



Inaugural Message

“This small plant will, one day turn into a mighty tree whose branches will spread all over the world”. This is what Sir Syed said when the foundation stone of MAO College was being laid down more than a hundred and a quarter years ago. His words have come true and today students of AMU are spread all over the world. Outside the Indian subcontinent AMU Alumni Association (UK) is the oldest Alumni Association of AMU. It was formed and dissolved many times. In 1990 the association was re-formed with a new constitution by Mr Faiq Ali Qadri. Since then it has progressed step by step under the leaderships of Mr M Risaluddin, Dr Shehnaz Suri, Dr Moid Siddiqui and Dr Ahsan Zafar Zaidi. Today it is one of UK’s most well-known exponents not only of Sir Syed’s vision but also of Indian culture and Urdu literature.

In this day and age it is important for any forward looking organisation to have good communication systems and a vibrant presence on the web. It was therefore decided to develop a state-of-the art website and bring out a periodic newsletter to keep members and friends abreast with the objectives and activities of the association.

‘Take-off’ is the most difficult part of a flight. The current team of hard working young Aligarians have done it well! I salute them and hope that the ‘Newsletter’ will become a regular feature.”

- Dr Hilal Fareed

Quotes of Bani-e-Darsgah

When a nation becomes devoid of arts and learning, it invites poverty. And when poverty comes it brings in its wake thousands of crimes.

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I hope you will try to set an example in both scholarly pursuits and the practice of Islam. Only then will our community be honoured and respected.



A Picture of Triumph
Against All Odds

Do You Know ?

1. When was Sir Syed Ahmad Khan Bahadur given these titles ?
2. What does MAO mean ?

Food for Thought

“Love at first site” is a likely phenomenon, but when, why, with whom



and how many times can it happen ?

Membership & Subscription

Alumni Association year is from January to December. Members are requested to renew their subscription for the coming year.

Membership is open to Aligs as full member and to non Aligs as associate member for £15 per year and at £150 life membership and is subject to change as and when decided by the Executive Committee.

An associate member for consecutive three years is eligible to become a full member of the Association subject to approval by the Executive Committee.



Special Feature
Members' Space

Dr Moid Siddiqui

writes about:

Dr. M Shahnaz Suri



Aligarh Muslim University has not just produced a number of Renowned men who have excelled in their fields of work, it has also produced many dynamic women who have been an asset for the society as well as for their homes. Dr. Shahnaz Suri is one of them.

Shahnaz obtained M.A. in Sociology and M.Ed. in Education from Aligarh Muslim University. She later completed her Ph.D. in Sociology in 1975. During her student days she held important positions in Girls Hostel and was well known on the campus for her literary and cultural activities. She married Barrister Mehtab Suri- a lawyer and a renowned Urdu poet from Amroha and moved to settle in London in 1976. She has been an active member of AMU Alumni Association. She contributed first as a Treasurer for number of years and then as President of our

Association and was in chair until 2005. She continues to be a much loved member and a strong pillar of our Association. She is also a dedicated mother who has successfully brought up her daughter, Nida to be an ideal mix of East and West. Nida is now an A&E Consultant. Shahnaz is a true Aligarian and I am very proud to have known her; working with her for the Association has been a pleasure.

- Dr Moid Siddiqui



Highlights of the Last AGM



This year, the Annual General Meeting was held on Feb 17, 2013 at Indian YMCA, London. The AGM opened with the informal welcome chat and light snacks. The formal AGM began with the welcome address by the outgoing president Dr Hilal Farid. He thanked all for supporting him during his term as the President and expressed his belief that the initiatives taken recently will continue and further flourish.

The annual report was presented by the General Secretary, Dr Khurshid Hasan. A copy of the annual report was later emailed by Dr Khurshid Hasan to all members.

The AGM concluded with the election of the President and members of the Executive Committee. Dr Shehnaz Suri announced the names of all elected candidates.

They were all elected unopposed. The following table shows the elected office bearers:

Name	Post
Dr Khurshid Hasan	President
Mrs Akhtar Siddiqi	Vice President
Dr Moid Siddiqi	Treasurer
Syed Faiq Ali Qadri (Former President)	Member Executive Committee
Dr Shahnaz Suri (Former President)	Member Executive Committee
Dr Ahsan Zafar Zaidi (Former President)	Member Executive Committee
Dr Hilal Fareed (Former President)	Member Executive Committee
Hafiz Masrur Hasan	Member Executive Committee
Mr Saeed Uddin Ahmad	Member Executive Committee
Mrs Obaida Khan	Member Executive Committee
Mr Irfan Mustafa	Member Executive Committee
Mr Basir Afridi	Member Executive Committee
Mr Firozuddin Mirza	Member Executive Committee
Mr Nadeem Abbasi	Member Executive Committee

A Jalsa-e-seerat was then held. Everyone enjoyed and benefited by the moving speeches about the Seerah of our beloved Prophet (pbuh).

Special Column

Job Hunt in the UK

By Moonis Mohammad

I received few emails recently from Aligs in the UK and abroad looking for tips regarding job hunt in the UK. The latest amendments to visa have made the situation quite un-favourable. There is no longer any visa to switch to from the student visa or except the Tier- 2 (Work Permit). The effect of new visa laws on the UK University revenues and some sectors with skill shortages (especially engineering) leads me to believe that some sort of changes will be made to these laws. Employers themselves seek to attract the best candidate from a diverse talent pool and all applicants when drafting their application should have firm belief that employers welcome all applications irrespective of nationality.

For those who are already working as professionals in India and around things can be bit easier. For example, in my sector (engineering), it is not easy for the companies to find the right people and if they have the right skill set with good experience, they won't be hesitant in applying for work permits. For those with limited experience good preparation and tactfulness in application can be helpful. One thing to consider that the recruitment process of MNCs may be frustrating (all those questions about examples from real life) but it's them who will be easiest to get agreed on applying for work permit.

Another key point is good research about your university, course, its placement record and the target sector. University course rankings don't always give the true and complete picture and the best way is still the traditional way - personal recommendations and feedback. What has changed in this era is that social media has made it quicker.

University portals, linkedin connections, linkedin groups and definitely AMU directory can be good starting points; Recruitment posts may indicate shortage or demand in a sector. Here I would only emphasize the importance of connecting with the Alig community before taking the big decision of swapping your well settled status in Middle East/ India. The kind of bond all Aligs feel towards each other is exceptional and that is why I believe the right advice is not inaccessible.

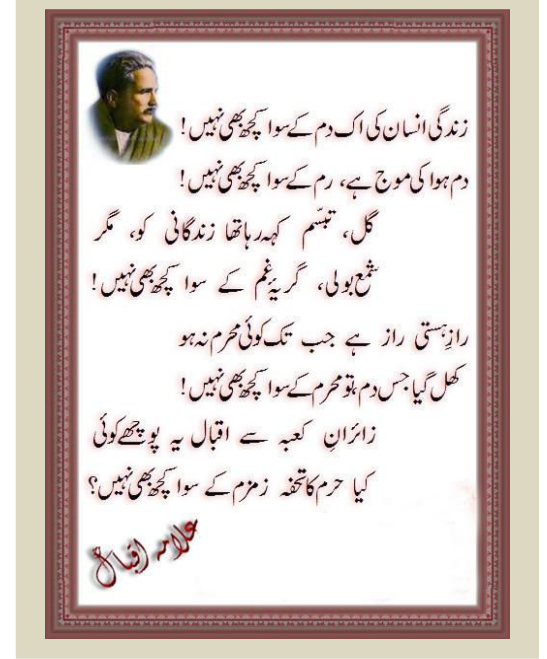
Alumni association can be equally useful to those who are already in the UK. Knowing someone in the same sector as you are aspiring a job in, can give you inside information within the organization, best websites for that sector (e.g. in my sector it is www.oilcareers.com), what skill sets should be highlighted etc. Another good place to explore is University career services. Their portals sometimes have a pool of information. I found a very good presentation

<http://www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/students/international/ukworkafterstudy/>

on university of Manchester website with information such as typical sponsoring sectors, sectors currently keen to hire, representative salaries in various sectors etc.

I would close with final point that students already in UK must emphasize that under new regulations from April 2012 a firm is able to by-pass the labour market test if hiring a student before his visa expires.

- Moonis Mohammad



**Jo Abr Yahan Se Utthega
Woh Saare Jahan Par Barse Ga**

This prophzey continues to hold true through every single Alig around the world and truly so in their millions as stars shining and shaping the globe.



Through it's various Scholarships, AMU Alumni Association UK is doing its level best to make some impact on the quality of life for the needy students at the Alma-Mater. New sponsors are being sought for even better execution of this programme.