

COES Mentees,

I hope that you had a great quarter break/Thanksgiving! We are thankful that you have chosen to participate as a mentee this year! Research shows that mentoring enables you to make full use of your knowledge and skills. As always, the goal of our monthly *e-newsletters* is to provide information on resources, upcoming events, mentoring tips and other items of interest designed to help you be more effective.

****Squeeze in a Meeting before the Holidays!*** With only two-and-a-half weeks of class before Christmas, holiday activities, and the start of a new quarter, it can be challenging to find time to meet with your Mentor. Stop right now, email or call them, and set up a time to check in. With such a long quarter break, if you aren't careful, a full month or two will pass and you won't have had a chance to talk with your Mentor about how things are going. Meeting for lunch at the Ropp or coffee at Java City in Tolliver are two convenient ways to get together!

****Take Two. *With mid-year approaching, now is a great time for you to stop, take a few minutes to reflect on your teaching and research progress in the fall, and make some mid-year adjustments. Did you struggle with getting assignments graded in a timely fashion? Did you get the grants and papers written that you had planned? What might you do differently this quarter? Ask your Mentor to share from their own experience in dealing with these and other issues!**

****NSF Webinar**.** *NSF has released a new Program entitled “Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (IUSE)” that provides a mechanism for submitting proposals for research-based and research-generating approaches to understanding STEM learning; designing, testing, and studying curricular change; wide dissemination and implementation of best practices; and broadening participation of individuals and institutions in STEM fields. We have signed up for a
*webinar on the NSF IUSE Program on Wednesday, Dec. 11 ****from****2:00-3:30 PM in BH 301*. Don't miss this opportunity!

* ***Holiday Events.** *Ruston hosts a number of holiday events, from the Ruston Community Theater play "Christmas Belles" at the Dixie Theater, Dec. 5 - 8, to the Ruston Christmas Parade on Thursday, Dec. 12 at 6 PM to a lecture on Tuesday, Dec. 17 from 5:00 - 6:30 PM by Dr. William Robinson

on "Tudor Christmas: Yule, Misrule, Wassail, and Wonder!" at Stone Theater on the Tech campus. Take a break, grab your friends and family, and enjoy!

Mentoring Tip for December:

**Top Five Tips on Networking *There is a great website for graduate students and their supervisors called "The Thesis Whisperer." It includes book reviews, tips on writing and presenting, getting things done, as well as some valuable blog posts, such as the one on "Top Five Tips for Academic Networking." I have found the information on this website as useful for faculty as it is for grad students! This refresher shares tips on how to be a more effective conference networker:

- * how to start up a conversation (talk about the papers/research),
- * forging new friends and networking opportunities (become the "social glue"),
- * the important rule of four with groups, and
- * socializing professionally!

To find out more, check out this article at "The Thesis Whisperer":
<http://thesiswhisperer.com/2010/09/23/top-five-ways-to-better-academic-networking/>.

Questions? Contact the OWISE Office at 257-2101 or advance@latech.edu.

Thanks!