

Alumni Mentoring Program
Mentor Quotes
2014 - 2015

1. Why did you decide to participate in this program? What value has kept you involved?
2. What have you gained through your partnership with your student mentee?
3. What would you say to someone else who is considering participation in this program?
4. How has this experience helped you to connect to your personal UD experience, or the University as a whole?
5. Please share any stories, experiences, or anecdotes you may have from interactions with your student mentee.

Amanda Verhoff '05:

- UD is a community, a family, one where we work for the benefit of each other. To help current Flyers in their endeavors, pay it forward if you will to those growing into successful adults that will eventually carry on the Flyer community legacy also.
- Keep an open mind. There is no right and wrong way to mentor a student.
- I have seen the community in action, when I picked up my mentee. When I picked her up for a coffee date, a male friend smiled warmly at her from across the parking lot and yelled "Hey Susie! How's it going? See you this weekend"... with a smile and a wave. It was that happy, UD community feel.

Jessica Gonzalez '96:

- Emma, as a first year student, was driven, hard working and motivated. It was great to get to know her, nurture her enthusiasm, yet help her channel all that energy into focusing on her summer plans, future opportunities for internships while balancing classes and other commitments.
- As a mentor: Share your knowledge and experience, while listening and appreciating that it is THEIR UD now, not yours, or mine. The University's education and wonderful experiences provided to students now, only gets better, but it is different than when the alumni were students themselves. Alumni need to keep that in mind.
- This experience has reminded me of the way I created incredible mentor-like relationships that have blossomed into friendships. I tell every student I have worked with, get to know your professors, staff members and other adults on campus, for they too can be amazing resources in the future.
- When meeting with Emma in January, we discussed her summer plans. I was thrilled when after sharing of connections at a summer camp in Virginia (where I worked while a UD student), Emma decided to apply. I was gladly a reference for her and can't wait to hear how her summer goes!!

Damon Durbin '08

My biggest take away from the program is how connected mentoring makes me feel to the University. The sense of community at UD was a major part of the reason I chose to attend in the first place, and mentoring allows me to remain a part of that community and hopefully foster that feeling in someone else.

Stephanie Donauer '04:

- The University of Dayton provided me with a solid foundation upon which to build a career in epidemiologic research, and this program allows me to give back to the University. My student's determination to reach her academic goals has truly been inspirational, and having the privilege to be even a small part of helping her achieve her goals has kept me involved.

- My mentee has such an enthusiasm for her future career, and she has reminded me to focus not just on my short-term day-to-day goals, but also my long-term research goals.
- I would highly recommend it! I have really enjoyed coming back to campus and getting to know my mentee. It's very rewarding, and a great way to reconnect with the University!
- This experience has helped me remember how challenging it can be to be a full-time student planning for the next phase of life. As I look back, I see how valuable having a mentor in my area of interest would have been, and I'm so glad that UD has initiated this program!
- I have really enjoyed getting to know my mentee over the past year. My favorite mentoring experience was when Meredith came to shadow me at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center for a day. Meredith and I attended a discussion on Integrative Medicine, toured an Immunobiology lab, met with a University of Cincinnati medical student and took a quick tour of the medical campus, and finally Meredith spent some time shadowing a physician at Cincinnati Children's Primary Pediatric Care Center. It was a busy but very enlightening day! During the past year Meredith has balanced preparing for the MCATs, a full-time course schedule, and various other commitments, and I am constantly impressed by her motivation and determination to succeed. I have absolutely no doubt that she will be successful in all of her endeavors, and I am so excited to see all that she will accomplish!

Denny Esford '80:

- A sense of the need to give back and maybe share some life lessons learned.
- Feel like I really helped Andrew see the business world from a different perspective and I gained an appreciation for the challenges young people face today when finding their way from college to real life.
- You can make it work remotely. Andrew and I Skype once a month. Our "capstone" is me arranging for a plant tour of Mazak's manufacturing plant in Florence KY for both of us at the end of April. Before becoming a lawyer, I sold Mazak CNC machines and still have former colleagues in executive management there.
- Honestly, it has brought me closer to the University. Both of my daughters went to UW Madison with the youngest graduating a year ago. So the timing was perfect to get to know the school again.
- There is a lot of negativity about the ambitions and drive of younger generations. Andrew helped restore my faith in care, ambition and old fashioned hard work of the new generation entering adulthood.

Jen Argue '93:

- It keeps me connected to the true heart & soul of the university.
- It's a great opportunity to be a positive influence on our students.

John F. Lee '94:

- I wanted to give back to UD since it's been so good to me. I waited to get involved at an age where I felt my experience could really help out a UD student
- I really enjoy the interaction of age differences and the expectations of a 23 year old versus a 43 year old in the ways of communicating and interacting.
- This experience has been wonderful, and I know that I'd really like to help out again and stay active in the program for the 2015-2016 year.
- I'd tell someone considering participation in this program to approach it with a very open mind, but have fun and listen more than you talk.
- This program has helped me realize just how lucky we are to have such great students from all over the world attending UD and how great of an alumni group we have.

- My student and I have attended UD football games together, spent a lot of time getting him ready to graduate and laughing at all the good stories he had week in and week out. I really enjoy this experience and will stay a Mentor for years to come to my Mentee.

Jessica Ledbetter '10:

One of the main reasons I decided to get involved with this program is the fact that I wish there would've been programs like this available when I was an undergrad at UD. The last year of college can be utter chaos at times, and I personally would think having someone there for not only guidance, but to also act as a non-judgmental journal, would be a huge help. This program gives students a chance to meet with someone and really clear their heads and vent, which I think is very important. My students and I have talked about everything-work, school, post-grad ideas, studying abroad, roommate problems, internships, personal goals. You name it. Prior to starting this program, I was unaware of just how much students carry on their plates. Yes, I was a student and carried the exact same loads during my undergrad years, but to see it taking place from a different perspective was and still is interesting.

Seeing how much this program helps and means to the student is a reward. Being the one who provides help has opened my eyes to the needs of students. I feel like I make a difference just by giving an hour or so of my time every couple weeks. The littlest push or suggestion can mean so much to someone who is experiencing the chapter after high school. Someone who is coming into their own. I've been fortunate enough to work with students who keep me in the know of everything that has been going on with them, both professionally and personally. I feel as if I've earned that trust from them, and that is most definitely one of the perks of being involved.

I would absolutely recommend that other alumni get involved with this program, even if it's just for a year. You will get just as much out of it as the students. You get to not only watch someone succeed, but you get to be a part of it. I truly applaud UD for developing this program. It goes to show how much they appreciate everyone who has spent any time on the campus or involved with the school. UD obviously holds a special place in my heart because of my four years there, but knowing how much lengths they go to in order for their students to succeed makes me love the school even more.

Maureen Willits '69:

- My love for the University goes deep. I received a fine education and basked in the warmth of the Marianist tradition. I would have liked a mentor during my undergrad years to help make my experience even more rewarding. So, when the opportunity to be a mentor was offered, I had no hesitation to become involved as a volunteer. Learning more about the challenges today's students face, the support UD gives students, as well as the opportunities available to them has made me even more aware of the great education a student will receive at UD.
- I think I gained as much being a mentor as I hope my mentee has in being mentored. Erin introduced me to ArtStreet (her on campus living quarters) and after one of our sessions, she explained what it means to live at ArtStreet, took me on a tour, and then introduced me to her apartment-mates at her apartment. We have shared other experiences as well such as our mutual love for UD basketball, and

together visited some graphic art venues (she is a graphic art major) in The Dayton area. We often have our meeting over coffee both on and off campus as well as texts, emails and phone. I have gotten to know an incredible young woman who is active in many aspects of University life.

- It's a wonderful way to give back as well as for staying connected to life at the University that may differ greatly from your own experience depending on when you graduated. I was nervous at first that I was "too old" to be relevant to today's students, but I believe that some of the wisdom that comes with it has proved to be very valuable to Erin. As a recent retiree, I've also been able to meet Erin on a schedule that fits into her very busy campus life so we've been able to meet face-to-face for most of our discussions. Mentees with younger mentors will benefit from the mentor's experience in today's environment. So, it's a win-win no matter when you graduated!
- We've had some sharing of campus life in the 60s vs today i.e. Skirts required in class for women (raincoats over hiked up pjs were a dead giveaway that we woke up late for 8am classes!), curfews, Kennedy Union dress requirements, etc. Recently, I was helping Erin prepare for two interviews: One for a position w/Flyer Enterprises for her Senior year and one for a company in her hometown region for a summer internship. As I researched both firms to come up with some potential interview questions, I learned about yet, another amazing organization on Campus - Flyer Enterprises! Erin than told me even more when we met to go over how she might answer interview questions. I wasn't familiar with this million dollar student run business - it was truly eye-opening!
- We have laughed over such things as campus locations. After one meeting, I offered to drop her off close to her next class which she said was at the Science Center. When I asked her whether that was close to Sherman Hall (where I took a lot of my classes in the 60s) she responded that she did not know where that was, but led me through the back of campus behind Stuart, Kettering and Marycrest (another new adventure for me) and onto Stewart St. Lo and behold, we turned into the small lot behind Sherman/Wohlleben!
- One of the things my mentee and I developed was a discussion guide for most of our meetings. I will bring that along on the 20th. It served Erin and I well in staying focused and on track with what we were trying to accomplish each meeting as we made sure to keep our meetings to under an hour. It also spelled out in our notes section, what "responsibilities" we had for the next meeting.

Tony Lupia '74:

I have been involved with the mentoring program since it started three years ago. Without a doubt it's been extremely beneficial to me and based on the successes of my six student mentees, it's been very worthwhile to them. Every Alum should participate because it is a great way to both stay up with student perspectives and to keep in touch with the University, not to mention the self-fulfillment of "giving back and paying forward". Considering the benefits, it really doesn't take much time and it brings back great memories of being a Flyer during your days at UD.

Becky Novacek '12

- I decided to participate in this program because I wanted to give back to UD. I have so many great memories at UD and wanted to be able to help a future flyer get a jump start in preparing for the business world.

- Throughout my time spent in the Alumni Mentoring Program I've gain a new perspective on college students. I attend career fairs for my job and haven't been that impressed with the different candidates. However, my UD mentee was so hard working and driven, which was refreshing. It made me want to help her succeed after UD even more.
- My time spent in the Alumni Mentoring Program was a great experience to reconnect with the University that I love and have so many found memories. It's also a great way to give back to UD students and help them achieve their career goals.
- Meeting my mentee for the first time was a great experience. She was so kind and driven. It was also awesome to spend some time on UD's campus again!

Doug Pence '78

The main reason I participate in the Program is to give back to UD what UD give me. I want our graduates to be prepared for the working world not just in the university studies but also in the real life situations that will occur after graduation. These students need to realize that they are now on their own really for maybe the first time both financially and personally. Tuff decisions will need to be made. I enjoy seeing UD students listen and see what does lie ahead for them and then see them planning or making decisions about their future. I feel this helps me connect to UD and hopefully give back to the university.

Amy Hartman '99

- I am a proud UD alum, so I felt this program would give me a chance to reconnect with my alma mater. I also believe in the value of mentoring, so I wanted to do what I could to assist a student who likely faced the same challenges and questions I did as an education major.
- I feel I've been given a wonderful opportunity to pass along the helpful, abundant academic and career advice others have given to me! My mentee and I have grown close and have challenged each other to learn and grow.
- I will tell others that as long as they are willing and able to give of their time appropriately, they should consider joining this program. You can be an inspiration and encouragement to a UD student, and the benefits and possibilities for personal growth are endless.
- Working with a mentee who is so involved on campus has rekindled my love for UD and has reminded me of the excellent education and appreciation for community I gained as a UD student. It has reminded me not to take this for granted.
- Just recently, I was able to help my mentee prepare her resume and outfit and hone her soft skills for a career fair and a networking event. I was able to share my experiences with her and help her get ahead of her competition. My mentee has followed through on all of the career advice I have given her and has succeeded as a result. I have high hopes for her -- she is going to leave her footprint on the world around her!

Eric Hendrickson '88

- I participated in this program as a way to help someone accelerate themselves in their career without having to learn everything the hard way. It is very important to have a mentor in your life and it is something I really never had. As I get older, I realize that by leveraging what other people have experienced or being open to learning that it makes me a more effective leader in my life and not just in my career. Youth today seem to want instant gratification which when starting a career has conflict with the patience and time it takes to prove oneself for an employer. It takes time to establish a reputation for knowledge, experience, and hard work and students need to understand this as they graduate and are going against a much larger pool of competition for jobs than just 5 or 10 years ago.

- I have gained the satisfaction of being able to offer some guidance and suggestions that hopefully will make Dan's decisions more informed and give him something to reflect upon. In a selfish way Dan has given me a small window into what it was like when I was going to UD and how it will be for my daughter who is coming in the fall. It is refreshing to speak with someone who has the respect and gracious attitude that Dan has provided to me. Dan and I don't speak as often as I thought we would, but I make myself available to him whenever he needs me and that has worked out great. Some mentees may communicate more often, but everyone is going to have different expectations and needs. Dan seems to be happy with our relationship and it is always enjoyable to speak with him.
- I would absolutely recommend this program to whoever wants to participate both as a student mentee or as a mentor. This is one way that I can give back to others which in the long run very rewarding for me. I am proud to be able to contribute to the next generation of leaders who will shape the world we live in long after I am gone.

Ginny Boeckman '82

- I saw this program as an opportunity to give back to UD and to share many years of experience with my mentee. I look forward to hearing about the activities and opportunities that my mentee has available to her as a freshman at UD!
- I believe I have gained a better view of the world from a college student's perspective.
- As a hiring manager, I have learned what students are looking forward to in life/career after UD.
- If I met someone considering this program, I would encourage them to reach out and take the risk to share their experience with a student—it will benefit you as much as it will benefit them!
- This experience has given me the opportunity to see first-hand all of the great things the University has to offer students—the commitment to programs like this make UD special!
- Not only does this program allow you to connect with UD students, I reconnected with a former co-worker who was also a mentor. We had a great time reminiscing and sharing life stories!

Cory Miller '09

- UD holds a very special place in my heart. Being a native Daytonian, it was a dream of mine ever since I was a child to attend UD. Now that I have graduated and have established a career within the community I wanted to find a way to give back. I know that I personally cannot write a big check, but what I can donate is my time and resources as well as connections within the area. It is fantastic to be able to donate, but for me to see that value first hand is priceless.
- Well the cliché answer to what I have gained is that I have gained a friend. The textbook answer is that I have gained a new professional relationship. The heartfelt answer is that I have positively impacted a new Young Professional. The truth is that I have gained insight on how to help better a student's thought process and abstract thinking ability. Not by telling them what to do, but helping them think before they act as well as reflect on past actions.
- Being a mentor is not something to slap on your resume. It is a somewhat big responsibility. I am not saying that you are required to donate 10 hours a week or that you need to set some sort of quantitative figure around a monthly goal. The time you spend with your mentee is priceless. Ten minutes of your time can be equivalent to what some people give in an hour. What you make of that time and the knowledge that you provide makes it priceless.
- The mentor/mentee experience has helped to better ground me. I have always had a great appreciation for the university and was definitely in the same shoes as my mentee at one point, but this experience has allowed me to understand, on a deeper level, that I can personally do more than what I ever imagined.
- One of the funnier times I shared with my mentee are the random conversations we would have outside of our allotted meeting times. One of the funniest things I remember chatting to her about was

when she asked me what else she should add to her “UD Bucket List” before she graduates. It brought me back to when I was on campus and allowed me to share some of the traditions my classmates and I created.

Dick Moran '71

- It has been enlightening to see that the younger generation is quite focused and willing to work long hours in order to achieve their goals. It has also given me the opportunity to give something back to UD that until now I have not been able to do. Coincidentally, along with Jessica White, I have been able to help craft a memorial scholarship in the name of one of my teachers who passed away last year (Gerry Kerns). So, this has been a good year for giving back.
- Talking and listening to Nathan has given me a refreshing perspective on UD and what UD offers to its students.
- I believe that we should aim this program more at students who are more unsure of themselves as it relates to their goals and what they want to do in the future. Nathan is laser-beamed focused both academically (4.0 in his first semester!!) and for his future.

Christina Chaffin '11

- I believe networking is about building professional relationships with depth, and as someone who has learned the true value of networking, that was one of my biggest motivations for wanting to participate in this program. As a UD grad, I love being connected to the university, and this is one of the greatest ways I can give back. I've been involved with this program since it started and the value that keeps me involved is the value I know it carries, and the joy I have for working with UD students.
- This program is all about engagement and I can honestly say that it's that kind of engagement that keeps me going. Networking is not about gaining anything for yourself. But, when you do put yourself out there to be of service in such a way, you gain more than you could ever expect.
- I've benefited, and gained a great deal from my experience with this program. Without a doubt, the greatest thing I've gained is an appreciation (and a reminder) of how successful UD students already are, and I find it rewarding and exciting to watch them grow over the course of a school year.
- When talking about the benefits of this program, I first talk about the potential to make a major difference in a student's life. Those who mentor carry a true belief in students today and that belief goes much further than just those who are mentored. The mentors involved in this program have a true belief in students everywhere who apply themselves, and when students come into contact with those who believe in them, their confidence is lifted. Your true belief in them alone is a major factor to what makes a difference in their life of professional goals.
- The University of Dayton was a place where I grew in so many ways. Being able to be part of this program has reminded me that it's up to you to believe in yourself. But, when you have someone who has already come before you to talk and strategize with, goals become so much clearer. This experience gave me the opportunity to be of service in ways that represent UD's acts of service, and being able to be active in such a way for current students is exciting!

Dominique Schiano

- Why did you decide to participate in this program? What value has kept you involved?
I decided to participate in this program since I participated in it while I was a student at UD and got a

lot out of it. I wanted to give back to the program the way it gave to me while in school. I have kept involved because you realize that you are influencing the lives of young UD students during a crazy transition time in their lives.

- What have you gained through your partnership with your student mentee?

I have gained an appreciation for mentor relationships. I understand how important and how valuable they are and can be in your development and success.

- What would you say to someone else who is considering participation in this program?

It is sometimes hard to coordinate with your mentee but as long as you try and put the effort in it is well worth it.

- How has this experience helped you to connect to your personal UD experience, or the University as a whole?

The experience has made me reflect on my time at UD through answering the mentee's questions. It has also given me a glimpse of the many changes that continue to occur on campus. The mentee is able to share with me the new developments and we are able to connect on this commonality.