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Southeast Professor Receives Fulbright Award to Teach Green Chemistry

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CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo., April 12, 2016 – Dr. Mohammed Ali, professor of organic chemistry at Southeast Missouri State University, has been awarded a Fulbright U.S. Scholar grant to teach green chemistry and help incorporate green chemistry into the undergraduate curriculum at the International University of Business, Agriculture, and Technology (IUBAT) in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The announcement was recently made by the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Ali will complete his work during the 2017 spring and summer semesters.

“Green chemistry is very important because it’s developing new procedures that are safe for the environment and safer for anyone that uses them,” said Ali. “Green chemistry is all about the design of products and processes that will reduce or eliminate the generation and use of materials harmful to the environment. Green chemistry concepts are not limited to only in the U.S. or highly developed countries. We don’t have any other choice but to practice environmentally friendlier chemistry for a safer environment.”

Ali came to Southeast in 1994. He holds a doctoral degree in organic chemistry from the University of Kansas; a Master of Science in organic chemistry from South Dakota State University; and a

Master of Science in physical-inorganic chemistry and a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from Dhaka University.

Ali has made countless visits to universities in Bangladesh and India as a visiting lecturer and green chemistry expert during his tenure at Southeast. In 2010, he was awarded a three-year National Science Foundation grant to mentor 14 students who traveled to the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS) in Kolkata, India, to conduct research in green chemistry.

His recent work with officials at IUBAT includes a visiting lecture and workshop and reviewing their growing chemistry department and programs. He is looking forward to an extended stay and is honored to receive this esteemed award, he said.

“I wanted to experience going to another country to teach in their setting and help them integrate what I know,” Ali said. “With my expertise in this field, I felt I was ready to apply for a Fulbright Scholar grant and stood a chance to be selected.”

The Fulbright Program, America’s flagship international educational exchange program, is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Established in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, the program is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.

“Southeast is very proud of Ali’s accomplishments and for being recognized for this prestigious honor,” said Dr. Chris McGowan, dean of the College of Science, Technology and Agriculture. “We are very happy for Dr. Ali and the work he’ll be doing in Bangladesh.”

Ali is one of 1,200 U.S. faculty and professionals who will travel abroad during the 2016-2017 academic year through the Fulbright Scholar Program. Since its inception, the Fulbright program has given approximately 360,000 students, scholars, teachers, artists and scientists the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns.

Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement. Fulbright recipients are among over 50,000 individuals participating in U.S. Department of State exchange programs each year. The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program is administered by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars.

For more information about the Fulbright Program or the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, visit <http://eca.state.gov/fulbright>, call (202) 632-6445 or email ECA-Press@state.gov.

- See more at:

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