

# Mingling 101



Mingling and networking is a life skill that can be utilized in college and beyond. Knowing how to start a conversation as well as participate in one is key. Remember to be patient and not interrupt; be a good listener.

## A few tips to becoming a successful networker:

- Approach a person not already engaged in a conversation– don't wait to be talked to.
- Introduce yourself and shake hands.
- Be cheerful and pleasant
- Ask questions regarding the other person (people love to talk about themselves).
- Maintain eye contact.
- Listen more than speaking
- End the conversation politely (ie "Excuse me, it has been nice talking to you. I hope to talk to you again").



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## Smile and Be Polite

### *Some **Don'ts** for Networkers*

- Don't talk about yourself the whole time.
- Don't use a fowl language.
- Don't make negative comments about the location, food, host, or anyone in the room.
- Don't be negative in general.
- Don't disrespect the person you are talking with.
- Don't take up too much of the person's time (about 5 min. per person is appropriate).
- Don't cling to a person because you get along well (get to know as many people as possible).



Please contact SI staff if you have any questions about mingling and networking at the Alumni Banquet.

**SAS**  
Student Academic Services

Summer Institute:  
Phone: 805-756-2301  
Fax: 805-756-5122  
[www.sas.calpoly.edu/si](http://www.sas.calpoly.edu/si)