

## ULAB Business Club Seminar

### **Roy Clunie speaks on Social Entrepreneurship “Roads Less Traveled”**

On Thursday, March 10, the University of Liberal Arts (ULAB) arranged a talk on Social Entrepreneurship featuring a highly successful social entrepreneur, Mr. Roy Clunie, from Scotland. The talk was entitled “Roads Less Traveled” and was organized by ULAB’s Business Club and the Center for Enterprise and Society (CES). It was attended by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Imran Rahman, the Advisor of the Business club Mr. Niaz Patwary and the Director of CES, Mr. Sajid Amit, amongst many other faculty and students.

Mr. Clunie’s speech was initiated by a video presentation. The video showed Mr. Roy’s colleague, another social entrepreneur and an extreme adventurer, demonstrating his prowess in the form of highly perilous mountain biking adventure. It was a metaphorical representation of the passion and initiative with which Mr. Clunie and his colleagues have engaged themselves in providing social entrepreneurship to their community.



Mr. Clunie narrated how in his native Scotland a chronic illness impacts a major section of the population. Many of them were personal acquaintances of his. For the betterment of the community, they used a bottom-up approach, via crowd funding, to finance a business plan to create a community health center. The community constituted the main source of funding with which was attained a 21-year lease of a swimming pool.

Around this pool, a large sports complex, called “Atlantis” was set up. Currently, ongoing financing requirements are met through the complex’s revenue and contributions from the local population. This unprecedented collaboration between the health center and the local population ensured an improving and healthier community and a sense of belonging in the locality.

Encouraged by the response to Atlantis, Mr. Clunie proceeded to set up other social health organizations like H2O, Healthy Options, Youth Charity, World Garden Project and Social Enterprise academy.

Roy Clunie’s talk was part of the Center for Enterprise and Society’s (CES) Leadership Talk Series. CES was a partner in arranging this talk, with ULAB Business Club. The Center seeks to advance understanding of the opportunities and challenges to business and societal development in Bangladesh through objective, academic study. For more information, please visit: <http://www.ulab.edu.bd/CES/home>

Mr. Clunie had an interesting career leading up to his social enterprise adventures. Leaving school at 16, he was involved in a Farmer's cooperative for 9 years and then a printing company for 25 years. Regarding his unconventional journey to social enterprise, he expressed no regrets, but gratitude to how his past had brought him to where he stands at present. He remains passionate about social enterprise because it combines the best segments of private sectors, NGOs and the community to facilitate breakthroughs in innovate social service models. An ardent supporter of bottom-up development, Mr. Clunie believes, "If the problem is in the community, the solutions are in the community".

He was presented a crest as a token of appreciation for his inspiring talk.

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