

COES Mentees, I hope that you have turned in your grades and are looking forward to a great summer! I also hope that you have had at least one meeting with your Mentor - if not, stop right now, email them and set up your first meeting. As always, we appreciate so much your willingness to participate in the Mentoring Program. Research shows that mentoring benefits you because it can provide you with advice on defining and achieving career goals. As always, the goal of our **monthly e-newsletters** are to provide information on resources, upcoming events, mentoring tips and other items of interest designed to help you be more effective.

***Take advantage of the slower pace in summer to meet with your Mentor.** Summer is a great time to get to know your new Mentor. The pace is often slower and campus life is more relaxed. Take advantage of the opportunity to try out a new off-campus restaurant at lunch with your Mentor. *Don't let travel and other schedules keep you from meeting at least once a month with them!* Remember that mentoring can't be of value if you don't meet!

***Talk with your Mentor about Research.** Summer is the ideal time to focus on research - writing grants (even if the due date is in the fall, after school starts back), knocking out those papers and revisions that are still lingering after grades have been submitted, etc. But summer can also slip through your fingers if you aren't careful! Share with your Mentor your goals for this summer and ask for some advice on how to focus time and effort on the things that count the most and stay on track with summer plans.

***Ask your Mentor on how to Benefit from Summer Conferences.** Summertime often finds faculty attending at least one conference. Having served on the Board of Directors for three different professional organizations myself, I am always surprised to find that many faculty don't take advantage of opportunities or understand how to network at conferences. Have you even thought about volunteering to moderate a session? Do you attend sessions that give the current state of funding agencies or overviews of national issues in the field? It's always a good idea to go hear the plenary speakers or famous lecturers, no matter the topic. And attend the business meeting. It will help you understand how the organization really works, few young faculty will be there (so you will stand out in a good way), and it is a great way to get to meet and interact with the senior faculty who often run the organization.

***Don't forget to take some time off this summer.** While summer is a great time to focus on research, write papers and grants, it is also important for you to take some time off this summer. There are some great local events that provide some down time with family or friends without consuming lots of time or money. Check out the **Louisiana Peach Festival** here in Ruston, June 22 - 23, 2012 (<http://www.louisianapeachfestival.org/>). The new **Tech pool** is great if you haven't stopped by, complete with a restaurant and rock-climbing wall. **Mentoring Tip for May:**

* I receive updates from several professional organizations to which I belong that contain some interesting articles related to work, productivity, professional development, etc. A recent article focused on “**6 Habits of True Strategic Thinkers**” from *Inc. Magazine*. They are anticipate, think critically, interpret, decide, align, and learn. Summer is a great time to reflect and do some planning for the next academic year. It is also a great time to step back and take a bigger picture view of your work, where you are headed, etc. To find out more, check it out online at: <http://www.inc.com/paul-schoemaker/6-Habits-of-Strategic-Thinkers.html>.

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

Thanks!
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