

E.J OURSO COLLEGE OF BUSINESS FLORES MBA ASSOCIATION

Dear Fellow Classmates,

I would like to start off by saying that it is an honor to be nominated for International Chair. Thank you. My first year in the LSU Flores MBA Program has been an amazing experience; this is greatly due in part by the MBAA activities. With that said, I would like to thank all of the current officers for all of their hard work and dedication.

To me, being from Brazil and being international is a great gift. Belonging to more than one nation provides opportunities to learn and grow by interacting with others outside of one's comfort level. However, being immersed in a new culture can be very challenging. My mission is to provide all Flores MBA international students with involvement in the Baton Rouge and surrounding communities which will create opportunities for the enhancement of professional skills, thus allowing the students to build relationships outside of class. In this way, the international students will leave LSU with a strong alumni network in which they can use in achieving future goals. Furthermore, I hope to provide our non-international students with the opportunity to learn about the countries in which their fellow classmates come from. In the past, international movie night and international lunches have been a success. Food brings people together while at the same time giving our students a feel for each individual country. I plan on continuing these events with hopes of increasing participation from both international and non-international students.

In addition, I am currently working very hard to promote the MBA Program abroad in an effort to attract more international students to study at LSU. As part of our globalization efforts, we are working to leave our mark on all of the BRIC countries. This semester I worked directly with Dr. Watson on efforts for the Brazil trip. We collaborated with professors at the University of Sao Paulo and together we compiled a list of top successful companies doing business out of Sao Paulo. Serving as a mediator for the two universities and working closely with Brazilian companies provided me with a great learning experience. Our hard work paid off and two weeks ago we took 30 of our professional, executive, and full time MBA students to Sao Paulo, Brazil for a week of cultural activities and intense lectures on why Brazil is such a prominent force in the emerging markets. This gave students the opportunity to develop new relationships and embrace a new culture by firsthand experience. The University of Sao Paulo was very gracious to us and we plan to return the favor by hosting a group of their students at LSU in an upcoming semester.

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Next on the agenda is the China trip, which I know many of you will be attending in May. In addition to Brazil and China, we are also working hard to solidify our network with India by initiating a formal exchange between LSU and one of their leading business schools. The possibilities are endless.

Overall, I am confident in my abilities to successfully carry out the International Chair responsibilities. Thank you to my fellow classmates for giving me the opportunity to better serve our international students. In closing, I would like to express my excitement and optimism for the upcoming year. The future for all Flores MBA students is very promising and I want to congratulate all of you on your achievements. GEAUX TIGERS!

Sincerely,

Gabriela Albino