

**OKLAHOMA SCHOOL of
SCIENCE and MATHEMATICS**
FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

DR. FAZLUR RAHMAN
OSSM Chemistry



B.Sc. (Hons) and M.Sc., Jahangirnagar University in Bangladesh
M.A. Organic Chemistry, Brandeis University
Ph.D. Organometallic Chemistry, Australian National University

Dr. Rahman has been teaching Chemistry in Oklahoma since 1991. At OSSM, he teaches ACS standard College General Chemistry I, II and Organic Chemistry I, II. In addition, he coaches the National Science Bowl, Chemistry Olympiad and TEAM+S (Testing of Engineering Aptitude in Math and Science) competitions. He and his colleagues have sent 16 students to the annual invitational National Chemistry Olympiad Camp, with students going on to win Gold in 2002, Silver in 2001 and 2016 and Bronze in 1999 and 2002 in international competition. In both TEAM+S and National Science Bowl competitions, OSSM teams have secured State Championships every year and have earned national titles in TEAM+S almost every year. Dr. Rahman established a Chemistry Ambassadors program sending OSSM students to their home elementary schools to teach science to 4th-5th grade students.

Dr. Rahman has initiated and developed an Organometallic Chemistry research program while at OSSM, the nation's first for a high school, and has mentored more than 40 students in chemistry research. He has been instrumental in developing ACS college chemistry curriculum in General Chemistry and Organic Chemistry, and his students commonly receive chemistry credits at Oklahoma state universities and other top institutions. Many of his top students are now working as chemical scientists in industry and as chemistry faculty in schools such as Stanford and Georgia Tech.

Dr. Rahman is the recipient of the Oklahoma Chemist Award (2015), South West Regional ACS Teaching Award (2009), Sigma Xi Teaching Award (2005) and Stanford University's Teacher Tribute Award for exceptional teaching (2003, 2017). He has availed fellowships from the Ames Laboratory (1990-91), Renewable Energy Laboratory (1995) and Phillips Petroleum Company (1996-97), as well as the National Science Foundation fellowships at the University of Rochester (1998, 2016). He held visiting faculty positions at the University of Rochester, Texas A&M (2012), California Institute of Technology (2013) and at the University of California at Berkeley (2017, 2018).

Dr. Rahman has 67 abstracted conference presentations and 23 journal publications. In 2017, OSSM received national and international attention as Dr. Rahman, George Wang and Dr. Bing Wang published a paper with a claim that carbon can make a maximum of seven bonds.



Born in Lebanon in 1874, Sarkeys J. Sarkeys was the son of a well-to-do olive farmer. Inspired by the opportunities described by his two brothers who were living in St. Louis, Sarkeys came to America when he was only 17 years old.

Upon his arrival in St. Louis, Sarkeys joined his brothers in the sales of a new invention, the carbide lamp. Traveling by horse and buggy, Sarkeys canvassed the area, determined to make a living but eventually decided that the best opportunities for lamp sales existed in South America. Driven by a tenacious desire to make his fortune, Sarkeys began a circuitous route there.

His travels took him through Cushing, Oklahoma, where he watched an oil well come in. The lure of oil money and the excitement of the business captivated him. Oklahoma quickly became home, where Sarkeys would exchange his career in selling lamps for a more lucrative career in selling oil and gas leases, acquiring mineral rights along the way. The successful production from these holdings became the basis for several fortunes Sarkeys would gain and lose during his lifetime.

When he died in 1965 at the age of 92, the Sarkeys Foundation was just three years old, established with 2,750 shares of stock from Sarkeys, Inc., and the Foundation had made contributions of about \$14,000. Since then, the Foundation has awarded more than \$80 million in grants.

Governed by a dedicated Board of Trustees, the foundation that bears S. J. Sarkeys' name is deeply committed to furthering his vision to improve the quality of life in Oklahoma. With assets of approximately \$100 million, Sarkeys Foundation provides grants to a diverse group of nonprofit organizations and institutions, almost all of which are in Oklahoma.

A major partner since the early 1990s, the Sarkeys Foundation has provided generous support for OSSM capital projects and programs to help raise the bar of math and science education for Oklahoma students and teachers. Sarkeys' most recent investment in OSSM, its students, and faculty was a \$250,000 grant made in 2018 to establish the Sarkeys Endowment for Research and Teaching Excellence.

To honor his research acumen, superb teaching excellence, and outstanding contributions to OSSM and its students over more than two decades, we are pleased to announce Dr. A. K. Fazlur Rahman will be the inaugural beneficiary of this new endowment.