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SCII Agenda Newsletter

March 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.

John Brender
International Outreach



Many of you may recognize [Dr. John Brender](#) as our partner in the recently-closed Wayne State University (WSU) Confucius Institute as well as the many talks he has given to our Schoolcraft students. Over the years, Dr. Brender has been a fixture on our campus as he explores with our students the benefits of international travel and language education. Currently, Dr. Brender is the Director of Special Initiatives for the Office of International Programs at Wayne State University; he has two upcoming lectures at Schoolcraft and links can be found at the end of this article.

Dr. Brender has been passionate about global education since his first experience abroad as an undergraduate in Spain. Since this time, the underlying thread in his career has been connecting students to global education experiences. Currently, he is active in representing WSU in the [Great Lakes Chinese Consortium](#), which is comprised of seven Midwestern universities, engaged in offering online events, lectures, and language classes for students. The Consortium is hosting an upcoming [Quiz Bowl](#) and recently hosted an [Art Contest](#). He encourages faculty and students to explore their site for these and other offerings.

Dr. Brender wants students to consider traveling abroad as it allows them to explore and better understand values beyond their own culture of origin. In his interview with us, he stressed that individuals often take on the values of their own culture with little thought, exploration, or questioning. In visiting and exploring another culture, you may find yourself wanting to “tweak” your own values and not simply accept prescribed values from someone else.

Travel abroad allows students to better understand their own identities and values and how they link together. We each have multiple identities and thus no two people have the same values because each identity and experience impacts our values.

As Dr. Brender puts it, there is a spectrum of values and not just a “good” or “bad” distinction. For example, he said cultural constructs like individualism and collectivism have many dimensions and there are pros and cons associated with each. By exploring other cultures, students can decide for themselves what values and identities they wish to embrace, rather than simply subscribing to the ones from their country of origin. Then, what is truly wonderful is that once you understand two cultures, the next step to a third and a fourth is easier.

A good chance to study abroad can be with service-learning projects like the ones offered by the [International Student Exchange Program \(ISEP\)](#); this particular organization is a nonprofit and works with students to overcome financial constraints to studying abroad. For students unable to study abroad, finding online partnerships via the Internet can be a fantastic resource; something as simple as a conversation partner to help them practice their language skills. Wayne State University has plans to offer similar programs, designed to be affordable and available to Schoolcraft students.

Dr. Brender is currently finishing the manuscript for a book entitled *Expat Millennials in China: Experiences and Perspective*. He explores this same topic of changing identities and values through travel and living abroad. He conveys the experiences and perceptions of 20 racially and economically diverse, North American millennials who have lived in China for between 18 months and 10 years. The participants discuss prior, initial, and changing impressions of the People's Republic, consider how they have changed personally as a result of their sojourn, and provide their perceptions of other foreigners in China, Chinese families, Chinese education, and the men and women of China.

We hope you can join one of Dr. John Brender's upcoming discussions; he can be reached at brenderj@wayne.edu.

Upcoming Schoolcraft Talks by Dr. John Brender:

Join Dr. Brender on Tuesday, March 23rd at Noon as part of the SCII Multicultural Education Week for his talk titled: [Expat Millennials in China: Perceptions of Chinese K-12 and University Education](#). He will discuss Chinese K-12 and university education in China through the eyes of expat Millennials who have been directly involved in Chinese education as university students and as teachers at various levels.

Dr. Brender will have another lecture on Tuesday, April 6th at Noon to discuss his book topics as discussed above: [*Expatriate Millennials in China: Perceptions of Chinese Men and Women*](#).

Same link for both:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://schoolcraftcollege.zoom.us/j/83803801079>

Meeting ID: 838 0380 1079

Schoolcraft International Student Center



Schoolcraft College offers students from over 40 countries the opportunity to learn and earn in a supportive and nurturing environment. We are proud to have 168 international students that chose Schoolcraft as their college to learn in a variety of disciplines, with business, nursing, and liberal arts as their top academic majors. Top citizenship countries include Albania, Brazil, Romania, and Canada.

The [International Student Center](#) has recently collaborated with several Michigan

colleges to form a consortium to recruit international students to Michigan higher education institutions. The consortium created the new [Study in Michigan](#) website, which will promote Michigan colleges to prospective F-1 students by listing participating colleges and their promotional material online. We are happy to join this consortium and feel positive that this will be a new way of recruiting international students and connecting with them before they apply to the college.

Meet Our Students



My name is Srishti Sinha and I am from India where I was a Fashion Designer by profession with an undergraduate degree in Fashion Design and a Master's Degree in Fashion. As an intern, I worked in Visual Merchandising at the GAP and United Colors of Benetton.

India is known for its diversified culture and is famed for its train system - one of the oldest in the world. It spans the entire nation and connects all of India's major cities, with around 2.3 million people travelling by rail each year. One will



My name is Junzo Masuda and I was born and raised in Tokyo, Japan. As you may know, Japan is an island country located in East Asia and is composed of four major islands. While the land-mass of Japan is small given its large population of about 120 million people, it maintains a beautiful natural landscape with a rich heritage, historical architectures and amazing artworks. In addition to the stunning landscapes, we have

find many religions, diverse styles of art and music, and even different languages across the nation. India is known all over the world for its colorful and bright festivals such as [Holi and Diwali](#).

While pursuing my career ambitions, I was married in 2018 and then moved with big dreams to the United States in May 2019; needless to say, this was an enormous transition. Originally, when I came to the United States, my thoughts were of big cities with huge buildings, busy traffic, and unlimited shopping. To my surprise, I ended up in Benton Harbor, Michigan with a beautiful and serene view of Lake Michigan. I was mesmerized many evenings watching beautiful sunsets and deer roaming about; it was lovely to see so much “green” and it made me feel connected with nature. One of my favorite spots was Silver Beach where one can walk parallel to the shore and enjoy the tingling of sand on your feet. My place of origin was surrounded by lands on all sides, and thus, this experience was unique to me in all aspects. When a few months later I moved to Novi, I was able to get more of a glimpse of that busy city-like feel.

Being in the field of fashion, I am very passionate about Art and Crafts and therefore started producing videos on the “how to dos” for making greeting cards for your

large contemporary metropolis areas like [Tokyo](#) and [Yokohama](#). Japan has about three thousand years history after its establishment as a nation and I encourage everyone to get to know our history. This summer is especially exciting for my country as Tokyo will be the Host City for the [Summer 2021 Olympic Games](#).

I have been living and working in Michigan for three years with my wife and son; prior to my move to the United States, I lived and worked in Hong Kong and mainland China for sixteen years. I love living and traveling abroad as it allows me to learn valuable lessons through my cultural experiences. I am happy to now live in America and feel diversity is amazing and beneficial no matter where you visit or live, and learning the local language is indispensable.

I am really inspired and motivated to attend my English as a Second Language (ESL) classes; Schoolcraft College has given me an opportunity to meet other international students and encourages me to enhance my English conversation and presentation skills. I want to thank my professors and colleagues as they make me excited to attend every lecture and encourage me to enjoy new challenge in my daily life. I regret that we are still working remotely and am really looking forward to when we can meet again on campus.

friends and family. I even started my own [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#) pages to share my art.

As if this was not enough, I started looking for art colleges near me that could help me further my passions, and that is how I came to start my journey as a student at Schoolcraft College.

I joined the English as a Second Language class (ESL-4) to improve my conversation and writing skills; this also gave me the opportunity to be around people from different nations. There are so many talented and bright international students, each one brings something to the table to be shared and learned. I am so thankful to my teachers Eileen Rande and Annika Sholander for enduring my unlimited questions and making the class truly joyous. I am so happy to be stepping into college life at Schoolcraft and it makes me feel wonderful and excited in this new phase of my life. I look forward to fun, friends, and learning key skills that will help me in my professional life.

My current plans are to take some event planning courses; I love challenges and I do believe in hard work!

My current job is marketing and sales where I promote relevant automotive products and medical devices for our customers. As a Schoolcraft student, I am taking Business and English courses this winter semester. When it comes to future plans, I intend to go back to Japan someday as a business person with my newly acquired knowledge of global business and enhanced English skills. I enjoy challenging paths and I know that international communication makes us cultivate our own humanity and sensitivity for others.

Campus Events

The Schoolcraft International Institute & Student Activities present



MULTICULTURAL
EDUCATION WEEK
MARCH 23–25, 2021

The Schoolcraft International Institute and Student Activities is proud to present a virtual event:

Multicultural Education Week

Please join us for three days of lectures, conversations, and entertainment.



Join Pageturners on Wednesday, March 31st from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. for a virtual book discussion of *Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg*. RBG was a fierce dissenter with a serious collar game. A legendary, self-described "flaming feminist litigator" who made the world more equal. An inter-generational icon known affectionately as the Notorious RBG. As the nation mourns the loss of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, discover the story of a remarkable woman and learn how to carry on her legacy.

Internet Resource



Nobel Prizes & Laureates Nomination Alfred Nobel News & Insights Events Education network 



<https://www.nobelprize.org/education-network-nobel-prize-lessons/>

Visit [The Nobel Prize](https://www.nobelprize.org/) website for classroom resources including lessons, articles, and a education network.

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