Making the Most out of MACUHO
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"Climb every mountain, stroll every stream..."

The song from *The Sound of Music* wants you to follow every rainbow until you find your dream. Whether you have to climb or walk, you must engage in a journey to get there. The MACUHO annual conference can be an important part of that professional journey. Every face you see is a colleague. There is a great likelihood that you will work with some of these people in the future. Entry-level? Seasoned? It makes no difference here. We are all on the same mountain, just at different peaks and parts.

Here are a few suggestions for your expedition:

- Attend as many sessions as you can. When you sit down, introduce yourself to the people around you. Don't just wait for the presenter to begin. Engage during the session by participating and asking questions.

- Go to a Committee Meeting and the Committee Expo. Being a part of a committee is one of the greatest ways to feel more connected to the region. It also gives you a professional outlet to do something outside of your daily routine throughout the year.

- Attend the Regional Meeting. Know who's who at the institutions around yours allows for networking and idea exchange that can be very beneficial.

- Attend the Business Meeting. Get a sense of what the Association is all about, where the money goes, etc. If you are the only one from your institution, YOU are the voting delegate so it's even more important you attend.

- Sit with folks you haven't met yet at meals. This can be a hard one, I'm sure, but good food equals good conversation and can assist in more casual topics and connections.

- Don't be taken back by those ribbons on the nametags. Let those be conversation starters. "So you are a presenter. What will you be presenting?". "You are on the Executive Board? What do you do? How can I be part of that?". Even the most shy or conversationally challenged can do this.

- Ask for business cards. Hand out business cards. If you have trouble remembering names, this will help you remember the connections you made.

It's the quality of the climb or stroll that's important. Make these three days count. Leave this place knowing a few more names, knowing a few more facts, appreciating a few more skills and hopefully, with the feeling that you are part of something special, something more than an "Association". This professional family is here for the taking. We hope to see you in the mountains, where rainbows, like any journey, begins and ends.