

# The Monthly Mentor

Creating a Culture of Members Helping Members

By: the MYP Committee

**Dear Mentors & Mentees** — As the academic year winds down, we would like to extend a sincere appreciation for your contribution to the 3rd annual MYP cohort! To the MYP mentors - your ongoing support to empower your mentee is commendable. To the MYP Mentees - your willingness to embrace new opportunities has been tremendous.

We hope your mentoring experience has been a dynamic and reciprocal relationship, further enhancing your personal and professional growth.

## Accolades to our MYP Mentors and Mentees for:

**Being Present** - Fully engaging in this process, being attentive, and developing a meaningful mentor/mentee connection.

**Being Patient** - Personal growth and development takes time. Patience is key in mentoring relationships and we appreciate your year-long commitment.

**Being Visible** - Thank you for being accessible and approachable while fostering a supportive environment to learn and grow.

**Being Creative** - It's a pleasure to see our participants explore new and innovative solutions to overcome challenges or launch new projects.

**Being Inspirational** - Many of you have served as a source of inspiration, igniting passion and enthusiasm in all that you do. Thank you for being your authentic self and for giving back to our association.

We hope to see many of you at the International ACAC's summer conference in Canada! Keep an eye out for more details about the MYP reception on July 11th at Western University. #WelcomeHome

**Skyler Bentley Hall, on behalf of the MYP Committee**



## Links of interest

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

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

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

We are delighted to share that we have had an overwhelming number of applications for next year's MYP Cohort - especially those who have applied for a 2nd/3rd or even a 4th year.

**Let's Celebrate! End of year Final All-Group Meeting on Thursday, 30 May at 9am EST/ 3pm CET**

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A **\*SPECIAL\*** thank you to Skyler who will be stepping down from MYP this year! She helped to launch the program in 2021 and has championed and grown the program in so many ways. **THANK YOU, SKYLER!**



## A Full Circle MYP Moment!

**Adam Kendis (Bolivia) was able to connect with his previous Mentor - Ryan Hinchey (UK), and his Mentee for this year - Maria Cibeles Alsonso (Brazil). Thanks, Adam for giving back to the MYP!**



## MENTOR/MENTEE SPOTLIGHT (see *Maryana and Kemal's pics on the next page*)

**Mentee: Maryana Rodrigues, Career & University Counselor @ Escola Eleva (Brazil)**

**Mentor: Kemal Taskin, College & Career Counselor @ Uruguayan American School**

Navigating the realm of college counseling and international education as a new counselor can be a daunting task, especially when you're the sole member of your department responsible for almost 200 students. In such circumstances, the need for guidance and support becomes even more pronounced, making programs like the Mentor Year Program invaluable for professionals like myself. Working in a solo department, I found myself juggling multiple responsibilities, wearing many hats. While autonomy is empowering, it comes with challenges, from managing caseloads to developing comprehensive counseling plans—all while striving to provide personalized support to each student and learn about the new trends and procedures in college admission.

Enter the Mentor Year Program—a beacon of support amid uncertainty. As I grappled with the demands of my workload, my mentor Kemal provided me with practical strategies and insights tailored to my unique circumstances with kindness and special care, giving me feedback and also teaching me how to set limits on the quantity of work. From streamlining processes with his years of experience or simply offering a sympathetic ear, Kemal's support proved indispensable in helping me navigate my role and giving me the confidence to build my school's program and annual plan with the feeling that I am on the right path.

Today, as I reflect on my growth and accomplishments, I am immensely grateful for the Mentor Year Program and the unwavering support provided. **Thanks to Kemal's guidance and the resources, I am not just surviving in my role—I am thriving, making a meaningful impact in the lives of the students I serve.**

Not only was given a mentor, but I have a friend. Thank you, Kemal, and the entire team of the MYP at IACAC.



Deciding to become a mentor for the Mentor Year Program has been one of the best professional decisions that I've made this year. I remember being encouraged to apply for the role by Malissa and other outstanding Singapore Counselors as I was transitioning from Singapore to Uruguay last spring. Although I knew it would entail extra responsibility, but I had to admit that, deep down, I wanted to give back some of my time and energy to this amazing profession.

**When my mentee Maryana de Castro Rodrigues and I met for the first time, I knew that I was about to work with a young professional who not only had enthusiasm for her role but also was eager to learn about the various aspects of our profession that create quality service delivery to all of our stakeholders.** It felt both refreshing and empowering to share my experiences, knowledge, opinions and any resources that I had to help her. Getting feedback on how my advice had helped her made me feel valued in a new and different way and has been a wonderful addition to my transition to a new country.

I felt particularly lucky to be matched with such an open minded and ambitious college counselor where we could cover a range of topics that were a priority for her. It was important to always ask her what she needed and then try and deliver that. She accomplished so much for her students at her school this year and I am honored to think that I made a difference for her as she continually looked for ways to improve. This year has inspired me to apply again to be a mentor next year. This is a program that I highly recommend to other College Counselors who want to make a difference to other aspiring and ambitious people in the profession.

**Maryana Rodrigues & Kemal Taskin**



**A WARM MESSAGE FROM: MARCO DINOVELLI, ED.D  
ASSOCIATE VICE CHANCELLOR OF DIVISION OF ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT  
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-NEW BRUNSWICK**

**Reflections From a Lame Duck:**

As I write this, I'm less than 2 months away from the end of my 2nd 3-year term as a member of the Executive Board of International ACAC. 70 months down, less than 2 to go.

It went by faster than expected; I changed a lot as a person, as a professional, and most assuredly, as both a mentor/mentee. When I first joined the board, I was in awe of my counterparts. Struggling with Imposter's Syndrome, I was timid and quiet in my first meeting. Did I belong? Was I ready to be part of this team?

What I found, and what INTL ACAC gave me and has given so many others, was a group of amazing board members eager to take me under their wings and model how to contribute. That first day was the last day anyone in INTL ACAC ever saw me timid or quiet in a meeting. As I got to know others on the board, they encouraged me to share, reassuring me that I was there for a reason and to become more active.

I still look back on those first few meetings with such admiration for those who helped me get started on this journey as a board member. Those of you, and you know who you are, I can't thank you enough. You helped me grow in ways I didn't know I could. You helped me become who I am today. As the years continued, and I can't even say when it happened, my role got flipped from mentee to mentor. When I realized I was no longer a new board member (heck I got old quickly!) I knew I had to give back.

While I'll never know how much impact I had, I gave advice and support to some amazing people who have gone on to give more to the board and our organization than I know I ever could.

All this is to say, International ACAC, the organization, the people -- it truly is what we make it.

And every one of us has a chance to be mentored, and then to support a mentee.

Don't miss out on what - for me - has truly been life-changing.

**#MYP4LIFE, Marco Dinovelli**



**International Association for College Admission Counseling -- LINKS**

- **ANNUAL CONFERENCE (JULY) #WelcomeHome -**
  - Updates and need-to-know info found **on the website!**
- Proposed bylaws changes - **voting is now underway and will close May 16th!**

