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2,293 students awarded degrees at GCU convocation

At the 19th convocation of the Government College University (GCU) held in four sessions following SOPs of COVID-19, 2,293 students were awarded degrees including 41 PhD, 814 MS/MPHil, 381 MA/MSc degrees while 1057 were awarded BA/BSc (Hons) degrees.

The Commissioner Lahore Capt (R) Muhammad Usman and Dr Amjad Saqib, the founder of Akhuwat were chief guests at the second and third session of the convocation Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi awarded the degrees and medals to PhD scholars and position-holders.



The Vice Chancellor congratulated the graduates and motivated them to use their education to create an impact on the society without compromising their moral values and principles in pursuit of glory. He also shared key achievements of GCU in the last two years.

The Commissioner Lahore advised students to always remember the contributions of their parents and teachers in their lives, and play a positive role for the development of their country.

Academic medals and rolls of honor were won by 60 graduates while 12 students received medals for their extra ordinary performance and achievements in co-curricular activities. and Dr Amjad Saqib shared his life story with the graduates saying that spirit of self-sacrifice gives birth to a prosperous society. He told graduates that they were highly privileged and blessed to have studied from a very prestigious institution in the country.



GCU confers honorary PhD upon Anwaar Ahmad Khan

The Government College University Lahore conferred the honorary doctorate of philosophy (PhD) degree upon an eminent philanthropist, dedicated social worker and compassionate humanitarian Mr Anwaar Ahmad Khan in a ceremony held at the Governor House, Lahore for his thirty years meritorious services to the society. The Governor Punjab, Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar along with the Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi awarded the Honoris Causa Degree of Doctor of Philosophy to Mr Anwaar A Khan. The citation presented by the Registrar Dr Shaukhat Ali highlighted commendable services of Mr Khan as a well-known philanthropist, who has worked tirelessly for the uplifting of the down-trodden over three decades. Mr Khan is also member of Board of Directors of 600-bed hospital which provides indoor and outdoor free



medical treatment to over one million individuals annually. He is General Secretary of Jamiat Taleem ul Quran Trust which is providing basic and Islamic education to 80,000 students in over 2000 makhtabs and 69 jails. Several generations of great human beings who made their mark in different walks of life and that GCU broke away from a tradition of granting honorary degrees to eminent foreign dignitaries and politicians only as this

year it was acknowledging a person who had been doing good to his own society and country. "In order to seek inspiration from those who make invaluable contribution to the welfare of the society, we acknowledge the services of such social leaders in several ways. People like Mr Anwaar A Khan are role models for our youth, especially our students in placing value to philanthropy and social work," the Registrar added.

Governor establishes Syed Ali Geelani Chair at GCU

Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar and Vice Chancellor GCU announced establishing a research chair at Government College University in the name of the late Syed Ali Shah Geelani, the veteran Kashmiri separatist leader and former Chief of All Parties Hurriyat Conference. The Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi, Dr Syed Mujjahid Gilani, the grandson of Syed Ali Geelani, and eminent journalist Salman Ghani were also

present. The Governor addressed a condolence reference for the late Syed Ali Geelani which was organized by the Kashmir Society of GCU. He paid tribute to the courageous struggle of Mr Geelani, saying that he had struggled all his life for his people and their right to self-determination. He was an uncompromising campaigner against Indian rule in Kashmir, and he devoted his entire life to the independence of Kashmir. "Syed Geelani always looked in the eyes of

enemy and loudly said we are Pakistan and Pakistan is ours," The Vice Chancellor commended Geelani's decades-long struggle for Kashmir's right to self-determination, saying that the great Kashmiri leader suffered incarceration and torture by the occupying Indian State but remained resolute. He welcomed the decision of the governor to establish the Syed Ali Geelani Chair at GCU.





GCU Selection Board recommends appointment of 18 lecturers

The 80th Selection Board of Government College University Lahore recommended appointment of 18 lecturers in seven departments and promotions of 13 faculty and staff members of the university.

The selection panels comprised of subject experts, representatives of the Syndicate and other permanent members chaired by the Vice Chancellor. All applicants had to go through a 100 percent transparent selection process from advertisement to scrutiny, and written tests to interviews.

The Selection Board recommended the appointment of lecturers in the



department of Chemistry, Microbiology, Botany, Economics, Geography, Computer Science, English Literature and Sociology. Promotion of seven faculty members on the tenure track system, Deputy Registrar, Senior Librarian, System Analyst and Deputy Controller of Examination was also decided. Prof Zaidi said that these

regular appointments would help improve teacher-student ratio and the availability of PhD qualified staff because "the greatest benefit to come from these appointments is to create an integrated community with a sense of intellectual identity."

22 GCU graduates secure "English lecturer" through PPSC exams



The Vice Chancellor proudly informed about the selection of 22 GCU graduates as Lecturers in English by the Higher Education Department through the Punjab Public Service Commission (PPSC), and top three positions were also secured by the brilliant Ravians, Muhammad Moazzam, Ibree Shabkhez and Zain ul Abideen from department of English

at the Punjab level. He congratulated all 22 students and their teachers, saying that "GCU is proud of you! Another strong indication of how good our English Department is." Students from other departments of GCU also secured appointments as lecturers in their respective disciplines. He said there are three very basic



principles on which human life flourishes i.e. diversity, curiosity and creativity, but unfortunately they are contradicted by a culture of education that is currently prevalent in our country. He hoped the new generation would work hard in their capacity as teachers to introduce these three very basic principles.





Students' Societies Summit took place at GCU

The First All Pakistan Summit for Student's Societies, a conglomeration of youth enrolled in the public and private sector universities commenced with a 5-km Marathon on The Mall from Governor House to GC University Lahore. The week-long summit was hosted by GCU Lahore in collaboration with the UNESCO Creative Cities Network: Lahore - City of Literature through Commissioner Lahore and non-government organizations (NGOs), Bargad Organization for Youth Development and Shaoor Foundation for Education and Awareness. Students from different universities participated in the marathon on The Mall that began from the Governor House, while faculty members stood under the Clock Tower of Government College University Lahore to cheer those who crossed the finish line. Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi, participated in the marathon and was among those who finished the cross line, said that this is his first time running such a long



distance, and that the great atmosphere and support of his students kept him going. He said that last stretch was the hardest but an amazing experience. Commissioner Capt (R) Muhammad Usman inaugurated the marathon with a gunshot saying that this was an amazing sporting activity for the youth that had come from different universities across Pakistan. He wished all the participants of the race to finish strong. He said the Vice Chancellor of GCU is a role model as he always lead his students not only in academics but also in sports. Muhammad Akhtar from the University of Central Punjab won the marathon finishing the cross line first. The first ten winners of the race were awarded with the cash prizes. The winners included Aftab Haram, Kaleem Akhtar, Ali Hadi, Osama Hassan and Sufiyan. The marathon was followed by a grand march past of student's societies at the GCU's Oval Ground. Besides debates contest, theatrical festival, essay and poetry writing competitions, painting



exhibitions and music concert, the week-long events included discussions among leading experts, scholars and students on wide-ranging topics of contemporary relevance to higher educational institutions. The sports activities at the summit included grand march-past, cricket, hockey squash, tennis and basketball matches.





GCU to start LLB (Hons) in Fall 2021

The Government College University Lahore announced to establish the Law Department this year to open admissions to the five-year LLB (Hons) in Fall 2021. The Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zadi said that the five-year LLB (Hons) programme was very carefully designed under the valuable guidance of best legal minds including honorable former Chief Justice of Lahore High Court, Justice Mamoon Rashid Sheikh, and honorable sitting judges of the Lahore High Court

including Justice Masud Abid Naqvi and Justice Jawad Hassan.

“Our LLB programme will be intellectually challenging and rigorously taught by leading Pakistani and international legal experts,” he added. The Vice Chancellor also intended to establish Dr Muhammad Iqbal Law School that would offer LLM and PhD in legal studies.

The board of studies and GCU Academic Council have already



approved the new programmes, and now they would be placed before the university’s Syndicate for final approval.

GCU VC briefs senator Azam Nazeer Tarar about LLB programme

Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, an eminent Old Ravian and the Chairman, Legal Education Committee of Pakistan Bar Council visited Government College University. The Vice Chancellor along with the senior faculty members briefed Mr Tarar about the faculty and the facilities set up for the Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal Law School of GCU and about opening of admissions to the five-year LLB programme for the first time. He informed that the LLB (Hons) programme of GCU was very carefully designed under the valuable guidance of best legal minds, including former chief justice of Lahore High Court, Justice Mamoon Rashid Sheikh and sitting judges of



the Lahore High Court, including Justice Masud Abid Naqvi and Justice Jawad Hassan. Prof Zaidi also shared his detailed vision for the University’s Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Law School, where the GCU would offer LLM and PhD in legal studies. Senator Tarar appreciated the initiative of law degree programmes, as many eminent

jurists in Pakistan were Old Ravians and they would act as golden resource for its law school. He shared memories of his college days, saying that Old Ravians remember their Alma Mater not because of their degrees but due to the values, morals and confidence that the Government College taught them.

GCU to establish Institute of History

Consequent upon the approval of the GCU Academic Council led by the Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi, Government College University Lahore is going to establish the Institute of History that would offer a certificate course for professionals in Archive Studies along with BS, MPhil and PhD degrees programmes in History of Art, Archive Studies and History.

Prof Zaidi believes that nations and communities are judged on their art and it is very unfortunate that we do not have any art history department in

Pakistan. "We do not teach our students to understand our and others' cultures, and this lack of knowledge reflects in the form of fragmentation, misperception, fear of the unknown, extremism and identity crisis in our society," he mentioned.

Dr Priya Maholay from the National University of Singapore, Prof Shaukat Mahmood (Maxim), Dr Nadhra Shahbaz from LUMS and other international experts helped our team to design the programmes on the pattern of Harvard, Cambridge

and UC Berkeley. "We tried to produce courses that could appreciate the diversity and plurality of this world, and focus on the understanding, interpreting, collecting and maintaining archival records in hard and digital forms," he added. The GCU Lahore nominated Dr Kevin Greenbank, archivist at the University of Cambridge, and Muhammad Mazher Saeed, Deputy Director at National Archives Islamabad as external experts for preparing Archive Studies programmes.

GCU establishes "Media Studies" department

The Government College University Lahore announced to establish the Department of Media and Communication Studies which will offer BS (Hons), MPhil and PhD degree programmes this year in Fall 2021 substituting a minor course earlier offered in Mass Communication from 2002.

The Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi said, "Media builds perceptions and shapes ideas. The sudden rise in the use of new media platforms

demands academic attention and training. Therefore, we wish to produce graduates who could lead the new media industry which has reached to 300 billion US dollars.

We are replicating models of topmost universities for recent reforms and new departments. For media studies, we followed the scheme of University of California, Berkeley and the University of Amsterdam." In the BS programme of Media Studies, the department will offer specialization in three fields

Journalism; Film, TV and Radio Production; and the new media, advertisement and public relations. While the focus of postgraduate programmes would be the integration of media creation into academic work. We aim to set high standards of ethics, creativity, research and scholarship in Media Studies. The department is also setting up a state-of-the-art media studio which will help students in practical training during their programme."

GCU to establish multidisciplinary Institute of Chemical Sciences

The Government College University Lahore would be establishing a modern Institute of Chemical Sciences which would initially offer Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) and BSc Chemical Engineering.

The Vice Chancellor hoped that the Institute, approved by the University's Syndicate and Academic Council, would comprise of three departments: Chemistry, Pharmacy and Chemical Engineering. "This modern institute would help to meet the growing needs of research and quality human resource in different

fields including medicines, affordable energy production and storage technologies, environmental challenges, food security, and supply of clean water. Although global academia is moving towards interdisciplinary research, but unfortunately, we are compartmentalizing our disciplines which leads to a narrow vision," Prof Zaidi said.

The Vice Chancellor mentioned Pharm. D. programme is designed to provide a strong foundation in the biomedical, socio-behavioral,

administrative, clinical, and pharmaceutical sciences.

He said "This will ensure that our graduates possess the necessary skillset and knowledge to play a significant role in the evolving health care system of Pakistan and abroad. After getting the degree of BSc Chemical Engineering, our chemical engineers will work in manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, design and construction, pulp and paper, petrochemicals, food processing, and environmental health and safety industries."



Academic Council approves reforms in GCU admission policy and academic programmes

The Academic Council of Government College University Lahore approved major reforms in the university's admission process and structure of academic programmes. The vice chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi showed his concern, "Unfortunately, our admissions system has miserably failed to test the skillset required for pursuing good quality higher education. We find a great difference in the marking standards of various secondary boards. Applicants often have high scores but do not possess basic conceptual clarity, communication and analytical skills. On the basis of marks, they are admitted to disciplines for which they lack aptitude. Our teachers have to focus on improving students' basic skills; a university is not supposed to impart school/ college level education. Our new undergraduate admission policy will attract the best of the minds and ensure learnings based on leading-edge knowledge". The Council approved an entrance test carrying 30%, and aptitude interview 20% weightage for admissions in carrying undergraduate

programmes of all disciplines except Physical Education and Fine Arts, where practical work is necessary. In addition, Intermediate results will receive the weightage of 40% and 10% for matriculation. Sample papers for the entrance tests and guidelines for interviews have been made available on the university's website. The Academic Council also recommended a policy proposal for bringing evening undergrad programmes at par with the morning. Evening programmes are renamed as self-supporting programmes in which students will be eligible for scholarships, hostels and transport facilities as Prof Zaidi said: "Self-supporting students are admitted on merit and pay fifty percent higher fee. They deserve facilities like regular students. Through centralized timetabling, self-supporting students will now be able to take classes with regular students. This will help them to better integrate with the university culture and acquire socializing skills in a formal academic setting. The centralized timetable will also increase options of subjects for them which was not available



previously. We have also approved merit-based scholarships for self supporting students to support them financially and to ensure academic rigour in our programmes". The Academic Council also approved the standardization of nomenclature of undergraduate degrees. All degree programmes will be called Bachelor of Studies (BS). The step was taken in line with the HEC's policy and to avoid confusion in the job market where different nomenclatures are used for similar degree programmes.



GCU adopts open-book examination system

The Academic Council of Government College University Lahore has recommended the University's new examinations policy to be implemented from Fall 2021 for all undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. This makes GCU the first public sector university of Pakistan to allow its teachers to conduct project-based and open-book exams. The Vice Chancellor said, "We have come to this policy after a lengthy consultative process. The COVID-19 experience provided us with an opportunity to review our learning methods. Over the last one and a half years, we conducted three exams which were open-book/open internet, and project-based. On the basis of these experiences and after reviewing the performance of

students in closed-book exams, we realize that the project-based assessment is a more effective learning tool than other modes". He added that academic heads of Social Sciences and Languages faculties, have serious reservations about closed-book, time-bound examination system that promotes selective studies and rote learning. Consequently, our graduates lack argumentation, and practical skills. We cannot build strong institutions and nation with such graduates who do not critically receive information from textbooks and media". While explaining the objectives for introducing the new assessment policy, Prof Zaidi reinforced, "All focus of a course will now be on argumentation, problem solving, exploration and innovation. With the new examination system in

place, our students will acquire skills to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize knowledge which is the main aim of higher education. They will learn to cooperate with peers, do careful planning and show flexibility, which the closed-book, sit-in exam system discourages." However, the policy allows Mathematics, Statistics and a number of other departments to conduct on-campus exams.

The weightage of marks for final semester exams will be 50%, mid-term exams 20 % and semester work 30% of the total marks. Teachers will design rubrics for each assessment component of a course, which will be shared with students before the start of a semester.

GCU holds youth leadership training

A two-day training workshop for the Intermediate students on "Youth Leadership and Civic Education" began at Government College University Lahore in collaboration with Shaor Foundation for Education and Awareness (SFEA). The Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi and Mr Zahid Islam, the former President of FAFEN, and Mr Raja Shoaib Akbar, the Director Programs of SFEA as trainers have been the key driving forces behind the initiative. The participants of the training included 23 girls from University of Home Economics (UHE) and 7 boys from GCU. The workshop aimed at inculcating and developing leadership skills, citizenship and civic education among the young students. On the occasion, Prof Zaidi envisioned that this training would develop critically needed student leaders in the society and would give the youth self-confidence and knowledge to meet different challenges of life, enhance their organizational and project management skills.



Majority supports single national curriculum at GCU youth referendum

The Debating Society of Government College University Lahore conducted a Youth Referendum on Single National Curriculum among the participants of the First All Pakistan Summit of Student Societies 2021. The survey included agendas which talked about various aspects of the SNC and how it would impact the education system of the country. According to the results, about 60 percent of the country's youth believes that the Single National Curriculum would help reduce the socio-economic disparities of the education system.

The Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi said the main objective was to gauge the student body's public opinion about the newly introduced Single National Curriculum.

"The survey garnered an amazing

response; 442 votes were received and analyzed in order to make up the results," he said. He appreciated the hard work of students Eza Qamar, Hamza Jaleel, Nouman Ehsan, Areesha Ehsan and Ahtasham Chattha who worked tirelessly to make this referendum possible, designed the ballot papers, mobilized the electorate, counted the votes and curated the results with unwavering efficiency and dedication. The results showed that when asked about whether the SNC would help reduce the socio-economic disparities of the education system, 59.95% of the voters said yes, 34.61% said no while 5.42% were undecided in their decision. In the second agenda, it was inquired if the voters believed that the SNC would help Pakistan's

education system compete with the international standards of education. 44.79% said yes, 45.47% said no and 9.50% remained undecided. The third agenda focused on the representation of minorities and women and if the representation co-opted in SNC was culturally appropriate. 54.07% said yes, 35.06% said no while 10.85% were unsure. The fourth agenda centred on National Unity. It inquired if the voters believed national unity would increase owing to SNC. 63.10% said yes, 28.95% said no, and 7.91% remained unsure. The fifth agenda was about the structural issues and whether they could be solved with SNC, 43.43% voters said yes, 46.60% said no and 9.95% said they were not sure.

Old Ravians recall good times at GCU alumni reunion

A grand alumni reunion night was organized at Government College University (GCU) Lahore by Old Ravians Union (ORU) which was marked by a music performance by noted singer Amanat Ali and candid reminiscences of their student lives by eminent Old Ravians. The historical Gothic Style building of the GCU was also illuminated for the reunion celebrations. Chairman Akhuwat Foundation Dr Amjad Saqib was the chief guest at the dinner chaired by ORU President and DIG Punjab Police Jahanzeb Nazir Khan. Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi was the co-host as well.



Eminent Old Ravians including Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir Chairman Shehryar Khan Afridi, former Governor Punjab Sardar Latif Khosa, King Edward Medical University VC Prof Khalid Masood Gondal, Walled City Authority DG Kamran Lashari, former federal secretary Qazi Afaq, leading journalists Mubashir Luqman Osama Ghazi and Barrister Ehtesham Amiruddin, Deputy Commissioner Lahore Omar Sher Chatha, DC Sheikhpura Rana Shakeel Aslam, singer Jawad Ahmed, actor Usman Pirzada, playback singer Waris Baig, Senator Zarqa Suhrawardy, DIG Prisons Mubashir Malik and Mayo Hospital Board of Governors Chairman Prof Dr Mahmood Shaukat were also present.

Prof Zaidi said that the Old Ravians were the real strength of GCU who always play a key role in advancing the university's vision and mission, and that the alumni's success and achievements bring glory and pride to their alma mater.

Dr Amjad Saqib shared his personal life experiences with the Old Ravians. DIG Punjab Police Jahanzeb Nazir Khan said ORU was the best platform for Old Ravians to work for the development of GCU. Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir Chairman Shehryar Khan Afridi and singer Jawad Ahmad also addressed the ceremony.





Shan-e-Rematalil Alameen (SAW) week celebrated at GCU

A provincial-level Inter-University Naat, Qirat and Speech Competition was held at the Government College University Lahore in connection with the Shan-e-Rehmatulil Alameen (SAW) Week. Students of Lahore Division from different universities of Punjab participated in the competition which was organized under the auspices of the Punjab Higher Education Department.

Amima Ashraf from University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS) Lahore secured the first position in Qirat contest in the female category, while Hafiza Anisa Rafi from Lahore College for Women University (LCWU) Lahore and Hafiza Afifa from University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Lahore secured second and third positions respectively. Maria Munir from University of Education (UoE) Lahore, Mariam Saddique from the GCU Lahore and Sehrish Khan from LCWU stood first, second and third in the Naat contest



among female students respectively. In male category, Hafiz Muhammad Amir from the GCU Lahore adjudicated first in Qirat contest, while Abdullah Yousaf from UoE Lahore and Hafiz Muhammad Shakir from UVAS Lahore won second and third positions respectively. Hafiz Anees-ur-Rehman from COMSATS University Lahore Campus, Ali Nauman from GCU Lahore and Shabbir Ahmad from UET Lahore stood first, second and third in the Naat contest among male students.

soon. He mentioned that Rehmatulil Alameen Scholarships have also been launched with Rs. 417 million and 891 students of government universities and 14,000 students of government colleges would benefit from them. The Vice Chancellor spoke in detail about the importance of having institutions like Sheikh Abul Hasan Ash-Shadhili Sufism, Science & Technology Research Centre that focus on Islamic history and Sufi education besides social sciences and natural sciences. He shared the progress made about the establishment of the Sufism center. He congratulated the winners of the competition - Amir Mansoor, Mohammad Abdullah Raza, Hafiz Mohammad Amir, Hafiz Anis-ur-Rehman, Rana Mohammad Ahsan, Mehboob Elahi, Abu Talha Cheema, Waqarullah, Hamad Mustafa, Umamah Ashraf, Sakhawat Noor, Nawal Tayyab, M. Tahir, Fauzia Nawaz, Rida Farooq, Sadia Ghafoor, Amna Khalid and Saira Arshad.



The Vice Chancellor GCU Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi congratulated the winners of the first round in the concluding ceremony, The Secretary Higher Education Syed Javed Iqbal Bukhari and Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi distributed prizes and shields among the winners of the competition. The secretary said that they have set up Rehmatulil Alameen Chairs at six divisions of Punjab and these chairs would be set up in the rest of the divisions





Seminar on fighting corruption at GCU

We can not fight corruption until we emphasize on morals, values, ethics, and character education of our people", said the Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi. He chaired a seminar organised at GCU on fighting against corruption by National Accountability Bureau (NAB). He laid stress on the importance of teaching, learning and pedagogical techniques fostering high moral values in students to make them good human beings. He shared in the seminar that

the university held training workshop on civic education to prepare young people as effective, participatory citizens of society. The Director NAB, Syed Muhammad Hasnain Ahmed Shah considered corruption as the biggest hurdle in the prosperity of Pakistan. He told that the accountability bureau didn't take any pressure from government or any section of the society, and recovered around Rs. 500 billion of public money during the last three years. He added

that the Plea Bargain under the NAB Ordinance is not acquittal at all; it's a conviction as the accused does not only pay the total liability with profits earned from embezzled amount but also loses the job and disqualified for contesting elections for ten years. Assistant Director NAB Lahore, Ms Munazza Tasnim gave a detailed presentation on the efforts of accountability bureau in eradicating corruption from the society.

"Sufi's Sacred Material Worlds": International Conference at GCU

We must focus on the sufi's relationship with the materialistic world to understand multiple perspectives associated with Sufism and to counter growing toxicity in our societies. Sufism has different meanings for different people, and it is a globally connected yet locally embedded phenomenon. These views were expressed by the speakers in an international virtual conference on the theme of "Sufis' Sacred Material Worlds". The conference was organized by the recently established Abu Al-Hassan Ash-Shadhili Research Centre on Sufism, and the Institute of History, Government College University, Lahore.

The speakers discussed the diverse roles that the sufis have played throughout history, such as warriors, patrons of architecture, literary scholars, political thinkers and leaders, and organizers of festivals for invoking various types of emotions such as happiness. Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi In opening remarks said that the establishment of the Sufis Centre was inspired by Abu al-Hasan Ash-Shadhili's idea of a close relationship between "intellectualism and social action". Aligning with that, the conference aimed to examine the relationship

between mystic ideas and the material world. He stressed on examining the Sufi's relationship with the material world since, "the conditions of the material world do affect mystics, and the mystics, through their ideas and practices, influence our material world. By focusing on questions related to political, social, cultural and intellectual history, we will initiate and continue academic discussions to appreciate different facets of 'Sufis' and 'Sufism' with their diverse meaning and nuances for each one of us."

Tahir Kamran, who teaches history at the Beaconhouse National University, discussed the face of Sufis as warriors. For him, sufis are often described as non-political. However, a close study of the history of sufis contradicts this view. We find numerous mystics who were warriors as well as political. Hussain Ahmad Khan, the Director of the Institute of History, explained how the Chishti Sufis associated the idea of Muslim identity with the shrine architecture by interpreting different images and decorative motifs according to the religious scriptures. Knut Sigurdson Vikor, a historian of Islam at the University of Bergen, discussed the new 19th century methods in North Africa with a

particular reference to the Sanusiya, and explained new rituals and activities Sanusiya introduced as a response to colonial power.

Mohammed Rustom from Carleton University, Ottawa, discussed the concept of Din-e-Muhammad developed by Sufis on the basis of Persian and Arabic sources. He analyzed how the personality of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was emphasized in Sufi literature. Saeed Bhutta, who teaches Punjabi at GCU, discussed the representation of Sufis in Punjabi folktales. Saima Iram, who teaches Urdu at GCU, discussed the concept of religious pluralism in Sufi Urdu literature. Fatima Fayyaz from LUMS examined the influence of Rūmī on the Chishti order in South Asia.

Saadia Sumbal from FC College discussed the formation of Naqsh bandiyya Awassiya Silsila which shows that the construction of religious authority creates exclusion on the basis of knowledge and power. Ayyaz Gull from the Institute of History, GCU, explained how happiness is invoked by sufis through Qawali. Abrar Zahoor from Sargodha University highlighted the role of sufis in identity construction in South Asian region.



Seminar on Sufism held at GCU

With the mission to address the most challenging problem of peace and interfaith harmony, GCU is forging ahead with a renewed spirit in promoting the teachings of Sufi poets and scholars. This is to keep in line with the initiative taken by the First Lady of Pakistan, Mrs. Bushra Imran i.e. the Al-Shazli Research Centre a Sufism (ARCS) established at the new

campus of GCU. The Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi chaired a seminar on Sufism in Punjabi literature hosted by Punjabi Department at GCU, and announced that this centre would be a vibrant hub of research, likely to have greater impact on cultural tolerance and peaceful coexistence. In her keynote address, Dr Shaista Nuzhat, an eminent

Punjabi scholar underscored the role of GCU in nurturing the next generation of scholars having sound knowledge and research skills in Islamic History and Sufism. Chairperson Punjabi Department, Prof Dr Muhammad Saeed Khawar Bhutta also addressed the seminar and paid his gratitude to the worthy guests.

GCU holds policy dialogue on youth leadership

A provincial level policy-dialogue "Youth Leadership on Campuses" was held at GC University in collaboration with the Bargad Organization, attended by students, policy makers and academicians. The dialogue was arranged to discuss and identify the development challenges faced by young people in Pakistan, why female students participate less in the activities of student societies at university campuses all over Pakistan, and how to increase the engagement of youth in policymaking.

The panelists included members Punjab Assembly (MPAs) Ms Sadia Sohail and Ms Bushra Anjum Butt, Vice Chancellors Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi and Prof Dr Kanwal Ameen and Bargad Executive Director Ms Sabiha Shaheen while around 230 representatives of student societies from different universities of Punjab also participated in the dialogue.

The Vice Chancellor GCU presented the model of students' societies operational at GCU for the last 150 years which was being followed by other universities of Pakistan. He announced holding a week-long All Pakistan Summit for Students Societies in the last week of August 2021 in which student societies from 30 universities across Pakistan would participate. Prof Kanwal Ameen the Vice Chancellor, University of Home Economics emphasized on communication, patience and listening, and reading as essential for today's youth to become leaders. Bargad Advisor Mr Iqbal Haider Butt shared key findings of a study done by Bargad on students societies, saying "about 90 percent of the students' societies in Pakistani universities have been formed between the years 2010 to 2018. He said girls are part of the student's societies in 39 percent cases, but they generally don't hold offices."



MPA Sadia Sohail Rana attributed her political success to participation in her university's students' societies. She also shared that in her political organization work she appointed 12 district presidents of PTI women wing who became part of the Parliament. MPA Bushra Anjum Butt called upon youth to remain positive and confident, and focus on their own strengths to become leaders and promised to highlight students' concerns on the assembly floor. Ms Sabiha Shaheen believed that grooming and personality development of youth was more critical than teaching.





Conference on environment and sustainable development held at GCU

A three-day international conference on “Environment and Sustainable Development” was organized at Government College University Lahore under the auspices of Sustainable Development Study Centre (SDSC) to discuss the significance of sustainable development goals (SDGs) and their impact on the country’s future.

Member National Assembly Riaz Fatyana, the Convener of National Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs, chaired the inaugural session of the conference marked by the keynote addresses from Prof Dr Shahbaz Khan from UNESCO China and Vice Chancellor GCU, Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi. The Provincial Minister for Environment Protection Muhammad Rizwan and Director SDSC Prof Dr Faiza Sharif also addressed the inaugural ceremony. The theme of this year’s conference was “Partnership for the Goals”. In his keynote address on “South-South Cooperation for delivering a Knowledgebase for Sustainable Development”, Dr Shahbaz Khan put an emphasis on two key areas of sustainable development goals i.e. climate change and biodiversity. He stated that the SDGs are interlinked and despite all the

challenges, Pakistan is still progressing well. Dr Khan also talked about the significance of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation working at local and provincial levels with a five-year cycle plan. He concluded his talk on the role UNESCO is playing in ending discrimination and promoting intellectual dialogue.

Member of National Assembly Riaz Fatyana highlighted the government’s efforts to promote academic excellence, environmental protection policies for solid waste management, noise and land pollution, plantation drive, ecotourism and conservation of national parks.

Talking about how SDGs put ageing firmly onto the agenda of development, the Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi highlighted the issue of population aging and how sustainable development has helped bring the agenda on international level. “The sustainable development goals are relevant to older people in ending poverty for all sections of society including older people, ending malnutrition and hunger, and promoting health coverage that specifically include vulnerable sections of society i.e. people above the age of sixty,” he said. Prof Zaidi concluded his speech on the remarks that sustainable development and inclusion of older

people is a common challenge in regions like Eastern Asia and Latin America, but we must embark on agendas to help meet the sustainable development goals. Provincial Minister Muhammad Rizwan said, “I have specifically focused to put an end on the poisonous emissions due to the hazardous waste by working on implementation policies during my tenure.” The minister explained how only a slight change in global temperature would cause an irreversible damage, “as long as people don’t learn to take personal responsibility, governments from all the countries would never be able to save the environment.”

Dr Faiza emphasized the importance of conference as an opportunity for researchers, scientists, industrialists, and policymakers to present their work to help meet sustainable development goals through effective collaboration. She highlighted the main themes of the conference in the area of sustainable agriculture and food security, water resources management and poverty alleviation.



4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INNOVATIVE BIOLOGICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH

IBPHR-2021

07-08, 2021

ORGANIZED BY

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY, GOVERNMENT COLLEGE UNIVERSITY, LAHORE



International conference on public health research held at GCU

The fourth international conference on "Innovative Biological and Public Health Research" has kicked off at Government College University under the auspices of Zoology Department. The Vice Chancellor, University of Baltistan, Skardu Prof Muhammad Naeem Khan chaired the inaugural session of the conference which was also addressed by the Vice Chancellor GCU Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi and Zoology Department Chairperson Prof Dr Muhammad Tahir. About 400 participants from 42 Universities participated in the conference besides foreign speakers from USA, Netherland and Turkey.

Prof Naeem Khan said that the whole humanity is looking towards young scientists to fight the new challenges, diseases and viruses. He stated that GCU is giving tremendous leadership to the universities of Pakistan in all areas from science to art and culture. He shared his views about the role of scientific conferences in promoting research culture and academia-industry linkage to uplift the life standards of masses.

Prof Zaidi welcomed the invited dignitaries and strongly encouraged the young researchers to come forward and play role in Zoological sciences and public health research.



He announced "Prof Dr Nazir Ahmad Gold Medal" and research grant of 0.50 million rupees" for the Best Zoologist of the Year. "The gold medal and research grant is sponsored by family of late Prof Dr Nazir Ahmad. The medal and grant will be conferred to the Best Zoologist in next IBPHR conference."

Prof Dr Michael Richardson from Leiden University, Netherland delivered facts on evolution of snakes and co-evolution of their prey. Prof Dr Kimberly Hammad-Schifferly from University of Massachusetts Boston, USA delivered his research on 'Exploiting the Nano-bio interface for

low-cost infectious disease diagnostics.' Prof Dr Zeliha Selamoglu from Turkey delivered insightful lecture on 'Apitherapy Applications on Women's Health and Benefits of Hayit Honey.' Lastly, Prof Dr Nusrat Jahan of GCU Lahore presented her research on 'Semi-field evaluation of Wolbachia potential for population replacement of dengue vector Aedes aegypti from Lahore, Pakistan.' At the end, two lectures were delivered by Prof Dr Muhammad Khalid Mukhtar, University of Sargodha and Prof Dr Muhammad Irfan Khan from International Islamic University Islamabad.





GCU holds policy dialogue on “Status of Human Rights in Pakistan”

A policy dialogue on “Status of Human Rights in Pakistan: Role of Academia and Parliament” was held at Government College University Lahore. Punjab Minister for Human Rights and Minority Affairs Ijaz Alam Augustine chaired the policy dialogues and was also addressed by the GCU Vice Chancellor Prof. Asghar Zaidi, Vice Chancellor LUMS Prof. Dr Arshad Ahmad and Member Punjab Assembly Ms. Umul Banin Ali. The dialogue was part of week-long First All Pakistan Summit of the Students’ Societies being hosted by GCU.

Prof Zaidi highlighted the responsibility of universities in giving academic solutions to societal problems, but they could not make this contribution well unless they hold dialogues, discussions and research on such crucial matters. He said that GCU summit of public and private universities



was aimed at opening debates and discussions about the societal issues with the future leadership.

Minister Ijaz Alam Augustine said human rights is such a big canvas that you can work anywhere on it and make things better. He briefed students about a policy they have made, for human rights. He said that they established human rights cells at district levels, so if any incident occurs in Rajan Pur, it would reach them, and it would be easier from there to act.

Journalist Salman Abid said the new world monitors us through various social media platforms; making a law is not enough until it is practically implemented. He believed all big institutions, especially Police, needs to be rebuilt to remove all sorts of biases and discriminations. He also laid stress on bridging gap between the parliamentarians and the youth of Pakistan.

VC LUMS, Dr Arshad Ahmad said freedom of expression or academic freedom is the last refuge in the society where we are able to express our fears, our thoughts, our sense of justice, equity and our sense of right and wrong. He stressed on students’ participation in all governing bodies of universities from cafeteria committee to disciplinary committee.

Rights Activist Prof Dr Farkhanda Aurangzeb said, “When we talk about fundamental rights, the first and foremost priority we have is education and we have 2.6 million children out of schools which definitely speaks volumes.” She concluded that the present status of human rights tell us that we lack in mechanism of implementations. MPA Ms Umul Banin Ali also shed light on violations of human rights in the society, saying giving admissions to few high merit students in best schools and universities and denying other is also a violation of human rights.





Panel discussion highlights the need to empower students in universities affairs

A panel discussion on “Student Centric Approach to Higher Education” was held at Government College University Lahore where speakers stressed that students need to be empowered in universities affairs through a vibrant system of clubs and societies and their due participation in governing bodies i.e. academic councils, finance and planning committees, syndicates and the Senates. Prof Dr Mohammad Nizamuddin, the former chairperson Punjab Higher Education Commission, chaired the panel discussion moderated by the Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi. Pakistan Science Foundation Ex-Chairman Prof Dr Muhammad Ashraf and University of Baltistan, Skardu Vice Chancellor Dr Muhammad Naeem Khan were also among the panelists. The panel discussion was part of week-long First All Pakistan Summit of the Students’ Societies. Students from 30 universities across Pakistan participated in the summit. Bargad Executive Director Sabiha Shaheen said that the students’ societies and clubs system could not succeed until it is separated from the university administration. “In most of the educational institutions, students’ societies are formed but practically they are run by the staff and teachers, not students,” she said. She also stressed on effective female participation and financial autonomy of student’s societies, saying that they should have their own



budgets, offices and student executive bodies who manage and run these societies. Prof Dr Naeem Khan said that universities and colleges should be governed by students and decisions regarding them should be taken in consultation with them. He said that students should have due representation in all governing bodies of all universities and colleges. The Vice Chancellor GCU Prof Asghar Zaidi said when students step into professional lives they face many challenges but universities need to help them person for these challenges. He said GCU spends about Rs. 17 million annually on its students’ societies, and it plays pivotal role in inculcating leadership qualities in students. Prof. Muhammad Nizamuddin said that the scope of student societies

needs to be widened. “Universities societies should not be limited to music, drama and debates only. Harvard University’s curriculum changes every four years, but the tradition of student leadership grows stronger each year,” he said. Columnist Salman Abid believed that societies are the best available alternative to student unions but according to their survey they are dormant in all educational institutions except few. “Clubs and societies exist but leadership and environment needed to run these societies is missing,” he said. Raja Shoab Akbar of Shaoor Foundation spoke about creating an environment in universities in which student leadership flourishes.





Workshop on aligning academic research with SDGs

A workshop on aligning academic research with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was held at the Government College University Lahore under the auspices of Sustainable Development Study Centre (SDSC) and Environment Protection Society (EPS). Faculty members from different academic departments of GCU took part in the workshop. In his keynote address on “SDGs and their relevance for older persons”, the Vice Chancellor laid

stress on the importance of integration of SDGs in academic research and that all departments in GCU Lahore should streamline their research with the SDGs. The director SDSC and Advisor EPS, Prof Dr Faiza Sharif, Dr Mujtaba Baqar and Dr Engr. Muhammad Imran facilitated a mapping exercise to explain how to align research with SDGs, which was followed by question answer session. Dr Faiza Sharif emphasized that as part of the Vice Chancellor’s vision to



make 2021 an exceptional year, GCU aimed to be a “SDGs engaged university”, and more faculty workshops of this sort would be organised in the future.

Panel discussion on mental health of students at GCU

A panel discussion on mental health of students was held during the First All Pakistan Summit of the Students’ Societies at the Government College University Lahore. Eminent psychologists and academicians participated in the discussion titled “How to attain mental health, patience, stress management in higher education institutions by introducing Spiritualism”.

The Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi said that mental health shouldn’t be made a stigma and should be treated as any other disease. “We will keep on suffering until this stigma is gone. We have a lady counsellor on the campus for students especially the girls who are too shy to open up,” he said.

Consultant Psychiatrist Dr Aneel Shafi said about 75% of mental health problems are reported in the age group 10 to 24 years, as biological, psychological and social factors cause a devastating effect upon mental health in such crucial years of one’s life.



“Stress is at least in 50% of the students which is negatively impacting their lives. Almost 70-80% people do not seek any help or take any treatment,” he added. FCC University Assistant Professor Ms. Aisha Ateeq shed light on how psychological health and spirituality goes together, saying that spirituality is basically purification of the soul. “A soul must be free of biases, self-synthesized conclusions and negative thinking”.

Dr Amina Ubaid from LCWU said we need to know “one thing that spirituality offers us is the purpose and meaning of life that secular scientific knowledge shies away from.” Senior clinical psychologist GCU student Ali Haider Chatta said interpersonal relationships are the main cause of keeping the students in prolonged stresses which leads to mental health problems. After that comes ego, and gender sensitivity and stereotypes also cause huge stresses in male and female students such as “men do not cry” and for females “Itna parh likh kr kya karo gi”, he said.

GCU Psychology Department Chairperson Dr Salma Hassan said a mentally healthy student is a student who has an ability to enjoy a bonding with teachers and fellows and who is able to cope with adverse circumstances. She said three things are important in mental health: emotional wellbeing, psychological well-being and social well-being.





GCU holds discussion on gender mainstreaming, SDGs and minority rights

Three panel discussions were held at Government College University Lahore on the topics related to tolerance, gender mainstreaming and sustainable development goals (SDGs) besides dialogue on minority rights for inclusive and prosperous Pakistan. Member Punjab Assembly Mahindar Pal Singh, Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi, journalist Salman Abid, Prof Ashok Kumar Khatri and human rights activist Samson Salamat addressed the dialogue on minority rights, while Ms Muneeza Hashmi, the chairperson of Lahore Arts Council, and Mushaal Hussein Mullick, the Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organisation, chaired the panel discussions on “gender mainstreaming in the case of Pakistan” and “International Day for Tolerance 2021” respectively. Ms Muneeza Hashmi laid stress on promoting social inclusion, gender equality and anti-racism through creative

mediums because they have the power to create a huge change in society. She agreed to the panellist Prof Dr Saima Irum that our advertisements and dramas create fake mirrors where women look weak. “We are not against men but just talk about equality,” she said. Ishfaq Bukhari from Women Development Center, academician Sumera Khalil, Fatima Chaddar from Punjab Women Protection Authority, journalist Fatima Razzaq and student Mustafa Bilal were also among the panellists in the gender discrimination. On the discussion of SDGs, the Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi said policymaking is difficult but implementation is tougher because it involves different institutions and stakeholders. He said the SDGs, set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and intended to be achieved by the year 2030, was the best policy framework



available and maximum efforts should be made for its implementation. Dr Shahana Khurshid, Prof Dr Fazia Sharif were also among the panellists in the discussion on SDGs chaired by Prof Dr Amin ul Haq. Ms Mushaal Hussein Mullick said the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and inhabitants of war-torn Palestine are facing the worst form of terrorism at the hands of their respective occupied forces. Mushaal lamented that innocent children, women and youth are being tortured to death in Kashmir but the world is silent.

GCU holds seminar on understanding social implications of monetary policy

A seminar on “understanding social implications of monetary policy in Pakistan” was held at Government College University organised by the Department of Economics. The Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi chaired the seminar which was also addressed by Dr. Sajid Amin Javed, the Research Fellow at Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).

Dr Sajid Amin said that monetary policy should be treated as the public policy, and there should not be any political intervention in the business of the State Bank of Pakistan. “The public sector institution should be autonomous which

could operate independently through its schemes and policies targeting the welfare of the public,” he highlighted the fact that it’s the lack of awareness and financial literacy among people that they cannot foresee the anchorage expectations of the SBP, and therefore, the pressures of inflation are increasing day by day. He suggested that the SBP should follow a specific indicator for reporting the inflation rate and emphasized upon the accountability of the designated autonomy to the SBP. Prof Zaidi said that linkages between policy institutes and academic institutions should be encouraged for making students more practical, insightful and research

oriented. He also stressed on changing the approach of conservative teaching in universities towards more dynamic and participatory one. He said that “after diversity, the second Prof Zaidi said that linkages between policy institutes and academic institutions should be encouraged for between policy institutes and academic institutions should be encouraged for making students more practical, insightful and research-oriented. He also stressed on changing the approach of conservative teaching in universities towards more dynamic and participatory one. He said that “after diversity, the second .



GCU holds seminar on mental health in unequal world

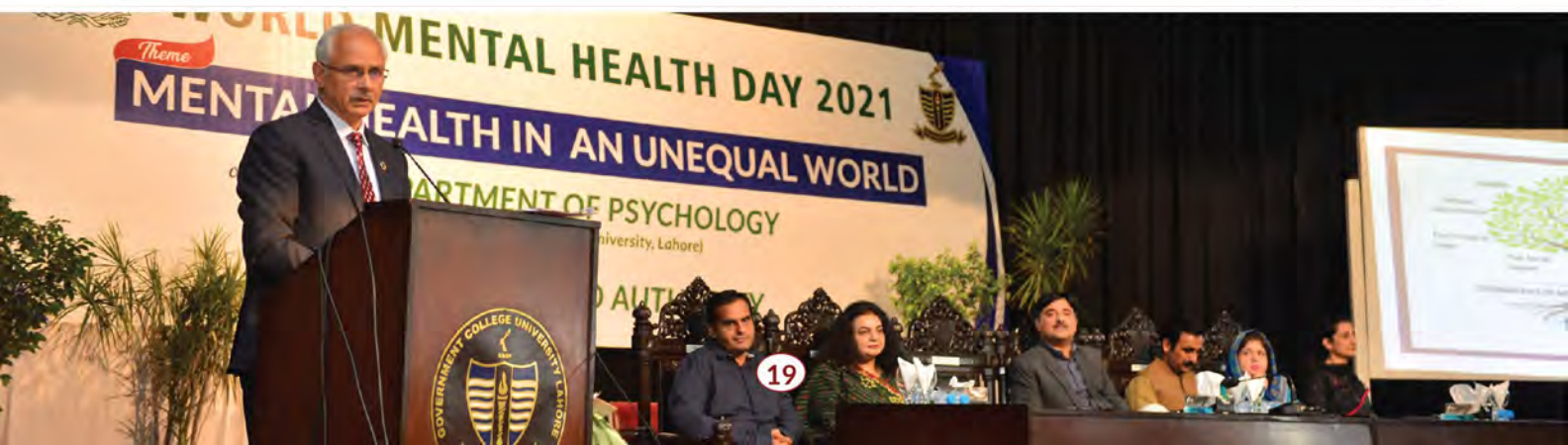
A seminar on 'mental health in unequal world' was held at Government College University Lahore to highlight the increase in mental health diseases especially depression. The Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi chaired the seminar which was jointly organized by the Psychology Department and Punjab Food Authority in connection with the Mental Health Day 2021.

"Mental illnesses are as old as human beings; earlier evil spirits had been blamed for them but as science progressed, their medical causes and treatments were found," said Dr Aneel Shafi, a noted consultant psychiatrist from Pakistan Institute of Mental Health. He mentioned that the modern concepts which evolved about mental illness in the last 50 years are biopsychosocial model positing that biological (level of biochemicals in body), psychological (such as thoughts, emotions, and behaviors), and social (e.g., socioeconomic, socioenvironmental, and cultural) factors, all play a significant role in mental health and illness. However, Dr Shafi stated that the latest and postmodern research is about the prevention and treatment of mental health through exercise and healthy food intake. He articulated that studies are underway on different food items



and exercises which stimulate the release of chemicals in our brains and help elevate our mood. The Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi said that diet and lifestyle can affect mental health; people who overeat unhealthy foods and adopt inactive lifestyle are at a higher risk of depression. "Keeping this in view, GCU has increased focus on participation of its students and faculty in sports and co-curricular activities to provide them an active on-campus life," he added. The Vice Chancellor said they had also activated tutorial groups; and tutors are assigned as mentors to all students for their career and mental counseling. "If a student has any issue, he can easily approach his tutor for the immediate redressal," he added. Punjab Food Authority Director General Rafaqat Ali briefed students about their crackdown on adulterated

food items. He advised students to always study ingredients of any food item before its consumption. GCU Psychology Department Chairperson Dr. Syeda Salma Hasan said mental health in an unequal world means that this world is unequal in terms of age, social diversity, intellectual disabilities and mental health problems, and the purpose of celebrating the Mental Health Day 2021 is to make the mental health services available to all the individuals. She said the best thing is that mental health illness especially depression and stress are curable and we should not feel shy in seeking professional mental health services to restore our sense of wellbeing as mental health is important at each stage of our developmental journey of life. The seminar was followed by an on-campus walk to raise awareness about mental health issues.





GCU holds seminar "Let's Rise for Kashmir"



A seminar titled "Let's Rise for Kashmir" was held at Government College University Lahore under the auspices of its Kashmir Society. Governor Punjab, Ch Muhammad Sarwar chaired the seminar which was also addressed by Member Punjab Assembly Mr Ramesh Singh Arora, Freedom for All Executive Director Munzir Elahi, writer Prof Dr Uzma Shujaat and the Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi. Punjab Minister for Energy Dr Akhtar Malik was also present. Addressing the seminar via video link, Mushaal Hussein Mullick, the chairperson of Peace and Culture Organization and wife of imprisoned Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Muhammad Yasin Malik, said today, October 27, happens to be one of the darkest chapters in the Kashmir's freedom struggle. She said that since Oct 1947, the one thing grown on this bloodiest land called heaven on Earth is the Indian army boot."Another thing that grows there is graveyard of

Kashmiri innocent people."The Punjab governor said India has no legitimate claim for the occupied valley and is just a military occupier which unleashed a wave of barbarism and terrorism to silence the voices of freedom fighters. He said this is the world of relations; Pakistan needs to effectively fight the case at the international platforms and that war is not the only solution; after 42 years of war in Afghanistan, Talibans are reality now and the world needs to engage with them through talks. He appreciated the efforts of Vice Chancellor Prof Asghar Zaidi for establishing very vibrant Kashmir and Palestine societies at the GCU Lahore.

Prof Dr Uzma Shujaat said that the government should engage its youth, academia, intelligentsia and media to change perception of the Kashmir issue at the international level. She stated to resolve Kashmir conflict, one



needs to demystify its overlapping layers like culture, religion, identity and ethnicity to formulate a viable reconciliation policy framework. The Vice Chancellor Kashmir said the issue has become an acute concern of the international community in the aftermath of Aug 5, 2019 revocation of Article 370 and 35-A by the Indian government nullifying the autonomous status of Kashmir.

MPA Ramesh Singh Arora said Pakistan is the one of the safest countries of the world for minorities; Punjab Assembly passed a special marriages law for the minority Sikh community living in the province, while Sikhs in India are still forced to register their marriages under the Hindu laws. Eminent journalist Salman Ghani also addressed the seminar.





GCU holds seminar on digital media

A seminar on the future of digital media was held at Government College University Lahore under the auspices of its Business Incubation Center. Special Assistant to Chief Minister on Information Hassan Khawar chaired the seminar which was also addressed by Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi. Eminent journalist Aftab Iqbal and Ms Marium Chaudhry, the founder of social media website "The Current" also attend the seminar.

Mr Hassan Khawar said that social media has empowered people and practically made governments answerable to them. He also accepted that social media trends affect policies of the government, and asked people especially youth to make a positive use

of these platforms to leave a better impact on government's decision making. He also shared some memories of his college life, saying that he has come to his alma mater Government College Lahore almost after 30 years. The Vice Chancellor Prof Zaidi said GCU has been very effectively using digital media for communication and feedback from the students. "I myself use twitter on daily basis to keep my students updated about the university's policies and decisions and have their feedback," he mentioned. Ms Marium Chaudhry shared her experience of establishing a digital platform in Pakistan, saying that process to run a digital platform and make it successful is far more challenging than running a television

channel or newspaper. Senior anchorperson Aftab Iqbal said the future of digital media is very bright in the world, but I'm not sure about Pakistan because we always miss golden opportunities. He laid stress on positive use of social media, saying that it takes few minutes to create a channel on digital media but always remember that it is a great responsibility because your single word can destroy the life of a person. He also asked to focus on the quality of content. Mr Iqbal also shared some memories of his college life and pledged to support the talented students of his alma mater i.e. GCU. He also promised to host a program to celebrate 100 years of existence of the New Hostel.

GCU holds seminar on, "funding opportunities for scientists under pakistan science foundation"

A seminar on "Funding Opportunities for Scientists under Pakistan Sciences Foundation" was held at Government College University by the Office of Research Innovation & Commercialization (ORIC). The Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi chaired the seminar. Mr Irfan Ahmed, Deputy Manager Technology, Innovation & Commercialization and Incharge of Research Support Section, Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) Islamabad was the resource person of the seminar.

ORIC Director Prof Dr Faiza Sharif informed the participants that they are monitoring the application and success rate of winning project grants. She said that this seminar is the first of the series to provide awareness and educate the

faculty members about pursuing more research projects and learn about the criteria that can enhance the chances of winning these grants. Moreover, she also emphasized on need of commercialization for research at GCU. In his talk, the guest speaker Mr Irfan Ahmed presented an overview of the PSF, highlighted its main objectives, functions of PSF, organization structure of PSF, different research and development programs, R&D industry programs, National Science Linkage Program, priority areas of PSF research grants and different technical cooperation with international agencies. Furthermore, Mr Irfan Ahmed provided guidelines, procedures and orientation to faculty members for preparation and submission of concept

papers and detailed research proposals to PSF for funding. He guided the faculty members about all aspects of research projects submissions, evaluation parameters by the technical committee and subject expert response.

Later, Prof Zaidi emphasized that linkage between Pakistan Science Foundation and other funding agencies and said that GCU would be strengthened for making the faculty more practical, insightful and research-oriented. He also stressed that research culture must be improved in GCU for the better university ranking and for conducting research with great societal impact.



Unsung heroes shine at the third annual TEDxGCULahore

The event was sponsored by Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry and was attended by students of GC University, Kinnaird College, Punjab University and LCWU to name a few.

The event started with the introductory remarks of the advisor Aqib Sikandar who also highlighted the key initiative of “Going Paperless” and announced a whopping 80% reduction in paper consumption for TEDxGCULahore 2021 as compared to previous events. The first session featured TEDx Talks from Jawad Raza, Monis Rehman and Yumna Majeed, who talked about the effects of COVID-19 lockdown on mental health, reduction in job opportunities and the lack of knowledge regarding space education in Pakistan. The three talks were followed by a networking

break with refreshments and goody bags for both attendees and the speakers.

'You don't have to change a thing, the world could change its heart' was a message beautifully sung by Javeria Amin at the start of the second session. Faraz Talat, Mahnoor Fatima and Muhammad Ahsan delivered their talks highlighting issues like harassment, introducing change, and the obsession of society with fair skin. Bilal Akbar put the audience in fits of laughter with his hilarious stand-up comedy, wrapping up the second session.

The third session featured the honorable Vice Chancellor GC University Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi's talk on why we don't have and how we can have institutions like Oxford, Cambridge or Harvard in Pakistan.

Rawal Bhatti bewitched the audience with his amazing guitar performance. The event ended with the Vice Chancellor presenting souvenirs to the TEDx speakers, performers, the organizer and the advisor. Mariam Ishtiaq, the organizer for TEDxGCULahore 2021 came up on stage to express a few words on the event. That was TEDxGCULahore 2021, till next time.





GCU student wins gold medal in Wushu championship

The success of female students in various curricular and co-curricular activities over the years owes much to the dedication and commitment of GCU in eliminating gender imbalance at these platforms. A recent example is Aiman Butt, a student of Chemistry at Government College University

Lahore who won a Gold Medal at All Pakistan Intervarsity Wushu Championship organized by SBK Women's University Balochistan, Quetta. While appreciating Aiman in the presence of her father and Director Sports Muhammad Waseem

Akhtar, Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi the Vice Chancellor GCU pledged to provide continued support, facilities, and encouragement to female students for boosting self-reliance and confidence in them.

GCU holds exhibition of Sadequain's paintings

Distinguished painter and art historian, Dr Ajaz Anwar, inaugurated the Art Gallery at GCU's Department of History of Art with an exhibition of Sadequain's paintings. The opening ceremony was addressed by Sadequain's nephew Sultan Ahmad, who donated the prints of paintings for the permanent collection of the Gallery. He told that Sadequain belonged to a group of artists who believed in the art for life. His art reflected the problems of a common man. He strongly believed in a continuous struggle. Sadequain's paintings showed the complexity of stagnation and struggle in human behaviour.



Dr Ajaz Anwar, former Director of NCA Art Gallery, maintained that the abundance of Sadequain's paintings in the art galleries and media shows that the master artist "continues to paint posthumously". He was a versatile artist; a painter, a poet, and a calligrapher. Dr Hussain Ahmad Khan, the Director of the Institute of History, mentioned that "During the exhibition, we see how Sadequain's paintings overpowered humans' emotions. His distinguished style of calligraphy and the use of colours has a personality that strongly influences its viewers. His artworks enable us to accept multiple perspectives which is important to promote in a society which is struggling with extremism."

The Vice Chancellor GCU, in his message, said that it was an honour for us to exhibit the paintings of a legendary artist for the inauguration of the gallery. His paintings give us a message of hope, struggle and mysticism. He informed that the Department of History of Art is the first of its kind in Pakistan. "We have recently hired new faculty members who have PhDs in Art History from Edinburgh and SOAS with a vast experience of teaching abroad. We also have a curator and scholar who has established many museums in Pakistan recently. We are collaborating with leading art institutions for strengthening and internationalizing our Art History programmes."





GCUDC stages dramas to raise awareness about prevention from AIDS

The Dramatics Club of Government College University staged two dramas "Chaar Saz" and "Umeed ka Chiragh" to raise awareness about prevention from AIDS and break taboos and myths associated with the disease. The play "Chaar Saaz" depicts how our society outcasts someone especially the female who is diagnosed with AIDS, rather than helping whereas the drama "Umeed Ka Chiragh" shows how someone with AIDS, no matter how they get infected, can be treated and helped to lead a normal life. The plays also refuted the common myth associated with the disease that shaking hands leads to the HIV. Punjab Minister for Higher Education The Raja Yasir Humayun chaired the seminar organized by the GCU Lahore in collaboration with Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department. He appreciated the powerful drama performance of GCU Dramatics Society, saying that when it comes to reducing the stigma of AIDS and explaining how the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is transmitted, live theatre is more effective than other means of mass



media. The minister said education plays a vital role in reducing this stigma and therefore all educational institutions should hold such awareness not only about AIDS but also other diseases like breast cancer, COVID-19 and Hepatitis. He also announced cash award for the cast of drama "Umeed Ka Chiragh". The Vice Chancellor mentioned it's very unfortunate that it's still considered a taboo for youth especially girls to talk about their health issues. He said different societies of GCU are organizing health awareness seminars and events to equip its students, especially female students, with the knowledge about their health issues and ways to adopt an active and healthy lifestyle.

He said GCU is the the first university that has launched an active 'Drug-Free Campus Drive' to raise awareness among its students, staff, and faculty. He encouraged students to work as ambassadors and raise awareness in their families about different health related issues. Awareness pamphlets and brochures were also distributed among students to educate them about prevention, symptoms of the disease, early detection methods, and treatment. A camp was set up at GCU for free testing of students and faculty members for HIV/AIDS. The campaign was led by the Vice Chancellor who got himself tested for HIV/AIDS at the free camp.





GCU hosts 41st All Pakistan Allama Iqbal Bilingual Declaration

Orators from more than 40 teams from different universities across Pakistan participated in the declamation contest. A team of King Edward Medical University Lahore won the trophy at the 41st All Pakistan Allama Iqbal Bilingual Declaration Contest, hosted by the Government College University Lahore Debating Society (GCU DS) at the First All Pakistan Summit of the Students' Societies. Eminent lawyer, media person and aesthete, Mr Naeem Bokhari graced the closing ceremony of the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi was also present.

The Ravian orators Tauseef Mehmood and Ms Aneeqa Zafar closed the House with their memorable speeches. However, as a matter of tradition, they as hosts didn't contest for medals. Tauseef Mehmood's endearing expression and unique perspective earned resounding

applause from the audience. Ms Aneeqa Zafar delivered a hilarious English humorous speech that enthralled the audience to no end. Muhammad Asim Bilal from Jamia Tur Rasheed, Karachi was adjudicated the Best Urdu Speaker of the declamation contest and awarded the Dr Majid Nizami Medal, while Mr Gul Muhammad from University of Balochistan, Quetta was awarded the Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Medal for the best English speaker of the event. Imama Asif from Kinnaird College stood second in the English debates, while Hafiz Muhammad Omer of KEMU stood second in the Urdu category. Ms Tehzib Zahra from the Sargodha Medical College, Sargodha, won the overall consolation prize.

The Vice Chancellor Prof Zaidi shed light on the role of co-curricular activities in grooming the students into well-rounded individuals with

remarkable creative, analytical and leadership skills. The Vice Chancellor said that "they have hosted Pakistan's biggest summit of students' societies primarily for two reasons; first is that this is the best model of student engagement at a large scale and secondly, they want to open the doors of GCU for the students of other universities as well so that the societies system and traditions, which GCU follows, can also flourish in other educational institutions."

Mr Bokhari volunteered to deliver a special lecture at the newly established Dr Iqbal Law School in GCU. He told students that there is a shortage of skilled people in every profession in the world, so whatever students study, they must achieve excellence in it. Later, Prof Zaidi and Mr Naeem Bokhari gave away shields and medals to the winner of the declamation contest.

GCU holds debates contest on fighting corruption

The Government College University Lahore Debating Society organized a declamation contest on the theme of fighting corruption on the request of National Accountability Bureau. The Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Asghar Zaidi chaired the contest and awarded shields and certificates to winners. In Urdu speech Awais Shah won the first prize, while



Abdur Rehman and Rizwan Cheema were adjudicated second and third. In English category, Daud Kharral, Esa Qamar and Jazib ud Din secured the first, second and third positions, respectively. Umar Khan, Abdullah Mohsin and Zohaib Alam adjudicated the competition. On the occasion, the Vice Chancellor said "we

can't fight corruption until we teach, learn and adopt pedagogical techniques that foster morals, values and ethics in students and develop various skills and attributes necessary to become good human being".





GCU holds All Pakistan E-literary Competition

All Pakistan E-literary Competition was held under the auspices of Kashmir and Palestine societies at GCU. Mushaal Hussein Mullick, the Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organisation, awarded cash prizes to the winners of the competition. Sunaiha Adeel from Kinnaird College Lahore won first prize in English Essay Competition, while Hafsa Noor and Maha Bilal from Lahore College Women University stood second and

third respectively. In Urdu Essay Contest, Adnan Ali from SZABIST Karachi, Muhammad Mustafa from GCU Lahore and Bukhtawar Ijaz from University of Education (UoE) secured the first, second and third positions respectively. Abdullah Kakakhel from Khyber Medical College, Peshawar was adjudicated first in the Urdu Poetry Competition while Rehab Hassan and Syeda Izzat Zahra from Punjab University stood second and third



respectively. Areesha Khan, Nudrat Fatima, Nisa Waseem, Ayesha Ahad, Maria Yousuf and Muzia Fatima secured positions in short story contest. The Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Asghar Zaidi congratulated the winners of E-literary Competition.

GCU students highlight social issues through artwork

Students of Department of Fine Arts GCU displayed their annual thesis including self-awareness, water shortage, and importance of consent and environment pollution.

The Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi was the chief guest at the exhibition.



The projects comprising complete awareness and promotional material, including posters, documentaries, pamphlets and social media pages for raising awareness about social issues. Prof Zaidi appreciated students' art work.



GCU Book Fair receive overwhelming response

A three-day book fair offering up to 50 percent discounts by 35 publishers received an overwhelming response from students and teachers on the first day at Government College University Lahore. The Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi inaugurated the book fair which was organized by the GCU Library society at Abdus Salam Hall where eminent publishers set up their stalls. Chief Librarian Muhammad Naeem and Controller Examinations Shahzad Ahmad also attended the inauguration ceremony.

The Vice Chancellor said that they had opened the Book Fair for the students of other universities, so that maximum students could benefit from discounts offered by publishers. He called upon parents and students to promote a culture of gifting books on special occasions to promote reading habits. Students demanded that such Book Fairs should be held



on monthly basis in all educational institutions especially schools and shopping malls. Zerlish Sohail from University of Health Sciences said that their group had especially come to GCU for purchasing books, as some of

them were also preparing for their CSS exams. She believed books still had a great significance and information technology could not replace them.

GCU becomes part of 'Lahore - City of Literature'

The Government College University Lahore became a partner with the city district government in 'Lahore City of Literature' project to promote literary activities in the provincial metropolis. The Vice Chancellor Prof Asghar Zaidi and Commissioner Lahore Capt (R) Muhammad Usman signed the accord while the eminent poet Amjad occasion. The city Lahore occasion. The city Lahore has been designated as the 'City of Literature' by UNESCO in 2019. This makes it part of an international Creative Cities Network of 246 cities, apart from cities like Dublin, Barcelona, Melbourne and Seattle.

Prof Zaidi announced that GCU Lahore would inaugurate this prestigious partnership with the initiative of First All Pakistan Summit of students' societies where the representatives of different students' societies of renowned universities would be gathered under



International Iqbal Conference, Faiz Festival, Debate, Poetry and Creative Writing Competitions were a few of the many initiatives that GCU was looking forward to holding through this collaboration. He said that it's a matter of great pride that many eminent poets and writers including Poet of the East Dr Allama Muhammed Iqbal, Faiz Ahmed Faiz and Patras Bokhari were

Amjad Islam Amjad recited his poem about City of Literature which met with a loud applause. Capt (R) Muhammad Usman said that this accord was a step towards bringing all literary activities under the umbrella of 'Lahore - City of Literature'. He mentioned it will be a great exposure to the students of our country "Lahore is well known for its hospitality and I believe that a recognition under the title of literature would bring more greatness to the city," he said.



74th INDEPENDENCE DAY CEREMONY



GCU celebrates 74th Independence Day

The Government College University (GCU) Lahore celebrated the Independence Day at a ceremony marked by colorful musical performances, and debating and quiz contests. Governor Punjab Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar along with the Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi and academic heads hoisted the national flag at the University's Amphitheatre.

The Punjab Governor said that in our Independence Day celebrations, we should not forget our brothers and sisters of occupied Kashmir and Palestine. He encouraged the participants to forget differences and work together to make Pakistan an invincible welfare state. He expressed

“More than 20 million children do not go to school, while 80pc children got admitted to hospitals due to drinking of dirty water.” Although Pakistan got benefit of 24 Billion Dollars from GSP Plus, he admitted that Indian lobby was very active against Pakistan, and collective efforts were needed from government, traders and influencers for renewal/ continuation of GSP Plus status. The Vice Chancellor Prof Asghar Zaidi said Allama Iqbal's philosophy and Quaid-e-Azam's life served as beacons of light for the Muslim youth. He also reiterated the commitment that he would leave no stone unturned for the development initiatives for development and progress of GCU, and



also reiterated the commitment that he would leave no stone unturned for development of GCU in the realm of research and education. He called upon the GCU faculty and staff members to carry out their individual as well as collection responsibilities sincerely, honestly and justly. Later, the Punjab Governor inaugurated the on-campus plantation drive.



India conspiring to demolish 500 mosques in occupied Kashmir: Mushaal Mullick

Mushaal Hussein Mullick, the Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organisation and wife of incarcerated Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Muhammad Yasin Malik, highlighted the atrocities being continually committed by India in the occupied Kashmir and raised her voice against how India is conspiring to demolish 500 mosques there. "These mosques have already been demarcated, and there are plans to construct temples on the land of these mosques for the Hindu settlements in Jammu Kashmir," said Mushaal Mullick in a seminar organized at Government College University Lahore by the university's Kashmir Society (GCU-KS) to commemorate the Kashmir Martyrs' Day, and to pay tribute to the martyrs of Kashmir. She said, "Narendra Modi is Hitler of this century, and he has unleashed a new wave of barbarism and terrorism to silence the voices of freedom fighters. He has malicious designs of changing the demography and the proportion of the population in the Occupied Kashmir in sheer violation of international law and the UN resolutions, but the world community was looking at the situation like a silent spectator." Mushaal expressed gratitude to Prof

Zaidi for establishing a very active and vibrant Kashmir Society in GCU as a voice of Kashmiris at the national and international level in a very short time and became a role model for other universities as well. The Seminar was chaired by the Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi, who highlighted that GCU would soon host the country's biggest Students' Societies' Summit the next month and the Kashmir issue would be the focus of its deliberations. He laid stress on fighting the Kashmir issue with lawyers at the international forums vigorously. He believed that time is not far away when Kashmiris would get their right of self-determination. The Vice Chancellor also announced the opening of the Allama Iqbal Law School at GCU. Muhammad Zulqarnain Chheena, a career diplomat and former first secretary of Pakistan Mission to United Nations, also addressed the seminar saying "Jammu & Kashmir is not a part of India: it never was and it never will be. India has no legitimate claim over the occupied valley and is just a military occupier." He said universities should publish comprehensive literature for youth on the Kashmir issue. Other eminent participants included Rehana Hussein Mullick, the mother of Mushaal Mullick and Raziyah Sultana,



a nine-year-old daughter of Kashmiri freedom fighter Yasin Malik, who read a poem she wrote for her father imprisoned in Death Cell by Occupational Indian Forces. Chairman International Kashmir Rights Commission of Pakistan Rai Muhammad Nawaz Kharl and academician Prof Zafar Iqbal Sindhu also addressed the seminar.





GCU celebrates National Minorities Day

Punjab Minister for Human Rights & Minority Affairs Ejaz Alam Augustine chaired a seminar held at Government College University on the eve of the National Minorities Day to commemorate the contribution of minorities in the progress of Pakistan. In his address, he reaffirmed that all (minorities) are proud Pakistanis and celebrate August 14 with more zeal and zest than Minorities Day. However, this day as a great tradition, recalls the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah to promote equality and protect the rights of non-Muslims in the newly created country. The minister remembered the exemplary role played by minorities in the health and education sector of Pakistan in the early years of independence. He revealed that the Punjab government has for the first time collected a data about the



minorities' quota for jobs, and found that 19,000 posts are lying vacant in the province. He lauded that GCU is the only institution where minorities were given jobs over and above five per cent of their quota. On this occasion, The Vice Chancellor Prof Zaidi said that the tradition of celebrating minorities should continue, as this day is observed to reinforce the commitment that despite belonging to different faiths we are one nation that

continues to march for a united and prosperous Pakistan. Member of Punjab Assembly Ramesh Singh Arora expressed his feelings at the event that it's an honour for him to be a citizen of the great country Pakistan. He said Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah in his speech to the legislature on Aug 11, 1947 espoused that you might belong to any religion or caste or creed that had nothing to do with the business of the state.

GCU faculty and staff donate Rs. 3.5m for University Mosque

Thanks to the support of GCU staff and students for the expansion plan of GCU Mosque, a mission spearheaded by the Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi with initial contribution of Rs. 3.5 million to reinforce the mosque as an emblem of Muslim unity, integrity, and a platform to illuminate the heart and soul of all followers of Islam for effective community transformation. The fundraising started from a weekly Dars e Quran session during which the Vice Chancellor Prof Zaidi made the first

donation, followed by the Registrar Dr Shaukat Ali, the Treasurer Abid Shahzad, Dean Prof Khalid Manzoor Butt, Chief Librarian Muhammad Naeem, Campus Engineer Prof Engr Abdullah Yasar, Additional Registrar Muhammad Tahir, Chairperson Islamic Studies Hafiz Muhammad Naeem and other faculty members who were present on the occasion.

Many heart touching examples were set by GCU staff for this cause. A female faculty

member donated savings of her wedding expenses, while many donated in the name of their deceased family members and others also announced regular donations on monthly basis.

The Vice Chancellor has set the target of collecting Rs. 100 million by 31 December 2022 to construct the mosque next year, and invited students as well other GCU staff to make their contribution so that the new mosque could accommodate more than 2000 staff and 15000 students.



GCU Lahore and UMT Malaysia sign accord for faculty exchange

A memorandum of understanding was signed between the Government College University Lahore and Universiti Teknologi Mara (UTM), one of the largest public sector universities of Malaysia, for research collaboration, and the faculty and student exchange. The Vice Chancellor Prof Asghar Zaidi and UTM Malaysia Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Roziah Mohd Janor signed a 16-point accord online via video conference attended by the heads and officials of both the

universities. High Commission of Pakistan in Kuala Lumpur Ms. Amna Baloch was also present on this occasion. Prof Zaidi said that commercialization and internationalisation were the pillars of his strategic vision and he would be very happy to host the students and teachers from UTM at GCU Lahore. He also discussed possibilities for joint research in different disciplines. Prof Dr Roziah Mohd Janor said that he looks forward to a strong partnership with

GCU Lahore. He ensured his full support in increasing the collaboration in students exchange, faculty exchange and other areas of mutual interest. High Commissioner Ms Amna Baloch congratulated the officials of both universities on this much needed collaboration, and assured them of her maximum support for implementation of the MoU.

Ambassador briefs GCU students about scholarships in Indonesia

Indonesian Ambassador to Pakistan Adam Mulawarman Tugio visited Government College University Lahore and briefed the students about different scholarships in Indonesia for Pakistani students and about the Indonesian universities that have been considered among the 200 best universities of the world. "Pakistan and Indonesia are brotherly Islamic countries and there are vast opportunities for cooperation in various fields," He pledged to act as a bridge between GCU and different reputed universities of Indonesia for academic and research collaboration. The Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi and senior faculty members welcomed this development for the benefit of students and faculty of GCU. Prof Zaidi showed keen interest in student and faculty exchange programmes with Indonesian



universities. He also briefed the Ambassador about the history and tradition of GCU and promised to review a possibility to set up ASEAN study center. The ambassador appreciated China Pakistan Economic Corridor as a good opportunity for Pakistan to enhance its exports and that Indonesia along with

ASEAN countries was a huge market with great potential for Pakistani products. He said that the businessmen should focus on these countries to promote trade and exports. He also expressed his love for Pakistani food items especially tea, chicken tikka and pokaras as well as the hospitality of the Pakistani people.



GCU Lahore and YBU Turkey sign accord

A memorandum of understanding was signed between Government College University Lahore and Yozgat Bozok University (YBU), Turkey, for research collaboration, faculty training and student exchange. Prof Asghar Zaidi, the Vice Chancellor of GCU and YBU Turkey Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Ahmet Karadag signed the accord online. The 10-point accord signing was followed by a video conference among the heads and officials of both universities. The honourable Consul General of the Republic of Turkey Lahore, HE Mr Emir Ozbay, Director

Younus Emre Cultural Center, Mr. Ulas Ertaş, and Head of Communications Mr. Shakil Gillani were also present on the occasion.

Prof Zaidi said that more than 64 international students from 13 countries were admitted to different disciplines in Government College University (GCU) Lahore this year. He expressed he would be very happy to host the students and teachers from YBU and other Turkish Universities at GCU Lahore. He briefed the Turkey university officials about the history and traditions of GCU.

He also discussed possibilities for joint



research in different disciplines.

Accord signed to power GCU with clean energy

The Government College University Lahore initiated a project to power its main campus with clean energy. An accord was signed to install solar power panels across the rooftops of the University's main campus. The Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi and Chief Executive Officer, Omer Malik, of a reputed solar company, Shams Pvt Limited, signed the agreement for purchase of solar equipment after fulfilment of all codal formalities in collaboration with Punjab Energy Efficiency and Conservation Agency (PEECA). Abdur Rahman, the Program Manager of PEECA, and senior officials of the University were also present on this occasion. The Vice Chancellor Prof Zaidi

said that this project would not only reduce the 50 percent electricity cost of the University, but it would also help in reduction of environment pollution. He mentioned that the University is purchasing solar equipment on deferred payment model with net metering, and for the next 25 years, all repairs, maintenance and replacement of solar panels and allied equipment would be made by the seller company. He believed that this project would inspire other universities of Pakistan to shift their electricity needs on solar energy. He asked the solar company to provide internship opportunities to the electrical engineering students of GCU, and involve them in the solar energy projects. Omer Malik said that the

empty roofs of GCU would be converted into power houses and the University would not have to bear any installation or maintenance cost. He said this project would be role model for other universities.

The GCU is already the first public sector university in Punjab to shift on energy efficient appliances under the PEECA's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programme. The PEECA retrofitted 9,340 old inefficient appliances including 6,500 lights and 440 ACs on the GCU main campus with the energy efficient appliances to reduce the university's energy load by 33 per cent.



Maj Gen. Syed Najeeb Ahmed addresses seminar at GCU

A seminar titled "APS Massacre: A soul stirring tribulation" was held at Government College University Lahore on the seventh anniversary of the callous terrorist attack on the Army Public School Peshawar that left around 132 schoolchildren and 17 staff members martyred. Major General Syed Najeeb Ahmed, the Commander of Army Aviation Pakistan, addressed the seminar attended by a large number of students and faculty members at Bokhari Auditorium. The Vice Chancellor Prof Zaidi moderated the event.

Major General Syed Najeeb Ahmed briefed the students in detail how terrorism grew in Pakistan; and sacrifices are being made by the armed forces of Pakistan in combating terrorism. He said so far more than 375,000 intelligence based counter terrorism operations have been conducted in which many soldiers sacrificed their lives for their motherland. He talked about the role of



army aviation in counter terrorism. Prof Zaidi mentioned time could never heal or make us forget the school children who went to school and never came back. He appreciated the initiative of Army leadership to regularly interact with the students at GCU, and in responding to their questions raise awareness about the

civilian-military cohesion. The Vice Chancellor, faculty and students also expressed gratitude to army aviators for their role in counter terrorism as well as in natural calamities followed by an on-campus walk to pay tribute to the martyrs of Army Public School, Peshawar.



**APS MASSACRE;
SOUL STIRRING TRIBULATION
A TRIBUTE TO ARMY AVIATORS
IN COUNTER-TERRORISM**



Mayor of Rochdale visits GCU

The Mayor of Rochdale, the UK, Aasim Rashid, an eminent Old Ravian, visited the Government College University, Lahore and met the Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi. The University's senior faculty members including Deans and Chairpersons were also present. The mayor and the vice chancellor discussed in detail education and research opportunities for students and faculty in the UK. He said that they would work with the overseas Pakistanis, Pakistani High Commission in London, British universities and British Council to find best education facilities and scholarships for GCU students. Mr. Rashid said it was a matter of great pride for him to be a Pakistani and an Old Ravian.



Depriving girls of education is also a form of violence: Chief Justice

Depriving girls of education is also violence and we need to stop this violence through our individual and collective efforts, said Chief Justice Lahore High Court, Muhammad Ameer Bhatti. The chief justice along with Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi awarded Rolls of Honour and degrees to the outstanding students. Justice Masud Abid Naqvi was also present at the occasion. The Chief Justice said it is our solemn duty to start a campaign and mobilize awareness in all families that girls need to be educated and be successful in every aspect of practical life. He mentioned that he has the

highest respect for the teaching profession as teachers provide utmost help to achieve the optimum results besides encouraging their students, and it is the result of their kindness that they have grown to such a level where academic success opens avenues to have a successful carrier ahead. The chief Justice told the graduates that "Pakistan is facing multiple challenges like environmental hazards and increasing population below the poverty line; the rich getting richer and poor getting poorer, so our country needs effective role of young people." He talked about his inspiration from the Government

College Lahore.

The Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi said this year GCU started six new undergraduate degree programs in Law, Media and Communication Studies, Painting, Art History, Management Studies and Medical Laboratory Technology. He urged the graduates to utilize their degrees and work for the development of their country. He asked the students to never forget the contributions of their parents in their lives, saying that "your parents sacrificed a lot so that you can be successful."



GCU VC lays stress on introducing vibrant tutorial system in universities

Grooming the students by focusing on their psychological, emotional, and intellectual needs can be best served through a vibrant tutorial system in universities and colleges, said Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi, the Vice Chancellor GCU University in an address to the newly appointed tutors and additional tutors at the inception of the new academic session. He informed that the tutors at

GCU would organise discourse sessions, educational trips, quiz contests, poetry and essay writing competitions, study circles and invited lectures to let the latent energies of the unchiseled youth from all programmes at the main and KSK campuses for the regular and self-supporting programs. "Such young minds will go on to conceive the world as it ought to be

and not as it unfortunately is," he mentioned. The Chief Tutors, Dr Hafiz Muhammad Naeem, Prof. Inam ul Haq and Mr. Siddique Awan also threw light on the various facets of this reinvigorated system and its practical manifestations. A total of 50 tutorial groups will attend the Durs e Quran while the remaining 38 shall go to their designated rooms to attend tutorial meetings.

GCU holds breast cancer awareness walk

The Government College University (GCU) Lahore on Thursday held a walk and seminar to raise awareness about breast cancer, and denounce myths and eliminate social stigma attached to it. Besides a large number of students and faculty members, the Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi along with his wife and daughters also attended the seminar held in collaboration with the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital & Research Center (SKMCH&RC). On the occasion, SKMCH&RC cancer surgeon Dr Amna Khan said it is still considered a taboo especially for the young girls to talk about breast cancer

that affects every one of eight women in the society. She encouraged girls to talk to their parents about their health issues and immediately consult doctors if they find any unusual changes in their body. She briefed the female students about the signs and symptoms of breast cancer and methods of self-examination which were very helpful in early detection of this disease in young girls and women. The Vice Chancellor said all men and women are at risk of developing cancers, and the factors that put some of us at greater risk were family histories of cancer, non-healthy food and lazy lifestyle. He said Pakistan is a family oriented society and has

inadequate health care system; health issues of our loved ones affect and hurt everyone in the family, so we must encourage them to adopt healthy eating and active lifestyle. Prof. Zaidi's wife, Kiran Zahra, said young ones especially girls are reluctant to speak to their parents about their health problems so there is a dire need of massive awareness campaigns on a large scale. She shared a very painful life story of her cousin sister who passed away due to breast cancer. Later, a memorandum of understanding was also signed between GCU and SKMCH&RC for organizing different activities to raise awareness about the Breast Cancer.



GCU PINKTOBER 2021

Let's Support the
Fight against Breast Cancer

35

GCU Lahore



GCU students celebrate Gilgit-Baltistan Independence Day

The 74th Independence Day of Gilgit-Baltistan was celebrated at the Government College University Lahore with traditional zeal and fervor. A grand cultural event was organised at the University's Amphitheater by SOCH (Society of Culture and Heritage), which was marked by music concert and unique cultural dance performances by the students of Gilgit-Baltistan. Vice Chancellor Prof Asghar Zaidi and eminent scholar Dr Moeen Nizami also graced the event.

Mr Naveed Saleem, an Old Ravian from Hunza, shed light on their history and culture, saying that the people of GB celebrate their Independence Day on Nov 1 as Gilgit Scouts had

liberated their homeland from the Dogra Raj on this day in 1947. "On this special day, we pay homage to our martyrs and conquerors who liberated our great land and people from the Dogra rule without any outside help," he said. Mr Saleem also told students about their major cultural events include the Shandoor Polo Festival, Babusar Polo Festival and Jashn-e-Baharan.

The Vice Chancellor Prof Zaidi said that the great people of Gilgit-Baltistan are inspiration for all of us; their bravery, honesty, hospitality, and beauty has no match in the world. Prof. Zaidi also appreciated efforts of GCU-SOCH in studying and representing multiple cultures within the society.



Dr Moeen Nizami said GCU always promotes performing arts along with focusing on character building and personality development of its students and this makes it different from other educational institutions of the country. The event concluded with flute and Rubab performances by students of GCU.

University students donate blood for cancer patients

Students and faculty members from different universities donated more than 150 pints of blood for cancer patients at blood camp which was organized by the Blood Donor Society of GC University Lahore.

Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi donated his blood for cancer patients. He appreciated the efforts of the BDS members who donate more than 2000 pints of blood every year for the patients suffering from cancer and thalassemia.

GCU-BDS Advisor Dr Babar Naseem Aasi briefed the students of other universities about the organization and activities of GCU Blood Donor Society.





GCU holds a seminar titled “Smog Agaahi”

The Government College University Lahore is deliberating upon imposing a ban on the use of plastic products on campus, said Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi while addressing a seminar titled “Smog Agaahi” held under the auspices of Khorana Society of Biotechnology and Microbiology. The seminar was followed by an awareness walk. Dr Shahid Hussain Magsi, Director Communicable Diseases and Prevention Control Program, Dr Tariq Masood Director Provincial Disaster Management Authority and Chairman Institute

Industrial Biotechnology Prof. Dr Noman Aftab also addressed the seminar. Prof Zaidi said a culture of using electric cycles and motorbikes needs to be promoted especially among youth to reduce pollution. He advised the students to wear masks. Dr Shahid Hussain Magsi highlighted the causes of environmental pollution in Pakistan including excessive traffic and industries and household waste. Prof Dr Nauman Aftab, talked about how the stakeholders have been collaborating with the Environmental Protection Departments

to generate a possible solution for smog. Dr Tariq Masood explained how thermal anomaly and traffic jams have contributed in the increase of onset of the calamity. Ms Tahira Mariam, Director Health and Educational Authority Lahore, briefed how humans, on an individual level, can contribute to decrease smog and how can personal protection be done. The In charge of Health and Well-being Centre GCU, Dr Shamim Ahmad along with Dr Kiran Hameed (PSHCD) gave presentations promoting awareness on the Smog control.

GCU staff cricket tournament

The GC University Lahore 7th Inter-Departmental Staff Cricket Tournament began at the university's Cricket Ground. The Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi inaugurated the tournament by participating in the opening match. In all, 17 teams including of librarians, engineering cell, security guards, drivers and purchase cell participated in the week-long cricket tournament.



The Prof Zaidi said that the sports must be promoted among the people of all age groups. He said that the most unique aspect of this GCU cricket tournament was that it ended discrimination among officers and lower cadre staff, and improved coordination and interaction among the staff members of different departments.





Christmas celebrations held at GCU

The Government College University Lahore faculty, staff members and students celebrated Christmas with the university's Christian community. The Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi cut the Christmas cake. The faculty members and administrative heads of university were also present. On the occasion, Prof. Dr Asghar Zaidi

said we not only accept the minorities but also celebrate with them; they have same rights as we have in Pakistan. He added that GCU had always stood out for promoting tolerance and religious harmony. The Vice Chancellor also announced special honorarium for the minority staff.



64 international students admitted to GCU

This year 64 international students from 13 countries were admitted to the Government College University Lahore in different disciplines. These international students include 13 females as well. The Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi chaired a meeting with International students office and asked to review arrangements for these foreign students. He pledged to provide maximum facilities to these international students including on-campus hostel accommodation and dedicated support. Among 13 countries are United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, Iran, Egypt, Somalia, Switzerland, Hungary, India, Sri Lanka, Azerbaijan and Nigeria. He also revealed that nine students were

admitted to PhD programmes; a student from London secured admission to PhD in Urdu Literature, while a female student from the Russia started her research in English Literature at GCU. The Vice Chancellor said this is the highest number of foreign students ever admitted to GCU in a single year, and credit for this goes to the government support and efforts and marketing by the university's International Students Office. "We cannot ensure the compatibility of our students and academics in isolation. No university or even a country can progress without embracing plurality of ideas and diversity in its population," he added. "Our teachers will have to explain the ideas in a global context.

Our academic departments are reviewing their courses to ensure that they cater to the needs of the international market."

Prof. Zaidi said the nature of our academic discourses will be changed altogether. "Our Pakistani students will behave and speak in a different way when they interact with international students. Our hostels, cafeterias will prepare different meals for these students. The functions at the university will also be changed. With this remarkable achievement, we are heading towards a complete transformation of our university", he concluded.

PRCS donates handwashing stations to GCU

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Punjab installed handwashing stations and hand sanitizers machines at Government College University Lahore for students and faculty members.

The Chairman PRCS Justice (R) Sheikh Ahmed Farooq donated sanitizers and antiseptics to the university at a graceful ceremony attended by senior faculty members with the aim to promote precautionary measures in

educational institutions to defeat the Coronavirus. This was in continuation of the their campaign for installing hand sanitizer machines and hand washing stations in various government offices and educational institutions. The Vice Chancellor Prof Zaidi cherished the historical connection between PRCS and GCU in making valuable contributions to the development of Pakistan through the partnership between the University's



Ravians Forensic Society, Disease Awareness Society and PRCS.



Jan Sher Khan accorded historic welcome at GCU Summit

University students accorded a historic welcome to Jan Sher Khan from the main gate of Government College University Lahore to its clock tower as the squash legend arrived to attend the First All Pakistan Summit for Students' Societies. The university also named its Squash Complex after Jan Sher Khan in recognition of his tremendous services for Pakistan. Jan Sher Khan along with the Vice Chancellor Prof. Asghar Zaidi inaugurated the "Jan Sher Khan Squash Complex". Punjab Local Government and Community Development Secretary Noor-ul-Amin mengal was also present on this occasion.

Jan Sher Khan said squash courts and other facilities should be established in all educational institutions of Pakistan from schools to universities. He said Pakistan is full of talent which needs to be tapped by providing ample opportunities. He thanked the students for their love, saying

that he was feeling great to be among them. he felt greatfil for the great welcome he recived from students.

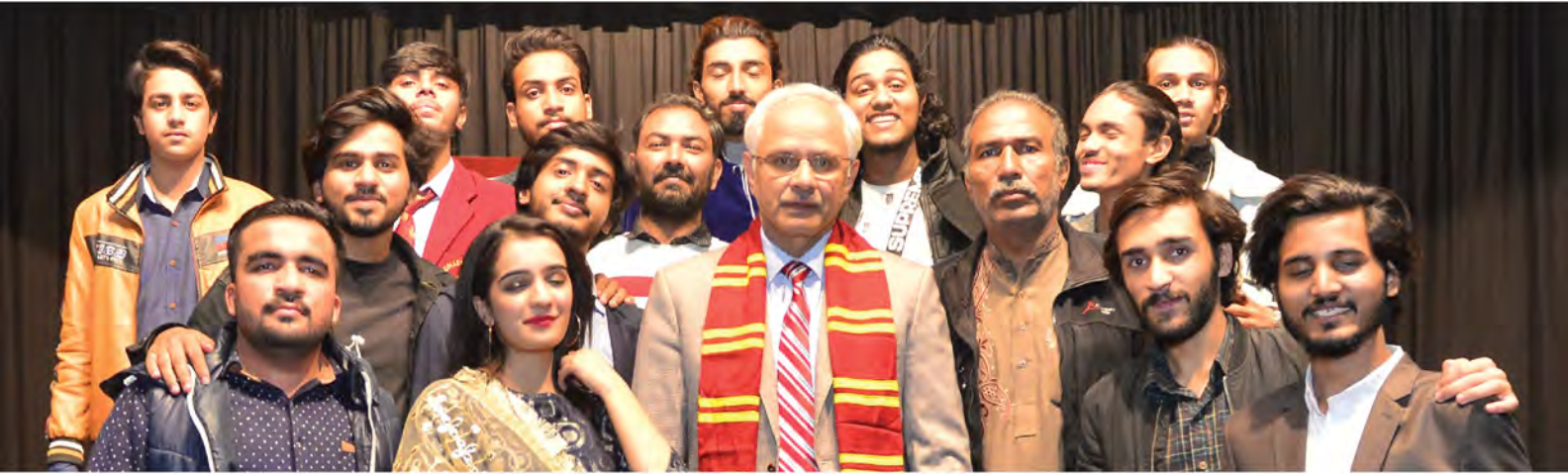
The Vice Chancellor announced establishing sports school at its Kala Shah Campus which would act as a nursery to produce sportsmen. He said this school would also provide best sports facilities, stipends and training those young boys



and girls from 8 to 12 years who have talent in any sports. He said the moto of GCU Summit is "Strive for excellence, lead the nation" and now teachers and parents need to inspire the students and children with their own excellence.

Noor-ul-Amin Mengal paid tribute to the par excellence performance of Jan Sher Khan in squash. He also promised to support the establishment of state-of-the-art Gymnasium at GCU.





GCU vintage campus turns into magical hogwarts School of Wizardry

This winter, over one and half century old vintage campus of the Government College University Lahore turned into magical Hogwarts school of wizardry as week-long Harry Potter festival began on the campus. The festival also marked the grand release and screening of Pakistan's first Harry Potter fan movie titled 'The Last Follower and the Resurrection of Voldemort' that came a decade after the last Harry Potter film, 'The Deathly Hallows Part-2', was released in 2011. And, the quest to find what happened in the world of Harry Potter years after the death of Lord Voldemort is what inspired the Khayaali Productions, a group of students from GC University Lahore to come up with a film on the subject. The film is a rollercoaster of magical visuals shot at the gothic architecture of GCU Lahore and it was premiered exclusively at the University's Bokhari Auditorium from 29th November and will continue till 5th December 2021.

GCU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi not fully supported the making and releasing of the movie but also enthusiastically took part in its promotional videos shared all across the social media platforms of Pakistan. He said our youth has immense potential and we just need to provide



them opportunities, little guidance and support.

Waleed Akram, a former student of GCU, is the director, cinematographer, and editor of the movie. According to him the purpose of introducing this new genre in our country was to show our love towards the magical world of Harry Potter for the first time. Moreover, he said, the fanmade movie also reflects the potential of our youth who pulled it off with extremely limited resources. This fanmade movie is a non-commercial project, and it's made with the sole purpose of entertainment. He said they started working on the project way back in 2018 but Covid-19 delayed some re-shoots and now they are premiering updated version of film after re-shoot. 'The Last Follower and the Resurrection of Voldemort' casts

students and alumni of GCU, who with wands in their hands and House scarves around their neck, look to be engrossed in their setting as they try to cast a spell. They included Umer Darr, Jazib Akram, Mariam Hassan Naqvi, Talha Chahour, Dua Marium, and Sheikh Mubashir. The extraordinary visual effects are done by Zeeshan Hameed. Ibrahim Hassan is the Associate Director and Production head of the movie while Sheikh Mubashir is the assistant director and production head. Hammad Javed is the production assistant in this project.

The festival includes other than the screening of movies, Harry Potter experiential space at GCU Salam Hall, Harry Potter merchandise, food stalls, face paint and posters, photo booths, and many other adventures.





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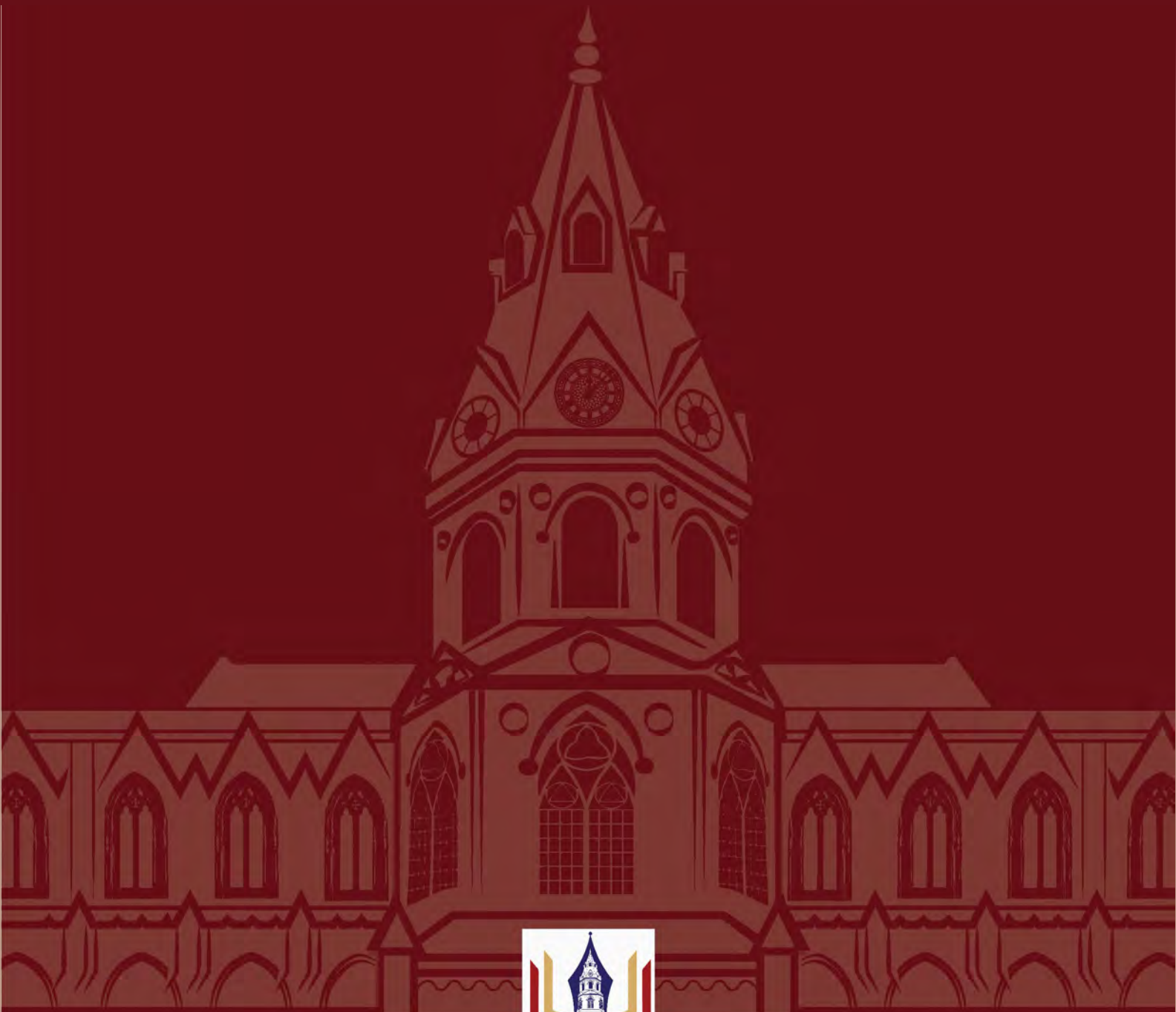
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