

**The Executives on Campus Mentee Alumni Program [MAP]** is a community of young professionals interested in networking with one another through events, workshops and social media. MAP works to enhance the current mentees' experiences and become the next generation of mentors for EOC mentoring programs. MAP allows past EOC peers and current mentees to build relationships and stay connected.

We recently caught up with two of MAP's co-founders and co-chairmen Ryan Meltzer and Jason Wang to see what they have been up to, to get their take on mentorship, and to learn more about MAP's aims.



Jason Wang



Ryan Meltzer

**How are you still involved with Executives on Campus?**

**Ryan:** *Jason and I are co-founders of the Mentee Alumni Program (MAP) initiative, which aims to keep past EOC mentees connected in order to benefit current and future generations of young alumni.*

**Jason:** *Being involved with MAP has given us the opportunity to branch out and serve more students through mentoring.*

**What are you up to now professionally?**

**Ryan:** *I have been at JPMorgan since 2006 in a number of different roles and am currently part of an exciting new initiative to aggregate, comprehend, and accurately model the risk of a majority of the firm's Asset Management business. This allows me to further develop my quantitative skills across all asset classes, following several years in Equity Portfolio Management and Equity Research under several seasoned investment professionals.*

**Jason:** *Currently, I am a 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Financial Analyst at Citigroup Inc. I mentor students through Big Brothers Big Sisters, iMentor and MAP as much as my time permits.*

**Tell us about the work that MAP does.**

**Ryan:** *MAP is focused on keeping former Baruch mentees engaged with the college, current students, each other, as well as the broader EOC community after graduation. Many of our members strive to become mentors one day. We aim to foster this development by providing programs for MAP members to network, learn from current EOC Mentors, participate in panels to prepare students get the most out of their mentorships, and engage students individually through informal meetings.*

**Jason:** *MAP's mission is to develop a community of young professionals through networking events, workshops and social media. MAP also works to enhance the current mentees' experiences and become the next generation of mentors for the EOC mentoring program. MAP allows past EOC peers and current mentees to build relationships and stay connected.*

MAP currently provides 3 core programs for current mentees and MAP members:

- 1) *Development for the MAP members – we have one-off development events and mentorship to prepare MAP members in becoming the next generation EOC mentors (e.g. Managing up the Corporate Ladder with speaker and EOC Mentor Jeffrey Goldstein)*
- 2) *Mentoring for the current mentees – we host a series of workshops and conduct mentee walk-ins to enhance mentees' mentorship experiences (e.g. Finishing Your Mentorship Strong)*
- 3) *Networking for both the current mentees and MAP members – we want everyone to build new relationships (e.g. Annual Summer Picnic at Madison Square Park)*

**What is a mentor and why does one need a mentor?**

**Jason:** *This is a very tough question because there is no single definition of a mentor. Personally, I see a mentor being someone that listens, guides, inspires, supports, teaches, criticizes constructively and provides great insight, sharing their experiences and perspectives. A great mentor concentrates on the mentee's professional and personal development, and resists the temptation of producing a clone.*

**Ryan:** *Mentors come in many forms. Anyone who can offer perspective can potentially be a mentor. Even if that person is in a different industry, at some point s/he had to make the some of the same choices that the mentee is facing now. Participating in a program such as the EOC Executive Student Partnership is particularly special as these*

mentors have been exceptionally successful in their careers and can offer fresh, impartial views outside of the mentee's already established network of contacts. In my experience, mentors can reduce the anxiety associated with daunting decisions, while offering advice on how to lead a more fulfilling life. Some other important things about mentors:



- Mentorship does not end when you get your first job.
- You regularly gain mentors in life as new challenges arise that require guidance.
- Mentors may be assigned to you, but more often they manifest through ongoing interaction with friends and colleagues.
- No one mentor has the perfect solution: the quality of your decisions is enhanced by the diversity of perspectives among your mentors.

### **Why is mentoring so important at the different stages of a student's/young professional's life?**

**Ryan:** *The professional world can be a scary and capricious place, especially for a college student. The job market is riddled with catch-22s where you cannot gain experience in your desired field without having that very experience in the first place.*

*Many students have limited work experience and few, if any, contacts in their field of interest. Interacting with a mentor can make the difference when facing the many difficult decisions at the start of a career.*

**Jason:** *You can learn so much from your mentors who have been there before you. They can guide you through your problems and help you identify your aspirations. They can introduce you to people who can help further. Having mentors is an integral part of life.*

### **Do you think you benefitted from mentorship in your professional and personal development? How?**

**Jason:** *Absolutely. Without my mentors, I would not be here today. My mentors broadened my horizon to life, society and career goals. They taught me to have a set of core values so that I will never lose my identity. They assisted me in building my support system both personally and professionally. They helped me work on my weaknesses and accentuated my strengths. They suggested that I have a plan as a guide and be flexible towards it. They trained and positioned me where I can succeed. The list goes on. I am very, grateful of having my mentors in my life, and I will continue to improve myself and be a better person.*

**Ryan:** *Without question: I am better off as a result of my mentors' guidance. My career has direction and I consider myself successful in my professional endeavors, while maintaining personal happiness and leisurely pursuits. With their advice, I better understand myself and what I want out of life.*

*My colleagues and I created MAP out of the sheer conviction of the positive effects of mentorship. We aim to keep learning while guiding current students in the same way that we were (and are) helped by mentors throughout the years.*

#### **More information on MAP:**

MAP on the Web: <http://tinyurl.com/czkzsfo>

MAP on LinkedIn: <http://tinyurl.com/c4dkg5y>

MAP Email: [EOC.Alumni@baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:EOC.Alumni@baruch.cuny.edu)

Executives on Campus (EOC) Email: [executivesoncampus@baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:executivesoncampus@baruch.cuny.edu)



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