

Member of the Month – Marian Oláh

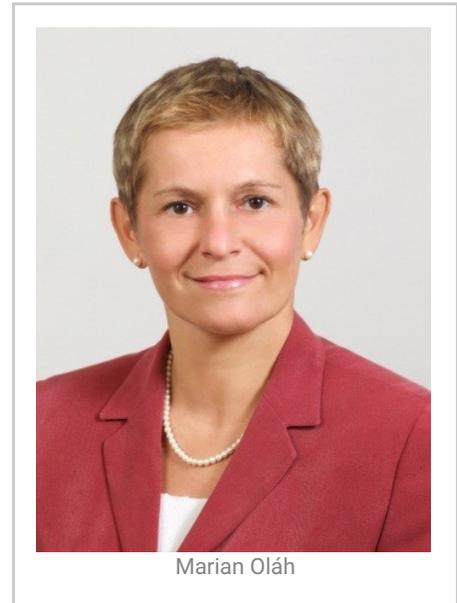
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Meet the December FWA Member of the Month and see what she is doing in the Financial community.

Welcome to the FWA Marian! Please tell us about your FWA journey so far.

I officially joined the FWA last August, although I had been involved with the organization since 2016 after I was approached to teach the “Color Q” communication and leadership development skills workshop for the Pacesetters and the BOLD Committee. I have also been involved in the Pacesetters’ mentoring and coaching programs.

Those experiences helped me get familiar with the organization and its membership. So far, I have really enjoyed the events, and the members I have met are very nice and open to making a connection.



Tell us about your career so far?

I was born and raised in Hungary and relocated to NYC 25 years ago with a background in academia – I was teaching foreign languages and English technical writing as a Tenured Faculty at the School of Engineering of the University of Debrecen. I came to the States to work for the United Nations where I was able to leverage my passion for foreign languages – I speak English, Hungarian, Russian, Spanish and some French. I also continued my education by getting a second MA and an MBA.

While teaching soft skills classes as an Adjunct Instructor and managing academic and professional development programs at the City College of New York, I realized that I wanted to make a larger impact on people. I started exploring opportunities as a corporate trainer so I could bring together my passion for teaching and developing others in an environment where it counted the most – on the job. I came to this realization through continually learning and developing myself while working.

To further my career, I joined the New York Chapter of the Association for Talent Development (ATD NYC) where I was a member of various Committees and sat on the Board for one year. As a consultant and executive coach, I have been working in various learning, leadership, and organization development roles with Thomson Reuters, NYC Health and Hospitals, and other organizations.

How are you enjoying working in the field of learning, leadership, and organization development?

I love it: being a consultant, corporate trainer, and executive coach directly impacts the individuals, and through them, the organizations I work with. It also allows me to grow professionally and personally, including working with different personality types across industries, functional areas, and corporate titles, designing solutions for organizational problems, and developing my own leadership capabilities. I realized that doing something I am truly passionate about brings opportunities my way. I am always ready to bring value to organizations through my learning, leadership, and organization development expertise I have accumulated over 20 years.

What is the best career advice you have received so far?

I have three actually:

1. Always do your best
2. Be resilient
3. Always aim to improve yourself

What are you passionate about?

I am very passionate about developing people to meet their potential: everybody needs somebody to support them and help them be the best they can be in whatever area they choose. This passion also helps me learn and expand my own knowledge and expertise.

Who is a source of inspiration and strength in your life and why?

For me, it is my personality that gives me the drive and a curious mind to expand my horizon and continuously learn and improve myself.

What are the words you live by?

I live daily on this quote by Louis Pasteur: "Chance favors the prepared mind." When I look back at my career, take for example my role at the UN, I got the job because I was prepared in that I had put in 15 years of language learning and developing that craft.

Do you have any book to recommend our FWA community?

"Quiet" by Susan Cain. It is all about introverts and about breaking stereotypes. As an introvert myself, I am an advocate for "my people" and think that personality types need to be part of the overall Diversity & Inclusion conversation.

To contact Marian Oláh, MBA, MA, PCC and learn more about her work, please visit her website The Center for Reflective Leadership at <http://www.center4reflectiveleadership.com>

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