

ALUMNI SHARE EXPERTISE THROUGH BUSINESS SPEAKER SERIES

(From *Rivier Today*, Fall 2019)

The Division of Business Speaker Series welcomed back several alumni this fall to share their professional experiences and career advice with current business students.



The first speaker in the series, **Ed Soucie '16**, completed a recruiting internship during his junior year at Rivier. Building on that experience, he has become a talent acquisition professional, currently working at Presidio, a national IT solutions provider.

Ed encouraged students to build their networks while still in college and to make the most of every connection. When looking for a first job, he offered, “One of the first steps I took after I graduated was really figuring out where I wanted to work, and what type of company I wanted to work for. Do not get too hung up on your title in the beginning. Land a job at a company where you believe in the leadership, and they believe in you. Trust me, grind for the first year and show your worth, and the rest will take care of itself.”



(Left to Right): Lia Bobek '16, Bill Werner '06, Ashley Snell Larochelle '08, Andy Chace '06

Lia Bobek '16, Andy Chace '06, Ashley Snell Larochelle '08, and Bill Werner '06, all former Raider athletes, returned to campus for a panel discussion, as the second presentation in the series. Lia is

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an Account Project Manager at American Tower Corporation. Andy holds CFP® and CEPA® certifications and is a partner in The Grieb & Chace Group, a private wealth advisory practice.

Ashley is the Director of Vision Activation for MegaFood, and Bill is a member of the Portsmouth Police Department Patrol Division, as well as an operator on the Seacoast Emergency Response Team.



The panel echoed Ed Soucie’s advice and provided additional insights and guidance. They encouraged students to create experiences to learn more about themselves while they are still at Rivier, and specifically recommended searching out a values exercise online to gain clarity on their core values. All agreed that a better understanding of self would help students to identify and pursue the most satisfying jobs and careers.

Offering advice for students to achieve success in their first professional position, the alumni recommended developing public speaking skills, becoming comfortable asking questions, building their professional networks, and developing a thick skin for greater resiliency when constructive criticism is offered.

“Enjoy your time here and make the most of it,” said Bill. “So when you leave here you know who you are as a person, because that’s important when you get out in the world.” ■