

The Monthly Mentor

Creating a Culture of Members Helping Members

By: the MYP Committee

Happy New Year, MYP!

As we step into January, officially recognized as “Mentoring Month”, it’s the perfect time to reflect on the transformative power of mentorship and its ripple effects in our professional and personal lives. Mentorship is more than just guidance—it is an act of service, a bridge that connects us, and a foundation for growth that strengthens our global community.

Through the Mentor Year Program, you’ve committed to a journey that not only supports your professional development but also uplifts others. By sharing knowledge, listening to new perspectives, and encouraging progress, you’re representing the true meaning of mentorship: giving generously to help someone else thrive.

In this new year, let us continue to embrace the spirit of mentorship with renewed energy. Consider how you can deepen the relationships you’ve built. Reflect on the moments when a mentor’s advice or encouragement made a difference in your journey, and strive to offer that same gift to others. Conversations, shared insights and commonalities, or thoughtful connections have the potential to leave a lasting impact on someone’s life and career.

As we celebrate Mentoring Month, let’s honor our acts of service by recommitting to approach our interactions with curiosity, empathy, and generosity. Together, we can create a culture of support and collaboration that strengthens our profession. Thank you for your dedication to this meaningful work.

May this year bring us closer to our goals while fostering stronger, more nurturing connections within our community.

Malissa Takacs, MYP Chair



Links of interest

[NACAC - Continuing Education and PD Events](#)

FOR COUNSELORS/IECS

Times Higher Ed

[Counsellor Resources](#)

College Board - [Upcoming events and PD offerings](#)

FOR UNIVERSITY REPS

Upcoming Events & Webinars
[Inside Higher Ed](#)

BMI/Times Higher Ed

[Recruiting Resources](#)

Planning Ahead? Don’t forget one of our favorite SE Asian Conferences:

[GUCC \(Singapore\)](#)

May 9/10 2025



NEXT MYP ALL GROUP MEETING:

JAN 28, 2025

9:00 am Eastern Standard

This Month’s Mentee/Mentor Spotlight Yein Oh and Holly Huang



MENTOR/MENTEE SPOTLIGHT (see Yein and Holly's pics on the previous page)

Mentee: Holly Huang, University and Careers Counselor, YK Pao School

Mentor: Yein Oh, College Counselor, Utahloy International School Guangzhou

Being a member of International ACAC for the past three years has been an incredible journey, but this year has truly been transformative. Not only have I had the chance to serve on the Communications Committee, but I was also lucky to be matched with my mentor, Yein, through the mentorship program. Yein is truly amazing! I was thrilled when I saw her name as my mentor, as we were suitemates back in 2023 during the International ACAC conference in Miami. During the summer of 2024, while we were both traveling in Europe (though in different places), we managed to catch up once we were back in China.

Reconnecting with Yein has been such a special experience. She is kind, generous, and has a unique and natural ability to motivate and guide others. I've learned so much from her thoughtful mentorship, especially in areas of professional development and time&stress management. She's incredibly organized and empathetic. At the start of the academic year, Yein encouraged me to set clear goals for our mentor-mentee journey. One of those goals was to collaborate on a conference presentation, and I'm so excited that we'll be presenting at the upcoming IB UGC Global Conference. Our topic, focused on fostering collaboration and care within schools, is something we're both deeply passionate about. Working with both Yein and Francesco has been a privilege, and I've gained invaluable insights into leadership, teamwork, and the importance of building synergies in education. Yein has been a constant source of inspiration. She's also a talented writer, and I love reading her articles and LinkedIn posts. If you haven't checked them out yet, I highly recommend them!

Looking ahead, Yein and I have more projects we're excited to work on together, and I can't wait to see what the future holds. As we step into 2025, I wish the International ACAC community continued growth, meaningful connections, and success in supporting one another.

I'm grateful to International ACAC, which has brought such wonderful people into my life. Holly Huang



Holly and I first met in International ACAC 2024. We were actually suitemates! I was a newbie counsellor back then, and I was already inspired by her friendliness and energy, which made the overwhelming experience of being a first-time attendee to IACAC much easier.

Fast forward a year later, when I realised I would be paired with her as a mentor, I was frankly a little bit nervous initially. I knew she was an accomplished counsellor in China and likely with more knowledge than me in some areas. But with the MYP programme's philosophy, I envisioned the mentoring role as serving as a coaching and cheerleading role for Holly professional and personal goals, and holding space for these to grow -- which I was ready to do with her.

Now we're halfway into the academic year, and I have to say it has truly been an honor so far. Giving space to discuss Holly's energy, insights, and passion for her students has invigorated and taught me so much already. I'm also really excited to collaborate with her to achieve one of her goals! One of the things we discussed in our initial meetings was her desire to present at a conference. Fortunately, there was the upcoming IB Global UCC conference, and its virtual nature meant that we didn't have to worry about travel. We put our heads together, and quickly realised that one of our many common passions was 'collaborating for care and finding synergies in the school' so that became our proposal topic.

And it got accepted! It turned into a great networking opportunity when they paired us with Francesco Banchini, the chairman of the IB Caucasus and Central Asia Association. We will be presenting in early February -- if you can join, then drop by!

Beyond this brilliant collaboration opportunity, every conversation with Holly is really life-giving and joyful. I am truly honored to be her mentor through the MYP and look forward to the rest of our time together.

Thank you International ACAC for forging such opportunities for connections! Yein Oh



**A WARM MESSAGE FROM:
LIN LARSON, FRESHLY RETIRED!
UT ARLINGTON, DIRECTOR OF STUDENT RECRUITMENT
IACAC 2024 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT**

I HAVE BEEN AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RECRUITER FOR ALMOST 24 YEARS, SERVING 4 DISTINCT INSTITUTES OF HIGHER EDUCATION. I WOULD NOT BE WHERE I AM NOW IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR THOSE SEASONED PROFESSIONALS WHO HELD MY HAND AND TAUGHT ME WHAT I NEEDED TO KNOW. I AM FOREVER INDEBTED TO VINCE ALTUM, JOE SPELLMAN, JULIE SINCLAIR, PETER HAUET, AND SO MANY OTHERS.

ON MY FIRST RECRUITMENT TRIP TO SOUTHEAST ASIA IN FEBRUARY 2001, I KNEW NOTHING. IN HONG KONG, I REMEMBER A STUDENT ASKING ME WHAT THEIR HKDSE AND TOEFL SCORES NEEDED TO BE – AND I HAD NO IDEA WHAT THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT. JOE LEANED OVER AND WHISPERED THE MAGIC ANSWER. AGAIN, IN THAILAND, VINCE EXPLAINED THE LOCAL CURRICULUM AND THE IB. IN MALAYSIA, JULIE TAUGHT ME ALL ABOUT THE BRITISH SYSTEM AND SPM/STPM. THERE WAS SO MUCH TO REMEMBER!

UPON RETURNING HOME, I ASKED MY NEW FRIENDS IF I COULD VISIT THEM ON THEIR CAMPUSES TO FIND OUT HOW TO RUN AN INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS OFFICE. WICHITA STATE, SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI SAINT LOUIS, MARQUETTE, AND ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ALL AGREED, AS DID ECE SO I COULD FIGURE OUT CREDENTIAL EVALUATIONS. RETURNING HOME WITH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT HAPPENS IN THE OFFICE FROM OPENING AN ENVELOPE (THIS WAS BEFORE THE INTERNET WAS USED), RECEIVING A FAX, ANSWERING THE PHONE, REVIEWING APPLICATIONS, EVALUATING TRANSCRIPTS, MAKING ADMISSION DECISIONS, SENDING OUT LETTERS, AND ALL, I CREATED THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL ADMISSION SPECIFIC OFFICE AT NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY. WHAT GROWTH THEY HAVE EXPERIENCED OVER THE YEARS!

I WORKED WITH AND CURRENTLY WORK WITH SO MANY “NEWBIES” IN THE FIELD. THEY ARE AS EXCITED TO LEARN FROM US VETERANS AS WE WERE WHEN WE STARTED. BEING ACTIVE IN INTERNATIONAL ACAC IS CRITICAL TO SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCES GOOD AND BAD, PROBLEM SOLVING, PACKING TIPS, TRAVEL, AND RESTAURANT SUGGESTIONS. ALL OF THESE ARE SO IMPORTANT TO CAREER SUCCESS.

LEARNING HOW TO BE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE CAN BE CHALLENGING. WITH MENTORSHIPS, THE STEEP LEARNING CURVE TO UNDERSTAND ALL THAT IS INVOLVED IN RECRUITMENT AND ADMISSIONS IS EASED. WORKING WITH NEW AND SEASONED PROFESSIONALS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A HAPPY PLACE. I HAVE SO MANY FRIENDS GLOBALLY AND CHERISH THEM ALL. FRIENDS WHO HAVE BEEN IN THE FIELD FOR SEVERAL YEARS, REACH OUT TO THOSE WHO ARE NEW AND SHARE WITH THEM THAT “INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE” YOU HAVE. FOR THOSE NEW TO THE FIELD, SEEK THOSE WHO HAVE THAT KNOWLEDGE AND ASK FOR GUIDANCE. **BEING A MENTOR OR MENTEE IS PART OF WHO WE ARE AS INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS. -LIN LARSON**

THANK YOU, LIN, FOR THIS MESSAGE AND YOUR LONG-TERM SERVICE TO IACAC AND OUR COMMUNITY!

International Association for College Admission Counseling -- LINKS

- **ANNUAL CONFERENCE INFO -- [all you need to know so far](#)**
- **EVENTS CALENDAR: [Check it out here](#) -- upcoming Webinar Wednesdays**
- **DON'T FORGET to make sure your Membership is renewed! [INFO HERE](#)**
- **2025 - REGIONAL INSTITUTES [INFORMATION HERE](#) (BRAZIL + PRAGUE!)**

