

Life lessons abound, Mike Kosch gives back

The Young Alumni Club allows recent Adrian College graduates the chance to give back via an affordable monthly gift. This gift can be applied to support any area of campus.

This month's profile features Mike Kosch, a 2007 graduate from Dearborn, MI.

Coaches are meant to teach their athletes life lessons that will serve them from for the rest of their lives. For Mike Kosch, that is former football coach Jim Lyall.

“Every once in a while, you meet somebody and think, “This is a good guy. This is someone I want to play for,” Mike said. “He had a certain spark to him.”

For that reason, Mike became a Bulldog.

Mike said Lyall taught him to set goals, work hard, and expect greatness.

“He was truly an optimistic person,” Mike said. “It was always a good day when you were around him.”

The life lessons didn't stop on the football field though. As a business marketing major, Mike said he still remembers lessons from his professors, specifically Drs. William Bachman and Patrick Quinlan.

“Bachman taught me that if you were going to procrastinate you weren't going to be an ‘A’ student,” Mike said. “I don't think I worked harder academically until I took a class with Bachman. His business policy class taught me to think differently. It taught me to analyze everything and make sure you have facts behind your opinion in order to back it up.”

The lessons learned from Dr. Quinlan applied to every facet of life.

“Quinlan was always on me about attendance in class and putting forth my best effort,” Mike said. “He taught me to always be punctual.”

When asked when he knew he had made the right decision in coming to AC, Mike replied, “I never doubted my decision. Through meeting the football coaches and meeting the business professors, I knew it was the right move.”

Mike currently serves as a regional vice president of Pacific Life and sells mutual wholesale mutual funds and annuities to financial advisors.

Mike said his experience at Adrian College helped to prepare him for his career. With help from Dr. Quinlan, Mike spent the summer before his senior year in Washington, D.C. interning with Merrill Lynch. Mike said that experience helped his resume standout when it came to applying for jobs. Being a student-athlete also helped setup Mike for what was next.

“I had a great foundation from all the classes I took and the life lessons I learned from playing sports and balancing that with academics,” he said.

Mike has been giving back for some time. His contributions go towards the business department and football program, as well as Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

We (alumni) can all credit a lot of success to our experience at Adrian,” he said. “I don’t think I’d be where I am today if I went to a big school. I owe where I’m at in life today to the football program, Coach Lyall, and my professors.”