Shortly after beginning my undergraduate study at the University of Jordan I realized that the school was in a state of rapid decline. The classes were extremely overcrowded, the aging infrastructure was crumbling, and the previously Western educated faculty was gradually being replaced by a locally educated, less-qualified cohort. Despite being the most selective school in the country and thereby having some of the most highly qualified students, class failure rates on numerous courses were reaching upwards of 60%. It was not uncommon for students to repeat courses five or six times.

As I felt consumed by the stigma of failure, I did not want to go back to my family and disappoint them. I felt increasingly isolated and I did not know where to turn for guidance.

Fortunately, things took a turn for the better after I started at Philip Morris International. I thought of working life as a fresh start. I was determined to never again settle for anything less than exceptional. With every new success, I began to regain my confidence and I saw myself return to the person I once was. I have progressed rapidly, and in May I was moved to a one-year assignment at one of the largest affiliates, located in Izmir, Turkey. Such assignments are internally viewed as an accelerated career path and an investment by the company into their top talent.

Furthermore, I have tried to demonstrate my ability to handle the curriculum, despite my poor undergraduate record. In addition to doing my best to get a good score on the GMAT, I am taking Calculus 1 and Introduction to Financial accounting through Berkeley extension. I am glad to say that I have an accumulated score of 100% in Calculus and 99% in Financial Accounting. Only the final exams are remaining, and they are scheduled for mid-October. I will share the final results with the admissions committee subsequently.

For my recommenders, I chose the people who know me best. I refrained from approaching my current supervisor, due to our relatively short relationship.

Also, I included per-diems, travel and hardship allowances, and accommodation payments which are fixed, as bonus compensation when reporting my salary on the application.

I truly hope for a second chance to re-immerse myself in academics and succeed at Ross. I remain optimistic that a misstep during a low point in my life will not bar me from pursuing my goals and achieving what I believe to be my full potential.