

COES Mentors, I hope that you had an opportunity to get together with your new Mentee(s) before the end of Spring Quarter! If not, now is a great time to email them and set up a meeting. As always, we appreciate so much your willingness to share your time and expertise as a mentor to our faculty. Research shows that mentors are respected by their colleagues and recognized as having the ability to identify, encourage and promote others. 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 an effective Mentor.

***Take advantage of the slower pace in summer to meet with your Mentee.** Summer is a great time to get to know your new Mentee(s). 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 Mentee. *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 Mentee 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 Mentee your tips on how to focus time and effort on the things that count the most and stay on track with summer plans, even though there is less structure in the summer and other things, such as conferences, competing for your time. Don't forget to remind them about the Board of Regents grants - the RFPs usually come out in July.

***Share advice 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 younger faculty don't take advantage of opportunities or understand how to network at conferences. Encourage them to think about volunteering to moderate a session, 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 them understand how the organization really works, few young faculty will be there (so they 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.

***Remind your Mentee 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 your Mentee 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. Encourage them to 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! Jenna Carpenter