

THREE GREAT WAYS TO 'MEET YOUR MENTOR' AND GET CONNECTED

By Linda Anderson-Courtney

Participants in UWM's Freshmen Mentoring Network took time to "Meet Their Mentors" and make new friends during three special events held in September. Designed to help students get connected, there was a little something for everyone, from games to bowling to billiards to participation in a rapid-fire speed meet.

The UWM Freshman Mentoring Network is a collaborative, university-wide program that matches each participating new freshman to an existing UWM student, faculty or staff member to provide a connection to campus and a source for information, exploration and encouragement.

New freshmen can sign up for a mentor at their STAR orientation session, or at any time at getammentor.uwm.edu. Each freshman who joins the program is matched with a mentor who shares his/her academic interests, as well as other preferences, to best suit the new student's needs. To date, more than 1,860 new fall 2006 freshmen have been paired with a mentor.

Freshmen can choose to meet with their mentor as often as once a week or as little as once a month to voice their concerns, get their questions answered, share their stories, meet new people and learn more about UWM and college life.

The Freshman Mentoring Network is one of several Access to Success initiatives to create connections for freshmen that break down the often impersonal and bureaucratic aspects of a large university.



The rapid-fire speed meet was a great way to be introduced to new people, exchange contact information and have fun.



Participants were psyched for strikes at the "Meet Your Mentor" bowling event.



Participants in the Freshman Mentoring Network connected via the "Meet Your Mentor" game - a unique way to share information and interesting facts about one another.



Another scene from the rapid-fire speed meet.



Pool shark skills were demonstrated at the "Meet Your Mentor" billiards event.

Photography by Vernessa Weatherall