



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY STUDENT DETACHMENT
3330 MACGRUDER AVENUE
FORT JACKSON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29207

ATSJ-VSB-SD

FOR Selection Committee, Fifty Over 50, Community Center for Vital Aging,
Attn: Judy Elton, 520 Main Street, Muncie, Indiana, 47305-1887

SUBJECT: Nomination of Dr. Mir Masoom Ali,
George and Frances Ball Distinguished Professor of Statistics, Ball State University

Dr. Mir M. Ali is senior citizen who has continued to contribute to his peers, his students, and his entire community at the same or higher levels than many far younger. As the George and Frances Ball Distinguished Professor of Statistics at Ball State University, he has touched the lives of many students, trained many experts in the field, and developed the entire Statistics Department here in Muncie. He is always willing to take on new students, regardless of their backgrounds in mathematics, and relishes the challenge of developing them into successful practitioners in the field.

It was Dr. Ali's personal attention and flexibility that convinced me to choose Ball State over a larger program at Purdue as I decided where to study in preparation for my next job as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at West Point. Despite the many demands on Dr. Ali, and despite me having an unrelated academic background, Dr. Ali was willing to not only recommend I be accepted into the program, but he personally developed my plan of study, discussed in depth how the program would progress, and has since taught and mentored me throughout the program.

As a direct result of Dr. Ali's energetic support, I am poised to graduate in May and have been accepted for Doctoral Study at Colorado State University and have also been invited to apply at Mississippi State University. I am convinced that I could not have been nearly as successful without Dr. Ali's constant interest and genuine concern and kindness for me, and I will always attribute a large portion of future successes in my military career and beyond to Dr. Ali.

I am not an exception to the norm. I have seen for two years, day in and day out, the kind of energy Dr. Ali puts into his students. His zeal in the classroom makes very complicated concepts digestible. His patience during his office hours has helped many students get through courses they could not have managed by simply studying the book and notes. I have never known him to be unwilling to spend time either working problems, or simply discussing life with his students. Though a challenging and demanding instructor, Dr. Ali has a calm, reassuring manner that puts even struggling students at ease and motivates them to keep working. In addition to what he does for his students, it is apparent from his accolades that he is just as involved in the broader spectrum with his individual and joint research, involvement in mathematical societies, and participation and leadership in his church and the community. He publishes numerous academic articles each year, when many of his peers do far less. He is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association and he is involved in the furthering of the study of Statistics in his native Bangladesh and in other parts of the world. He is a dedicated husband,

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father, and grandfather, and yet he has the energy to make many of his students feel like part of his family as well.

Dr. Ali has been and continues to be an asset to the community, the University, and ultimately, his adopted nation. He champions and furthers the study of an important subject in a time when fewer and fewer Americans are undertaking this type of education. He continues as a source of inspiration and guidance to his peers, and as he approaches retirement from the classroom, his plans of writing and continued study promise to contribute to future generations as well.

The energy and zeal which Dr. Ali displays every day of every year rivals that of any man of any age that I have known. The quality of his character and the expertise he shares with all who show interest are equally impressive. He is a perfect example of the value of experience in life. Each year he has more to offer, and each year he finds the energy to do so. I can think of no person more deserving of being among the "Fifty over 50" honorees.

Sincerely,



J. Adam Wright
Major, U.S. Army