In Book II of The Odyssey, Homer introduced Mentor - a wise and trusted advisor and friend of Ulysses, the King of Ithaca. Before leaving for the Trojan War, Ulysses asked Mentor to care for and educate his son, Telemachus. Mentor agreed and served as a teacher, counselor and friend to Telemachus in Ulysses’ absence.

That was 1200 BC. Today, the process of an experienced leader relating to a less experienced individual as a teacher, counselor and friend is known as mentoring. People continue to develop mentoring relationships as a tangible means to maximize intellectual capital. Through extensive tracking of thousands of such relationships, the value of mentoring is well documented. These partnerships have resulted in noteworthy achievements that would not have occurred otherwise.

The vision for the Robinson Honors Mentoring Program is to leverage the experience of today’s business leaders to ignite and accelerate the development of future leaders. New tenets of leadership are explored as our distinguished mentors impart their knowledge and expertise with our emerging leaders, and in turn, our honors students capitalize on an experiential relationship that uniquely prepares them for global business challenges.

It is my honor to serve as the Director of the Robinson Honors Program, and to share in the development of these exceptional students. Our Robinson mentors and mentees are nothing short of inspirational as they exhibit a passion for collaborative learning, competitive performance and commitment to excellence!

My heartfelt thank you goes to all who have made this possible.

Yours sincerely,
Marta Szabo White, PhD
Director, Robinson Honors Program
> HONORS MENTORING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The J. Mack Robinson College of Business has established a formal mentoring program to foster the tradition of a mentor/mentee partnership. The Program is designed to provide benefits to the mentor, the mentee, and to the Robinson College of Business. Students, new to the corporate world, have been enriched with insights into the structure of the business world, engaged by networking opportunities, and have become more proficient in their area of expertise. In our pursuit of excellence we at Robinson aspire to cultivate such mentor/mentee relationships with the support of the business community.

As a Mentor to Robinson College Honor Students, you are helping to transform the lives of our students.

> OUR MENTORS

“I have thoroughly enjoyed the mentoring experience. This year, I was one of a few students selected to recruit my own mentor. Not only did I gain valuable business experience, I actually ended up with two mentors who have taken a sincere interest in my academic progress. Obviously I strongly recommend this program to students and executives alike, but not just because I am a student here. From a pure business perspective, mentoring is a mutually beneficial exchange. Companies gain fresh ideas and a chance to develop future leaders, while students gain an unparalleled learning experience. Mentorship is the exchange of ideas, networking, professional development, and succession management. Mentorship is business, and Robinson has developed a program that is at the forefront.”

R. Jake Bergmann, BBA Real Estate

“Unique to Robinson’s honors program is the wonderful mentoring program. Students in the program are matched with key business leaders in roles that many honors students aspire to have. The mentors have been insightful and wonderful in building our business savvy. Each mentor has graciously taken on the job of accepting the challenge of helping students in becoming strong, exemplary global business leaders. Our mentors have taken a vested interest in seeing each honors student succeed in their major, in a future job, and in life.”

Ilse Marie Fagan, BBA Marketing

“The saying goes, you live your life forward but can only learn looking back on it. The mentoring program allows for individuals to reap the benefit of this philosophy. The mentors have actual business experience where students can only imagine what the reality of it may be; they can teach students what they have learned throughout their lives. I believe that this knowledge is more valuable than anything you can learn from a textbook.”

Courtney Marie Phillips, BBA Real Estate

“Your mentoring efforts provide me with a great insight into the minds of Robinson’s most successful students, which helps our recruiting efforts. Mentoring also helps me keep my teaching skills sharp, an important element of my job every day. Among other benefits, I believe the mentees received an accelerated lesson in a specific career specialty. This should allow them to more quickly determine whether a specific course of study or career opportunity is right for them. I also think it helps demystify the work place. Once the mentees realize we were once in their shoes, they feel more comfortable.”

Bradford W. Ferrer, Executive VP Finance and Administration, CNN Worldwide

“The Robinson program offers such real-time exposure for the students into actual operating developments and developers, that the process ends up being a win-win exchange for both the Mentor and Mentee. The Mentee gets needed exposure to actual application, and the Mentor gets exposure to developing trends from the student as well as an access to a pipeline of a talented future employment pool.”

Aaron Goldman, Perennial Properties

> THE MENTORING PROCESS

Investing in Robinson Honors Students yields unique rewards:

- Role model for aspiring professionals
- Formation of social capital between experienced and emerging leaders
- Validate aspirations and boost confidence
- Counselor, coach and confidante
- Share expertise and the essence of life experiences
- Capture surprising reflections about yourself and your work that may otherwise have never crystalized

Leave the legacy of a lifetime…become a Robinson College Honors Student Mentor!

> OUR MENTEES

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