

The **COES Mentoring Program May 2011 Mentor Newsletter** contains information on resources, upcoming events, mentoring tips and other items of interest to help you be successful

*** Set a Lunch Date or Coffee Break today!** Stop right now - email your Mentee and set a lunch date or a coffee break for sometime in the next two weeks. Traveling? Schedule a one-hour teleconference. Try a new restaurant, grab an afternoon snack with your coffee at Starbucks - and talk with your Mentee about the three to five goals they have for this summer. Don't let the time slip away!

*** The Astonishing Secret to Getting Jobs, Grants, Papers and Happiness in Biomedical Research.** Okay - with a title like that, it might sound too good to be true, but this article hits it dead on (and, in case you were wondering, it really has nothing to do with biomedical research at all). You already know that an innovative (or "astonishing") idea, presented well with the key elements present, is often your Mentee's best shot at getting that grant funded (or paper published). So when you are encouraging them to work on both grants and papers this summer, encourage them to be innovative. You can find this short article at: <http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/tomprof/posting.php?ID=1073>.

*** Spending Money during the "Dead" Period.** Even though most of the deadlines for spending money for 2010-2011 have passed, your Mentee can still order items, provided they have funds. Continuing grant funds can be used until June 1. If they submit a requisition after June 1 the Comptroller's Office will review the requisition to see if can be processed this fiscal year (prior to June 30) or whether it will be held until after July 1 (for next fiscal year). Questions? Contact COES Budget Manager Carrie Kelly at 257-2902 or ckelly@latech.edu.

*** Check out the Louisiana Peach Festival - and don't forget to sample the famous Peach Ice Cream.** Encourage your Mentee to plan some time off this summer. One easy way to make that happen is to take advantage of local events. They are an inexpensive way to have fun and de-stress. The Festival dates are Friday and Saturday, June 24 and 25. There are a variety of events - from a parade to an Arts and Crafts Festival to a 5K Run/Walk and more. There are events for kids, sporting events, contests, food (like the Peach Ice Cream - usually available at Railroad Park), shopping opportunities, etc. For more information, check out the website at: <http://www.louisianapeachfestival.org/>. Of course, Mitcham's Orchard is the most popular place to find those famous peaches - its best to go early in the morning as they will sell out each day. Check out their website (<http://www.mitchamfarms.com/>) for driving directions.

Mentoring Tip for May:

*** Your Mentee's summer may well include a trip to a conference. While this resource was developed for grad students, it contains some GREAT tips for getting the most out of a conference experience.** Conferences provide so many opportunities for networking - and most of us don't fully capitalize on those. Remind your Mentee that their network should include people not at Tech or their graduate institution It should include people who are leaders or up-and-comers in their field. Their network can be a key part of successful grant proposals, papers, conference presentations, etc. And, lastly, they network to build relationships - not to ask people for something. People need to get to know your Mentee - their strengths, their interests, their experiences - and your Mentee needs to get to know them. So much of what happens depends on who they know (and hence what information they know, what influence and opportunity for input they have, and what resources to which they have access), not what they know (which can't be of value if it is a well-kept secret!). Share your own networking tips and encourage your Mentee to plan their networking activities before the conference. For some good ideas, check out "**20 Tips for Getting the Most Out of Your Research Conference Experience**" at: http://www.sera-edresearch.org/grads/Res_Exp.pdf.