MENTOR PROGRAM WRAP-UP DINNER

The Richards College of Business Mentor Program, established in 2007, is designed to give students the opportunity to learn from business professionals who have the experience, skill sets, vision, energy and creativity to provide guidance as students choose their career paths. Graduating seniors are individually paired with mentors for their last academic year to establish meaningful relationships, create networking opportunities, and provide insight and encouragement that will contribute to students’ personal and professional development.

Each year the program begins in the fall semester with a kick-off dinner introducing the mentees and the mentors to each other. Working together, the students and mentors set out guidelines and expectations for the year including how to communicate with each other, how frequently to meet, and any specific desired outcomes.

Graduating senior Besha Blanchard, who was paired with Mr. Stephen Whitlock, Director Housing Residence Life, University of West Georgia, said that one of the most beneficial aspects of this program for her was gaining insight on how to view things from an employer’s point of view and not just a student’s. “He [Whitlock] helped me see how things are in the real world; it was really enlightening to know what he looks for in interviews, what he wants to see on a resume, and what he expects from recent graduates when he considers hiring them. As a result of our interactions I feel more prepared and confident, and I believe that I have a better understanding of how to present myself as the ideal job candidate,” Blanchard said.

This year, twenty-five students completed the program and came together on April 2, 2012, for the Mentor Program Wrap-Up Dinner. The guest speaker for the evening was Ms. Helene Lollis, President of PATHBUILDERS, Inc. PATHBUILDERS, Inc., is an organization focused on helping companies shape the future with high-performing people by working with clients to increase the effectiveness of their talent through mentoring and executive education. Ms. Lollis guided the evening’s discussion by encouraging students to discuss what their next steps were as graduation nears and the buffer of being a student begins to fade. She also prompted participants to take charge and be proactive in maintaining the mentee/mentor relationship for the future.

The Richards College of Business congratulates all of this year’s graduating seniors and thanks the mentors for their dedication.