

THE GREAT FRONTIER

Speaker Profiles

9.3.16

Snehaa Senthamilselvan Easwari

Drawing from her experiences in Kenya, Snehaa becomes a voice speaking on behalf of the 140 million women and girls who are thought to be living with the consequences of female genital mutilation worldwide. She expresses the importance of reintegration and re-education and the part that WE have to play to put an end to these barbarous practices. She will also apply her conclusions to the larger issue of solving the expansive cultural divides that exist here in Hong Kong and the wider world.

Austin Gigi:

Ever wondered how to conquer your innermost anxieties? One of South Island School's most prominent debaters, Austin Gigi, will reveal how he stepped from behind the shadow of public speaking. Using this experience, Austin will illustrate the surprising origins of fear and the steps that we can use to mold them into instruments for our own success.

Xiao Ke Lu:

Budding economist, Xiao Ke, will recount the steady development of mankind's capacity from innovation throughout history, starting from small manual labour to the boom of the industrial revolution. She will explore how the industrial revolution enabled human civilisation to overcome the "hard ceiling" that hindered its progression, and how it will continue to affect our standard of living to this day and beyond.

Justin Ricafort:

Justin uses music to not just convey stories, but people as well. Justin uses elements of 19th century "tone poetry" – music that is inherently synesthetic, emulating literature, paintings, and other artistic mediums. Alongside giving us a performance, Justin will show how artists can cross the "Great Frontier" that divides the mundane, everyday world and the world of music, and how we can transpose that banality into unique works of creative expression.

Belinda Ng:

Belinda, an avid musician, will recount her journey to break not only a physical frontier but a musical one as well. Her personal journey to bring music to rural China reflects the power of music to connect individuals across cultures and socio-economic statuses. She centers her speech around promoting sustainable change in the world rather than tokenistic measures that we so often see.

Audrey Lee:

Audrey will discuss how the lack of importance placed on creativity and self-direction in the academic culture in Hong Kong has resulted in the 'Hong Kong Kid' phenomenon, in which youth are finding it increasingly challenging to find motivation in tasks both inside and outside of school. In her talk, she will share her belief about how curiosity is the main stem of intelligence, giving rise to creativity and the enthusiasm for learning.

Graham Uden:

As a former investigative photojournalist, Graham Uden has continued to capture photographs despite altercations with the likes of the bodyguards of ex-President Bill Clinton and the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. In his talk, he will draw from his experiences in the Middle East to provide insight into the negative perception of these countries, as captured by the media's "skewed lenses".

Alyson Hau:

Alyson Hau's profession as a radio personality has given her a front row seat into the mechanisms behind many of the world's most viral movements. In her thought-provoking talk, she will discuss how viral movements, both in mainstream and social media, have become a means to combat social apathy.

Brandon Fong:

Brandon Fong is the student creator of several apps, one of which was admitted into MIT's AppInventor summit as a finalist. In his talk, he will explore the importance of youth engagement in technology, particularly in coding and computer science, and using that technology to find solutions to problems in the local, national and global community.