

The Monthly Mentor

Creating a Culture of Members Helping Members
By: the MYP Committee

Hello and Welcome, Mentors and Mentees –

We hope that your academic year has been going well, and that you've either made it through Suck-tober or busy travel seasons! We know this time of year can be challenging in finding time for yourself. I hope you've been able to lean into your mentee/mentor for advice and support to make sure you're taking care of your mental health!

The MYP Committee has been busy this fall finding ways to add additional value to the program to make sure that you get the PD that you want. We are truly thankful to International ACAC for supporting our efforts in securing additional funding to offer PD stipends for the MYP. We are able to offer 12 (we are aiming for: 6 mentee + 6 mentor) stipends of up to \$250 each to support your needs in the first 6 months of the upcoming year (Jan-June 2024).

Some great ideas we've seen so far include:

- Travel and conference funds for GUCC, globalED gathering and IC3
- Courses through universities, NACAC or other online programs
- IECA/HECA workshops

Please remember that applications are due by **Monday, November 20th**.

You can access the application here: <https://tinyurl.com/MYPDP2023>

We look forward to reviewing all the applications!

Megan Mankerian-Stem, on behalf of the MYP Committee



Check out this month's MYP Spotlight (p.2)

Martine Gagnon
—
Ximena Fonseca



Links of interest

NACAC - Character Focus Initiative **Resources HERE**

NACAC **List of Resources** for Admissions Professionals

Pursuit of Purpose Podcast Listen

Podcast Listen - NACAC CEO, Angel Perez; College Essay Guy, Ethan Sawyer - talk self-care

High School & IECs

As we begin to wrap up this app season, and turn our attention to Juniors, here are some ideas

(free) **CAREER Assessment TEST from Truity**

University Admissions

We know you are in full-on reading mode!

Don't forget to take care of your bodies and minds:
Daily 10 min stretch!!

SAVE THE DATE:

Next All Group Meeting
Jan 30, 2024
Calendar invite coming!

MENTOR/MENTEE SPOTLIGHT:

A Conversation With Mentor, Martine Gagnon - UES Education (UK), and Mentee, Ximena Fonseca - Colegio Anglo Colombiana (Colombia)

Ximena: As a counselor in an international school in Colombia, one of my most significant challenges is helping students understand that universities abroad encompass not only the "big-name schools", but also numerous other options. Understanding and learning from Martine's experience and the well-known universities her students have attended has helped me expand the range of options for my own students. It has made me more comprehensive in guiding them toward the opportunities that higher education offers at an international level.

Martine: Similarly, one of my biggest counselling challenges is getting London students to understand that they cannot directly translate the British university landscape to the American/international one. If they only consider the top ten universities in the US or a specific country, they risk being disappointed or ending up with no options at all. It really put this into perspective by learning about Ximena's students and their similar aspirations. Even though we are continents apart, the same dynamics exist, so it helped me step out of the London bubble and brainstorm creative ways to engage and inspire our students with better fit options.

Ximena's top tip when advising students interested in studying outside of Colombia ultimately comes down to timing. "Locally, our processes have different timelines, so it's important to start considering applying abroad early in high school, as there are many factors to take into consideration. Each part of the world has its own deadlines and requirements. Talking to Martine about the international admissions process has made me realize the importance of prioritizing and working toward the same goal: university admissions, regardless of the varying requirements."

Martine: I like to ask lots and lots and lots of questions to get to the bottom of their motivations in applying abroad. I also put a lot of emphasis on attending online and in person fairs, info sessions, campus tours, and digging into each institutions' social media, so they can get a feel for what each university is about. I also enjoy coming up with analogies for students. The one I've found most relatable for students is asking them to research a university like a vacation: do they want everything planned or do they prefer selecting their activities, do they want a city-centre hotel, a vibrant and budget-friendly hostel, a winter wonderland, etc. This gives me insight into their interests and priorities, and gives them a bit more agency and inspiration, and hopefully, more fun!

Ximena stays up to date with all the information relevant to counseling at an international level: I enjoy engaging in conversations with counsellors from various parts of the world, whether it be on WhatsApp/Facebook groups or at conferences. I ask them about their approaches to counseling. For this specific reason, I joined the MYP program, and it has been a wonderful experience to gain insights from Martine's perspective and apply it to my own context. One of the things I deeply appreciate within the counseling community is the generosity with which counsellors share their experiences and wisdom. This has undoubtedly been crucial for my professional development. With Martine, I have found confirmation of this and have truly gained a mentor.

Martine: I stay up to date with all the information relevant to counselling at an international level by reading voraciously! Newsletters, newspapers, blogs, Facebook pages, cereal boxes, I read it all! I count myself fortunate as I had wonderful mentors and colleagues in this profession who advocated for the open sharing of information, wisdom, and resources, so I believe in continuing this tradition and passing on everything I can: working with Ximena in the MYP programme has been enriching and I'm so impressed by her dedication.

Essentially, it all leads to the same question: what can we do to best support our students?

A WARM MESSAGE FROM: ERIN GARCIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION COUNSELING

I felt stuck. I didn't see an obvious space for growth, but I wasn't sure I was ready for a big leap. My confidence had been undermined by forces beyond my control. If it weren't for the encouragement of a mentor, I would have remained in a job that no longer provided a way forward. She had an outside perspective since she didn't work at the same university and had the experience to know what it takes to move to the next level. She was nothing short of amazing. I did take that leap successfully, and my career took off.



I later discovered that, while I learned a lot from my mentor, the mentees I would meet would teach and inspire me just as much, or maybe even more. A mentee who was always filled with questions inspired me to stop and question how things had always been done, resulting in significant improvements in the office where I worked. A mentee I'm working with now reminds me that there is nothing we can't accomplish with enough optimism and determination. We think of mentoring as one-directional, but it is an experience that benefits all involved.

The Mentor Year Program is a wonderful opportunity to expand your career, your professional network, and your inspiration, whether you participate as a mentee or mentor. Every person brings immense value and insight to these professional relationships, and together, we grow and flourish.

I'm so excited for all of you to have this experience, and I hope to hear how it has impacted each of you when we gather together at the Annual Conference. I look forward to the stories of growth, connection, and inspiration your mentee or mentor has inspired.

Transitioning Meetings and Shared Docs to connectED!

We are trying to make sure that you have easy access to resources and meetings for MYP, all in one place!

We will officially be transitioning to connected in January.

To make sure you're ready to go, following these steps:

- Use Google Chrome
- Login to connectED: <https://getconnected.live/home>
- Use the email that was provided for MYP
- You will receive a 4-digit login code in your email
- Login and complete your profile info
- Add a profile picture, etc.
- Go to VIRTUAL HUBS to find the MYP Hub

If you have any issues, please reach out to:

Megan@gennexteducation.com

International Association for College Admission Counseling

- ANNUAL CONFERENCE #1 hit inboxes on **November 9th!** Check that out for more details such as calls for conference volunteers, apps for pre-conference faculty, etc.
- Scholar Application deadline extended to December 1st! **[INFORMATION HERE](#)**
- If you are a university who offers summer enrichment options for students ([see more info here](#)) re: submitting for the 2024 summer program list

