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## *February 2022 Issue*

*The mission of the Schoolcraft College International Institute (SCII) is to coordinate cross-cultural learning opportunities for students, faculty, staff and the community.*

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# SC Alumna Ana Pachadjieva



My name is Ana Pachadjieva, I am originally from [Macedonia, Europe](#). Moving to the United States was for me an adventure and fun experience, where I was able to explore new places, meet new people and learn about the United States culture. When I initially came to the States, I already had a degree in marketing, however, I was still looking to expand my knowledge so I could better shape my future career. With this in mind, I decided to enroll in the Marketing and Applied Management program at Schoolcraft College - which I found to be a very welcoming place for international students like myself.

During my time at the College, I met extraordinary students, staff and professors. As a student at Schoolcraft College, you are not simply “a number” in the system, rather everyone is treated as a unique individual and both staff and professors are extraordinary when it comes to leading each and every one of us to the path that is “right” for us. For example, [Laura LaVoie Leshok](#), the Director of International Students, is a perfect example as she was always very kind, and provided help whenever I needed it. Laura motivated me and inspired me to frame my goals as I pursued my professional career

One of my greatest experiences at the College occurred when I was given the opportunity to work as a student employee at Jeffress Center in [Personal and Professional Learning](#) (PPL--formerly CEPD). My hands-on experiences with my fellow students helped me sharpen my interpersonal skills. I was not only

able to help students register for classes and provide insight to their questions, but it advanced my communication skills.

Upon completion of my Associate Degree at Schoolcraft College, I applied for and started an [Optional Practical Training \(OPT\)](#) as a personal banker at Huntington Bank. My position as a personal banker was rewarding as I assisted customers in gaining better control over their bank accounts, helped them open new loans and credit cards, and promoted checking accounts.

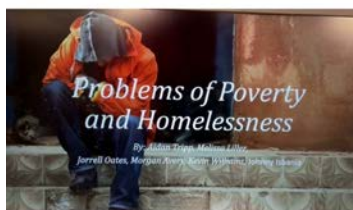
After the completion of my OPT, I continued courses at Schoolcraft College and received another diploma in Liberal Arts, which aided in my transfer to Eastern Michigan University (EMU). I am currently finishing my last two classes at EMU and will receive my Bachelor of Arts Degree in May 2022. EMU is a diverse campus and I am extremely happy to be part of this community where everyone is treated equally and with respect; it has helped me grow as a person.

Overall, my experience at Schoolcraft College was very enjoyable, with both staff and professors truly wanting students to succeed. My experiences at Schoolcraft helped me in pursuit of my educational and career goals; these are just some of the many reasons why I would recommend Schoolcraft College to any future student.

SC Alumna Ana Pachadjieva can be reached at [pachadjieva@gmail.com](mailto:pachadjieva@gmail.com).

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Collaborative Online  
International/Intercultural Learning (COIL):  
Schoolcraft College & Setsunan University  
By Helen Ditouras



In fall of 2021, Professor Helen Ditouras and her Introduction to Film Class (ENG 200) joined Dr. Curtis Chu and his students at [Setsunan University](https://www.setsunan.ac.jp/), Japan, in a Collaborative Online International/Intercultural Learning (COIL) partnership. During the semester, students from both institutions explored the theme of poverty and homelessness in the US and Japan through the framework of the United Nations' Sustainable Goal to end poverty.

Through a variety of learning activities, formal assessments, and Flipgrid – an interactive video app – students from both institutions engaged with one another as they explored poverty and homelessness in their respective nations. In addition, students had an opportunity to interpersonally interact, as they asked each other questions about personal interests, hobbies, and day to day experiences in their countries. Professor Ditouras joined Setsunan students on Zoom to deliver an introductory presentation on Analyzing Film With 5 Simple Tools while Dr. Chu joined Schoolcraft students on Zoom in a presentation highlighting the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Students from both institutions had an opportunity to interact with a 'visiting' professor and learn new content and skills pertaining to the COIL.

At the end of the COIL, Schoolcraft College developed a Certificate of Completion that was awarded to students from both institutions; there are plans to host a new COIL opportunity in the fall of 2022. A feedback survey was provided to gauge students' experience with COIL and for gathering feedback for improvement. While the partnership between Schoolcraft College and Setsunan University formally ended mid-December, several students from both colleges exchanged social media accounts so that they could continue their interactions.

*Helen Ditouras is a Professor of English, Co-Chair for SCII, and a Consulting Editor of the SCII Agenda; she can be reached at [hditoura@schoolcraft.edu](mailto:hditoura@schoolcraft.edu).*

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## Workshop: Global Justice and Human Rights By Mark Huston



Recently, about two dozen faculty from various schools and across disciplines (including myself and our own English Chair Professor [Anna Maheshwari](#)) attended an all-day workshop titled Global Justice and Human Rights by the [Midwest Institute for International Intercultural Education \(MIIE\)](#). Our workshop facilitator, Associate Professor [Badri Rao](#), provided the framework for our small group discussions with a lecture, relevant information, and framed questions for

the participants with a focus on teaching and students in our classrooms.

In the morning session, we examined the moral concept of justice, while occasionally interspersing that with various legal understandings that arise in different parts of the world. Much of our conversation centered on the question of how do we get students to acquire a nuanced view of justice? Participants agreed that this is a particularly vexing question, especially in the modern classroom setting.

More specifically, Professor Rao lectured on the concept of 'justice' by focusing on two of the 20th centuries most well-known justice theorists: [John Rawls](#) and Amartya Sen. Rawls famously presented a theory of justice as fairness that is part of an overall social contract theory. He overtly rejects utilitarian views of justice. Amartya Sen's definition of justice involves a rejection of Rawls' theory and replaces it with a case for [social choice theory](#); one that recognizes the deep valuational pluralism of justice (i.e., there are multiple potential values that a system of justice might recognize).

Professor Rao explored both these models of justice by allowing participants the opportunity to think about the various subtleties that we might try to implement in the classroom. Further discussion ensued surrounding whether or not justice can in fact be implemented at the societal level.

In the second part of the workshop, we explored the difference between human rights, which are intrinsic to us as person--i.e., they are inalienable--from civil rights, which are given or taken away by the State. Immanuel Kant's work on dignity is at the heart of our understanding of human rights. Professor Rao provided an excellent overview of human rights that included a discussion ranging from Natural Law Theory to the first use of the concept by the Supreme Court in 1867.

Professor Rao asked us to consider the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), and provided us with many world-wide examples of its influence. At the same time, he wanted us to appreciate the ongoing tension—echoing the earlier discussion—that the implementation of human rights is an ongoing struggle. All of this while reminding us that the reason we are exploring these concepts is because they are crucial for our students.

The workshop was an incredible experience to explore justice and human rights as crucial components in student education, and how we might better explore

and frame them in our own work with students.

*Mark Huston is a Professor of Philosophy at Schoolcraft College, and an Associate Editor of the SCII Agenda; he can be reached at [mhuston@schoolcraft.edu](mailto:mhuston@schoolcraft.edu).*

*The Midwest Institute is directed by [Theo Sypris](#) and located at [Kalamazoo Valley Community College](#), Kalamazoo, MI.*

## Collaboration: SCII & Office of Equity and Engagement



The Schoolcraft College International Institute (SCII) is excited to announce plans to partner with the Office of Equity and Engagement. Under the leadership of [Helen Ditouras](#), [Kimberly Lark](#), [Colleen Pilgrim](#), and [Christopher Hunter](#), the goal of this partnership is to support international and multicultural education initiatives for all students at Schoolcraft College. Currently, the SCII oversees the Global Endorsement, the *International Agenda*, GlobalEYEZers, and the Focus Series; globally-focused initiatives that often intersect with social justice frameworks. By working together with the Office of Equity and Engagement, the SCII looks forward to expanding our program offerings and opportunities for students and the campus community. In addition, this

collaboration seeks to maximize learning outcomes associated with our Institutional Core Ability “Demonstrates Social and Cultural Awareness” and provide students with a real-world lens to analyze international, intercultural, and social justice issues.

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## Ongoing Campus Events



Join us as we explore our 2022 theme: *Global Education*. All events will be held via Zoom and are free and open to the public; click on the link above to visit the Focus Series webpage or below for a direct link to our upcoming events.

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**Monday, March 14, 2022: 10:00 – 11:00 AM**

Dr. John Brender, "Cultural Values and Identity"

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 896 0211 8707

Passcode: 015706

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**Thursday, March 31, 2022: 11:30am-12:30pm**

Dr. Anu Taranath, "Beyond Guilt Trips: Mindful Travel in an Unequal World"

*Dr. Taranath brings both passion and expertise to her work as a speaker, facilitator and educator. A Teaching Professor at the University of Washington for the past 20+ years, she invites people into conversations about global issues, race, gender, identity, and equity. In this presentation, Dr. Taranath will be sharing insightful lessons in cultural competence from her award-winning book, Beyond Guilt Trips: Mindful Travel in an Unequal World.*

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 896 3403 9319

Passcode: 981304

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**Thursday, April 21, 2022: 2:30 – 3:30 PM**



Jesse Deer In Water, "Dangers of FERMI: The Day We Almost Lost Detroit"

*Jesse is Cherokee (Deer Clan), and a leader in CRAFT: Citizen Resistance at FERMI Two.*

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 870 6670 0492

This presentation is co-sponsored by: The Department of Sociology, The Native American Student Organization, and Student Activities

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**Monday, March 14, 3-5pm**  
**Bradner Library, Room 110**

For question please contact Annika Sholander as the International Learning Support Academic Success Coach in Learning Support Services (LSS); she is also an Associate Editor for the Agenda and can be reached via phone (734)462-5326 or email [asholand@schoolcraft.edu](mailto:asholand@schoolcraft.edu).

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