



August 2009

A non-profit organization dedicated to the overall achievement and advancement of South Asian professionals.

Volume 1, Number 5

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About NetIP

The Network of Indian Professionals is a not for profit organization dedicated to the professional and cultural development, community service, philanthropy and the overall advancement of South Asian Americans and the communities in which we work and live.

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NetIP Phoenix 2009 Board

Rita Dangarwala
President

Poonam Patel
VP of Member Relations

Onika Patel

Check out our Website for up to date information about NetIP Phoenix, membership, and upcoming events!

Member Spotlight: Brintha Gardner, Mrs. India America 2009

Every month, NetIP Phoenix will be spotlighting a different NetIP Phoenix member to get their insight into various topics.

This month's spotlight is on Brintha Gardner who was crowned this year's Mrs. India America earlier this month at a national pageant in Long Beach, CA. Here is a little about Brintha in her own words:

I was raised and did my schooling in Saudi Arabia and India (Chennai). I arrived in the United States in 2002 to pursue graduate studies. After successfully completing a dual MBA, my path led me to a position opening for a database professional in the Development office at the university. It was here that my exposure to the fundraising world began.

Four years of nonprofit experience later I found myself lacking an overall understanding of this field.

To educate myself on nonprofit operations I enrolled myself in the Masters in Nonprofit Studies program at Arizona State University. I have since discovered that there are several facets to this sector and the learning process only continues to be enriching.

On arriving to Phoenix a year ago to live near family, I felt a mixed bag of emotions. Of course at the time, the city was experiencing its hottest phase of summer. The climate and not knowing anyone at first were the two elements that made me uncertain about the move. Not anymore. I am now a big fan of the weather, the dining & entertainment selections and cultural diversity in the community. People at my work, school and NetIP have been very welcoming and gracious. In a nutshell, my husband, Brett and I have found a home in Arizona.

Congratulations on being crowned Mrs. India America 2009!! Can you share with us a little about your experience and what made you decide to participate in the pageant?

There was definitely a period of time filled with stress and anxiety. That passed a day before the main event when one of the contestants from the Miss pageant approached me. I can't remember the exact words she said but it was somewhere along the lines of 'I hope you win. You inspire me with your community service efforts. You have a true purpose for being here.' I can't tell you how much those words affected me. That was a very eye-opening and grounding moment for me.

I want so much to be an ambassador to nonprofits and to be a positive role model in societies both here and back home in India. I felt participating in this pageant would help me achieve this goal. Since winning I have been promoting awareness of several meaningful causes. My approach is to lead by example.

How did you prepare for the pageant?

My family and friends helped me get the resources together that equipped me to perform



VP of Events

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Committee Co-Chair

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Technology Committee
Chair

*NetIP Phoenix
would like to
welcome*

*Lance Hashim
to the NetIP
Phoenix Board, as
the chapter's new
Corporate Liaison as
well as*

*Sumeet Bhandari
as the our new
Secretary!!*

well. I couldn't have done it without them. Practicing walking and smiling simultaneously was a challenge.

Can you tell us a little about the Platform you chose to support for the pageant?

My personal platform is Thirst Relief International (TRI). They are a water development non-profit organization that provides access to safe and clean water in rural areas of many countries. They have eight water projects. Their project in Coimbatore, India was the one that caught my attention at first and led me to learn more about their mission. Unclean water is the world's second biggest cause of death for children. This is very sad but doesn't always have to be the case. We truly can make a change, together. To give you an idea of the breakdown on how you can make a difference, here is what the project snapshot looks like:

Intervention: Shallow drilled wells at 9 schools
Location: Coimbatore, India
Budget: \$23,000
Schools targeted: 9
Students impacted: 2,675
Cost per school : \$2,500
Cost per student: \$8.60

Please visit their website www.thirstrelief.org to see how you can help today.

What can South Asian professionals in the Valley do to become more involved in philanthropic efforts?

To start off, think of a cause that means the most to you. Then research to find a nonprofit that supports it. Next depending on your availability and resources you can either donate money and help financially or donate time and help by volunteering. Spreading awareness about the cause also helps tremendously.

If you don't have a specific nonprofit in mind, be open to helping out causes around you. It could be at your local food bank, a walk-a-thon, helping at an event fundraiser, being an activist or advocate for a cause. The options to help are endless and the need now is greater than ever.

Visit my website www.brinthagardner.com to see which events I support and participate in. Get involved today!

What does your typical day consist of?

Work, school assignments, research and reporting for my internship program with a United Nations partner organization, watching television and having dinner with my husband.

What is one piece of advice someone has given you that you would like to share with others?

"It is great to be unique, it is unique to be different, it is different to be yourself."

NetIP Phoenix Presents: Entrepreneurship 101

We're excited to bring you a series of events aimed at anyone thinking about starting a business or just interested in the subject of Entrepreneurship!

Join us for a series of collaborative events featuring Lance Hashim (MBA, LUTCF) of New York Life, Kaplan, corporate partners, and professors from Arizona's Business Schools!

This series is for anyone interested in starting a business, or even thinking about it! This course will suit any industry and can be specified to your field! The first event, "Getting Started in the Business World" was a great success, thanks to all who attended! The remaining four courses are currently being planned with details to come.

Course Overview:

<p>COURSE 2: "Jump Start Your Business Dream"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Your Business Idea *How to find your strengths *Planning for the future *Things to consider (what type of entity? LLC, PLLC, etc?)
<p>COURSE 3: "Business Toolkit and Resources"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *What is necessary to start your business (what tools/resources do you need or already have?) *How to prepare to start your own business

COURSE 4: "Business Implementation"

- *Contacts, Resources, Bartering, Networking, Capital/Overhead, and the likes.
- *Ironing it all out!

COURSE 5: "Financial Planning and the future of your business"

- *Managing your money and profits
- *How to protect yourself
- *Planning for your future and your family

To gain the maximum amount of value from this series, we will have worksheets and take home work after each of the "courses". If "students" complete all of the worksheets, they will have the opportunity to have a 1:1 session with a business advisor to further their development.

For more information or to request more information be presented in regards to a specific business field, please email Entrepreneurship101@netipphoenix.org

Survey: We want to hear from you!

In order to better provide you with useful and fun events, we want your feedback on what NetIP Phoenix has been up to and what you'd like to see from us in the future! Please take a few minutes to answer our quick 10 questions survey:

NETIP PHOENIX SURVEY 2009

We thank you in advance for your time and valuable feedback!

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for NetIP Phoenix's future events!

Check out the latest information on upcoming events on our **Website Calendar**, the NetIP Phoenix Group on **Facebook**, and **Twitter** (<http://twitter.com/netipphoenix>). Also look out for our monthly Events Bulletins!

August

Saturday, August 29th – NetIP Phoenix goes Rock Climbing

Time: 11am-2pm

Location: ClimbMax Gym, 1330 W. Auto Drive Suite 108, Tempe, AZ 85284 - www.climbmaxgym.com

Cost: \$10 for Members, \$15 for Non-members

Please RSVP at socialevents@netipphoenix.org

If you have ever thought of rock-climbing, here's your chance to do it with your friends at NetIP! It is a fully air-conditioned, indoor facility with all equipment included the price. There will also be an instructor to teach the basics of rock-climbing. You must not miss out on this great chance to try something new, or show off your skills, while meeting some great people in the Phoenix area!!

September

September 4th-6th - 18th Annual NetIP Conference – Toronto

Join NetIP members from across North America for NetIP's 18th Annual Conference in Toronto, Canada! The 2009 Conference aims to leave each participant inspired, empowered and committed to achieve excellence. From conception to implementation to execution, the conference ethos will consistently reflect its theme: **Believe! Create! Achieve!**

For conference details and registration visit the official conference website at www.netipconference.org

Thursday, September 10th – 2nd Thursdays Networking Mixer and Business Card Exchange

Time: 5:30pm-8pm

Location: La Bocca Urban Pizzeria + Wine Bar, 699 S. Mill Ave, Tempe, AZ 85281 – www.laboccapizzeria.com

Cost: FREE for Members

Voted Top 25 Restaurant by Phoenix Magazine and Awarded Four Stars by AZCentral.com. Come mix and mingle with other South Asian professionals from around the Valley!

Saturday, September 12th – Books for Africa Volunteer Service Event

Time: 6:30am-11am

Location: Central Self-Storage, 5333 S. Priest Rd, Tempe, AZ 85283

Cost: Free event from members and non-members

The Books for Africa Library Project needs a bunch of strong arms on the morning of Saturday, September 12, to transfer 1,400 cartons of books from storage units in Tempe to an 8' x 8' x 40' shipping container. This is a great charity event which helps provide educational opportunities and everyone is welcome to come out and help.

October

Thursday, October 8th – 2nd Thursdays Networking Mixer and Business Card Exchange

Time: 5:30pm-8pm

Location: TBA

Cost: FREE for Members

Recap of Past Events

You can check out pictures of our past events on our website - [NetIP Phoenix Photos](#)

- Members of NetIP Phoenix volunteered their time at **St. Mary's Food Bank** in Phoenix on Saturday July 18th. Thanks to all who donated their time and energy to give back to the community!

- We had a great turnout at this month's **First Friday Artwalk** on August 7th, thanks to all those that attended!! It was a great way to experience art and culture in the heart of Downtown Phoenix.

- This month's **2nd Thursdays Networking Mixer and Business Card Exchange** was held at Furio in Old Town Scottsdale on August 13th. There were many new faces at this month's event, we hope you enjoyed yourselves and made some great new contacts!

- On Saturday August 15th, many NetIP member and non-members met up for the **Sonu Nigam Concert** at Phoenix Symphony Hall.

- This month's Chai Chat event on August 20th was postponed due an invitation we were able to extend to our members for an exclusive event and the opportunity to meet the **Consul General of India, Mrs. Susmita Gongulee Thomas**. NetIP Members took full advantage of this excellent opportunity and participated in a community conversation on various topics with the Consul General at Dorrance Hall in the Desert Botanical Garden.

Become A Member Today!

The benefits of membership just keep getting better!!

As a member of NetIP Phoenix, you will get free or discounted entry to many of our events, not just at a local level but on a national level as well! We are continuously working to provide our NetIP members VALUE to their membership!

As NetIP Phoenix grows, so do the benefits of becoming a member, with more frequent and diverse events, the networking possibilities (and savings) are endless!!

*All NetIP Phoenix members receive FREE entry to our Monthly Social Networking Mixers! The math is simple - at \$5 per monthly social networking event, a \$40 membership saves you at least \$20 annually!

COUPLES MEMBERSHIP RATES!!! You and your spouse/domestic partner can become NetIP Phoenix members for a special rate of only \$70!

NetIP Phoenix's Annual Membership Fee is \$40/individual and \$70/couple.

Membership is open to all adults age 21 and over.

Go to www.netipphoenix.org and click "Join Now!" to sign up.

Committee Spotlight: Political Awareness Committee

The Political Awareness committee focuses on current U.S. government policy and issues affecting Arizona and our South Asian community. Our events aim towards providing exposure to complex political issues and feature guest speakers from the government sector and local industries to promote awareness of issues and encourage the involvement of South Asian professionals in our community.

In addition to guest speaker events, we host public forums that allow members of NetIP and the community to voice concerns regarding current affairs. The forums are of relevance to the Phoenix Metropolitan area, the state of Arizona, as well as the South Asian community. Key experts from government, business, and academia are invited to participate in our forums to act as a resource and provide current information while answering relevant questions.

Our ongoing monthly "Chai Chat" round table discussions have been a great success while fostering heated and informative discussions on topics relevant to South Asians living in the Valley.

Currently in the works is an event featuring **Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon** who will be sharing his vision and involvement in the green movement. This event is in the process of being planned with more information to come soon!

As always, our committee welcomes the feedback and involvement of all members to help plan future events. Committee meeting times are flexible and are designed to accommodate the varying schedules of the group. Please contact the Professional Development Committee Chair, [Josh George](#), if you are interested in getting involved!

Committee Involvement



Want to get involved in NetIP Phoenix?

We have several committees that plan the various events that NetIP Phoenix hosts. For more information on the committees, meeting times, and how you can get involved, contact the following Committee Chairs:

- **Cultural Awareness Committee:** Monali Shah - monali.shah99@gmail.com
- **Professional Development Committee:** Renuka Laddu - renukaladdu@gmail.com
- **Social Committee:** Pooja Suresh – poojasdds@yahoo.com & Ashar Zaman – ashartz@yahoo.com
- **Political Awareness Committee:** Josh George – joshgeorge83@gmail.com
- **Community Service Committee:** Jatin Shah – jatin.shah@netipphoenix.org
- **Technology Committee** – Murugan Patham – M_k_patham@yahoo.com

Corporate Partnerships



The Network of Indian Professionals – Phoenix Chapter is proud to partner with [Jobing.com](#) to provide you with the most comprehensive listing of employment opportunities throughout Arizona.

<http://netipphoenix.jobing.com/>

If you're interested in becoming a Corporate Partner of NetIP Phoenix, contact our Corporate Liaison, Lance Hashim at lance.hashim@netipphoenix.org