Tiger Ties Partnership of the Month!

Mentee:

Name: Ricardo Paguaga
Hometown/Current Location: Greer, SC
Major at Clemson: Financial Management
Graduation Year: May 2017

Why do you think mentoring is important?
I believe mentoring is important because as a young adult with many questions on how the career process is conducted, it is great to have someone in my circle that can answer these questions. The guidance provided by a mentor while going through the transition from student to employee is very valuable to a young professional in training. Also, having a mentor who has graduated from the same school and understands the atmosphere on campus is priceless.

What is your favorite thing about Tiger Ties?
Tiger Ties provides opportunities to not only interact with your own mentor but with other alumni as well. With these other opportunities to network being offered, having access to this diverse wealth of knowledge at your disposal is a great asset for any student. This access to a vast network of working alumni is my favorite aspect of Tiger Ties.

What do you think makes your mentoring relationship great?
There are many things that make our relationship great. First, we have a casual personal connection that makes it easy for us to communicate frequently. We will discuss anything from Clemson Football to how the financial markets are doing. This will lead us to brainstorming and thinking of different advantages or possible career paths for myself. Second, we have the flexibility to one week meet face-to-face and then the next week just exchange emails or a quick phone call. This flexibility allows us to use the Tiger Ties website to keep pace but allows us to throw in some different activities.
Mentor:

Name: Bill Rodrigue

Hometown/Current Location: Greenville, SC

Major at Clemson: Accounting/Business Administration

Employer: KBR (Kellogg Brown & Root)

Why do you think Mentoring is important? Mentoring is a great performance accelerator and motivator for both student and mentor. For students, it reinforces the need to allocate time to career preparation, an activity that can easily slide down the priority list. For mentors, it provides insight into the latest educational and hiring trends, and a pathway to become better connected with the university.

What is your favorite thing about Tiger Ties? Tiger Ties supplies the organizational structure and tools needed to access the various career resources available at Clemson. While many of those resources are readily available to any student, Tiger Ties provides an added dimension – a vibrant networking environment that links students and mentors across the entire Tiger Ties community. The ease of networking and collaborating with others is perhaps my most favorite feature of Tiger Ties.

What do you think makes your mentoring relationship great? When Ricardo and I set up our initial Mentoring Partnership Agreement in the fall, we agreed not to make mentoring just a routine “check the box” type of exercise. Certainly, both partners need to commit to goal setting and task completion. But a commitment to cultivate common interests and develop the personal side of the relationship is crucial for the partnership to reach its full potential.

Ricardo and I each share a willingness to communicate frequently, even when other priorities arise. Most times, just a short phone call or text message to ask about a class project, off-campus event, or other non-mentoring activity will do. Other times, a face-to-face meeting or extended phone call is better suited to review a detailed agenda or prepare for a joint networking function. Plus, we are learning to use the new Chronus mentoring software to not only track our progress, but as another means of communication. While we still check most of the boxes, we also try to have a little fun along the way.