

MBA Association Presidential Platform

Jose Portillo 04/02/2009

My Fellow Classmates:

My involvement in the MBA Association has played a vital role in my MBA experience and my own personal growth. The MBAA creates opportunities for its members to interact in different social, educational, networking, leadership, recreational and philanthropic activities. MBAA members come from different educational, professional and cultural backgrounds. Every individual brings their own experiences to this association. The exposure to the aforementioned diverse backgrounds within the MBAA enhances the Flores MBA experience.

I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the current MBAA officers for the great work they do for this organization. The amount of work required to run this association and organize its events is substantial. In my opinion, every event that has taken place this year has been a total success. I truly believe the group of officers elected for next year is capable of continuing the great accomplishments the current officers have been making. It is my desire to maintain close ties of friendship and comradery with them and all of the members of the class of 2009 as they move along with their professional careers.

It has been my goal to serve as President of the MBA Association since the early days of my first semester in the MBA program. During these past two semesters I have come to learn that running this organization is quite a challenge. The opportunity to succeed at such an important challenge has further fueled my desire to become the next President of the MBA Association. If I am elected president, I will work hard to enrich every member's MBA experience. The best way to accomplish this is by maintaining the current traditions and values of this organization, by developing new activities, and especially by increasing member involvement in the MBAA. I will respond to the added responsibilities of being the MBAA President with leadership, diligence, and ethical behavior. Furthermore, I understand that managing this organization is a team effort. Over the course of these two semesters I have been fortunate to become friends with all the members being nominated for officers and I am certain we will evolve into a solid hard working team. Among my top priorities for the program are to increase participation and awareness in the student body in professional development, the Distinguished Speaker Series (DSS), and other MBA events.

Platform

If elected President of the MBAA, I will address the following key items.

Practice of Business (POB): I will provide support to the MBA office in organizing and coordinating our Practice of Business Speaker Series and events. To increase member involvement I will work with interested members to introduce our speakers every week. Members will get a chance to contact, interact and meet with distinguished professionals. I will provide a survey to our members to get feedback on their preferences for POB topics and speakers towards the end of this year in order to plan next year's POB calendar. I also plan to work with first and second year co-hort leaders to increase member participation in POB activities.

Social Activities: The social chair can count with my complete support in planning next year's social calendar and budget. We will work together to find social activities that appeal to all the members of the MBAA. I will be actively involved in organizing and coordinating each individual event.

Concentration Electives: Next year I will develop a database with a detailed list of previous and actual elective courses for each concentration. The database will aid new and current MBA students in their search for electives in Finance, Accounting, Marketing, Project Management, Entrepreneurship, and any other concentration available. Such an effort will be made with the collaboration of the MBA office and MBAA members willing to share their experiences.

Professional Development Activities: If elected president, I plan to continue organizing the MBAA Dinner Club next year. This is a great occasion for our members to learn about interesting business topics and real world life experiences from distinguished professionals. I will work closely with our officers to raise awareness and increase participation in our professional development events. I will also create a detailed list with contact information gathered from past and present members. The main purposes of this list are to provide future MBA and NAWMBA officers with contacts used previously to organize activities and to provide MBA Career Services with contacts for future internship and fulltime opportunities for our members.

Funding and Budget: Careful planning by current officers and member dues we will receive from next year's class has allowed increased funding for next year. I will meet with the other MBAA officers to allocate these funds accordingly and make a budget for next year's activities. The budget will be revised periodically to ensure that funds are available for all of our activities and will be posted on the internet for every member to access at any time.

Mentor-Mentee Program: I believe we should continue to offer this program next year. However, to make the experience worthwhile for first year students I propose to create the mentor-mentee groups by the second week of class next semester. I will work with the other MBAA officers and the MBA office to organize a mentor-mentee event early in the semester. The mentor-mentee program will be completely voluntary for second year students.

We will continue to host open MBAA officer meetings two times a semester in order to keep avid communication between members and officers. I will insist in supporting NAWMBA in any of their events and possibly host an event between the MBAA and NAWMBA.

Qualifications:

Professional Experience:

I worked fulltime one year for an engineering consulting firm in the oil and gas industry. During my time at this organization I had a chance to put into practice the problem solving and technical skills I learned in college. What I value most from this experience was the exposure to the professional world. Among the most important learning points were to value relationships, and to acquire leadership, communication, and management skills. I will use these skills and my experience to plan and coordinate MBAA activities and interact with my fellow members. Additionally, I will work hard to create opportunities for our members to obtain increased exposure to the professional world.

Undergraduate Education and Experience: Over the course of 4 years at Louisiana State University I was fortunate to experience diverse educational and professional opportunities including my undergraduate studies, an internship with a petroleum refinery and another with a pharmaceutical production company, and seminars across 4 different cities in Louisiana. I will use these experiences to bridge the gap and challenges that exist between the theoretical/educational exposure with the challenges of the professional world.

Philanthropy: One of the activities I am most proud to have participated in is a campaign named Love for Luanda hosted by my one of my previous employers. I aided in the organization's fundraising activities by requesting donations from clients and co-workers to buy Christmas gifts to orphans in Luanda, Angola. This experience gave me the opportunity to share my time and resources with less fortunate people. Another experience that has molded me into the individual I am today is my participation in hurricane relief activities and medical brigades. I will use these experiences to support our various philanthropic activities.

It would truly be an honor to serve as President of the MBA Association. It has been my goal this past year and I commit myself to undertake all the responsibilities herein with leadership, diligence, and ethical behavior. I would like to humbly thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jose Portillo