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Sabeen Ali, founder and CEO of AngelHack. (usfca.edu photo)

Six Indian Americans are among eight South Asians joining former Secretary of State Colin Powell and Walmart founder Sam Walton on the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business's inaugural list of "100 Influential Leaders."

"Throughout the past 100 years, business graduates can be found across all facets and levels of commerce — in large corporations, small business, the nonprofit industry, the public sector and government alike — pioneering change, fostering global exchange, and improving quality of life," noted the AACSB, in its announcement of the list Sept. 22.

"The story of how alumni have positively influenced society through their actions and ideas is one that should be told," stated the Tampa, Florida-based organization, which will celebrate its centennial next year. "If told, the success stories of all business school graduates would fill immeasurable volumes."

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“The Influential Leaders Challenge recognizes business schools for their work in developing exceptional leaders and industry innovators, and the 100 individuals announced today represent a global medley of alumni, with diversity across industry, background, position, culture, gender and age,” said AACSB president Thomas Robinson in a press statement.

“We congratulate our inaugural group, and thank their nominating schools for providing both a solid business foundation, as well as the encouragement for all alumni to engender dramatic community or social change,” he said.

AACSB-accredited colleges were allowed to submit their nominations for the list from April to June 2015.

In alphabetical order, the list includes:

Sabeen Ali, founder and CEO of AngelHack

Sabeen Ali, a graduate of the University of San Francisco's Masung School of Management, has worked throughout her career to advocate for an increased presence and visibility of women in technology. In addition to her role as CEO of AngelHack, Ali has also founded the nonprofit organization Code For a Cause, which teaches women and young girls how to code.

“Code is a universal language that it speaks to equality, because it does not reveal gender, race, or class in the end result,” said Ali in a press statement about the list. “Being an entrepreneur and possessing that spirit means finding the opportunities to advance within any environment,” she said.

AngelHack's mission is to help corporate change-makers throughout the world drive open innovation for products, platforms and brands by connecting them to the world's hacker community. The company's outreach initiatives are crafted to help corporate change-makers connect with the workforce of the future.

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Subha Barry, vice president and general manager of Working Mother Media

Subha Barry traveled from India to the U.S. to attend Rice University's Jones Graduate School of Business. Her AACSB profile states that in an effort to overcome the social stigma of leaving home unmarried back in the early 1980s, she was determined to become successful.

After graduation, Barry joined Merrill Lynch and worked with the corporation to recognize the investment needs of minority populations, and built up its base of formerly under-represented clients.

In 2001, Barry launched the Merrill Lynch's multicultural business development group with a budget of \$500,000. She built a global virtual team that delivered over \$8 billion in assets and \$45 million in revenues within three years, representing female, South Asian, Hispanic, African American, Native American, LGBT and disabled clients.

At Merrill Lynch, Barry also implemented programs that addressed the attrition of women at senior levels.

Barry now heads up Working Mother Media, which publishes Working Mother magazine and its website, the Working Mother Research Institute, the National Association for Female Executives, and Diversity Best Practices. The six-time cancer survivor remains on the front lines of the fight against cancer through the Cancer Institute of New Jersey, and also coaches professionals diagnosed with cancer who struggle to balance their health, life and work. Barry is the chair of the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey Advisory Council, and she was honored with a Life Hero Award from the Val Skinner Foundation.

Kaushal Dugar, founder of Teabox

Kaushal Dugar, who graduated from the Singapore Management University Lee Kong Chian School of Business, is credited with re-purposing the 200-year-old Indian tea industry and leveraging technology and supply chains to build India's first billion-dollar tea company. "We have successfully managed to create a scalable, global brand in our three years of existence, and we have shipped 20 million cups of teas to customers in 75 countries," noted Dugar in his AACSB bio.

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The company has designed an application that predicts the sorts of teas the purchaser would choose, based on user preferences and a complex algorithm. Teabox has cut out the “middleman,” shipping teas directly from producer to consumer.

Dugar began his career by providing refurbished computers to low-income people in India. Dugar is also the co-founder of the non-profit organization, Books to Read, which aims to help young children in developing nations gain access to books with the goal of improving literacy. Most recently, Dugar ran a campaign which collected 100,000 books for children in Tanzania and Zambia.

The entrepreneur is also a founding member of Sandbox Network, a global community of young achievers and innovators committed to transforming ideas into action.

Fiza Farhan, CEO of the Buksh Foundation

Fiza Farhan, a graduate of the Warwick School of Business at the University of Warwick in England, noticed that in Pakistan, her home country, the vast majority of low-income households as well as some rural hospitals used kerosene lamps for lighting.

According to the World Bank, breathing kerosene fumes is the equivalent of smoking two packets of cigarettes a day, and two-thirds of adult females with lung cancer in developing nations are nonsmokers. Kerosene lamps are widely used across Asia and Africa despite the fact that the smoke from them is responsible for acute respiratory infections like influenza and pneumonia, and leads to the death of approximately two million children in developing nations each year, according to the World Bank.

Farhan launched the Buksh Foundation in Pakistan in 2013, with the aim of “lighting one million lives” through solar lamps purchased through a microfinance scheme. Since the organization’s launch, 37,000 households in 150 villages in Pakistan have been “electrified.”

Farhan has partnered with USAID and Pakistani cricketer and politician Imran Khan to set up solar charging stations and shops for women in villages to sell the solar lamps.

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“The impact has been amazing. Babies are healthier, and more survive birth thanks to this scheme,” stated Farhan in her AACSB bio. “Also children can now read and study at night, and the fear of fire has been removed, as the kerosene burned down many straw houses.”

“This is something I could never have perceived; it is an immensely impactful but very scalable business model,” said the young social entrepreneur, who has also been listed in Forbes' 30 under 30 list of the world's young business leaders tipped to make an impact on the world.

Don Mohanlal, executive director of the National 4-H Council

Don Mohanlal, a graduate of the Indian School of Business, has “been doing stellar youth development work in social spaces across the world, including the Balkans, the United States, India, China and over 110 countries,” noted the AACSB in its announcement of the list. Currently the director of the National 4-H Council, the U.S.'s largest youth development and mentoring organization, Mohanlal previously served as the executive vice president and managing director of the International Youth Foundation. The Foundation, funded by the W. Kellogg Foundation, is one of the most well-recognized youth organizations in the world with affiliates in 60 countries.

After the Kosovo War ended in 1999, Mohanlal partnered with President Martti Ahtissari of Finland, who had successfully mediated the end to that war, to establish the first Balkan-wide organization, the Balkans Children and Youth Foundation. He has also established youth foundations in Germany, Slovakia, Poland and the Philippines.

Mohanlal also set up the first international partnerships for youth development in Israel, Jordan and Palestine, and assembled a coalition of youth organizations to lead one of the largest youth-related HIV/AIDS-prevention programs in Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

Mohanlal also serves as the vice chair at the Nand & Jeet Khemka Foundation, based in India. The foundation aims to substantially reduce poverty in India, and focuses on marginalized communities with an emphasis on women and children.

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M.R. (Madhavan) Rangaswami, co-founder of the Sand Hill Group

M.R. Rangaswami, a graduate of Kent State University's College of Business Administration, held global VP of marketing positions at Oracle, Avalon Software and Baan Company before founding the Sand Hill group in 1997.

“As an early angel investor in Silicon Valley, he passionately mentored successful IT startups.

“His capability to determine which firms had capacity to succeed as well as his hands-on work with startup principals created a new model for launching technology startups around the world,” noted the AACSB, adding: “Rangaswami’s work as an angel investment innovator has impacted the landscape of startup financing, fueling the growth of high-tech entrepreneurship.”

In 2004, his Sand Hill Group launched The Software Conference Series, which has annually brought together the biggest names in the information technology industry to explore future changes in IT and their potential impact on the business community. In 2008, inspired by his interviews with more than 70 global business leaders, he founded the Corporate Eco Forum to create a neutral space where senior business leaders gather annually to strategize and exchange best-practice insights to accelerate sustainable business innovation.

In 2011, Rangaswami co-hosted the NASSCOM Product Conclave, which brought together thousands of IT entrepreneurs and experts throughout India to teach them how to raise money and sell and market their products and services. To date, more than 5,000 entrepreneurs have gone through this annual program.

The San Francisco, Calif.-based investor is also the founder of Indiaspora, a nonprofit organization to support the well-being of Indians and Indian Americans and their movement to positions of influence across the world.

Punit Renjen, CEO of Deloitte Global

Punit Renjen grew up in the small town of Rohtak, in Haryana state after the family fled Pakistan during partition. He initially studied at the elite Lawrence School in Sanawar but was forced to

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return home and study at a local school when his father's electric switchgear business faced tough economic times.

Renjen worked part-time at his father's factory while going to school and college. According to a profile in Quartz, Renjen took a bus to his first job interview with Usha International in New Delhi, about 50 miles from his home, arriving in jeans and without a tie. He got the job with the sewing machines manufacturer.

Renjen arrived in the U.S. in 1984 on a Rotary Foundation Scholarship, to attend Willamette University's Atkinson Graduate School of Management in Oregon. He arrived in the U.S. with \$200 and two pairs of jeans, according to Quartz.

After business school, Renjen took a job with Touche Ross, which merged with Deloitte Haskins & Sells in 1989. He never left the consulting company and rose from analyst to head up the global corporation.

The AACSB noted that Renjen's meteoric rise has been built on his core skill of mergers and acquisitions. During his tenure, the consulting practice experienced tremendous growth despite an ongoing recession, helping Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited become the largest global consulting provider.

Along with his partners and directors, Renjen guided Deloitte Consulting LLP to be recognized as one of the "2010 Best Firms to Work For" by Consulting magazine and as one of the top firms in Vault's Guide to the Top 50 Management and Strategy Consulting Firms, noted the AACSB.

Paul Shrivastava, Executive Director of Future Earth

Paul Shrivastava, who graduated from the University of Pittsburgh's Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business, is the executive director of Future Earth, a major United Nations initiative focused on addressing the issue of global sustainability. Future Earth brings together more than 60,000 scientists from diverse backgrounds around the world, with the goal of stabilizing and mitigating damage to the ecological and political systems in the face of climate change's effects.

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“Future Earth was designed to bridge the gap between disciplines like science and business, which often tend to operate in their own silos,” said Shrivastava in his AACSB bio.

“Most individuals would be daunted by the scale and the scope of this work, but not Shrivastava,” stated the AACSB. “He believes that business is the engine of wealth creation. He also believes that businesses most directly impact sustainability, determining what goods are produced, how they are produced, and where they are produced.”

Shrivastava hails from Bhopal, and has written extensively about the impact of the 1984 Union Carbide plant explosion on the city's residents, many of whom are still dealing with polluted groundwater at a radius of more than one and a half miles from the now-shuttered factory.

Shrivastava founded the nonprofit Industrial Crisis Institute in New York to mediate conflicts among Union Carbide Corporation, the government of India, and the thousands of victims. In response, he started the Industrial Crisis Quarterly.

Shrivastava also co-founded the Organizations & Natural Environment division of the Academy of Management, which now has hundreds of members around the globe.

Before joining Future Earth, Shrivastava formerly served as director of the David O'Brien Center for Sustainable Enterprise at Concordia University's Molson School of Business in Montreal.