

Robert Douglas Powell

Beaufort High School Class of 1970:

Memorial Scholarship

3 April 2009

How I Plan To Shape the Future by Using the Past

I plan to pursue a degree in business. I applied to Clemson University, Appalachian State University, and the University of Georgia for business, and I was accepted to both Clemson University and Appalachian State University. However, in August of 2009, I will be enrolled and attending Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina. Clemson University has been my school of choice since I was in elementary school, so being able to attend this remarkable establishment is inspirational and very significant to my family and me. I was officially accepted to Clemson University under the degree of “Pre-business”, but as of now, I have not decided which specific area to focus on (i.e. accounting, economics, finance, management, marketing, etc). I decided on the business field of study because it will help me attain the job of my choice in a government agency. I also plan to minor in either history. This is because I have a passion for history, and along with learning what I need to in college, I am going to also learn a little of what I want to.

In making this decision to pursue a business degree, two of my high school teachers, and one of my coaches, have helped me make this decision and have greatly affected my life. The first teacher is my history teacher, Charles Holbrook. I have had Mr. Holbrook for Pre-IB World Studies History my freshman year, IB HL History of the Americas I my junior year, and IB HL History of the Americas II my senior year. Mr. Holbrook has always taught his classes to be current with the world around us, and to be able to apply the past onto events taking place

in the present and future. The way that he teaches allows everyone to understand the most in-depth concepts, and he instills within each one of us, the will to succeed at the highest levels of society. Mr. Holbrook also constantly comments on how he knows that his class will directly influence the world in the future, and that got me to thinking about how I could do just that.

The second teacher is my Spanish teacher, Ron Walker. I have had Mr. Walker for Spanish I my freshman year, Spanish III my junior year, and IB SL Spanish my senior year. Mr. Walker has taught me to never, ever believe you cannot do anything. Truthfully, the Spanish language is not a strength of mine, and I believed I was going to struggle through my high school years, and especially on the end of the year, IB SL Spanish exam. Now, after Mr. Walker's help, I know that I will be able to go into this exam prepared and do phenomenally better than before.

In addition, this type of confidence is easily applied into everyday life to give you that extra boost whenever needed. Finally, there is my assistant cross-country coach Chad Aune. This was the first year that Coach Aune was apart of the coaching staff, and the first year I was not able to run cross-country fully. I was injured from the beginning of the season, but stayed on to be apart of the team and to help in anyway possible. Coach Aune taught me discipline, patience, and how to help others, all from the sidelines. Usually you learn these characteristics while participating in a sport or working at a job, but in my unique case, I was privileged enough to them from the classroom and from coaching perspective.

I have chose the field of business, in part because of the traits Mr. Holbrook, Mr. Walker, and Coach Aune have implanted into me, and also because the business field of study will help me attain the job of my choice in a government agency. When I contacted the FBI field office in Columbia, South Carolina, they informed me that since they investigate such a wide range of crimes that almost any major would suffice. In addition, a business major would allow me to

pursue many other occupations in the case that I do not belong with a government agency.

This degree will help me achieve my goal in life of first graduating from college. Then, after college, I plan to join the United States Coast Guard as an officer. I have always felt it my duty to serve America, and hopefully, I will be entrusted with this honor after college. I would serve four years through active service, and two years through reserve service. In addition, this would allow me the opportunity to pay off what college expenses I have not already paid off through scholarships. Following my tenure with the Coast Guard, I plan to join the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, or another government agency. I would already have a prerequisite out of the way since they require military, police, or some sort of other security service. If a government agency were not where I belong, I would involve myself in politics. As of now, I have one target, and I would very much enjoy the position of Mayor of Beaufort, South Carolina Representative, South Carolina Senator, South Carolina Governor, Secretary of Defense, Secretary of Homeland Security, Secretary of State, or Vice-President. However, with the global situation today, and the United States in dire need of a strong leader who is not wrapped up in politics, and actually concerned about running this country as President, I would very much like to hold the position of President of the United States of America. That is if her citizens would allow me that pleasure.

In conclusion, after writing this essay, I am still planning to pursue my business degree and my future aspirations. This is because, as indecisive as I am, I have already given too much thought to these situations, and made up my mind a long time ago.