

# Net Impact Club Footprints Faculty Award 2008



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Today at the Footprints Conference, Duke MBA Net Impact honored Pranab Majumder with the Footprints Faculty Award. This award recognizes faculty members who bring issues such as environmental sustainability, social entrepreneurship, and responsible business into classes not already dedicated to these topics.

In the last year alone, Pranab has been a great supporter of our club outside the classroom. He served as a judge for Bonding of the Blues (our social venture idea competition that places Duke and UNC students on the same teams) and has attended a number of our other events including lunch with Ashoka Fellow Jerroo Billamoria.

In the classroom, Pranab has brought several environmental issues such as product recovery and waste reduction into his operations courses. Perhaps most notable is the India GATE he has taught for the past several years. Pranab incorporates microfinance, social entrepreneurship, corporate social responsibility, and sustainability into the course content and in-country site visits and debriefs. In addition, he pays

particular attention to the themes of poverty and health. Pranab is diligent in making sure each and every student has a meaningful experience, both educationally and personally.

Below are quotes from two of Pranab's students.

“The first point I would like to make is that Pranab is the only professor who is one of my LinkedIn connections. This demonstrates how much Pranab enjoys and respects us not only as students but as friends and colleagues for life. We're only at Fuqua for two years and though many of us build lasting friendships and connections with our classmates, it can often feel like a transient two years because most people expect to go in different directions once we're finished. Pranab is a professor who tries to build a community here at Fuqua and in many ways is a friendly, stabilizing force as we each go through a somewhat tumultuous two years. He is probably the most generous person I have ever met. He shares a huge amount of his time, his home, his knowledge, his humor, and his background. Open, genuine, and generous are three words that I would choose to describe Pranab. He exemplifies what it means to build community, and if there were more people in the world as generous as Pranab, this world would be an incredible place.”

“Pranab's passion for sharing his own Indian culture with every single one of us on the GATE trip shown through. His sincere desire to expose us, in his own special way, to a new land and culture that has very different attitudes towards poverty made my own experience in India that much more moving. Pranab did not just want us to gain an appreciation for the opportunities we have grown up with in our home country; he wanted us to see through the poverty that was so in-your-face and instead see the hope and potential that is so evident in the eyes of all the Indian people we encountered, rich or poor.”

Personally, I have been fortunate enough to take 2 courses with Pranab. His enthusiasm and passion shine through everyday. I can say hands down that my recent trip to India was by far the best trip of my life, definitely life changing. I have Pranab to thank for that.