

# Mentor Messenger

A message from the peer mentor subcommittee

The peer mentor subcommittee was organized to support the needs of mentors and their coordinators. We hope that you will find the tips and information shared in this newsletter useful as you begin working with your learning community students. We also welcome you to share tips or to make announcements. Please send information or comments to [jenl@iastate.edu](mailto:jenl@iastate.edu).

## Important Dates to Remember

- August 31, 2007—Last day to return current semester text books for refund to University Book Store
- September 3, 2007—University holiday—classes recessed
- September 21, 2007— Last day to add/drop a first half-semester course without extenuating circumstances
- September 29, 2007 – Schedule of Classes for Spring 2008 available on the Web

## Great Ways to Jumpstart Your Learning Community this Fall

Planning events and making connections prior to the start of classes can help ease some of the anxiety for incoming students.

Some effective ways for kicking off the semester and building community are:

- ◆ Send a welcome email or calling the students to introduce yourself before they come to campus
- ◆ Have a picnic or barbeque the night before classes begin
- ◆ Invite faculty members to attend an ice cream social with your LC
- ◆ Schedule a movie night

- ◆ Take a Cy-Ride tour of Ames
- ◆ Put together an on-campus scavenger hunt
- ◆ Arrange a bowling or volleyball game
- ◆ Greet your students as they move into the residence halls
- ◆ Assemble small goodie bags and distribute them as you meet the students



For additional team-building ideas and activities, please visit our website at <http://www.lc.iastate.edu/PMhandbook.html>

## Tracking Your Interactions

In your role as a peer mentor, you will likely meet with students to discuss different issues. It may be helpful to keep track of your interactions by journaling or by creating a spreadsheet to store this information. Another way to log information is to keep an index file for storing records. For this, you simply label an index card for each student and record your interactions on it.

Periodically reviewing the index cards can be helpful for identifying students you may need to follow-up with as the semester continues. **Remember that this information must be kept confidential.** You should store information in a safe place. Also, talk to your coordinator to find out what information they might like to track.