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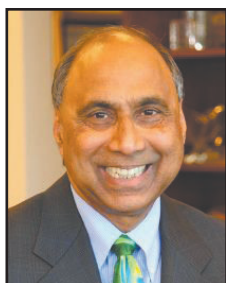
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Entrepreneur and Investor, Frank F. Islam, Speaks to Macklin Business Institute Students



Frank F. Islam, entrepreneur and investor, spoke to Macklin Business Institute Scholars recently at Montgomery College in Rockville.

Islam spoke about the opportunities and challenges of entrepreneurship, specifically in the high-tech area. He said that entrepreneurs are passionate, creative, and focused. They are also good leaders and have a high risk tolerance. And, the risks are very high. Venture capitalists fund only one percent of business plans they receive, and it takes 3-5 years for an IPO (Initial Public Offering) company to succeed. In fact, 60 percent of high-tech companies funded by venture capitalists eventually go bankrupt.

One student asked for Islam's opinion on regulation. Islam explained that he is a centrist, favoring some regulation to avoid what is happening in our economy right now. But, he warned that strict regulation will stifle business and will not help with job creation.

In his talk, Islam also spoke of his love of the United States. He immigrated to the U.S. when he was 10 years old, eventually attending the University of Colorado. He said that America's greatness stems from both

its business opportunity and charity, or giving back to the community. There was some discussion about whether tax incentives drive the money he donates, and he explained that there is only a 15 percent tax ben-

efit for money given away through his foundation. And, for him, giving back is a vital part of being American.

Islam is the chairman and CEO of FI Investment Group, LLC (FIIG), an investment firm he founded in 2007 after the sale of his company, QSS Group, to Perot Systems. FIIG focuses on providing growth capital to emerging companies as well as managing specialized and branded funds. In 1999, Islam was recognized by Ernst and Young as Maryland Entrepreneur of the Year. The U.S. Small Business Administration selected him as the Small Business Person of the Year of the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area in 2001.

Mr. Islam's private foundation, whose board members include his wife, Debbie Driesman, supports educational, cultural and artistic causes worldwide.

For information on the Macklin Business Institute, visit www.macklin.org or contact Steve Lang, director, Macklin Business Institute, at 240-567-1707 or e-mail him at stephen.lang@montgomerycollege.edu.

MBI Scholars Reflect on Their First Three Months



Josh Carroll, an MBI freshman from Montgomery Village:

"One important thing I've learned in the last few months is how to work as a group. Almost every week involves some sort of assignment or task that we have to accomplish. By teaming up and tackling the job as a group, we've learned how to select a leader, delegate tasks, and take care of a project in a fraction of the time that it would take one person to do by him or herself."

Crystal Quinones, an MBI freshman from Gaithersburg:

"I have really enjoyed being in so many different groups. Being a part of the MBI team is great, but breaking down into smaller groups allows friendships and relationships to be formed with different people. I have loved getting to know people by interacting with them in groups. I am looking forward to the [Loyola Marymount University Business Ethics] competition. I hope my group wins and goes to Los Angeles!"