Cross-Cultural Approaches to International Student Mental Health - The Chinese Example

The number of international students in the United States have reached another all-time high in 2017. Of these, over 63% come from just four Asian countries. As the number of international students studying in the U.S. continues to expand, boarding schools and universities are faced by unique challenges related to mental health and emotional wellness. Discussions about these sensitive topics are influenced by culturally based illness beliefs and stigma. In this session, audience will be exposed to the current state of research and practice in this area, with a focus on Chinese international students, as facilitated by a diverse panel of experts, including: the Executive Director and Co-Founder of the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Center for Cross-Cultural Student Emotional Wellness; a current full-time Ph.D. candidate originally from China researching the experiences of international students; and an international services and recruitment Coordinator specializing in international student recruitment and integration. This session will begin with a summary of the current state of research on the mental health of Chinese international students, including the proposed factors that contribute to depression and poor outcomes, including health behaviors, lack of psychoeducation and awareness, stigma, familial expectations, and discrimination. The MGH Center for Cross-Cultural Student Emotional Wellness is described as an innovative approach to tackle the challenges. The panel will provide suggestions based on the panel’s experience as educators, researchers, and clinicians regarding management of common mental health challenges in Asian American and international student populations, as well as discuss some examples of "best practices". Lastly, the session will leave plenty of time for interactive participation from the audience for participants to share their experiences working with their international students and the challenges they face. Audience participation and dialogue will be greatly encouraged.
A Peek Behind the Curtain: What College Counselors Can Learn by Becoming External Readers

If you’ve always worked on the high school counseling side of the desk but have wondered what it may be like to evaluate applications as part of a holistic review, this may be the session for you! In this session, college counselors who took advantage of opportunities to serve as external readers for universities that review applications holistically will share insights gained on the US-style holistic admissions process through this special vantage point. We will discuss how different parts of the application, including academics, extracurriculars, essays, and recommendations, are evaluated as part of the reading process, focusing on the take-aways for counselors. University representatives will also share their views regarding the benefits and challenges of the external reader process, and audience participation is welcome. If you work on the Admissions side of the desk and have contemplated using high school counselors as external readers, or allowing them a peek into your admissions process in other ways, then this session could also have valuable insights for you.

We’ve Got the Beats! - Motivating Mix Tapes and Productive Playlists in International Education

Music plays an instrumental (haha!) role in all of our lives. As high school counselors we can use discussions with students about their "must-listen" playlists to gain insight into their personalities, improve relationships, discover what moves and inspires them, or to help them come up with essay topics. As university reps music travels the globe with us and can improve well-being and resilience while helping us engage more deeply with countries and cultures. Questions about a student’s artistic
influences can add more life to an admissions interview. Music can also be key to managing our moods and energy levels during those tough file reading days. Whether a high school or university counselor be ready to share your go-to songs, de-stress and perhaps dance a little!

*Kyndra Douglass, Dulwich College Shanghai*
*Dane Rowley, California Lutheran University*
*Sonali Hutchison, Dulwich College Shanghai*

**Audience:** BOTH
**Theme:** Enhancing Counseling - New tools and techniques for college counseling
**Room:** Weinmann Hall Rm 357

**Answering the Call to Action: Test Flexibility for International Students**

In October of 2017, International ACAC issued a call for equity in standardized admissions testing for students worldwide. One suggested action item the board presented was for universities to consider test flexible policies for international students applying for the fall of 2018. Did your university either respond or have conversations about responding to the board's call to action? Come for a conversation on the past, present and future of test flexibility for international students. Well discuss the impact test flexibility has on students, on the breadth and depth of an applicant pool, on the evaluation process and present alternative options for assessment.

*Beau Benson, Northeastern University*
*Gloria Chyou, InitialView*
*Scott Crawford, Washington University in St. Louis*
*Jennifer Dewar, Duolingo English Test*
*Kevin Sim, S1G*

**Audience:** BOTH
**Theme:** Financial Aid & Access - Helping students find their path and identity
**Room:** Weinmann Hall Rm 110

**It's Not About You! How Our Bias About Each Other is Impacting Students and Families**

School counselors, private counselors, admissions officers -- with even the best of intentions, our biases toward each other are impacting the families we serve and in some cases a student's future. Come prepared to learn and grow in a safe learning space where we believe you will leave the session with a better understanding of self and of each other, and with a lasting mindfulness that the college admissions process is about the student, not you.

Our aim is to promote a dynamic discussion that will help us improve as professionals and more importantly as human beings. Come prepared to learn and grow in a safe learning space where
we believe you will leave the session with a better understanding of self and of each other, and with a lasting mindfulness that the college admissions process is about the student, not you. Our aim is to promote a dynamic discussion that will help us improve as professionals and more importantly as human beings.

Mairgreg Mahoney, Colegio Gran Bretana  
Susan Whipple, Marquette University  
Juan-Camilo Tamayo, JCT4Education

Audience: BOTH  
Theme: Inspiration & Leadership - Building capacity to support your team's strengths  
Room: LBC Stibbs 203 Rm

Not You Again: Why Every College Sounds the Same by the Time You Are 16

Does your university offer a holistic review, robust student life, flexibility in choosing your major, study abroad opportunities, internships, award winning faculty and a Quidditch team? Don't they all?! Join an interactive discussion with members of both sides of the desk to share new ways to reinvigorate the college visit. Explore the best ways to get your foot in the door and to continue being asked back. Learn to differentiate your university from all of the others that offer similar unique qualities to truly address what students and counselors want and need to know to help find the perfect match. It's time to start fresh and start exceeding expectations! Join an interactive discussion with members of both sides of the desk to share new ways to reinvigorate the college visit. Explore the best ways to get your foot in the door and to continue being asked back. Learn to differentiate your university from all of the others that offer similar unique qualities to truly address what students and counselors want and need to know to help find the perfect match. It's time to start fresh and start exceeding expectations!

Claire Wilkins, New York University Shanghai  
Janie Digby, UWC Atlantic College  
Anne Payne, International School of Latvia  
Carolyn Barr, Leiden University

Audience: BOTH  
Theme: University Recruitment 2.0 - Reimagining interactions with students & schools  
Room: Woldenberg Art Center Freeman Auditorium


With the combination of DP components and a career-related study, the IBCP programme provides students a combination of academic development and practical, real world approaches
to learning. The CP core helps them to develop skills and competencies required for lifelong learning.

In this session reps from the University of Applied Sciences, high school and IB side will share their knowledge and experience working with the IBCP programme and its students. How do students experience the transition into higher education? What steps should they take? What is the value for making the match for future student’s success?

Hyam Falconi, Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences
Bernie Lenoue, Jumeira Baccalaureate School
Marie Vivas, International Baccalaureate Organization
Lauren Rigter, Hotelschool The Hague - Hospitality Business University

Audience: HIGH SCHOOL
Theme: Enhancing Counseling - New tools and techniques for college counseling
Room: Boggs 104

Smartphones in the Classroom: How Can We Help our Students Manage Technology

The use and reliance on smartphones and mobile technology is widespread. Our students are increasingly connected and reliant upon their smartphones. Recent studies have shown that this increased use of mobile technology has led to both decreased focus in classrooms and increased anxiety in our students. To control the use of this technology, some high schools have set restrictions on their use, including banning them from their schools. Come hear from counsellors who are at schools who have set these restrictions or others who are considering these restrictions. Discussion will include the pros and cons to limiting the technologies our students are using in our schools.

Craig Brown, Shawnigan Lake School
Amy Durrant, International School of Brussels

Audience: HIGH SCHOOL
Theme: Enhancing Counseling - New tools and techniques for college counseling
Room: Goldring/Woldenberg Business Complex 170

Where is the Money? Affording a US College Education

This session will focus on filling out the CSS profile required for applicants seeking financial aid and will help with a checklist of the requisite supporting documentation. It will also touch on the approaches of various need blind, need aware and need sensitive institutions and how colleges look at the CSS to determine the Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) as part of a financial aid package. The process and required documents for various merit-based scholarships will also be
discussed. Scheduled to last one hour, the session aims to be interactive and informative, offering a clear and comprehensive guide to the often-dreaded financial aid and scholarship procedures.

*Shilpa Gupta, Neerja Modi School*
*Namrata Pandey, The Edge*
*Nicole Buenzli, Union College*
*Amy Markham, Mount Holyoke College*
*Neeraj Mandhana, The Next Genius Foundation*

**Audience:** HIGH SCHOOL  
**Theme:** Financial Aid & Access - Helping students find their path and identity  
**Room:** Jones Hall Rm 204

**Natural Bridge Builders: Identifying and Accessing Cross-Cultural Kids to Create Campus Community**

CCKs (cross-cultural kids) and their subset TCKs (Third Culture Kids) are hidden superheroes on college and university campuses globally. These 21st century global natives can foster conversations across your domestic and foreign student populations. But who are they? What does the research say are their greatest strengths and talents? And how can you identify them as part of your university enrollment practices and participants in your orientation programs and beyond? High school counselors, a research consultant and Admissions Officers will share studies and strategies on how best to identify and access these natural community builders in your university population.

*Alexandra Bilan, Jakarta Intercultural School*  
*Ellen Mahoney, Sea Change Mentoring*  
*Ryan Haynes, Taipei American School*  
*Lukman Arsalan, Trinity College*

**Audience:** UNIVERSITY  
**Theme:** University Recruitment 2.0 - Reimagining interactions with students & schools  
**Room:** Boggs 105

**Hosting an International ACAC Conference**

Interested in hosting your own International ACAC Conference? Please come along to learn more about the ins and outs of the process. We will be joined by the International ACAC Leadership Team as well as several past International ACAC Conference hosts to answer all of your questions including: cost, logistics, getting your administration on-board, and much, much more.

*Johanna Fishbein, UWC South East Asia, Dover Campus*  
*Drew Crawford, Case Western Reserve University*
**Thing 1 and Thing 2: Re-Imagining Your Recruitment Pitch So You Don't Sound Like Every Other Institution**

From the student's point of view listening to our recruitment pitches, every U.S. university has superlative academics, student-focused faculty, and outstanding internship opportunities; no wonder students look to rankings to help narrow down their lists. In the limited time we recruiters have in front of groups of students, it is key that we leave a lasting impression and to do so, we need to change our approach from the comfortable but mundane to the specific and engaging. Attendees of this interactive session will leave with strategies, examples, and a take-home template for sharpening their pitches. Experienced recruiters or managers who train new reps will gain insights into how to better prepare their own staff to represent their institutions well.

*Kate Dobson, Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis*
*Girish Ballolla, Gen Next Education, Inc.*
*Samuel Dunlop, Portland State University*

**Ugh, we still do not have a CRM! Managing Recruitment Travel to 31 Countries Using Technology**

Struggling to execute a cohesive recruitment travel plan without a CRM? You're not alone! In this session, find out how to build a cost-effective network of technology tools to meet your needs. Topics covered include: syncing staff travel calendars, marketing materials inventory, electronic inquiry cards, tracking special event RSVP's, inquiry database management, email systems, and business card capture. Plus, share your own travel and recruitment "hacks and apps" during the session.

*Nathan Jones, Temple University*
*Pablo Torres, University of New Mexico*
Room: Jones Hall Rm 102