



**TheEleven**  
Prep Week for Senior Year

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

May 15-19, 2017



## INTRODUCING THEELEVEN

This year marks the debut of a new tradition at Shanghai American School, The**Eleven**. Created exclusively by and for SAS as a replacement for the Senior Retreats, The**Eleven** is designed to be the best senior experience a junior can have.

Because The**Eleven** will give our Grade 11 students the tools needed to excel from day one in their senior year.

At The**Eleven**, our grade 11 students will spend a week getting a jump start on college searches, applications, and personal essays. They'll be equipped with methods for reducing stress. And they'll depart as part of a tighter community – one that's well-prepared to make the Class of 2018 a memorable one at SAS.

## THEELEVEN Schedule

EARLY MORNING SESSION [6:00 – 8:30 AM]				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	Optional Wellness 6:00 am to 7:30 am	Optional Wellness 6:00 am to 7:30 am	Optional Wellness 6:00 am to 7:30 am	Optional Wellness 6:00 am to 7:30 am
Breakfast 7:30 to 8:30 am				

MORNING SESSION [8:30 AM – 12:00 PM]		
MONDAY	TUESDAY – WEDNESDAY – THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	Students will be divided into two groups – A & B	
Travel to Lin'An Depart at 8:30 am	<p><b>Group A</b></p> <p>Essay Session Ethan Sawyer (2 hours)</p> <p>Elective Session Student Choice (1 hour)</p>	<p><b>Group B</b></p> <p>Community Building Activity Student Choice (3 hours)</p> <p>Kayaking Hiking Biking River Rafting Yoga</p>
		<p>Counselor Meeting (1 Hour)</p> <p>Packing (1 hour)</p> <p>Depart at 10:00 am</p>

MID-DAY SESSION [12:00 – 2:00 PM]				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Lunch – 12:00 pm				
Arrival & Check-In	Wellness Session [1 hour]	Wellness Session [1 hour]	Wellness Session [1 hour]	Traveling Home

AFTERNOON SESSION [2:15 – 5:45 PM]			
MONDAY	TUESDAY – WEDNESDAY – THURSDAY Students will be divided into two groups – A & B		FRIDAY
Check-in [1 Hour]	<b>Group A</b>		Counselor Meeting [1 Hour]
Lunch [1 hour]	Community Building Activity Student Choice [3 hours]		Packing [1 hour]
Orientation [30 min]	Kayaking Hiking Biking River Rafting Yoga		Depart at 10:00 am
Dragon Boat Races [1 hour]	<b>Group B</b>		
	Essay Session Ethan Sawyer [2 hours]		
	Elective Session Student Choice [1 hour]		

EVENING SESSION [5:45 – 10:30 PM]				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Dinner & Free Time: 5:45 – 7:45 pm				
Keynote Address Ethan Sawyer 8:00 – 9:30 pm	Writing Time 8:00 – 9:30 pm  Experts Available for Individual Consultation	Writing Time 8:00 – 9:30 pm  Experts Available for Individual Consultation	Talent Show and Social 8:00 – 9:30 pm	
Lights Out & Curfew Check – 10:30 pm				

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## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

### **Ethan Sawyer, Consultant – The College Essay Guy**

Ethan Sawyer is an internationally recognized college essay expert and sought-after speaker. Each year he helps thousands of students and counselors through his online courses, workshops, articles, products, and books, and works privately with a small number of students. Raised in Spain, Ecuador, and Colombia, Ethan has studied at seventeen different schools and has worked as a teacher, curriculum writer, voice actor, motivational speaker, community organizer, and truck driver. He is a certified Myers-Briggs® specialist, and his type [ENFJ] will tell you that he will show up on time, that he'll be excited to meet you, and that, more than anything, he is committed to—and an expert in—helping you realize your potential. A graduate of Northwestern University, Ethan holds an MFA from UC Irvine and two counseling certificates. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Veronica, and their daughter, Zola.

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## WORKSHOP LEADERS

### **Mr. Shawn Moore, Bard College**

Shawn Moore is an American violinist/violist, currently teaching and performing in China, the US and other locations throughout the world. He is the Musician in Residence at The Affiliated High School of Peking University, a visiting professor at the Nanjing School of the Arts, and Musician in Residence for the Yale Club of Beijing. While pursuing his career as a musician, Shawn also concurrently works for Bard College, covering East/Central Asia as an admissions officer and representative for institutional relations. He has been based in Beijing since the fall of 2014. Shawn is passionate about languages and communication in general – be it musical, linguistic or otherwise. He has studied the violin since his childhood, performed worldwide, and is a graduate of Bard College and Yale University.

### **Ms. Alex Mesterson-Gibbons, Savannah College of Art and Design [SCAD]**

Alex Mesterton-Gibbons is a graduate of the Savannah College of Art and Design where she received her degree in fashion design. Alex was born in Florida, and grew up between the United States and England studying fine art, theatre, and dance. By fifteen, she had already started university full time and had illustrated two children's books. It was during art school that she discovered her love of fashion and after graduation she became the brand ambassador for Uniqlo at Liberty London. Alex currently works for SCAD admission, traveling among five different countries teaching fashion workshops, and recruiting talented students for SCAD Hong Kong. When Alex isn't traveling, she is sketching, writing mystery stories, or making her own clothes!

### **Mr. Sven Clarke, University of British Columbia**

Sven has been a Student Advisor for the University of British Columbia for 15 years, helping both prospective Undergraduate and Graduate Students throughout the application process. Sven has enjoyed working with SAS students, parents and counsellors over the past 8 years, and looks forward to meeting you. He is currently based in UBC's Hong Kong Asia Pacific Regional Office.

### **Mr. Hyuk Sang Son, Consultant – Korean Universities**

Mr. Hyuk Sang Son has been an educator at Suzhou Singapore International School since 2007, with a focus on College Counselling for the past 6 years. Mr. Son works with SSIS Korean students applying to Korea, Hong Kong, Japan, and Singapore. He teaches College Prep 11 and 12 and leads Grade 12 Mock In-

terviews. He has presented on Korean Admissions in Shanghai, Qingdao, Yantai, and on the International ACAC Webinar. Mr. Son, his wife, and son live in Suzhou, Jiangsu, China.

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## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

### Writing Lab

Presenter[s]: Shanghai American School Teachers

Let's write! You have reflected on your strengths and you have an idea of what story you would like to tell in your personal essay or personal statement. This writing lab provides the time and place to work on your writing. We will provide a quiet space for you to get into your flow, and teachers and counselors will be there to provide support and feedback.

### Mastering the Interview

Presenter[s]: Mr. Marc Curless and Ms. Keri Phipps

Many schools try to connect directly with their applicants, so you may have opportunities to interview with an admissions representative or an alumnus during the summer or the fall semester. If simply thinking about an interview makes you nervous, you should attend this. You will gain insights and have an opportunity to practice your skills.

### Supplemental Essays

Presenter: Ms. Hillary Hewins

Many American universities ask for essays and short answers beyond the main personal essay. Maximize your opportunities to tell the colleges more about you and your unique strengths and experiences. These essays can help colleges fall in love with you, and/or show the colleges that you are in love with them. We will cover strategies for approaching all types of supplemental essays.

### University of California System

Presenter: Ms. Jennifer Lee

Since its founding in Oakland in 1868, the University of California has been helping students reach their highest potential. Everyone loves the University of California system, now get the inside scoop on how BEST to fill out the application to really shine in the process. UC has replaced the two personal statement prompts with short-answer questions called Personal Insight questions. This session will also address how to approach these essay questions.

### Course-Based Personal Statements [Canada/HK/Korea/UK]

Presenter: Ms. Michelle Barini

**Targeting applicants who intend to apply to universities in Canada, Hong Kong, Korea, or the United Kingdom.**

Are you applying to course based systems such as the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Korea, Canada, etc.? This session will focus on writing a personal statement rather than the US style college essay. What makes an effective personal statement for a course-specific system? How do you best demonstrate your motivations?

## **Art Portfolio Review**

Presenter: Ms. Alex Mesterson-Gibbons, SCAD

**Students planning to attend this session need to bring a digital portfolio.**

Are you planning to apply to a portfolio-based art program? This session is for you! Learn how to best present your portfolio to selective art schools and gain valuable insights from admissions personnel who review portfolios. Ms. Mesterson-Gibbons will review and provide suggestions to students on their portfolio.

## **Unlocking the Korean University Application Process**

Presenter: Mr. Hyuk Sang Son, Consultant

**This session will be presented in Korean.**

If you are planning to apply to Korean Universities, this session will help you tailor your application to the specific criteria used by Korean University admissions departments. Mr. Son will provide an overview of the application process, the aspects you can still influence, and strategies for positioning yourself for success in the competitive Korean application process.

## **Applying to Music Schools**

Presenter: Mr. Shawn Moore, Bard College

If you are planning to apply for a degree in music, this session will help you prepare for your applications, portfolio and potential auditions. We will discuss techniques for preparing for auditions, how to strategize for your portfolio, and how to think about the schools you are applying for. We will also discuss how to best approach the application process to music schools in particular, as there are some differences with normal undergraduate applications.

## **Applying to Liberal Arts Colleges**

Presenter[s]: Mr. Shawn Moore, Bard College and Mr. Shaun McElroy

Why do a disproportionate number of leaders in business, politics, sciences etc. come from Liberal Arts and Science Colleges? The quintessential US collegiate experience has gained in interests around the world—Holland, Shanghai, Singapore all have Liberal arts schools. We will explore the value of, and research behind a Liberal Arts education, and why it is important to your future.

## **Applying to Canadian Universities**

Presenter: Mr. Shaun McElroy

If you are considering studying at one of Canada's many fine post-secondary institutions then this session will be of interest to you. First, you will get sense of how Canadian universities fit within the context of higher education globally. You will learn something of the diverse options, approximate costs, application processes, and programs offered at institutions across Canada. More specifically, you will learn from Sven Clarke, Senior Student Advisor for UBC, about the particular benefits of an education at the University of British Columbia as well as how to apply and how to prepare your student profile.

