

Given my somewhat unusual personal and professional background, I believe that I will be able to bring a unique perspective and value to the diverse Fuqua culture.

My earliest encounter with entrepreneurship came at a young age. I was 9 when a kindergarten my parents founded opened its doors to preschoolers from around the neighborhood. Under my mother's management, it grew rapidly into a full-fledged school that provides high quality education at affordable costs to around 500 students. A true team project, the whole family contributed in one way or another to its rapid growth and success. Tutoring there during college, working there briefly after graduation, and as a member of the decision making circle throughout, I received valuable knowledge about business dynamics at medium to small sized businesses, and about entrepreneurship in Jordan.

I hope to share and build upon my experiences by starting a Fuqua club focused on entrepreneurship and business in the Middle East. I believe this would provide distinctive insight for my prospective colleagues into an area that, although distinct in many respects, is somewhat less explored than markets like Asia or Latin America. I am also excited about the prospect of organizing a trek for my prospective Fuqua colleagues to Jordan, which is at the center of the Arab World technology start-up revolution and witnessing a unique technological transformation. A visit to one of the world's new seven wonders, Petra, would just be the cherry on top.

Since childhood, I was always very passionate about the technology industry, assembling my first personal computer at 7, developing android applications, and studying mechatronics engineering. Anxiously following all news about a new device or innovation, over the years I was able to develop instincts about technology trends. I found myself on many occasions able to predict the success or lack thereof of new tech ventures. A passionate techie, I hope to enrich my knowledge at, and suggest topics for, the High Tech 101 & 201 Sessions and advocate for my viewpoints through the weekly "tech talks" at the High Technology club.

Professionally, I was fortunate to join the Jordanian Philip Morris International affiliate shortly after it was acquired from an aging local manufacturer. I was part of the "new blood" tasked with elevating the previously local company to the required corporate standard, no easy task. As part of a small team in a rapidly changing environment my limits were constantly expanding. My learning curve was astronomical across diverse areas from operations and projects management to cross-functional projects involving sales, marketing and finance. It was a chaotic scene in which everyone was involved in everything and I loved it. I guess in many ways it resembled a start-up. I intend to utilize my cross-functional experience to help my fellow study

group partners integrate knowledge gained from different areas into one big picture. Furthermore, I plan to leverage my cross-cultural communication skill set to enhance the harmony among my diverse section.

Through the years, I have cultivated diverse global experience. I grew up in the UAE and have lived there again as an adult, travelled across the Middle East, Europe and to the United States. Most recently, I started a one-year work assignment in Izmir, Turkey within an international Fortune 500 company. I am particularly looking forward to taking a leadership role within the Fuqua international business club. Through my exposure to the organizational challenges and dynamics at one of the largest and most diverse Philip Morris International affiliates I will be able to share, with my fellow future business leaders at Fuqua, my firsthand account of the challenges and opportunities of working in a truly international business and what I have perceived to be the best ways to overcome all cultural and linguistic barriers. I am also looking forward to participating in the GATE program to acquire additional exposure into new areas, particularly Latin America and South East Asia.

Fuqua is the perfect fit for me, in terms of both professional and personal growth. I am eager to utilize the plethora of gateways and opportunities that Fuqua offers to contribute to the community. Whether through the initial community service projects, the world renowned Net Impact Club or Habitat for Humanity of Durham, I am brimming with excitement at the prospect of contributing substantially to Fuqua's social entrepreneurship efforts.

Finally, I am keen to bring my football (soccer) and fencing skills to the MBA games and to introducing my home country's traditional dish, Mansaf at one of the around the world dinners. A voracious reader and news-junkie I am also interested in revamping the weekly newsletter.