



FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

Rector's Update

The latest news and announcements from Dr. Jonathan Addleton

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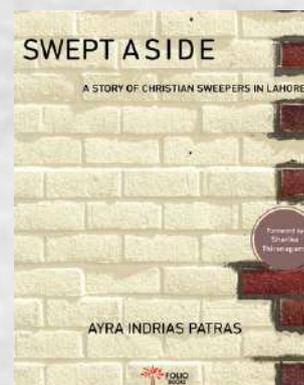
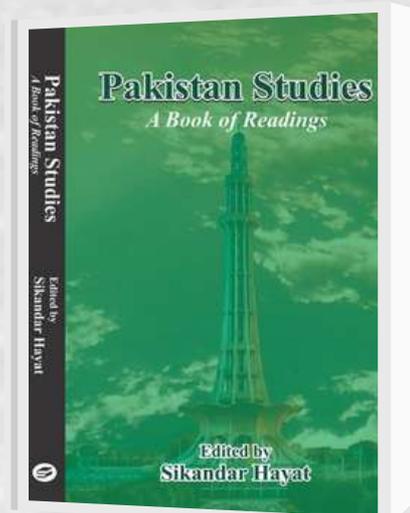


Dear Formanites,

A big shout-out to Dr. Sikandar Hayat for the traction his edited volume *Pakistan Studies: A Book of Readings* (Sang-e-Meel Publications) continues to receive. Published as a supplementary text for those taking their Pakistan Studies exams, the book includes nine chapters on various aspects of Pakistan, each written by a different member of the Forman faculty.

I have multiple copies of the book in my office, routinely passing them out to our international visitors as a gift. I notice that *Pakistan Studies* has also received praise from many quarters, including Dr. Farooq Ahmad Dar from Quaid-i-Azam University, who cited Dr. Sikandar and his team for having done "a big favor, not only to students but also to teachers like myself who always find it difficult to recommend a good book for this compulsory course".

Meanwhile, Dr. Sikandar's former student Ayra Indrias Patras -- now an Assistant Professor in Forman's Political Science Department -- has just published her book *Swept Aside: A Story of Christian Sweepers in Lahore* (Folio Books). Stanford Associate Professor Dr. Sharika Thirangama wrote the foreword for it.





I also appreciate Dr. Atiq-ur-Rehman, who heads our Faculty Advising Office. In particular, he and his colleagues -- with support from across FCCU -- paved the way for our Annual Advising Fair, arranged for February 22-23. In my view, effective advising for first-year students is key to later student success, and Forman is one of the Pakistan higher education leaders in providing this kind of support.

Forman's UNIV-100 course, mandatory for all incoming first-year students, is similarly essential, introducing new undergraduates to programs and activities and the campus culture at Forman.

I also appreciate the opportunity to speak to new students as part of their orientation program during their first week at FCCU. Such programs typically involve a range of other activities, including, this year, a pet show featuring many dogs, some cats, and a single macaw. As Fiona and I observed, it was a fantastic event, and we were especially "*smitten*" by the winning entrant, a month-old Labrador puppy. Thanks also to the Forman graduate, now a veterinarian in Gulberg, who offered free "*wellness checks*" to each participating pet.





At the same time, new students are being welcomed to FCCU, and the thoughts of graduating students are turning toward the issue of "what comes next". Against this backdrop, Forman's Career Services and Internships Office organized possibly the best Job Fair ever on February 20, featuring representatives from 120 leading companies across Pakistan.

Also, Forman's Admissions Office is sponsoring a March Open House, bringing A-Level, High School, International Baccalaureate, and Intermediate students together to visit the Forman campus. Various undergraduate departments and offices such as Admissions, Academic Advising, Academic Services, Career Services and Internships, Financial Aid and Scholarships, International Education, Residential Life, and Student Activities, are also participating.



Earlier editions of the Rector's Update have highlighted how our partnership with the American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS) has catalyzed leading academics researching history, literature, and other topics related to Pakistan on campus. I am pleased to note that thanks to recent conversations with Dr. Yaqoob Bangash, who formerly taught at FCCU, we are now part of the Lahore "TalkFest on Campus" program, starting with Dr. Rosita Armytage from Durham University, who recently came to Forman to talk about her latest book *Big Capital in an Unequal World: The Micropolitics of Wealth in Pakistan*.

Also, Dr. Venkat Iyer and Dr. Paul Carmichael, both from Ulster University in Belfast, recently spoke at FCCU. Dr. Iyer is the editor of *Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs*, and the topic of the discussion, sponsored by Forman's Research and Review Club and hosted by Forman's Center for Learning and Teaching, was "Publishing in an International Journal".

Last month I reported on a series of lectures, conferences, seminars, and other special events focused on the environment and hosted by Forman. This trend is continuing, as evidenced by the highly successful four-day conference on Climate Change in early February that included significant international participation.

Later in March, Forman's Environmental Science Department will host another international conference, "*Soil Pollution and Remediation*," focused on using "clean and green" technologies to ensure food security and environmental sustainability.

Also, the Environmental Studies Department is organizing a lecture on "*Membrane Technology for Water and Wastewater Treatment: Research and Commercialization Perspective*," delivered by Dr. Ivo Vankelecom, Head of the Membrane Technology Group at the Catholic University in Leuven, Belgium.

Other talks in recent weeks involving outside visitors included a conversation on entrepreneurship, sponsored by the Forman Business Society and featuring Ahmed Khan, founder of Daraz and CEO/Founder of Cheetay, Ltd.



Meanwhile, Fulbright scholar (and Forman alumnus) Kinza Sajid returned to campus for a talk titled "*A Story of Resilience and Perseverance*," organized by the International Education Office in collaboration with the Advancement and Alumni Office. As Kinza describes it, she is grateful to Forman "for providing the opportunity to study for a Bachelor's Degree as no other institution accepted her admission since she is visually impaired". Our media center has also expressed interest in interviewing Kinza for further details on her remarkable personal journey at Forman and abroad.

Mathematics Associate Professor Shakila Bashir reports that her MPhil student Bushra Masood presented a research paper titled "*Bounded Exponentiated Exponential Distribution Modelling Data On the Unit Interval: Properties, Applications, and Quantile Regression*", winning first prize at the PISTAR Global Statistics Conference 2023.

I continue to be impressed by the work of our many student societies, including FORMUN, which most recently arranged a series of Model UN programs involving universities across Pakistan. The debates organized as part of this program are especially impressive, reflecting both a strong interest in international affairs and an interest in understanding the points of view of other countries which the students are assigned to represent.



While the FORMUN event brought dozens of students from other institutions of higher learning to FCCU, several other Forman students traveled to LUMS to participate in a three-day Economics competition, better known by the acronym "TESCON". Fifteen universities across Pakistan were involved, with FCCU placing first in the fourth round of the "*Bulls and Bears*" competition, simulating a stock exchange. Thanks to Amna Saleem and other members of her Lucas Economics Society team for bringing this honor to FCCU!

Also, in partnership with the Art Junction Society, Forman's Student Activities Office sponsored an exhilarating three-day Art Mela involving an impressive range of art-related events, some involving local artists and others drawing on artistic talent from within the Forman community.

Several events specifically related to the College section of FCCU have taken place in recent weeks, including a Poetry Recitation Competition in which Fiona participated along with Susan Bakker and Ambreen Javed, all three serving as judges. Arranged by the College English Society, Dr. Lubna Amer presided over the event as Chief Guest.



Meanwhile, Assistant Professor of Music Seun Cho and her colleagues helped prepare six College students to participate in the All Pakistan Music Competition hosted by Chand Bagh School, Forman's first-ever appearance in this event. Yuhanna Arif was awarded fourth place in the ghazal category at this competition.

This is also the season for outdoor sports, and various Forman teams have participated in several tournaments, both on-campus and as guests at other colleges and universities. The College section of FCCU was especially active, becoming one of eight teams participating in the Aitchison Football Championship Tournament for 2022-2023. Forman placed third, defeating Aitchison (2-1), City School (6-1), and Lahore Grammar School (1-0) in various matches along the way.

In cricket, Forman's university team competed in the Inter-Varsity Cricket Championships 2022-2023 hosted by the University of Punjab. Forman defeated the Lahore University of Management (LUMS) in their first game by four wickets, scoring 225/6 in 37.4 overs compared with 221/10 in 39.1 overs for LUMS. Mohib Meer scored sixty runs for Forman and was declared "Man of the Match".



In track, the Forman team traveled to the Lahore School of Economics to compete in a Gala Sports Tournament there. Our women's team took the Gold Medal in the 4x100 meter relay while also winning Gold and Bronze Medals in the 400 meters and Silver Medals in the 100 meters and 200 meters.

As for the boy's team, they placed first in the 4x100 meter relay; first in the 100 meters; second in the 200 meters; and third in the 800 meters. Not surprisingly, given his performance in winning the 100-meter race, sprinter Syed Samir was declared "*Fastest Man*" at the tournament, with other entrants from Forman ranking among the fastest runners in Lahore.



Intramural matches were part of the winter sports schedule as well. Most notably, Kennedy Hall defeated Newton Hall to win this year's Intramural Football Championship in a tournament organized by the College Health and Physical Education Department under the leadership of Babar Kamil.

As for the Intramural Tennis Championships, M. Afnan won the championship trophy while Yahya Ahsan placed second. Meanwhile, Humanities Junior defeated Kennedy Hall in the final match to win the Forman College Intramural Championship in Cricket for 2022-2023. Let me also thank several faculty members who served as Chief Guests at these various tournaments: Dr. Suneel Samuel (Urdu), Eram George (English), and Dr. Lubna Amer (Chemistry).

After a hiatus on account of Covid-19, the Forman Staff Club hosted a memorable Annual Dinner under a big tent in Forman's main ground on February 25. Special thanks to Dr. Nayer, Eileen Dass, and others for making this year's dinner so successful! In keeping with tradition, retirees, faculty, and staff earning PhDs and MPhils over the last couple of years in relevant fields were honored at the event.



My travel during the last month included a trip to Islamabad to meet with the Czech Ambassador, US Ambassador, and USAID Mission Director. Also, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Vaqas and Hina Yousaf, we welcomed a group of female workers to campus to recognize their success in a training program associated with Forman's Poverty Lab. This initiative aims to provide alternative employment opportunities for villagers primarily working in the brick kiln industry. The involvement of student volunteers in this effort is an added benefit.

Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) joined with many others in expressing condolences on the death of former President General Pervez Musharraf after a long illness on Sunday, February 5, in Dubai. Born in Delhi in 1943, he studied mathematics at Forman from 1959 until 1963, completing his degree and then joining the Pakistan Army as a commissioned officer in 1964, contributing to the defense of the country in 1965 and again in 1971 before rising through the ranks to become a four-star general and then Chief of Staff.

As President of Pakistan (2001-2008), he played a vital role in the denationalization of FCCU, receiving the Distinguished Formanite of the Year Award in 2003. Reflecting on the 150th anniversary of Forman in 2014, he wrote: *"I congratulate my Alma Mater, FC College Lahore, on crossing the 150th year of its day of birth today. There are not enough words to express the impact FC College has had not only in shaping my life but the lives of so many others in our subcontinent, especially fellow Formanites in Pakistan. I salute the faculty and staff of FC College for their outstanding contribution and commitment to advancing higher education in Pakistan."*

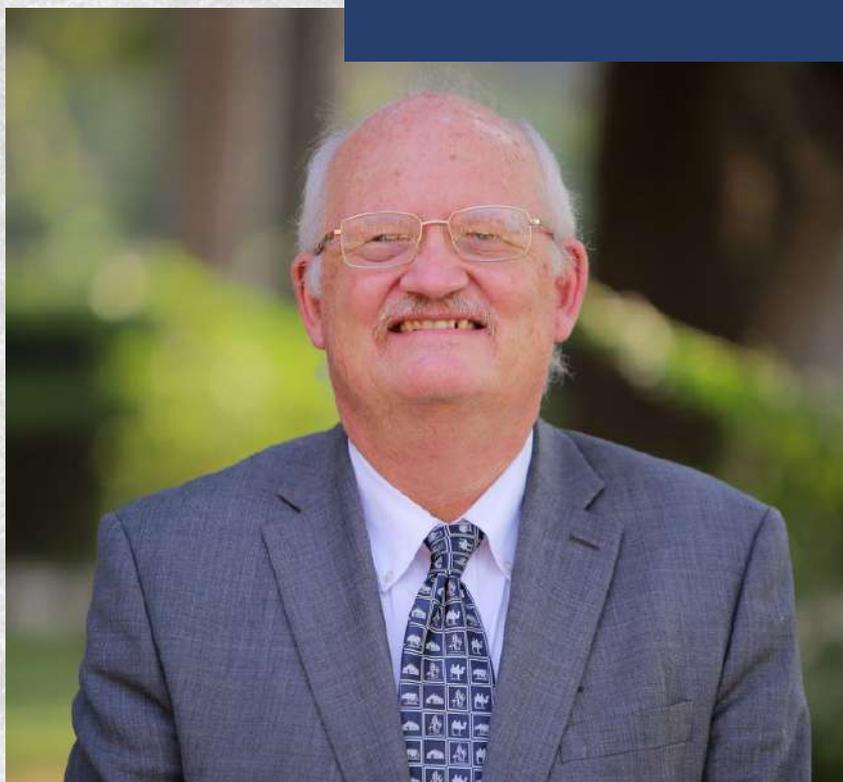
These sentiments were also echoed by President Pervez Musharraf's son Bilal who recently spoke of his "fond memories of Lahore's Forman Christian College" in a February 12 interview with Dawn following his father's death: *"Few people are aware that he invited an FC College delegation to Dubai a few years ago and donated books and money to the institution."*

Recently I had the honor of meeting with a group of approximately 30 "Old Formanites" at the Defense Club in Karachi, representing various decades of life at Forman beginning in the 1950s, with Dr. Kokhar, who has long supported the Forman Club in Karachi representing the oldest alumnus present. I also met a Forman graduate who said he and his six brothers had all attended Forman. A second alumnus mentioned to me later in the evening that 23 members of his family over three generations had all attended Forman.



Also, on the alumni front, I was pleased to learn that Forman graduate Shahzaib Rahat, a Computer Science graduate from the 2020 series, was recently hired by Amazon in Dublin, Ireland, as a "Cloud Associate". Shahzaib is one of many Forman students to receive need-based financial support while at FCCU and it is heartening to see that this support has also been the catalyst for a meaningful job opportunity in the IT industry afterwards.

Finally, I look forward to joining with hundreds of "Old Formanites" on March 5 for our Grand Alumni Reunion 2023, the first such large gathering following Covid-19. Former Rector Dr. Peter Armacost will join this gathering as Chief Guest, and former Rector Dr. Jim Tebbe is expected to attend as well! Among other things, we will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of denationalization, a historic decision that placed Forman on the path to becoming a Chartered University.



Dr. Jonathan Addleton

Rector, FCCU