Memo: Personal Mentoring Program
Submitted by: Adia Harvey Wingfield

Description of Program:
The Personal Mentoring Program is a new program launched by the Program Committee for the 2008 annual meetings. Mentees were able to choose from several areas in which they wanted assistance (e.g., manuscript preparation, dissertation support, job hunting), and were matched with mentors who shared their general research and teaching interests, and could help in the area selected. Mentors and mentees could be matched for three months, six months, or a year. Once matched, they were free to determine the length and specifics of their partnerships, as well as whether they would attempt to meet at the annual meeting in Boston.

Assessment:
At this point, I’ve matched all the participants in the program, but have not yet distributed the evaluation form. So far, the program has gone successfully. We initially received applications from 20 mentees and 9 mentors, and had to do another call for mentors. This call sought mentors in the specialty areas that would match the mentees who were unmatched.

Other than having fewer mentees than mentors, no real problems occurred in orchestrating the Personal Mentoring Program. The additional call for mentors provided several additional volunteers, and 3 mentors agreed to be matched with two mentees. Should the 2009 Program Committee plan to continue this program, they may want to plan to do two calls for mentors to ensure that enough people participate. One person can satisfactorily coordinate the program. With Michele Koontz’s capable help in setting up online applications, I was able to review the applications and match mentors to mentees without a great deal of difficulty. Overall, it is a feasible project for one person to complete.

I have yet to distribute the evaluation forms to mentors and mentees, though blank copies of these are also attached to this memo. Please contact me in the fall if you are interested in a brief summary of the responses generated from these forms.
PERSONAL MENTORING PROGRAM
SSSP MENTEES

Name:
Institutional Affiliation:
Position:
Work address, telephone number, and email:

Research Interests:

Teaching Interests:

Please indicate the area(s) below in which you would like mentoring:

__Job Hunting
   ___job skills
   ___interviewing
   ___writing a vitae
__Manuscript Preparation
   ___developing an idea
   ___revising a manuscript
__Dissertation Support
   ___developing a topic
   ___turning dissertation into publication
__Tenure and Promotion Review
   ___preparing the dossier
__Career Development
__Other

Do you plan to attend the annual SSSP meeting in Boston (July 31-August 2)?
   ___Yes
   ___No
   ___Maybe

Desired length of mentoring relationship
   ___3 months
   ___6 months
   ___1 year

Please describe a brief description of the project for which you would like mentoring:
PERSONAL MENTORING PROGRAM
SSSP MENTORS

Name:
Institutional Affiliation:
Position:
Work address, telephone number, and email:

Research Interests:

Teaching Interests:

Please indicate the area(s) below in which you would like to mentor:

__Job Hunting
  --job skills
  --interviewing
  --writing a vitae
__Manuscript Preparation
  --developing an idea
  --revising a manuscript
__Dissertation Support
  --developing a topic
  --turning dissertation into publication
__Tenure and Promotion Review
  --preparing the dossier
__Career Development
__Other

Do you plan to attend the annual SSSP meeting in Boston (July 31-August 2)?
__Yes
__No
__Maybe

Desired length of mentoring relationship
__3 months
__6 months
__1 year
Personal Mentoring Program Evaluation Form

Mentees:

Was it easy to contact your mentor?
  ___yes
  ___no

Was it easy to remain in contact with your mentor?
  ___yes
  ___no

How long did your mentorship last?
  ___3 months
  ___6 months
  ___9 months
  ___1 year

Did you get what you wanted out of this mentorship?
  ___yes
  ___no

Would you recommend this mentor matching program?
  ___yes
  ___no

What would you recommend that we change about the program?

What should remain the same?
Personal Mentoring Program Evaluation Form

Mentors:

Did your mentee contact you in a reasonable amount of time?
__yes
__no

Was it easy to remain in contact with your mentee?
__yes
__no

How long did your mentorship last?
__3 months
__6 months
__9 months
__1 year

Did you get what you wanted out of this mentorship?
__yes
__no

Would you recommend this mentor matching program?
__yes
__no

What would you recommend that we change about the program?

What should remain the same?