



# DOGA

## Diocesan Old Girls' Association

[www.doga.org.hk](http://www.doga.org.hk)

## Guidance, Friendship and Trust- DOGA Mentoring Programme

" I find myself acting like a big sister and my mentees are all my younger sisters. It's like a family!"

This remark by Esther Ma ('83, public relations) expresses a general feeling of mentors who have committed their time to guide young graduates of DGS as they pursue their tertiary studies or as they commence their working careers.

Both Dr Vivian Wong ('62, medicine) and Frances Leung ('94, law) concur wholeheartedly with this view. The special bonding created by the common DGS experience seems to transcend the generation gap, if indeed any exists, and solidifies the mentor-mentee relationship.

Vivian, Esther and Frances are 3 among 40 mentors currently in the Programme. We talked to them and to their mentees to find out more.

### The mentees

Christy Lam is in her final year of medical school at HKU. She is paired up with Vivian. She finds the Programme enjoyable and its benefits far exceeding her expectations. Apart from the common interest in medical studies, Vivian and Christy have found other interests to share, such as Chinese medicine and environmental issues.

Patricia Lam is a second year law student at CUHK. Frances is her mentor. She is grateful that she can consult Frances not only on her legal studies, but on her career plan as well. She finds Frances' advice most valuable because it is from someone she can trust.

Esther's mentee is Carol Chan who is joining the human resource department of a well known international company, which, coincidentally, Esther once worked for. Although Carol will not be working in public relations per se, she and Esther agree that PR and HR are both "people" business.



*Frances and her mentee Patricia with their common background in law.*



*Esther handing over her book - "The A to Z of PR" - to Carol as a token of encouragement for her future career and personal pursuits.*



## Success factors

Vivian believes that the success of a mentoring program depends on the continuity of the mentor-mentee relationship. She explains, "I like to build friendships with my mentees through various dimensions." Her aim is to foster her mentee's overall personal growth rather than merely focus on her professional development. She enjoys gathering her mentees from different programmes to meet and attend various events, such as art exhibitions, theatre, concerts, and volunteer projects for community work. The sharing of experience helps cross-fertilization of views on the environment and society.

Commitment of time is essential, on both sides. Because they find the Programme meaningful, our mentors give it a high priority among their many duties. Take Vivian's example. While the Programme recommends meeting once a month, Vivian and Christy's commitment has brought them together on a much more regular basis, as often as once every two weeks.



*Vivian and Christy at the DOGA Annual Dinner 2007... before they were paired up!*



*Dr. Vivian Wong showing Christy (first row) her old school photos from the Quest, together with Andrea Lai and Audrey Chen (second row) from the Editorial sub-com.*

Constant communication is also a theme in Esther's relationship with her mentees. She feels that "mentors should always be available to give advice and feedback on mentees' career choices, work/life balance issues, and personal pursuits."



*Volunteers from HKU St. John's College including Vivian and Christy for "Art in Hospital" community art project at Haven of Hope Hospital.*

In this time and age when time is such a precious commodity, we find that meeting face to face is only one of several ways our mentors and mentees communicate. Frances "chit-chats" with Patricia by means of MSN, while Vivian converses with Christy frequently on the phone, and needless to say, all three pairs talk to each other via email.

## Joining the Programme

Started as a pilot project in April 2005, the DOGA Mentoring Programme is now in its 3rd year. Past matches have been in a wide range of fields, such as banking, marketing/PR/market research/advertising, law, journalism, medicine, public administration, HR, education, psychology and architecture.

Old girls who are currently in their final 2 years of undergraduate studies, or have graduated for less than 2 years from university are welcome to join the Programme. Partnerships are matched based on professions and career interests.

For those interested in becoming a mentor for future programs, please provide your class year and profession information to Carmen Law ([carmen.law@intel.com](mailto:carmen.law@intel.com)).

For further information, please visit our web site: [www.doga.org.hk](http://www.doga.org.hk)