

RECAP: AUGUST MONTHLY BUSINESS & NETWORKING EVENT

“Don’t be an ‘8AM-5PM’ Indian.” This was Dr. Akshay “A.K.” Desai’s advice at last month’s business and networking meeting held on August 15th at Aqua Bar & Grille located in the Westin Tampa Bay. While the meeting was more of a social mixer event, members had the opportunity to hear a few words from former Indo-US Chamber Board Member Dr. Desai about the importance of seizing opportunities to become an active participant in the Tampa Bay community, especially given that Tampa Bay was recently in the world spotlight while hosting one of the two national political conventions.

Dr. Desai is currently the Chairman of the Board, President and CEO of Universal Health Care Group, Inc. and, earlier this year in February, Dr. Desai was appointed as Finance Committee Chairman of the Republican Party of Florida – the first Indian-American in the U.S. to serve that position for any major political party.

Dr. Desai began with a few words about family and emphasized that, while active community participation is important, family should always come first. Dr. Desai then went on to discuss the value of being more engaged in the mainstream after the typical ‘8AM-5PM’ workday ends. Dr. Desai explained that is very easy to be introverted and point out the flaws in any system or organization; however, by being an active participant, you lose the ability to criticize and gain the opportunity to implement change. For instance, if education is important to you, instead of pointing out perceived flaws, join the local school board and express your ideas for improvement and change because, while networking is important, it is the exchange of ideas that really matters. Dr. Desai advised that taking such opportunities to become more involved goes hand-in-hand with the responsibility and duty of effecting change and having enough faith in yourself and your abilities to follow through with the ideas that you have.

Dr. Desai concluded with a discussion of what he refers to as “the 3 C’s”:

- Competence
- Conviction
- Confidence

In order to implement change and have an exchange of ideas, you must be competent about the particular forum you wish to be involved in. You must also have conviction in your beliefs, because you cannot sell your idea to another if you do not firmly believe in it yourself. And, perhaps most importantly, you must have confidence in yourself - you must learn to trust your judgment and believe that you can make a difference if you choose to take on the responsibility and become actively involved in your community.

The Chamber would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the management and staff of the Aqua Bar & Grille as well as the rest of the Westin Tampa Bay team for their gracious support in hosting the Chamber’s August 15th social mixer. The Aqua Bar & Grille is located in the Westin Tampa Bay at 7627 Courtney Campbell Causeway, Tampa, Florida 33607.



(The Indo-US Chamber of Commerce is a non-partisan organization with no mission or affiliation to any political party.)



INDO-US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SPOTLIGHT

As part of an ongoing monthly series, the Executive Committee of the Indo-US Chamber seeks to highlight integral members that have helped the organization grow and thrive since its inception. This month we highlight **Dr. Pawan Rattan**, one of the Chamber’s original founders.



1. What was your impetus to starting the organization?

“A long time ago, I was invited to a lunch meeting of The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce in downtown Tampa. It was a large gathering and the speaker was someone of national status. I was greeted and treated as “one of them,” and no distinction was made. You have to remember that it was many years ago, when Indians were not considered as part of the mainstream. After coming back from the luncheon, I reflected and realized that I was not considered “one of them” simply because of my profession, but also because of the business aspect of my practice. In the U.S., your capacity to create capital and jobs has a special significance in the community and society in general – business is a great equalizer! So I thought to myself, what if all the Indian-American businesses came together? That day, the Indo-US Chamber of Commerce was conceived.”

2. Was there a lot of community support at the time the organization was founded?

“The idea was for the Chamber to be an equalizer for our community – not to be considered separately as Punjabi, Gujarati, Tamil and so forth, but rather, a way for us to collectively become a part of the greater Tampa Bay community that was now ours and our children’s home. There was 100% support from everybody in the community and there was 1000% support from individuals such as Dilip Kanji – he offered every facility for the Chamber’s needs, including his hotel as a venue for the Chamber’s meetings.”

3. What has impressed you most about the organization’s growth?

“I am pleased by the rapid growth and the greater role the Chamber is playing in the Tampa Bay community at large and I am particularly impressed by the Chamber’s capacity to evolve and adapt to a changing business environment. What probably impresses me the most though, is the next generation’s active participation in the Chamber. I am so proud of what has been accomplished and I think the best is yet to come!”

4. Where do you see the organization going?

“I see the Chamber becoming a major player, not only in the Tampa Bay area, but also at the national level. More importantly, I see the Chamber as an incubator of future business leaders.”

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING FOCUS: UNIQUE STRATEGIES FOR PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL IMPROVEMENT



The Indo-US Chamber of Commerce is honored to host renowned author and speaker Dr. Srikumar S. Rao at our September 19th business and networking meeting. Dr. Rao will share his thoughts on the topic of developing unique strategies for professional and personal improvement within the realm of his Creativity and Personal Mastery program.

Dr. Srikumar Rao is a speaker, former business school professor, and head of The Rao Institute, based out of New York. He created the singularly powerful course Creativity and Personal Mastery, which he has taught at a number of leading

business schools, including Columbia and the London Business School.

Creativity and Personal Mastery (CPM) is based on ancient wisdom traditions, which Dr. Rao has adapted for modern-day business executives and corporations. “CPM can be a powerful transformative experience, and it works because it’s based on the ideas of the greatest thinkers and philosophers of the world.” The course is designed to change lives, to promote contemplation, self-inquiry, deep fulfillment and passion, and joy. The unique approach of CPM is unlike typical corporate/business course offerings, and the rewards are deeply meaningful and enduring.

Hundreds of executives from dozens of major corporations have been altered by CPM, including from such companies as Google, Microsoft, Merrill Lynch, McDonald’s, Chubb, IBM, United Airlines, Allstate, Johnson & Johnson, and others. CPM was so popular when at Columbia Business School that graduates of the course formed an alumni association, which is still a thriving community for all CPM participants today.

Dr. Srikumar Rao has authored two books, *Are You Ready to Succeed and Happiness at Work*, as well as the audio course *The Personal Mastery Program*. Both books have become bestsellers and have been translated into a number of different languages. He has received wide media coverage and acclaim, including articles in the *New York*

Times, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *London Times*, the *Independent*, *Time*, the *Financial Times*, *Fortune*, *Business Week*, the *Guardian*, and *Forbes*; he has also been a speaker for TED, Leading@Google, and Thinkers 50 interview.

Dr. Srikumar Rao received his Ph.D. in Marketing from Columbia University, and worked as an executive for Warner Communications, Continental Group, Data Resources and McGraw Hill.

The Chamber strives to provide an educational platform for new and existing members to learn from leading industry figures such as Dr. Rao, and continually strives to create an inclusive atmosphere for students, business owners, professionals, and entrepreneurs alike. We invite you to join us at our September meeting to meet and build relationships with some of the emerging minds that are helping to shape our local economy. We also encourage you to reach out to one of our Executive Committee members if you have questions about the format of our meetings or to simply offer feedback on how we can make the experience more meaningful for you. As is customary at all our monthly business networking events, dinner will be served and there is no cost to attend.

For more information on our speaker, please visit www.theraoinstitute.com.

The Indo-US Chamber of Commerce is proud to present

11TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5TH 2012

CHEVAL GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, LUTZ
4312 Cheval Blvd, Lutz, FL 33558 - 813.948.2114

Registration/Lunch: 12:00pm
Shotgun Start: 1:00pm

Entry Fee: \$150 per player or \$500 per foursome
(includes: lunch, green fees, cart, dinner, awards ceremony, on-course refreshments and contests)
*form your own foursome or request to be placed on a team.

Prizes: 1st, 2nd & 3rd; Longest Drive and Closest to the pin

Checks to “Indo-US Chamber of Commerce”
P.O. Box 2032, Tampa, FL 33622 or pay online at www.indo-us.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Kamlesh C Darji: 813-463-8147
Jal Irani: 813-451-8229

Upcoming Indo-US Chamber Events:

Monthly Business & Networking Event

Date: Wednesday September 19, 2012
Time: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Speaker: Dr. Srikumar Rao
Topic: Creative and Personal Mastery
Location: HCI Corporate Office Headquarters (5300 W. Cypress St., Tampa, FL 33607)
This is a FREE event. No RSVP required. Dinner will be served.

11th Annual Golf Tournament

Date: Friday October 5, 2012
Time: 1:00 PM shotgun start
Location: Cheval Golf & Country Club (4312 Cheval Blvd., Lutz, FL 33558)
Tournament Coordinator: Kamlesh Darji (813.841.9216)

INDO-US CHAMBER MISSION

“To provide an active forum in which Asian American professionals and business owners, through an exchange of ideas, with a unified voice, can communicate, interact, and secure a position within the business industry and become a source of inspiration by promoting professionalism and excellence through education and community involvement.”

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