Leadership, teamwork, enthusiasm, ambition - all are essential characteristics for any leader of any organization. What sets RHA apart from just any other organization is the large number of people that it represents and works for, as well as the other organizations that it works with. Because of the representation aspect, an executive board member in RHA cannot only carry all of the qualities of a great leader, he or she must be able to listen and communicate effectively as well. He or she must be able to combine ideas, process information that he or she receives, and make appropriate decisions and actions to best benefit the thoughts and feelings of those that are represented by the organization. He or she must also be able to work effectively with other organizations to exchange ideas and assistance. I am seeking election for the Residence Hall Association Vice President because I believe that I exemplify all of these characteristics as well as many more that will give me the edge that I need to assist in running the organization, to continue building on improvements that have already been made, and to begin formulating new ideas to continue to increase the success and well-being of RHA.

I have looked to incredible role models during the time that I have been with RHA. To be in RHA and therefore to be able to observe the position that you may eventually be elected into offers an excellent learning experience that could not be experienced any other way. Seeing the executive board and all of the improvements that they have made over the year gives me inspiration for the future.

Residence Life is an interconnected web of people and organizations. This year it has been a goal to build strong bonds and awareness among the different people and organizations. As Vice President one of my duties would be to attend weekly MUSG meetings and report to MUSG what RHA is currently doing, as well as report to RHA what MUSG is currently doing. Because MUSG represents the same students that RHA represents it is essential that the two organizations work together. The executive board has greatly increased the ties with MUSG this year. I would hope to continue this and also improve on it, to the point that RHA representatives could directly work with MUSG senators. I have a great deal of experience in communication through my work with various organizations in high school. This would add to my abilities as RHA Vice President. Compilation increases productivity and success. Both organizations would better represent their constituents if they fluidly worked together.

In my opinion, RHA offers incredible opportunities for all residents in a variety of ways. The problem is that many residents do not take advantage of what is offered because they are not aware of what is out there. It has also been a goal this year to increase awareness concerning all aspects of RHA. I would hope to continue this as well, while improving on it. I believe that it is extremely important that students understand the organization before they elect their representatives. It is difficult to inform freshmen in the time period before elections. A new idea that I would hope to go through with would involve not only an info session, but also a fun activity that would attract students to RHA right away during freshmen orientation. In this manner, RHA could increase the amount of students that would receive the
information during orientation and would hopefully form more informed voters and a greater interest in running for the positions. The students would also immediately be made aware of all of the recreational programs that RHA offers throughout the year, which would possibly increase attendance later on.

We also must continue to promote awareness within hall councils. Some hall council members still do not exactly understand what RHA is. I would hope to have a structured plan where RHA representatives could not only offer reports each week on what RHA is currently doing, but also what the organization strives for as a whole. RHA representatives can touch on the responsibilities of their position as well as the positions of the executive board members in order to increase awareness of the main operations of the organization. I would also hope to continue the newsletter and hopefully incorporate all of the hall councils in a greater manner. With this, RHA would be connecting fully to the hall councils and at the same time, allowing the hall councils a great way to reach out to their residents.

RHA addresses two main aspects of student life - programming and student concerns. A new student concern will soon affect everyone on campus, especially those living in specific residence halls. As the city of Milwaukee continues to revamp the Marquette Interchange, residents will experience some discomfort in their environment. Over the past year boards have been set up to improve concerns within the halls and concerns on dining. I foresee the need to address student concerns over the Interchange in a similar manner. This is only one concern. As other issues arise, I hope to be able to address and improve whatever is necessary.

Programming is a main part of RHA. RHA strives to offer excellent programs for residents to attend. Because Marquette sees a huge importance in reaching out to the community, I would like to see another community service program added during the second semester that, like HALLOWEEN, would bring the children of the city to the campus to see what we are all about. The University has also moved into greater awareness of diversity. Currently RHA listens to student concerns on diversity through the Diversity Commission. I would attempt to promote a program or series of programs to embrace the diversity that surrounds the Marquette campus. RHA represents many students and it is important to embrace the differences in all of our residents.

Finally, it is critical that RHA works as a cohesive unit. In order to encourage teamwork, I would like to organize a type of retreat for the representatives at the very beginning of the year. All of the representatives will be able to get to know one another better. Now that is later in the year, I feel that I can work with my fellow reps better because I know and understand them. I would like this essential bond to be formed right from the start so that RHA would have greater ability to attend to the needs of the residents.

In all aspects of life people turn out more successful if they fully immerse themselves in their cause. One can only practice this immersion if there is passion behind it. It is impossible to give yourself completely to something that you do not enjoy and do not have a passion for. My experience in RHA over the past year has been absolutely incredible. It has required a large amount of my time and dedication, but I have loved every second of it. I have a passion for it, and I want what is best for the organization. I believe that I would be the best person for the position of RHA Vice President because I am extremely involved in RHA and have a great deal of loyalty to the organization. I truly care about its success.
Residence Life Experience:

- Elected by McCormick Hall to serve as RHA representative
- McCormick Hall Executive Board Member
  - Weekly Executive Board Meetings
  - Weekly Hall Council Meetings
  - Chair of Recognition Committee
  - Holiday Decorating
  - The Roommate Game
    Coordinated the event with event management and aided in other planning processes.
  - Organized various ticket sales
  - Currently assisting in the organization of a fundraiser for the Cobeen Hall Bone Marrow Drive
  - Attended MULC - a leadership conference for all of the hall representatives
  - Various program organization
- McCormick Hall Residence Hall Association Representative
  - Weekly RHA Meetings
  - Programming and Fundraising Committee
    Chair for Community Service (youth athletic team sponsorship)
    Chair for Wacky Cash Auction
  - Crazy Fans Prizes Committee
    Responsible for contacting local businesses to receive donations for the annual Crazy Fans program
  - Co-chair MU Game Show
    Responsible for organizing one of RHA's largest annual programs.
  - Diversity Commission
    Listening to student concerns pertaining to diversity issues on campus.
  - Residence Hall Director Interview Participant
- WURHA 2004 Delegate
  - Spirit Committee
  - Program Presenter
- Recognition
  - Received recognition in RHA for work with MU Game Show
  - NRHH nominee