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## UD Gives Out Top Faculty Awards for Teaching and Scholarship

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# The University of Dayton

# News Release

April 11, 1991  
Contact: Jim Feuer

## UD GIVES OUT TOP FACULTY AWARDS FOR TEACHING AND SCHOLARSHIP

DAYTON, Ohio -- Roberta Alexander, professor of history at the University of Dayton, has earned this year's Alumni Award for Teaching, and Mohammad Karim, associate professor of electrical engineering, has earned the Alumni Award for Scholarship.

Winners of the annual awards--the top faculty awards at UD--receive \$1,500. A third Alumni Award will be given out in May for research.

Alexander, who specializes in U.S. constitutional history, describes herself as an interactive teacher. "I like a lot of discussion, because I think students learn by talking about issues," says Alexander, who has taught history at UD for 21 years and who steps down this semester after eight years as department chair.

Although she has taught various upper-level classes, she prefers teaching survey courses. "I like the diversity of students--to try and turn them on to history, to see that history's not just names, dates and places. It's really neat when you struggle with students and you see them getting into law schools or graduate schools or graduating. You really feel like you've made an impact--you've made a contribution."

When she steps down as head of the department, Alexander will take a year off from teaching, but she will continue to direct UD's pre-law program and advise students.

"I guess I think of my students as my children. And if I have an impact on them, if I've given them some kind of inspiration to strive for excellence, to think about the moral consequences--the ethical consequences--of the kinds of things that they do, to put things within historical perspective and have an understanding of people's different opinions, then I feel like I have a reason for being here."

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Karim, a native of Bangladesh, arrived in the United States in 1976 with 26 cents in his pocket and hopes of landing a teaching job. Within two days, he found a job as a teaching assistant at the University of Alabama, where he went on to get two master's degrees and a doctorate.

Since coming to UD in 1986, Karim has written five books--two of which are textbooks used at about 80 universities; published 40 refereed papers with 10 more in review; has two patents; and has produced 36 conference publications.

In January, Karim was named director of UD's Center for Electro-Optics, where researchers are working on projects ranging from a pattern recognition system which could optically scan assembly line products for defects to an attachment to pilots' goggles that would greatly enhance their view of distant images.

Another project being explored is an inexpensive method of producing "pseudo-colored" X-rays and other diagnostic tools that could help physicians detect medical problems earlier and more accurately. The process involves encoding the X-ray, mammogram, angiogram or other black-and-white image. White light is then shone through a series of lenses and the encoded image before traveling through an aperture similar to that in a camera. A color image results on a surface behind the aperture, and by varying the size and location of the opening, different colors can be produced.

A person can detect about 15-20 shades of gray with the naked eye, said Karim, but with pseudo-coloring, as many as 20,000 different image levels can be detected.

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For media interviews, contact **Roberta Alexander**, a resident of Fairfield, at (513) 229-2848 or **Mohammad Karim**, a resident of Centerville, at (513) 229-3611.