



FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

Rector's Update

The latest news and announcements from Dr. Jonathan S. Addleton

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This month's *Rector's Update* was prepared as I journeyed from Atlanta to Lahore via Doha by Qatar Airways, having attended the Spring Friends of Forman Board meeting in Atlanta.



While in the US, Fiona and I spent Easter weekend with family as part of a wonderful reunion that involved twelve of us: My mother who will celebrate her 94th birthday later this year; our three children; their three spouses; and our three grandchildren, all under the age of three!

On returning to Lahore, I joined with a number of high school classmates to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Murree Christian School Class of '75, marking the half century of the conclusion of our time together in the Murree Hills. Booking the Christy Munir Guesthouse for the occasion, the Reunion involves 26 people including spouses and adult children.



Celebrations started with a "Murree Meet-Up" held at Camp Mubarak and proceeded from there by road to Lahore for the "official" part of the Reunion on the Forman campus. Members of the class travelled from several countries to attend including England, Ireland, Albania, Spain, Canada and the US, reflecting the international aspect of a graduating class which adopted the following expression as their motto: *"Let These Describe the Indescribable!"*



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to Tahoor Bari -- we just learned that Tahoor was one of 25 finalists selected for this year's widely acclaimed Commonwealth Short Story Prize. Tahoor was selected from among nearly 8,000 entries received -- and was the only writer on this highly competitive shortlist selected from Pakistan.



Congratulations also to Mussarat Shahid, head of FCCU's Writing and Communication Center. As it happens, Tahoor was a student in her Creative Writing course; Tahoor is now taking an Advanced Creative Writing class while also serving as a tutor at the Writing Center.

From my perspective, Forman's Writing Center is yet another "hidden gem" that contributes immeasurably to the Forman community. I was recently reminded of this when receiving a copy of Kamran Noor's remarkable short memoir *From Dust to Storm: How I Freed Myself from my own Prejudices*, prepared as a Writing Center project and providing moving insights into his own personal journey.

Born in a remote corner of Balochistan, Kamran was part of an extended family that included an uncle who taught him that *"When life gives you a hundred reasons to cry, show life that you have a thousand reasons to smile"*. This advice had real meaning, given the devastating losses that Kamran experienced during his childhood including the passing of his father at age nine and the loss of a beloved teacher in a car accident not long afterwards.

More recently, Kamran notes that he has formed friendships at Forman with a diverse group of classmates and teachers that come *"from all over Pakistan"* in ways that have *"changed me completely"*. This includes his time at the Writing Center which *"has been a great help in making my writing better . . . I am not the same Kamran I was in my first semester"*. In his memoir, Kamran also praises Forman as a *"welcoming"* place *"where every culture, tradition and custom are celebrated"*.

Rafi Ul Shan, President of Forman's Young Peace & Development Corps (YPDC) recently provided heart-warming details on an initiative involving the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) in welcoming 7,000 Sikh pilgrims to Vaisakhi Festival 2025. As part of this initiative, Rafi led a team of 50 student volunteers at the Wagah Border, working behind the scenes to ensure that the pilgrims had a memorable experience while assisting in everything from bus ticketing to ID cards.



As Rafi reports, "every detail was taken care of with love and dedication . . . it was a valuable opportunity to learn about public service, event management, and the beauty of cross-cultural interactions": <https://www.instagram.com/share/reel/BAR9Ju8IDA>



Meanwhile, Adeel Khalid reports that Paria Anjum Rajput, one of his advisees who regularly writes on human rights issue has had one of her blogs published by the University of Minnesota's Human Writes Program, a prestigious platform developed to showcase the work of emerging writers and scholars: <https://humanwrites.umn.edu/parachinar-land-tussle-and-potential-fortune>

FCCU MPhil graduate Amber Bajwa recently published an article on "Christian Religious Minorities in Pakistan and their Satisfaction with Higher Education and Mental Well-Being" in the *International Journal on Minority and Group Rights* <https://brill.com/.../article-10.1163-15718115-bja10216.xml>



Debaters from the Formanites Debating Society recently participated in the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) debate competition, with one Forman team (FCCU A) emerging as runners-up and the other Forman team (FCCU B) breaking into the semi-finals.



Also, the Formanites Debating Society joined forces with the Character Building Society, working with the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to organize *The Great Debate: Uniting Youth Against Corruption*.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Dr. Saeed Shafqat's review of Dr. Zeba Sathar's *Pakistan@2050: Demographic Change, Future Projects, and Development Opportunities* (Population Council of Pakistan, 2024) appeared in the Friday Times: <https://thefridaytimes.com/05-Apr-2025/pakistan-2050-addressing-population-growth-and-its-impact-on-sustainable-development>



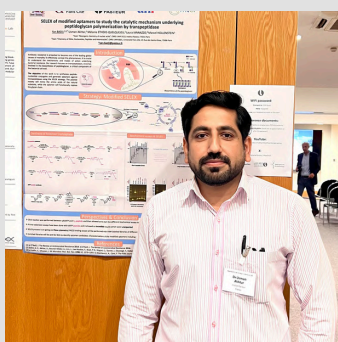
Dr. Shafqat also recently chaired a session at an international conference on *Seventy Years After Bandung: The Struggle Continues*, hosted by the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs in Karachi, Pakistan's oldest "think tank" devoted entirely to global affairs.



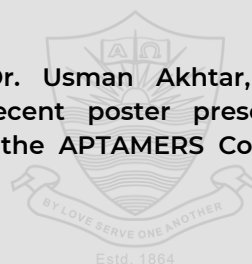
Looking ahead, the Center for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG) headed by Dr. Shafqat is organizing a two-day conference on May 21-22 on *Challenges and Transformations in Contemporary Pakistan*, bringing together academics, policymakers, practitioners and students for critical discussions on difficult issues affecting Pakistan's political, social, economic and environmental landscape today.

A special thank you to Dr. Uzma Hanif from our Economics Department for representing FCCU at the inaugural session of the State Bank of Pakistan's conference on *Financial Inclusion Through Collaboration and Innovation*. Tariq Riaz, the Chief Manager for the State Bank in Lahore, also participated, along with the Rector of the University of Management and Technology (UMT).

Dr. Uzma took the opportunity to express appreciation for the opportunities afforded to our students by various State Bank initiatives. For example, several of our students participated in training on Financial Literacy and faculty members Dr. Naveed Tahir and Dr. Talah Numan Khan attended a two-day workshop organized by the State Bank on Monetary Policy.

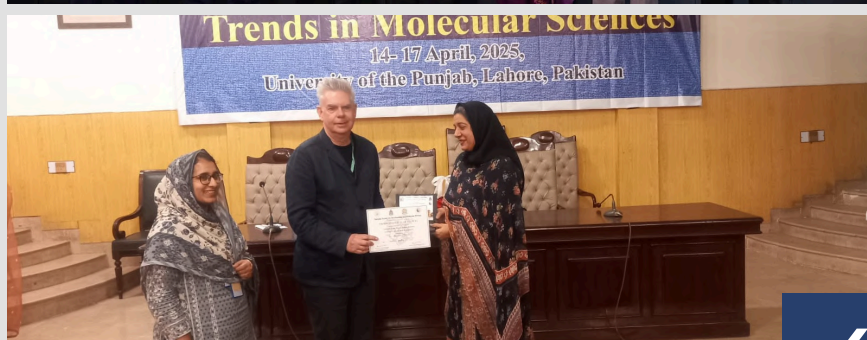


Congratulations to Dr. Usman Akhtar, Assistant Professor in Pharmacy, for his recent poster presentation related to his postdoctoral work at the APTAMERS Conference held at Oxford during April.



Congratulations also to Dr. Samina Mehnaz on receiving an Innovation Award and certificate at the *10th Invention to Innovation Summit* hosted by the University of Management and Technology (UMT) in Lahore on April 23 in partnership with the University of Punjab.

In addition, Dr. Samina chaired a session and delivered an invited lecture on "Characterization of Metabolites of *Pseudomonas chlororaphis* and Assessment of their Potential as a Biocontrol Agent" at the *15th Biennial International Conference on Trends in Molecular Sciences*. Held at Punjab University from April 14-17, the event was sponsored by the Pakistan Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.



Ms. Faiza Jamil, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, completed her PhD in Mathematics from the University of Management and Technology (UMT) in Lahore. Her research focused on Fractional Metric Resolvability of Graphs. As part of her PhD journey, she also published research papers in four international journals.



DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

The Chemistry Department remembered "one of its own", holding a heart-felt memorial service on April 22 to honor the life and legacy of Professor Emeritus Dr. Munir who passed away on March 25, bringing together family, colleagues, students and others to pay tribute to his wonderful contributions and enduring impact.

Department head Dr. Shazma Azeem introduced the moving event, starting with a video highlighting Dr. Christy Munir's life, professional journey and academic accomplishments. Others including Dr. Douglas Trimble (Vice Rector); Dr. Gloria Calib (Associate Vice Rector); Dr. Hassan Amir Shah (Dean of Natural Sciences); Dr. Kauser Abdulla Malik (Dean of Postgraduate Studies); and various others shared personal reflections celebrating his role as a mentor, educator and compassionate friend, noting that his life would continue to inspire others for generations to come.



Also, The Chemistry Department held its annual *Lab Safety Workshop* on April 28, with a view toward raising student awareness about essential safety protocols developed for laboratory environments.

The first technical session involved seven speakers (Dr. Shazma Azeem, Dr. Mariya al Rashida, Dr. Muhammad Saeed Iqbal, Dr. Dildar Ahmed, Dr. Muhammad Abbas,



Dr. Abdul Hafeez and Dr. Seemal Jelani), combining insightful presentations with hands-on training. This was followed by a second technical session focused on practical training in fire extinguisher use and first aid, provided by FCCU Health and Safety Officer Major Kanwal Arune Isaacs and Mr. Shahid Waheed from Rescue 1122.



The English Department's "Writer's Lounge" series continues to bring outstanding speakers to Forman. During this month that included a program on April 8 featuring Dr. Waseem Anwar (Director of Kinnaird College's International Center for Pakistani Writing in English) and Nosheen Yousuf (English Instructor at Government College University in Faisalabad and columnist for *Dawn* and *The Nation*). Both Dr. Waseem and Nosheen served as editors for *Transcultural Humanities in South Asia: Critical Essays on Literature and Culture* (Routledge, 2022).



Also, the English Department's Graduate Seminar Series hosted a talk on April 24 featuring Dr. Shahab Yar Khan, Associate Professor in the Department of Shakespearean Studies at the University of Sarajevo in Bosnia.

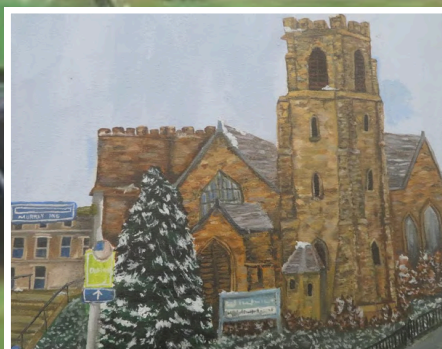
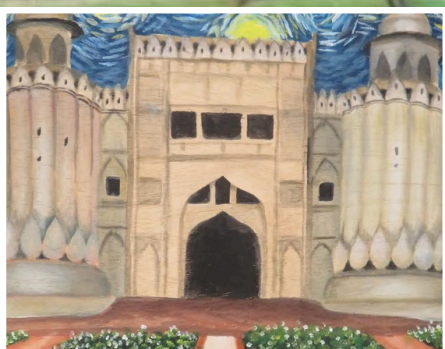
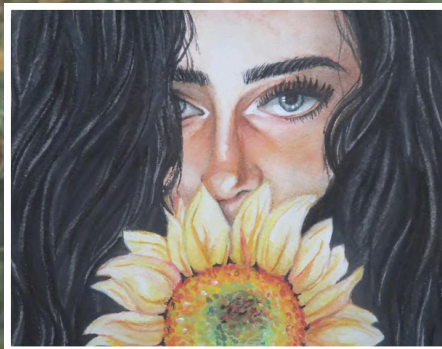
This was followed the next day by another talk as part of our English Department's Graduate Seminar Series, this time on *The Diversity of Sufi Literature in South Asia* delivered by Dr. Waqas Sajjad, Assistant Professor at Beaconhouse University.



Raheel Iqbal, CEO of Game Storm Studios and Director of the OZI Group, led an interactive session for Computer Science students on April 9, drawing on his seventeen plus years working in game and applications development.



Our Visual Arts Department staged a wonderful Art Exhibit featuring student work as part of their Painting and Drawing classes (ARTS 111 and ARTS 102). This was the first student exhibit featured in the new Forman Art Gallery in the Jim Tebbe Campus Center and from my perspective the results were amazing.



The Geography Department organized a one-day trip to Kallar Kahar, the Katas Raj Temples, and the Khewra Salt Mines on April 12, providing opportunities to explore one of Pakistan's unique physical, geological and cultural landscapes while also setting the stage for field-based learning.



Finally, a special thanks to Dr. Aneel Samuel who has provided dedicated service to the Forman College Urdu Department for the past fifteen years; he now moves to the University section of our institution where we expect his contributions will be equally significant. At the same time, we welcome Dr. Shahida Dilawar Shah, a prolific contributor to Urdu literature and the author of several books, as the new head of the College Urdu Department.



As College Vice Rector Dr. Ivan Suneel notes, "We express our deepest gratitude for Dr. Aneel Samuel's commitment, leadership, and contributions over the years". At the same time, "We are confident that Dr. Shahida will take the Department forward with vision and strength".



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

FCCU is proud to have partnered with the Pakistan Academy of Sciences to host a major *International Conference on Cultivating Wellness: Bridging Agriculture Food and Health* during April 23-25. A special thanks to Dr. Kauser Abdulla Malik and his team for his leadership and their role in bringing this event to the Forman campus. Ms. Florence Rolle, Country Representative for the Food and Agricultural Organization, was also invited to grace the occasion.





Special thanks also to Dr. Nayer Fardows and his team (in this case, the team was almost everyone at Forman, given the size of this "mega event"!)) for successfully implementing the *Fifth International Conference of the Pakistan network of Quality Assurance in Higher Education* during April 14-16, also on the Forman campus. This event involved several international speakers as well as more than 600 participants including Rectors, Vice Chancellors and other senior leaders in higher education from across Pakistan.

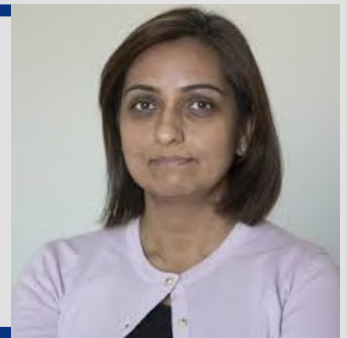


OTHER ACADEMIC UPDATES



Congratulations to Forman's Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC), directed by Dr. Kauser Abdulla Malik and managed by Haroon Samson, which qualified for the second consecutive year in the Higher Education Commission (HEC) "X" category while raising ORIC's score from 63 to 66.5: *"This accomplishment is a testament to ORIC's unwavering dedication, hard work and commitment to excellence".*

Forman's Population Research Center organized a webinar on April 22 on Promotion of Young Children's Development and Health featuring Dr. Aisha K. Yousufzai, Professor Child Development and Health at Harvard University's T.H. Chan School of Public Health.



Forman's Center for Learning and Teaching (CLT) headed by Dr. Rukhsana Zia continues to have an impact beyond Forman. Most recently, that included a program on *Leveling the Playing Field in Higher Education* supported by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) which included 2,200 unique registrations from 34 countries.

Also, CLT Deputy Head Dr. Mehwish Raza is playing a lead role in preparing our faculty to respond to Artificial Intelligence (AI), launching an *AI Showcase Series* that will involve eight sessions held throughout May. Among other things, this initiative will provide a platform for Forman faculty to share experiences in using specific AI tools and applications, both professionally and in their daily lives.

Dr. Michael Nazir-Ali, former Bishop of Rochester, delivered a lecture in Urdu on April 11 on the origins of the Nicene Creed. The talk, sponsored by Forman's Center for Biblical Teaching and Research (CBTR), attracted a large audience -- so large that the venue had to be changed at the last minute to Sinclair Hall.



The Forman Psychological Service Center organized a half day interactive workshop on April 15 on *Transform Your Life with Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT)*, led by Clinical Psychologist (and Forman Lecturer) Uzma Ilyas.





Meanwhile, Mercy Health Center offered a free medical "camp" for faculty and staff and their families, providing walk-in clinical services in a variety of areas including endocrinology, pediatric care, and chronic pain, among other health concerns.

SPORTS REPORT

The Forman Sports Society in partnership with the University Sports Department hosted the Ramadan Sports Fest involving more than 600 participants competing in athletics, badminton, basketball, futsal, table tennis, tennis and volleyball.



The University Sports Office as well as the Student Affairs Office have announced the reopening of the FCCU Swimming Pool. For more information and details on timing, hours, membership, and registration, please contact the Sports Office.

Congratulations to Coach Brian Furches for launching Forman's Youth Baseball Academy on the Forman campus, a five-week effort organized with support from Global Sports Partnerships (GSP) and aimed at introducing this new sport to children between the ages of 8 and 12.



ALUMNI UPDATE



Forman graduate Parkash Singh who is currently enrolled in a graduate program in Computer Science at Ohio State University reports that he is working as a Graduate Teaching Associate. Looking ahead, he has also lined up a summer internship at the Wexner Medical Center in Ohio. In a recent e-mail, Parkash also reminded me that he was born and raised in Shikarpur -- the same town in Upper Sindhi where I spent several years as part of my own childhood!

Forman Management graduate Muhammad Sawaiz Fatar was offered a place at Duke University's prestigious Fuqua School of Business in Durham, North Carolina. His graduate program starts in July 2025 and will focus on Business Analytics. While at Forman Muhammad served as President of the Character Building Society from 2021 to 2022, receiving the Cheryl Burke Award and Community Service Award for his contributions.



School of Management graduate Zerwa Tahir reports that she has started work at MG as Assistant Manager for Marketing and Communications, specifically thanking her professors at Forman for her success.

A special thanks also to our Advancement and Alumni Office which organized a special gathering for Female Formanites, held at the Jim Tebbe Campus Center on April 29 to celebrate the achievements of the women "who make Forman extraordinary"!



OUTREACH



I represented Forman as part of a panel at the concluding session of an *International Conference on Future-Ready Universities in the Next Decade*, hosted by the University of Management and Technology (UMT) during April 25-26.

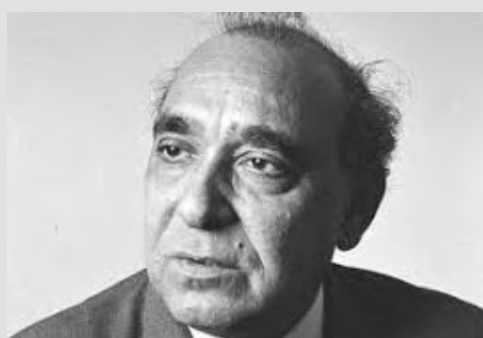
The closing program was headed by UMT Provost Dr. Asghar Zaidi and also included Dr. Muhammad Ali Shah (Vice Chancellor, University of Punjab);

Mr. Awais Rauf (Chair, Board of Governors, University of Lahore); Dr. Kanwal Ameen (Vice Chancellor, Government for Women University/Faisalabad); and Dr. Hammad Naveed (Pro-Rector, University of Central Punjab).

As a former USAID Mission Director in Islamabad and elsewhere, I appreciated the opportunity to publish an article on "USAID's Contribution to Higher Education in Pakistan" that appeared in *The Nation* on April 25: [Read the article](#)

"A LITERARY COUP FOR FORMAN"

Dr. Carlo Coppola, a widely published Urdu language scholar, recently wrote to request permission to reprint a story from *Folio*, a Forman magazine that is no longer published. As Dr. Coppola describes it, he is working on a new book tentatively titled *Speaking Of/To/With & About South Asian Writers: Interviews, Essays and Reflections*.



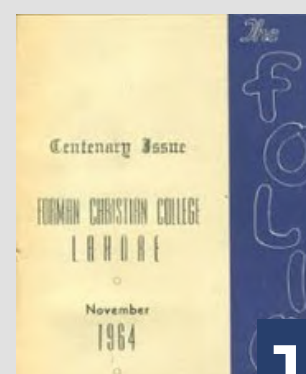
One of the authors featured in that forthcoming book is Krishan Chander, a prodigious writer in both Urdu and English who early in his literary career served as Assistant Editor for the *Folio*; in fact, his very first work in English was published in the *Folio*. It also seems that Krishan's first published Urdu short story, entitled "Sadhu", appeared in the *Folio* in 1932.

While the initial contact was made via English Department Chair Syeda Fatima, the e-mail conversation eventually also included Chief Librarian Farrukh Shahzad who was able to locate the Urdu short story in question, noting that it had also been republished in the *Folio Centenary Edition* covering the period 1864-1964 (November 1964). As Dr. Coppola describes it, this is indeed a "literary coup for the *Folio* and FC College"!

In fact, Dr. Coppola was even more effusive in his praise for the literary detective work undertaken by Forman, as the following extract from a more lengthy e-mail indicates:

What a discovery! My head is spinning all morning with this news. It is "A BIG DEAL"! And it should be shared widely . . .

First, of course, the story needs to be translated into English. This should



be done under the auspices of both FCC's Urdu and English departments.

I suggest that plans should be devised to arrange seminars, one in Urdu, one in English, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Krishan Chander's passing in 2027, using the discovery of this story as a kind of "resurrection" of KC's reputation as a writer in English, or simply the recognition of Krishan Chander's reputation as world-class Urdu writer of fiction.

We all know that it is not too early to work on such seminars this far in advance. Both of these could be held on the campus of FCC, or the one in English could be held at the University of Wisconsin [\(https://southasiaconference.wisc.edu/\)](https://southasiaconference.wisc.edu/) ... or at the annual of the South Asian Literary Association [\(https://southasianliteraryassociation.org/\)](https://southasianliteraryassociation.org/), an affiliate of the Modern Language Association, the world's largest literary association.

Additionally, I suggest that FCC undertake the publication of Krishan Chander's essays and stories ... There are enough entries to form a fine collection. This should be done as a complement to any seminar, or published independent of any seminar. That Reader should also contain some of his non-literary writing, much of which he did in English.

I have described this discovery as a mini-Rosetta Stone event. Hyperbole, of course, but appropriate to the occasion ... Congrats to all.

OTHER NEWS

Easter activities at the Light of Hope School included an Easter Arts & Craft Exhibition showcasing the artistic creativity of our Light of Hope students including Easter wreaths, wall hangings, crosses, candles, painted stones and other items.



As detailed in Yousaf Sadiq's *The Contextualized Psalms (Punjabi Zabur): A Precious Heritage of the Global Punjabi Christian Community*, the Psalms in Punjabi is one of the glories of both the Punjab Church and Punjabi literature, sung regularly across the province based on a brilliant nineteenth century translation in metrical verse by Imam-ud-din Shahbaz. Thanks to Fiona who discovered it, a rare 1908 copy of Shahbaz's translation is now being digitized and will become part of the permanent Forman rare books collection.

A special thanks to Farid Malik and members of his class for planting 20 more olive trees in FCCU's olive garden, established several years ago with an initial planting of 100 olive trees. A relatively new crop in Pakistan, olive trees have the potential to help meet the country's edible oils requirements.

The Career Services and Internships Departments has launched Career Readiness Series 2025 that includes a lineup of academic and industry experts: [Register Here](#)

Designed specifically for juniors and seniors preparing to enter a highly competitive job market, the initiative aims at helping students succeed via a series of five programs covering everything from resume development to interview tips.

Finally, March 10 was the "Freeze Date" set aside by FCCU to collect data on our institution. As always, a team led by Sarah Suleman who heads our Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) took the lead in terms of not only collecting the required information but analyzing it afterwards, compiling it into a Campus Profile for Spring 2025 that is essential for tracking key indicators related to Forman.

Total enrollment at Forman in March 2025 reached
9,048 including 3,560 at the College level and 5488 at the University level.

As regards the latter, this number includes
187 Pharmacy students and 700 postgraduate students.

Approximately
48 percent of our undergraduates are women,
as are
70 percent of our graduate students.

The number of faculty at both the College and University has
reached 411,
approximately
43 percent of whom are female.

While Forman's biggest intake of new students is in the Fall,
we also welcomed 438 new university students
to our institution during the Spring semester.



DR. JONATHAN S. ADDLETON
RECTOR