

MY DEAREST FELLOWS

Goodbye

June 14th 2020

Dear Global MBA Fellows,

Please, launch this [song](#) in the background while reading this letter as it inspired me in several moments of my life and also now when I am writing to you this letter. It is a song of an incredible movie ("The Extraordinary Journey of the Fakir") that is an hymn to the beauty and value of diversity in our life and, to some extent, it also symbolizes the journey you have begun last year. We started this year together by reflecting on how to measure success in our life and, for me, cultivating diverse and rich relationships with the citizens of the world represents surely an important indicator of success in my whole life.

This is a letter of gratitude I wrote to thank you for having spent together this extraordinary year, learning, growing and developing new exceptional skills together. I will never forget the MBA 2019-2020's class both because it was my first, and you know in Italy we say that "you never forget your first love", and because we lived together exceptional and unique circumstances that will remain in our collective memory. Who could have imagined that the entire world would have stopped and locked down for so long and so extensively? If you had asked me early January such a thing, I would have told you that this could have been a greater idea for a fiction rather than a possible scenario but then, all has changed so rapidly.

During these last months, you have proven great leadership capacities and resilience showing great understanding, patience, maturity and optimism. Honestly speaking, you have proven all these capacities since the very beginning accepting with calm and understanding also the little coordination problems we had in the team due to a major change in the leadership role. I must admit that one year ago when I was proposed to become the Director of the Global MBA I was scared and full of doubts but, as usually it happens in life, it turned to be one of the most enriching experiences of my life.

I can't imagine how many times you have probably repeated to yourself in these last months: "why Covid-19 did appeared and why an outbreak this year? In the year, I am investing all of my resources on my future, in the moment I was going to begin the most interesting part of the program, in the delicate stages of internship search! And so forth."

I can hear these comments and your worries and they are truly legitimate: 2020 was expected to be an exceptional year of economic growth for so many countries

and this incredible and unexpected event was not even in our imagination. However, as also suggested yesterday by Professor Romano Prodi, we do not have to worry or being afraid of the future as a new spring can come soon! We must Combat!

I know, considering your competences and determination, your capacities and intelligence, that Covid-19 will not stop you but probably only delay the attainment of your life projects and career dreams. You are such strong and bright fellows and you deserve the best.

I regret we were not able to seeing each other more often, participating together to the numerous company visits, meeting our guests (even though we met online much more than planned) and spending together two days in our career retreat in May.

I regret not having had the possibility to say goodbye in person to those who have already left the country to rejoin their families or to search quickly a job. Bologna and Bologna Business School has become your second home and it will be for ever so!

Personally, I feel that our relationship has become stronger, more intimate, and a source of great solidarity and energy. You have known my family, seen the wall of my bedroom (for many hours of the day my office), interacted with my daughters. Same for me with many of you, recalling the exceptional Christmas party we had in our Villa where I could met your families. I feel so lucky for having had the opportunity to meet your significant others and that they could have seen the location where you were investing on your future.

We need to imagine a new future that will not just concern you but the entire world but I am sure you have the capacity to become constructive agents of this new future. That is the main vision and aspiration I have for the Global MBA, contributing to make of our students constructive agents of a new and more sustainable society.

I would like to thank you because the Global MBA has never been so active in the school, full of ideas and with an incredible entrepreneurial spirit. You have proposed and realised the leadership talk podcast, the peer to peer knowledge sharing (so sad I could participate only to one), you have offered to work with start-ups already in October, you have participated in many promotion meetings with new potential candidates, you have sent me so many email with feedback to improve the master, you have written the #quarantinememories sharing your knowledge, hopes, and secrets, some of you will now work on the BBS React...this

is an incredible effort never seen before at the school and that will remain in our annals and collective memory.

For this and for all, and on behalf of the entire MBA team and the school, I say thank! Goodbye my beloved fellows. Warm and sincere regards,

Marcello

With his new (and temporary mustache!)