

Words to live by:

Past praise of Outstanding mentors from Gemstone students

- Our mentor is truly fantastic at providing us resources in terms of equipment and contacts. He'll cheerfully provide us with hardware (or contact info) necessary for the project, which allowed us to make the progress that we have. He knows how to motivate our team to accomplish goals, but still stand back enough to let us work on our own. All of this contributes to a fantastic research environment.
- Our mentor has always known our team dynamics, and has worked extremely hard to keep our team focused while capitalizing on the friendships that can buoy the team through the rough times of research. In addition, our mentor has held private meetings with team members to discuss how they feel about the team's work and the dynamics between the team members.
- She has an incredible ability to delegate tasks and encourage leadership so that our work is completed effectively and in a manner that is student-directed, promoting our team's capacity to innovate and every individual's ability to take initiative.
- She is quite knowledgeable and is a very capable mentor. She pushes us to be the best team we can be, as clichéd as that sounds. Our mentor doesn't coddle us by writing our proposals for us or forcing us to do something that she wants specifically; she has made it clear that it is our project, which entails us writing our own proposals and us having the agency for change and direction in the project.
- My mentor's greatest strength is offering us very constructive feedback on all of our assignments. He always proofreads our assignments and sends his edits right away. He explains what exactly is wrong and gives us ideas about how to fix the certain situation. He also offers us support in all aspects of our project and is friendly and approachable.
- Our mentor never did any work *for* us. He let us control our research, while providing his input along the way. As we went through areas of research that he could have sped through quickly, he let us do all of the work and approach him as we hit pitfalls.
- He and his family have had the team over for dinner a few times, allowing us all to get to know each other better and bond as a team.
- When plans went well, our mentor was the first to acknowledge our accomplishments and congratulate us on a job well done. In turn, when concerns arose, it was our mentor who kept our spirits high.
- Last year, our mentor was offered a year of sabbatical in New Zealand. When contemplating whether or not to accept such a position, he told our team that he was committed to mentoring us through our senior year and he wanted to see us defend our work.