



VPPA TIDEWATER

June 2010

Volume 16

Number 6

Is Mentoring About To Be A Thing of the Past?

By Bobby Thigpen, Sr.

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Next Meeting:

**“Summer Social”
June 27, 2010**

Hosted by: Keith Forrest
Forrest Photography
5473 Shore Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23455
757-464-6800

Time: TBA
More info to follow later

It appears to me that we are in a time where mentoring has lost its edge in this industry and other industries. Let's take a few minutes to look at what a mentorship is. Wikipedia states that a mentorship is “a personal development relationship in which a more experienced or more knowledgeable person helps a less experienced or less knowledgeable person. The receiver of mentorship was traditionally referred to as a **protégé**, or apprentice, but with the institutionalization of mentoring the more neutral word “mentee” was invented.” It is a supporting relationship established between two individuals where knowledge, skills, and experience are shared. The mentee is someone seeking guidance in developing specific competencies, very important in this type of relationship the mentee has the opportunity to ask questions.

I really thought that I had “arrived” as a professional photographer until I met Bruce Hobbs. After all, I had a professional camera and lights and camera bag! HaHa! What a humbling experience! Bruce opened up his door and his heart to me. Not only was he my professional photography teacher, but also my everyday life teacher and good friend. We have spent many long hours in his studio. After meeting with Bruce for days and weeks on end, it would be hard for me to sleep with all the ideas going through my head. I had to come back to Earth and prioritize how I was going to implement these ideas. My first step was to write down my goals. With Bruce's encouragement and asking me quite often, “Bobby, where is your head?”, I accomplished most of my goals.

Another mentor close to my heart is Cathy Benton. She has played an important part in my transition from a wannabe photographer to a real pro. She took time out of her busy schedule to come to my home studio and help me setup my lights properly and even did a little posing for me as a model. Thanks, Cathy, I know that's difficult for photographers! (smile)

Anyway, I hope you get the gist of what I am saying about the importance of having a mentor. Let's not let this terribly important relationship go down the tubes. We all should be sharing, helping, and encouraging those “newbies” and even, the “not so newbies” that we encounter at monthly meetings and elsewhere. After all, we ourselves have been in that “place” at one time in the beginning of our careers. Happy mentoring to everybody!

Upcoming Meetings:**JULY**

District Meeting
Jim Carpenter
Date: July 19, 2010
Place: Pat's Studio
Chesapeake, VA

AUGUST

Summer Seminar
Date: August 29-30, 2010
Place: Lynchburg, VA
More info on VPPA website

Directions

Forrest Photography
5473 Shore Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23455
757-464-6800

From I-64 take the Northampton Boulevard exit towards the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. Turn left onto Diamond Springs Road, go approximately two miles. Turn right onto Shore Drive and go approximately a quarter of a mile. The studio will be on the right.

SEE YOU THERE!!

THANK YOU!!

**A Big Thank You to
Keith Forrest for
“stepping up to the
plate” and offering his
place for our Summer
Social!!**

Way to go, Keith!!

