

Athenaeum Symposia

Spring 2012 Speaker Series

Hosted by Montgomery College
Germantown Campus:
Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education Division

Free to students and public

Location: Montgomery College, 20200 Observation Drive,
Germantown, MD 20876
Germantown Campus, High Tech Building, Globe Hall

No Reservations Required.

For questions, contact Joan Naake at 240-567-7746 or
email: joan.naake@montgomerycollege.edu

Speakers and Dates for Spring 2012:

Wednesday, February 1, 2012; 7:00 p.m.

Robert Blake, Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs

A discussion on the Role of South and Central Asia in a Global Society: The Importance of US Involvement in the Region and Its Impact on the US Economy and Global Workforce.

Wednesday, February 15, 2012; 7:00 p.m.

Don Bliss, attorney and historian, great grandson of Mark Twain's publisher, author of the *Return of Haley's Comet*.

The Politics of Mark Twain—his book will be published within the year. Bliss writes: "As recent events have renewed interest in Mark Twain, it is timely to revisit his commentary on American politics, government, and foreign policy."

Wednesday, March 21, 2012; 7:00 p.m.

Patrick Beldio, sculptor, philosopher, and teacher.

Patrick Beldio will draw on his diverse experience and achievements in the discussion: The Future of Art: Re-Enchantment in Contemporary Art.

Wednesday, April 11, 2012; 7:00 p.m.

Frank Islam, entrepreneur, chairman and CEO of FI Investment Group, and author of *Renewing the American Dream*.

This Entrepreneur of the Year will discuss The Global Economy and Renewing the American Dream.

For accommodations, please call 240-567-7767 or 240-567-6967

About Our Speakers

February 1, 2012

Robert Blake was the Ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Maldives from 2006 to 2009. Prior to that position, Blake served for 3 years as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Mission in New Delhi. He has also served at the American Embassies in Tunisia, Algeria, Nigeria, and Egypt. Blake earned a B.A. from Harvard and an M.A. in international relations from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

February 15, 2012

Don Bliss served in the Peace Corps and was Ambassador for the United States on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal, Canada from 2006-2009. Bliss has served in several government positions – as the Assistant to the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, as the Special Assistant to the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency and as the Deputy General Counsel, U.S. Department of Transportation. Bliss earned his Juris Doctorate from Harvard University.

March 21, 2012

Patrick Beldio earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Notre Dame University and an MFA in Sculpture from The George Washington University. He also studied Sanskrit at Harvard University and is now working on a Doctor in Philosophy in Religion and Culture. Since 1993 Beldio has been working as a Professional Artist at Reunion Studios. He was a guest curator at Georgetown University for "Behold the New Humanity: Interfaith Expressions of Divine Love." Beldio has been commissioned to do a large gilded bronze sculpture of "The New Man"—for the city of Walnut Creek, CA (estimated completion, 2015).

April 11, 2012

Frank Islam has been recognized by Ernst and Young as the Entrepreneur of the Year. He is the author of *Renewing the American Dream: A Citizen's Guide for Restoring Our Competitive Advantage*. Islam earned his B.A. and M.S. degrees in Computer Science at the University of Colorado. He founded QSS, an information technology group, which was recently bought by Ross-Perot's Perot Systems for over \$250 million. Islam serves as a member of the International Advisory Council of the U.S. Institute of Peace, the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and the Maryland Governor's International Advisory Council.