

Fostering a Learning Community: Our Peer Mentoring Team Leads by Example

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Here at Hanson no student is left to be an island to themselves.

Our excellent peer mentoring team is always here to provide additional academic support, and to make fellow students feel part of a cohesive academic community.

Lily Teng is a Fall 2015 Hanson Tourism graduate who loves helping others, and dreams of a career in education. She gets energized by her tutoring and mentoring work.



Tutoring, Lily explains, is more of a one-time assistance that meets short-term learning needs.

Mentoring, on the other hand, is a method that she prefers because it involves an ongoing teaching relationship.

"I feel very excited when I begin to work with students," says

Lily.

Emily Vu is a third-semester Tourism student and peer tutor who hopes to secure a full-time career working at the airport once she graduates.

She loves her peer tutoring job because she feels that it is a two-way street.

"I teach my students, but I also learn from them, and they teach the new material back to me," says Emily.

She has also grown to really appreciate the cross-cultural exchange that tutoring, as well as the general Hanson environment, provide.

“Come to class, take notes, and be open to another culture because that way we can learn from each other,” is Emily’s recipe for academic success.

Satwinder Singh is also a third-semester Tourism student with dreams of pursuing a career as a travel agent. He has tutoring experience from his native India which helps him reprise that role at Hanson:

“You have to have knowledge, teachings skills and a good relationship with your mentees,” says Satwinder.

He believes that in order to be successful, students need to follow Hanson instructor Pat Banerjee’s CTC (COME TO CLASS) formula.

Satwinder is also a big believer in students taking advantage of the rich professional experience that instructors like Jim Michelis share during their classes.

Students also need to listen carefully in class, take thorough notes, and review them regularly.

“If you have good attendance and good concentration on your studies you will do well,” advises Satwinder.

Kunyu (Anna) Guo is a Fall 2015 business graduate who works part-time as a general administrative assistant at Hanson in addition to her employment as a peer mentor.

Anna credits her patience and the ability to listen and to always maintain pleasant demeanour as the reason for her good rapport with her tutees and mentees.

“It is important to understand your mentee’s way of thinking,” says Anna.

She is also grateful that tutoring has helped to further polish her communication skills and her appreciation of people from other cultures.

Anna believes that great communication and time management skills are necessary for being a good tutor and for being successful in one’s profession.

However, English is a second language for the entire peer tutor team as well as for the majority of Hanson students. Therefore, tutoring and learning in English can pose a challenge.

However, for Anna, the college's accepting atmosphere helps her overcome that problem.

"I like Hanson's cross-cultural activities and diverse atmosphere – they help improve communication and cooperation," says Anna.