

Quarterly

AIOU News & Views

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AIOU Executive Council, Selection Board Meetings

**19 teachers and 16 officers
appointed / promoted**

Executive Council of the AIOU in its 98th meeting held on 29th May at the main campus approved and endorsed recommendations of the University's Selection Board regarding appointments and promotions of faculty members and officers. Earlier Selection Board of the University in its 114th meeting, held on 10-11th April, 2015 recommended promotions/ appointment of 19 teachers of different cadres viz a viz lecturer, assistant professor, associate professor, and professor. The Selection Board in the same meeting also recommended induction of 10 and promotion of six officers of grade 17 and above respectively.

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Pattern in Chief:

Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui
Vice Chancellor

Managing Editor:

Prof. Dr. Syed Abdul Siraj

Editor:

Dr. Bakht Rawan

Design:

Ijaz Ahmed

Photography:

Faisal Azeem, Tazkeer Ahmed, Aftab

Editorial Board:

Javed Akhtar, Anwar-ul-Haq
Fazal Karim, Muhammad Arshad

Contact:

Editoraiounews@gmail.com



Chinese academic delegation visits AIOU, assure help in establishing Chinese Language Centre and joint academic programmes

A three-member Chinese academic delegation of Yunan Open University visited AIOU and assured its support for setting up a Chinese language Centre at main campus of the AIOU and launching of joint academic programmes in the field of printing technology for the benefit of Pakistani students. The delegation visited Pakistan on the invitation of the AIOU showed keen interest in strengthening bilateral cooperation with the Allama Iqbal Open University in academic and research pursuits. The delegation which was led by Prof., Shi Xudong met Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui, Vice Chancellor AIOU in the latter's office. Both the sides decided to implement the MoU which was signed last year. Prof. Xudong on this occasion invited Dr. Siddiqui to visit Yunan Open University for signing formal agreement in this respect. The Chinese side in the meeting offered its academic assistance to AIOU for the introduction of online short courses in the field of print technology. It was agreed that the two Open Universities would share their skills and experiences for designing different academic programmes. Welcoming the delegation, Dr. Siddiqui hoped that their joint efforts in the educational field, particularly learning of Chinese language would be highly beneficial for the Pakistani people in wake of signing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project. AIOU, he said, was prepared to work with their Chinese counterpart for promotion of Chinese language. It was agreed that the two sides would encourage visits of teachers and students to their respective universities for updating knowledge and skills in the relevant fields. The delegation visited various departments of the university and lauded its infrastructure. The visiting delegation was briefed regarding the working of AIOU, its scope and role in promotion of education and literacy rate in the country. Other members of the delegation were Prof. Wang Jingzhen and Prof. Yin Zhiqin.





Dr. Chishti book on Hadith launched

Minister for Religious Affair, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf paid tributes to Prof. Dr. Ali Asghar Chishti, Dean Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, AIOU for his efforts in compiling authentic "Hadees" in a book form, titled "Mutaalia-i-Hadees". Speaking at the book launching ceremony at AIOU he said the book written in Urdu language would serve significantly the common man in understanding the sayings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The function was presided over by Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui, Vice Chancellor AIOU. He underlined the importance of Hadees in daily life of the Muslims. The young generation, he asserted, must seek inspirations from the sayings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) for having a successful life here and hereafter. Dr. Siddiqui on this occasion announced that the AIOU would be holding series of activities to project the Islamic teachings and motivate the youth to Islamic way of life.

Others who spoke on this occasion included Chairman Department Urdu, Dr. Abdul Aziz Sehir, Chairman of Department of Iqbaliyat, Prof. Dr. Shahid Iqbal Kamran and Mr. Basit Mujahid.

Earlier, Prof. Dr. Chishti highlighted contents of the book. He said it took him many years to complete it.

Students' particulars placed on website

University has completed the process of its admissions for the Semester Spring, 2015. Particulars of the students have been provided at its website www.aiou.edu.pk facilitating the students to know status of their books.

Data of incomplete admission forms have also been placed on website, the nature of objection can be checked from the link 'Objections admission forms.' For further information, the students can contact the Matric section on (051-9057431), Intermediate (051-9057432), Bachelors (051-9057435), PTC/CT (051-9057421), B.Ed (051-9057760), Post Graduate (051-9057422, 051-9057425) and information Unit on 051-9057151.



M.Phil Library & Information Sciences to be launched from next academic year

Allama Iqbal Open University will launch M.Phil in Library and Information Sciences from next academic year. Admissions in the new higher level programme will be announced in semester Autumn, 2016. Academic and administrative work to this effect has already been completed. This was stated by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while addressing the closing ceremony of a week-long workshop of Master's in Library and Information Sciences.

The Vice-Chancellor on this occasion instructed the faculty members to start work instantly on curriculum updating in line with the new emerging trends of technology and market needs. He further said that the University was utilizing its resources to the maximum for development of the university at both teaching and research prongs.

AIOU and four other Universities join hands for promotion of research culture

The AIOU and four other universities i.e. Shaheed Zulifqar Ali Bhutto Medical University, University of Faisalabad, National Textile University, Faisalabad and University of Gujrat have decided to join hands to promote society-driven quality research in the country and to pass on the same to the relevant industries.

In this connection, a seminar was held at the AIOU last month and it was decided that these Universities would work together to strengthen University-Industry linkage for better utilization of research. They will share their academic resources to provide required professional input to the Industries. It was agreed that a collaborative mechanism would be developed with the support of Higher Education Commission (HEC) to transfer research-based knowledge to the relevant Universities.

The function was presided over by Dr. Shahid Siddiqui, Vice Chancellor AIOU who underlined the need of conducting relevant, applied and meaningful research at the Universities for development of the society. Addressing the seminar, adviser HEC Dr. Tariq Mahmood said there was a tremendous progress in the higher education sector in the recent years. Total number of PhD in the country has reached to around 10,000. Out of these about 6,000 are engaged in research work in the universities. Government of Pakistan and the HEC attached great importance to the research development in the country and they were spending billions of rupees for this purpose every year, he said. He proposed that a separate unit should be set up at each university for responding to the needs of industry.

Dr. Arshad Ali, Rector National University Faisalabad spoke on importance of university-industry collaboration. The function was also addressed by Dr. Muddassar Farooq of Institute of Special technology and Mr. Majed Rashid, Director Overseas Education and E-Learning, AIOU.

Department of Computer Sciences revises courses

The Department of Computer Science arranged a two-day Committee of Courses meeting to revise the curriculum of BS (CS), MS and MS e-learning. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Siddiqui presided over the inauguration session.

Eminent professors from Bahrain, Quaid-e-Azam University, and COMSAT besides faculty members of the Department participated in the meeting. Prof. Dr. Nazir Ahmed Sangi, Chairman, Department of Computer Science briefed the participants about major items on agenda. He informed that BS (CS) programme was completely revised in line with the HEC and IEEE requirements. The major focus of the meeting was on the curriculum design for BS (CS), MS (CS) and MS e-Learning. All course contents were revised as per IEEE, HEC and international guidelines.

Executive Council appoints Dr. Naeem Qureshi registrar AIOU

Dr. Muhammad Naeem Qurshi has taken over as new Registrar of AIOU. He was appointed by the Executive Council of the University in its meeting held on 29th may.

Before joining the AIOU, Dr. Naeem Qureshi was working as registrar Azad Kashmir University. Having almost 32 years experience at his credit as an academican and administrator, he had already serviced in other leading institutions like Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). He did his PhD and M.Phil in mathematics from Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad.

The Executive Council which met under the chairmanship of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui also decided that key-positions in the university should be filled by the regular staff on full-time basis.



AIOU and San Jose State University holds joint academic session

AIOU and San Jose State University, California, US (SJSU) held a joint academic session through online video conferencing. Academicians and students from both sides discussed the communication advantages and barriers in development of a global society. They were of the view that they could narrow down knowledge gap through online international learning system.

The online leaning session was chaired by Prof. Dr. Syed Abdul Siraj, Chairman Department of Mass communication. Dr. Naveeda Sultana, Dr. Samina Awan, Dr. Munazza Ambreen, Zahid Majeed represented the AIOU while Dr. Minna Holopainen and Dr. Jason Laker represented the SJSU in the discussion. They hoped their online collaborative partnership will enable the students of AIOU and SJSU to get a chance to work together as teams over the internet, building skills in team work and making connections that will hopefully last a lifetime.



Pir Hasnat lauds AIOU for promoting awareness among youth regarding Islamic teachings

Minister of State for Religious Affairs, Pir Muhammad Aminul Hasanat Shah has urged the young generation to follow teachings of the Holy Quran and 'Seerat-un-Nabi'. He was addressing 'Mefile-e-Qira'at' as chief guest at the University's main campus. The minister appreciated the AIOU for its efforts in promoting awareness among the young about the message of Islam. He asked other educational institutions too to fulfill their responsibilities of inculcating Islamic thoughts among the youth.

Chairman, Islamic Ideology Council, Maulana Muhammad Khan Sheerani and a prominent Naat Khawan Qari Buzarg Shah were also present on the occasion. The function was jointly arranged by Directorate of Students Affair, Rawalpindi Regional Campus and Abdul Wadood Center for Quranic Sciences.

Pir Hasanat underlined the importance of Islamic teachings and development of special attachment with the 'Deen-e-Muhammadi' for addressing the worldly problems. "We can get rid of artificial life and so-called VIP culture by developing strong faith in Islam" he added.

He said solution of the current-day problems is lying in true implementation of Islamic teachings. He hoped that many contemporary problems the nation being faced with could be solved automatically by following the golden teachings of Islam.

In his address, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Shahid Siddiqui said that the University would continue to hold such functions to motivate the youth to follow the Islamic way of life. Greater focus would be laid on promoting youth's attachment with the Quran and the Teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). The University will also promote the cultural of conducting research on present day's issues in Islamic perspective.

Special training for newly promoted clerical staff

The AIOU held a three-day special training workshop in the third week of June for its 48 clerks who were recently been up-graded from the posts of naib-qasid. It was the second training workshop that was aimed at equipping them with office-management and computer skill.

For the first time in AIOU's history 48 naib qasid were promoted simultaneously to clerical cadre, keeping in view their qualification and length of service. Many naib qasid were master-degree holders and they were working on this position for the last about 15 to 20 years.

Addressing the workshop VC, Dr. Shahid Siddiqui said it was a matter of great pride for him that the low-cadre employees received their genuine right of promotion. He considered it one of the best steps for the welfare of the employees. Such initiatives, he hoped, would go a long way in improving the working conditions of the University and serving the cause of the students.





AIOU and Zong Telecom sign MoU

Zong Telecom Company and Allama Iqbal Open University signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen students' support system through IT-based technology. Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui, Vice chancellor AIOU and Liu Dianfeng, the Company's Chief Executive signed the MoU.

Under the MoU, both sides will collaborate for arranging cellular services to the students and employees, including the facility of postpaid.

Dr. Siddiqui while addressing the gathering on this occasion hoped that the joint efforts of AIOU and Zong Telecom would provide a faster mode of communication between the University and the students. The Zong's 3G and 4G smart phone network, he hoped, would facilitate the AIOU in addressing the students' problems relating to admissions, examination and books' delivery system.

The AIOU, Dr. Siddiqui further said, was actively engaged in revolutionizing its entire academic system through maximum use of new technology, ensuring a better future for the new generation. The MoU reflects the University's commitment of providing quality education to every segment of society all over the country. "We have adopted innovative and creative approach to materialize the dream 'Education for All', he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Niaz A. Malik, Information Officer of Zong Telecom Company assured that the AIOU's students through the Zong network would enjoy the best cell-phone facility in their educational pursuits. He said, "Zong Telecom is proud to work with this mega university in the educational sector".

AIOU kicks off co-curricular activities 2015

AIOU has launched students' co-curricular activities through its regional network. In this connection the Islamabad Regional Campus arranged Qirat, Naat, speech, national songs and painting competitions among its students at the main campus.

AIOU will be developed as one of the major centres of social, literary and cultural activities to encourage talents and positive attitude for establishment of a healthy society. A number of series have been started in the recent months to develop its main campus, which is a hub of such activities; this was stated by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Dr Shahid Siddiqui while addressing participants of the contests.

Objectives of the competitions were to promote students' co-curricular activities for providing them enabling environment. Renowned columnist/educationist, Prof Dr. Naeem Masood was the chief guest while AIOU Vice-Chancellor, Prof Dr Shahid Siddiqui presided over.

It was addressed by Regional Director, Dr Malik Touqir Ahmed Khan and Director Students Affairs, Shah Farrukh. A large number of AIOU students and students from other educational institutions as well as general public witnessed the competitions.

Biometric system to be introduced to ensure attendance

The AIOU has been decided to introduce Biometrics Authentication System soon particularly, during the course workshops to rule out the possibility of students' fake attendance in the workshops.

Keeping in view the fact that the workshops are most essential part of academic pursuits in distance learning system, VC, Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui has issued necessary instructions to the relevant departments to use the biometrics system for the identification of students in the workshops. The new attendance system will be enforced from the next semester.

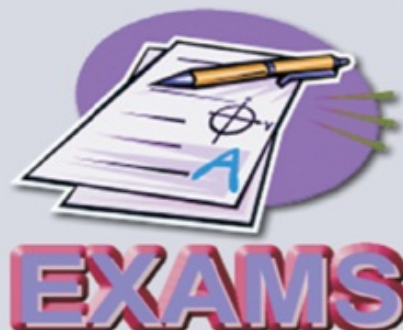
Necessary work to this direction is under process and it would be completed soon. Initially the biometrics system will be applicable to workshops and gradually it will be made compulsory for identification of students even at examination halls.

It is pertinent to mention here that attendance in course workshops is mandatory. These workshops are held for all post graduate courses. To ensure quality of education and avoid any fake attendance the university has therefore decided to adopt the new technology. The University's officials have also been advised to follow the necessary discipline in regard to the students' attendance in the workshop.

The AIOU has also consulted NADRA for the availability of full particulars of the students required for proper running of biometrics system. This is a part of the University's over all efforts to ensure quality education in distance learning system.

AIOU Exams

AIOU successfully conducted examinations for its all courses of different programmes ranging from matric to PhD for Autumn 2014 semester. The University set up more than 850 examination centers at district level in the four provinces including AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan.



AIOU to introduce 10 online courses

AIOU will enhance its cooperation with Commonwealth of Learning by introducing online courses in Media, Engineering and Technology and Agriculture Sciences. This was highlighted in a four-day course development workshop participated by the experts.

The workshop was arranged by the University's international collaboration exchange office, and Institute of Educational technology in collaboration with Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), New Delhi. Ankuran Dutta representative of The CEMCA took part in the seminar from New Delhi through video conferencing.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while presiding over the seminar said that the University would gradually switch over to online courses in order to facilitate students in their learning. Dr. Shahid revealed that his focus is on research, professional development, revision of curriculum and text books. He thanked the COL for supporting distance learning system.

The seminar was also addressed by Prof. Dr. Nowshad Khan, Mukhtar Hussain Tarapur, Director IET, Zahid Majeed Incharge, International collaboration and AIOU others.

The proposed courses are: Audio Recording and Editing, Video Camera Handling, Still Photography, Graphic/Set Design, Digital Camera Repairing and Maintenance, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Repairing and Maintenance, Cell Phone /Mobile Phone Repairing, Commercial Poultry Farming, Construction of Poultry Farm, Poultry Processing Marketing and Value Addition.



Farewell dinner for retired officers

A 'farewell-dinner' was held last month in honour of recently retired officers. It was arranged by Officers' Welfare Association (OWA) in Officers' Club of the University. VC. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui was the Chief Guest.

The ceremony was arranged in honour of retired staff members including Ex-Additional Controller of Exams, Iqbal Hussain, Ex-Director IET, Muhammad Qasim Haider, Ex-Director Wafaqi Mohtasib Cell, Shahid Jameel, Muhammad Riaz, Jawad Shah, Khalid Mehmood Kyani, Ismail Fehmi and Imtiaz Shah.

While addressing the function as chief guest Dr. Siddiqui said that retired officers are our valuable assets and we should take benefit from their experiences. The University will remember their long association and brilliant services. The Vice-Chancellor assured them for their early payment of pension and other dues. While paying tributes to the services of the retired employees, President Officers' welfare association, Sohail Nazir Rana and General Secretary, Maliq Touqir Ahmed Khan said they served the University in the best possible manner. Dr. Siddiqui presented shields and gifts to the retired staff.

Mailing of books to around 6, 50,000 students completed

The AIOU dispatched 'books and allied materials' to all the students enrolled in different programmes for Semester Spring, 2015. The university has also sent mobile SMSs the students informing them about mailing of their books and they were advised to contact their respective nearest post offices for collection of books.

Earlier on the occasion of inauguration of the mailing process for Semester Spring 2015 Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui said that the Mailing Department of the University had been given deadline to complete the process within due course of time and was directed to avoid any delay. He advised the mailing staff of the university to ensure accuracy in the mailing system so that students may not face any inconvenience in getting their books.

The university has adopted the Automation Mailing System from Spring semester, 2015 for quick delivery of books. According to Director Mailing Department Syed Qamar uddin, books-tracking system has also been introduced and now the students could check information about their books by visiting website: mailing.aiou.edu.pk

In case of any delay in receipt of books, students can contact University's complaint numbers: 051-9250158 and 051-9057611. They can also contact on email address: mailing@aiou.edu.pk.

Facilitating office for retired employees be established

"AIOU will set up a 'facilitating office' for its retired employees for their occasional sitting and get-together to do their pending work", this was stated by the Vice-Chancellor, while addressing a function at the main campus.

This is a rare goodwill gesture towards the retired employees recognizing their contribution in the development of the University and promotion of education in the country.

"The office-space has been made available on the main campus and will start its functioning within days", said Dr. Siddiqui. He further said that the retired officers are the valuable asset for the University and the University would take benefit from their experiences.

The VC assured the retired employees that a new system would soon be introduced for early payment of pension and other dues of the retired staff. He presented shields and gifts to the retired staff.



AIOU holds national science exhibition

Students display their innovations

Department of Physics of the Allama Iqbal Open University held a national science exhibition at the main campus to promote new innovations and creative ideas in the field of science and technology. Students of the AIOU who have developed some rare devices for public safety displayed their innovations on this occasion. The devices which were made public in the exhibition would be particularly effective against theft, robbery, gas leakage, and sudden break of fire. AIOU students also devised a vest belt for blind people. The inbuilt ringing alarm will help the blinds to avoid any hurdle while walking independently.

These devices could be introduced in the market for the benefit of general public, and for this purpose the University has invited representatives of industries and business Houses to undertake the task with joint collaboration.

The exhibition was arranged on the occasion of national conference on "Physics and Emerging Sciences" that was participated by around 200 faculty members belonging from different universities and post graduate colleges of the country.

Vice Chancellor, Dr. Shahid Siddiqui on this occasion underlined the need of university-industry linkage for encouragement of both teachers and students who are working on various scientific projects that could go a long way in the development of the country. He said that the university has decided to develop linkages with industrial sector to introduce new developments in the field of science and technology. The University will continue to promote and disseminate such research-based projects for the benefit of general public and the policy-makers, he added.

"There is a need to commercialize such scientific developments and this is how we can encourage academic institutions and student to come out with new innovations and creative ideas in the field of science and technology, said Dr. Shahid Siddiqui. He announced that a brand new research journal on science and technology would be published in July this year to highlight the applied and public-related research work.

The projects displayed at the exhibition also included: Toxic gas detector, street-light glow on detecting vehicles, micro-controller based temperature and calendar monitoring system, heart-rate monitor using system, micro-controller based caller ID, micro-controller based overheat detector, digital fuel gauge using micro-controller, vehicle security tracking system, micro-controller based weather monitoring system, automatic vehicle accident detector and ambulance tracking and monitoring patients' health system.

AIOU Professors' Fellowship in China

Prof. Dr. Syed Abdul Siraj, Dean F/O Social Sciences & Humanities and Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood, Chairman Department of Early Childhood Education and Elementary Teacher Education visited the Open University China on a three-week fellowship. During their visit, the Professors undertook research projects in their respective fields. They also worked for the establishment of Chinese Language Center at AIOU for which the Chinese Authorities have shown their strong willingness.



AIOU introduces tracking system for issuance of degrees

Allama Iqbal Open University has introduced a new computerized tracking system to facilitate its students in checking status of their applications for issuance of certificates/degrees. For this purpose, a new website (ds.aiou.edu.pk) has been launched.

The new arrangements are aimed at expediting the whole process of issuing degrees and certificates to the students. While commenting on launching the new website for the purpose Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui said that they were focusing on promoting student- friendly environment in the University, and provision of the best possible services to them in their educational pursuits.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Examinations Department has issued 44, 899 degrees during the last five months. These are record figures as compared to corresponding period during the last four years. Similarly, the process of issuing provincial certificates (PCs) has also been expedited. During the last five months, 2, 26,435 certificates have not only been dispatched to the students rather same have been uploaded at the university website as well. Another facility has also been introduced through which the databank automatically generates transcripts of students after the completion of required number of courses in one go. However, in some cases Provisional Certificates/ Transcripts are issued manually where either thesis is involved or the student failed to qualify the courses in first attempt or in case of objections. According to Controller of Examinations, backlog has been cleared and only those applications for award of degrees are pending which have some objections/observations or in which the scheme of study was not followed.

Under the University's policy, each student is required to apply on the prescribed form (also available at university website) after completing the required number of courses for award of proper certificates/degrees along with other necessary formalities.



'AIOU be developed as hub of social and cultural activities', Dr. Siddiqui

Allama Iqbal Open University will be developed as a hub of social, literary and cultural activities to encourage talent and promote positive attitude in the university as well as in the general public for establishment of a healthy and peaceful society, said Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui.

Inaugurating the newly constructed Officers' Club at the University's main campus, he said all possible steps would be taken to promote constructive environment for students as well as employees of the University.

The Club includes cafeteria, gymnasium and the facility for family get-to-gather. The officers will be able to enjoy quality food, to be arranged by a local restaurant on all working days. According to Dr. Siddiqui, the Club will be a symbol of high-standard university. Good working conditions play a significant role in getting the desired targets set by any institution for itself, and reflects on its good image-building, he viewed.

Dr. Shahid Siddiqui said that some officers of Higher Education Commission (HEC) had also sought his permission to become members of this Club. The existing building of the Club would be expanded to further enhance the recreational activities with the passage of time, he announced.

Chairman of the Club's Management Committee, Prof. Dr. Amanullah Mamon, and Secretary, Chaudhry Asghar also spoke on the occasion and highlighted different features of the Club.

An Evening with Amjad Islam Amjad

In its "Book & Author Series", the University invited renowned literary figure, Amjad Islam Amjad, visionary writer who through his poems, dramas and newspapers' columns transformed society for better life values.

While describing his literary work, speakers attributed Amjad as a true successor of great poets like Allama Mohammad Iqbal. Vice chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui said that Amjad is known for his unique style of poetry which dealt with life of the people. He motivated children and youth to follow human values in their day-to-day lives, Dr. Siddiqui added. The Vice Chancellor appreciated his work and said that the nation is proud of such poet.

Dr. Shahid Siddiqui desired to develop AIOU as a vibrant Centre for literary and cultural activities. He said, "the AIOU provides platform to writers and poets to present their creative work for the benefit of the people".

Amjad Islam Amjad highlighted the significance of Urdu literary work in Pakistan and underlined the need of translating the same into other languages to develop good image of the country.

Seminar on 'Eat Right and Stay Active'

Nutritionists, at a seminar held at the main campus of the AIOU, underlined the importance of good diet, physical exercise and adequate sleep for man's better physical and mental health. The seminar was a part of University's its awareness campaign, motivating the society in general and the students in particular to care about their health.

'Eat Right and Stay Active' was the topic of the seminar. The seminar was arranged by the Department of Home and Health Sciences. It was chaired by the vice chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui who reiterated the University's commitment to provide best academic environment to its students as well as positive and healthy co-curricular activities for a better life.

Those who spoke at the seminar included Dr. Nomana Anjum, Chairperson, Department of Home and Health Sciences, Clinical Nutritionist Azmat Khalid Majid, Dr. Rezzan Khan of Shifa International hospital and Assistant Professor Hajra Ahmed.

The speakers explained various aspects of nutrition and healthy life style and emphasized the need for maintaining balanced diet, having regular exercise and taking adequate sleep. They also called for developing proper stress-management to overcome tension.

They called for optimal nutrition and healthy life style. Weight management is also imperative. About the massive complaint of diabetes these days, they said this disease could be successfully managed through diet, exercise and medication. Diabetes if properly managed does not affect your occupation, daily routine, exercise and sports, they added. They explained that through a better life style people can overcome chronic diseases such as cardiovascular.



RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

The recent research articles of AIU teachers published and/or presented at national and international conferences are given below:

- Rehman, N., Masmali, I., & Dalal, S. (2015). Coupled fixed point theorems with CLRG property in fuzzy metric spaces. *Journal of Advances in Mathematics*, V.10 (1). Pp. 3171-3179.
- Shah, N. A., Abid, M., Amin, M., Afreen, R., & Ilyas, S. Z. (2015). Synthesis of Cu Doped ZnO Nanostructures for UltraViolet Sensing. *Sensors & Transducers*, Vol. 186 (3), pp. 118-124.
- Gulzar, M.A. & Abdulrahman A.A. (2014). Effects of Print Media: A Study of Reading Skills among University EFL Students. *Research on Humanities and Social Sciences*, Vol.4 (28), pp. 68-79.
- Gulzar, M.A., Gulnaz, F., Ijaz, A. M. (2014). Utility of Krashen's Five Hypotheses in the Saudi Context of Foreign Language Acquisition/Learning. *Canadian Center of Science and Education*, Vol. 7 (8), pp. 134-138.
- Gulzar, M.A. & Abdulrahman, A.A. (2014). Code Switching: Awareness Amongst Teachers and Students in Saudi Universities EFL Classrooms, English Language teaching. *Higher Education of Social Science*, Vol. 6 (2), pp. 1-13.
- Mubashar Kaya, M., & Ilyas, S. Z. (2015). Is algebra an issue for learning mathematics at pre-college level? *Journal of Educational Research*, Vol. 17(2), pp. 100-105.
- Ajmal, M., & Qadir, B. (2015). Exploring the role of distributed learning in distance education at Allama Iqbal Open University: academic challenges at post graduate level. *Turkish Online Journal of Distance Education*, V.16 (1).
- Khattak, D., Khan, B., & Hayat, M. (2015). Final Grade Prediction of Secondary School Student using Decision Tree. *International Journal of Computer Applications (09758887)* Volume 115(21).
- Ajmal, M. (November, 2014). Professional development patterns of Shanghai Open University and Allama Iqbal Open University: a comparative analysis. Paper presented at International Fellowship Programme at Shanghai Open University, China.
- Iqbal, Z. (29-30 April, 2015). مدارس , دینیہ کے تناظر میں: روایت اور جدیدیت, Paper presented at "Two-day International Conference: Madrasa Education in Pakistan: Tradition and Transition", Multan, Pakistan.



Community radio workshop held at AIU

A day-long seminar on Community Radio was organized by the International Collaboration and Exchange office and the Institute of Educational Technology (IET) of the AIU in cooperation with Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), New Delhi and Community Media Pakistan. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while chairing the preliminary session announced that the University would strengthen its media support for its students through enhanced FM Radio network. He said the university would set up seven new FM radios at four different locations at the regional headquarters to provide educational support to its 1.4 million students across the country.

Representative of CEMCA Dr. Ankuran Dutta took part in the seminar from New Delhi through video conferencing sharing his knowledge and experience on the role of community radio for educational development. The seminar was also addressed by Prof. Dr. Syed Abdul Siraj, Chairman Mass communication Department, Mr. Mukhtar Hussain Tarapur, Director IET, Masoodul Hasan, Executive Director Pakistan Community Media Network and Incharge, International Collaboration and Exchange office, Mr. Zahid Majeed.

AIU launches online complaint management Center

Allama Iqbal Open University has launched online 'Complaint Management Center' to provide an easy access to its students to get immediate response of their queries.

Through this Center, students across the country could approach the University for addressing any complaint, relating to admission, examination or delivery of books.

In this connection an orientation and training session was held for the regional offices through video conference. Addressing the session, Vice Chancellor Dr. Shahid Siddiqui reiterated his commitment to keep high the interest of the students in educational pursuits.

It will be an internet-based center for registration of complaints and queries and the students will be able to contact the University by visiting its website (www.aiou.edu.pk). They will have the facility to lodge the complaints online. Each message will generate a ticket confirming registration of complaint and through this ticket a student will be able to track the response of his complaint or query.

The center will manage all kinds of complaints, received directly or through emails, letters or telephone. The staff of complaint center will transfer the complaints or queries to the relevant departments. There will be a daily report at the end of the day, mentioning how many complaints were received, referred to the relevant departments and answered.

Dr. Shahid Siddiqui said, the students' support system will remain the top priority in their on-going efforts of bringing qualitative improvement in the University's overall system. Mobile SMS service has already been started to provide information about the admission and results on students' cell numbers.

PCST award for AIU teachers

Prof. Dr. Nomana Anjum, and Dr. Zaheer Ahmed, Assistant Professor of Department of Home and Health Sciences have been awarded Research Productivity Award for year 2014-15 announced by Pakistan Council for Science and Technology (PCST). The award criteria was based on publication in impact factor journals, research grants, International and national patents and PhD supervision.

Dr. Hassan Raza elected member Executive Council

Professor Dr. Hassan Raza, Chairman Department of Business Administration has been elected as member Executive Council of the University from the constituency of professors. Dr. Hassan has vowed that in the capacity of member Executive Council he would work for the development of the university and its employees.

AIOU to start practical exams of F.Sc from July 23

Allama Iqbal Open University will conduct practical examination of its F.Sc programme for Semester Autumn, 2014 from July 23 and will be continued till August 12.

These examinations will be held at Exam Center No.186 (Govt. College of Science, Wahdat Road, Lahore), Exam Center No.199 (Govt. Islamia College, Sargodha Road, Faisalabad) and Exam Center No.185 (Block No.4, AIOU Lab, Islamabad).

Roll number slips are being sent by post to all the concerned students at their given addresses. The schedule of these examinations has also been placed at the University's website

www.aiou.edu.pk.

The students have been divided in two groups, practical exams of the first group is scheduled to be taken place from 0900 to 1200 hours while timing for the 2nd group will be from 1400 to 1700 hours.

For further information the students could contact the Dy. Controller of Exams, Abid Hussain Satti on his telephone no. 051-9250051, 051-9057648.

Orientation Workshop Held for Newly Appointed Faculty & Officers

Department of Distance Non-formal & Continuing Education arranged a twoday orientation workshop for the newly appointed faculty members and officers. Twenty-seven faculty members and five officers of administration cadre participated in the workshop. Dr. Amtul Hafeez was the coordinator of this workshop. Inaugural session was presided over by Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddique, Vice Chancellor. He welcomed the new selectees and shared the recent developments occurring at AIOU. He advised the participants to work with devotion and dedication for the welfare and progress of the University. Dr. Muhammad Ajmal, Dr. Malik Toqeer Ahmad Khan and Prof. Majid Rashid were the resource persons in the workshop. A visit to Institute of Educational Technology, Main Library, Mailing Section, Book Ware house and printing press unit was also arranged.



Pervaiz Rashid visits AIOU stall at Education Expo

Minister for Information and Broadcasting visited the AIOU stall in an educational expo held at Islamabad. He took keen interest in the educational activities of University and hoped that the AIOU would fulfill its role in providing quality education to people at their door-steps.

During the visit, he was briefed about the ongoing and future plans of the University for expending educational network and introducing new academic programs for the benefit of common man. The Minister was happy to know that AIOU enrolment is around 1.3 million and gives special focus on the education of females and skill-based education, as per the needs of general public.

The AIOU is running around twelve hundreds academic programs, besides regular holding extra-curricular activities for the benefit of the students. The Minister was welcomed at the stall by Shah Farrakh, Director Students affairs.

Al-Khidmat group wins Employees Election

Al Khidmat group won the AIOU Employees Association (EWA) election. Malik Muhammad Saeed elected as President while Ch. Faisal Munir, Shir Asif Sati, Muhammad Manshad, Kamal Haider, Amir Hussain Qureshi and Abdur Raheem Abbasi were elected as Vice-President, General Secretary, Joint Secretary, and Finance Secretary, Secretary Information and Coordination Secretary respectively.

In his message to the new office-bearers of the EWA, Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Shahid Siddiqui assured his full support to them for their genuine demands. He said the employees of the AIOU had set a good example by completing the election process in a democratic manner, without disturbing the normal office work. Dr. Siddiqui hoped that the new office-bearers would devote their energies for upgrading the status of the university as well as looking after the overall interest of students and employees of this organization.

The newly-elected EWA President, Malik Muhammad Saeed expressed his gratitude to the university's administration and the election committee for peacefully conducting the election process.



'Media-academia partnership needed for ethical journalism', Dr. Shahid Siddiqui

AIOU will encourage academicians-journalists partnership to promote positive and healthy values in the society, said VC, Dr. Shahid Siddiqui, while speaking at a media-dialogue session held at the main campus. He said that the media has developed itself as a most powerful social institution, and it could have most effective role in reforming the society.

Key-note speaker on this occasion was former



President Federal Union of Journalists, Pervaiz Shaikat who highlighted some of the factors which badly affect ethical journalism in the country. He also enumerated the sacrifices of Pakistani journalists over the past many years for freedom of media in the country.

President appoints Dr. Siraj Dean Faculty of Social Sciences

President of Pakistan, Mamnoon Hussain has appointed Prof. Dr. Syed Abdul Siraj as Dean Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU). Dr. Siraj Chairman Department of Mass Communication at the University assumed the charge forthwith. He carries over 29 years of teaching and research experience. He has been visiting scholar at foreign and national Universities. He has authored 40 research papers published in national and international research journals.

The Vice Chancellor and other colleagues at the AIOU congratulated him on his appointment at the prestigious position and hoped that he would meet the desired expectations further improving the quality of education and improving University's good image.



Speakers pay tributes to eminent poet Zaitoon Bano for her pushto literary work

Eminent Pushto fiction writer, Zaitoon Bano was paid rich tributes by speakers at a seminar held at AIOU. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui while presiding over the seminar eulogized her literary contribution and said that she truly represented the heart and mind of a common man in an impressive way. The nation is proud of such poets who spent their lives for promoting positive and constructive attitude among the people, the Vice Chancellor praised her.

Prof. Abaseen Yousafzai who also participated the seminar spoke of Zaitoon Bano for being a poet of substance and rich imagery. He said that Zaitoon Bano contributed immensely to Pashto literature. He lauded the role of AIOU in spreading quality education in every nook and corner of the country. He said that AIOU always stand first against each the massive test.

Zaitoon Bano said, she tried to introduce new trend of fiction with old revolutionary writing style. She wishes her critical and creative elements of fiction leave good impact on human-thoughts and social life of the people. The fiction, she said directly deals with emerging trends in the society.

Among other who also spoke on the occasion includes, Dr. Abdul Aziz Saher Chairman, Department of Urdu, AIOU and Abdullah Jan Abid, Chairman, Department of Pakistani languages and Literature.

AIOU to publish three new research journals

AIOU will publish three research journals in the fields of Science and technology, research on Urdu Language and Business Management by the end of this year to disseminate research findings in different disciplines and to motivate young researchers to develop new body of knowledge in their respective fields.

Addressing academicians and researchers of the University, the Vice chancellor Prof. Shahid Siddiqui said that it was the University's concerted efforts to promote research culture. The Vice Chancellor emphasized that the Universities should be known for their research work. They must play pro-active role in constructing and creating knowledge, through research compatible to international standard. Inculcating critical thinking among students is imperative for bringing them in the mainstream of education. Research should give answer to the questions, faced by policy-makers and other stake holders in the nation-building task, he added.

Recently, the University's Executive Council has recently approved a package of incentives for research work of the Academicians include cash reward for published research and financial support for researchers for presenting their research papers in any Pakistani city as well.



Ph.D/M.Phil / M.Sc (Hons)/TEFL dissertations and theses

AIOU students recently completed their dissertations / theses on the following topics:

Student	Level	Thesis Topic
Fakhra Akbar	PhD	Evolution of Urdu Poetry in Punjab (1901-1947)
Tahir Abbas Tayyab	PhD	The Tradition of Urdu Short Stories in Lahore: Research and Analytical Study
Waheeda Saleem Arshad	M.Phil	Analytical and Comparative Study of Urdu Biographies of Hazrat Baba Farid-ud-Din Masood Ganj Shakar (RA)
Khalid Mehmood	M.Phil	Contributions of Wasif Badianvi in the Development of Punjabi Literature
Muhammad Arshad	M.Phil	The Critical and Research Analysis of Saraiki Poetry in Sindh
Muhammad Ahsan	M.Phil	Media Agenda on Poverty alleviation through Benazir Income Sport Programme(BISP)
Shaista Aqib	M.Phil	Impact of Cooking Channels on Housewives
Asia Bibi	M.Phil	Emotional and Psychological Effects onCyber Bullying on Young Females of Pakistan
Sultana Kokab	M.Phil	PTV Prime Time Dramas and Viewers' Needs Gratification
Shahzad Ali	M.Phil	Coverage of Pakistani Cricketer's Spot Fixing Scandal in National International Dailies (A Comparative Study of Dawn, The Guardian and Hindustan Time)
Sohail Nadir	M.Phil	Investigation Media Agenda on Emotional Problems in Pakistan (A Comparative Study of leading English & Urdu Newspapers)
Muhammad Latif	M.Phil	A Research Based and Critical Study of Maqsood Hassani's Understanding of Ghalib
Ms. Saiqa Imran	M.Phil	"Determination and Remediation of High Risk Contaminants in Drinking Water of North, South and Central Punjab"
Madeeha Nasim	M.Phil	On the Bayesian inference for parameters of the Davidson model for paired comparisons
Riffat Zaidi	M.Phil	Ordinal logistic regression for predicting retinopathy status of type-1 diabetes in Faisalabad
Asim Nazir	MS	Study of ground water recharging opportunities in city area of Rawalpindi: a case study of Rawal Dam
Gulam Mujtaba	MS	Performance evaluation of urban sewerage project: a case study of Rajanpur City
Mian M. Yousaf	MS	Study of Domestic Water Consumption Project Patterns in Lahore (an approach for better design of water supply and sewerage)
Engr. Mavara Turab	MS	A study to develop guidelines to establish an eco-tourist resort: a case study of Murree
Abdul Shakoor	MS	Safe disposal and re-use of debris after flood in rural areas of Punjab: a case study of Muzaffargarh City
Sohail Anwar Bajwa	MS	Improving environment through up- gradation of basic civic facilities in Kachi Abadies of Lahore
Shazia Tahir	M.Phil	Evaluation of management system of Pakistan Sports Board: a case study
Tahira Bibi	M.Phil	Implications of constitutional provisions for free and compulsory secondary education in Punjab
Mr. Sabiha Jamal	M.Phil	Measurement and Analysis of Fragmentation of 290 A MeV ¹² C Ions with Polyethylene Target using Ion Track Detection
Mr. Shahbaz Waseem	M.Phil	To Study the Social and Economic Impact of Using Solar Lights in Streets of Islamabad
Mrs. Saima Tariq	M.Phil	Synthesis of Metal Oxides Based Advanced Hybrid Nanostructures and Study of their Photochemical Properties
Ms. Hajira Bibi	M.Phil	Simulation Study of SiC Based Insulated Gate Bipolar Transistor
Mr. Asad Ahmad	M.Phil	Comparitive study of Radio Frequency Atmospheric Pressure Helium and Argon Plasmas
Ms. Aasmah Noreen	M.Phil	Synthesis and Characterization of Polyaniline TiO ₂ Composites for Photo-Conducting Properties
Mr. Khalid Masood	M.Phil	Structure Determination and Interpretation of Cobalt Complexes with Sulphur Oxygen Donor Ligands by Single Crystal X-Ray Diffractometer
Ms. Mahwish Anwar	M.Phil	Synthesis, Characterization and Optical Properties Studies of Nanostructured SNO ₂

Student Support Fund to be established

The AIOU has decided to establish an "AIOU Student Support Fund". The Fund is aimed at supporting the needy and bright students through various schemes without any distinction of cast, color and gender. This fund will serve as a major source of support to all poor, needy and brilliant students, enabling them to complete their education. Objectives of the fund are:

- a. To provide financial support to the poor and needy students for self reliance/self sufficiency.
- b. Improving income generating resources for students and linkage with the national and international organizations and donors.
- c. To motivate the society for promoting the education and extra curricula activities.
- d. To generate funds to meet the financial requirements.
- e. To borrow, procure raise money in local or in foreign currency from Banks, Financial Institutions and persons for the benefit of the students.
- f. To import and export books, skill products and any other material which may be beneficial for students, like Brail Paper/Brail Machines, Hearing Aid and Software for special students and to manage CDs and any other IT support which ever may be considered by the Board.
- g. To all such other things as incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects.

The Students' Support Fund is administered for the aforesaid objectives by the board named as Management Board of "AIOU Students' Support Fund". It will be headed by the Vice-Chancellor.

The Fund will consist of the following schemes:

1. Financial Support: (Scheme Code-SSF101)

The old scheme viz. Student Assistance Fund was least compatible to help the students regarding sharing of monetary burden in the shape of fee concession as there was provision of the fee remission one time. Under the new scheme, the financial support will be extended up-to 50% of the programme or up-to three semesters. Priority Areas will be Low Literacy Areas.

2. Earn to Learn: (Scheme Code-SSF102)

Under the "Earn to Learn" scheme student is encouraged to work for university in the defined areas of service like counseling, office work, performing laborious work at some occasions, convocations etc. the student is registered for certain services. The scheme will help the needy and poor students and will also a source of economic benefits as well as retention of student in educational net.

3. Merit Scholarships: (Scheme Code-SSF103)

Merit scholarships for all levels are available to each department as may be determined by Chairman of the board. Besides above the scholarships will also be offered subject to attaining 75% and above marks. The funds allocation may be:

Level 1:	Matric/F.A/B.A/B.Ed. or equivalent	50%
Level 2:	Postgraduate	40%
Level 3:	M.S/M.Phil./Ph.D. or equivalent	10%

4. Outreach Scholarships: (Scheme Code-SSF104)

The scholarships are offered to the student of the remote areas of the country with the special focus where the literacy rate is low. The scholarship may be in cash or in the shape of fee remission as the case may be. The regional committee will assess the requirements of the students and recommend for scholarship.

5. FYP Grant (Final Year Project): Scheme Code -SSF105

The grant is given to the student of BS/B.Sc.(Honors) /M.Phil. and Ph.D. or equivalent program. The students in the above programs may be granted FYP Grant to pursue certain projects in the final year in case of their financial scarcity. The maximum FYP grant limit:

1.	Science Students	Rs. 80,000
2.	Social Science & other programs	Rs. 50,000
3.	General Cases	Rs. 20,000

6. Scholarship for Communities: (Scheme Code-SSF106)

The scholarship is for different disadvantaged groups uplifting and encouragement to learn. This scheme will be a source to convert the special communities into honorable citizens through education. The following categories are considered under this head:

A. Highly Disabled B. Orphans C. Affected Areas (Earthquake, Flood etc.) D. Prisoners E. IDPs F. Gypsies

7. Scholarship for Women: (Scheme Code -SSF107)

The scholarship scheme will encourage the women for higher education with the social impact on the society. The scholarship will help to educate the women and turn it a strong source of national character building. The scholarship provides the opportunity to the females to continue their education and create strong career mind women. This scholarship will also be a source of harmony and tolerance. It will help in the social norm uplifting.

8. Fee Installment Scheme: Code -SSF108

The scheme is for poor and needy students in case of non-availability of fee remission or concession facility. The installments may be two or three to facilitate the students. In such cases, student registration number will be lien marked. Result of the respective semester will be issued subject to clearance of outstanding loan. The Fee Installment Scheme will be subject to guarantee and satisfaction of the university. The outstanding loan against any student will be stand adjusted in case of his death/serious disability.

9. Alumni/Sponsored Scholarship: (Scheme Code-SSF109)

Alumni of particular field will be motivated for grant of awards/scholarships through ASSF. The donation from the alumni will be deposited in the ASSF account. The scholarship will be monitored and granted keeping in view the progress of the student in the respective discipline.