

Alumni Leadership Mentoring Programme 2019/20

Inspiring Success

Mentor biographies

This document contains the profile & biographies of the 24 available mentors. On your application form you will be given the opportunity to explain your reasons for choosing your 1st and 2nd choice mentor.

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1. David F - Partner, transaction and advisory services, former Seismologist (*Geophysical Sciences, 1988*)

“I would like to help students widen their horizons and open their eyes to the possibilities available to them.”

Even as one of the first in his family to go to University, David always knew he wanted to work in the oil and gas industry and studied Geophysical Sciences at Leeds for this reason. After graduating, David spent 2 years working as an Exploration Seismologist in a seismic exploration company, before realising that it wasn't quite the right fit for him.

Since then, David has spent the last 28 years working his way up a multinational Professional Services firm, one of the 'Big Four' Professional Services companies, before being offered the position of Partner in 2007. David works specifically in oil and gas transactions and finds his background and training in this area invaluable when it comes to building relationships with clients.

As a lot of his clients are geoscientists themselves who now work in finance, they feel they can talk to and trust David.

David didn't expect to stay with the company after completing his training, however, he was then offered a secondment in Chicago, which highlighted just how many benefits came with working for the company. During his time at the firm, David has worked in excess of 70 different countries and as an advisor on more than 300 transactions. This, along with working on some of the largest transactions in the world, has brought different challenges with each day, making his work highly enjoyable.

David benefits from working with a hugely diverse/multinational, highly intelligent group of people, both within the company and through his clientele. He advises students to pursue what you enjoy and what stimulates you, whilst making the most of opportunities available. Try to build the right networks, skills and qualifications to reach your goals and then take all the appropriate steps to achieve them. He believes it is important to stretch yourself and push boundaries, so that you don't get stuck into a routine. David already has experience of mentoring, as part of a scheme that aims to achieve 30% female membership at board level. He would like to help students widen their horizons and open their eyes to the possibilities available to them.

2. Liz - Advisory Partner, one of the 'big four' auditors (*Physiology, 1991*)

"I thoroughly enjoy the mentoring side of my job, helping and advising new Partners in the company, and want to provide support to students as well."

Coming from a large family and being one of the first in her family to go to University, Liz feels joining Leeds was an important step towards being independent. Having originally wanted to go into Medicine, Liz studied Physiology at Leeds, before having a change of heart about her future career. After graduating in 1991, Liz joined a graduate scheme as an audit trainee in the Leeds branch of a Professional Services company, which is considered one of the 'Big Four' Professional Services firms. She has remained working for this company ever since and has had an impressive and varied career.

After nearly a decade working in Transaction Services in the Leeds branch, Liz moved down to London where she was offered a one year secondment as Senior Manager in a leading British alcoholic beverages company. This not only provided her with a different working environment and experience but also gave her the chance to travel to California. Although this year was a valuable and enjoyable experience, it made Liz realise the benefits of working for the large Professional Services firm company, which is part of the reason she has remained all this time.

Liz returned to her role in Transaction Services where she was promoted to Director at first and later, Partner. For the last 15 years, her work has been focused on deals and consumer markets and she currently holds the role of UK Head of Consumer Markets and Advisory Partner. Through her work, Liz has been able to travel extensively through Europe and Asia, and now supports a young family of her own.

Working in a highly respected, large company that helps to manage its employees' careers has helped Liz's career progress through audit and transactions, across different countries, without having to change companies. The variation of her roles has left no time to be bored and she enjoys that no two days are the same. More recently, Liz has come to thoroughly enjoy the mentoring side of her role, helping and advising new Partners and people coming up through the company. She advises students to do something at University that you enjoy and make the most of opportunities available, as you can always chose to go down a different route in your career. It is important to network and build relationships, especially face-to-face, as 'people skills' will help put you ahead of the fierce competition for graduate roles. Interacting with and building relationships with clients is also a significant element of this line of work, something that Liz really enjoys about her role.

3. David N - Chief Operations Officer, financial services industry (*Economics & Management Studies, 1991*)

“I want to encourage students to be curious and open minded and grab every opportunity with both hands.”

As the first in his family to go to University, David was thrilled to graduate from Leeds with a First in Economics & Management Studies. He went on to join the graduate scheme with one of the ‘Big Four’ international accountancy and professional services firms.

Joining the partner development programme, David became a partner in the firm within only 9 years. While his focus was originally in audit, David shifted to risk advisory in 1999 and he is now the Chief Operating Officer for the Firm’s Global Risk Advisory business – a business employing 22,000 professionals in over 100 countries. As part of his role, he travels around the world to consult with large complex organisations in both the public and private sectors - on a range of risk and financial issues and visited over 20 countries last year alone.

With thousands of employees under his leadership with an average age under 30, David thoroughly enjoys the vibrant, diverse and driven atmosphere in the team. He is constantly inspired by his colleagues and appreciates the buzz and passion they bring to the Firm.

He loves the immense variety and unpredictability of the role in which no two days are ever the same. Due to his own broad scope of experiences, David encourages all students to be curious and open minded and to grab every opportunity they come by with both hands.

4. Ben - Head of legal and transaction management of UK bank (*Management and Spanish, 2004*)

“I enjoy helping students who are at the start of their careers to understand the workplace and what is required to be successful in business.”

Ben started his career at a corporate national law firm where he worked as a trainee solicitor, including 9 months on secondment to an alcoholic beverages company in Cape Town. Ben’s trainee seats in London were Banking, Real Estate and Litigation. On qualification as a solicitor in March 2009, Ben joined the firm’s banking department in London, looking to specialise in leveraged finance.

When the credit crunch and global downturn occurred, Ben moved with the leveraged finance team to a global law firm to develop and grow the corporate banking team in London. Ben worked as an associate and then senior associate at this firm, advising a number of banks, lending institutions and corporates on high value corporate and real estate transactions.

In February 2016, Ben left this global law firm to establish the legal team at a challenger bank, which is focused on debt finance and was set up by 2 entrepreneurs.

Ben joined the bank when the loan book was £30m and established the legal infrastructure for the bank to facilitate the bank lending over £2.2bn in less than three years.

This bank has lent to businesses across the UK and into sectors from hotels, bars and restaurant chains, to care homes, nurseries, manufacturing companies, security companies, tech companies, property developers, art galleries, catering businesses, private equity firms, and media agencies. The bank has now lent to over 200 UK entrepreneurs, which has directly helped with the creation of 3,600 new homes and 4,000 new jobs in the UK.

At Leeds, Ben met a variety of people from a number of different cultures, many of whom he remains friends with. For this reason, he is excited to become a mentor and encourages students to find something at Leeds which will make them stand out from the ‘average’ candidate.

Ben’s best advice for students at University is to maintain a ‘yes’ and ‘can do’ attitude. Some roles and tasks may not be the most glamorous, and if they demonstrate an individual’s ability and desire to work hard, learn and be an integral member of a team, then the only way is up!

Ben enjoys helping students who are at the start of their careers to understand the workplace and what is required to be successful in business. Making decisions at this stage of a young person’s life can shape their futures, and it is important to discuss and plan career paths with as many people as possible. Ben also enjoys taking time out of a very fast moving and time pressured work place to assist on a very worthy programme.

5. Alan - CEO, drug discovery for cancer immunotherapy and metabolism (*Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, 1994*)

“I hope the knowledge that I have gained over 20 years in the pharmaceutical industry will prove useful to a student and may open new doors in terms of their future career.”

After graduating from Leeds with a PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Alan spent three years at the University of Glasgow completing a post-doctorate fellowship, researching GPCRs in mammalian signalling systems. This gave him the platform to kick-start his career in the pharmaceutical industry.

In the late 1990s, Alan joined what was then the third-largest pharmaceutical company in the world, before witnessing its merger with another growing drug discovery organisation, creating one of Britain's leading pharmaceutical companies today.

In 2015, this company was listed as the world's sixth largest pharmaceutical company. Alan spent 12 years here working in research and development, nearly 5 years of which he was also the Section Head of a group focused on profiling newly discovered small molecules through various in vitro cell systems.

After relocating to Scotland again in 2009, Alan took a bit of a career change and became a Senior Executive in an economic development agency of the Scottish Government, where his work focused on the economic growth in life sciences in Scotland. It was during his year here that Alan met the founders of his current company, which focuses on small molecule drug discovery and development in cancer immunotherapy and metabolism.

Alan has spent the last 7 years working for this company, initially as Head of Biology and more recently as CEO. Alan is currently on a career break.

Alan believes the successful progression of his career has been helped by the fact he has always kept an open mind with regards to new career opportunities. Utilising the right networks and contacts has also been an important accompaniment to hard work and good judgement. Alan advises students that they need to be resilient in this tough area of work, as there are likely to be some failures. Don't expect success on day one but more importantly, never give up.

Alan decided to become a mentor primarily to utilise his career experience to encourage and help guide the career path of a student at his old University. Alan hopes the knowledge that he has gained over 20 years in the pharmaceutical industry will prove useful to a student and may even open new doors in terms of their future career.

6. Susan - Entrepreneur and CEO, HR solutions for healthcare systems (*Genetics & Microbiology, 1985*)

“Having coached individuals for 25 years, I want to share my experiences in creating solutions to organisational and management issues.”

Since graduating from the University of Leeds with a BSc degree in Genetics & Microbiology, Susan has had over 25 years’ legal, management and business experience. After completing a Law conversion degree, Susan became a specialist employment solicitor and a CEDR Accredited Mediator, working as a Judge for over five years.

Once retired from the Judiciary, Susan focused on expanding her career as a mediator and helping businesses focus on creating “solutions” to organisational and management issues. Using her extensive experience in management, Susan has created innovative management, HR and training solutions for the major healthcare service in the UK.

Susan is currently the CEO of a group of practices, which are composed of GP’s, Managers and Clinicians, serving 24,000 patients at three sites across the London Borough of Newham. In 2010, the first practice in this group was ranked by Healthcare 100 as the 24th best employer to work for across all categories of health service providers in the UK. Susan is also the CEO of a company that provides bespoke HR solutions, leadership and management development and training to healthcare professionals, through which she has developed a cloud based operational tool to enable healthcare organisations to work collaboratively and safely.

7. Hemant - Managing Director and CEO of biometrics company (*Electrical and Electronic Engineering, 1982*)

“I want to share the skills I have developed throughout my career in innovating electronics worldwide.”

After graduating from Leeds with not only a BSc degree, but a doctorate (PhD) in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Hemant began his career in a leading company that focuses on the design and manufacture of a broad range of customised radio frequencies, microwave and millimetre wave components and subsystems. After a few years, he secured the position of Managing Director of this company, a position he held for 12 years. This culminated in 4 years as CEO of the public listed Group.

After these leading roles, Hemant became the President of another Electrical and Electronic Manufacturing company for a year, before being appointed Managing Director and CEO of a Norwegian biometrics *company*, specialising in fingerprint imaging and fingerprint recognition technology.

Being the CEO of a Norwegian public listed company, Hemant splits his time between Oslo, UK, US offices and his home in Northern England. On top of his international travel, Hemant also speaks four different languages.

Hemant’s key skills are in wireless communications, start-ups and in biometrics. These are skills he has developed throughout his impressive career in innovating electronics across the world.

8. Johnny - Professional British racing driver (*Geography and Spanish, 1988*)

“I would like to share my mechanical and technical knowledge of racing with a student who shares a similar interest.”

Johnny was raised in Majorca and came to the University of Leeds to study Geography and Spanish.

Having begun his career as a Racing Driver when he was 19 years old, Johnny has since competed in every class of world championship car racing with victories and podiums at virtually all major endurance events, and is considered one of the world's elite sports car drivers.

Johnny's achievements to date include being a four-time British and one-time European GT champion, and having earned podiums at the prestigious 24 hours of Le Mans and 6 hours of Nürburgring. In 2018 Johnny was inducted into the University of Leeds Sporting Hall of Fame, joining names such as the Brownlee Brothers and rugby legend Ray French.

Not only is Johnny a highly decorated driver, but he has also been heavily involved in the development and design of cars throughout his career, and runs his own driving academy working with both corporate clients and aspiring professionals.

Johnny has exceptional mechanical and technical knowledge and during his racing career he has assisted with the development of cutting edge technologies which range from the first GT sequential gearboxes to a KERS Hybrid system for a UK powertrain and vehicle engineering enterprise, which was the first of its kind to compete and earn a podium in an international sports car event.

Johnny assisted a British sports car manufacturer in the development of a Formula 1 concept car, right from the initial CAD drawings. He collaborated directly with the car's designer and engineering consultant to develop traction control, engine mapping, aerodynamic modifications, torsion bars and inertia dampers.

Johnny has previously come back to campus to talk to the Leeds Formula Race Team and also presented to the Go-Karting society at their annual awards.

The best advice Johnny could recommend to anyone wanting to succeed in their career, is to continually persevere. On top of that, it is important to remember that the harder you work the luckier you will get in terms of creating opportunities for yourself. However, make sure that when those opportunities arrive, you are prepared to take full advantage of them – you only get one chance to make a first impression!

9. Nick - Executive and Non-executive Director of oil and gas exploration and production companies (*Geophysical Sciences, 1989*)

“I hope to share my extensive knowledge of the energy industry with a student.”

Nick has a BSc and PhD in Geophysical Sciences from the University of Leeds and has an MBA from INSEAD, a leading graduate business school. With a background including science, investment banking and management consulting, Nick has had an impressive career so far. He began his career working as a geophysicist for two oil companies, one American and one British. Nick then joined the energy teams at both an American management consulting firm, advising on projects in development, and a leading global investment banking firm between 1999 and 2005.

In 2005, Nick co-founded a new oil and gas exploration and production (E&P) company, whose activities were focused in South East Asia. After his leading role in this company, Nick was made Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of a larger oil and gas E&P company with assets in Africa, Asia and Mexico. Following this, he was appointed a further significant role of Non-Executive Director of another oil E&P Company, which is North Sea focussed.

In his two most recent roles, Nick led both companies' Initial Public Offerings (IPO) onto the FTSE 250. This is a capitalisation-weighted index consisting of large companies listed on the London Stock Exchange.

In addition to his extensive work within the energy industry, Nick is also the director of both a brewery and a winery in Southern England.

**10. Peter - Managing Director of systems and services provider in the oil and gas sector
(Mining Engineering, 1985)**

“I want to encourage students to accept no boundary and to enjoy their career journey.”

Peter began his career as a coal miner in Doncaster and was supported through his education by the National Coal Board, enabling him to graduate from Leeds with a degree in Mining Engineering. He then joined a multinational oil and gas company as a graduate Drilling Engineer, undergoing formal training for two years before moving to a smaller company to manage their business creation and development in Europe and Africa.

In 1992 he founded his own company, specialising in Drilling Project Management and Conceptual Field Design and has led multi-disciplinary teams unlocking reserves for many oil companies which include several record breaking assets. As well as being Technical Director for five international mobile rig operations, he has also been advisor to international companies at strategic levels.

Always looking for new opportunities, he founded a second company in 2006 where he led the development of several products in Risk Management, Risk Based Economic Evaluation and Competence Assurance, the programs of which have been deployed internationally by many leading oil companies.

Peter encourages students to accept no boundary, not to be too upset when moved off course and enjoy the career journey.

11. Grant - Marketing and Communications Director (*Economics and Econometrics, 1986*)

“I want to provide students with the advice that they will need to be successful in the world of marketing and advertising.”

Since graduating from the University of Leeds with a BA degree in Economics and Econometrics, Grant has been an important presence in the global marketing and advertising industry. He began his career in advertising, taking on the role of Business Development Director in two of the largest agencies in the world. During this time, Grant won over 40 new business pitches for the two companies. In 1998, Grant became the Managing Director of a much smaller advertising agency, managing to increase the company's profits from under £100K per year to £8 million per year for the last three years. In addition to this, he orchestrated the sale of this company to a leading marketing communications business, when he was then invited to merge his company with another. This was a success and created the largest, most profitable agency outside of London.

For three years, Grant worked as Senior Vice President Marketing Communications for a Commercial company in the America's, where he increased revenues and connections across the whole of the America's region. He then spent two years working as Communications Director for the Australasian branch of a global communications and advertising agency, where he was responsible for, amongst other things, the biggest Telco client in the region.

In 2010, Grant joined a Chinese start up and by 2014 they posted record revenues of over £600million and were operating in over 13 provinces across China. Grant is now the Chief Marketing Officer of this Chinese technology, content and services company, which has evolved from a successful sports lottery business with revenues in excess of £650m to a dynamic technology platform provider. His role is to build data and expand their range of partnerships and affiliate agreements, by providing unique and bespoke content, specifically in the area of Football. This includes four of the biggest football clubs in the world; FC Barcelona, Manchester City, Arsenal and Borussia Dortmund.

Grant believes that commitment, enthusiasm and hard work have helped his career to progress. He always does research and acquires knowledge of any prospective roles. Grant enjoys working with football clubs and advises students to follow their dreams, work hard and be the person who makes things happen.

When employing colleagues in the past, Grant is known to have encouraged recent graduates to step outside of their comfort zone and embrace the corporate world of marketing and advertising. He has provided them with the training and advice they will need in order to get into or to be successful in the industry. He is, therefore, already experienced in mentoring young people.

**12. Adam - Commercial and Marketing Director for nationwide hospitality company
(*Archaeology & History, 1984*)**

“I am keen to help students develop the social confidence needed to become successful in business.”

After graduating from Leeds, Adam developed a keen interest in marketing and became Brand Manager for a leading global confectionery company. Following an MBA from the London Business School, he has held several senior positions at leading hospitality companies to create consumer-needs driven products.

Adam is a specialist in business strategy and consumer marketing and now works as the Managing Director of a nationwide hospitality business with 3000 employees. As a leader, he particularly enjoys motivating his team and the challenge of thinking critically to plan ahead.

He is keen to share his wide variety of experiences to provide students with insight and help to develop the social confidence needed to become successful in businesses.

13. Joan - Former Marketing Director and Careers Consultant (*Economics & History, 1965*)

“I believe the most rewarding role is supporting and helping people to reach their goals and potential.”

After university, Joan started her career in strategic planning with a global packaging company before transferring into consumer marketing and brand management for cosmetics companies, working in both the UK and Europe. Joan then relocated to South Africa where she established a European Organisation to promote platinum as a jewellery metal. The opportunity to work for international companies and experience overseas postings was particularly enjoyable, as the chance to be exposed to different cultures greatly enhanced Joan’s understanding of the world.

Back in the UK, Joan transitioned to Board level roles which brought together her strategic planning and brand marketing skills to enhance the image, reputation and profitability of three household name retailers. Throughout this period, Joan designed and developed national advertising programmes, multi-media internal communications and recommended new market positioning for retail stores, as well as developing marketing departments.

Having succeeded in her marketing career, Joan took a year out and retrained in Systemic Counselling before also becoming an accredited coach with the University of Strathclyde. For the next 10 years, Joan specialised in outplacement for redundant executives before starting up her own company to provide Career management to Senior Civil Servants in government departments, notably the Department for Work and Pensions, the Cabinet Office and the Home Office.

Whilst Joan has enjoyed all aspects of her career, she notes that the latest phase of her working life as a Careers Coach has undoubtedly been the most personally satisfying. Providing 1:1 coaching to support and help people reach their goals and potential was certainly the most rewarding role ever, which is why Joan would like to become a mentor to students.

Considering her illustrious career, Joan has a wealth of advice to impart on current students. Firstly, to have confidence in yourself, or no one will have confidence in you. Also, that ‘soft’ skills such as resilience and communication are just as important as any academic qualification. Finally Joan stresses the importance of always having a goal to strive for, and to remain motivated to achieve that goal.

14. Beth - Performance Coach and former Business Analyst & Advisor (*German & Management Studies, 1993*)

“I saw the opportunity to mentor as a chance to help students going through the same experiences that I had whilst at university.”

After graduating, Beth did one year of work that was directly related to her studies, working in an Anglo-German marketing communications agency, before she decided to continue her education, completing an MSc in Analysis, Design & Management of Information Systems at the London School of Economics.

Beth chose this MSc in order to extend her business knowledge and develop her technological interests. University was the first time that Beth had used a computer, and consequently decided that she had an innate interest in the use of IT in business.

Over the next 20 years Beth was fortunate enough to work with a variety of companies as an industry analyst, where her interests lay in how businesses and people interact with technology, and how technology impacts upon peoples' roles in business.

Beth has spent the last 10 years analysing best practices in supply chain, and worked as a Research Director for one of the leading supply chain research groups, with a focus on supply chain sustainability & integrity, as well as talent management & transformation.

Beth best describes herself as a 'Professional Storyteller'; she learnt from the best companies, understanding their best practices before synthesising the information and sharing this with other businesses. As a facilitator of knowledge between companies, Beth was in the fortunate position to bring leaders in the supply industry together to learn from one another.

Now Beth works as a professional Performance Coach and sees her current role as the next stage in the gradual evolution of her career, having spent the best part of her professional life looking at how people develop, and now gets to continue this as a full-time job.

The driving force behind Beth's career motivations has been the desire to help others realise their own potential. Beth saw the opportunity to mentor as a chance to help students going through the same experiences that she had whilst at the university, and to contribute to their personal growth and professional development.

15. Katherine - Chief Executive of a UK County Council (*Social Policy – 1989*)

“I look to inspire others to deliver the very best they can through an accessible, encouraging and challenging approach.”

Katherine began her career in Social Care, and went on to complete a Master’s degree in Social Work and Welfare. Since then Katherine has moved into corporate strategy, policy and major projects.

Katherine has held a number of senior, strategic leadership roles in local government in the North West of England and has a strong track record of delivery of transformational change and improved outcomes for residents. Before her current position, Katherine led on change and transformation as the Deputy Chief Executive at a borough council. There, Katherine took a leading role in Public Service Reform across the region.

Since 2017 Katherine has been Chief Executive at a County Council. Katherine provides corporate and strategic management of the council, supporting and advising politicians to achieve the council’s vision and ambitions. Within the council, Katherine works alongside other senior leaders to lead and manage cultural and organisational change across the county to champion the interest of the people of Cumbria.

Katherine has a collaborative leadership and as an experienced executive coach and mentor she has been successful in leading and inspiring others to deliver the very best they can through an accessible, encouraging and challenging approach.

16. Roderic - Former Ambassador to Russia (*History, 1970*)

“I look forward to being a mentor as I find passing on my knowledge to students extremely worthwhile.”

As a graduate keen to work abroad, Roderic was excited by his posting to Moscow shortly after he joined the Diplomatic Service as part of the Foreign Office. Working as a diplomat for 34 years, he spent half of his time working in the USSR and Russia as well as in places such as Senegal, New York and Geneva.

His career included two interesting and challenging jobs in ministerial offices; in the Foreign Secretary's office in the 1980s and in Downing Street in the 1990s as Foreign Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister. Following this, he achieved his ambition of becoming British Ambassador to the Russian Federation for 4 years.

Turning down the offer of becoming Foreign Affairs Adviser for a second time, Roderic retired and changed career path. He held several non-executive positions as an adviser to leading global energy businesses, multinational financial companies, a French hotel company with 5000 hotels worldwide and a mining company with operations in Russia.

As he has also been Chairman of the Board of Governors for a University in London, he really values Universities and finds passing on his knowledge to students extremely worthwhile and is looking forward to becoming a mentor.

17. Andrew - UK HR Director for global payment technology company *Textile Management, 1975*)

“I have a passion for helping others overcome their own obstacles, and maximise their potential.”

Andrew is very grateful for his time at Leeds, as it was during his course that he discovered his keen interest in employee engagement. After two years at the University of Bradford researching the topic further, he was offered a job with a leading British engineering company which started his 40 year career of a huge variety of roles in Human Resources.

With a passion for ensuring people work together effectively to achieve great results, Andrew has held several HR director positions for British and American international companies. He has worked across the world, including Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore and Mexico. Andrew currently is the UK HR Director at a global payment technology company.

Andrew has used his expertise at connecting with people on all levels to develop young people in particular throughout his career. He has a keen passion for helping others get over their own obstacles to see what they are good at and then maximising it. Andrew also emphasises the importance of doing what you are interested in and going with your gut, as he has demonstrated several times in his career.

18. Clive - Former Sectoral Managing Director for a group of technology companies (*Civil Engineering 1962*)

“I wish to help a student achieve their potential as a top business person.”

During his Civil Engineering degree at Leeds, Clive had the opportunity study Economics modules, giving him a broad range of practical and theoretical experience that would be invaluable for the early stages of his career in business.

Clive began his career at a manufacturing company where he was responsible for a wide range of areas including resolution of product failures. Being given a high level of responsibility in a relatively small company was a crucial building block in Clive’s career. After some years, Clive’s interest in Production led to his move to a Management Consultancy company where he retrained as a Sales and Marketing Consultant, gaining the invaluable business experience of working under intense pressure.

Clive soon decided he wanted to run companies. This led to the most significant move of his career when he joined a technology company group which would eventually become a FTSE 100 business. Over 30 years Clive managed companies in the UK, USA and Europe giving him a nuanced understanding of international businesses, including the recruitment of company directors and managing directors.

Understanding the continual need for innovation and progress is at the heart of Clive’s business philosophy. Through his experience as a manager and in recruiting new talent, Clive understands that training and development of people is key to the success of a business. He is looking to mentor a really able student with whom he can share his wealth of business knowledge and help achieve their potential as a top businessperson.

19. Mark – Co-Founder of independent management consultancy partnership (*Economics, 1981*)

“I am delighted to have the chance to help students explore options and gain insights into the world of business and management consultancy.”

Mark started his career in the insurance industry in the City before moving into management consultancy. Alongside four colleagues, he established his own consulting firm where he has been co-founder for 28 years, growing it to over 100 full-time employees with offices in both London and New York. He has worked with some of the world’s leading businesses across a range of sectors, consulting in all areas that underpin successful strategy and transformational change.

Mark particularly enjoys seeing the development of his colleagues and helping them step-up in their careers. He emphasises the importance of understanding and being aligned with the values of your organisation along with ensuring that your job enables you to do something that you find rewarding and worthwhile.

Having been there himself many years ago, Mark knows how hard it can be for students to make the right career choices and get into the jobs market. Mark is delighted, therefore, to have the chance to help students explore options and gain insights into the world of business in general and the management consultancy sector in particular, based on his experience of having worked with close to 100 client organisations across the world.

In addition to his deep consulting experience, Mark is a trained Executive Coach and a participant in the University Business School’s Leaders in Residence programme.

20. Samantha - Senior Head-hunter in Arts & Heritage Recruitment (*Economics and Accounting, 1990*)

“I see mentoring as a two way relationship; therefore I look forward to gaining some new skills as well as sharing my own insights and experiences.”

With over 30 years’ experience working in recruitment, Sam’s background has encompassed both the public and private sectors. Sam started out working for a leading financial recruitment business before running her own search business specialising in digital media and technology, and working for a specialist media and entertainment search firm.

In her current role, Sam specialises in senior executive and board recruitment across the not-for-profit and arts sectors, heading up the Arts, Culture and Heritage practice. Luckily for Sam, she leads on recruitment in a sector that she is deeply passionate about, as she likes to spend much of her free time indulging in the delights of galleries, theatres and museums.

For Sam, real enjoyment in recruitment comes from working with and meeting a variety of people, and helping these people demonstrate their true potential. Within the arts sector, Sam is able to work alongside incredibly talented people and wonderfully creative organisations, and her former clients have included Shakespeare’s Globe, the V&A and the Natural History Museum.

The age old dilemma of ‘it’s not what you know, but who you know’ has become apparent to Sam throughout her career in recruitment. Having no personal networks of her own when she started, Sam found career progression challenging and realised how fortunate some people are to have access to meaningful connections.

Sam understands that the world of work isn’t always straightforward to navigate, and encourages students to simply ‘Be Brave’. Sam also sees mentoring as an opportunity to develop a two way relationship, and whilst she looks forward to gaining some new skills herself, she is ready to share her own insights and experiences.

21. Alison - Chief Executive of a Yorkshire-based Mental Health Charity (*History 1993*)

“I wish to support those who also seek to break down the stigmas in our society.”

Upon graduating with a BA and MA in History and Medieval Studies, Alison found herself wondering how to apply her degree in the world of work. Staying true to her passion for justice and fairness, Alison decided to embark on a successful career in the Not-for-Profit Sector which has now spanned 30 years.

Alison began by working for a charity supporting homeless people in Leeds, and then as a senior manager at a charity which helps ex-offenders find suitable housing. Alison now works as the Chief Executive of a mental health charity based in Leeds and West Yorkshire. Alison enjoys the fact that she gets to see the positive influence of her work on a daily basis, and finds the strategic element of her job particularly engaging.

For 29 years Alison supported local government as a councillor, becoming the first black woman to sit on Leeds City Council. Additionally, Alison has been the Chair of the Police and Crime Panel, and sits on Safer Leeds, the Community Safety Partnership for the city. As a result of her public advocacy for LGBTQ+ rights, Alison was named Senior Champion of the Year by a UK LGBTQ+ rights charity.

Alison attended university as a mature student from a working class background who had to juggle caring for 2 young children. Alison says that whilst she struggled both physically and mentally with the pressures of university, she does not regret her decision to continue her education.

In life, Alison has learnt to treat her working class background as a personal asset, and cherishes her roots. Having mentored previously, Alison decided to offer her support to those who also seek to break down the numerous stigmas that permeate our society.

Alison’s advice to current students would be to forgive yourself when you make mistakes, and to not take everything too seriously. Most importantly, believe in yourself and stick to your values, as you will earn respect accordingly.

22. Jessica - CEO of a charity for disabled children and young people (*Classical Civilization, 1999*)

“I want to encourage young people to use their blend of skills and illustrate that there is no singular approach to becoming an industry leader.”

Jessica discovered her passion for problem solving when she entered the business development sector following her degree. Thriving on the fast-paced and challenging environment, she was responsible for creating innovative solutions for business propositions of large companies.

After working her way up the sector, Jessica had a career change and held several senior positions with the UK's largest community funder. During this time, she was responsible for developing their strategic objectives and delivering large scale youth engagement projects. She then became Chief Executive of the UK telephone helpline for under 25s where she oversaw a 27% increase in the number of young people supported.

Until recently Jessica was the CEO of the UK's leading volunteering charity for 14-25 year olds which focuses on inspiring large numbers of young people to volunteer. Jessica was approached to lead the volunteering charity and develop a new strategic direction for the organisation which has now created over 1 million volunteering opportunities across the UK with 31,439 people carrying out 460,611 hours of voluntary work.

Jessica is the newly appointed CEO of a charity which provides education, care and support to young people with physical disabilities from all over the UK and overseas. The aim of the charity is to prepare these young people for adult life, giving them the confidence and skills to achieve their full potential. By building upon the school's strong educational and care foundations, Jessica hopes to innovate strategic development and further develop services and external relations for the benefit of young people.

Having worked across several sectors, Jessica understands the importance of possessing a wide breadth of experience. She encourages young people to use their blend of skills and is keen to illustrate that there is no set approach to become an industry leader.

23. Emma - Partner in Commercial Technology at a boutique London law firm (*Law, 1997*)

“I hope to offer constructive guidance advice to students who are about to enter the legal career.”

After graduating with a law degree from the University of Leeds, Emma was called to the bar but instead decided to begin her career at a City law firm.

Emma’s big break into tech law came when she took a secondment and spent 6 months as a policy advisor to the UK Government.

Following this, Emma worked for a US law firm, splitting her time between London and Washington DC over a decade, where she worked on telecoms transactions and launched English Premier League football in sub-Saharan Africa.

Emma now leads on her firm’s cybersecurity and digital infrastructure legal practice areas. She thrives on the variety that comes with working in emerging technology law, tackling issues that are both intellectually challenging and require her to apply her accumulated industry knowledge and experience. After developing an interest in technology that began during her school years, Emma revels in the fact that she is able to combine her love of law with her passion for technology.

Emma encourages students today to follow their genuine interests, but to not neglect the importance of keeping up to date with reality and maintaining their commercial awareness.

Throughout her 20 years’ experience in the legal sector, Emma has witnessed the lack of diversity and difficulties facing women. As a junior, Emma struggled to find appropriate role models, which is why she hopes to offer constructive guidance and advice to a student who is braced to climb the first rung on their career ladder.

24. Amit - Partner in a private equity law firm (*Law, 1998*)

“I hope to use my wealth of legal experience to give students invaluable guidance throughout the first stages of their career.”

After graduating from Leeds with a Law degree, Amit undertook training at a London law firm with the intention of returning to Birmingham to pursue a career as an employment lawyer. However, Amit discovered private equity to be an exciting and interesting field of law, so began his now 20-year career as a private equity lawyer in London.

Amit steadily developed his career with the guidance of supportive colleagues who noticed his keen entrepreneurial spirit. Working at an international law firm, Amit progressed from Associate to Partner in 3 years, relishing the intellectual challenge as well as the experience of developing his commercial acumen.

Amit is now Partner at a top UK law firm where he is widely commended by colleagues and clients alike for his skills in connecting clients from diverse fields. Relationship-building is a talent that Amit was recognised for as a junior lawyer and is now crucial to his role as Partner, where he must help people navigate through stressful situations.

Amit encourages students to think big about their career and not to be put off by prestigious law firms, which have the resources to really nurture young talent. Amit hopes to use his wealth of legal experience to give students invaluable guidance through the first stages of their career.