



FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

Rector's Update

The latest news and announcements from Dr. Jonathan Addleton

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Having attended other cultural nights in recent months including one launched by our Pushtun students and another arranged by those from Gilgit/Baltistan, it was a pleasure to participate in Forman's first student-organized Punjabi cultural evening on April 16 at Lucas Center, complete with drums, dancing horses and a wonderful *qawali* concert. For me, such events provide some of my best moments – and best memories – at Forman!

I am pleased to note that Forman's Office for Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) has moved from Y to X category in the HEC Annual Scorecard for 2023, joining a handful of other universities in that category including Aga Khan University (Karachi), COMSATS (Islamabad), UET (Lahore), University of Punjab (Lahore), Kinnaird College (Lahore) and Arid Agriculture University (Rawalpindi). As Dr. Kauser Abdulla Malik observes, *"This accomplishment is a testament to ORIC's*

unwavering dedication, hard work and commitment to excellence".

Parentetically, ORIC has recently taken important steps towards commercializing software developed by Forman's Computer Sciences Department. For example, three copyright applications have been filed for SUNNO, MERA LAHORE, and RE-VISION, marking an important milestone in leveraging intellectual property rights (IPR) for the department's software creations while also setting an example for other departments to follow. The applications are filed at the IPO Regional Office in Lahore, with ORIC covering processing fees. For more information, please contact Ms. Ayesha Aslam, Manager Innovation and Commercialization: ayeshaaslam@fccollege.edu.pk

In other ORIC-related news, Dr. Kauser Abdulla Malik reports that Forman has entered into a \$76,644 agreement for a research project funded by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) through the International Center for Agricultural



Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA). Dr. Samina Mehnaz is the Principal Investigator for this project which focuses on fertilizer use in Pakistan.



Planning continues related to two upcoming International Communication Association (ICA) events involving Forman, the first as an "ICA Hub" (June 21-22) and the second as the site for an upcoming regional ICA conference (December 5-6). Some 70 participants are expected at the former while the latter will involve at least 150 participants from both Pakistan and abroad.

School of Management Assistant Professor Maryyam Qasim Khan was appointed as Convener of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's 2024-2025 Regional Standing Committee for Punjab on "Women's Empowerment and Development".

In other news, HEC provided a No Objection Certificate (NOC) that permits Forman to establish a PhD in Psychology, a potential follow-on to Forman's popular MPhil program in Psychology.

CONFERENCES, LECTURES AND OTHER EVENTS

Forman's Religious Studies Department hosted a lecture delivered by Dr. Michael Nazir-Ali on *Jalaluddin Rumi and the Mystical Experience* on April 17. The 106th Bishop of Rochester and now a prelate in the Catholic Church, Dr. Michael Nazir-Ali is currently president of the Oxford Center for Training, Research, Advocacy and Dialogue (OXTRAD).



Forman's School of Management hosted its annual *International Conference on Business and Innovation (FICBI)* on April 24, bringing together academics and professionals from across several disciplines to share their peer-reviewed research and insights. Themes this year included sustainability, innovations, artificial intelligence and agribusiness. Academics from across Pakistan as well as scholars from the US, UK, Canada, Italy, Ireland, India, Portugal, Malaysia, and Singapore participated, either in person or online. Associate Professor Dr. Bushra Usman played a key organizing role as Secretary for the event.



Forman's Center for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG) hosted Michael Kugelman from the Wilson Center in Washington, DC for a fascinating (and well-attended!) conversation held on April 25 on *Think Tanks and US Policy in South Asia: Misperceptions and Realities*.

In other CPPG news, PhD student Maryyam Ahmad was the main speaker at a seminar on *Executive Governance Framework for Pakistan's Federations: Post 18th Amendment Challenges and Prospects (2010-2021)*; held on April 30, her talk highlighted the main findings of her dissertation on the same subject.



Forman's Computer Science Department hosted an interesting talk on April 24, delivered by corporate attorney Saad Nasrullah, on intellectual property rights and company registration, both essential considerations for aspiring entrepreneurs.

Forman's Philosophy Department, chaired by Dr. Ghazala Irfan, organized a seminar on *Art, AI and Ethics* featuring Dr. Faisal Bari from LUMS as the main speaker.

I recently attended a meeting of the Chemistry Advisory Council, established to strengthen links with other research institutions as well as the business community. I very much appreciate this initiative and welcome efforts by other Forman academic departments to move forward with similar advisory mechanisms.

While Forman's English Department had an especially busy month, members of the department took time to gather on April 20 at the Monal restaurant for a combined Easter and Eid celebration, creating new memories in an informal setting. Similarly, the Urdu Department celebrated three birthdays simultaneously on April 15 to honor department members Professor Tahir Masood, Professor Dr. Abida Batool and Assistant Professor Sumera Kanwal.

Throughout the month, English Department students participated in several off-campus learning opportunities. For example, students from one class attended a dramatic reading of the play *Lawrence in Lahore*, hosted by Quaid-e-Azam Library on April 17 to highlight thought-provoking themes that encouraged students to think critically about complicated topics. Also, on April 16 the English Department organized a student trip to the Punjab Archives, introducing them to a variety of cultural records covering the period 1629 to 2005 and involving both the colonial and post-colonial period.

Dr. Fatima Syeda, Chair of Forman's English Department, was invited to serve as Session Chair at the *Fourth International Conference on Social Sciences and Humanities* at Kinnaird College. Her session included papers on literary topics delivered by 25 research scholars from different universities in Lahore. In addition, she served as Session Chair for the International Conference organized by the University of Management and Technology's School of Liberal Arts titled *Peripheral Epistemologies: Voicing the Unvoiced*.

Also, Dr. Fatima served as keynote speaker and Session Chair at the International Conference on Applied Linguistics held at Riphah International

University in Lahore in early March. As keynote speaker, she highlighted the importance of literature in the age of Artificial Intelligence, discussing how literary narratives interact with AI in ways that are creating new forms of both literature and human interaction.

Associate English Professor Dr. Qurratulaen Liaqat moderated the second in a series of Forman lectures on Science Fiction, this one focused on a dystopian novel titled *The Light Blue Jumper* (Karachi: Mongrel Books, 2017). Written by lawyer and writer Sidra Sheikh, it deals with such themes as totalitarianism, neo-colonialism and conflict and is one of the few science fiction books published in Pakistan and authored by a Pakistani.

This was followed in early April by the third and final lecture in this fascinating series on Science Fiction, moderated once again by Dr. Qurratulaen. Dr. Sobia Khan was the featured speaker, focusing her talk on the historical trajectory of Science Fiction in Pakistan. In addition, Dr. Qurratulaen, founder of the Pakistan Posthuman Network, organized an online book conversation on April 29 with Dr. Francesca Ferrando, Professor of Philosophy at New York University and author of *The Art of Being Posthuman: Who Are We in the 21st Century?* (Wiley, 2023).

Separately, the English Department organized another lecture as part of its "Writer's Lounge" series, this one featuring the novel *Someone Like Her* by Awais Khan who graduated from the University of Ontario, Durham University and Faber Academy (Creative Writing) and whose work has been featured in BBC, Voice of America, *Dubai Eye* and the *Daily Times*. Students and faculty from outside Forman also attended.



Uzma Khan, head of Forman's Center for Language Development (CLD), organized Forman's Third Annual Poetry Recital involving IEAP students and featuring poems and songs in the four foreign languages taught at Forman (Chinese, Korean, French and German). Last year, Fiona contributed to Poetry Day by reciting a Robert Burns poem in Scots and teaching the group to sing Auld Lang Syne; this year, she read a poem in English on "Friendship", the main theme of this year's event.



Forman's Sociology Department, joining with the student-led Sociology Society, organized a workshop on April 26 titled *Crochet, Social Connections and Emotional Health*, led by Professor Khadija Burhan and Dr. Sara Rizvi and facilitated by Fatima Rauf and Mahjabeen Bilal. The workshop started with a discussion on scholarship associated with crocheting and well-being, followed by an introduction to practical aspects of crocheting using hooks and yarn to achieve beautiful results!



FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Aamir Chughtai's paper "Affective Trust in the Supervisor and Innovative Work Behavior: The Effects of Proactive Skill Development and Learning Goal Orientation" was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Psychology*, an HEC "W" category journal with an impact factor of 3.7. The article was co-authored by Dr. Shehla Arifeen from the Lahore School of Economics.



Congratulations to Uzma Ashiq who received her PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Management and Technology in Lahore, having completed her dissertation on "*Psychosocial determinants of psychological reactions related to abuse and neglect in adolescents.*"

Congratulations also to Dr. Jawad Tariq, Associate Sociology Professor, for his recent article *in Bayan* (Volume 8), published by the Women's Resource and Publication Center. Titled "Democratic Decentralization and Women's Empowerment in Patriarchal Societies: Case Studies of Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Tunisia," it explores key issues related to women and marginalized communities, especially with respect to decentralization and local governance.

In addition, Dr. Jawad Tariq serves as Coordinator for Forman's Population Research Center and Poverty Action Lab. As it happens, one of the editors of *Bayan* is Surteel Siddiqui, a dedicated researcher who graduated from Forman's Center for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG).

Political Science faculty member Syed Irtiza Shafaat Bokharee recently published an op-ed in *The Nation* titled "Class is Still Relevant":

<https://www.nation.com.pk/24-Apr-2024/class-is-still-relevant>;

other columns that he has written for *The Nation* can be accessed here:

<https://www.nation.com.pk/columnist/irtiza-shafaat-bokharee>.



Given my journalism background, I appreciated reading "Covering the Climate-Induced Flooding in Pakistan: Causes, Effects and Outcomes of Journalist Ordeals" by Forman Mass Communication Department faculty members Firasat Jabeen, Saleem Abbas and Adeel Ahmed Aamir. Published as a chapter in a recent book edited by Lisa Bradley and Emma Heywood under the title *Journalism as the Fourth Emergency Service: Trauma and Resilience* (Peter Lang, 2023), the essay examines how the 2022 flood which devastated more than half of Pakistan's 160 districts affected journalists, given the trauma they witnessed following this natural calamity.



Dr. Sikandar Hayat joined Dr. Sara Rizvi at Kinnaird College to launch *Pakistan Studies: A Book of Readings* (Lahore: Sang-e-Meel, 2023), an edited volume containing nine essays on Pakistan, each authored by a different member of the Forman faculty.

Finally, I am pleased to note that Dr. Sikandar Hayat's landmark book on the Pakistan movement – *A Leadership Odyssey* (Oxford University Press) – has just been reprinted and will be available in bookstores in May. Prior editions were favorably reviewed in both academic journals and the popular media as the book's audience continues to grow.



ALUMNI NEWS

MPhil Political Science student Ayesha Butt was accepted into the PhD Political Science program at the University of Limerick in Ireland where she will explore *Women in Conflict: A Case Afghanistan Post-American Withdrawal*, building on her prior work at Forman under the guidance of Dr. Ayra Indrias Patras. "Thank you, Political Science department, for the unwavering support as I embark on this next chapter of academic explorations and activism," she writes.



Dr. Patras also figures in a note of thanks and appreciation written by Amna Anjum Awan, a fourth semester Political Science student employed by the well-known women's rights organization Shirkat Gah. As she describes it, "I am proud to represent Forman Christian College and I am committed to making a meaningful difference in women's lives".



Muhammad Usman Khan, a 2003 Political Science graduate, also thanked his department, having been selected as a Research Associate at LUMS. "This achievement would not have been possible without the unwavering support and mentorship of Sir Usman Farooq, whose guidance has been instrumental in shaping my professional path," he writes. His new job entails working on research projects with LUMS and its partner, the University of Bath (UK).



Congratulations, too, to Forman Sociology graduate Duaa Tahir who joined with Dr. Sara Rizvi to publish an article in the HEC-accredited *Journal of Social Sciences and the Humanities* under the title "Conservative versus Diplomatic Beliefs About Male-Female Responsibilities in University Teachers and Association with Wellbeing": <https://uosjssh.su.edu.pk/article/95>



Forman graduate Muhammad Ibrahim Yahya published an article in the *Friday Times* on April 23 titled "Pakistan's Tax System: The Inequality Equation," one of many contributions he has made as a freelance journalist reflecting on the economic and political concerns facing Pakistan.



Muhammad Sawaiz Fatar who graduated from Forman in February 2024 reports that he has been admitted to the Master's in Business Analytics program at Babson College in Wellesley, Massachusetts. Noting that he grew up in Burewala, a small town in southern Punjab "where the concept of entrepreneurship is unfamiliar to many," he credits Forman with playing an important role in providing him with the tools and knowledge needed to broaden his horizons, shape his future and achieve his dreams.



Sawaiz also mentions that he is happy to provide advice to Forman graduates interested in enrolling at Babson, ranked by *US News & World Report* as the "Number one Institute for Entrepreneurship in the World." While at Forman, he received the Cheryl Burke Award and served as President of the Character Building Society (2021-2022).

Ali Malhi, another recent Forman graduate, reports that he was recently elected Chair of the International Graduate Student Council at the University of Victoria on Vancouver Island. Originally from Narowal and interested in politics, he has already travelled extensively in British Columbia and elsewhere in western Canada, even as he pursues a Master's degree in Public Policy and Indigenous Governance.





“Old Formanite” Roedad Khan, legendary civil servant and a witness to much of Pakistan’s history, recently passed away in Islamabad at the age of 101 (<https://www.dawn.com/news/amp/1828888>). I was privileged to participate in his 100th birthday celebrations in Islamabad last year – when we met, he reminisced fondly about his time on the Forman campus, describing those years at Forman as “*the best years*” of his life.



Just as this newsletter was being finalized, we received sad news of the passing of Shahab Ghauri, oldest of the Ghauri brothers including Najeeb and Salim, long associated with both Netsol and Pakistan’s IT industry more broadly. Shahab received his BA from Forman in 1970 and the entire Ghauri family has been a blessing as well as a supporter of Forman over many years. As Najeeb recently commented, “*He was like our father and an amazingly caring and giving human being.*”



SPORTS NEWS

The FCCU Sports Office organized and implemented Forman Olympiad 2024 from April 24 through April 29, a sports tournament involving fourteen teams and fifteen sports. Vice Rector Dr. Douglas Trimble as Chief Guest officially launched the six-day program involving participants from at least 14 universities, followed immediately thereafter by the first event of the Olympiad -- a rugby match! Other featured sports included basketball, baseball, football, cricket, volleyball, track, tennis, table tennis, tug-of-war and arm wrestling.



Meanwhile, I had the privilege of throwing the first pitch on April 21 at the official inauguration of Forman’s new baseball field (“*The Field of Dreams*”), the first purpose-built university baseball field in Pakistan. Punjab Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat also attended as Chief Guest, lending his support.

The new Forman baseball field provided an especially suitable venue for a national tournament organized by the Pakistan Baseball Federation and involving the Lahore Lions, Faisalabad Falcons and Multan Mustangs; in the end, the Multan Mustangs finished first in the men’s category while the Faisalabad Falcons was awarded the women’s trophy.

The opening ceremony was the catalyst for a wave of favorable publicity for Forman in a variety of print and electronic forums across Pakistan; additional publicity included supportive posts from Syed Fakhar Ali Shah, Secretary General of the Pakistan Baseball Federation:

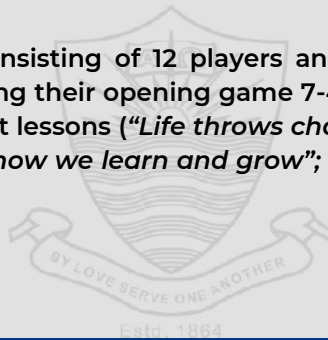
☀️ ⚾️ [#PakBaseballCamp](#) [#PakistanBaseballLeague](#)
[#BaseballPassion.](#)



Along with Coach Brian Furches, let me provide a sincere shoutout to Steve DeVoss, President and CEO of Global Sports Partnerships (GSP) which helped make this initiative possible. A special thanks also to Steve and GSP for facilitating a visit to Forman by several baseball coaches to conduct training workshops at Forman including former Major League pitcher Mickey Weston who played for the Baltimore Orioles, Toronto Blue Jays, Philadelphia Phillies and New York Mets!



Earlier, Forman’s men’s baseball team consisting of 12 players and two coaches participated in the HEC national baseball tournament. Despite losing their opening game 7-4, the University Sports Office noted that participants learned a number of important lessons (“Life throws challenge, it is how we deal with them that counts”; “Making mistakes is normal, it is how we learn and grow”; and “Accountability and responsibility is crucial for personal growth and success”).



OTHER NEWS

Visitors this month included Ms. Esther Perez Ruiz, Resident IMF Representative in Pakistan, who delivered a talk sponsored by Forman’s Economics Department on *Regional Economic Outlook: An Uneven Recovery Amidst High Uncertainty*. Also, US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome visited the Forman campus, taking the opportunity to meet with a diverse group of our undergraduates.





In addition, we welcomed former Rector Dr. James Tebbe back to campus in April, along with his brother Bob who lives in Florida and is a member of the Friends of Forman Board. They were accompanied by three members of College Church in Wheaton, IL which makes a much-appreciated annual contribution to the Forman scholarship fund.

During a recent trip to Islamabad to discuss educational links between Pakistan and the UK hosted by Pakistan's Higher Education Commission (HEC), I met Tashmin Khamis, Vice Provost for Quality, Teaching and Learning at Aga Khan University, whose portfolio covers aspects of both Forman's Center for Learning and Teaching (CLT) led by Dr. Rukhsana Zia and our Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) led by Sarah Suleman.

As I have observed, CLT offers a wealth of programs and resources aimed at strengthening teaching and learning at Forman while QEC provides the data that is critical for informed decision-making. Among other things, that includes staying abreast of the latest developments in higher education including the emergence of Artificial Intelligence through such resources as the [AI Guidebook for Educators](#).

We welcomed the opportunity to partner with HEC to host a three-day training workshop (April 24-26) for QEC staff from 30 Punjab universities, using Forman's new Campus Center as the venue. I attended both the opening and closing sessions along with senior HEC staff, covering a variety of topics related to quality assurance in higher education in Pakistan. Many thanks to Dr. Nayer (Registrar) and Sarah Suleman (HoD QEC) and her team for leading and managing this event.

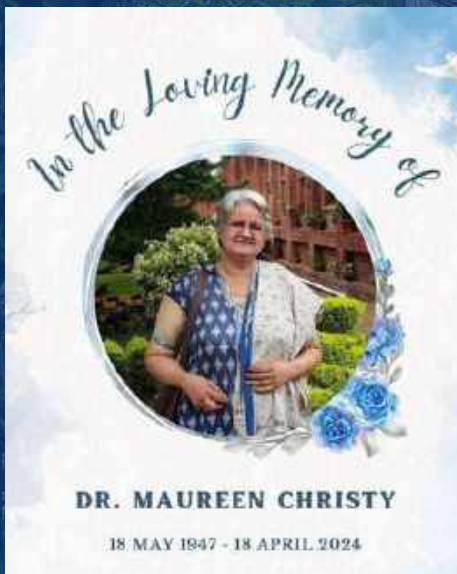


I delivered comments at a couple of recent academic events, one via Zoom at a conference on *Caste, Religion, Education and Occupational Mobility in Contemporary South Asia* hosted by Lancaster University in the UK and the other on *Navigating Regional Dynamics: From Conflict to Cooperation in South Asia* organized by Minhaj University in Lahore. While covering important topics, both events also provided useful opportunities for outreach related to FCCU, something that I enjoy doing.

Thanks to Forman's Church Relations Office headed by Dr. Farzand Masih, Forman is once again offering Pre-College Summer Coaching classes to assist students from Pakistan's Christian community. Some 240 students from Lahore and the surrounding towns have enrolled and were greeted by Chief Guest Archbishop Sebastian Francis Shaw at the formal ceremony held in Sinclair Hall on April 29 to mark the start of the eight-week program. Several past graduates including Dr. Mudassar (now a post-doctoral scholar in the US) and Ramis Falak (now a mechanical engineer with WAPDA) provided a personal perspective on how their participation in the coaching classes had transformed their lives, both academically and professionally.

Also, as part of the work of the TSA/FCCU partnership, the Christian Crisis Counseling Center (CCCC), situated on the TSA premises, organized career counseling sessions on June 20 for 31 young people from Jaranwala, Dr. Romel John from Forman's School of Management having volunteered to provide both individual and group sessions. Let me also thank Dr. Hanik Yoo from South Korea for his willingness to provide training, counseling and other support services related to trauma care in connection with the CCCC initiative, headed by Dr. Matthew Jeong. As mentioned in an earlier issue of the *Rector's Update*, Forman is also funding scholarships for two Jaranwala college students.

Looking ahead, the main event in late May will be the upcoming Board of Directors (BOD) and Board of Governors (BOG) meeting, both of which will be held on the Forman campus. This will be the first set of Board meetings led by our new BOD/BOG Chair, Dr. Rukhsana David from Kinnaird College, Forman's first female board chair; Steve Rasmussen serves as Vice Chair and new Board members expected to attend the meeting include Rahila Julius, Naeem Zeno and Roger Dermody. Perhaps not surprising, the Board agenda this month is unusually long and will include, among other things, a discussion of the proposed new Forman strategy covering the period 2024-2030.



Finally, let me conclude this month's *Rector's Update* by offering my sincere thoughts, concerns, prayers and condolences to the entire Christy Munir family, following the recent passing of Dr. Christy Munir's wife Maureen. Professor Dr. Christy Munir has long been associated with Forman and the Christy Munir Guest House is named after him, a fitting tribute to the hospitality and graciousness extended by Dr. Christy and Maureen to so many people in so many ways over so many years.

Several family members closely associated with the Forman community are also part of the Christy Munir family including Maureen's youngest son Haroon Christy Munir, head of Forman's Marketing and Communication Office and the designer/editor of this newsletter. Also, Chief Engineer Tajammul John Munir is her nephew. We join with them as well as with Dr. Christy Munir and all their loved ones in mourning this loss: May her soul rest in peace and may her memory always be a blessing.



DR. JONATHAN ADDLETON
RECTOR