



LUMS



# ALUMNI ANNUAL

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2016-17

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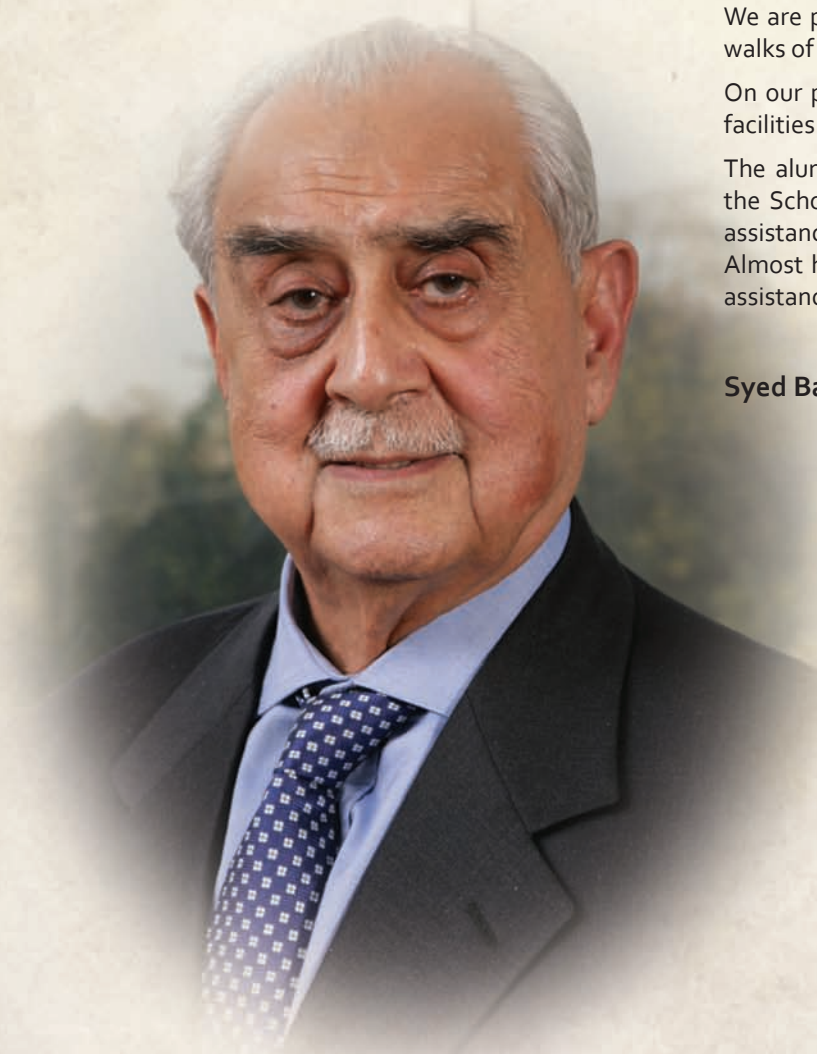
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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRO CHANCELLOR



We are proud of the strides made by LUMS alumni in all walks of life.

On our part, we strive to improve the quality of life and facilities for students on campus.

The alumni have to contribute in substance to build-up the Scholarship Fund, so that those who need financial assistance can avail the opportunity to study at LUMS. Almost half of our enrolled students are in need of such assistance, and we shall continue to support them.

**Syed Babar Ali**



# MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

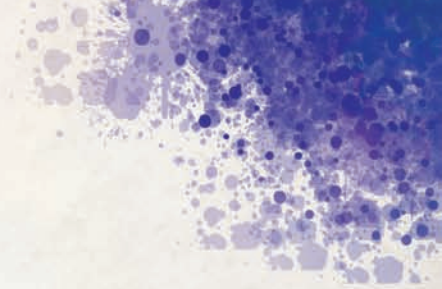
What a year it has been for the LUMS community! Due to our continued commitment to the pursuit of excellence in learning, academic discovery without boundaries, and engagement, this has been an extraordinary year for LUMS. We have seen exceptional growth in both the quality and variety of LUMS academic programmes, along with a significant increase in research funding and journal publications resulting from them. It is also heartening to see the enthusiastic engagement of alumni with LUMS.

The announcement in January 2017 of the establishment of the School of Education raises the number of schools at LUMS to five. The new School promises to be a leader in engagement and academic exploration in the education sector by bringing together perspectives from academics, practitioners, and policy experts, to develop novel educational reforms and prepare the next generation of leaders in education.

Another significant academic trend this year has been the expansion of graduate student enrollment, which has resulted in the balance of graduate students to undergraduate students to begin shifting. Graduate students are projected to continue growing as a significant portion of the overall student body.







In addition to new academic programmes, the LUMS community welcomed an exceptional batch of new faculty members along with Dr. Martin Lau, the Dean of the Shaikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law (SAHSOL) and Dr. Jawad Syed, the new Dean of the Suleman Dawood School of Business (SDSB). The continued investment of LUMS in the promotion of research also showed great dividends in terms of significant enhancement in externally funded research at LUMS, and publications by faculty and students in top-tier academic journals.

The LUMS alumni network expanded over the past year through the formation of new alumni associations, including the CSS Alumni Association and the Law Alumni Association. In addition to the highly successful LUMS Homecoming in December 2016, the LUMS Alumni Relations Team launched new alumni engagement programmes and hosted a number of reunions both in Pakistan and abroad, including events in Dubai, Jeddah and Sydney. The next generation of LUMS alumni have also benefitted this year from a highly successful Career Fair that attracted the largest ever number of recruiting companies (over 90 organisations) that were eager to connect with graduating LUMS students.

The LUMS network and our alumni are essential to the quality of experience and education that our students receive during and after their time on campus. Everything we have accomplished this past year, we did so while expanding our commitment to provide need-blind admissions. LUMS has allocated PKR 673 million to support 1320 students

with some form of financial aid - a significant increase from PKR 562 million provided last year. It is important that this support to the talented but financially disadvantaged students continues, and I encourage you to connect with LUMS and support current and future students. Whether you give to the LUMS Annual Fund to support these need-blind admissions initiatives, connect with current students by donating your time to lead professional development workshops on campus, or help propel a recent graduate's career through networking, your engagement is fundamental to the vision and mission of LUMS.

Thank you for all that you do for LUMS. I look forward to working together with you, united by a shared commitment to the mission and values of LUMS. I am confident that LUMS will prosper further with your support and will continue to have a substantive impact in Pakistan, while being recognised as a leading academic institution in the region.

**Prof. Dr. S. Sohail H. Naqvi**





# WELCOME ALUMNI!

Greetings, Hola, Ciao, and Salaam Alumni!

It is an absolute delight to welcome you to the Alumni Annual 2016-17.

We have had a remarkable year in more ways than one, and the credit for much of that goes to you for continuing to give back to your LUMS family; may it be through knowledge sharing, mentorship to younger alumni and students, placement support, marketing, networking or much-valued benevolent gifts to your alma mater.

From reunions around the world, and the formation of various alumni associations, to mentorship sessions on campus and the grandest Homecoming we have ever had, our alumni community has had a rollercoaster of a year, in the best way possible.

Every day we work towards improving the LUMS experience for you, beyond the walls of the University's campus, and nothing makes us happier than seeing our alumni come together, whether it is in a Safari Park in Toronto, or at a cosy restaurant in Sydney, whether it is flying in Sahara UK from abroad or bringing along Ali Sethi to the UAE, or it is an exclusive batch reunion or a Spring Festival opening arms to the entire familia. We are inspired by the vast number of alumni who are working to effect a positive change in our world, from cutting-edge entrepreneurship to community development and reform. Our alumni are our ambassadors, and we thrive in your successes.

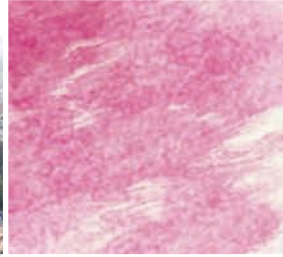
We look forward to your unrelenting support, and hope that you continue to stay engaged with the LUMS community.

Wishing you the best always!

## Team Alumni Relations







# LUMS<sub>IN</sub> THE SPOTLIGHT



# LUMS ANNOUNCES SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

BY  
**DR. MARIAM CHUGHTAI**  
DOCTORATE IN EDUCATION, HARVARD UNIVERSITY,  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, LUMS SCHOOL OF EDUCATION  
PROJECT

The establishment of a School of Education was announced in January 2017. The School of Education (SOE) will be the fifth school at LUMS along with the schools of Business, Humanities and Social Sciences, Science and Engineering, and Law, which are already in place.

The School of Education will offer three kinds of programmes: a Masters in Education Policy, Leadership and Management, starting in fall 2018; a Minor in Education for LUMS undergraduate students; and a Professional Education Institute for Policy and Practice, to actively engage and provide trainings to the public, private, non-profit, and donor sectors of education in the country. The School will operate at the crucial nexus of research, policy and practice, supporting a faculty that is internationally competitive, connected and relevant. The curriculum, featuring extensive field engagement, will produce graduates capable of becoming strategic leaders, policy researchers, and reflective practitioners, distinctly placed to direct and shape a reimagined education reform agenda for Pakistan.

The School of Education is currently developing a network of partners that is central not only to its policy and social impact, but also contributes to establishing a strong national footprint and a globally connected position. Dr. Tahir Andrabi, Stedman-Sumner Professor of Economics at Pomona College, United States, is the Executive Director of the project, and Dr. Mariam Chughtai, Doctorate in Education from Harvard University, is the Associate Director. At the recent Regional Roundtable on Education held at LUMS, Dr. Chughtai laid out the vision for the school as, “It is only through engagement across boundaries and discourse with those who disagree with us that productive research, informed practice, and effective policymaking for education reform in Pakistan will come about.”





# GLOBALLY ACCLAIMED PROFESSORS JOIN LUMS AS THE DEANS OF BUSINESS AND LAW SCHOOLS

**LUMS HAS STRENGTHENED ITS VISION OF EXCELLENCE AND WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION AND RESEARCH THROUGH THE NEW LEADERSHIP OF ITS BUSINESS AND LAW SCHOOLS.**



**Dr. Jawad Syed** has joined LUMS as the Dean and Professor of the Suleman Dawood School of Business (SDSB) while Dr. Martin Wilhelm Lau has joined as the inaugural Dean and Professor of Law of the Shaikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law (SAHSOL). Both professors will help to take LUMS further in its goals of internationalisation by becoming a key regional player in global academia.

Dr. Jawad Syed earned his PhD in Business from Macquarie University, Australia and completed a Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education at the University of Kent, UK. He comes to LUMS from the University of Huddersfield, UK, where he was Professor of Organisational Behaviour and Diversity Management.

Dr. Syed currently serves as a member of several editorial boards and has published extensively in scholarly journals such as the Human Resource Management Journal and the British Journal of Management. Dr. Syed has published several books, including most recently *Managing Diversity and Inclusion: An International Perspective (2015)*. He is an Academic Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD), UK.

Dr. Syed was conferred the Sitara-e-Imtiaz in August 2011 by the President of Pakistan for his contributions and public service in the field of equality and diversity management.



**Dr. Martin Lau** holds a PhD in Law from the University of London. Prior to LUMS, Dr. Lau was a Professor in South Asian Law and Deputy Head of Law School at the School of Oriental and African Studies, The University of London (SOAS). Additionally, he served as the Chief Examiner for Islamic Law for the LL.B Programme at SOAS. Dr. Lau has held visiting appointments at Harvard Law School and Nagoya University. He has also worked as a consultant in relation to legal assistance projects in Afghanistan, Somalia and Iran.

As a Barrister at Essex Court Chambers, Dr. Lau regularly advises on South Asian, Middle Eastern and Islamic law. He is also the co-editor of the Yearbook of Islamic and Middle Eastern Law.



# LUMS LAUNCHES THE COCA-COLA AQUATIC CENTER

After a decade of planning, preparing and lobbying for funds, LUMS is delighted to announce that in addition to the existing state-of-the-art gym facilities, the newly built swimming pool – The Coca-Cola Aquatic Center at LUMS has been inaugurated. The Aquatic Center is the first in Pakistan which has been built according to the standards set by FINA (Fédération Internationale de Natation Amateur). The 25m, 8 lane pool is heated and will be open all year. The facility has lockers, showers, changing rooms and will also have a café. The LUMS Office of Sports, Wellness and Recreation (SWR) has hired highly professional and dedicated staff to facilitate the entire LUMS community.

In order to ensure that the gym and the Aquatic Center are maintained to a high standard, a membership scheme will be implemented for the pool and the gym facilities at LUMS. Membership for the facilities remain nominal compared to similar facilities, and alumni will be able to use their existing alumni cards.





# LUMS ESTABLISHES THE CSS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

BY  
**SHEHARYAR AHMAD**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION,**  
**BSC 2010**  
**ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, HUNZA,**  
**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN**

The LUMS CSS Alumni Association is a platform for those alumni from LUMS who have cleared their CSS exam and are now pursuing a career in civil service. The association is composed of alumni from various batches and different schools at LUMS, including those who completed their undergraduate or graduate degrees from LUMS.

The LUMS CSS Alumni Association came into being after a group of LUMS alumni, who were batch-mates in the 42nd Common Training Programme in Lahore, met over a cup of coffee and planned to set up a Facebook group to try and get in touch with alumni who had previously cleared the CSS exam and were already serving as civil servants. As more and more alumni were identified and added to the group, and an ever-increasing number of recent graduates successfully cleared the CSS examinations, the need for a formal association was felt that would provide a platform for networking amongst the various batches and also between the alumni and the LUMS community.

The LUMS CSS Alumni Association formally came into being on November 12, 2016 after a concerted effort by the Alumni Office and alumni from the 42nd Common Training Programme. With greater interest in the student body to pursue a career in civil service, the Association has already organised multiple career counselling sessions.





# LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FORMED

The Shaikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law (SAHSOL) and the Office of Alumni Relations at LUMS formally launched the LUMS Law Alumni Association in February 2017. The launching ceremony was held in the Asifa-Irfan Moot Court Room in the SAHSOL building, with attendees including law alumni spanning from all batches that have graduated from LUMS, as well as the Law class of 2017.

The event started off with an informal meet and greet session giving the Law alumni a chance to reconnect with each other, and also providing an opportunity to the graduating batch of the current LL.B students to establish a nexus with the law alumni.

In his welcome address, Prof. Dr. Martin Lau, Dean of SAHSOL, highlighted the goals and vision of the School and the important role he envisions the alumni to play in their realisation.

A draft Charter of the LUMS Law Alumni Association was also introduced. In line with other LUMS alumni associations, the draft Charter establishes the LUMS Law Alumni Association as an independent, self-governing body and specifies a number of activities which will be carried out by the Association. These include the holding of an annual dinner, giving career advice to current law students, and offering continuous professional development and training events to LUMS law alumni and current LL.B students.





# REUNIONS ACROSS THE GLOBE

We, at LUMS, strive to foster relationships old and new and stay engaged with our ever increasing alumni community. Our alumni are our most valuable asset, and we are committed to maintaining their presence in our LUMS family. In this effort, we hold reunions around the world for our diverse alumni chapters. These reunions range from batch teas and mentorship workshops, to guest speaker sessions and dinner get-togethers. Reunions present an ideal opportunity for our alumni to spend time with LUMS management and faculty, reconnect with fellow alumni, catch up with all the latest developments at LUMS, and share their insights on how to enhance the LUMS experience and community.



## USA REUNIONS

July 10, 2016  
Bay Area, San Francisco

July 22, 2016  
Boston, USA

July 26, 2016  
Washington DC, USA

August 6, 2016  
Chicago, USA

November 12, 2016  
Berkeley, CA

## CANADA REUNION

July 23, 2016  
Toronto, Canada





## **EU MAINLAND REUNION**

October 8, 2016  
Amsterdam, Netherlands

## **SYDNEY REUNION**

February 19, 2017  
Sydney, Australia

## **UAE REUNION**

January 27, 2017  
Dubai, UAE

## **JEDDAH REUNION**

November 4, 2016  
Jeddah, KSA

## **NEPAL REUNION**

March 2, 2017  
Kathmandu, Nepal

## **SRI LANKA REUNION**

March 10, 2017  
Columbo, Sri Lanka

## **MALAYSIA REUNION**

April 14, 2017  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

## **SINGAPORE REUNION**

April 16, 2017  
Singapore

## **CSS ALUMNI REUNION**

November 12, 2016  
Lahore

## **ANNUAL HOMECOMING**

December 23, 2016  
Lahore

## **KPK REUNION**

July 27, 2016  
Peshawar

## **ISLAMABAD & KPK REUNION**

September 8, 2016  
Islamabad

## **LAW GRADUATES REUNION**

September 27, 2016  
Lahore

## **BATCH REUNION 2013-14**

October 14, 2016  
Lahore



# REUNIONS AT A GLANCE



















# RESEARCH AT LUMS



# THE STEM CELL FIGHT AGAINST CANCER



**DR. ALI ASHHER ZAIDI**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,  
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS,  
SYED BABAR ALI SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND  
ENGINEERING (SBASSE)

Dr. Ali Ashher Zaidi is an applied mathematician with primary research interests in mathematical biology. He is particularly interested in the mathematics of cell biology. It is an underdeveloped area of mathematics which is challenging and involves non-local calculus. The development of mathematical tools to help analyse the cell growth and the division problem opens exciting, albeit hard, mathematical avenues.

Stem cells have the ability to divide either symmetrically or asymmetrically. These stem cells divide asymmetrically to give rise to one stem cell and one daughter cell that can differentiate into a more specialised cell. Most stem cells switch between the two modes of division according to the needs of the body. A defect in this division scheme may lead to the development of cancer.

Dr. Zaidi, along with his collaborators, developed a mathematical model for the asymmetric division of cells, and established the model directly from a biological interpretation of the splitting kernel. He also developed a novel method to solve an initial boundary value problem involving a first-order linear functional partial differential equation arising in the symmetric division of cells; a problem that had remained unsolved for years.

If the number of cells of each size (usually DNA content) is known initially, then keeping in view the biologically realistic cell growth and division rates, Dr. Zaidi's work could provide accurate information about the number of cells of each size at a future time. This information is of significance to the biologists.

This research article by Dr. Zaidi has been published in the prestigious *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London, Series A*.

# COUNTERING HIV



**DR. SYED SHAHZAD UL HUSSAN**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,  
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY,  
SYED BABAR ALI SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND  
ENGINEERING (SBASSE)

“ I joined the Department of Biology in December 2013 as an Associate Professor after extensive postdoctoral scientific training. I did my PhD from University of Luebeck, Germany in Bioorganic Chemistry in 2005, and in the same year obtained the postdoctoral research award to work at one of the premier research institutes of the world, National Institutes of Health (NIH), USA. In 2010, I joined the vaccine research centre of NIH as a scientist where I continued to work for three years. The focus of my research during eight years at NIH was to investigate different aspects of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) including discovery of new anti-HIV inhibitors, understanding the molecular level mechanism of their action, studying the atomic level details of HIV entry to the target cell to explore new drug targets, and understanding the sub-molecular level details of human immune response against HIV to obtain fundamental information required for structure-based vaccine design. In 2012, in recognition of my contributions to understand the sub-molecular level details of immune response to HIV, I was awarded with the outstanding performance award by the director of the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), USA. My research during the last ten years has resulted in several research publications in high-ranking journals. Eight years of scientific training at one of the best institutes of the world enabled me to establish the Biochemistry and Structural Biology Lab at the Department of Biology after joining LUMS, and start interdisciplinary research to investigate viral infections that are more prevalent in our community such as Hepatitis C Virus and Dengue.

At LUMS, I initiated several research projects focusing on drug discovery, vaccine design and understanding the atomic level details of viral infections to obtain information of new drug targets against HCV, HIV and Dengue virus. Currently, my research group comprises of three PhD students, two research assistants and three MS students. Establishing state-of-the-art research with very limited resources at LUMS was a challenging, yet an amazing experience. Almost every undergraduate and MS student who has trained in my research group in the last two years has gotten admission to fully funded PhD programmes at high ranking universities in Europe and America such as Yale, University of North Carolina, EDH Zurich and University of Massachusetts. Two of my PhD students, and one MS student, were recently awarded scholarships by the Government of Punjab to work on HIV-related research projects. One PhD student from my research group visits a German collaborator's lab every year for three months under the sponsorship of German funding agency DAAD to access research facilities that are not available at LUMS.

The success of my students gives me an unmatched satisfaction and provides me with the impetus to work harder and guide this young talent with more enthusiasm. The working environment of the Department of Biology is remarkable, and allows different research groups focusing on diverse biological questions of high significance to work together like a family and help each other, which in turn provides a very conducive atmosphere of learning to young scientists and students. My future aim is to establish a structural biology central lab equipped with a much needed NMR spectrometer to provide training to students of contemporary scientific techniques, and boost scientific research particularly in structure-based vaccine design and drug discovery. ”



# SO MUCH MORE THAN LADY POLICE

Dr. Sadaf Ahmad is an Associate Professor of Anthropology. She joined LUMS in 2006 and is the author of *Transforming Faith: The Story of Al-Huda and Religious Revivalism Among Pakistani Women* (Syracuse University Press, 2009). She has also published around the themes of gender-based violence, gender and Pakistani cinema, and social movements in Pakistan.

“Police women make up 0.89% of the police force in Pakistan today. Although these women first came to the limelight when Benazir Bhutto set up the first Women Police Station (WPS) in Rawalpindi in 1994, it was only their recent media coverage that made me begin to wonder who these women were, why they were joining the police, and what was their experience of working as a tiny minority in an ill-reputed profession that has traditionally been associated with men and ‘manly’ characteristics.

I was awarded a grant via the LUMS Faculty Initiative Fund, which allowed me to use my sabbatical to conduct interviews and engage in participant observation in different cities and among different police branches between the summer of 2015 and the summer of 2016. This resulted in experiences that I could never have imagined at the start of this project, such as patrolling the streets of Lyari with SHO Ghazala Parveen, who will go down in history as the first woman SHO of a “male thana;” accompanying women commandos as they did their duty at an Imran Khan jalsa in Peshawar; spending hours with police women in a police van in Islamabad, waiting to conduct a raid; riding with senior patrolling officers in the National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) and seeing how they dealt with the public on the motorway while they gave out challans; spending hour after hour in different WPSs, seeing how police women ran these spaces and dealt with complainants, etc.

This kind of engagement meant that I was able to go beyond the standard discourse police women often engage in when people from the print and electronic media interview them; a discourse their superiors often direct them to engage in when speaking with the media. A couple of constables engaged in a satirical reproduction of how such encounters played out as we all sat in a fanless room in a “male thana” in the sweltering summer heat, killing time before we had to go to a protest nearby.

I learnt new things every day. I have learnt about their challenges and experiences as women and the ways these are further mediated by their rank and the geographical region they work in. I have begun to understand how framing police women as ‘women’ can legitimise their space within this profession, but can also serve to limit their opportunities within it; and that treating them as genderless police officers who live in a cultural vacuum is not a better alternative. I have witnessed how a segment of society that is otherwise disenfranchised at a larger societal level is able to use state power to exert authority among civilians and/or men in general; and when that is not possible. My research is not complete yet, but I am looking forward to writing about all this very soon. ”



**DR. SADAF AHMAD**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL  
SCIENCES,  
MUSHTAQ AHMAD GURMANI SCHOOL OF  
HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (MGSHSS)



# WOMANHOOD AND THE WORKPLACE



**DR. FAIZA ALI**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,  
SULEMAN DAWOOD SCHOOL OF  
BUSINESS (SDSB)

“ I joined SDSB in July 2016 after serving a total of almost six years at University of Kent and Liverpool John Moores University, UK as a full-time academic staff member. However, my research career started with the commencement of my PhD thesis in 2005 at Macquarie University, Sydney. The focus of my research was to explore the concept of equal employment opportunities for women in Pakistani organisations. I wanted to explore this by looking at many dimensions such as economic, legal and social factors. Through my research I was able to find answers to a few of my research questions. For example, I was able to look at the legal dimension to gender equality by looking at the constitution and international conventions signed and ratified by Pakistan, and I compared the state of gender equality using secondary data in neighbouring countries such as India and Bangladesh to have a more holistic view of gender equality in organisations. I used a multilevel lens (macro-national, meso-organisational and micro-individual factors) to look at the issues and challenges faced by women in Pakistani organisations. I also conducted semi-structured interviews with professional women and HR managers in different workplaces that were used as case study organisations. The analysis of interviews and policy documents further helped me to understand the complex issue of diversity and gender equality from social and organisational perspectives.

My previous research provided some groundbreaking results to further investigate the context-specific issues of diversity and gender equality in Pakistani organisations. In particular, I became more interested in exploring the issue of sexual harassment in Pakistani organisations. This is why I investigated this issue in more depth using a neo-institutional theory lens. The results have been recently published in an A-category journal. The study of sexual harassment in Muslim majority countries such as Pakistan is important as this is one of the issues women face on a daily basis, but due to cultural and societal factors (such as modesty and inhibition) women evade to report formally. Through my research I want to improve the working conditions of women in the workplace, so that they can perform at their best and contribute fully to national development. However, there is a lot more which needs to be done not just at the academic level, but also at the policy level to bring the change.

My past and current research leads me to explore more concepts related to diversity such as intersectionality, work-life balance and cross-cultural issues. Recently, LUMS provided funding to conduct a project on sexual harassment in which I will look at the impact of a newly introduced law (on sexual harassment) in Pakistani organisations. Another study on career perspectives of disabled employees in Pakistani organisations is also at its final stages where I, along with other co-authors, am investigating the career experiences of employees on wheelchairs.

I am glad to be at LUMS where the staff is provided with a positive research culture and opportunities. I hope to share my expertise and knowledge with colleagues and students at LUMS through teaching, supervision and collaborations. ”



# LYARI: HOME TO URBAN VIOLENCE



**DR. NIDA KIRMANI**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES,  
MUSHTAQ AHMAD GURMANI SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES  
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (MGSHSS)

“The most populous and economically significant city in Pakistan, Karachi is widely known for its high levels of violence, having experienced bouts of ethnic and political conflict since the 1980s along with high rates of crime. With a population of approximately 1.5 million, Lyari is often termed as one of the city’s ‘no-go areas’, leading to a sense of stigmatisation amongst residents. This area has periodically been the site of intense violence between rival gangs, political parties, and state security forces for the past two decades. Criminal groups gained power in Lyari during the 1980s—the period during which Karachi as a whole became increasingly violent. Over the past two decades, these groups were organised into gangs, which were often supported by political parties.

I have been conducting research in this area since 2012 and exploring the experiences of multiple forms of violence amongst the citizens of this area. The research demonstrates the ways in which these experiences are gendered, analysing how women and men are affected by violence differently in the context of their everyday lives. The project places the narratives of residents within the wider context of Lyari’s social, political and economic marginalisation within Karachi, examining the links between structural violence—or the violence resulting from economic and social inequalities—and political, criminal, ethnic, and gender-based violence. My research approaches the residents of this area not as passive victims of violence, but as active citizens negotiating multiple constraints within the context of their everyday lives.

For my research, I have engaged in a combination of interviews and participant observation exploring various issues related to the experience of urban violence. The research has included violence at the hands of state and non-state actors experienced in public or private spaces, and violence that results from economic deprivation and discrimination faced by marginalised citizens living in stigmatised areas such as Lyari. I have written about the experience of fear amongst young Baloch men, and about men’s mobility both within Karachi and internationally as a means of managing multiple insecurities.

I am currently in the process of completing an article along with one of my colleagues on the role of the local media in stoking the flames of the conflict, focusing in particular on the area’s most popular newspaper, *Jaانبaz*. I have also recently completed an article on organised resistance to violence by residents, which is in the process of being published. I have completed surveys in two neighbourhoods on changing employment patterns in order to understand how residents of this area have experienced economic shifts in the city and whether social mobility has or has not occurred. Finally, I have been conducting interviews with women exploring the relationship between involvement in paid employment and the experience of violence at home, in public spaces and at their places of employment. This is part of a multi-country study that is taking place in Pakistan, Myanmar and Nepal.

In the coming year, I plan on conducting research that will further explore the gendered nature of marginalisation and violence by exploring issues that were difficult to broach during the period of conflict. I plan on interviewing young men who were involved in the gangs, which will contribute to the understanding of experiences of marginality and particular constructions of ‘hyper-masculinity’ in relation to violence. I will also conduct research on the violence inflicted by state actors against marginalised citizens in order to highlight the cyclical nature of state and non-state violence. Finally, I plan on researching the occurrence of sexual violence during the conflict, in an area that remains relatively unexplored in Pakistan. ”



# ISLAM AND DIVORCE: TO FROWN UPON OR NOT?



**DR. ZUBAIR ABBASI**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,  
SHAIKH AHMAD HASSAN SCHOOL OF LAW (SAHSOL)

Dr. Zubair Abbasi teaches Islamic Jurisprudence, Muslim Personal Law. He completed his doctorate from the Faculty of Law, Oxford University.

## What research are you working on currently?

I'm currently exploring the legal process of the 'judicial Islamisation' of laws in Pakistan in the historical context of the convergence of the principles of Islamic law and English law in colonial India. I'm also examining the relationship between Sharia and the modern state in the larger context of the scholarship that explores the relationship between different legal systems, and their impact on economic and political development of a country.

## Can you give us a little insight on the research?

I'm looking into how women can exercise their right of marriage dissolution in a male dominant society.

## What is the Islamic view on divorce?

According to classical Islamic law, the husband has a unilateral right to divorce; without establishing any fault or accusation he can simply file a divorce against his wife and no mutual consent is required. Whereas, a woman has to

establish a valid fault against her husband in order to file for divorce.

## The female 'Khula' is mentioned in the Quran. Can you give us some clarity on that?

'Khula' is initiated by women and the need to establish some valid fault is eradicated. Women are meant to return the dower. Pakistan is the first Muslim country to make khula official. Examples from Quran and Sunnah are mentioned that uphold the custom of 'khula'. Incidence of Prophet's companion Hazrat Sabir-bin-Qais and a verse from (Surah Al Baqarah [2; 229] – Al-Quran) are two contrary authorities.

## What if the husband and wife are regretful and want to remarry immediately?

'Khula' operates as a single irrevocable marriage and if a couple wants to remarry they simply need to perform this custom of 'Nikkah', and there is no need for intervening marriage termed as 'Halala', but in the case of triple divorce, intervening marriage is mandatory.

## In the name of Islam some religious fundamentalists are addressing false preaching. How do you think audiences can be educated to differentiate between right and wrong?

One needs to question the sources with reference to which they are quoting the Islamic verses from. The second most important thing is the methodology and which mythological tools they are applying to it. Media is one big medium through which we can educate the general public by telecasting talk shows and publishing articles regarding Islamic laws and Sharia.

## Women in rural areas are subjected to domestic violence because to them divorce is still a taboo. What do you think about this?

Islam does not impose a miserable life on any of its followers. If a woman is not happy with her marriage, she does not have to continue with the same abusive marriage. She has the right to dissolve her marriage and seek 'Khula' from her suitor. Almost 91,000 divorce cases are pending in The Punjab High Court, currently.

## What are your thoughts on Islam being stereotyped as a violent religion? What role has the media played in establishing this image?

Customs and Islam are treated as one in Pakistan which is totally absurd. Different customs and ethnic beliefs are imposed in the name of Islam which cast direct effects on the image of the religion. Media in this case has played quite a negative role; it actually dramatises and fantasises the whole scene, which effects the accountability and transparency of Islamic beliefs and ethics.



# STORIES OF A SUNDAY BAZAAR



**ZAHRA RAO**  
BSc 2016

## My research

My project, “Stories of a Sunday bazaar” is an ethnography of one of the many Sunday bazaars in Pakistan. Under the supervision of Dr. Ali Khan, faculty at Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani School of Humanities and Social Sciences (MGSHSS), I carried out qualitative research work in the Sunday bazaar in Model Town, Lahore for a good 6 months. From interviewing salesmen and child labourers to actively participating in the weekly humdrum of the bazaar, I gained insight into the system and customs of the bazaar. I was able to refine my observations and findings with the help of secondary research. Experts in the field like Appadurai, Spivak and Mehrotra have carried out impressively detailed work on bazaars; I was able to benefit from their analyses. I divided my work into multiple sections each of which looked at a different aspect of the Sunday bazaar. The project discusses the interplay of gender in the economy of the bazaar and comments on the scarcity of women as salespersons in the public space; the plethora of child labourers and whether or not they have assistance; the idea of formal and informal space dividing the bazaar; the concept of globalisation abetting local customers but destroying local businesses and finally the realities of fieldwork for a female anthropologist in a male dominated society. These seemingly disconnected topics, meet in the physical realm of the bazaar, telling a story of a supposedly mundane bazaar in Lahore.

I was selected for a funded exchange programme with the University of Cambridge to conduct further work on this research project. I was able to converse with professors there on how to connect these aspects into a seamless fashion, refine the findings on every step of the way, and also learn about the art of storytelling and its importance to anthropologists.

## Journey at LUMS

For students who manage to squeeze their way out of the tight hold of the typical expectations from a child in Pakistan, LUMS serves as a safe haven. Being one of the only few universities offering an undergrad in social sciences, LUMS was an extraordinary experience for me. Not only the programme, but experiences outside of classes in these four years have helped me strip myself of intolerance, ignorance and a certain type of thinking which comes a little too easily to the privileged today. From dramatics to journalism and hostel life to hectic class schedules, the LUMS journey hones its students into strong yet sensitive individuals.

## Future Plans

I am currently applying for a Master’s programme at London School of Economics (LSE), University College London (UCL) and School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). I hope to pursue cultural anthropology. I also hope to keep working on my project to make it publishable in the near future. The project and my experience at Cambridge has sparked an interest in me for research and academia. I have also applied to Gallup, which plays a very important role in ongoing research work in Pakistan.



# RESEARCH, RHODES AND BEYOND



**SAMAN TARIQ MALIK**

**BA 2016  
RHODES SCHOLAR 2017,  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD**

Saman Tariq Malik is the Rhodes Scholar-elect 2017 from Pakistan. She graduated from LUMS with a major in English and a minor in History. The Rhodes Scholarship is awarded to one person from Pakistan each year to study at Oxford. Competing against 4000 applicants this year, Saman is the first student from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani School of Humanities and Social Sciences (MGSHSS) to have won this prestigious scholarship. She was consistently on the Dean's Honour List at LUMS. She graduated with an Award of Distinction for her outstanding performance and won the prestigious Razia Waseem Award 2016 for the Best Senior Project in English at LUMS.

Saman's undergraduate research thesis was a culmination of her long term interest in literary histories of South Asia. Her areas of interest include the study of South Asian literary traditions, vernacular print cultures, narratives of exile, gender studies and reform discourses, the Anglophone novel, world literatures and Orientalism.

Ostensibly, an examination of a lesser known Urdu translation of Kalidasa's ubiquitous *Sakuntala* by Akhtar Husain Raipuri, Saman's senior project diverged into a study of intellectual and cultural afterlives of a literary text in South Asia's context. Her research marks a serious intervention in the now critical question of a 'World Literature' and the histories, particularly Oriental, which inform its formation. Titled as "Many Afterlives: The Urdu Translation of Sakuntala and the Politics of Authenticity," this research was supervised by LUMS faculty members, Dr. Ali Raza, Assistant Professor, History and Dr. Maryam Wasif Khan, Assistant Professor, English and Comparative Literature.

Her research is now being revised for publication. Her other researches have looked into gendered experiences in war literatures, Partition histories, trends in South Asian women's writings from the eighteenth and nineteenth century, the twentieth-century Urdu drama serial, and the creation of women's culture as well as essays on modern Pakistani fiction.

Saman is a contributing writer for the acclaimed online magazine, *Tanqeed*. She is also an artist with a special interest in contemporary Pakistani art. As a Senior Research Associate, she is currently working on various major research projects at LUMS. She is also a Senior Teaching Assistant under Dr. Maryam Wasif Khan's supervision who is preparing her to deliver lectures. Recently, Saman delivered a lecture in Dr. Khan's Western Canon class at LUMS, 'Beyond the Western Canon: Sexuality, Sappho and Ismet Chughtai'.

As a Rhodes Scholar, Saman will be furthering her dual interest in South Asian intellectual literary histories and world literatures through an MPhil in Modern South Asian Studies at Oxford.



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# LUMS, Camera, Action!

From rocking the music industry and reigning over the theatre's stage, to organising the grandest events, our alumni are making waves in the world of media. We spoke to our alumni stars, and asked them what it is like behind the scenes.





## ALI HAMZA - BSc 2000 BAND MEMBER, NOORI

### How did you become the first President of the Music Society at LUMS?

I was not involved with music but people at the time were putting the music society together, so I decided to take a chance. Saad Ansari and Sameer Anees started the LUMS music society. Anees and Saad were both in their senior year, and too busy for the society. They both requested me to become the president, and I was free at the time so I did it.

### What are your fondest memories of LUMS?

Playing guitar in the football ground at night, which is now the Science and Engineering school. I remember at night I would play my guitar there, and someone would come by, listen to me play and then go off.

### Who is your inspiration in music?

Musically, I'm most inspired by my mother.

### If you were not a singer, what would you be?

I would be a game theorist.

### What is a song that best describes you?

There was a Qawali, Bhala hua mori gagri phooti, teri sir say tali bala. I like that round, teray sir say tali bala – that best describes me.

### Which movie star would you like to playback for?

I have so many stars in my mind but I have to consider someone with whom my voice would match. I would like to playback for Amitabh Bachchan because I think my voice would suit him.

### Name one singer you would like to partner/collaborate with in the future.

Shreya Ghoshal.

### What message are you spreading with your music?

Until now I have been most focused on themes of life, society and individuals. I think I'm better at writing love songs, so for now the world is opening up lyrically, diversifying, and I'm exploring this side. It's a new journey that has started for me.

### Any advice you would like to give to those who plan to start their career in music?

Music should be your passion rather than a career.





## **BILAL KHAN - BSC 2009**

### **SINGER/SONGWRITER**

**You composed your first song 'Bachana' here at LUMS. How did that happen?**

I wrote most of my first album during my undergraduate studies at LUMS. 'Bachana' was one of the songs I composed during that time and released it in my senior year. I had come to LUMS really wide-eyed, but had a very different experience than most people in my batch and that's what 'Bachana' is about. It's about a feeling of loneliness and missing old days.

**Who is your inspiration in music?**

There are so many artists that inspire me today but while growing up, my biggest musical inspiration was John Mayer. The music I write is inspired by real life events, experiences and what I feel about my surroundings. I am more of a singer/songwriter than just a singer and I write all the lyrics myself.

**From the songs you have composed, which one is your favourite?**

I like them all equally but the song I am proudest of is 'Larho Mujhay' because of its lyrics. The impact of the song transcended entertainment, which is fascinating.

**If you were not a singer, what would you be?**

A struggling singer!

**What is a song that best describes you?**

I think 'Taqdeer' probably best describes me.

**Which song do you consider over-rated?**

Pen Pineapple Apple Pen is probably an over-rated song.

**Which movie star would you like to playback for?**

Nawazuddin Siddiqui.

**Name one singer you would like to partner/ collaborate with in the future.**

Chris Martin.

**What is one song you wish you had composed/sang?**

Any song by Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan.

**What message are you spreading with your music?**

One of hope, despite the rough times in life.

**Any advice you would like to give to those who plan to start their career in music?**

Learn as much as you can about writing songs, practice writing, and play live as much as you can.





## BEENISH PERVAIZ - BSc 2000 SINGER

**What's the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear the word 'LUMS'?**

An institute par excellence!

**How did you get into music?**

I started my music training under the able guidance of the late Ustad Faiz Ahmed at the age of 8 after my father realised that I had a knack for singing. After several years of training, I started to participate in various singing competitions and managed to bag quite a few awards including the prestigious, "All Pakistan Music Conference" Gold Medal and the "Lahore Arts Council" first prize.

**Who is your inspiration in music?**

Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Lata Mangeshkar and Farida Khanum to name a few.

**From the songs you have composed/sang, which is your favourite?**

All the songs that I have sung are special and unique in their own way, but I am particularly fond of the fusion item "Jhoom Jhoom" which topped the music charts on Taazi.com when it was released.

**What is a song that best describes you?**

"It's My Life" by Bon Jovi.

**Which movie star would you like to playback for?**

Julia Roberts.

**Who is a singer you want to partner/collaborate with in the future?**

Arijit Singh. He is extremely talented and has the most soulful voice.

**What is one song you wish you had sang?**

"Dil Bole Boom Boom" by Nazia Hassan. I have recently recorded the song in my voice and it should be on air soon on PTV Home.

**What message are you spreading with your music?**

The message of love and tolerance. I am a strong proponent of meaningful cinema and consider myself fortunate to have sung two patriotic songs "Aye Raah-e-Haq Ke Shaheedo" and "Ye Watan Tumhara Hai" for the film "Salute" (a biopic on the life of Shaheed Aitzaz Hasan), released in December 2016.

**Any advice you would like to give to those who plan to start their career in music?**

Please receive formal training in music and do not just aim for quick fame. If you are truly passionate about singing, then you must listen to senior artists to get inspiration. The likes of Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Abida Parveen and Madam Farida Khanum dedicated their lives to this art form, which ultimately led to their success and legendary status.





## **SHEHZAD GHIAS SHEIKH - BA-LL.B 2012**

### **ACTOR/COMEDIAN**

#### **How did you get into the theatre and acting scene?**

I had always participated in plays at school, but it was at LUMS where I started pursuing the performing arts seriously. As a member of the LUMS Dramaline, I introduced theatre and acting workshops, and I started writing and directing plays. It all started with my first play at LUMS in 2008 called 'Ehsaas' – it was an abject failure but it taught me a lot. Within the next two years, I bounced back with plays that won awards at numerous competitions and festivals – including being invited to perform at the prestigious Rafi Peer Festival and the Ajoka Theatre Festival.

#### **If you were not an performer, you would be?**

A lawyer probably. I also teach theatre and I find that very rewarding, so I could have also very well ended up as a teacher.

#### **What inspired you to start your own production company?**

When I established Cogito Productions in 2010, there was no other theatre production company rolling out the red carpet for the youth. There were few productions apart from the corporate bank rolled musicals. I wanted to write my own plays rooted in our own history and culture. I had no option but to produce my own plays. I ended up directing, producing, writing and acting in the first Cogito theatre production.

#### **What's a production you would love to put on?**

I am working on adapting Broadway's new musical, Hamilton for a Pakistani audience these days. It will be based on the history of Pakistan so that is a project I am really excited about.

#### **If you got the chance to play your dream role, what would it be?**

Sebastian in La La Land.

#### **Who is your all-time favourite comedian?**

Dave Chappelle. The Chappelle Show is the best sketch comedy show ever written, I believe. I also love Jerry Seinfeld, Eddie Izzard, Louis CK and Eddie Murphy.

#### **What is the hardest part of getting recognised in the entertainment industry of Pakistan?**

I think it is even harder when you are performing an art form that is not well established in Pakistan. I established Lahore's first improvisational comedy troupe. It has been a real challenge just explaining to people what stand-up comedy or improvisational comedy even is. Thankfully, the scene has finally picked up and now most people have an understanding of the form – the surge in the popularity of social media has also helped a lot.

#### **What message do you hope to spread with your work?**

I just want people to think – I don't wish to control their thoughts. As long as people learn to think critically about things then my job is done.

#### **Any advice you'd like to give to people aspiring to become performers?**

Do not pursue it because it is a very tough road. And if you do, make sure you have a true calling for it. Do not just do it for the glitz and the glamour – that is just 10% of the job. The rest is a road filled with disappointments, tough decisions and hard work. If you are willing to take that on, then work on your craft and skill. Do not just wait for life to give you opportunities, create your own.





## SHARIQ YOUSUF THARA - BSc 2016 ACTOR/PRODUCER

### What is the first thing that comes to your mind when someone mentions LUMS?

Home, family, and the yearning to be in that moment, in that time again.

### Which actor/actress inspires you the most?

I have, for the longest time, been inspired by Sir Moin Akhtar. I think he is the most versatile actor I have seen. I wish he had lived more, and I wish we had seen more of him. A lot of people adore his work that revolves around comedy. However, it is when you see his other works, more serious in nature, that you realise what an epitome of talent he was.

### If you were not an actor/producer, you would be?

A teacher.

### What inspired you to perform on stage?

The feeling that you get when you are on stage and all eyes are on you; in that moment, you are carrying all these people along with you. The glee in the eyes of the audience is what makes you live.

### Which production would you love to put on?

The ambition is to put up a production which brings creativity, powerful content, original music, technology and various modern ways of visual and performing arts together on one stage, at the same time. That, I believe, would be grand.

### If you got the chance to play your dream role, what would it be?

A woman. Yes, a lot of people find it amusing when I say this, but acting is about undoing your own self.

### Who is your all-time favourite actor?

Salman Khan. No second thoughts on that. People judge you when you say that and automatically

start feeling like you would be as bad an artist, but an artist being good or bad is as subjective as what colour is better, red or blue.

### What is the hardest part of being recognised by the entertainment industry of Pakistan?

The hardest bit is that there are no formal systems in place. There is no proper business model for theatre and as entrants one can only rely on sponsorships, and why would sponsors work with new people? It becomes a vicious cycle, where the established names keep becoming bigger and new people mostly drop out to pursue something else after getting extremely frustrated. One just might get that one surprise opportunity though that could change it all for you, so all is not dark.

### What message do you hope to spread with your work?

Humanity.

### Where do you hope to be in the next ten years?

Who knows? One can't tell about the next day. I hope, wherever I'd be, I'd just like to have a family who would be proud of me, and I would have enough achievements by then for the LUMS family to be proud of me too.

### Any advice you would like to give to people aspiring to become performers?

Keep working on your craft and always keep the fire alive to learn more. Never stop evolving your craft. Talent is like water, it keeps flowing, and it finds its own path, and it keeps surprising people with its hidden force. You will find your way. No matter how strong or huge a wall in front of you, it will fall. But to make sure it does, never let the artist in you stop evolving. Evolution is the key.



## NATASHA NOORANI & ZAHRA PARACHA - BSc 2015 LAHORE MUSIC MEET (LMM) FOUNDERS

### What's the first thing that comes to your mind when someone mentions LUMS?

Zahra: My friends – especially the people I lived with in my dorm wing. Having a support network, especially when one is that far away from home, made all the difference when I decided to pursue music as a serious career during my time at LUMS.

Natasha: Windows and Ejaz Bhai at the khokha.

### What exactly is Lahore Music Meet (LMM)?

Zahra & Natasha: The Lahore Music Meet is an annual 2-day festival we hold in Lahore at the Alhamra Arts Council with master classes, panel discussions, storytelling and live performances. It is held on behalf of an NGO founded by us and a few other friends. The festival focuses on creating a space for dialogue regarding music and fostering a safe environment for artists, musicians, businessmen, academics and enthusiasts to gather and enjoy the one thing that brought them all to the same place – music.

### What was your biggest struggle when you were trying to get LMM off the ground?

Zahra: Our biggest struggle was the reputation of music as a whole. The general perception of music was so fragmented initially, where there were the classical folk on one side and the Indian musicians on the other, while the mainstream pop artists were on a totally different spectrum. Making people understand that all of these different genres and art forms combined make up, what we call Pakistani music was perhaps one of the toughest struggles we had to overcome when trying to get LMM off the ground.

Natasha: Sponsors! It's gotten easier with time, but having to attach a value to something like master classes or a storytelling sessions is difficult when you're so close to the product.

### If you could have one dream guest at your next LMM, who would it be?

Zahra: My one dream guest at the next LMM would be someone who passed away a while ago – Noor Jehan. Her death created a massive void in the music industry which has yet to be filled.

Natasha: I would love to have Abrar ul Haq next year moderated by LUMS professor Farrukh Khan to discuss Punjabi poetry, rap and music.

### Who are your biggest musical inspirations?

Zahra: My musical inspirations develop alongside my learning curve within music. As a composer, my inspirations are Yanni, Howard Shore and Hans Zimmer. As a guitarist, Jimi Hendrix, Jimmy Page and Don Ross come to mind at the moment. For vocals, I see Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Noor Jehan and Nina Simone as primary influences because of their personal struggles to get to where they had to be.

Natasha: My biggest musical inspirations change. When you meet your superstars there is always a risk of being disillusioned. In terms of how they have set themselves in the industry I would say Sajjad Ali. But musically, my favourite bands are Ali Suhail, Sikandar ka Mandar and Red Blood Cat.

### What do you hope to achieve with LMM?

Zahra: It's difficult to say what can be achieved given the uncertainty of the conditions in our country. I hope that at the very least, LMM provides the younger generation of artists with a sense of guidance and hope that art can be a legitimate means of survival and growth in Pakistan despite what people may say.

Natasha: We hope to get to a point where the Pakistani audience learns to value music again without the need of a corporate cushion, and to create a space reminiscent of the melas I grew up listening to music in. Music was never lost. We just stopped looking for it.

### If you were only allowed to have one song on your phone, what would it be?

Zahra: At this very point in time, I would choose Aaj Rang Hai by the Sabri brothers.

Natasha: Shehri by Sikandar ka Mandar.





## JAHANZAIB SHAFIQUE - BSc 2010 CO-FOUNDER JBNJAWS PRODUCTIONS

### What is the first thing that comes to your mind when someone mentions LUMS?

LUMS will always be a second home for me; I have spent some of the best and professionally the most significant years of my life here. LUMS always gives me this feeling of ownership because of how it has groomed me.

### How did you first get into the event management industry?

In my last year in O' Levels, a friend and I got a gig to manage a school level concert which turned out to be pretty successful. This opened a gateway for me in the event management industry and we managed a few more concerts in the coming years. However, it was not until my 2nd year at LUMS that we took it up professionally and since then we have never looked back. It has been a tough yet quite a rewarding journey.

### How did your time at LUMS prepare you for what you are doing now?

My majors might not have much to do with my profession apparently, but I took along with me the training that LUMS is touted to impart, and that too very efficiently. The crazy schedules, insane deadlines and quite a few events happening, all at the same time, actually coincides a lot with what I am doing right now. I have an event management company which has branched into a PR company by the name of Cartel PR. Other than that, I have a few ventures streamlined, some active, some in the pipeline and then I have recently started logging my travel expeditions on social media under JB's Log so I am multi-tasking exactly the way that LUMS taught me to, and evolving at my own pace into becoming what I like to call a serial entrepreneur.

### What is your favourite part of planning an event?

Hands down, the finances! Guessing what the client's budget is, and trying to get the maximum out of it. Often, we do not even have enough time to get the exact costing from our suppliers or there is a new item or

delivery that has not been purchased before; estimating that can be tricky and exciting at the same time.

### What has been your favourite event so far?

We did the launch event for one of Mountain Dew's new flavours and we got to bring in some international DJs and design a festival around it. There were 5 stages and more than 20 performers in a single day, and the genre was something I follow myself so it was quite exciting.

### If you could plan any event, what would it be?

If it were up to me, I would probably design a multi-day gaming tournament with a mix of comic con and invite some international players and casters and end the tournament with a top 10 DJ act. I would also want to do a Coldplay concert here, if only they could be convinced.

### What is the most stressful part of being an event manager?

Meeting deadlines and coming up with a creative solution to a problem every time. We do not work on retainers, so for every event there is a new task at hand and a new pitch. Also, there are no purpose built venues in Pakistan or the latest lights, machinery or special effects equipment. Given the limited resources, we are supposed to deliver an event at par with Asian or European counterparts and that's a challenge in itself.

### What is one piece of advice you would like to share with those who aspire to work in this field?

It may look very glamorous, but it is just as taxing as any other profession; maybe even more considering the limited time for event prep and real-time crises management. Anyone who wishes to pursue it should be prepared for a rollercoaster ride.



## **IMTISAL ZAFAR - BSc 2011 CO-FOUNDER VERVE EVENT MANAGEMENT**

**What is the first thing that comes to your mind when someone mentions LUMS?**

Almost feels like my second home. I feel a sense of ownership and pride to have been a part of the LUMS family.

**How did you first get into the event management industry?**

I first got interested in events during my A' Levels, after organising a successful charity concert for my school. I then joined a leading event management company, part-time, during my first year at LUMS where I got good experience and figured out that this is my calling. I was at the end of my second year at LUMS when I started VERVE in 2007 with a friend of mine, Arsalan Khan. And the rest, as they say, is history.

**How did your time at LUMS prepare you for what you are doing now?**

Being at LUMS taught me the importance of time management and prioritising. In various courses at LUMS, I learnt a lot about leadership skills, business management and crucial problem-solving and crisis management skills that help me on a daily basis at work.

**What is your favourite part of planning an event?**

The execution.

**What has been your favourite event so far?**

Several. I love organising themed private parties. A particularly favourite of mine was this party we did for a client for his birthday where we built a dance floor on water inside a lake at his farmhouse!

**If you could plan any event, what would it be?**

I would love to work with A-list international artists.

**What is the most stressful part of being an event manager?**

Event management is the sixth most stressful job in the world. It all boils down to stress levels on that particular day of organising, where everything needs to be perfect for the event to work in harmony. You need nerves of steel to be an event manager.

**What is one piece of advice you would like to share with those who aspire to work in this field?**

Have patience. Do not jump into the business thinking there is a lot of money to be made. There is no money in the beginning. You need to love what you do in order to survive in this field.





## **SAAD KHAN, AHSAN SHEIKH & SALMAN DANISH** **MBA 1999, MBA 1998, MBA 1998** **CO-FOUNDERS ACTIVEMEDIA**

### **What is the first thing that comes to your mind when someone mentions LUMS?**

A sense of immense pride, as LUMS has now become a symbol of excellence in all quarters of society. It simply feels great to be associated with this institute.

### **How did you first get into the event management industry?**

We started our brand activation and events agency, ActiveMedia in 2010. I was convinced by Salman and Ahsan to quit my corporate career in telecommunications and get on board the entrepreneurship band wagon. Our organisation is about helping brands connect with their consumers through creative engagement techniques. It has been an exhilarating ride and we have not looked back ever since.

### **How did your time at LUMS prepare you for what you are doing now?**

Running an activation and events company (or any other business for that matter) requires all the general management skills that are taught at LUMS. From managing HR and arranging capital, to streamlining operations, to selling your services and making sure delivery is at par with client expectations, LUMS teaches you to analyse situations and make effective business decisions.

### **What is your favourite part of planning an event?**

The best part comes after the basic project planning is done. We generally have a session around ideas to make the event even more special.

### **Which has been your most successful event so far?**

We recently organised the largest food event in Pakistan, The Coca-Cola Food Fest. With more than 100 food stalls, corporate sponsored arenas, and 17 musical performances, we catered to 50,000+ people in 3 days, It was quite a show and was very well appreciated, both by sponsors as well as consumers.

### **If you could plan any event, what would it be?**

The Oscars, of course!

### **What is the most stressful part of being an event manager?**

Tight deadlines and tough clients make our day. Just kidding! There are many angles to this business, but the real stress comes from the fact that you only have 'one chance' to get it right. When it all comes down to that moment of truth, everything must fall perfectly in place to make it a great event.

### **What is one piece of advice you would like to share with those who aspire to work in this field?**

If you want to get it right, you have to put in the sweat and blood. There are no shortcuts. You have to forget about the so called 'work-life balance' and give it all you have. It is a competitive market, and you need the right team in place and pockets deep enough to sustain the brutal payment in terms of multinational clients.

### **If you could invite any three famous people to an event, who would you invite?**

Quaid-e-Azam, Steve Jobs and Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay) with Elvis Presley as a surprise entry; what an event that would be!

# IN MEMORIAM

We have lost some precious members of our LUMS family in the past few years. Let's take a moment to remember them.



Zeeshan Shaukat  
MBA 2014



Sqn. Ldr. Sohail Bakshi  
MBA 1988



Muhammad Taimur Akhtar  
BA-LL.B 2014



Shahmir Asif Bajwa  
BA-LL.B 2015



Dr. Faiza Muhammad  
PhD 2015



Mahnoor Shabir  
BSc 2018





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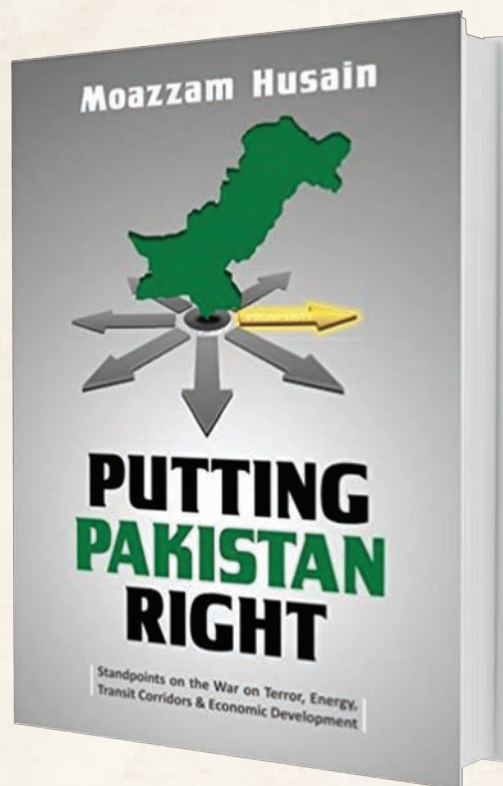
# THE PATH TO BEING PUBLISHED



# PUTTING PAKISTAN RIGHT

## STANDPOINTS ON THE WAR ON TERROR, ENERGY, TRANSIT CORRIDORS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**AUTHOR: MOAZZAM HUSAIN**



### On becoming a writer:

A few years before my O' Levels, my father encouraged me to participate in an essay competition held by a national newspaper in Dubai, where my family lived at the time. To my surprise, I won the first prize. Shortly after that, I started writing letters to the editor and many were published. During my undergraduate years abroad, as well as during my MBA at LUMS, I wrote occasionally for the campus publications. Later, when I started working, I would contribute articles on brand marketing and e-commerce to some niche business publications. Gradually, I started a blog and found it easy to share thoughts and ideas with a wider audience across the world. In 2009, I started contributing opinion articles to Dawn, and have been contributing regularly since. Interestingly, I never thought of myself as a writer but just the occasional contributor. For me, writing is a channel of self-expression and a way to formulate coherent thoughts on complex subjects. It wasn't until my book was published this year that I have started getting labelled as a writer; frankly, though I quite relish it, I still do not tag myself as a writer.

### On his published book:

There has been a lot written on Pakistan; about the history, the mistakes, and narratives on issues we face and how we got to where we are today. At a subliminal level, I also notice that a lot of negative thinking plagues the country, which often becomes a mental trap that we get caught into and that blocks



**MOAZZAM HUSAIN**  
MBA 1990

us from thinking our way out of a situation. The thrust of my book therefore, is on pointers towards finding solutions, charting actions for the future and emphasising the urgency of the need to *do*, so we can crack the problems that we never get tired of complaining about. My book is in small measure, an effort to convert the general air of despondency to one of constructive problem-solving, and that is something that the LUMS MBA case method pedagogy has prepared me for. It's hardwired into my system.

#### On LUMS:

The very high standards at LUMS have helped me become what I am today; an almost obsessive insistence on excellence in everything we do; the competition, the rivalry, yet the friendships and the bonding have stood the test of time. LUMS taught me to work under high pressure, often with high energy teams, with a bunch of very smart people; raising questions, finding solutions, differing again, getting stuck yet delivering on time – an optimum result that could be delivered in the given time and with available resources. There is no other experience in this country like the LUMS experience.

#### On his favourite author:

Having read Khaled Hosseini's *And the Mountains Echoed* as well as his earlier *A Thousand Splendid Suns* and *The Kite Runner*, a part of me feels as if I have grown up in Afghanistan and experienced the events in that country unfold in first person, standing as I were, in the shoes of his characters. There's a quality to his writing that goes beyond cinematic, where you get a sense of not only having watched it happen, but of having been in the middle of the experience and feeling what the main characters felt.

#### Advice to aspiring writers:

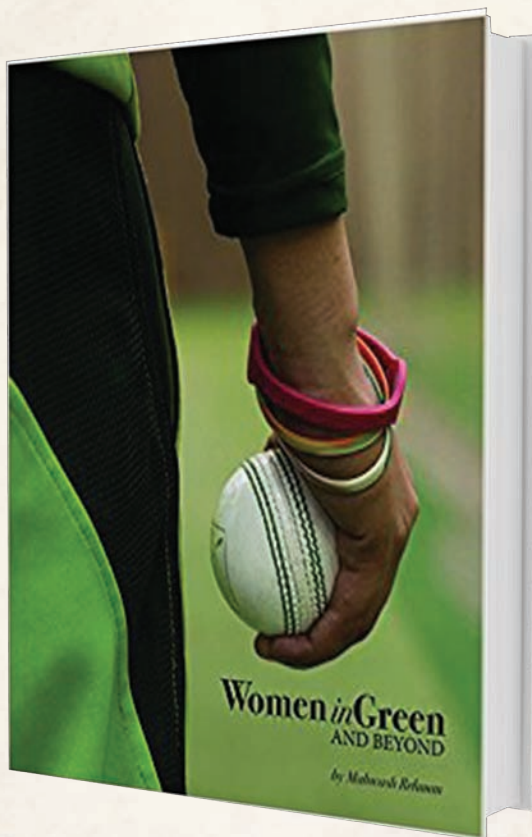
Writing is nothing more than a way to express oneself; much as the way we like our hair cut, the clothes we choose to wear, the friends we choose to hang out with or the places we like frequenting. Do not burden yourself with thinking of it as anything more. Lighten up, be your natural self and let it flow. Write about whatever interests you. The internet is a powerful medium, and people will find your writing if it is authentic. In the beginning, don't even worry about the readership. Start a blog, write for the campus paper or letters to your city newspaper. It is a skill that comes by doing and you only get better. Start with a paragraph a day even, and you will begin to see the change. In learning any skill our brain is developing new pathways, so it is no different from working out in a gym or learning a new sport. Only you can make that start and all it takes is a computer and keyboard, and to keep the thoughts flowing. Start today!



# WOMEN IN GREEN AND BEYOND

## FOREWORD BY SHARMEEN OBAID-CHINYOY

AUTHOR: MAHWASH REHMAN



When did you actually discover the hidden photographer within yourself?

I first explored a DSLR in 2008 when I was taking a career break from the corporate world for my kids; I took it up seriously in 2010 when the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture in Karachi offered its first ever PGD in Photography. It was a rigorous one-year programme and introduced us to all genres in photography. It opened up a whole new undiscovered world for me, and I was awed by the fact that photography was such a powerful medium of expression. It was through this programme that I became passionate about this medium. Though I guess the roots of my love for photography go a long way back to the time when my father used to take our pictures with his Yashica Electro 35 – one of the most popular consumer 35mm cameras of the 1960s and 70s. I still have his camera.

How was your experience at LUMS? And how has it helped you in life?

I was a shy, quiet, introvert who came to LUMS after completing my Bachelors from Kinnaird College, with almost zero experience of the 'real corporate world'. LUMS helped me grow tremendously as a person, as it pushed me to test my limits, made me come out of my comfort zone and constantly challenge myself. It equipped me with the right set of tools to navigate through this unpredictable, uncertain platform, we call life. The values and memories we shared at LUMS are something that I, as an alumna, will always cherish.



**MAHWASH REHMAN**  
**MBA 2002**

### What urged you to advocate for women empowerment?

I think it is important for each one of us to realise what resonates with us and what does not, and more importantly why. We need to identify our preferences and consider where they come from. That way we become more aware of ourselves, which eventually helps us determine why we stand for a specific issue. If I go back in time, I realise that my biggest reason for standing for women empowerment and gender equality is that growing up in our culture, I have seen women being expected to assume certain 'roles', to conform to societal norms, and settle for what they are given in life. That, in my opinion, inevitably led to them settling for less. I always felt women have had to compromise on their dreams and their rights. This bothered me even when I was a child and I always knew it had to change. As I became more self-aware, I valued advocating for women's equal rights and the notion of self-actualisation as a way to bring that change.

### What societal changes do you intend to bring about through your photography?

I feel visuals have the power to make a great impact and bring a positive change in society. I hope that through my photographic work and poetry/writings, I am able to empower women and men both. I want women to believe in their abilities, to keep working towards their dreams and not settle for less. I also feel that men, who are the enablers and champions of change, also need to be acknowledged and celebrated, so more men decide to support women in their lives and empower them. That is precisely what my book is about.

### Any advice you would like to share?

Often times we try to imitate other successful people's stories and paths. We need to understand that each one of us is unique. As Malcolm Gladwell beautifully said in his book *Outliers*, 'Who we are cannot be separated from where we come from'. We are all a product of our unique experiences, and we should use that experience as our strength and motivation. My advice would be to embrace that uniqueness and try incorporating it in your work. Carve your own destiny and that way you will be an authentic *you*.

### Where do you see yourself in the next ten years?

Ten years ago, I could never have thought that I would be taking out my solo book and that too a visual narrative one, for a cause that I now so strongly stand for. I feel that one needs to constantly evolve as a person and your path should be reflective of that. Rather than looking at the next ten years, I would like to ask myself what my legacy is going to be every day. Who knows what life unfolds in the years to come.



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# LUMS SUCCESS STORIES



# ALUMNA'S VISION FOR EDUCATION IN PAKISTAN COMES TO LIFE



**JAWERIA SETHI**  
BSc 2013

Jaweria Sethi is the founder of Edopia, the first progressive, alternative and democratic school in Pakistan. Born out of her desire to establish a community-based learning facility, the school un-schools children.

Sethi feels lucky to have been a part of an institute like LUMS that encouraged her to think for herself. She says that her university life was the inspiration for the idea. Her experience as the Vice President of LUMS Entrepreneurial Society honed her enterprising skills and allowed her to bring the idea to life.

During her years at LUMS, most of her friends recall her lamenting over the education system of the country. Comparing and contrasting her time spent at school with that spent at LUMS, she saw the value of a holistic learning experience. She felt that spending six hours a day, bound to the same seat, listening to reverberating facts and figures did not do justice to human potential. LUMS taught her that people learn the most when left to their own devices, driven by curiosity and active engagement. Free time, conversation, exchange of ideas and mentoring allows people to take charge of their lives. She viewed the environment as an omnipresent teacher. Hence, she decided to start a facility that would allow children to become independent learners much earlier.

Driven by her desire to live a purposeful life, she did not partake in the recruitment drive of 2013. Instead, she started designing her own path to tread on. Right after graduation, she went to participate in a project at Harvard Graduate School of Education. She spent a year meeting educationists from across the world, studying different models of education, and building her own model.

In July 2014, at the age of 24, she founded Edopia, a school for the changing world. The school operates on the principles of choice, voice, and mentorship. In this school, children make school rules democratically, design their own timetable, learn life skills, run businesses, and take charge of their lives without compromising on core academics.

Sethi has also been working in Islamabad as a motivational speaker and entrepreneurship mentor. She is working with a Spain-based consultancy to develop a community-based model of education that could be adopted by the masses, in Pakistan and abroad, to facilitate human potential.

Learn more about Edopia at [www.edopia.org](http://www.edopia.org)

# ALUM'S CONSULTING BUSINESS GOES GLOBAL



**ABDUL HASEEB**  
BSc 2009

Abdul Haseeb joined LUMS in 2005. Always a technophile at heart, it was in his sophomore year that Abdul Haseeb found something that piqued his interest and made use of two of his most distinctive qualities – his cautious demeanour and unyielding decisiveness. What else does a geek need to become a success story?

In 2006, visiting faculty member, Ahmar Iqbal, introduced Abdul Haseeb to a business called Practika, where he was required to assist in an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Implementation Project. Sure enough, the project got him interested in the software itself, and after implementing ERP for a local steel-casting factory, Abdul Haseeb knew exactly what he wanted; and the first thing he decided to do was explore Business Intelligence (BI). Fast-forward three years and the field still excited him to no end; any spare time he had, he hit the books and studied BI within the System Applications and Product (SAP) technology. After graduating from LUMS in 2009, while waiting to enroll for a Master's Degree, he made up his mind: it was time to take charge. He ditched all plans for further studies and started looking for an opportunity to put his knowledge and skills to the test.

Back when BI caught Abdul Haseeb's fancy, it was an unfamiliar concept in Pakistan. Resources in the field were so sparse that a single BI position in a company like Karachi Electric (KE) had been left vacant for some time. In 2010, Abdul Haseeb grabbed the opportunity, and during his year-long stint at KE, he led the BI initiative there, training and developing a team of six. He then decided to challenge himself and pursued an opportunity to work with Punjab Beverages, a Pepsi bottler with another LUMS alumnus – Omer Farooq Khan – at the helm. Khan gave Abdul Haseeb exactly what he needed – his full support and a fully-equipped team that allowed him to win contracts for BI projects with big companies like Jordanian telecommunications giant, Orange Telecom. Soon enough, Abdul Haseeb was able to expand his professional prowess and become a business owner.

In 2011, Abdul Haseeb laid the foundation for TallyMarks Consulting. Like a true son of the soil, he credits his success to his family, without whose undying support he says he could have never achieved what he has. He then credits his team, which he says has stood by him through thick and thin. The first to help him embark on this journey was a close colleague from his KE days, Shakeel Ahmed, and a fellow alumnus, Adnan Rafiq. From then on, the world became his oyster. Projects started pouring in left, right and center, with Getz Pharma, Faysal Bank, and National Foods to name a few. TallyMarks Consulting expanded itself with a high profile clientele, moving to USA, UAE and multiple countries in the Middle East.

After building teams in Karachi and Lahore, TallyMarks and Abdul Haseeb finally came full circle when they made LUMS a TallyMarks client too. With aims to make a formidable team that can conquer the world with him, Abdul Haseeb is already on track to build a centre of excellence for BI and Data Science that will help him and Pakistan compete on a global scale.

When asked about his motto in life, he says “I'm in it to win it”. One can only expect greater things from Abdul Haseeb, who is nothing short of a Pied Piper in his area of expertise.



# QAYAAM: A HOME AWAY FROM HOME



**MUHAMMAD OWAIS**

**BSc 2019**

**MUHAMMAD AZEEM**

**BSc 2019**

**HAMZA RASHEED QURESHI**

**BSc 2019, FAST**

Two LUMS sophomores, Muhammad Owais and Muhammad Azeem, and a FAST graduate Hamza Qureshi came up with a start-up idea 'Qayaam', when one of the co-founders Hamza came to Lahore, but could not find a place to stay while looking for a more permanent residence. The co-founders made a business plan the same night, and submitted the idea the next day to the LUMS Centre for Entrepreneurship (LCE), the No.1 ranked incubator in Pakistan. Qayaam got selected in the top 40, and after a series of pitching sessions became a part of the 18 start-ups that got incubated in LCE's 6th cycle of The Foundation.

During the four-month incubation cycle, the Qayaam team received both mentorship from industry giants and free resources. The incubation proved to be an amazing experience and the team continued to work on their idea every day, tweaking their business plan and strategies according to the market response. Qayaam also hit quite a few road blocks as a few legal issues arose, but the team did not lose hope and worked with lawyers tirelessly to chalk out a way forward. At the end, the start-up had traction and started to produce revenues regularly.

In November 2015, Qayaam was named as a champion start-up and in December, it secured 2nd position at Plan9's ERUPT business idea competition representing LUMS amongst 200 start-ups from 12 universities. Qayaam secured incubation at Plan9's Launchpad in January 2017. Out of 700 start-ups, they were shortlisted in the top 115. After a series of pitches in front of the judges, they made it to the top 20 and finally became a part of the top 9 start-ups of Pakistan. Incubation at Plan9 began in March 2017 and will continue till September 2017.

Qayaam aims to capitalise on its recent successes and build on the traction generated. The team plans to make the concept of short-term renting and paying-guests a socially acceptable norm in Pakistan. The start-up also has a wide-ranging social impact in the North as it will enable people to open their homes to tourists. This will directly impact the economy of the North as the capital generated will remain in the region.

# LUMS MOOT TEAM REPRESENTS PAKISTAN IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

The LUMS Moot Team recently won the Pakistan qualifying rounds for the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, held in Islamabad in February 2017. Jessup is the world's largest moot competition as teams from over 87 countries compete and is thus globally recognised by a large number of organisations and universities. It enables students to learn international legal writing, research and advocacy skills before they embark on their careers. Team LUMS represented Pakistan in the international rounds that took place in Washington DC, USA, in April 2017.







# A YEAR IN PICTURES



# ALUMNI HOMECOMING 2016









# 7UP SPRING FESTIVAL 2017

It was celebration galore for the LUMS community, on Sunday, April 2, 2017, when the University held its grand 7Up Spring Festival.

As a full day of food, activities and merriment, the festival began at 11 o'clock in the morning, welcoming families when the sun was shining bright, and went on until 10 o'clock in the night, when the breeze had become pleasantly cooler.

With a crowd of over 2,000 people, the 7Up Spring Festival was a successful effort on the part of the LUMS Alumni Relations team, who organised the event, to bring together the entire LUMS community, including students, alumni, staff, faculty and their families, and provide them with a day of uninhibited festivities and fun.

While children got the chance to play a variety of games and take carnival rides, from a jumping castle and a merry-go-round to a trampoline and a train, students and adults indulged in an assortment of recreational activities, including sittings with an astrologer and shopping and browsing sprees at books, clothing and accessories stalls.

An event in Lahore simply is not complete without food, and the 7Up Spring Festival was no exception. With 7Up as the event's title sponsor, Engro Foods as a display sponsor, and more than 25 food stalls of a variety of cuisines, delicious foods and beverages were the highlight of the day. Attendees gorged on all kinds of delicacies from sushi and burgers, to kulfi and gola gandas, spending the day with happy faces and satisfied stomachs.

Masooma Zeeshan, Senior Manager of LUMS Alumni Relations, was all smiles about the event. "I am so thrilled that the Office of Alumni Relations was able to bring the entire LUMS community and their families together for the first time," she said. "Alumni asked for an event for families and we listened! We simply love LUMS and we want to send people home with fond memories."

LUMS Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. S. Sohail H. Naqvi also graced the event with his presence. "We at LUMS wanted our families and friends to get together and enjoy the beautiful springtime in the clean and safe campus that we have," he said. "It is indeed great to have seen everyone enjoying themselves and having a lovely time."

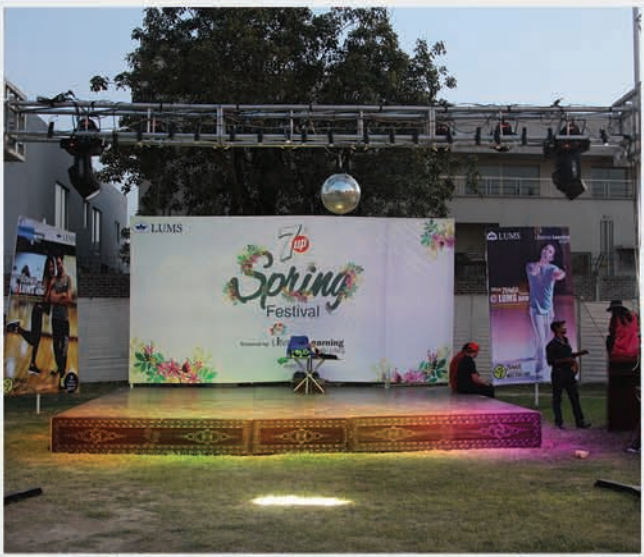
As the first event of its kind at LUMS, the 7Up Spring Festival was a joyous occasion for the LUMS community, providing the people in attendance with yet more happy LUMS memories.













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Your Alumni Smart Card is your passport to exclusive benefits, and identifies you as a proud member of the LUMS international alumni community.



## CAR STICKER

To facilitate your smooth entry into the LUMS campus, the Alumni Relations Office issues car stickers for alumni.



## ACCOMMODATION

Residential rooms at Rausing Executive Development Centre (REDC) are available for LUMS alumni and their spouses at a discounted rate.



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A range of discounts are available for LUMS alumni, including offers from alumni run businesses. Just show your Alumni Smart Card at the outlet to avail the discount.



## SPORTS FACILITIES

Access to the LUMS Syed Maratib Ali Sports Complex and all athletic facilities at LUMS at minimal costs.



## LIBRARY

Alumni are entitled to use all the library facilities at the Gad & Birgit Rausing Library, except borrowing of materials and VPN access to subscribed electronic databases. Using their Alumni Smart Card, they can come and read books, journals, reports and other materials available in the library. They can also avail external membership facilities after paying a yearly fee.



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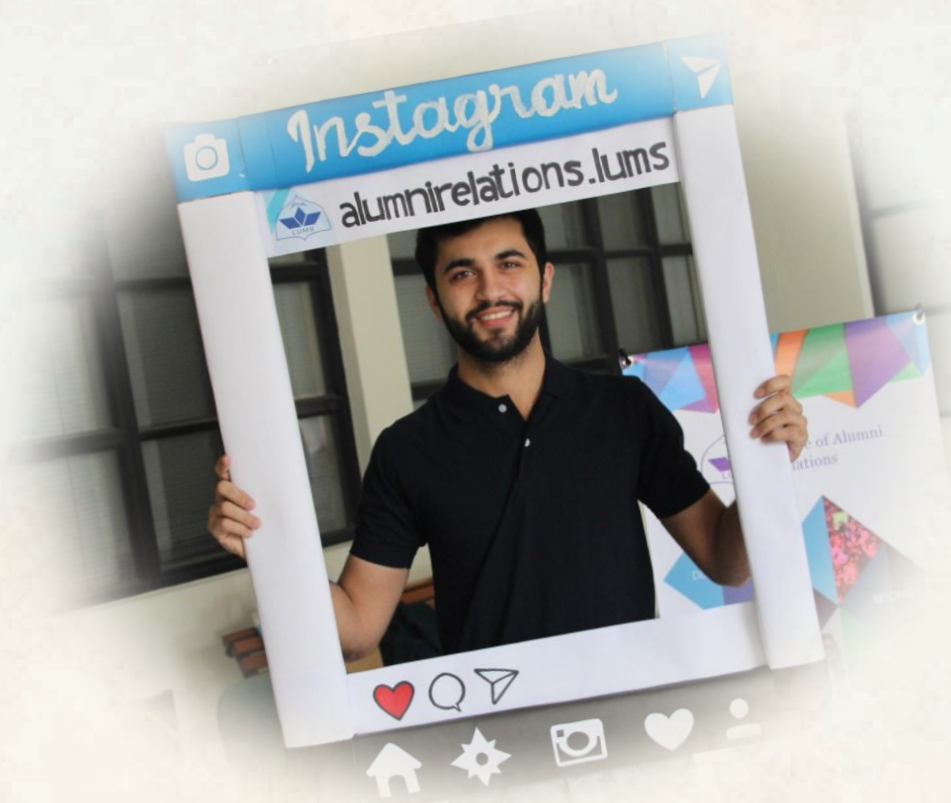


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