

## November 2017

### College Visits

#### SCAD

November 16  
12:05 p.m.  
Conference Room

#### Ringling College Of Art and Design

November 17  
12:55 p.m.  
Conference Room

#### US Naval Academy

November 20  
Noon  
Library

#### US Coast Guard Academy

November 20  
12:40 p.m.  
Library

#### St. Bonaventure University

November 20  
12:40 p.m.  
Library

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St. David's School

# Collegebeat...

An Update from the College Counseling Office

## College Admissions: Six Ways to Impress Your Interviewer

By Christiana Quinn, Monday, October 30, 2017 [www.golocalprov.com](http://www.golocalprov.com)

Fall is peak season for high school seniors to do college interviews. Today, most large schools don't offer interviews, but small to medium size colleges do. Some are evaluative, meaning they factor into an admission decision; others are informational, meaning they do not. Both demonstrate your interest in the college, which is often taken into consideration. Whether you are traveling to campus to meet with an Admissions Representative or having an alumni interview in your hometown, there are important things that you should do to get ready.

### 1. Do your homework

Spend 1-2 hours the day before your interview thoroughly perusing the college web site. Read about new buildings, professors who have won awards and student projects. Delve into your desired major or explore the majors offered. Make notes on things that interest you and questions you want to ask. Being well-versed in the university's offerings and recent news makes the interviewer feel you are a student who takes initiative and cares. Perhaps the most important question you are likely to get is "Why do you want to attend our college?" You should be ready to be very specific when answering this question. Don't focus on the city the school is in, the winning sports teams, "connections" they will help you make, or the pretty campus. Talk about the educational philosophy, expertise in a major you want to declare, research opportunities, clubs you want to join, community service initiatives you want to be a part of, and unique aspects of the university. For sample interview questions, check out the Bates College [web site](#).

### 2. Dress for success, manners matter

Now is not the time to wear your tattered jeans, controversial t-shirt, or low-cut blouse. You don't need to wear a suit, but you should wear a nice pair of pants and a shirt and sweater, or a dress. Unless you are interviewing at an art school and want to express your personality, you want the interviewer to focus on you, not on your clothing.

Interviewers are looking for mature students. When he or she greets you, put your hand out first, look him/her in the eye and introduce yourself. Make sure that you have a firm handshake and maintain eye contact throughout your meeting. It may sound simple, but most students don't do one or more of these things.

You also want to sit upright in your meeting and display positive body language. Smile, lean into the conversation and present an upbeat image of yourself and your background. Leave any negative comments about your school, friends or family at home.

### 3. Have a plan

Come prepared with three things that you want to get across about yourself *continued on page 3*

## Summer Ventures in Science and Mathematics



### What is Summer Ventures in Science and Mathematics (SVSM)?

SVSM is a cost-free, state-funded program that takes students beyond the traditional boundaries of high school science and math courses.

Students learn experimental design, laboratory skills, instrumentation, mathematical modeling, strategies in mathematical problem solving and more. Moreover, students learn these skills while engaged in specific scientific and mathematical topics of interest to them.

At the end of the four-week residential program, students present a comprehensive research project on a current topic in a STEM field of study.

### When and where does SVSM take place?

Program dates vary based on location. Finalists are assigned to specific institute sites based primarily on academic program preferences.

Students may not select what campus they attend. Program coordinators suggest students keep their schedules free from mid-June through early August.

### Who can apply?

- Rising high school juniors or seniors who have not participated in SVSM
- Students whose custodial parent or guardian lives in North Carolina
- Students with proven academic ability, motivation in STEM fields of study, and emotional maturity

Please note that students must choose either Summer Ventures or Governor's School if accepted to both programs, and students must choose either Summer Ventures or the NC School of Science and Mathematics

residential program if accepted to both programs.

### How do I apply?

Applications must be completed online and can be accessed on the SVSM website at:

<https://www2.cfnc.org/exclusive.html#/applicationlogin/NCSSM/HighSchool/HighSchoolApplication>

Each applicant must supply confidential teacher and counselor evaluations as well as evidence of academic performance submitted by a school counselor.

The student portion of the application is due on or before January 15, 2018.

Students are notified of admissions decisions on April 4, 2018.

*SVSM is a competitive summer residential program for high-achieving science and math students who are interested in pursuing opportunities not offered in standard high school courses.*

## Freshman Class to Visit WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY



College Counseling is excited to announce our upcoming freshman field trip to visit Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC. Students and chaperones will travel by charter bus on **Monday, November 13**, to tour the campus, attend an admissions information session, and visit the Deacon store. Freshmen will enjoy lunch in the university dining hall while meeting with St. David's School alumni. Students should arrive at St. David's at 6:30 a.m. for a 6:45 a.m. departure and will return by 3:00 PM. Students are expected to wear normal dress code attire. Students may bring a small amount of money if they would like to purchase a souvenir at the campus bookstore. Phones and electronic devices are allowed during travel time. However, these devices will be left on the bus during the tour and information session. Students may also want to pack a small snack (though we ask the snacks not be sticky or crumbly in an effort to keep the bus clean!). We are looking forward to introducing freshmen to the college search process!

## College Admissions: 6 Ways to Impress Your Interviewer *continued from page 1*

in the interview, things that can't be seen on your application. When the interviewer asks you a question, don't give a one or two word answer; back it up with an example or a proof point. So, if you have just been asked what your best quality is and you said "determination," then back your statement up with, "When I wanted to start a business club at my school, some students and administrators said that no one would be interested. But I put up posters, promoted speakers and three years later, we now have over 100 members." Don't be shocked if the interviewer asks you why the college should pick you, or what you would say about yourself if you had five minutes with the Dean of Admissions.

### 4. Demonstrate intellectual curiosity

Interviewers, especially at more competitive colleges, are likely to ask you what you read outside of school. It doesn't matter if you are a science geek who reads mostly physics journals, a Jane Austen fan, or a news junkie. But be prepared to talk about what you read for pleasure, and be ready to answer the question "What issue concerns you most in the world?"

### 5. Know what to ask

You will *always* be asked what you would like to know about the university. Make sure that you have three to five great questions which can't be answered by reading the college website. Ask about the most popular extra-curricular activities on campus, a new lab facility that is under construction or internships in your field of interest. If the interviewer is an alumnus, ask what she/he liked most, what they would change, and what they think is most unique about their college.

### 6. Finally...

When you leave, shake the interviewer's hand again, thank him/her and tell them that you are very interested in being a part of the university. Then when you get home, write a thank-you note. And, if the interviewer comes to your school in the coming months, make sure to stop by and say hello!

## SAVE THE DATE!!!

On Tuesday, April 3, 2018, the day students return from Easter break, the ACT will be administered at St. David's School in the middle school gym. All junior students are expected to take the exam. Sophomore students have the option to take the exam but will not be required. While this can be considered as "practice" for sophomore students, this is an official ACT test. If scores are favorable, this test sitting can be used when applying to colleges. The cost of the test is \$62.50. College Counseling will be sending more information regarding payment details and registration in late January. In the meantime, if you have any questions, feel free to contact the college counseling office.

Freshman College Night	January 29	6:00 p.m.	PAC
Sophomore College Night	January 8	6:00 p.m.	PAC
Junior College Night	January 22	6:00 p.m.	Dining Hall

## B. Davis Scholarship

The B. Davis Scholarship was established by the creators of the "Student Award Search Aid" website.

Please visit [www.studentawardsearch.com/scholarships.htm](http://www.studentawardsearch.com/scholarships.htm) for more information. Other scholarships are promoted on this site as well. Students will have to write an essay and email their submission by May 22, 2018.

The amount of the B. Davis Scholarship is \$1,000.

Any questions concerning this scholarship can be directed to [awards@studentawardsearch.com](mailto:awards@studentawardsearch.com)



## Virtual College Fair November 14-19, 2017

St. David's students are invited to a free virtual college fair for the southern United States! This fair is scheduled for Nov. 13-18. The students can log on any time during this week to get information from many colleges. There is a question and answer section for the students to get answers directly from college reps. Students must go to [www.collegefairsonline.com](http://www.collegefairsonline.com) to the students tab to register ASAP and will be sent a reminder e-mail. This service is completely free and is a great opportunity for students to explore a variety of colleges and universities. Please register as soon as possible and choose the southern fair when registering if you would like to participate. Happy searching!



*The College Foundation of North Carolina is a one-stop shop for helping students and their families plan, apply, and pay for college...*

[www.CFNC.org](http://www.CFNC.org)

## NC College Application Week - Some Fees Waived

North Carolina's College Application Week will take place November 13-17, 2017.

During this week, many of North Carolina colleges and universities will accept the College Board fee waiver in lieu of the application fee for students who qualify. Additionally, many colleges will waive their application fee for all graduating NC seniors during this week. NC College Application Week is sponsored by CFNC. If you are applying to a Common App school, please access the school's Common App link through the CFNC website. Check here for a list of schools waiving their fees that week:

<https://cfnc.app.box.com/s/ed3hgaj4rg6j9w4ne2gg>

## Next Cup of College - Thursday, January 11, 8:00 a.m.



One morning each month Upper School parents gather around a pot of coffee in the Welcome Center Conference Room to talk about College admissions, eager to learn how best to help their children through the college application and selection process. Danna Markoff, Director of College Counseling, and Jamie Martin, Assistant Director of College Counseling, invite parents to bring topics and questions to the table. Rather than setting an agenda, they meet open-house style, with parents coming and going throughout the hour as their schedules allow. Please join us and bring your questions!

### Cup of College Schedule

**Thurs., Jan. 11, 8:00 a.m.**

**Thurs., Feb. 1, 8:00 a.m.**

**Thurs., Mar. 8, 8:00 a.m.**

**Thurs., Apr. 5, 8:00 a.m.**



**ST. DAVID'S SCHOOL**  
FAITH • VIRTUE • KNOWLEDGE

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