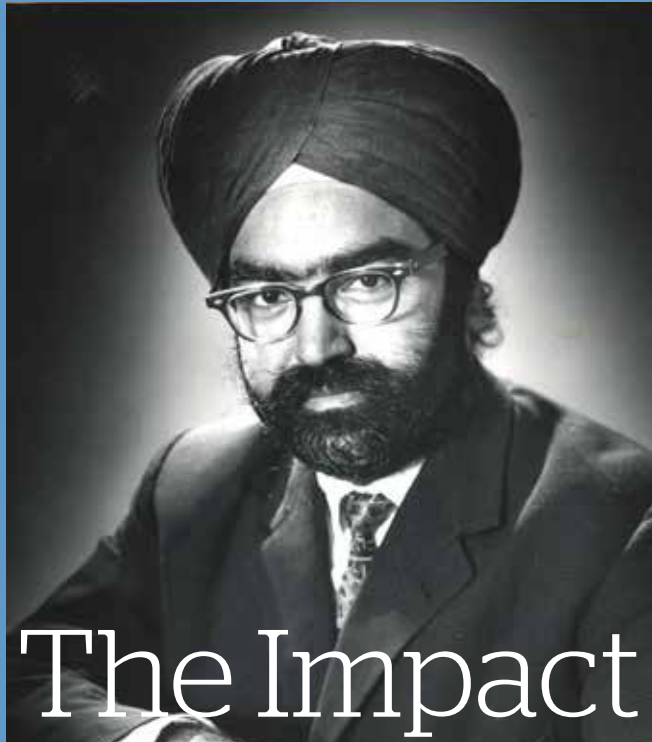




COUNCIL OF
INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMS USA

Training for a Changing World



The Impact of CIP:
The Story of
Pritam Bhatia PhD



The Impact of CIP: The Story of Pritam Bhatia PhD

“If not for CIP, I wouldn’t have been born.”



In the early 1950s as the U.S. was recovering from the Second World War, Dr. Henry B. Ollendorff brought 25 Germans to the U.S. for youth leadership training as a way to reconnect the United States to post-war Germany. This program, based in Cleveland, Ohio, eventually attracted participants from all over the world who sought training in a wide range of professional fields. As the popularity of the program increased, affiliate offices were opened across the U.S.

In the early 1960s the Council of International Programs was formed to serve as the umbrella organization to recruit and direct affiliate offices located nationwide. Today we are known as the Council of International Programs USA or simply CIPUSA. Since our beginning, CIPUSA has brought over 10,000 international professionals from 147 countries to the U.S. for practical training in an array of disciplines. Our program is designed to address each participant’s professional, and educational goals while encouraging awareness and understanding of cultural differences.

This provocative statement from Devinder Bhatia, a cardiologist based in Houston, Texas, captures the essence of a phone call he made to our office in the spring of 2018 seeking to learn more about his father’s involvement as an early participant in the Council of International Programs back in 1962.

Pritam Bhatia, Devinder’s father, was a natural candidate for CIP’s inaugural programming. As a child, Pritam’s family was ever supportive of his diligence, first forging paperwork for him to begin working at a young age, and later throwing him a party to celebrate his acceptance to CIP’s program, enthusiastically encouraging his next bold adventure. Pritam possessed the perfect disposition for an overseas learning experience. As Devinder puts it, Pritam was “very gregarious — people gravitated to him.”

America

He entered the program as a 30-year-old Fulbright scholar, already fluent in five languages. Pritam arrived in New York City in 1962 to begin his program with CIP, one of 120 participants in the initial cohort from 34 different countries. In these early years, all participants began the program with a visit to the United Nations in New York City for not only an orientation on a new country, but also a perspective on the U.S. partnership among all nations. Pritam and his fellow participants were given a first-class welcome to America, its people, and its government starting with meetings with State Department officials and experts.

It was then off to Cleveland, Ohio to begin the formal part of the program. While in Cleveland, Pritam participated in a 4-week long orientation, which allowed him to develop friendships with his fellow program participants and gain a deeper understanding of the U.S. through local experts in history, social work, community organizing, and education. In addition to attending lectures and visiting various organizations around the city, Pritam was also able to briefly work in a variety of Cleveland social service organizations.



Canterbury School, Cleveland Heights, OH

At the end of the Cleveland experience, participants scattered to locations across the U.S. to delve into their area of interest and expertise. Pritam found himself in Chicago for his internship with the Jane Addams Hull House Association. The Jane Addams Hull House Association was one of Chicago’s largest nonprofit social welfare organizations. Its mission was to improve social conditions for underserved people and communities by providing creative, innovative programs and by advocating for related public policy reforms.

At the end of his program, Pritam and his fellow participants visited Washington DC in 1962, where we believe a chance meeting took place between Pritam and then-Attorney General Robert Kennedy beginning a personal



Training for a Changing World
The Lake Forester
(Chicago) May, 1962

a position as Director of Hough-Norwood Family Health Care Center in the Department of Alcoholism. Hough was the epicenter of racial unrest, culminating in the Hough Riots in 1966.

It wasn’t long before his passion for learning drove Pritam to continue his education at Case Western Reserve University. It was there that he obtained his PhD in 1976; his doctoral thesis was entitled “An Evaluation Model for Alcoholism Programs.”

Pritam’s personal life was also flourishing in the midst of all of his academic and professional growth: He met 20-year-old Sandra Hass at a social event at a west-side community center. Sandra, who worked for University Hospitals, would become Pritam’s wife and life partner in 1965, and the two started a family together after settling in their Cleveland Heights home at 3366 Bradford Road. Devinder was the eldest of their four children. He attended Canterbury School, a ten-minute walk from home.

The family moved when Pritam accepted a position in the academic administration at a university in Arkansas in 1977. He authored and edited several publications related to social work and alcohol addiction during this time. Pritam traveled the world attending conferences, often playing the diplomat to attendees from across the globe. His knowledge of multiple languages made him a central figure at many of these events. The truest testament to Pritam’s indelible geniality and goodwill was when Pritam served as personal host and tour guide to Senator J. William Fulbright and his daughter during their trip to India. His outstanding English speaking ability was one of many reasons that he received this honor.

True to his nature, Pritam made connections and friends throughout his life. Devinder recounts the friendship between his father and then-Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton. While Governor, Clinton initially asked Pritam to advise him on social and human service issues, which lead to their eventual friendship. The two spent occasional weekends together hiking in Pinnacle Mountain State Park, climbing the one thousand foot peak together.



The Hough riots were riots in the predominantly African-American community of Hough (pronounced ‘Huff’) in Cleveland, Ohio, which took place from July 18 to 23, 1966. During the riots, four African Americans were killed and 50 people were injured. There were 275 arrests and numerous incidents of arson and fire-bombings. City officials at first blamed black nationalist and communist organizations for the riots, but historians generally dismiss these claims today, arguing that the cause of the Hough Riots were primarily poverty and racism. The riots caused rapid population loss and economic decline in the area, which lasted at least five decades after the riots.



The Impact of CIP: The Story of Pritam Bhatia PhD

“Who am I and where did I come from?”

A Legacy

In many ways, Pritam led a charmed and remarkable life in America. It’s a romantic story — larger than life in so many ways. Born halfway across the globe, Pritam left his home of India to learn about social work and the culture of the United States, eventually becoming a U.S. citizen in the late 1960s or early 1970s. It’s no wonder that this lifelong journey in discovery led to his son’s great curiosity and query: “Who am I and where did I come from?”

Pritam died in Arkansas in 1994. For Pritam Bhatia, he lived and achieved the consummate American Dream. Not only establishing a professional life that contributed to the improvement of individual lives and community, but creating a loving family and establishing a legacy of intellectual and academic achievement passed on to his son, Dr. Devinder Bhatia.

When Pritam died in 1994, his son Devinder was in the operating room conducting a transplant operation. In the adjacent room, another surgeon was removing Pritam’s lung to be transplanted into another patient.

Dr. Devinder Bhatia



Devinder and Gina Bhatia

Devinder was rebellious as teen. Long hair and informal clothing defined his young persona. He is the eldest of four and the only male. His sisters are a nurse, publicist, and florist.

Like many teenagers, his parents’ influence became evident later in life. Driven, ambitious, and intellectually curious, Devinder has become one of this country’s leading physicians, and like his father a gregarious, affable, and generous community leader.

Gina and Devinder met in 1994 on a plane to New Orleans. Together they have created the next chapter of the American Dream. Through their actions, spirit and philanthropy, they model their parents best qualities and set an example for their own children.



James William Fulbright (April 9, 1905 – February 9, 1995) was a United States Senator representing Arkansas from January 1945 until his resignation in December 1974. Fulbright is the longest serving chairman in the history of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He was a Southern Democrat and a staunch multi-lateralist who supported the creation of the United Nations. Fulbright opposed McCarthyism and the House Un-American Activities Committee and later became known for his opposition to American involvement in the Vietnam War. His efforts to establish an international exchange program eventually resulted in the creation of a fellowship program which bears his name, the Fulbright Program.

The Council of International Programs was created to bring tolerance and understanding among peoples from around the world. The hope - find our common humanity to bring a better life to all through a demonstration of our differing perspectives and common humanity.



100 North Main St. Suite #309
Chagrin Falls OH 44022

www.cipusa.org
440.247.1088
info@cipusa.org

cipusa
 @cipglobal