

[View this email in your browser](#)



SCII Agenda Newsletter

April 2021 Issue

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

Global Curriculum Resources

Biology Professor Kristin Fruth



Earth Day 2021 is right around the corner! On April 22nd, people all across the globe will celebrate Earth Day, a longstanding event that was created 51 years ago. [According to NASA, 2020 was tied with 2016 for the warmest year on record.](#) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) also ranked 2020 as the second-warmest year in an independent analysis, using slightly different parameters. As more and more scientific evidence supports the need to address climate change, you may wonder what you can do?

[EarthDay.org](#) is a great place to start and supports meaningful action in countries all around the world. On their website, you can find and register for an Earth Day event, explore scientific and education efforts, read about personal and civic actions, or learn about conservation and restoration. You can also read specific stories from Iraq, Pakistan, and Tanzania and have an opportunity to “Take a Pledge.” This year’s theme is “Restore Our Earth” with many virtual events beginning on April 20. Even though Earth Day typically includes river and park cleanups, there are also many things you can do on your own! The article [“10 Ways to Celebrate Earth Day from Home”](#) from Farmer’s Almanac has several great suggestions that will hopefully inspire you to celebrate Earth Day and take action.

Meet Our Students



My name is Kejsiana Kastrioti and I am from Albania, a small country in Eastern Europe that is known for its amazing landscapes and the hospitality of its people. However, economic hardships have often forced Albanian students to leave their country in search of improved education that enables them a better future. I came to the United States two years ago, leaving my family, my friends, and a life of comfort behind, eager to explore new opportunities and to test my limits.

I grew up seeing and hearing about the “American Dream” and have worked hard to achieve it for myself. Once it started to become a reality for me, I realized hard work always pays off. One difficult experience was to adapt to the Michigan weather since Albania is surrounded by warmer weather and seas. I was used to the Mediterranean climate and thus, the long, freezing, and snowy winters were not an easy change, but in my case it was worth it.

Back in my home country, I was admitted into medical school as my



My name is Dario Amaral and I am from a very unique country called Brazil, which is the largest land-mass country in South America and one of the most multicultural nations in the world. Ethnic diversity is *through the roof!* Also, people often comment on Brazil's beautiful beaches and the amazing biodiversity of our country.

Like most all other kids in Brazil, I grew up playing soccer. Uniquely though, I had dreams of flying in the sky and worked with airplanes from a young age. My aviation experiences allowed me the opportunity to work with airplanes and visit many places around the world. Even though I loved these amazing trips and experiences, my academics were neglected. In 2004, I visited the United States for the first time and decided at that point, I wanted to graduate from college in this great country.

However, it would take eleven more years for me to move to Michigan and finally register at Schoolcraft

father always wanted me to pursue that career, however I never felt it was for me. When I arrived at Schoolcraft, I simply could not decide on my career because the options were so numerous; initially, I wanted to study them all. I have always been passionate about numbers and data and so that started to become a factor in my career decision. For example, the most interesting thing to me is the binary information, also called machine language that is made of zeros and ones. I find it so intriguing that these two numbers can be combined in infinite ways for processor instructions in computers. Based on this fact, and after much research, I decided Data Science was a good fit for me!

I have had very enjoyable experiences at Schoolcraft College. For example, just two months after I started as a student, I was hired as a Math tutor on campus. Tutoring enabled me to meet many students and peers with which to create connections and share experiences. Also, I participated in extracurricular activities which made my time here feel complete. As I plan my transfer to a 4-year university this fall, I am leaving Schoolcraft carrying both the beautiful moments as well as the memories of hard work. Both of these types of memories are a huge factor in who I am today and who I aspire to be in the future.

College to pursue an Electronic Technology Degree. My experiences have been exceptional, and everyday I am in school is another step towards my goals and my dreams. During my electronics classes, my dream of working with cars finally became real to me. My experiences with Professor Schlick's class in Lab View Programming opened my eyes to the new opportunities with electric cars, since they are the future.

For many it might seem that I got lucky in my life; everything worked out swimmingly without many hardships. While it is true that my past job working with airplanes allowed me to travel around the world and I am now on my way to a degree, I have still had to struggle with hardships both in Brazil and the United States. Pushing through these hardships helped me because now I can see all my dreams growing into fruition. I am also glad that my family is behind me and helping me fulfill my dreams. I am glad for the opportunity to study at Schoolcraft and I promise to keep working harder than I do already. Thank you.

Global Issues: Book Review

Philosophy Professor Mark Huston



[*The WEIRD People in the World: How the West Became Psychologically Peculiar and Particularly Prosperous by Joseph Henrich \(New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2020\)*](#)

The title/subtitle of the book encapsulates it well. Henrich's book is an incredibly well-researched, interdisciplinary work that looks at areas including Anthropology, Psychology, Evolutionary Biology and others in order to show how "WEIRD" we are if we belong to a "Western" civilization. WEIRD is an acronym that stands for: Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich and Democratic. As the chair of the Department of Human Evolutionary Biology at Harvard, Henrich is well suited for the task of examining all of these areas.

In a book that runs about 500 pages with 76 pages of additional endnotes, Henrich lays out a systemic case to establish the WEIRDness of the title. Fundamentally, Henrich uses this research to argue that both historically and currently Westerners are psychologically and culturally unique when compared to the rest of the world. He looks at areas such as individual psychology, the role of kinship and families, commerce and capitalism, not to mention science, religion and law, in order to establish his overall thesis. This work is so all-encompassing that it should be of interest to people from any discipline. Although it is quite long, it is written in a straightforward fashion that minimizes

jargon and so it is surprisingly accessible. If nothing else, it is an incredibly useful resource that contains updated information from multiple disciplines.

GlobalEYEzers

Presentation



It was my pleasure to recently host a SCII [GlobalEYEzers](#) session by Dr. Yovana Veerasamy on the importance of *Intercultural Competence (IC)* and *Global Competence (GC)* in the workforce.

Dr. Veerasamy outlined what ICGC competencies entail, as well as why they are important and why workers-- our learners-- would want to develop these skills. A nation's best resource is its people; a well-trained, competitive resource generates economic success for their country. In an increasingly multicultural America, intercultural competence and global competence (ICGC) are now required skills.

These skills necessarily involve the concepts of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ). Dr. Veersamy explained, "*Diversity* is the invitation to the party, but *equity* is providing transportation for those who do not have a ride. In other words, *diversity* is about representation, *inclusion* is about involvement, and *equity* is about *justice*. (McCleary-Gaddy, 2019)"

Although there are important differences between the GC [Global Competence](#) and IC [Intercultural Competence](#) skill sets, they complement each other. Both promote knowledge, attitudes and skills which enhance workers' capacity to be effective in a diverse society. These skills may include the acceptance of ambiguity (not just black and white), adaptability, curiosity, critical thinking skills, complexity of thinking (non-binary), a political awareness, as well as the use of world languages. These skills foster behavior that is both effective and appropriate for intercultural interactions, allowing workers to collaborate on global projects and navigate the inevitable cultural complexities.

Dr. Veerasamy emphasized that these skills are essential due to the changing demographic of American society –which is now the most culturally diverse nation in the world.

In addition to multicultural programs and strategies in the classroom and on campus, Dr. Veerasamy noted that international exchange programs can offer students the opportunity to directly collaborate with their peers in other countries. This cross-cultural experience has been substantially broadened by launching international student programs in online platforms, with Virtual Exchange (VE) and [Collaborative Online International Learning](#) (COIL).

Yovana Veerasamy researched her national award-winning Ph.D. dissertation, [U.S. National Higher Education Internationalization Policy: An Historical Analysis between 2000 and 2019](#), while teaching as an Adjunct Associate Professor here at Schoolcraft. She is also a member of World Council on Intercultural and Global Competence.

You can listen to the [recording of Dr. Veerasamy's presentation](#).

Schoolcraft College International Institute
18600 Haggerty Road - Livonia, MI 48152 - P: 734-462-4400

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

International Agenda · 18600 Haggerty Rd · Liberal Arts Building · Livonia, MI 48152-3932 · USA

