

# The Monthly Mentor

## CREATING A CULTURE OF MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS

By: The Mentor Year Committee

Welcome to the November/December 2022 Edition of the Monthly Mentor! It's hard for us all to believe that we are about to turn the calendar year to 2023 soon, as we know how "in the thick" of it we are with our current cycle on all three sides of the desk. We value your contribution to this program and trust that your 1:1 meetings have been beneficial as you make your way through what is another very busy year.

It's been said a lot recently that we no longer have a cycle, whereby breaks feel like breaks.... the good work truly seems never-ending. That said, we "see" you. We are in this profession together and we want to join up on December 1st, despite of and in the midst of the busyness. We plan convene with one another for what we hope will be a fruitful hour; we've got some great breakout sessions planned and have intentionally designed them to be Mentor and Mentee friendly, with the idea that one or more of these topics will appeal to everyone.

We have put together the following schedule below, including International ACAC's 2022 Distinguished Service Award Recipient, Megan Mankerian-Stem

**DECEMBER 1st - 6:00 am US PST, 9:00 am US EST, 3:00 PM CEST, 10:00 PM SG**

**Keynote Address: Megan Mankerian-Stem: "Building Your Network"**

### Break-out Sessions:

Malissa Takacs - for **IEC's**: "IEC Services for Students, Grades 9 - 12"

Skyler Bentley-Hall for **Uni/HS**: "Making the Leap - Explore the Possibilities as an IEC"

Dan Seneker & Carin D'Souza - for **Uni**: "Making a Career (or not) of University Admissions: Exploring the Options"

Wilson Lee & Sam Wickham - for **HS**: "Program Planning for Grades 9 - 12"

**In Mentorship -- Wilson, Malissa, Dan and Skyler**



## Links of interest:

ICYMI:

[The Future of Race Conscious Admissions: A Supreme Court Debriefing.](#)

NYT - [The Pandemic Generation Goes to College](#)

**IACAC Annual Conference**  
(July 11 - 14) - [Volunteer Info](#)  
DUE NOVEMBER 30th

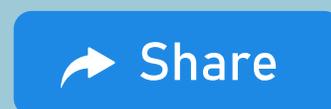
IACAC [Scholar Nomination Form](#)  
app extended to Nov. 15

The International Education  
TIE ONLINE  
[Various Articles](#)

**HIGH SCHOOL & IECs**  
[Shedding Daylight On Control In College Admissions](#)  
Brennan Barnard

**UNIVERSITY Reps**  
Quick reminder during this Reading Season about "[Those Ridiculously Long Latino Names](#)"

Email us:  
[mentoryearprogram@internationalacac.org](mailto:mentoryearprogram@internationalacac.org)



Please check out and use the shared resource spaces in our Google folder!

## **A WARM WELCOME FROM: MARIE VIVAS PAST-PRESIDENT – INTERNATIONAL ACAC INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE ORGANIZATION**



Beth Linguri, Peter Hauet, Gwen Bergman, Jane Lowery, Doug Thompson  
– all dear friends and also my first mentors when I joined our profession.

You will recognize the names of so many great leaders, but to me, they were the colleagues who saw my potential and were willing to share their time and knowledge. It is a generosity I have never forgotten. In my own career, I have made a point of paying it forward as frequently as possible.

As I reflected upon the topic of mentorship, I realized that mentorship can come from many different quarters. Sometimes, as in the case of my colleagues above, the path is clear, they were more experienced and well established. At other times, though, mentors have been younger colleagues who were generous with their expertise. Peter Dorthe from Jacobs University was such a mentor – a teacher, a guide through office politics, a sympathetic ear, someone to bounce ideas off of.

In that light, when I step into a mentorship role, I take into account what my mentors have modeled for me. Do I have knowledge, expertise, or wisdom to contribute? Can I be a guide to someone navigating new territory? Is it possible for me to be a sounding board? Can I be a good listener? **Listening is hugely important because mentorship is about building relationships that grow beyond the transactional exchange of information. The beauty of the relationship lies in reciprocity.**

In the three decades that I have worked in admissions counseling I have learned that having been around longer doesn't always mean that I have the answers. Times change, processes evolve, technology upends long held practices. Who do I reach out to for mentorship then? Frequently a mentee becomes a mentor –Ango, Anna, Ray, and so many others. From where I sit, this is the greatest reward.

To our mentors, I want to thank you for your invaluable contributions.

To our mentees, I can't wait to see you come into your own and become mentors to the next generations of admissions counseling professionals.

**Maria Vivas**

**International Association of College Admission Counseling**  
Membership Renewal -- email sent mid-October -- **RENEW NOW!**  
Annual Conference - Save the Date - July 11 - 14  
FL International University, #FamilyStyle



## MENTOR/MENTEE SPOTLIGHT:

**Ayana Fabris, Careers Counselor @ H-Farm International School**

**Johanna Fishbein, Director of University and College Counseling @TASIS, Lugano; Past President of International ACAC**

Participating in the Mentor Year Program is giving me the opportunity to connect with an incredibly resourceful, kind and knowledgeable senior counsellor. I recently started a new job as Guidance Counselor at an IB world school in the north of Italy. Students are interested in studying in a wide variety of countries including the US, Canada, Spain, the UK, The Netherlands, Germany, and Italy -- to name the most popular ones.

On top of advising on these different regions, I am taking care of the administration of the different application platforms. Not only has Johanna been an incredible support when I have technical questions, she has also participated in a virtual event I have organised for my community! Through her presence and positive communication, Johanna is helping me feel confident in this new role.

As I am being tasked with developing a young guidance program, she is also helping me to find solutions and streamline processes. Our schools have the same guidance software and Johanna has helped me to familiarise with it quickly and, in turn, coach my students in using its different features. She has generously shared supporting materials and we recently reviewed US-style counselor letters of recommendation together. I hope to be able to meet Johanna in person soon and to host her on campus some day! I also wish to participate in the next events organised by the MYP to connect with the great network revolving around this unique program. For me, the timing for joining this initiative and the professional I was matched with through it have been nothing short of perfect. I feel very grateful to the organisers of this great opportunity and to my mentor for all her amazing support.



**Ayana Fabris**

When I think back on my career in international admissions and college counseling, I am confident that I would not be where I am, professionally and personally, without my mentors. Laura Kaub literally scooped me up for my first international admissions conference, showing me the 'ropes' and introducing me to everyone, and through that OACAC (now International ACAC) network, I knew where to go with my questions, or for advice, or to find a travel group. People shared resources and wisdom, and right away, I felt I was not alone.

Throughout my career, it has been my mentors who have told me to consider an opportunity or try something new, and for women especially, this vote of confidence from a mentor can propel one to places we never thought possible. I never would have run for President of International ACAC if people like Kristin Dreazen or Ffiona Rees hadn't told me that I could do it; and they were right - I could. My mentors were also the ones I relied on in the moments of challenge and strategized with in the moments of uncertainty.

### **The power of mentorship is truly amazing.**

I was thrilled to see a formalized mentorship program from International ACAC and I jumped at the chance to be involved. Mentorship has done so much for me, and I would like to pay it forward as much as I possibly can! I have been beyond lucky with my mentee, Ayana Fabris. Not only is she passionate about what she does and an amazing college counselor, but she is always willing to share her own knowledge and resources, which have been invaluable already, especially as we are both in Italian-speaking parts of the world. My chats with Ayana always leave me energized and re-committed to the work we do, and I'm so grateful for the opportunity to know and support her, as I know she is a fantastic College Counselor, colleague, and friend. I look forward to meeting her in-person in the not so distant future!



**Johanna Fishbein**