

Newsletter in support of Forman Christian College

Friends of Forman Christian College



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Celebrating the Jim Tebbe Campus Center & Cheryl Burke Hope Tower

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On Friday, April 28th, I had the privilege of attending the dedication ceremonies for the newly named **Jim Tebbe Campus Center** and the **Cheryl Burke Hope Tower**. Inside this newsletter are photos of the events and stories sharing what these facilities mean to the students at Forman Christian College (FCCU).

One of my favorite phrases to describe what FCCU provides to all who visit campus comes from the person for whom this new campus center is named. Dr. Tebbe is credited with saying that **Forman Christian College "offers an umbrella of Christian grace to every student."**

The umbrella metaphor describes well what the new campus center will offer daily. It quite literally will be an **umbrella of shade** from the heat and weather of the hottest months in its air-conditioned spaces. It will provide a **place of security and discretion** to female students seeking a place to rest in the women's lounge. It will offer a **canopy of quiet study** for students looking to do research and assignments in the new digital library. And it will be a grand **sheltering tent for fellowship** shared around a meal or a cup of tea in the spacious dining areas. May the new Campus Center indeed be a place wherein all who enter experience an umbrella of Christian grace.

Thank you for your continued support of all that God is doing at Forman Christian College. ❖



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We are a 501(c)(3) organization formed to support the work of Forman Christian College in Lahore, Pakistan.



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Thanks to YOU, Free to Flourish is a success!

In 2017, Friends of Forman began an ambitious capital campaign to raise 20 million dollars for FCCU. The centerpiece of this effort is the recently dedicated Jim Tebbe Campus Center featured in this newsletter. This campus center is the first of its kind in Pakistan.

We are enormously grateful to YOU for giving generously to Free to Flourish. Because of you,

we exceeded our goal and celebrate the generosity you and so many others have shown.

THANK YOU for being part of this undertaking and bringing these opportunities to Forman Christian College (FCCU). Each of you embodies the FCCU motto *"by love serve one another."* ❖



Building the Heart of this Campus

Dr. Jonathan Addleton, FCCU Rector

One of the blessings of my time at Forman has been to see the construction of the new Jim Tebbe Campus Center unfold from my office window. It is a beautiful building, starting with the Digital Library on the ground floor and continuing to the prospective Business Incubation Center on the top floor, situated close to a large auditorium/exhibition hall and an attractive atrium with a skylight open to the skies of Lahore.

Above all, the Campus Center provides a much-needed space for the students at Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) to meet, connect, forge relationships, and advance the academic and social aspects of their Forman education. Unique to Pakistan, it combines eating facilities, lounges, study space, an art gallery, a campus shop, a counseling center, and an array of student activity offices under one roof.



The dedication ceremony on April 28 included the unveiling of a plaque on the ground floor with the following words from Psalms ("Zabur"), perhaps the most beloved book of the Bible for Pakistan's Punjabi Christian community: *"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain."* This will undoubtedly be our prayer as the Campus Center becomes the student-centered beating heart of campus life at Forman in the coming years. ❖



Find the latest stories and updates online: FriendsOfForman.org/News

Hope Tower: The Role of Safe Housing in Women's Education

Ms. Cheryl Burke

The Cheryl Burke Hope Tower has been the on-campus home to 384 young women every year since 2015. Initially planned for women from the north and west provinces of Pakistan, it is also home for local female students facing special circumstances in Lahore. Cheryl Burke, former FCCU Chief Student Affairs Officer, shares the background on why education and residential space for women are so important.

When Hope Tower hostel was built, many said there would never be enough young women allowed to come from far off areas to fill the space. That has never been a problem. Our young men, particularly those from the western areas of Pakistan where educational opportunities for women are scarce, returned home and told family and neighbors about the safe and culturally sensitive environment on the FCCU campus. These communities responded by sending their daughters. In many cases, these young women are the first female members of their families to be allowed to study outside of their local communities and to achieve higher than a 10th grade education. The women's hostel has also provided a safe haven for young women who have been suddenly orphaned or who, for a variety of reasons, have nowhere else to turn. **It is a place where young women, no matter their circumstances, are treated with dignity and learn to move into the larger world with independence and confidence.**



At a ceremony on April 28, 2023, Hope Tower was renamed honoring Cheryl Burke.



Ms. Cheryl Burke, Dr. Jonathan Addleton (Rector), and Ms. Shawna Persons (Chief Student Services Officer).

Over the years, FCCU has successfully maintained culturally appropriate and safe spaces while empowering its young women to take on the issues that have made life so difficult for them in Pakistan. They have learned to address poverty, sexual harassment, gender-based violence, and many other forms of gender-related discrimination.

An education at Forman Christian College helps its female students gain the knowledge and skills they need and harness the courage they have developed to go into their own communities and



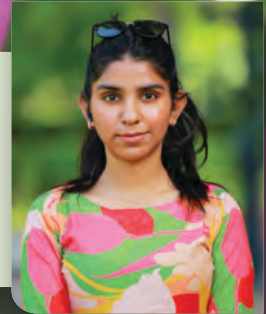
beyond and work for positive change. Alumni of Hope Tower are raising families, teaching, running research projects, working in the corporate sector, completing further studies in universities all over the world, and every other career and personal goal you can imagine. They are also staying in close touch with the sisters they gained while living in community for four years.

There is no campus in Pakistan where women feel as safe and as comfortable speaking out and being visible in the community. There are young women in leadership roles in student societies and classrooms and they are comfortable moving all over the campus on their own. While this may be common in the United States, this is certainly not the norm in Pakistan. **At FCCU the constant focus on creating a safe, secure environment has allowed hundreds of young women to gain an education that would have otherwise been impossible.** ❖

What does the Jim Tebbe Campus Center mean to our students?

Huma

I am delighted that Campus Centre will be an opportunity for us students as a place where I could study and hang out with friends at the same place.



Sheroz

With its sleek design and state-of-the-art facilities, the new Campus Centre will be the ultimate hub for students, offering a dynamic space to learn, connect, and thrive.

Tooba

The Campus Centre is a central space for students to socialise and engage in extracurricular activities, offering modern amenities and resources for the student community.



Moses

The Campus Centre is going to be the ocean of opportunities for us. With all the facilities, we will be creating something new every day. I'm really excited to see it all unfold in front of my eyes.