

Athenaeum Symposia Named in Honor of Frank Islam

Frank Islam is the chairman and CEO of FI Investment Group LLC (FIG), an investment firm he founded in 2007 after selling his information technology company, QSS Group, for \$300 million. A noted philanthropist, entrepreneur, and author, Islam generously provided a grant to the Montgomery College Foundation to support the 2013–2014 Athenaeum Symposia. He has authored two books, *Renewing the American Dream* and *Working the Pivot Points: To Make America Work Again*, which will be released in October. He is a regular contributor to the *Huffington Post*, *Indian Express*, *Economics Times*, and *India Abroad*. In addition, he hosts a TV show, “Washington Current Review,” on MHz Networks. A well-known philanthropist, Islam and his wife founded the Frank Islam and Debbie Driesman Foundation in 2007 to support educational, cultural, and artistic causes worldwide. Mr. Islam serves on numerous boards, committees, and panels, including those of educational institutions, such as the University of Maryland’s Robert H. Smith School of Business; American University; University of Technology, Malaysia; George Mason University School of Management; and Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. He also serves on the International Advisory Council of the United States Institute for Peace (USIP); the Department of Commerce Industry Trade Advisory Committee; and the Maryland Governor’s International Advisory Committee. He holds a BS and MS in computer science from the University of Colorado. His website is www.ffislam.com.

“Community colleges are pivotal to the future of America, and Montgomery College, through opportunities like the Athenaeum Symposia, is playing a significant role in creating the next generation of leaders for America. Through our foundation grant, my wife, Debbie Driesman, and I recognize that education happens inside and outside the classroom and that for students to be successful in the workplace and in the competitive global market, they will need to be lifelong learners about international affairs, global peace, social issues, economics, the arts, and politics.”

–Frank Islam

For more information about the Athenaeum Symposia Fall 2014 Speaker Series, e-mail joan.naake@montgomerycollege.edu or visit <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/athenaeum>
Montgomery College is an academic institution committed to equal opportunity.

ATHENAEUM SYMPOSIA SPEAKERS

FALL 2011

Ira Berlin—Noted Historian and Author, US Slavery
Lise Bruneau and Marcus Kyd—Actors, *Hamlet*
Lilly Ledbetter—Social Justice Activist, Fair Pay Act

Spring 2012

Robert Blake, Assistant Secretary of State
Don Bliss, Mark Twain and US Politics
Patrick Beldio, Sculptor
Frank Islam, Entrepreneur of the Year
Norman Augustine, former CEO Lockheed Martin
DeRionne Pollard, President of Montgomery College

Fall 2012

David Smith, US Institute for Peace
Ambassador Rao, India
Jay Wilkinson, Author, *Bud Wilkinson’s Letters*
Peter Edelman, Author, *So Rich, So Poor*
Fred Fisher, Sarajevo, *The Cellist of Sarajevo*
Stephen Gladson, Sarajevo, *The Cellist of Sarajevo*
William Chang, classical pianist

Spring 2013

Tony Cohen, Historian, *Recreating American Slavery*
Vaddey Ratner, Author, *In the Shadow of the Banyan*
Carolyn Cook, Activist, Equal Rights Amendment
Ira Shapiro, Author, *The Last Great Senate*
Lesley Francis, Granddaughter of Robert Frost

Fall 2013

Frank Islam, Author, *Renewing the American Dream*
Vic Fazio, Former California Congressman
Arun Gandhi, Grandson of Mahatma Gandhi
Exit 12 Dance Company, Focus on Iraq and Afghanistan
Maria Massi Dakake, Role of Muslim Women
William Chang, classical pianist

Spring 2014

Bill Press, Columnist, Political Talk-Show Host
Paul Monteiro, White House Interfaith Initiatives
Lisa Grooms, Dean, Howard University, Human Rights
Sheila Kay Adams, Appalachian Ballads, NEA Fellowship
Manjular Kumar, Director of *Noor*, *Smithsonian*
Charles Williams, Renowned Singer, *Porgy and Bess*

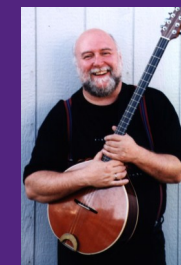
Fall 2014

Hercules Pinkney, Civil Rights Act, Former MC President
Reyna Grande, Author, *Distance Between Us*
Ambassador Rasool, South Africa
Clemantine Wamariya, From Rwandan Genocide to Yale
Julie-Hera Destefano, filmmaker, *Women of War*

Montgomery College

THE FRANK ISLAM ATHENAEUM SYMPOSIA

Spring 2015 Speaker Series



Timely, stimulating topics delivered by today’s leading experts in international affairs, the arts, politics, and economics

**Globe Hall, High Tech Building
Germantown Campus**

Free and open to the public

**HEDRICK SMITH****Author**

Wednesday, February 4

7:00 PM Globe Hall

Winner of Pulitzer Prize

Author of *Who Stole the American Dream?*—published in 2012

Remarkable account of how “we have become two Americas...divided by power, money, and ideology”; Smith traces “the dissolution of American democracy.”

Hedrick Smith, Pulitzer Prize-winning former *New York Times* reporter and editor and Emmy award-winning producer/correspondent, is one of America's most distinguished journalists.

**JENNIFER CLEMENT****Author**

Tuesday, February 24

7:00 PM Globe Hall

Author of *Prayers for the Stolen*—published in 2014

Prayers for the Stolen is a stunning portrait of women in rural Mexico, especially young women stolen and trafficked by drug lords. The novel is based on hundreds of interviews of Mexican women over many years.

“A beautiful, heartrending novel, *Prayers for the Stolen* is a powerful read.” —*Wall Street Journal*

Jennifer Clement is the recipient of the National Endowment of the Arts Fellowship and the Sara Curry Humanitarian Award. She was the President of PEN Mexico; her work focused on the disappearance and killing of journalists.

**ANYA SCHIFFRIN****Author**

Tuesday, March 3

7:00 PM Globe Hall

Author of *Global Muckraking: 100 Years of Investigative Reporting From Around the World*—2014.

Labor abuses, corruption, oil and mining, environment, famine, military and police, and women: ritual killings, sex slaves, and genital cutting— some topics covered in *Global Muckraking*.

Schiffrin, Director of Media and Communications, School of International Affairs, Columbia University, worked 10 years as a journalist in Asia & Europe. Her focus is Media, Human Rights, and Social Change.

**JENNIFER NORDBERG****Author**

Tuesday, March 24

7:00 PM Globe Hall

Author of *The Underground Girls of Kabul: In Search of a Hidden Resistance in Afghanistan*—published in 2014.

Nordberg charts the journey of Afghanistan girls raised as boys through childhood; after puberty, these girls return to the female roles of wives and mothers—the *bacha posh* tradition.

“Nordberg reveals an astonishingly clear picture of this resourceful , if imperfect, solution to the problem of girlhood in a society where women have few rights and overwhelming restrictions.” —*Boston Globe*

Nordberg received the Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting and the Robert F. Kennedy Award in Journalism for her documentary on Afghan women.

**AMBASSADOR AKBAR AHMED****Author**

Tuesday, April 7

7:00 PM Globe Hall

ISIS, War on Terror, and Muslim Community: Coping with a Dangerous World

Author of *The Thistle and the Drone*—published in 2013 . World-renowned scholar, Ahmed draws on 40 case studies in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, and Somalia to reveal the often unrecognized adverse effects of campaigns on the war against terror.

He was awarded the 2014 German Peace Prize. Dr. Ahmed is the Chair of Islamic Studies, American University and former Pakistani Ambassador to UK.

**BRIAN MCNEILL****Renowned Musician**

Wednesday, May 6

7:00 PM Globe Hall

Rousing political protests and traditional Scottish and Appalachian ballads will fill the evening with song.

McNeil is described as Scotland's most meaningful contemporary songwriter. His work and influence as performer, composer, producer, teacher, musical director, bandleader, novelist, and interpreter of Scotland's past, present, and future describe a man who has never stood still.

McNeill is an international Scottish musician and singer, who plays over five instruments.

McNeill's joy and enthusiasm are contagious--the audience will be compelled to sing along at the evening's end.