

The Monthly Mentor

Creating a Culture of Members Helping Members

By: the MYP Commitee

As we move through March, with just 3 months left in this year's annual MYP cohort, it's a great opportunity to pause and reflect on the enduring value of mentorship. While "Mentoring Month" may have passed, the power of connection remains constant and transformative, influencing both our personal and professional journeys.

Through the Mentor Year Program, you've committed to more than just professional development. You've chosen to give back, to uplift others, and to share your experiences in a way that helps someone else thrive. Mentorship is not only about guidance—it's about serving others, building connections, and creating a lasting impact that extends beyond each individual.

As we approach the final stretch of this cohort cycle, take a moment to reflect on what you have given so far and what you still want to achieve. Consider how you can deepen those connections in these last few months. Think about the moments when someone's encouragement made a difference in your journey, and let that inspire you to offer the same to your mentor or mentee. Whether through shared conversations, new perspectives, or thoughtful connections, your contributions can continue to shape someone else's future. Don't forget - there is still time to exchange info with members in your Pods/Quads if you need more support from others!

In these final months, let's keep the spirit of mentorship alive through curiosity, empathy, and generosity. Together, we can foster a culture of support that strengthens our community and helps everyone reach their full potential. Thank you for your dedication to this meaningful work.

Here's to finishing the year strong, building deeper connections, and continuing to grow both individually and as a collective community.

Malissa Takacs, MYP Chair



Links of interest

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

[NACAC - Call to submit Education Sessions for 2025 \(Columbus, Ohio\)](#)

[Forbes article, "The Question Every College Applicant Should Ask"](#)

[Apps up by 5% this year, Inside Higher Ed article](#)

TIE Online always has something fun to read ([check out some articles here](#)).

Make sure you're signed up for Jeff Neill's [weekly newsletter](#) re: leveraging tech in college counseling



NEXT MYP ALL GROUP MEETING:

May 27, 2025

9:00 am Eastern Standard

This Month's Mentee/Mentor Spotlight Priscilla Kong and Brett Kam (see page 2!)



MENTOR/MENTEE SPOTLIGHT

Mentee: Priscilla Kong, Admissions Officer (Barnard College, NY)

Mentor: Brett Kam, Assistant Director of Admissions (University of Rochester, NY)

As someone who's still relatively new to international admissions and higher education in general, the Mentor Year Program has been a huge source of support to me this year! I feel very grateful to have gotten to work with Brett as my mentor throughout the past several months. Even though our work lives are always busy, it means a lot that we've made a mutual commitment to meet for even one hour every month. During our meetings, we've been able to check in regarding different parts of the admissions cycle, with Brett sharing her expertise, tips, and encouragement on everything from recruitment travel to reading applications! It's also been helpful to have such a consistent connection with someone in the field of admissions who's outside of my institution, allowing me to gain insights from colleagues at other institutions and not just my own. This admissions cycle has been my first year serving as a territory manager for international territories (China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan), so it's been very helpful learning from Brett's insights working with applicants and counselors from these regions specifically.

In our mentorship relationship, we've also gotten to talk about specific goals as well as bigger picture career goals. I knew I had a goal of building more confidence when giving presentations, and that's something we've been able to practice together. We've also gotten to talk about career trajectories and what it's like to work in the field of admissions at a mid-career level, and I've greatly appreciated these insights as an early-career professional.

Thank you to Brett and everyone in the MYP Committee for making MYP such a positive experience. I'm excited to make the most out of our last few months of formal mentorship; I know that the lessons and connections that I've gained here will continue beyond the end of the 2024-25 program. ~Priscilla Kong



I hadn't met Priscilla until we matched for the Mentor Year Program last summer. I was really looking forward to engaging and supporting a newer member to the organization and admittedly was slightly nervous about taking on the responsibility. This feeling immediately subsided on my very first call with Priscilla because of her outgoing nature and enthusiasm for the program. We set clear expectations and goals early and never have our conversations felt obligatory. Being Priscilla's Mentor has been an incredibly rewarding experience, both personally and professionally for me. Priscilla possesses a bright attitude and is always eager to learn. As a Mentor I've really enjoyed getting to know her and assisting in any questions she has while also employing a give and take approach to our partnership - Priscilla has also allowed me the opportunity to refine and reinforce my own knowledge and skills while having fun doing it!

I hope that by offering advice, support and honest takes on the successes and challenges of this work, I've made a meaningful impact on Priscilla's development in this wonderful field. We've worked on topics from how best to navigate international travel for a first-timer, to things to look out for on applications (red flags) and we're holding mock-presentations for one another so we can give each other tips on our presentations in order to grow as speakers. Priscilla really wows me with her go-getter attitude and clear interest in excelling in her work and beyond. She's going to do big things I can tell!

I'd like to thank Priscilla for being a wonderful mentee and International ACAC for allowing us this fulfilling opportunity. May we all continue making connections and growing together in this valuable work. ~Brett Kam



A WARM MESSAGE FROM: DAN MARSCHNER
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVOCACY & OUTREACH (IACAC)
DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ADMISSION, LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

HELLO FROM LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA! I AM HONORED TO WRITE TO ALL OF YOU AND AM THRILLED THAT YOU ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE INTERNATIONAL ACAC MENTOR YEAR PROGRAM. LIKE MOST PEOPLE WHO WORK IN ADMISSIONS, I NEVER EXPECTED TO BE HERE. TO BE FAIR, I WAS A TOUR GUIDE IN COLLEGE AND I REMEMBER TELLING A SUPERVISOR THAT I WOULD NEVER WANT TO WORK AS AN ADMISSION COUNSELOR - AND NOW I HAVE BEEN DOING THIS WORK FOR MORE THAN 15 YEARS. WHEN I STARTED, MY OLDEST DAUGHTER WAS 1 ½ YEARS OLD AND THE THOUGHT OF HER ATTENDING A UNIVERSITY HERSELF SEEMED LIKE A DISTANT CONCERN - AND NOW SHE'S A JUNIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL! WHATEVER YOUR ROLE, THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING PEOPLE LIKE ME AND MY FAMILY AS WE CONSIDER AN EXCITING FUTURE IN HIGHER EDUCATION.

INTERNATIONAL ACAC BECAME MY PROFESSIONAL HOME IMMEDIATELY WHEN I STARTED WORKING WITH INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS. I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AMAZED AT HOW WELCOMING, GENEROUS, AND AUTHENTIC PEOPLE IN THIS ORGANIZATION ARE. IN OTHER PROFESSIONAL SPHERES, OUR EXPERTISE WOULD BE CLOSELY GUARDED SECRETS OF THE TRADE... BUT WHENEVER I HAVE ASKED ANYONE AT INTERNATIONAL ACAC TO EXPLAIN SOMETHING TO ME, THEY HAVE NEVER HESITATED. I REMEMBER WELL THE FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE I ATTENDED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER - I HAD TRAVEL ISSUES SO I MISSED THE FIRST TIMER SESSION, AND SO I HARDLY KNEW ANYONE. BUT I REMEMBER LOVING THE EXPERIENCE AND APPRECIATING THE PEOPLE THERE SO MUCH THAT I HAVE NOT MISSED A SINGLE CONFERENCE SINCE. TO THIS DAY ONE OF MY MOST INCREDIBLE ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS IS BEING A DODGEBALL CHAMPION - TO BE HONEST, TO THIS DAY, I AM STILL NOT SURE HOW WE WON!

WHEREVER YOU ARE IN YOUR OWN JOURNEY WITH INTERNATIONAL ACAC, I ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONNECT MORE WITH US. YOU HAVE ALREADY TAKEN A FANTASTIC STEP FORWARD BY JOINING THE MENTOR YEAR PROGRAM, AND YOUR TIME, ENERGY, AND DEDICATION ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED. PERSONALLY, I HAVE LOVED PRESENTING IN PERSON AND ONLINE, PARTICIPATING IN REGIONAL INSTITUTES, AND BEING PART OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND I THINK YOU WOULD ENJOY BEING PART OF THOSE OPPORTUNITIES AS WELL. IN THE MIDST OF CHALLENGING TIMES AROUND THE WORLD, THE STRENGTH OF OUR COMMUNITY BECOMES EVEN MORE ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF STUDENTS AND FAMILIES.

WE CAN ALL ACHIEVE AMAZING THINGS TOGETHER, AND YOUR ROLE IN THE MYP IS CRUCIAL TO THE FUTURE SUCCESS OF OUR ORGANIZATION - SO THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN!

International Association for College Admission Counseling -- LINKS

- **2025 Executive Board Elections** -- Voting happens from March 6th - 20th!
- **Annual CONFERENCE INFO -- all you need to know so far**
- **Post-Conference IACAC Bus Tour closed now, but others still accepting apps (at the bottom of THIS PAGE)**
- **Board Restructuring and webinar recordings -- all info here**
- **2025 - REGIONAL INSTITUTES INFORMATION HERE** (can still register!)

