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SCII Agenda Newsletter

December 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.

Best Wishes Josselyn and Anita in Your Retirement

Our long-time SCII faculty members, Professors Josselyn Moore and Anita Süess Kaushik, embark on their retirement at the end of this term. Josselyn and Anita were always active in global efforts on our campus and their presence will be missed by the entire Schoolcraft community. SCII wishes you both so many thanks, hugs and well wishes! You will be missed!



Professors Josselyn Moore and Anita Süess Kaushik cut their retirement cakes at an end of the term celebration.

Companion Dog Mocha

Holds Office Hours

Mocha, one of our Schoolcraft companion dogs, held office hours in the Liberal Arts and the McDowell Buildings this fall. She was an especially "big hit" with our international students as they welcomed her into their ESL course taught by Professor [Christa Fichtenberg](#).



Medical Tourism

By Mark Huston



This past October, as part of Pageturners, my honors class read a book on medical tourism titled [*Outpatient: The Astonishing New World of Medical Tourism*](#) by Sasha Issenberg. Along with reading the book I participated in a panel discussion along with Dr. Joanna Ditouras (the sister of our esteemed colleague Professor Helen Ditouras).

Medical tourism can be traced back to the Asclepieia, named for the physician demigod Asclepios, which were healing centers in ancient Greece that travelers would visit from throughout the ancient Mediterranean world. A bit like modern-day wellness centers. Issenberg discusses how the fall of the German wall in 1989 gave rise to modern medical tourism, especially through Europe. A primary example he discusses is the rise of Hungary, along with Turkey, as epicenters for dental work. Hungary specifically marketed their dental centers to

the British as a way of providing expedient procedures at a reasonable cost.

Dr. Ditouras gave an excellent presentation that focused first on birth tourism, where mothers would come from places like China to Canada or the United States to have their babies in the respective country, thus making the child a citizen of that country. That is because both Canada and the U.S. base citizenship on being born in the country (as opposed to tying citizenship to the nationalities of the parents). Dr. Ditouras, whose doctorate is in pharmacy, also examined drug tourism. She explained some of the legalities and pros/cons of, for example, going to Canada from the U.S. to find cheaper, generic drugs.

Medical tourism is growing significantly and the panel was an attempt to educate the Schoolcraft community on some of the concerns it raises. I encourage those interested to pick up a copy of [Outpatient](#) as a good source to begin any research on the topic.

[Dr. Mark Huston](#) is a Schoolcraft professor in the Philosophy Department and co-teaches one of the Honor College capstone courses.

Fcus Series

Curry in Vietnam and Its Relationship to Colonialism by the French

Anna Maheshwari



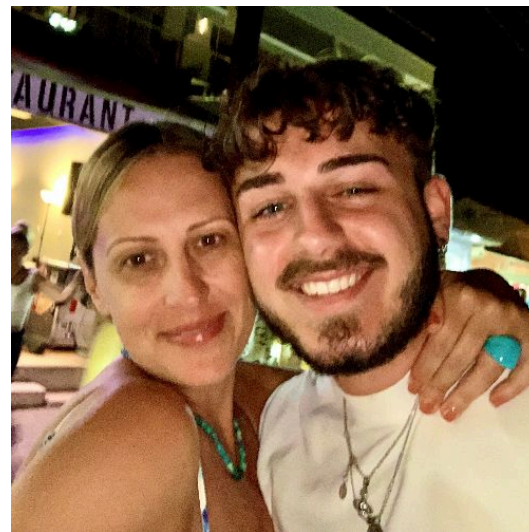
A recent Focus Series presentation by Schoolcraft Professor Dr. Anna Maheshwari was well received as she presented curriculum she developed on the influence of French and Indian influences on cuisine in Vietnam. Dr. Maheshwari discussed the colonial impact of spices in the southeast Asia and how even after French and Indian populations left, curry spices continued to thrive and remain a very significant part of Vietnamese cuisine.

Over the last decade, Dr. Maheshwari has continuously developed international curriculum modules for the classroom with support from the [Midwest Institute](#). She welcomes questions you may have about developing your own curriculum modules through the [Midwest Workshops](#). Also, consider simply browsing the

[international curriculum modules](#) for use in your courses. Schoolcraft is an institutional member of the Midwest which gives our faculty access to the entire [database of international curriculum](#) created for higher education courses. For the password, please contact [Helen Ditouras](#) our SC Midwest Coordinator or [Theo Sypris](#), Director of MILIE (tsypris@kvcc.edu)

[Dr. Anna Maheshwari](#) teaches writing in the Schoolcraft English Department and is a co-chair of the SC International Institute.

It's A Small World After All By Helen Ditouras



When people think of Greece, two things come to mind: Athens and the Greek Islands. Having had the good fortune to visit and soak in the beauty of both, I understand why. But when your family originates from neither Athens nor Skopelos (think *Mama Mia* seascape), but instead, provincial Macedonia, a summer vacation to Greece entails a different experience. And for me, Greece 2024, involved family, crystalline waters, mouth-watering food, and the serendipitous realization that it *truly* is a small world after all!

Halkidiki peninsula is the most popular destination in Northern Greece. Located in Macedonia; its popularity is attributed to its amazing beaches, with silky sand and clear turquoise sea waters. The area is divided into 3 smaller peninsulas, often referred to as "legs". The first one is the most crowded, with cosmopolitan tourist resorts, the second one is quieter and more popular among campers, and the third one, Mount Athos, is a closed Orthodox monastic community and independent state (Greeka).

As a child, my family and I visited Halkidiki often, but mostly resided in the first "leg" as it was closest to my father's village near Thessaloniki, Greece. But in the last two years, my family and I have been able to travel throughout both "legs" and Ouranoupoli, the village nearby Mount Athos. While the second "leg" boasts some of the most picturesque beaches, including Kavourotrypes – a highlight of my vacation this summer, the first "leg" is where all of the proverbial action is. Lively coastal villages that promise beautiful beaches, nightly entertainment, and delicious food, attract thousands of visitors from not only Greece, but from across Eastern Europe in particular. This summer, the bulk of tourists I encountered included Romanians, Bulgarians, North Macedonians, and Albanians, among others. Who I did *not* expect to encounter, however, were *two* of my Schoolcraft students! Let me back-track for a minute.

A week before I arrived in Pefkohori, the coastal town in the first "leg" of

Halkidiki, I visited a mega-mall in Thessaloniki with my cousin for a day of shopping. At the end of our exhausted excursion, we sat in the food court for a quick coffee and dessert at Terkenlis, one of the best bakeries in all of Greece. A staple of Thessaloniki (you can even find it in the airport!) I patiently await every year to make it to this bakery to enjoy touloumbes, delicious oblong-shaped pastries deep-fried and soaked in syrup. Side note: I have searched all over the metro-Detroit area for these pastries and the only place I have found them is at Greektown's Bakalikon Market and Bar. However, while they are not a regular staple in their bakery, I have had the opportunity to grab a dozen here and there via special order.

Nonetheless, while I was enjoying my pastry at the mall in Thessaloniki, my attention was redirected to a young man who was hovering around the counter looking to place his order. I walked away from my cousin mid-sentence to invade this person's personal space because while I was tired and groggy, I could not imagine that my eyes had deceived me. In less than a second, I was face-to-face with one of my wonderful students from *Schoolcraft College* – Luid Cani, an international student studying engineering at our college, with hopes of transferring to Eastern to obtain a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. In utter shock, I squealed and we hugged it out in the middle of the bakery while onlookers wondered what the commotion was about.

An ethnic Albanian, Luid was born in Polygyros, a beautiful coastal town in the first "leg" of Halkidiki, and was home for the summer to visit his family before returning to Michigan. During his time at Schoolcraft, Luid enrolled in my ENG 102 class and later enrolled in ENG 200 as well. To say I was thrilled to see him across the world was an understatement. But the excitement did not end with this encounter; he told me to stay put while he walked away and immediately returned with his good friend and my *other* Schoolcraft student, Oresti Subashi! Like Luid, Oresti too is ethnic Albanian and born in Polygyros; however, he is

studying business administration, marketing and information technology at Schoolcraft college with hopes of transferring to Eastern. The three of us excitedly chattered while we pondered the fact that we had found each other in a bustling mall in Greece so far away from Michigan. After a little while, we parted ways and wished each other safe travels. But exactly one week later, we met again!

My cousin and I had booked a 10-day trip to Cyprus; a beautiful island country situated between the Middle East and the Mediterranean Sea. It was also the home of her ex-husband and a country she moved to decades ago before returning to Canada. An hour before our trip to the airport, we discovered that Hezbollah had fired missiles into Israel and that Israel was in the process of retaliation. Given Cyprus is geographically couched between Lebanon and Israel, the idea of boarding a flight that would be in the air during this tumultuous moment, terrified the both of us. Weeks leading to the conflict, Cyprus had been warned by Israel, Lebanon, and Turkey, to remain neutral lest they become a target as well. For these reasons, we decided to cancel our flight and instead, make our way to village of Pefkohori, Halkikidi, for some fun in the sun.

One evening, after an entire day of lounging on the beach, we decided to walk around the beautiful village on the water and listen to some Greek live entertainment. Thousands of tourists strolled up and down the village, enjoying the sights, sounds, and the delectable food that was readily available along the strip. While sitting and listening to a variety of Greek songs from our parents' era and reminiscing, I spotted Oresti with a group of friends walking along the strip. At this point, the kismet of the moment was so apparent that I immediately grabbed my phone and took a selfie with him to prove that we had met twice, accidentally, in Greece, during our summer vacations! Once again, we wished each other well, excited that the summer had unleashed these surprise

encounters all the way from Livonia.

Professor [Helen Ditouras](#) teaches writing and film in the Schoolcraft English Department and is the co-chair for the Schoolcraft International Institute.

SC Multicultural Fair: Mark Your Calendars



The Schoolcraft Multicultural Fair will take place on March 27th 2025 on our campus and we invite any students, faculty or staff interested to join the planning committee. Meetings have begun, but there is room at the table for those wanting to be involved. Please contact Professors [Anna Maheshwari](#) or [Helen Ditouras](#) to get involved or with any question about this annual event.

Midwest Conference

Lorain Community College

The Midwest Institute for International-Intercultural Education (MIIE) is hosting an in-person conference in the Cleveland area at [Lorain CCC](#) on Friday-Saturday, March 28-29, 2025. Consider presenting and/or attending by visiting the MIIE website at: <https://www.miiie.org/conferences> for the "Call for Proposals" and "Registration" forms.

Midwest Institute questions can be directed to [Professor Theo Sypris](#), Director, Midwest Institute for IIE. Questions can also be directed to [Professor Helen Ditouras](#) our Schoolcraft MIIE liaison.



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