



Sir Syed Emerging Scholar Award
Sir Syed Education Society of North America

Annual SSESA Newsletter

Volume 3. April 2013

Executive Brief

The Sir Syed Education Society of North America, a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, annually administers the Sir Syed Emerging Scholar Award (SSESA). SSESA is offered to students and alumni of AMU from all faculties, including sciences, life sciences engineering, medicine, arts, business, commerce, law and education.

Chairman's Message

– Dr. Saif Sheikh

The “Sir Syed Emerging Scholar Award” (SSESA) was established in 2007 as the “Sir Syed Excellence in Science Award” to serve the needs of AMU students interested in achieving higher education in the United States. It is designed to provide AMU students and alumni with financial assistance towards standardized tests and application fees, and personalized mentoring throughout the process from selection of universities to refining personal essays and resumes. Under the SSESA program, so far over 30 AMU students have been successfully placed at various prestigious universities around the world including United States. Last year we expanded the program to other disciplines to provide this opportunity to all AMU students irrespective of their area of study.

SSESA has a committed team of volunteers who mentor students and work with them for up to two years before students are successful in getting admission at prestigious Masters or Ph.D programs. These volunteers who mentor students are experts in their field. Upon arrival in US, the students in turn become mentors to other incoming students. SSESA sincerely believes that such a practice creates environment of grander participation and will result in a greater number of mentors to help AMU students.

It is no secret that many prestigious universities in US have not heard of AMU and are reluctant to consider students even after they have excellent grades and GRE/TOEFL test scores. The SSESA team strives hard to enhance the brand image of AMU on two fronts, first

by mentoring meritorious students so they are successful in getting admission at prestigious graduate programs in US and second, by expanding our strong formal network of academic mentors who also function as brand ambassadors of AMU at their respective organizations. With the help of these academic mentors when these bright students get admission and do well at such universities, they are encouraged to open their doors to more AMU students. Some of the institutes in India such as IITs have done this successfully and there is no reason we can't create the same brand image for AMU. To this end, the SSESA team is also working to create a database of faculty members who are AMU alumni or well-wishers.

In the past, several faculty members, researchers, and company executives have delivered seminars and presentations under the SSESA banner to motivate AMU students regarding opportunities of higher education in US. These lectures have created significant awareness among AMU students. SSESA is further interested in developing a webinar/Skype type of classroom facility at AMU through which mentors in US or anywhere in world can organize seminars and workshops on a regular basis. In addition to increased exposure, these webinars will be very helpful in keeping students motivated throughout the application process that is long, tedious and expensive. Many students get distracted and move elsewhere due to lack of continuous motivation.

SSESA's goal is to identify meritorious students, empower them with knowledge and financial assistance, and help them to fulfill their ambition of higher education by keeping them focused with continued engagement. Sir Syed started the Aligarh *Tehreek* or education movement and we all can make a small contribution by our participation in SSESA. Sir Syed said, **“Call me by whatever names you like. I will not ask you for my salvation. But please take pity of your children. Do something for them, lest you should have to repent”**. With these words in mind, we thank you for your support to SSESA and hope for your continued engagement with this program.

Students Successfully Admitted in 2012-13

We congratulate the following students mentored by SSES, who were successful in securing admission to graduate programs in 2012-2013.

- Abdul Haleem Kidwai, MA Program, University of Massachusetts Amherst, MA
- Musfira Jilani, Ph.D Program, Portland State University & University College of Dublin, Ireland
- Amra Ismail, Ph.D Program, Cleveland State University, OH
- Mustafa Ali Khan, Ph.D Program, University of Maryland Baltimore, MD
- Haji Mohammad Saleem, MS Program, McGill University, Canada & University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Meraj Khan, Ph.D Program, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, WI
- Utkarsh Goel, MS Program, Montana State University, MT
- Shah Kamran, Ph.D Program, University College London, UK
- Danish Ameer Khan, MS Program, Youngstown State University, OH

*“AMU must thank you
(SSES) for this effort”*

- *Lt. Gen. (Retd.)
Zameer Uddin Shah
Vice Chancellor,
Aligarh Muslim University*
-

List of 2013-14 SSES Scholars

19 students have been selected for SSES this year.

- Minhal Abidi (Biochemistry)
- Mahvash Afzal (Engineering)
- Quazi Ahmad (Biotechnology)
- Tooba Ahmed (Economics)
- Mohammad Anas (Engineering)
- Anas Anees (Engineering)
- Priyanka Gupta (Engineering)
- Asad Habeeb (Engineering)
- Mohd Kashif (Engineering)
- Maaz Khan (Engineering)
- Zeba Khanam (Engineering)
- Rishabh Kumar (Engineering)
- Ali Ahmad Mohdi (Engineering)
- Ali Muzaffar (Engineering)
- Mohsin Jahan Qazi (Chemistry)
- Taru Saraswat (Engineering)
- Mohammad Haris Shamsi (Engineering)
- Mudassir Yattoo (Chemistry)
- Mohd Zubair (Biotechnology)

SSES is conferred after a rigorous and competitive process of evaluation. This year a record number of applications were received from several faculties in AMU. Three experts in each discipline, based in the US, graded each application independently and a short-list was drawn on the average of these grades. The short-listed students then appeared for a GRE-style written test and personal interview. The cumulative grades from application review, test and interview were used to draw the final merit list.

SSESA Outreach

In continuation of our community outreach program, SSESA organized several seminars and workshops at AMU in the past year. Dr. Saif Sheikh (SSESA Chair, Chicago), Dr. Saif Hasan (SSESA Mentor, Purdue University) and Mr. Mohsin Raza Khan (2009 SSESA Scholar, University of Maryland) conducted numerous events in campus.



Dr. Saif Sheikh meeting students in AMU

“As a professional woman who completed her B.Tech from AMU in 2009, M.S from Portland State University in 2011 (under Dr. Abdul Qayum fellowship) and who has been working as a design engineer in Intel Corporation for over a year now, I have no words to express how exciting, wonderful and worth every single moment this whole journey has been. From my experience I feel that as long as you are willing to put in all your efforts and do your best, God will definitely help you do the rest.

And this help could be in any form, like in my case it was getting admitted to AMU, receiving quality education there, receiving the SSESA award, Dr. Abdul Qayum fellowship and above all blessing and support of my well wishers. My amazing experience encourages me to keep working towards my goal with strong belief and faith in God and myself, as well as motivates me to do the same for students like me.”

- Beenish Zia, 2009 SSESA Scholar Intel Corporation

AEEF Strongly Supports SSESA

The Aligarh Education Endowment Fund (AEEF) would like to thank SSESA for their initiative to establish this very unique and innovative program to guide the young boys and girls coming out from Aligarh Muslim University and provide help to continue their higher education in well-known universities in Europe and North America.

We, at the AEEF are very impressed by the SSESA mission and efforts, and pleased to be part of this campaign to provide guidance to young Aligs to realize their maximum potential in achieving higher education in the western world. AEEF slogan has been to “Provide an opportunity and the dream will follow” and it is in alignment with the SSESA mission.

AEEF fully supports your cause, and shall be doing all it can to help you with your mission. We hope that financial support provided by AEEF to SSESA is helpful in your endeavors. AEEF salutes the SSESA team for all the hard work your organization has been doing. Please continue the good work of mentoring our students. AEEF and many others are supporting you and wishing you every success.



Dr. Saif Sheikh delivered a seminar on educational opportunities in the US, facilitated by Dr. Suhail Sabir at AMU. Mr. Afzal Usmani, AEEF also attended the event.

To donate to SSES

Please make your checks payable to:
SSES

Addressed to:
Mr. Mohd M. Khan
4803 Westland Blvd, Apt#B
Halethorpe
MD 21227

For more information and
online donations, visit us
at:

<http://www.ssesa.us>

EMAIL:
Ssesa.apply@gmail.com

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- Facilitate internships

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Aligarh Education Endowment Fund
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The SSES Team, 2012 - 13

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