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Dr. Altaf Qadir Travel Grant Report

Dr. Altaf Qadir was funded by an American Institute of Pakistan Studies Travel Grant to visit Stockton University and share his recent research just published in the book *Sayyid Ahmad Barailvi, His Movement and Legacy from the Pukhtun Perspective* (New Delhi: Sage, 2015). Dr. Qadir contributed to Pakistan Studies and historical understanding by lecturing to one of my History classes, “The History of Pakistan and Afghanistan”, to which the Stockton community was invited. The discussion and later conversations with students, and his visit to the campus extending over several days, was an excellent opportunity for our diverse population of students and faculty to interact with a young faculty member from Peshawar and Pakistan. Our first enduring outcome was planning for future research and scholarly connections to be made between Stockton University and the University of Peshawar. Other key outcomes included helping to extend our campus outreach into the local community as Dr. Qadir and myself visited the local Islamic Center. Dr. Qadir was also able to attend the Eid prayer gathering of hundreds at a local community auditorium.

Additional “deliverables” of current and future research, exchanges, and scholarly interactions were realized and discussed during several other campus visits. Because Dr. Qadir had received adequate stipend funding to spend several days in the United States we were able to arrange travel to Boston where he delivered a second lecture to a full audience of eighty or so at the University of Massachusetts, Boston campus, in a talk arranged by History professor Dr. Sana Haroon. While in Boston Dr. Qadir also was able to visit Tufts University and discuss his research with History professor Ayesha Jalal. He also met with professor Adil Najam, the Dean of the Pardee School of Global Studies at Boston University. In each of these visits Dr. Qadir discussed possible research opportunities and interactions for students and faculty both in the United States and Pakistan.

As a long serving Board member of the American Institute of Pakistan Studies, several years ago I had organized an AIPS sponsored PhD dissertation workshop in Islamabad, Pakistan for Pakistani graduate students. Altaf Qadir was a graduate student from Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad who attended the workshop. The outcome of that investment included a contribution to his successful completion of the PhD, his hiring as an Assistant Professor of History at the University of Peshawar, and his publication by Sage of a very useful volume of regional history. This latest AIPS grant, again funded by the United States, has allowed him to now visit the U.S. and share his scholarship, while at the same time having several chances to interact with faculty and students and discuss a range of academic and non-academic issues and themes. Professional and personal connections will endure for the benefit of all concerned. Many thanks to those arranging the funding!

Robert Nichols, professor of History, Stockton University