called a "TAVR" aimed at addressing issues stemming from childhood rheumatic fever, a non-invasive procedure that typically involves an overnight stay in the hospital for observation followed by a short recovery period. In the meantime, I remain fully engaged with various Forman activities on-line and via Zoom while also looking forward to returning to Forman soon.



DR. JONATHAN ADDLETON
RECTOR