

# BUSINESS IMPROVISATIONS

*Embrace Change and Improvise Creative Solutions*

TO: Duke Law School, Class of 2010

FROM: Robert Kulhan, Academic Director and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Business Administration for The Fuqua School of Business, Duke University

RE: Welcome and Planning Information

DATE: August 14, 2007

Greetings! On behalf of the Duke Law School & Business Improvisations, we are pleased to welcome you to our *Leadership with Improvisation* workshop, scheduled for August 14, 2007. We are delighted to be participating in your LEAD Week program and look forward to working with you. Much of the learning in this course comes from sharing information and ideas among participants. We are sure that you will find the learning environment conducive to a high quality experience.

The workshop will provide a change of pace from your average day. Our goals are to address:

- Listening & Communication
- Team Building
- Focus & Concentration
- Creativity & Innovation
- Fostering Talent
- Change & Change Management
- Spontaneity & Adaptive Problem Solving
- Influence & Motivation
- Conflict Management

These skills will be useful to you in your individual work and in your interactions with colleagues. The workshop will entail a mix of brain exercises, interactive group exercises, lecture, and fun, with engaging discussions throughout the day.

The workshop will begin with a short discussion at the Law School about the nature of improvisation, communication, common blocks that limit people's ability to maximize their own creative potential, and some prescriptions for overcoming these blocks. We will then work through a series of exercises, adapted from theatrical improvisation training and led by the nation's top professional improvisers, which are designed to help you overcome some of the more visceral blocks to communication and creativity in group work. These exercises will help you suspend judgment, collaborate more effectively in teams, and act more spontaneously.

*Please come to Tuesday's workshop in loose-fitting, comfortable clothing and shoes, as some of these exercises are a little bit physical. Prepare yourself for a fast-paced, entertaining session with your colleagues.*

We're looking forward to working with all of you on August 14!

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***About the Facilitator***

Bob Kulhan is an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Business Administration for The Fuqua School of Business at Duke University. He also is a Senior Partner of Business Improvisations, based out of Chicago, Illinois. For more than 12 years Bob has performed and taught improvisation internationally. His teaching and performing credits include Chicago's famed Second City (master artist in residence), Improv Olympic (resident company/faculty), Columbia College, London TheaterSports, The Banff Centre, The Australian Graduate School of Management, UCLA Anderson School of Management (MBA & Executive Education), Columbia University Business School (MBA & Education Education), and Duke University's The Fuqua School of Business.

His consulting and teaching work in leadership and managerial improvisation includes emphases on team skills, fostering a collaborative corporate culture, whole body listening, busting blocks to creativity, crisis management, dyadic relationships, creative and adaptive problem solving, leadership, and fostering creative cultures. Since 1998, his customized Business Improvisations programs have benefited a number of companies, including Young Presidents Organization, FOSSAC, Ford Motor Company, Risk Insurance Management Society (RIMS), Cushman & Wakefield, The University of Notre Dame: Renovare, SAS, Mazda, American Express Cards, GlaxoSmithKline, Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, PepsiCo, and Procter & Gamble, R&D University.

In a unique collaboration with Professor Craig Fox, Bob co-introduced improvisation into the highly-respected MBA curriculum of the Fuqua School of Business. The Workshop in Managerial Improvisation blends experiential exercises, adapted from traditional improv, with classroom lectures, case studies, and discussion. It has consistently ranked among Duke University's highest rated MBA electives. In addition to the MBA program at Fuqua, Bob has designed workshops for Fuqua professors and staff, PhD students, communications and development departments, R. David Thomas Center management and staff, Program Managers' Development (PMD), Management Challenge, Advanced Management Program (AMP), Duke Corporate Education, and Duke's Executive Education department.

Bob has had the fortune of performing improvisation and facilitating Business Improvisations workshops in the United States, England, Scotland, Singapore, Australia, and Banff, Canada, where he participated as a Faculty Member and Master Artist in both the Creativity Forum on Creative Leadership and the Thought Leadership Forum on Ethical Governance and Creating a Climate of Corporate Integrity (whew!).