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DISTINGUISHED FULBRIGHT SPECIALIST TO VISIT SCC

One of a very few female attorneys enrolled in the Supreme Court of Pakistan will visit the campuses of Southeast Community College for approximately six weeks this fall. Shamsa Ali was selected as a Fulbright Visiting Specialist through *Direct Access to the Muslim World*, a grant program sponsored by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES). Her visit is expected to begin in September 2008.



Originally scheduled for 2007, her departure was delayed because of a family emergency, immediately followed by violent political upheaval. Pakistani President Musharraf imposed martial law, suspending the Constitution, arresting the popular Supreme Court Chief Justice, and detaining many of the supreme court lawyers. Ms. Ali wrote Dr. Tom Cardwell that she, her daughter, and about 50 other civilians attending a meeting of the Joint Action Committee on Human Rights were arrested on November 4, 2007, and detained under “extremely cruel and harassing” conditions. They were released on November 6. Pakistan continues to be in turmoil to this day. Ms. Ali writes that she is working with the new government “to help settle priority issues such as the independence of judiciary, rule of law, and inclusion of women in decision-making.” For additional information, see <http://globaledge.msu.com>, and click on Pakistan and then Headlines.

In her application for the Fulbright scholar’s program, Ms. Ali said:

...I have been practicing law for more than twenty four years and ... I have been elected to the offices of the Executive Committee of the Supreme Court of Pakistan by securing the highest number of votes (amongst men and women).

...My interest lies in research to produce concrete, realistic and logical solutions for problems facing Muslim women, in general, and Pakistani women, in particular. My chosen area of expertise is Gender and Islam especially when pertaining to women’s status and rights.

...I have been a scholarship student throughout my college years and I graduated from one of the premier (and one of the oldest) institutions in the sub continent – Kinnaird College for Women in Lahore, Pakistan. I studied law after a twenty year break and passed with high grades.

...In addition to my professional work, I have carried out extensive research on women's rights in Islam. I have written a book – The Quranic Society - which is now a reference material in public libraries.

While in Nebraska, Ms. Ali will have a busy schedule, teaching a Political Science seminar at SCC-Lincoln, visiting classes on all SCC campuses, and interacting with faculty and students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Union College, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Doane College, Creighton University, and Concordia College.

In addition, she will visit the Nebraska Supreme Court, the Nebraska Bar Association, the Lincoln Lancaster Human Services Federation, several Rotary Clubs in Lincoln and Omaha, and travel to Columbus to meet the Lions Club and the Platte County Bar Association.

Details about a welcoming reception will be shared at a later date.

Newsletter Editor: Judy Shoner, Resource Development Specialist, Southeast Community College, 301 S. 68 th Street Place, Lincoln, NE 68510-2449. Design by Laura Thompson. SCC Global Education Team Representatives: Shirley Noble, Susan Noler, George Matzen, Mike Stalker, Rich Mildenberger, Sheryl Piening, Barbara Fechner, Dennis Medinger, Glen Williams, Dennis Toalson, Jo Taylor, Rose Suggett, Amanda Baron, Larry Kness, Glen Pasho, Susan Kash-Brown, Margarita Feyerherm, Richard Ross, Nikki Isemann, Cheryl Parks, Lou Mittan, Ron Snyder. <i>Ex officio</i> members: Dennis Headrick, Jose Soto, Carolyn Butler.
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