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SCII Agenda Newsletter

March 2024 Issue

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

Multicultural Fair



The Multicultural Fair is Back!

After a few years hiatus because of Covid-19, the Schoolcraft College International Institute (SCII), the SC Student Activities, and the International Student Center are pleased to announce that their Multicultural Fair will take place on Thursday, March 28th from 10am until 3pm in the DiPonio room of the Vistatech Center. For those of you new to this event, for decades this event has been an annual tribute to diversity on our campus and in our community. We invite everyone on campus and in the community to attend as students, staff, faculty, and friends share their cultures, food, and languages. Schoolcraft faculty are welcome to just walk over and bring their entire class to this event! Our event provides a unique and wonderful opportunity to promote international discussions into your course lesson plan.

This year we are excited to have some new events and links with our community partners.

Our Culinary Department with [Chef Chris Misiak](#) as our Emcee will utilize the new Collaborative Learning Studio (CLS) for cooking demonstrations of ethnic cuisine and of course tasting afterwards! Thanks to a SC Foundation grant, eight standing panels on loan from the [Arab American National Museum](#) in Dearborn will be on displayed in the main corridor. [Dr. Steve L. Berg](#) will be heading up an international film screening in the Kehrl Auditorium. Two original pieces of [Stamps of Hope](#) artwork will be displayed, and visitors can learn about the Syrian refugee artist that painted them.

As in the past, over two dozen country display tables, nonstop music and dance performances, language demonstrations, art displays, ethnic snacks, and “passports” will be issued to all students.

It is not too late to get involved:

Contact Professors [Helen Ditouras](#) or [Anna Maheshwari](#) to get involved with country display tables or other presentations at this event; they welcome all interested students, staff, and faculty!

We hope to see you on Thursday, March 28th in the Vistatech Building.

“What I Say”
versus
“What You Hear”



Dr. Laura Kline from Global Ties Detroit

Dr. Laura Kline joined Schoolcraft students, faculty, and staff for a virtual SCII Focus Series seminar on the importance of intercultural communication. In her interactive presentation she explored with us the ways we “(mis) communicate” and “(mis) understand” one another thanks to our cultural contexts. Through the interactive use of images and videos she helped us better understand that even when we interact with one another our meaning is often not translated properly across cultures. Dr. Kline is a frequent visitor on our campus and once again she helped us better appreciate our need to explore and understand

cultural competency issues.

[Dr. Laura Kline](#) has a BA from Georgetown in Government and a PhD in Slavic Languages and Literature from the University of Michigan. She was the Director of Global Studies at Wayne State University and taught classes in Russian language, literature, global studies, and culture. Dr. Kline is currently Program Consultant for [Global Ties Detroit](#), the Department of State's partner for international exchange in SE Michigan; she is passionate about her work and welcomes any inquiries about Global Ties Detroit.

The Firekeeper's Daughter By Angeline Boulley



Please mark your calendars for an upcoming sponsorship between SC PageTurners, the SCII Focus Series and GlobalEYEzers with the reading of the [Firekeeper's Daughter](#). The award-winning fictional story involves a thrilling tale of a criminal investigation by the protagonist as she explores her ethnic identity and her sense of self within her Ojibwe tribe.

The book is available at a discounted price at the SC Bookstore for our campus community. A book discussion will take place on Tuesday March 26th at 2:30-3:30pm in BTC 120; for virtual access join Schoolcraft Pageturners at <https://www.schoolcraft.edu/pageturners/books-and-events/>. Questions about the book or event can be directed to Faculty Librarian [Wayne Pricer](#).

Between Political and Climate Change in Southeast Asia

By Colleen Pilgrim



The [Council for American Overseas Research Centers \(CAORC\)](#) along with their partners the [Center for Kmer Studies](#) and the [Inya Institute](#) have selected me for their two-week Faculty Development Seminar this May in Cambodia. Our group of faculty members from across the United States will attend lectures, meetings with media professionals, civil society and environmental organizations, and site visits across Cambodia. We will explore Cambodia's culture, history, and natural habitats with visits to the capital city of [Phnom Penh](#), [Angkor](#), and the [Tonle Sap Lake](#).

The faculty seminar focuses on politics and climate change in Southeast Asia and will allow me to better understand the challenges faced by local communities, leaders, and politicians. Mental health issues are often addressed on an individual level, however national policies and programs are vital to addressing mental health and well-being. Exposure to unfavorable social, economic, geopolitical, and environmental circumstances – including poverty, violence, inequality, and environmental deprivation increases people's risk of experiencing mental health conditions ([World Health Organization, February](#)

[2024](#)).

The Myanmar and Cambodian people have suffered trauma from war and conflict, and environmental disasters, and it has the potential to worsen because of climate change. My participation in the seminar will allow me to better understand the global prevalence of mental health issues and how economic, political, social, cultural, and other environmental factors impact well-being. My experiences this summer in Cambodia allow me to better educate myself on current conditions across the globe and address those issues in my classroom and across campus in our curriculum. A major aim of the seminar is to better understand *To what extent can Cambodia's and Myanmar's civil society mobilize against these challenges, and by what means?*

[Dr. Colleen Pilgrim](#) is a SC Professor in the Psychology Department and the Editor of the SC Agenda; she welcomes any questions about her upcoming seminar.

Questions About the Agenda Contact: Dr. Colleen Pilgrim, Editor
cpilgrim@schoolcraft.edu
Schoolcraft College International Institute Agenda
18600 Haggerty Road - Livonia, MI 48152 - P: 734-462-4400

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