

Life Lessons

Our Vice-Chancellor's Mentoring Program builds that essential bridge between ambition and experience.

Our mentors bring their deep well of knowledge from a diverse cross-section of industries to help our students develop confidence, character and career contacts.

In sharing these stories of our current and past participants, you'll discover that some of the most important lessons learnt are the ones that are unspoken.



Judy Brinsmead

Joint Chairman, ADCO Constructions Pty Ltd

Dakota-Lily Morris

Bachelor of Laws

Bachelor of International Relations



Having previously practised as a solicitor for one of Australia’s leading legal practices, Judy Brinsmead was able to provide Dakota-Lily with introductions to various law firms. As a result, Dakota is now working as a Junior Paralegal at DibbsBarker Brisbane while she completes her Law and International Relations studies at Bond.

“

“We have shared stories about our lives, families, holidays and careers. I’ve given advice on overseas study, subject selections, employment opportunities and leadership positions. And we have participated in each other’s careers – with me supporting Dakota in a national moot competition and Dakota touring one of ADCO’s construction sites with me. She is an extraordinary woman and colleague – one with whom I will collaborate for years to come.”

Judy Brinsmead

“While she may not know it, Judy has taught me one of the most important lessons of all – that hard work, dedication and humility augur well for success beyond tangible measures.”

Dakota-Lily Morris

Keri Craig-Lee
Founder, Keri Craig Label

Henry Reinhardt
Bachelor of Laws
Bachelor of Commerce



Fashion industry icon and member of the Premier's Business Advisory Council, Kerry Craig-Lee, seized the opportunity to involve Henry in as many aspects of her family's diverse business interests as possible. This ranged from learning about the strong economic benefits of the fashion industry, attending functions related to her Brisbane emporium and fashion enterprises through to working out west on the cattle properties run by Australian Country Choice.

“

“One of the most memorable experiences was attending one of the Premier's Business Advisory Council Meetings where the discussion centred on key trends affecting the Queensland economy and how to prepare Queenslanders for the jobs of the future. Under Keri's guidance, I was able to network with some of Queensland's prominent business leaders and sharpest minds, including Premier, the Honourable Annastacia Palaszczuk MP. It was truly unbelievable to be able to attend this meeting, let alone being asked to provide input into the discussion.”

Henry Reinhardt

“I was so impressed with how Henry conducted himself and answered the Premier's questions with composure and confidence. I'm sure he has a wonderful and successful future ahead of him and I hope that he gained as much from the mentoring experience as I have.”

Keri Craig-Lee

Nick Bloor

Founder & CEO, IVM Group

Samuel Leonard

Bachelor of Laws
Bachelor of Commerce



Like many of our mentors, Nick Bloor welcomed Sam as a member of the family, sharing business insights along with laughs and family experiences.

“

“Mentoring Sam has been such a rewarding experience for me, particularly our discussions about business values, vision and culture. His enthusiasm and thirst for learning, complemented by his genuine humility has enriched and inspired me, and I always look forward to our time together.”

Nick Bloor

“I had a real lightbulb moment at lunch one day with Nick and his business partner Sean Wardrop. Sean talked to me about his career path and I realised I wanted to travel in a similar direction. It encouraged me to major in accounting and pursue a career in commerce. This was just one of the ways Nick has moulded my thinking through the opportunities he supplied me with and the lessons he taught me.”

Samuel Leonard

Lynda Woods

Private Client Advisor, Morgans

Jack Ryan

Bachelor of Laws

Bachelor of Commerce



Financial Advisor, Lynda Woods, has seized every opportunity to get Jack involved in networking and industry functions. Through attending numerous events, he secured work experience in a leading law firm and a venture capital firm; he has served as assistant to Goldman Sachs Asset Management's Gold Coast tour and as note-taker for the Morgans National Investor Roadshow; and he gained a holiday placement as a Junior Analyst at Morgan's Sydney offices.

“

“Age and experience have their benefits but they are so much more enriched when you can share that wisdom.”

The key aspect of the mentor's role is to listen and learn what is important to the mentee. I don't need to know all the answers or have all the right contacts to get Jack his dream job. My responsibility is to think outside the square and consider from every angle what the best approach is for this young person. What a challenge. What a delight. Thank you Bond!”

Lynda Woods

“I could not have asked for a better mentor than Lynda. Not only does she act as a mentor but also as a role model. The people I have met and the skills I have developed are something that only this relationship could have provided me. I can say with confidence that this relationship has been the most beneficial and rewarding experience of my time at Bond.”

Jack Ryan

“

“Good careers, good business and a good life revolve around strong and valuable relationships with others. After knowing Daniel for three years I shared this opinion with him and we both agreed that finally after all this time, I may just have done a little bit of mentoring!”

Tony Hickey
Managing Partner, Hickey Lawyers
Mentor to Daniel Hamilton (2014)

“

I was fortunate enough to have Craig Davidson, the current CEO of Dreamworld, WhiteWater World and SkyPoint, as my mentor. One great career connection that came out of this mentoring program was at the Dreamworld Yugambeh dinner. Although originally quite hesitant to approach anyone, my mentor taught me how to network and introduced me to many of the guests. Here, many executives from different businesses across the Gold Coast came to help celebrate the important Indigenous culture of the Yugambeh people. I was fortunate enough to meet someone in the tax and auditing field who offered me work experience, which is so much more than what I expected.

The best lesson that I learnt from Craig was not one that was explicitly stated. During the mentoring program, I felt as though I became a part of his family. They really looked after me and were my family on the Gold Coast. They always sent me back to Bond with home-cooked meals and took me out to lunch (as they knew that I lived on campus). They were always so considerate and kind which is above and beyond what they needed to provide as part of the mentoring program. What I learnt from that is that no matter how successful you are, it is important to stay grounded and to never take what you have achieved for granted. It has been an amazing experience having this mentor and I am so grateful that I was able to be a part of it all.

Isabelle Silberling
Bachelor of Laws
Bachelor of Commerce