

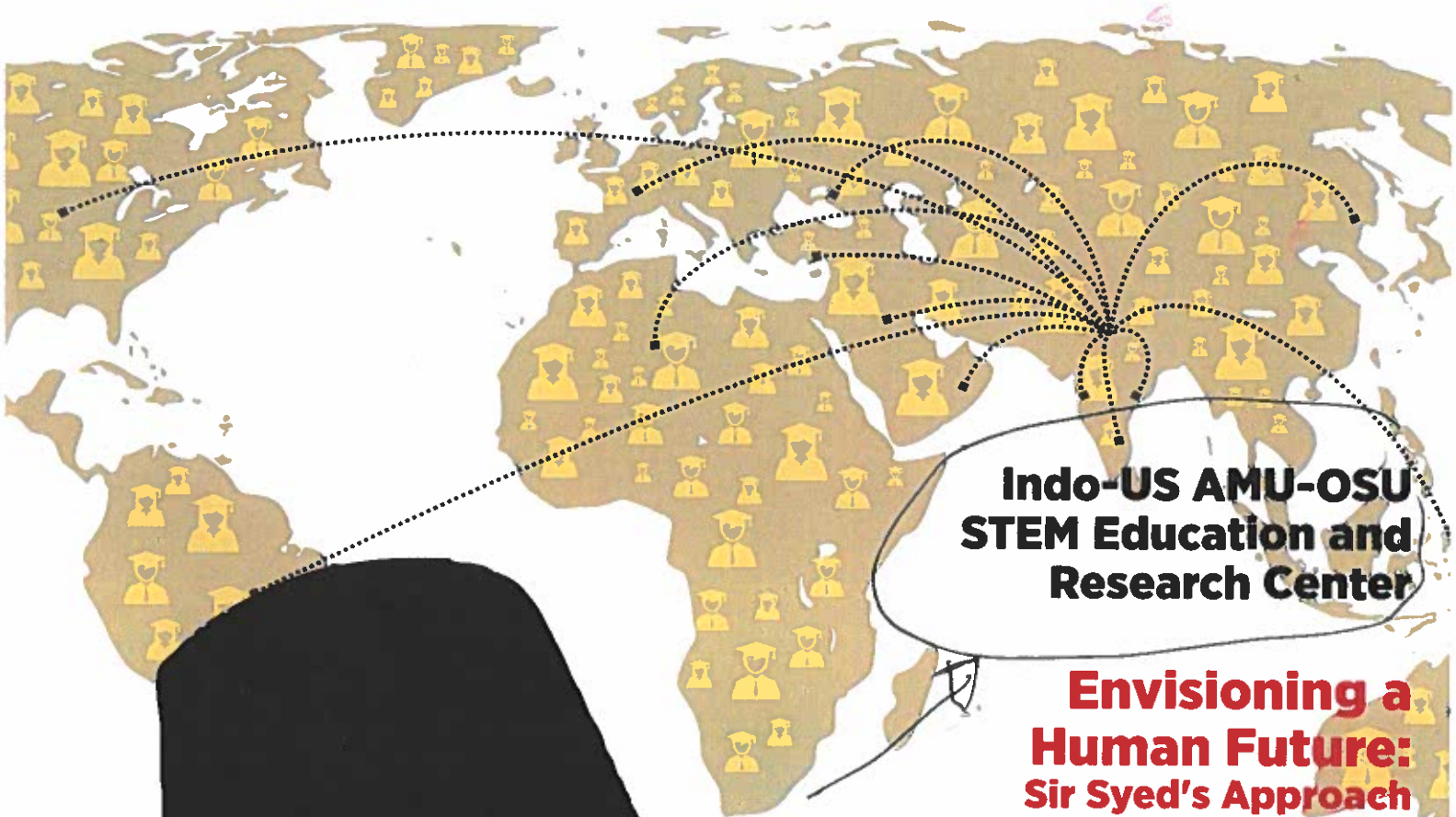


A PUBLICATION OF ALIGARH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTA (AAAA)

ALIGAtlanta

JULY 2019

Carrying Forward the Aligarh Movement for the Betterment of Our Communities



**Indo-US AMU-OSU
STEM Education and
Research Center**

**Envisioning a
Human Future:
Sir Syed's Approach**

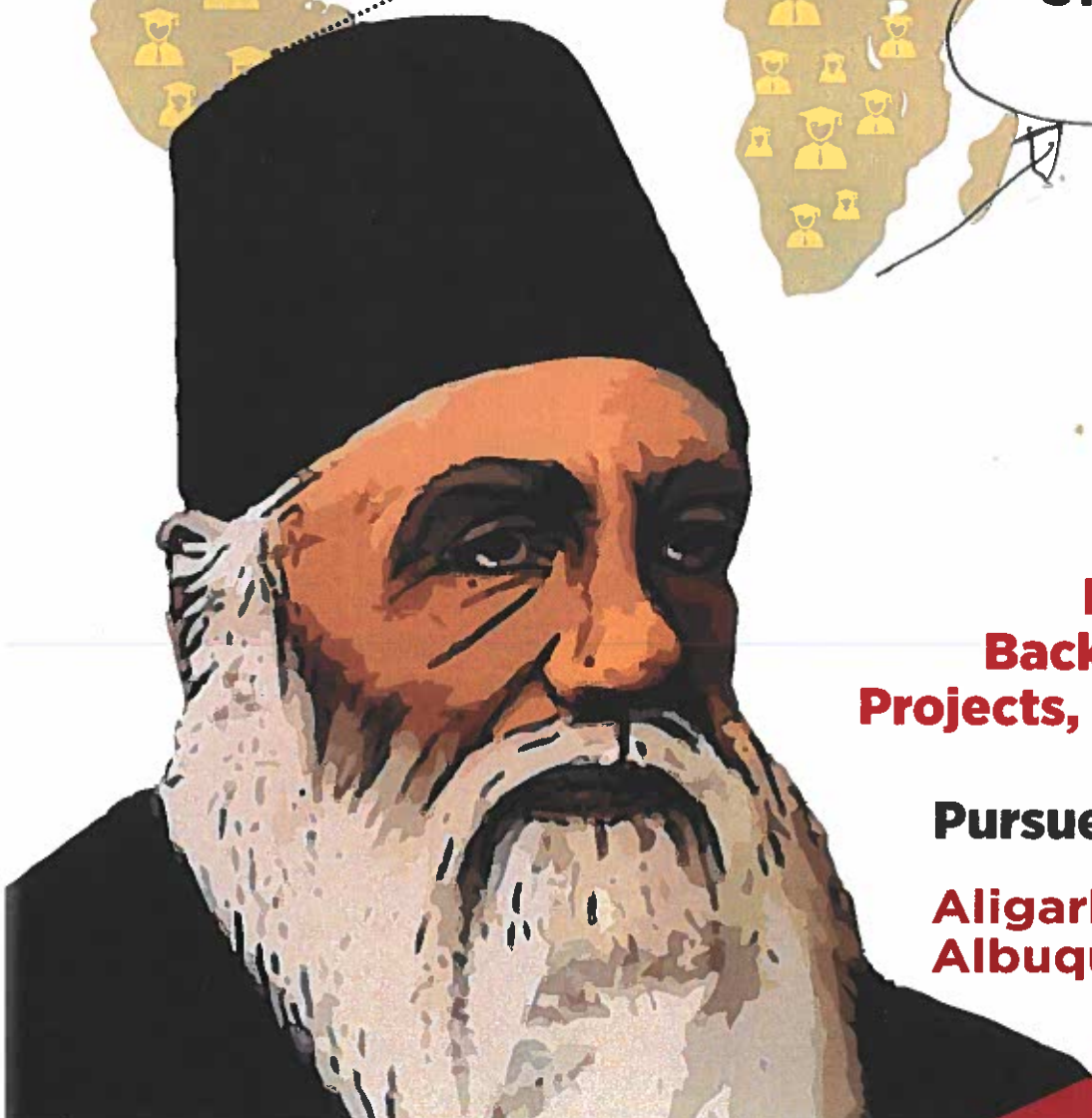
**AMU and ME
My AMU Days:
Fond Memories**

**FAAA at a Glance:
Background, Officers,
Projects, Past Conventions**

Pursue life, not a career

**Aligarh to
Albuquerque**

FAAA CONVENTION
SPECIAL





From Editor's Desk

10th Edition! Wow! A great milestone. We started this publication in 2001 under *Mashal* title which changed its name a couple of times before finally settling to ALIGAtlanta in 2015. Let us begin with a bit history of the magazine.



Mashal 2001



Mashal 2004



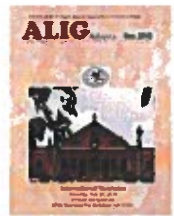
AAAA Publication 2008



Alig 2009



Qandeel 2010



ALIGAtlanta 2015



ALIGAtlanta 2016



ALIGAtlanta 2017



ALIGAtlanta 2018



ALIGAtlanta 2019

M. Inamullah and Fazal Khan were the editors of *Mashal* magazine published for the first time in 2001. Dr. Farzana Bharmal, Dr. Muhammed Afzal Shahid, Sadaf Farooqui, Syed Waseem, Fazal Khan and Dr. Rasheed Ahmad consisted the editorial team responsible for publishing 2004 edition. Dr. Shahid Rafique, Dr. Wasi Siddiqui and Dr. Rasheed Ahmad took out the 2008 edition. On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of AAAA's founding (1984-2009), the *Alig*, under the editorship of Dr. Shahid Rafique and Dr. Rasheed Ahmad carried out special articles documenting the history of the association and featured several memorable pieces from senior colleagues. In the 2010 edition, Dr. Shahid Rafique, Sadaf Farooqui, Azhar Farooqui, Dr. Asif Taufiq, S. Hasan Kamal, Sultan Khan, Yasir Nomani, Dr. Jalal Zuberi and M. Inamullah were among the main contributors to the magazine. Since 2015, I have had the privilege of serving as honorary editor of the magazine. With regular articles from my AAAA colleagues and prolific contributions from Dr. S. M Ghazanfar, Emeritus-Professor (1968-2008; University of Idaho), Dr. Syed M. Naseem (Washington DC), Dr. Yasmin Saikia (Professor, Arizona State University), Mercer University Faculty, Ms. Naim Fatima Taufiq and others, I have been publishing ALIGAtlanta regularly every year. The magazine invariably is published at the time of annual international mushaira. However, this year it is published on the occasion of the 2019 Annual Convention of Federation of Aligarh Alumni Associations (FAAA) to be held here in Atlanta.

The 2019 edition is special many ways. It has a new cover design and is double in its content compared to previous editions. In addition to articles on personal memories, activities, academic collaborations, Sir Syed & Aligarh Movement, education, it also features the FAAA activities, projects, leadership and its inaugural documents. This is likely the first major collection of information on FAAA. Also, a special tribute is published in the memory of our dear colleague the late M. Abdul Qayum.

I sincerely thank Syed Waseem, Dr. Shoeb Ahmad, Hasan Kamal and Dr. Farzana Bharmal for helping me in the articles. I particularly acknowledge Nadeem Fatmi for putting together the FAAA database. I express my sincere gratitude to all the contributors, authors and sponsors for their timely submission and support. Needless to say, I gratefully acknowledge Professor Valeed Ahmad of Aligarh Muslim University for taking care of Urdu typing with meticulous and prompt proofreading. I would like to thank my wife, Shaista, and kids for their understanding and patience during preparation of the manuscript.

This yearly bulletin aims to publish information on Association activities, future projects and priorities, literary work, reminiscences, and Urdu poetry of local and guest poets, etc. The views and opinions expressed in these articles/ads are those of the authors/sponsors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of AAAA.

With kindest regards,
Rasheed Ahmad, Ph.D.
Honorary Editor
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(Cover Design by Inomy Media)



Indo-US AMU-OSU STEM Education and Research Center



Dr. Anil Pradhan* and Dr. Sultana N. Nahar*, Ohio State University (OSU)

For the past seven years the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) has had an extensive collaboration with the Ohio State University (OSU). In 2013 the OSU-AMU partnership won the highly competitive award under the Indo-US 21st Century Knowledge Initiative for “*Training STEM Faculty at Higher Education Institutions in India*”, sponsored by the US-India Education Foundation (USIEF). This 4-year (2013-2017) award trained two batches of eight AMU PhD students at OSU, the first batch for nearly two years with two semesters at OSU, and the other for nearly one year with one semester at OSU. Under this project, OSU has developed a unique and novel two-year dual degree PhD-MA (STEM) program that trains students to: I) acquire world-class teaching skills as professors, and II) carry out cutting edge research with OSU advisors in their own STEM discipline as part of their doctoral research, with long-term collaborations to lead projects in India. The eight senior PhD students hailed from the departments of physics, chemistry, biochemistry, biotechnology, nanotechnology, mathematics, and zoology at AMU. They have gone on to secure faculty positions in India and postdoctoral positions abroad, and win national and international honors. The over-arching goal is to meet India’s need to train at least 300,000 faculty members for existing and planned institutions of higher education for over 150 million students. The USIEF financial support was matched several times over by OSU, with local support from AMU faculty and administrative officials at all levels.

The USIEF-OSU-AMU project culminated in the establishment of the Indo-US Center of Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education and Research (STEM-ER) at AMU. The STEM-ER center is operational and has been named after the preeminent Indian scientist APJ Abdul Kalam, also former President of India. In April 2017, AMU allocated the space and provided basic infrastructure for the APJAK Center. The Center was formalized with organizational structure to: (i) fundraising activities, (ii) continue STEM faculty training program for postgraduate students, and extend it nationally to enroll students from other Indian institutions, and (iii) conduct outreach STEM activities for underprivileged school students. The APJAK STEM Center is now located in the Zakir Hussain Applied Physics building, and has a smart classroom with computerized audio-visual facilities, computer laboratory, office and laboratory space. We have funding to set-up a computer lab at the Center for lectures and hands-on learning, such as for underprivileged students, and on-line digital courses. The Center co-directors are: Profs. Tauheed Ahmad and Farukh Arjmand from AMU and Profs. Sultana Nahar and Anil Pradhan from OSU.

In 2014 and 2016 AMU and OSU partnered to organize joint Nanotechnology conferences, Aligarh Nano IV and V respectively, as well as the first international conference on STEM-ER in India in 2016. Also, an Indo-US consortium of universities has been formed to foster collaboration in STEM fields between Indian and US universities. Recently, The Center sponsored 24 undergraduate research projects across AMU in various STEM disciplines.

Among other notable collaborations is the recently completed year-long competitive project supported by a US Mission in India award to OSU for “*Women in STEM Roadshows*”, to instruct and encourage female college students from minority and disadvantaged groups for further studies in STEM fields in the US and India. The project team, led by US Coordinators Sultana Nahar (Principal Investigator), Karen Irving, and Nasreen Haque, and many Indian counterparts, conducted 9 workshops across India during an intensive 3-week period in February 2018 in six cities, Delhi, Kolkata, Patna, Hyderabad, Kurmool and Aligarh. There were approximately 400 participants from a number of colleges in the designated cities. The workshops were inaugurated by several dignitaries, including Dr. Najma Heptullah, currently Governor of Manipur and former Speaker of the Parliament. The program was based at and concluded at AMU with the last workshop organized by the APJAK STEM Center, which also monitored follow-up activities of participants. An extensive report is available at the website: <http://www.astronomy.ohio-state.edu/~nahar/womenstemroadshow.html>.

The most recent exemplar of the burgeoning AMU-OSU collaboration is the highly prestigious “*Leadership for Academicians Programme*” (LEAP) sponsored by the Ministry of Human Resources and Development (MHRD) of the Government of India. The program entails partnerships between the foremost Indian educational institutions and foreign universities with global ranking within the top 100. Each partnership involves up to 30 LEAP participants who are senior professors selected from central universities across India for training as academic leaders through leadership workshops in India and abroad. The week-long OSU LEAP workshop is co-sponsored by the Indo-US APJAK Center and will be held in September 2019.

**Dr. Pradhan and Dr. Nahar are Professors in the Dept. of Astronomy, OSU, Columbus, OH*



Dr. Ellen Carpenter from the US National Science Foundation visited the Center in November 2017 and met the VC Dr. Tariq Mansoor with Center Co-Director Prof. Farukh Arjmand



“Women in STEM Roadshow” Coordinators and staff at the Indo-US APJAK STEM Center