

# The Monthly Mentor

## CREATING A CULTURE OF MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS

By: **Mentor Year Committee**

As the pandemic continues to ebb and flow around the world, the growing awareness of topics related to mental health, self-care, and wellness have been front and center in all facets of the work that we are doing with and for students. After all, this year's graduating class and incoming first year students has only had 1 "normal" year of high school and the true lasting impacts on them are yet to be fully seen.

We can all agree that we truly "feel it", along with our colleagues and each other, as we have managed the front lines -- supporting students and ultimately welcoming them onto our campuses. As the typical measures of success for these students have been overshadowed by basic survival skills, who can think of thriving in a world fraught with so many unknowns? Yet, the idea of student success (and outcomes) persist. It *matters* that we help our students identify and ultimately attend a university where they can grow, evolve, and flourish. So, this month we've shared a few articles this month about student success on all sides of the desk.

Thank you also for supporting one another as mentors and mentees. Forming new relationships, and relying on long-term relationships, continues to be essential in times like these.

MYP Shared  
Resources



## Links of interest:

[What does student success really look like?](#) (EAB)

[Measuring success & graduation rates](#) (Hechinger Report)

[Time Management Tips for TCKs](#) (TIE Online)

[NACAC Workshop Week \(Dec.6-14\)](#)

IC3Live Festival - December 2nd-3rd. Information and [\*\*registration here\*\*](#)

### For Counselors & IECs

Our colleagues at the UCs have put together a brilliant CCC webinar series this year. The final one is taking place in December and [\*\*here are the links to register and to view previous recordings.\*\*](#)

ThePie Webinar: Studying in Ontario, Canada. **December 2nd** 2:30pm GMT [\*\*Register here\*\*](#)

The NACAC Guide to International University Admission - now released. Free for NACAC members. \$25.00 for non-members. [\*\*Download it here\*\*](#)

### For University Admissions

The Future of Enrollment in the U.S., The Chronicle & Keystone Education Group. Monday 6th Dec, 2pm EDT. [\*\*Register here\*\*](#)

## Mentor/Mentee Spotlight

**Mentee: Sam Wickham, ACS Cobham International School**

**Mentor: Martyn Rowlands, International School of Geneva, Campus des Nations**

Sam & Martyn are both university/college counsellors at international schools in Europe with both schools offering the IB Diploma as well as a wide range of other curriculums. Sam & Martyn had also lived and worked in Asia at international schools just before moving back to Europe, and as they soon discovered, Sam used to visit Martyn's school in Switzerland as part of his previous job and therefore the matching of these two counsellors was pretty spot on!

"It became quickly apparent that we were aligned in how we viewed counselling and I tried to be as much of a blank slate as possible in the beginning in order to ascertain what Sam wanted from this experience, whether it was to be more content-driven or more discussion-based mentoring. Fortunately, as Sam is already very experienced within international education, having worked on the other side of the desk for many years, he already had a firm vision of the skills he wanted to develop." - Martyn Rowlands

Sam & Martyn are working together using case studies, where Sam presents an example case he has found challenging and Martyn supports Sam to investigate alternative approaches and share his experiences of similar instances. Whilst they have only met a few times, this approach is already proving productive.

"Discussing specific examples of students I am working with helps me critically examine my practice and reflect on how I might improve my questioning or explanation next time round. At the same time, we undertake a loosely structured coaching session to determine what else I could have done and I learn from Martyn by hearing what his approach would be in that situation."

- Sam Wickham



**Martyn Rowlands**



**Sam Wickham**

## **A WARM WELCOME FROM:**

**Peter Hauet, Past President of International ACAC**



Back in 1978 when I first began my career as a high school counselor at St. Mary's in Tokyo, I realized just how much I did not know. I had never heard of NACAC and International ACAC didn't exist. At the time ECIS (European Council of International Schools) was all there was. I heard they had a summer tour of U.S. universities using three 8 person vans. This was all organized by a legend in the counseling business, Peggy Templeton Strong from Switzerland. Peggy was my first real mentor before either of us recognized the roles. She valued me, asking my opinion even with her years of experience and would then nicely let me know her views. I learned so many things on these trips, but mostly Peggy was there to answer my questions. One of my proudest moments was when I received the award from CIS, named in her honor and presented to me by Peggy. A true mentor, colleague, advisor, and friend.

The act of mentoring is a series of ongoing and little successes. You are able to make a real impact through consistent and ongoing relationship building. If you are a seasoned mentor or a new mentee, I humbly offer a suggestion. Do not be afraid to ask questions. Every time I attend an International ACAC conference, go to the Facebook group, or listen in to a Wednesday Webinar I learn something new. We are part of a wonderful profession; we help people!

The combined experience of the International ACAC members has created a knowledge base second to none. We are so fortunate to have dedicated professionals willing to share. I can honestly say that as a mentor I have learned so much. **As our membership continues to grow, we need new mentors and new ideas.** That being said, as a "seasoned" retired member, I will attempt to add a bit of history in the future.

**Don't forget to renew your Annual International ACAC Membership for 2022!**

## **INTERNATIONAL ACAC EVENTS -- What's on for December:**

We are heading into Annual Conference mode! Session proposals and Chats will open on **December 10th!** Can't wait to get "Out of Office", July 11-15

**Events Calendar [Linked Here](#)**

