

EOC Mentee Experience: Charles Hwang (MBA, Accounting, 2015)

Many Baruch students take issue with the fees charged by the College.

What if I told you about a program that is completely FREE to all students (undergrad and grad) and each student who takes full advantage of the program will benefit tremendously?

If you don't know about this program yet, it's called Executives on Campus (EOC) and it's one of the best programs at Baruch College. All you need to do is take the initiative to sign up to take part in it. In order to maximize the benefits of the program, you must devote time, energy, and a level of commitment to the program. The benefits of the EOC program are well worth the effort.

EOC has three main programs that aim to "provide undergraduate and graduate students with networking, interviewing and other essential 'business etiquette skills' vital to compete in the job market." However, I've found that they do much more than that. One of EOC's offerings is *Mentor for a Morning* (and *Mentor for an Evening*) program where professionals with varied backgrounds and industries volunteer to meet and mentor students in one-on-one sessions and help answer any questions the students may have. Another valuable program is the *EOC Year Long Mentoring Program* where a student is paired off with a mentor for an entire academic year. Finally, the EOC provides *Job\$mart* events where mentors in the program donate an hour or so of their time to speak on specific career-related topics and answer student questions in an informal setting. I have fully taken advantage of all three offerings of the EOC program. You will always find me at the *Mentor for a Morning* and *Evening* sessions. I also attend the *Job\$mart* events as I enjoy talking to professionals of all backgrounds.

“ I have been fortunate to personally connect with three EOC mentors who have had a great impact on my academic and professional career path. Without their advice, wisdom, and expertise, I would not be where I am today so I give them a lot of credit.

I first connected with Gary Villani, who is currently the Senior Vice President of IPG Mediabrands. Mr. Villani has vast experience in talent development. It was very helpful for me to hear about his career transition as I too have transitioned from one field to another. I met Mr. Villani when I just started at Baruch, and ever since we met, he has been very influential in my graduate career development. Although Mr. Villani has a new position that is very demanding, we are still able to meet periodically. This shows how much mentors who are involved in the EOC program care about the Baruch students they mentor.

Last year, I was paired up with Dennis Hickey (BBA, '70) through the *EOC Academic Year-Long Mentoring Program*. He is currently the CFO of Colgate-Palmolive. Mr. Hickey has helped me in a variety of ways. For example, he strongly

encouraged me to run for President of the Zicklin Graduate Accounting Society (ZGAS). As President, I have further developed my leadership and management skills. In addition, Mr. Hickey is always emphasizing the importance of networking. I have personally found that networking is one of the keys to professional success. With his encouragement, I joined several professional organizations to further enhance my professional networks and to hone my networking skills. During one-on-one sessions, he has given me priceless advice on leadership, career development, and work/life balance. Even though our official year long mentorship has ended, he has generously offered to continue to meet with me. Once again, the mentors of EOC truly care about mentoring students, even beyond when their official commitments conclude.



Through one of the EOC Appreciation parties, I was fortunate to connect with Bruce Jones who was a Professor at Queens College and also a CFO at various firms. He is so passionate about mentoring that he has several mentees, both undergrad and grad students. Mr. Jones is proud to say that all of his mentees have received full time job offers. He is constantly pushing me beyond my comfort zone and has helped me to grow and achieve more than I originally thought possible.

The relationships that I have developed with these EOC mentors have proven to be absolutely priceless. Without having the advice and guidance of these key individuals who I met through EOC, I would not be where I am today and at the brink of starting an exciting and fulfilling career path. I have met other mentors through the program who have helped me in other ways. I am truly grateful for the help my mentors have provided.

The mentors I've met through the program are all very successful. They are truly passionate about helping students and passing on their unique knowledge and insight. In addition, they are very generous with their time and provide invaluable advice and they do not ask for anything in return. I truly believe the mentors in the EOC will create future leaders in the domestic and international community. It is definitely one of the best programs on campus. Thus, if you haven't taken advantage of this program, you need to start this year. I guarantee you won't regret it. All you need to do is sign up for EOC programs when you receive invites and applications to your baruchmail account or email the EOC at executivesoncampus@baruch.cuny.edu

Charles Hwang is a graduate student at Baruch, pursuing a Masters in Accountancy. He was the President of the Zicklin Graduate Accounting Society in 2014. He will be graduating in May 2015 and has already accepted a full-time position to work at Ernst & Young in their Forensic Investigations and Dispute Services department.