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Reaction to Monica Singh’s life story:

When ULM selected Monika Singh as a motivational speaker, I was disappointed. I had never heard about her or seen her before she came to the SUB ballroom in her yellow shirt and a black pencil skirt. Although I was not interested, I went to hear her speak because of my curiosity that why our college chose her instead of other famous speakers that I knew. I didn’t expect anything interesting from her at first, but once she started sharing her story, I couldn’t help respecting her. Her story was so powerful that it would undoubtedly inspire me for the rest of my life.

In her speech, she told us about an acid attack in India that she became a victim of when she was only 19 years old. The attacker was her admirer whom she rejected when he proposed her for a relationship. The acid burned her face and nearly killed her. Although she survived the attack, it turned her life upside down. She was so heartbroken that she wanted to give up her life. I cannot imagine what trauma she must have gone through at a tender age of 19. She might not have matured at the time to handle such unforeseen damage to her face. However, after a long struggle, she was able to pull herself up and continue her studies. Her parents also supported her and instilled a belief in her not to give up. This support could have been the main reason she chose to get back on her feet and show the world that she is strong. She completed her undergraduate in India and came to the United States to study fashion marketing at Parsons in 2014. Today, she is focusing on her career and making a name for herself.

After listening to her, I wondered what I would have done if I was the victim instead of her. Then I thought that I would have probably locked myself up in a room my whole life without showing my face to others or, in the worst case, committed suicide. However, later that day, I remembered Monika Singh who actually went through such heart-breaking experience and still picked herself up to succeed in the world which inspired me to not give up even in the most hopeless and miserable situations. I have decided that I will follow her path of never giving up all my life.