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Johnson Dennis W.- Callison College One Pager

Dennis W. Johnson

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Wendy, sorry but didn't see your request earlier. I saw Foss Perry's post and followed it back to your request. My one page is below - please cut and paste as you see fit.

I grew up in Stockton and "went away to college" to UOP's Callison College for an international education. That is important because the quality of the program at UOP was attractive enough to outweigh the youthful urge to move away, closer to the beach!

My education at UOP/Callison was amazing - no hyperbole intended. I was part of a group of scholars, professors and students, who learned together. There were very few "lectures" where one party stood behind a lectern and the other sat in the auditorium, disinterested. My professors and my fellow students were diverse, interested and eager to participate in crafting an internationally informed liberal arts education through learning together.

I studied a varied range of courses, each with an international component or inflection. History, Philosophy, Languages, Art, Psychology, Economics and Sociology. We related each course and subject to the other in conversations and seminars. My aim at the time was to enter the Foreign Service and I wanted to have a broad exposure to be prepared for the probability of varied opportunities. I lived and studied in Japan for my junior year, putting much of what I had learned into practice and learning first hand what it means to be multicultural.

After UOP/Callison I attended the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts and Harvard University where I studied International business law, International economics and Asian diplomatic history. My interests had concentrated in economics and business, especially international banking. After gaining my masters degree, I sought a job in banking rather than the Foreign Service.

I did enter banking, but timing is everything. I had graduated in the midst of an international banking crisis so I never did go overseas. I went back to California and started working for a large multinational commercial bank where I handled agricultural lending, trade finance, and many other industries. I gradually advanced through assignments in banking and moved from large multinational banks (including working for a Japanese bank) to smaller, agile regional banks, progressively handling a variety of assignments.

While I didn't work overseas I absolutely used my international education. California, by itself, is a major economy and California agriculture is intimately enmeshed in international trade. Financing the beginning of the Pistachio and Almond industries required an understanding of trade between the US, China, Iran, India and the EU. Financing the export of cutting edge dairy genetics required knowledge of trade finance to North Africa, the Middle East, the EU and Eastern Europe. All of this let me use my knowledge of international economics, foreign currency, politics and treaties. I've always used my

international and liberal arts education, even when I came back and stayed in my California home.

I am now an executive and the Chief Credit Officer of a regional bank where I help guide the growth of the bank and manage its risk profile. Assessing risk today involves an enormous range of topics from interest rates to water policies to trade to politics. My success is directly attributable to the multidisciplinary education I received at UOP / Callison College.

Dennis W. Johnson