



## Shedding light

*Addressing home insecurity in the Schoolcraft community*



Hinkle Student Resource Center Coordinator Rhonda Donovan handing a student a snack pack.  
Photo courtesy of Schoolcraft College.

KATHRYN WENSKE  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Something no student should experience is home insecurity and homelessness.

Unfortunately it is present on

college campuses. Schoolcraft however wastes no time to provide not only the support, but resources and opportunities to give students an assisting hand.

In many cases, students

become homeless due to traumatic personal life situations, like abuse from a loved one or getting kicked out of residences with no resources to relocate. That is what happened to a current

Schoolcraft sophomore Nursing student who asked to stay anonymous, but had to remove themselves from a household due to a domestically violent relationship and struggled to find housing; almost losing everything.

“This is not what I wanted to happen, and I didn’t expect it to happen. I had to leave my house and it caused me to lose my job, fall back on my studies and almost lose my apartment [that I had moved into],” said the Nursing student. “I couldn’t start off my semester because [my partner] broke my laptop and other things I needed for school. I had to just fight all the way out to get out of that situation.”

Understandably those who don’t have a secure home are also prevented from achieving their goals, pushing themselves to their full potential, hindering academic focus and performance due to the turmoil and stress of not having that sense of stability. This is exactly

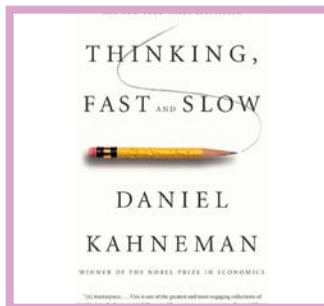
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## NEWS



# Broader horizons

*Schoolcraft combats worker shortage by introducing new program*



Surgical tech students practicing a surgical procedure.  
Photos by Joshua Hardy.

**SARA MALLORY**  
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Infection is a no joking matter and neither is the widespread healthcare shortage that has been perpetually growing since the COVID-19 pandemic. Although staffing shortages have always been prevalent in the healthcare field due to high turnover, stress and burnout, now that COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted the surgical services in hospital systems have been fighting against the exponentially growing surgical cases.

“Finding a way to fill these positions that are at a critical shortage is important to provide quality healthcare in Southeast Michigan,” says Occupational Programs Health Programs Liaison Donna Moir.

This is where Schoolcraft college came in. After surveying job openings in the area, they saw a new opportunity for specialized health science disciplines. During this time, they reached out to formal educator and now Surgical Technology Program Director Mary J. Nowicki to create a curriculum for the brand new

surgical services program.

## **Surgical Technology**

The Surgical Technologists program is an associates degree that lasts two years. Like many other non-clinical jobs, the importance of a surgical technologist lies in the prevention of infection and disease. They are the silent members of the operating room; cleaning, disinfecting and sterilizing surgical equipment to keep the hospital environment functioning at a safe level. Surgical technicians are the only ones truly trained in the principles of asepsis and the principles of the operating room. Lapses in safe healthcare practices can seriously impact patient safety and lead to outcomes of permanent harm or even death.

“That’s why [a surgical technologist] is so important. It cuts down on infection rates. It keeps the patient as safe as possible; so, they’re not going home and then having to come back. It saves a lot of money, saves a lot of lives and it’s a big deal for patient safety,” says Nowicki.

Schoolcraft has outfitted the program with everything necessary for students to

succeed and has designed the classrooms in such a way that it draws students into the medical environment. The facility includes: mock doctors office waiting room, a clean room, a sterilization area, a medical bay and a mock operating room.

## **Sterile Processing Certificate**

Alternatively, Schoolcraft offers a one year certificate program called the Sterile Processing Certificate. Instead of being introduced directly into the operating room, students can elect to focus solely on the concepts of aseptic technique and with that comes the knowledge of proper tool care and cleaning.

## **Student success**

Schoolcraft has made a program deeply ingrained with professionalism and high standards of which there are multiple factors that play into the measure of student engagement and positive outcomes.

Being a new program, it does not have widespread acknowledgement that some longer existing programs have

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obtained, but it has state of the art equipment and facilities. Current students happily take advantage of the newly built operating room and extracurricular activities like the program's very own club: Scalpels and Scrubs.

Student and Scalpels and Scrubs President Kauthar Alhajmoussa says, "To other students who have interest in the surgical services program, I recommend Schoolcraft because of the Director, Mrs. Nowicki. She is the sole professor of the program and she not only teaches the material and standards of the profession; but gives you real life examples that really paints a clearer picture. My experience so far is nothing less than beneficial. I am very confident in the field as I feel that I am getting the proper education to excel in this

career."

### **After the completion of a program**

Trinity Health is one of the largest non-profit healthcare systems in America. Since the start of the Surgical Technology program Moir has made efforts to partner with Trinity Health. The idea is to complete clinicals at a Trinity Health facility with possibility of job prospects on the horizon. Trinity Health also offers to pay current employees tuition for going into the field.

If a student is looking for a health career that's hands-on, interested in anatomy or in the application of anatomy, consider Schoolcraft's new surgical service programs.

For more information on the surgical service programs please visit the surgical services page at: <https://catalog.schoolcraft.edu/>.



**Above:**  
Instructor helping student with assignments.



**Left:**  
Surgical tech student takes detailed notes during a class session.



**"To other students who have interest in the surgical services program, I recommend Schoolcraft because of the Director, Mrs. Nowicki. She is the sole professor of the program and she not only teaches the material and standards of the profession; but gives you real life examples that really paints a clearer picture. My experience so far is nothing less than beneficial. I am very confident in the field as I feel that I am getting the proper education to excel in this career."**

*Scalpels and Scrubs  
President Kauthar Alhajmoussa*

## “Shedding Light”

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what the Nursing student described to be their experience and after confiding in their Schoolcraft Academic Advisor Laura Haldane, they were directed to go to the Hinkle Student Resource Center for support.

“[The Hinkle Student Resource Center] were very concerned, they were very nice young ladies and they were really trying to help me with my situation to get better so I could continue to pursue my dream and my nursing career,” said the Nursing student. “I received emergency assistance, which helped out a lot and at least gave me some support.”

The student was also able to receive financial aid to pay for their classes, allowing them to focus on their education rather than trying to pay for it. This was a major step for them as, like many other students in similar situations, felt embarrassed to ask for help and anticipate being patronized when attempting to receive help. This was not the case for the Nursing student and was grateful for reaching out to the Hinkle Student Resource Center.

“Sometimes a student might come with a concern about a class or having a rough semester, and then that conversation evolves into ‘why have you been struggling?’ I have heard students say they

didn’t have somewhere to live, living in their car, living on their friend’s couch,” said Haldane. “So then that becomes a question of obviously there’s not much an advisor can do about that, but the [Hinkle Student Resource Center Coordinator Rhonda Donovan] has those resources through some community partners and other funding that they have to help assist students.”

Students are often referred to the two-woman run (but mighty) Hinkle Student Resource Center from academic advisors, faculty and other students for aid. The department offers support like home insecurity aid, food resources, transportation referrals, scholarships to help pay for classes, licensed counseling and is affiliated with many programs like MI Bridges to get students the help they need.

“Telling someone you’re homeless is very hard. When I meet with a homeless student, I let them do the talking and with the information they want to share, I usually try to assist them through referrals to community partners with crisis housing resources,” said Donovan. “I also provide them with gift cards for gas, refer them to the Student Food Pantry (for eating on campus) and mental health services since facing eviction or being

homeless is overwhelming.”

However, with all of these resources how are there still homeless students on campus?

Like the Nursing student’s story, home insecurity has a negative connotation and stigma attached; thus students may feel uncomfortable or ashamed to reach out for help. Interestingly enough, some students don’t consider themselves to be homeless, so they simply don’t reach out for aid.

A big proponent of homelessness is not being aware of resources available and what they may likely qualify for, which is the biggest takeaway of bringing awareness and support to our peers, as well as recognizing possible signs that they are struggling.

“Students who are falling asleep in class can be a sign of maybe they’re sleeping in a car, they’re not getting good rest because of other issues going on,” said Haldane. “Or, if you see a student may be wearing

the same outfit every day: some people have more limited wardrobes, but that can be another sign that they’re facing or dealing with something.”

Some of those visual cues, but also being attentive to each other can lead to a big impact on that student and very well get them into a better situation. If you do see something, utilize SC Aware to make a report.

As uncomfortable a topic it may be for those experiencing insecurity, whether it is housing or something else going on in their life, Schoolcraft does provide the resources and outreach to support them. If you do see someone struggling or in need, or you are in need yourself, please don’t be ashamed to ask for help. This is what a community is for.

For more information on the Hinkle Student Resource Center, go to <https://www.schoolcraft.edu/hinkle-center/> or contact 734-462-4443 or [hinklecenter@schoolcraft.edu](mailto:hinklecenter@schoolcraft.edu).

**HINKLE STUDENT RESOURCE CENTER**  
**ASSISTANCE & RESOURCES**  
 McDowell Student Center, Room 175 • 734-462-4443  
[hinklecenter@schoolcraft.edu](mailto:hinklecenter@schoolcraft.edu) • [schoolcraft.edu/hinkle-center](https://www.schoolcraft.edu/hinkle-center)

**▶ DID YOU KNOW?**  
 The Hinkle Student Resource Center can help connect you with resources, both on campus and in the community.

**▶ ON CAMPUS RESOURCES**  
 Did you know? Our office can provide resources, including:

- **Tuition and Textbook Assistance**  
 The Student Support Scholarship funding is available for tuition, fees, and required textbooks (as long as funds are available). Additional scholarship funding may be available at various times during the school year.
- **Technology Assistance**  
 The hot spot loan program provides support to our currently enrolled students who lack internet access in order to successfully complete their courses. There are limited quantities, and are issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

**▶ MI BRIDGES**  
 Did you know? MI Bridges provides more than food assistance, and can assist with:

- Emergency needs
- Child care and development
- Healthcare coverage
- Cash assistance
- And much more!

**▶ Personal Support**  
 Personal care kits: Our complimentary kits include travel size personal care items such as toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, body wash, etc. These kits can be picked up at the Hinkle Student Resource Center office or at the Schoolcraft College Food Pantry.

• Snack packs-our complimentary kits include a few small snack items such as a granola bar, fruit snacks, etc. These snack packs can be picked up at the Hinkle Student Resource Center office.

**Link to MI Bridges Information and Application**  
 (See other side for more information)

# Moving up in quality

## Angileri Quality Symposium offers students network and future career opportunities

KATHRYN WENSKE  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Careers are all about connections. Who you know, and who can help get you to where you want to be. They are also about developing bonds, so that one day you benefit or support each other, whether it is in personal conversation or professional collaboration.

On Nov. 3 from 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. in the Vistatech Center, Schoolcraft is hosting the Angileri Quality Symposium which is open to all students, with those particularly interested in the mobility industry.

“First, it is a great way to learn about the current and future state of mobility. Times are changing quickly and there is such a need for educated, trained workers in all parts of the mobility sector,” said Executive Director for the Schoolcraft Foundation and Alumni Relations Dawn Magretta. “Networking is very helpful for students. In fact, last year a student got a job directly as a result of participating in the Angileri Quality Symposium.”

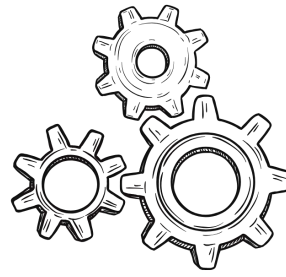
The student Magretta

is referring to is the Manufacturing and Engineering Club President Liam Fahey, who was recruited relatively last minute to attend the event.

“Through networking at this event [last year], I actually ended up getting a job. I made a friend, and a friend wanted to do something for a friend,” said Fahey. “Three months after the event, I got a call from that friend, Bill Mitchell, and he flew out to Michigan to interview me. The next day he said the job was mine. So, this year I will actually be going to the event as a student and an employee for PLEXUS International.”

Students, like Fahey continue to attend these types of events, not only now much more collaboratively but also get to see old faces from when they first attended the Quality Summit.

“[Fahey] and I had a debrief for a couple of hours after the conference was over: going back through a lot of things. I think there’s a real benefit that the industry needs to tap into,” said Executive in Outreach and Engagement for the Automotive Industry Action Group (AIAG)



and is part of the Advisory Board for the Quality Summit Dave Lelain. “The fact that Schoolcraft has all of this equipment put together in the Manufacturing and Engineering Center (MEC) which is used in many of these suppliers all over the area. And there’s a ton of them within five miles of the college.”

As there is a talent shortage,

the Quality Summit offers students the opportunity to get their career or job started with the new skills they have been curating and refining at the College. There are so many advantages to attending this summit, and it is definitely not something to pass up.

For additional information or questions, reach out to the Schoolcraft Foundation at foundation@schoolcraft.edu or 734 462-4455.

## Attention Students

REGISTER FOR THE

# ANGILERI QUALITY INSTITUTE SYMPOSIUM

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2023 7:30 AM TO 2:30 PM  
VISTATECH CENTER, 18600 HAGGERTY ROAD, LIVONIA, MI 48152  
BREAKFAST & LUNCH PROVIDED

### AGENDA

- 7:30 AM**  
Registration, Breakfast and Networking
- 8:00 AM**  
Opening of Symposium
- 8:15 AM - SESSION 1**  
What does the Future Mobility Landscape Look Like?
- 8:45 AM - SESSION 2**  
Top Mobility & Auto Manufacturing Companies in Michigan
- 9:45 AM - NETWORKING BREAK**
- 10:15 AM - SESSION 3**  
Automotive Industry Action Group (AIAG) - Moderated Student Panel
- 10:45 AM - SESSION 4**  
Regional Community College Investment in EV & Mobility Panel
- 11:45 AM**  
Lunch / Working Breakout Sessions
- 1:30 PM**  
Working Breakout Session Debrief
- 2:00 PM - SESSION 5**  
Quality in Mobility 4.0/5.0 Initiatives
- 2:30 PM - CONCLUSION**

### CONFIRMED SPEAKERS



*Quentin Messer, CEO,  
Michigan Economic  
Development Corporation  
(MEDC)*



*John Walsh, President &  
CEO, Michigan  
Manufacturers  
Association*



*With a welcome from,  
Stacy Whiddon, Chief  
Academic Officer,  
Schoolcraft College*

REGISTER BY 10/20/23  
TO ENSURE A SPOT AS  
SPACES ARE LIMITED!



<https://bit.ly/2aqiscc>

### VALUE TO STUDENTS

- FIRST 25 STUDENTS  
RECEIVE \$100  
SCHOLARSHIPS!  
\*MUST ATTEND THE ENTIRE DAY\*
- NETWORK WITH  
INDUSTRY LEADERS
- INTERACTIVE  
DISCUSSIONS WITH  
INDUSTRY

CHECK HERE FOR ANY UPDATES!  
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/23ANGINFO](https://bit.ly/23anginfo)

QUESTIONS?  
FOUNDATION@SCHOOLCRAFT.EDU  
PHONE: 734-462-4455



Schoolcraft  
College®

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# CAMPUS LIFE

## Next step

### *Tips and tricks to a successful transfer journey*

**KENDALL BORCHARDT**  
STAFF WRITER

The process of transferring from a community college to a four-year university can be confusing. For many students, it can become easily and quickly overwhelming, especially when it comes to what kind of information to provide that best describes students as a person.

“It’s been a hectic process, to say the least: from deciding on majors to experiences and extracurriculars to include in my application. I almost feel like I’m running in circles,” said Schoolcraft Music Entrepreneurship student Alyssa Childers.

Luckily, there are many resources both on Schoolcraft’s campus and at other universities to help students along their journey. Schoolcraft Academic Advisor Anthony Kaltner explains how the Schoolcraft academic advising office can help students along the way.

“Academic advising is a two-way street [that students should work with advisors to ensure that credits will properly transfer to a university],” Kaltner explained. “Advisors know a little bit about everything [which allows us to better assist students who want to transfer to a university].”

Some of Kaltner’s top tips are to research any schools of interest

and call them to not only ask questions but also as a way to leave an impression.

Networking is also a great tool to help boost your application, which can look like a variety of things and offer students a multitude experiences and opportunities.

Childers expressed the different challenges she faced throughout her transfer process. “It was a lot of late nights and trying to balance work and school, but the process has been worth it.” Childers shares the positives and negatives of the transfer process and the methods and tools she used along the way.

She utilized Transfer Bridges, a program to assist community college students in transferring to the University of Michigan’s School of Literature, Arts and Science (LSA). She also worked several jobs during the process, around 20 hours a week.

Childers’ top strategies for time management include utilizing calendars, prioritizing self-care for roughly an hour each day and studying in groups. Not only did Childers use school resources when writing her essays, but she also used friends, family and even past teachers to peer review her work.

Childers advises students to start early and not to be afraid to ask for help.

When asked what her biggest

regret was during this process, Childers responded, “knowing the essay prompts ahead of time and still starting my essays late.”

To remain successful, Childers had to learn to prioritize and manage her time. Although procrastination was an issue in the beginning, she stayed persistent and worked hard to complete her applications with the help of her resources.

On the other end of the process, University of Michigan’s LSA Transfer Bridges Transfer Recruiting Coordinator Morgan Gavorek explains tips from the university’s side.

While discussing the benefits of transferring Gavorek states, “one of the exciting things about transferring is that you get to explore different curriculum.”

While working with a transfer advisor may not guarantee admissions, it is still extremely beneficial for the student. It gives a unique opportunity that can give a better feel of how life at a university may be. Some resources offered by different schools include application workshops, in-person and virtual campus tours, essay assistance and much more.

Gavorek encourages students to get involved in programs within the school they are interested in. Gavorek expresses the importance of working with advisors and

the positive impact they have on students, “Working with advising here at Schoolcraft, the advisors here are really fierce transfer advocates and student advocates.”

Gavorek stressed that students utilize resources and the community available to students. “You have something to learn from everybody [and don’t have to go through the transfer process alone].”

Although possible, to truly bridge the gap from community college to a university, it takes a team. From advisors to friends, teachers to pets, professionals to stuffed animals, working in a team will make the transfer process better.

Even though this process may be stressful, remembering to have fun and enjoy the journey may help to create a lasting memory. Once the bridge has been built, the other side may be more extraordinary than ever thought before.



# You got this



## Student leaders share their strategies behind academic success

HOMAYRA ADIBA  
STAFF WRITER

Entering college is a significant milestone in one's educational journey. Whether it is a transition from high school or a return to school after a long hiatus due to personal or financial reasons. College can be especially challenging when one is juggling various roles.

Many of us are parents, full-time workers, leaders, athletes, social workers and more. Excelling in college may seem impossible, but with the right strategies one can thrive in academics. We have gathered insights from accomplished students across different age groups and backgrounds to

compile a list of tips to help you succeed in college.

### Vision board

Having a clear vision of your goals ignites passion and motivates life improvement. Constructing a vision board by writing your passions, visualizing post-graduation possibilities, envisioning where you see yourself in the future and including inspirational quotes can be a great way to achieve this. By personalizing your vision board, it helps fuel your drive and you can display it somewhere in your room for inspiration. Kendall Borchardt, a Pre-Med major and Secretary of the Phi Theta Kappa Omicron Iota chapter lives by perseverance saying, "I remind

myself of the future I want and then take steps to achieve it. A quote I wrote is 'just because I cannot do this right now, doesn't mean I am incapable of doing it ever.'

### Time management and organization

Effective time management is the linchpin of success. All the student leaders interviewed emphasized 'planning'. Ashley Xu, a Computer Science major and President of the Asian Student's Association, underscores the value of proactive organization.

"Planning things ahead of time is beneficial for me. Having a structured schedule that outlines my commitments, like classes, work, clubs and other responsibilities, enables me to budget my time effectively allowing some fun time to alleviate stress," said Xu.

Borchardt employs multiple calendars in her planning, starting her day with a prioritized list, tackling simple tasks first and then addressing more complex challenges.

Karen Iyolo, President of The International Student Club, studying Cybersecurity, recommends breaking down study sessions for major exams into smaller, daily chunks to avoid future stress. Our leaders employ various organizational tools, such as planners, reminders, to-do lists and schedules. Find a system that works for you. When scheduling blocks of time for classes, study sessions, work and extracurricular activities, remember to incorporate breaks to sustain focus and productivity.

### Avoiding distractions and prioritizing self-care

Borchardt acknowledges the challenges of studying at home amidst potential chaos with two younger siblings. To combat distractions, she seeks out a quiet space for concentration.

Xu adopts a similar approach to sidestep diversions, stating, "I find a quiet spot at a coffee shop, Bradner library, or a quiet area on campus. During this time, I do not socialize; I channel my focus into my studies."

Even when studying at home, being mindful of potential distractions is crucial. Kathryn Wenske, the Editor-in-Chief of the Schoolcraft Connection, attaining an Associate's in Science, invented a Nine to Seven strategy for fighting distraction and prioritizing self-care. "Structure wise I plan everything ahead of time, I accomplish daily tasks by 9 p.m. and will turn off my phone from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. to prioritize self-care." She suggests emphasizes being a student first while engaging in different activities, however, to also prioritize self-care saying, "I am also first and then come student."

Stowing away the phone while studying can help combat distractions. Ensure you are taking care of your mental and physical well-being by getting enough sleep, eating well, hydrating yourself and engaging in regular physical activity.

### Student involvement

Participate actively in your classes by joining discussions,



Left to right: International Student Organization President Keren Iylo, Editor-in-Chief for the Schoolcraft Connection Kathryn Wenske, and Phi Theta Kappa Omicron Iota chapter Secretary Kendall Borchardt.

see 'You got this'  
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# CAMPUS & CLUB EVENTS

(All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted)



## Pageturners Book Club- The Revolt Against Humanity: Imagine a Future without us Book Discussion

Oct. 24  
2:30 to 3:30 p.m.  
BTC 120

Join Pageturners for their October book discussion, "The Revolt Against Humanity: Imaging a Future without Us" by Adam Kirsch.

## Overruling the Political Process: The Puzzle of Judicial Authority in a Democratic Society

Guest Lecturer: Dr. Brad Roth  
(Wayne State University, Law  
School and Political Science  
Department)

Oct. 25  
1p.m.

McDowell Student Center, MC100  
Representatives from Wayne State  
University and Schoolcraft College  
will be on hand to share information  
about their programs and transfer  
opportunities.

## Student Networking: Building your brand, how to network

Oct. 25  
4:30-6:30 p.m.

Jeffress Center, Room 122  
You're going to an event with  
Networking, now what do you do?  
Networking is an important part  
of getting that next job, changing  
careers, and building your own  
professional network. This is a great  
opportunity to learn:  
What is networking and why is it  
important?

How you can enhance your  
professional image  
New skills for a promotion or a career  
change

How networking leads to job  
opportunities in your current or  
desired company or industry  
Networking leads to trends and  
insights in your field or industry  
Build new contacts and relationships  
that can help you grow your network  
and advance in your career  
New ideas and perspectives that can  
inspire you and spark your creativity.

## Pageturners Book Club- The Revolt Against Humanity: Imagine a Future without us Panel Discussion

Moderated by Dr. Mark  
Huston

Oct. 26  
1 to 2 p.m.  
MC100 B&C

Join Pageturners for their October  
book panel discussion, "The Revolt  
Against Humanity: Imaging a Future  
without Us" by Adam Kirsch. This  
event will be moderated by Dr. Mark  
Huston.

## Student Activities Board Presents: Halloween Party

Oct. 26  
7 to 11 p.m.  
Lower Level, Vistatech Center

Join the Student Activities Board  
for its annual Halloween Party. DJ,  
Dancing, Mini Pumpkin Decorating,  
Caramel Apples, Photo Station,  
Games, Watch Scary Movies, Prizes  
for the Best Costumes (Scary,  
Superhero and Best Overall).  
Admission is FREE.

## Navatri Garba

Oct. 28  
7 p.m. to midnight  
Vistatech Center, DiPonio  
Room

Tickets are \$25 in advance  
\$30 at the door (no charge for  
children age three and under)  
The Asian Student Association  
presents Navatri Garba. Shop for  
Indian Clothes and Jewelry and have  
a dinner catered by Suvai. For tickets  
call 734-462-4422. Proceeds benefit  
the Schoolcraft Food Pantry.

## 3 vs 3 Basketball Tournament and 3 point Contest

Oct. 30  
11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
Gym

Come join Black Student Union for  
a quick and competitive 3 point  
contest and 3 vs 3 games with  
friends.

## Chinese Mid-Autumn Mooncake Festival

Nov. 2  
11-1 p.m.  
Vistatech Lower Level  
The Mid-Autum Festival is a time for  
family and friends to gather together,  
harvest crops, and give thanks.  
Join us for traditional snacks and  
mooncakes, origami craft, lantern  
making, and Chinese calligraphy.

## Dia de los Muertos: Ghost Supper Virtual Cultural Presentations and Discussion

Nov. 2  
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
Zoom: [https://  
schoolcraftcollege.zoom.  
us/j/82631107036](https://schoolcraftcollege.zoom.us/j/82631107036)

Set up an item and or food by your  
computer related to a beloved  
departed person to share with  
participants. For more information on  
the Native/Indigenous Club, contact  
kschauma@schoolcraft.edu.

## DiWali Celebration

Nov. 5  
6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.  
Vistatech Center  
Tickets \$25 per person  
Children ages 3 and under are  
free

Schoolcraft Asian Student  
Association and DIWA invite you to  
DiWali, an evening of entertainment  
and Indian catered dinner. Children  
and adults of all faiths are invited.  
Tickets must be purchased in  
advance. To purchase tickets call  
734-462-4422.

## Journey to the Center of the Earth

Nov. 6  
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Forum Building Room F360

Join us as professor Samer Hariri  
will briefly showcase a series of  
rocks that represent a journey from  
the crust to the core of our planet.  
Shortly after, we will watch the  
science fiction movie, "Journey to the  
Center of the Earth," that is based on  
the book by Jules Verne.

## Anime Fighting Fest (Fall Edition)

Nov. 11



2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

**Lower Level, Vistatech Center**  
Join the Otaku Anime Club as they host the Anime Fighting Fest. Include Prizes for Winners. No cash prizes will be awarded.

### **Pageturners Book Club- Poverty by America Book Discussion**

In collaboration with Prof. Helen Ditouras and Prof. Deb Burke

Nov. 14

12 – 1 p.m.

**BTC 120**

Join Pageturners for their November book discussion, "Poverty by America" by Matthew Desmond.

### **Pageturners Book Club- Screening of Frontline documentary Growing up Poor in America**

Nov. 16

12 p.m.

**MC035**

Join Pageturners for their screening of Frontline documentary Growing up Poor in America.

### **Fitness Center Rec Nights**

Nov. 16

9-11 p.m.

Fitness Center, Trinity Elite Sports Center and Physical Education Gym

The Fitness Center will be open later with extended hours. Enjoy playing basketball, turf space, volleyball and more. Snacks and drinks to refuel after your workout. Schoolcraft students and Fitness Center members are free. Guests are \$5.

### **Turkey Bowl**

Nov. 21

11:30 a.m. -1 p.m.

### **Trinity Sports Dome**

Join the Student Activities Board and Campus Recreation for its annual Turkey Bowl game. Teams will be selected starting at 11 a.m.

### **Otaku U All Ages Anime Convention**

Dec. 2, 2023

10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Vistatech Center

Ticket prices:

**Registration wristband at the door \$10.**

Pre-sales online is \$7 and \$5 for anyone 10 and under. Presales end 11:59 p.m. on December 1, 2023. Tickets can be purchased at <https://tinyurl.com/otakuutickets>

Get ready for year 2 of OtakuU! Attractions include: Vendor Hall and Vendor filled with talented local vendors and artists, Anime AMV Viewing inside our Vendor Hall, Cosplay Contest/Cosplay hangouts/photo ops, Video Gaming Play Lounge and Gaming Tournaments, Name that Anime Team Trivia Game, Evening Karaoke, Panels and more!

**Do you have an upcoming event you would like listed in our Campus & Club Events?**

**Please email [sc.connection@apps.schoolcraft.edu](mailto:sc.connection@apps.schoolcraft.edu) or call 734-462-4422**



## **"You got this"**

Cont'd from page 7

asking questions and taking comprehensive notes. Iyolo emphasizes involvement beyond academics, advising, "Do not think college is just studying; get involved in clubs and activities to have some fun and be inspired by fellow students."

### **Utilize resources**

Schoolcraft College offers a wealth of resources to support your academic journey. Make the most of libraries, writing centers, tutoring services, accommodations and study groups. These resources provide insights, guidance and a collaborative learning environment.

Don't hesitate to seek help, especially from your professors who appreciate inquisitive students and are here to assist. Reach out via email, utilize office hours, or participate in study groups to deepen your understanding.

### **Study techniques**

Experiment with various study techniques to identify what works best for you. The Pomodoro Method, involving focused intervals with short breaks, can be helpful. Borchardt finds creating flashcards and using colored pens effective. Teaching what you have learned to someone else also helps. Wenske emphasizes the importance of a clean study space, noting "if my space is cluttered, I feel like my mind is cluttered."

### **Acknowledge blessings and challenges**

Recognize your support

system and those who cheer you on. Cultivating humility is a valuable skill for success, both in academia and in life. Surround yourself with positive individuals and radiate positivity in return. Express gratitude to those who support you on your journey, be it parents, a spouse, a friend, a professor or a colleague.

Simultaneously, acknowledge your challenges. These could relate to accommodation, finances or toxic relationships. Distance yourself from individuals who drag you down. For situations beyond your immediate control, develop long-term strategies to overcome obstacles. Sharing your concerns with a trusted confidant or writing them down can provide a glimmer of hope during dark times.

### **Set realistic goals and reward yourself**

Establish attainable academic goals by breaking larger tasks into manageable steps. Celebrate your accomplishments, no matter how small. Iyolo enjoys a movie after task completion. Xu goes to a park or meets friends after a demanding week of studying. Allocate time for something you love.

While our leaders encourage involvement in student activities, they also emphasize the importance of avoiding burnout. Xu cautions, "If extra activities jeopardize your studies, it is not worth it but if it holds significance to you, reassess the responsibilities and try to balance everything."

All the leaders confidently affirm, "You got this."



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Report incidents and concerns on the college's online reporting tool, SC aware.

When you see someone who needs help, remember the 3 D's of bystander intervention:

1. **Direct:** Step in and say or do something, if you can be safe in doing so.
2. **Distract:** Create a diversion and get the vulnerable person out of the situation.
3. **Delegate:** Find someone with more authority to intervene.

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Ad sponsored by the Student Relations Office, McDowell Student Center, room 175, [studentrelations@schoolcraft.edu](mailto:studentrelations@schoolcraft.edu)

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Keep yourself and others safe by reporting all instances of sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking.



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- Schoolcraft College Police Department (call 734-462-4424)

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Mastering your mind with Thinking, Fast and Slow

*How Daniel Kahneman's insights can transform decision-making*

HEBA ASHMAWY  
STAFF WRITER

“Thinking, Fast and Slow” by Daniel Kahneman is a book that has had a profound impact on the way individuals approach decision-making, whether it be in academic pursuits or life in general. The insights presented in the book have the potential to reshape the way decisions are made by emphasizing the role of two distinct thinking systems, often referred to as System 1 and System 2.

System 1 operates swiftly and intuitively, making snap judgments and quick choices, while System 2 engages in deliberate, analytical thinking and demanding careful consideration. These two systems are the architects of any decision-making process and understanding their interplay is key to making more considered choices.

One pivotal insight from the book is the value of mindfulness in decision-making. In our fast-paced lives, we often find ourselves rushing through choices, relying on System 1 to get things done. However, “Thinking, Fast and Slow”

reminds individuals that for decisions with higher stakes, employing System 2 is imperative. Many have since learned to slow down, create space for thoughtful meditation and regain control over their choices.

Another profound concept introduced in the book is Loss Aversion. Kahneman's research reveals that people tend to weigh their choices' losses more heavily than gains. This insight has significant implications for understanding risk-taking and decision-making, especially in financial contexts. It sheds light on why individuals might be more cautious when facing potential losses and why they often prefer the status quo, even when change could bring gains.

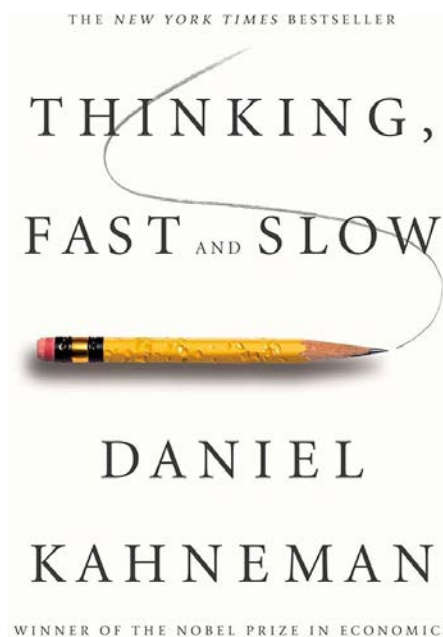
Confirmation bias, another concept highlighted in

the book, can resonate with readers. It's our natural tendency to seek information that confirms our preexisting beliefs, often leading to biased decisions. Recognizing this bias, some may rush through choices and cherry-pick evidence to validate them.

However, a solution presented in the book is to actively seek diverse perspectives and counterarguments, ensuring that decisions are well-rounded and grounded in reality.

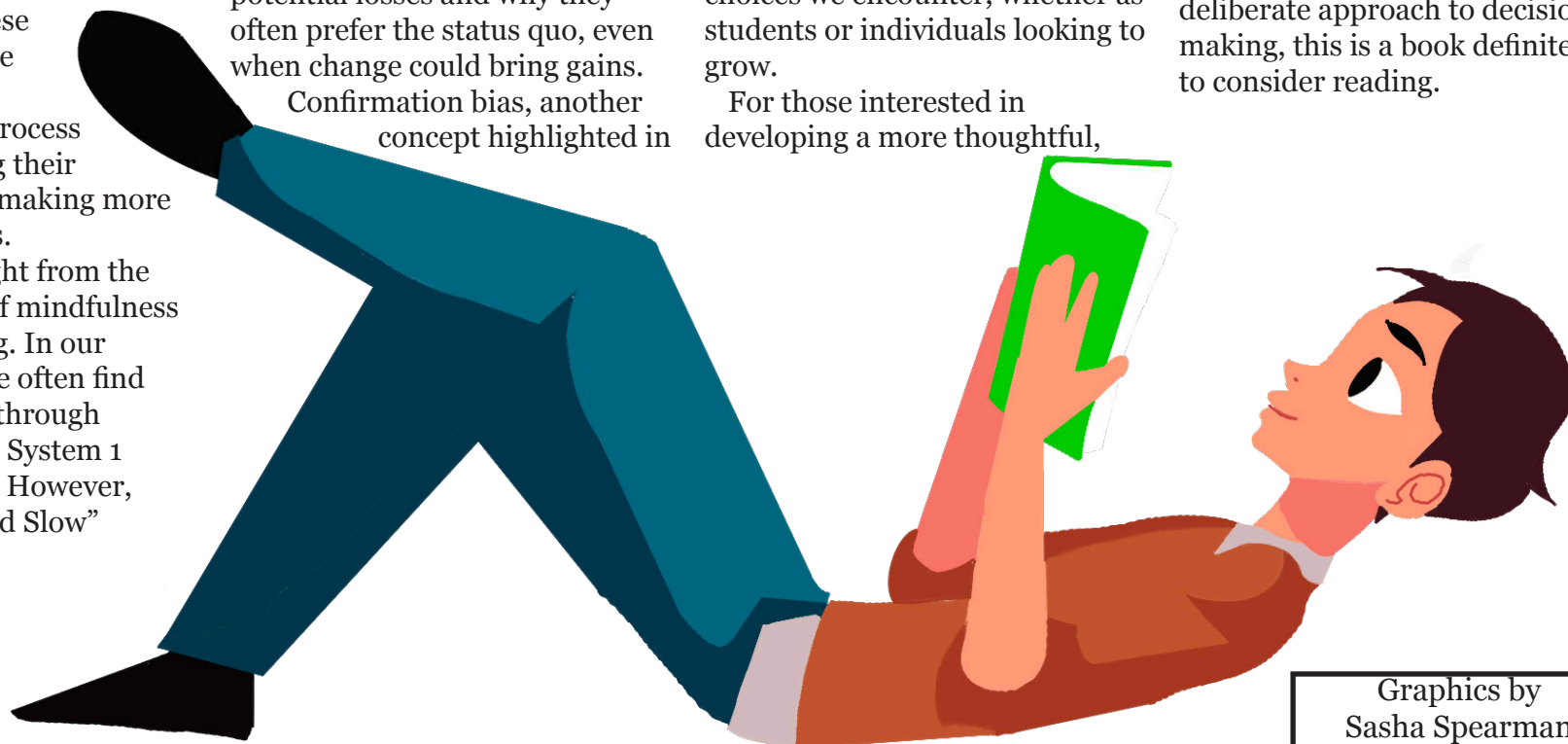
In a world where people often seek instant happiness, “Thinking, Fast and Slow” acts as a helpful guide for making careful decisions. It provides the tools to navigate the complex array of choices we encounter, whether as students or individuals looking to grow.

For those interested in developing a more thoughtful,



“[A] masterpiece . . . This is one of the greatest and most engaging collections of insights into the human mind I have read.” —WILLIAM EASTERLY, *Financial Times*

deliberate approach to decision-making, this is a book definitely to consider reading.



Graphics by  
Sasha Spearman

# Brushing the canvas of creativity

## Exploring the impact of Artificial Intelligence in Art and Creativity

MARK ISAACS  
STAFF WRITER

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is irrefutably challenging the atmosphere of creativity, producing exciting works in lesser time. Artificially manufactured artwork has been growing more popular, in a digital and real life sense. With the latest improvements to AI, a competition has sparked between man and machine.

AI has continually shown it has the capabilities to compete with the best artists around the world, and the debate on whether AI art should be considered fair has dawned

on competitions internationally. From state fairs in Colorado, to AI-generated music online, AI has had a profound impact on the way we view forms of art.

At last year's annual state fair in Colorado, a man named "Mr. Allen" took home the blue ribbon in the fair's contest for emerging digital artists, despite the fact that he himself never attempted any creative work on his own. Mr. Allen had used the AI software, called "Mid-Journey" to turn text into images.

Mid-Journey functions by inputting customized text, into artistic images in mere seconds. By using AI to create his work, he earned 1st place in the

competition, taking home a 300 dollar prize. After the competition, Mr. Allen was quoted, saying "This isn't going to stop. Art is dead, dude. It's over. A.I. won. Humans lost."

In addition, AI also has garnered the talent to produce music without an artist needing to step foot into a studio. For example, deceased or fictitious artists are now able to "create" new music through AI generated emulators, which emulate the voice of a singer, and can mesh that sound into the lyrics of any song. From Bob Marley singing "Come as you are" by Nirvana, to Billie Eilish singing "Creep" by Radiohead, or even Spongebob and Plankton singing "Feel Good Inc" by the Gorillas. The possibilities are endless with today's AI.

AI itself is a double edged sword. On one hand, we are able to listen to our

favorite singers in a new fashion, while on the other AI is beating our humans for prizes in competitions. It is quite difficult to see where the impact of AI ends, as this is just the beginning.

As it currently stands, the future of television, digital art, screenplay writing and music are all at risk of being controlled by AI.

Does the convenience of AI trump the human element of an artist's work?

In this matter, only time will tell.



# Birds eye view

## "Hollow Kingdom" gives pet's point of view in a zombie apocalypse

**Hollow Kingdom**  
By Kira Jane Buxton  
Genre: Adult Science Fiction  
Published: Aug. 6, 2023  
Rating: 3/5 Stars

JESSICA MICHAEL  
STAFF WRITER

"Hollow Kingdom" by Kira Jane Buxton is a creative approach to a beloved horror genre narrated by a filthy mouthed crow with an identity crisis. The zombie apocalypse has been a long-treasured genre for many horror lovers.

This book takes a classic zombie story and turns it into something new that even includes its own magical network: offering hilarious banter, and imaginative metaphors with quite a few fight-action scenes that seem almost realistic. Buxton offers multiple points of view with other pets throughout the "Hollow Kingdom" novel, and is not for the faint of heart

nor those with an aversion to gore.

S.T is a domesticated crow who is a junk food connoisseur and has quite a filthy mouth. Thrown into a new and confusing world, he now must navigate it with his trusty sidekick and best friend Dennis the bloodhound. Their owner Big Jim began to show signs of sickness after his eyeball fell out of his head. He begins to develop a strange green tinge to his skin. His remaining eyeball is red. S.T attempts to take care of the house as Big Jim gets sicker, hoping that his MoFo will eventually get better and stop scraping the wall or attempting to eat him.

S.T. sets out to the local Walgreens to grab essentials such as Luminate Triple Eye Cream and No7 Lift, in the hopes this will cure their ailing human. In Walgreens he spots four MoFos, this is what he calls humans taught by Big Jim, not even a well-taught hello from S.T. rouses the humans. S.T. notices these MoFos

have a familiar green tinge to their skin, and "eyes like a forest on fire" (Buxton 18). Gathering his treatments for his beloved human, the bag tips as he tries to fly off causing the bottle of Summer's Eve to fall onto the cash register. The MoFos hearing the beep of the register, run after S.T.

As he flew home he saw their next-door neighbor eating her beloved pet. At this point he begins to realize the dire situation they are in.

During a hunt for Dennis's Kong in their craftsmen home, S.T. finds Big Jim's cell phone. Turning it on, he hopes to help Big Jim get out of this sickness. Instead, Big Jim stomps out of the basement and chases after S.T.

Realizing that they are not safe in the home, S.T. uses his best Big Jim impression and calls for Dennis to start a new adventure together.

They encounter Zoo animals, massive predators and even new creations that Mother Earth has allowed. Meeting new animals, including another murder. As they work together, they begin to free the other domestics trapped in their homes because of their sick humans. Even having to fight a war for territory

and safety with other wild animals.

This story is exceptionally creative with its magic system, how the humans became zombies, and the creatures who are described as dinosaur-like. Some parts of the book felt heavy on info, and could get overwhelming. Buxton induces witch cackling laughs while making you question our constant electronic use. Buxton is metaphor heavy in her writing, and can make descriptions very long. Though this is great for the imagination, it can be over abundant if you don't enjoy metaphoric writing. Hollow Kingdom is bold and adventurous, and just in time for Halloween! "Hollow Kingdom" earns a solid 3.5 stars.



# Haunted Homes

Photos by Izabella Allie, Layout by Kathryn Wenske

Get ready for a spooky adventure as The Schoolcraft Connection hunted down the best Halloween yards in town! We kicked off our mission by hitting up All Things Livonia, the popular Facebook page. Our Photo Editor, Izabella Allie, launched the 2023 "Haunted Homes" Contest. Her call to action was simple: the Connection wanted to highlight four homes that are Halloween havens! The post was a hit, and soon we had twenty nominations. After some tough deliberation, we chose four winners: Danielle Hixson, Patricia Chambers, Jim Rogers and Jody Gordon!



Above: Jody Gordon's daughter, Sawyer, is the brains behind the operation! She designed her whole yard at the young age of 9 years old. Sawyer's favorite part about Halloween is everything! She loves decorating with her family as well as dressing up!





Above: Photographed is Sam from the ever so popular, "Trick 'r Treat" movie which was released in 2007. Trick 'r Treat" can be viewed across many of television platforms. The Connection Photo Editor Izzy Allie, Campus Life Editor Sara Mallory and Editor-in-Chief Kathryn Wenske visited homes in Westland-Livonia, Michigan on Oct. 10-11, 2023 as part of the Haunted Homes series.



Above: What a collection! Photographed is Spirit Halloween's Original 2013 Wacky Mole Clown Animatronic Prop. The Chambers' residence has quite a crowd of animatronics and props. Many of them even shout spooky things at you!

Below: Animatronic, spiralled-eyed clown with a hammer in Patricia Chambers front yard. A motion-sensored decoration that will surely scare trick-or-treaters!



Below: The Chamber residence features a ton of popular movie characters, such as Pennywise! With prioritization of horror as a theme, this side-to-side moving animatronic clown-gone-bad definitely belongs in the yard.





# From day one

*Sport really do bring people together*

KATHRYN WENSKE  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Often friendships developed in childhood can die out, leaving those memories made to live in the past. However, in some fortunate instances, some friendships do carry into adulthood. Luckily for these three musketeers, their sport is what brought them all back together.

Playing on the same team as young boys, forward Dante Davidson, midfielder Kellen Larson and defensive midfielder Alex Wenske were reunited as they began playing on the Schoolcraft Men's soccer team.

"Larson is a more reserved, shyer guy; but he's still pretty funny, and Davidson is very energetic, he's a crazy energetic dude. But that [youth] team in particular had a lot of really young talent, and so it just made it a super fun team," said Wenske. "We pretty much hung out almost everyday. Whether it be rides to practice or hanging out on weekends after games or anything. We would almost always do extracurricular activities together."

Starting in 2013, the then boys joined a Livonia soccer club and immediately found a special connection to each other. They grew up together playing the

sport for the next few years, becoming an unstoppable trio.

They spent summers in Larson's pool, roomed and traveled together in tournaments out of town, celebrated the shared birthdays between Davidson and Wenske and were best friends to each other. Something that is additionally special for these men is that their current coach, Rick Larson, was also their coach growing up.

"I know [Coach Larson] for sure gets emotional seeing three players he kind of built from the ground up to then come play for him. Even I get a little in my feelings about how our childhood went, and how it came full circle," said Davidson. "It's really special to play with two kids that you played with growing up your whole life and now you're back to win a national championship."

After those few years, however, going into their high school years is when the men's paths deviated. Starting with Davidson, he went to play for his high school soccer and basketball teams at Franklin High School. Wenske then left to play for the Columbus Crew Academy in Ohio for a few years, and Larson continued to play for Livonia soccer clubs until then playing for his high



Left to right in both photos: Dante Davidson, Kellen Larson, and Alex Wenske. Corner photo courtesy of the Wenske family, large photo courtesy of Schoolcraft College.

school, Catholic Central.

After graduating, Davidson and Wenske started playing on the Schoolcraft team in Fall 2022 where that friendship rekindled, but it was not until this fall semester that the trifecta was finally pieced together when Larson joined the team.

"[Playing together now compared to playing as kids] is a little different; everyone's older and we're more mature," said Larson. "We'll still be

friends the same way we used to, but we just got our own lives going. I do hope [that we hang out as much as we did.]"

As cheesy as it sounds, soccer has brought these men together to play again and revive the friendship that never died.

For more information and to keep up with the Men's Soccer season, go to <https://www.schoolcraftocelots.com/landing/index>.



# Coming to America

## International soccer players overcome challenges to play the game they love

ISABELLE RICHMOND  
INTERN

Has a sport ever been your reason for changing something major in your life? Whether it be who you're living with, where you're living at or how your life at home is. The struggle is real. This is exactly what many of the current international soccer players who have come here to Schoolcraft follow to pursue a passion of theirs: some moving close to 7,000 miles away from home to do what they love.

The distance has a huge impact, with possible additional struggles like learning another language or how things are done in America versus their home country. Either way, adjusting to a new lifestyle can be difficult when there is such a big distance from home.

Sophomore Men's Soccer forward Guilherme Gouvea came to America from Sao Paulo, Brazil in 2018. Two years later in 2020 he got the opportunity to transfer to Schoolcraft to start playing soccer here. Gouvea described the transition to America as "very fast." Playing since he was two years old, Gouvea's time in Brazil was mainly focused and dedicated to soccer.. He had discovered a new way of life and



**Abed Swidan**  
From Lebanon



how a day typically looks here is trying to balance soccer and studies.

Another huge adjustment for Gouvea was learning a new language with his studies. In Brazil it was easy to forget about studies and focus more on soccer. "The restaurants, the time people eat, it's all different here."

This was another immense culture shock for Gouvea. It took him three to four months to get fully adjusted, while there's still things he's getting used to.

"The guys are just like brothers to me... it's like a family." Pretty quickly he felt the brotherhood from his teammates which helped him navigate his new surroundings easier.

Gouvea talks to his parents quite regularly, almost everyday to be exact. He spends most of his time in America while his summers are spent back home in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Another player originating from Sao Paulo, Brazil is women's soccer midfielder Isabela Grande. Grande came to America in the fall of 2021. The sophomore is currently the only one in her family who lives here in Michigan. She describes her transition as not the easiest, as it's very often she feels homesick. "Every single day. I am very close to my family, and no matter how much time passes, I always miss home a lot."



**Guilherme Gouvea**  
From Brazil



Just as it sounds, Grande and her family are close. Soccer is a big motivation for her but her family is an even bigger one. The biggest cultural shock for Grande was the food.

"The food from Brazil is fresh and healthier, I think in the beginning it was one of the biggest challenges I had."

While it's obvious that life has definitely changed for the sophomore, Grande's teammates have felt like one big family to her. She noted how she's the only international player on the team and they are amazing to her.

"Sometimes we're training and I forget some terms in English or I don't understand what needs to be done, so they explain it to me in an easier way to understand," said Grande.

The sophomore strives to visit her family at least once a year. She has made it evident that life changed for her but she kept persevering, knowing that she's only bettering herself.

Midfielder Abed Swidan of the Men's Soccer team came here to America from Beirut, Lebanon last year. Swidan was born in America, specifically New Jersey, he then lived in Lebanon for ten years. Returning to the states, Swidan found a new home here in Michigan, and has lived here for the past two years. The freshman described his transition as hard at the beginning but then just got used to it.

Swidan mentioned many cultural differences, but said essentially everything was different, "the streets,

the places, literally everything."

The freshman spends a good deal of time in Michigan but dedicates his summer and winter breaks back at home in Lebanon. Soccer and life in general has pushed him to stay here, as he believes there are more opportunities here for him.

"I have a better future here," said Swidan.

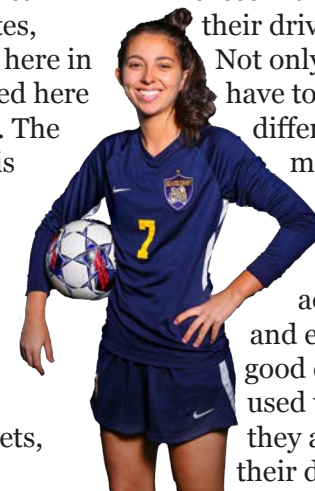
Swidan hinted how the economy and schools are different, and that schools get shut down a lot due to a lack of electricity.

The freshman talks to his friends and family back at home a lot.

"As soon as I got here I felt like part of a family." Swidan included this about how his teammates feel like a huge family to him. He lives here with his mom and four other siblings, his dad comes back and forth from Lebanon since he still works there.

Soccer keeps pushing him because it's a big help for his mental health. "Once I'm playing soccer I forget about everything else."

It's a large emotional tug to transition into such a different life from what you're used to. In this case, soccer and life in general was that tug. Life in the states may have brought more opportunities for these individuals, as well as their drive towards soccer. Not only did the players have to adjust to a whole different lifestyle but meeting new people, their teammates. As the players described it, the adjustment was hard and everything took a good deal of time to get used to. However it seems they are all happy with their decision and couldn't imagine not having a life here in America.



**Isabela Grande**  
From Brazil

# OPINIONS



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## IN OUR OPINION

# Favorite Fall Trends



Photo by Joshua Hardy

Although adults, nothing brings us back to our childhood like Halloween. The sweet/spicy, homey smells of cinnamon, candy, pumpkin carvings, halloween movies, trick or treating and more allow us to enjoy the little things. Luckily with some new and old spooky trends, we get to bring a little bit of youthful energy into our holiday.

Probably the easiest trend ever (in fact, we did it for our group editorial photo last year) is the TikTok ghost trend. Draping a white sheet over your head and cutting eye holes that will be covered with some awesome sunglasses are not only adorable, but an easy and great way to take some fun photos and get in the spirit with friends and family; pets

have even participated!

When the smell of caramel and pumpkin fills the air, you know fall is here! This halloween trend is all about using that jack-o-lantern to its fullest potential and delving into the classic pumpkin flavored everything. From a pumpkin spice latte, pumpkin oatmeal cookies, pumpkin pie, pumpkin pancakes, pumpkin seeds, to pumpkin soup, fall has it all and with the right recipes so do you.

One of the best Halloween "trends" is visiting corn mazes near the holiday. Whether it be a rainy or clear night, going through a maze in October is never CORN-y. Keep your eyes

See 'Favorite Fall Trends' page 19>

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Student Activities Office  
Lower level of Waterman  
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## 'Favorite Fall Trends'

cont'd from page 18

open so you don't run into any COB-webbs. Who knows, you might even have a STALK-er follow you through the maze if you go to a haunted corn maze. Make sure to keep your EARS open next time you visit a corn maze so you don't get spooked if you get lost.

A favorite Halloween trend that students may have is visiting a pumpkin patch. Lots of people post about pumpkins on social media throughout the fall season. Blocks Greenhouse in Romulus, MI is a great place to continue that tradition. The very best part about Blocks is that their selections go far beyond standard fall items like pumpkins, corn stalks and gourds. Many shoppers also stock up on fresh produce for canning and preserving throughout the wintertime.

A trend that many students have is scaring themselves for enjoyment. A perfect opportunity to achieve that adrenaline rush can be found by visiting Cedar Point. During the fall season they call it HalloWeekends, which begins every Thursday to Sunday from Sept. 14 till Oct. 29. During this time, Cedar Point has Halloween activities and during the night, they scare guests to and from different rollercoaster rides. Thus, giving guests no break from the thrills found in the rides, and in the park itself.

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# The Purple Ribbon

## *Finding spirituality and peace through personal loss*



**KATHRYN WENSKE**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Although this topic is rather personal, I am sharing this portion of my life in hopes it provides comfort to those who have experienced and truthfully will eventually experience loss.

Death is inevitable, but how we view and process it is what can make death a little easier. To preserve my family's experience and privacy, I will only express my journey.

My mother had stage four pancreatic cancer, and after a couple years of exhausting all treatment options available, she passed away this recent May. She was a dedicated, loving and kind Registered Nurse for 23 years, mother of five, and above all my best friend and favorite person.

For those admirations, she at least deserved comfort in her last few stages of life, and thus became a precedent for me.

The last round of chemo did its course and I slowly lost my mother in the beginning of this year; starting with the lack of text

message correspondence and the type of in-depth conversations we had, to minimal everyday updates, to nonverbal. Due to this decline, I started mourning her death over a month before her body died, which actually cushioned the soon to be found harsh, seemingly abrupt reality of her passing. Truthfully, what was the most painful was seeing when she became extremely uncomfortable and in pain but not being able to express it, than not being able to have the relationship I had with her before.

For those who personally know me, I react to situations logically before allowing emotions to eventually process, which I think enabled me to give my

mom what she needed. I could only spend limited time with her before getting sad, but every time I did sit with her I absorbed every moment.

Even though she could not form sentences, I could very much feel her before and after her death. Once we got her on a good pain regime and she could sleep undisturbed, she emitted happiness and life that I could sense for the first time.

I knew the night before she passed that her energy shifted; still asleep, but active. It felt muted,

faint fear and not as happy but not in pain or anything negative. When she did pass, her energy transitioned to an essence of light, airy and bliss.

I have

never felt empty because of this spiritual connection: what I like to call my newfound sixth sense. I think this has greatly aided in the grieving process, and will continue to provide comfort for the rest of my life. The first few days after my mother's passing were very rough and numb but thankfully I was at a conference out of state that allowed me to stay busy and still find moments of silence for myself.

If I were to offer any advice for loss it would be to continue staying active in your life, and prioritize those quiet moments to breathe and feel: doing those practices truly saved me from towering grief.

The following first few weeks

I avoided triggers such as old voicemails, photos and other visuals until I was ready. I held onto her favorite mementos close instead; including wearing her cherished rings that she passed down to me and still wear to this day.

The summer months were spent working a summer position and classes at Schoolcraft, as well as spending more time with my siblings and family. The majority of the time I feel my normal self, but there are moments of immense grief or realizations that she is not with me, but in spirit.

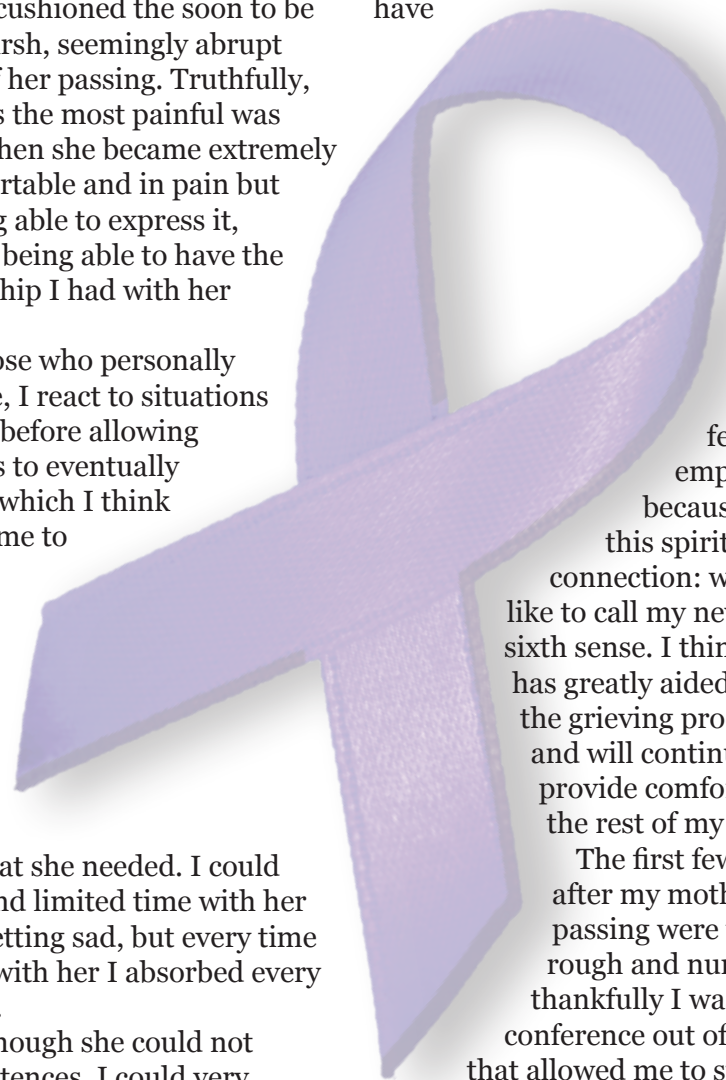
I have been able to look at and enjoy old videos of my childhood on camcorders, photos of her, as well as talking about her. She will sometimes send me small messages, or allow me to discover things I didn't realize I needed.

The greatest thing she gave me was life, and to have been my mother.

Throughout the years she told me to strive for the things I love, and what I am doing is what she would have wished for me. To honor her, I always try to keep a purple ribbon on me, as it is our favorite color and the awareness color for pancreatic cancer; as well as through my actions.

With my newly attained spirituality, I know she will guide me in the right direction and always be with me. Although she has passed, I haven't lost her strength and resilience. I am quite literally a part of her and carry her DNA, but I also carry her nature and person with me.

Thank you mom.



# Switching gears to a four-year

## *The trials and tribulations of the transfer process*



**KENDALL BORCHARDT**  
STAFF WRITER

Transferring from a community college to a four-year university can be stressful. From transfer essays to application fees, the whole process feels impossible.

Since starting at Schoolcraft in the summer of 2021, I knew my end goal was to transfer to a four-year university. I am currently a pre-med major and plan to transfer to a school with a good neuroscience program. I started off as a dual-enrollment student and had not met with an academic advisor throughout my entire first year.

Soon after graduating I realized how big of a mistake that was.

Meeting with my advisor, Anthony Kaltner, not only allowed me to step

back and reconsider my classes at Schoolcraft, but also gave me the opportunity to meet transfer advisors from different universities who could better guide me on their schools policies.

My first few meetings with Kaltner were geared more towards my current course loads and what I would need to graduate to obtain my Phlebotomy Certification and my Associates Degree in Science.

After we had seemingly planned out the rest of my time at Schoolcraft, we began to discuss the future. In March of 2023, I was introduced to different academic advisors from different universities. I reviewed the classes I had already taken, and had planned for my future semesters. I then found out that several of the courses I had planned would NOT transfer over as I thought they would.

The courses did in fact transfer, but they transferred as courses I had already taken/ satisfied a credit for. Meeting with a transfer advisor from a university I was interested in also helped me find a course list for the majors and minors I was interested in.

After fixing my course schedule I was given the contact information of admissions staff from the universities to which I was applying.

The staff has helped me with transfer essays, applications and any questions I had along the way. From blank pages to full essays, I was able to get assistance in both the brainstorming and the writing stages.

As with any new thing, I had a ton of anxiety trying to navigate this process. I feared that I would mess up or forget parts of my application. I now realize that is completely absurd, not only because many institutions have checklists for transfer applications, but also because I am completely capable.

That's not to say I hadn't struggled throughout this process.

Although I had help with my essays, I still sat at my computer for hours staring down an empty screen. I still felt the paralyzing anxiety that I wasn't good enough or that my application wasn't strong enough. There was no transfer advisor for fear, I thought I was all alone in that regard. It wasn't until I started talking about how

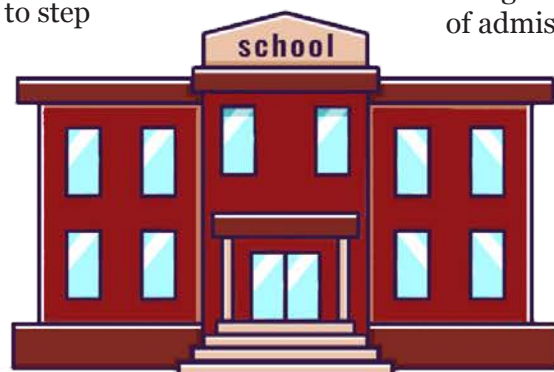
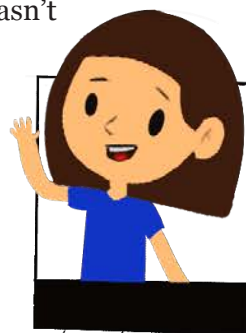
I felt about my application rather than what I had to do for my application. The transfer process takes a team, which includes friends and family for emotional support.

I have many regrets regarding how I went about my transfer process. I wish I had started sooner, I wish I had met with an advisor more often and I wish I had learned more about this in high school. All those regrets, and yet I wouldn't change anything.

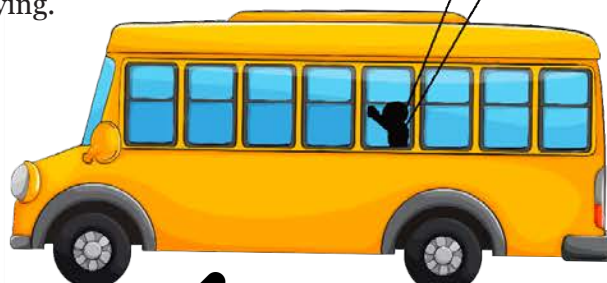
The way in which I started my transfer journey may have been stressful, but it has connected me to so many wonderful people and opportunities. I was able to land a fellowship, network, make new friends, learn about new organizations and make new memories because of it all. Although treacherous, the process of transferring has been worth every second.

I am currently in the midst of submitting my applications and awaiting the results. I feel hopeful that all the hard work I have put in will help me out in the future.

Hopefully, with the knowledge and experience I have gained from this process, I will be at a new university by the winter semester.



University



Schoolcraft

# What good we can do

## *The power of charity for the community and the self*



**LOGAN DUCHARME**  
STAFF WRITER

Earlier this year I went on a trip to Atlanta, and as I wandered through the city in awe of the wealth and culture there, I too was perturbed by the level of homelessness that saturated the city. Everywhere I went the homeless begged for money. At first I was moved and listened to them and gave them what they needed. Then I just gave them money and left, in the end even that was too much and I simply walked away. The only thing I could feel was a pervasive sense of powerlessness and I think this is something that we all have experienced. Unfortunately, by ourselves this is often the case, but together we can do something about it and even lead happier healthier more fulfilling lives in the process.

All over the world there are people working tirelessly to provide for the needs of others, and studies show that these heroes are rewarded with better health. For example, in cleveland.clinic.org's article "why giving is good for your health," they state "there is also a chemical response that takes place in our body in response to just doing something nice these chemical are serotonin dopamine and oxytocin." Furthermore, the same article later states is that these chemicals play a role in regulating mood, overall happiness and self esteem. The results at the end is that volunteering can help manage depression and "is similar to the positive results brought by a healthy diet and exercise."

Additionally and equally important is the opportunity to expand your social network. For example, most charitable organizations also have a function as a social organization. People in charities tend to be like minded individuals that work together to solve a common problem, all of which are bedrocks of solid relationships. This isn't wishful thinking either. Backed by science, when we engage in volunteer work with others we hit three of the four main key aspects of a relationship; those being proximity, similarity and

reciprocity. To quickly explain, proximity is being around a person on a consistent basis, similarity is what we have in common, and reciprocity is simply helping each other and having a mutually beneficial relationship. When one puts it in that way, it is simple to see why charities and volunteer organizations become centers of social interaction as they fit all of these criteria simply by running as intended. One needs no further proof than to look at some of the most common social clubs around as everyone from the Knights of Columbus to the Elk Lodges have a strong commitment to charitable works as a foundation to their mission.

Finally when it comes to one's career volunteering, helps here too. Not only do colleges look for volunteers, a survey by the University of South Florida shows that it can be critical to getting into a college as 58% of colleges say that volunteering has a positive impact on the application process and more importantly 53% of colleges say that volunteer work may be a deciding factor between two equal candidates. Furthermore, the benefits of volunteering continue past the classroom and into the workplace with volunteers more likely to land. Jobs according to both LinkedIn and ALIS (Alberta

Canada's Government-run career services website) they cite several reasons for this such as showing integrity and drive. However, the most common reason is that volunteering develops valuable skills some universal like communication, leadership and organization to more specific skill sets prudent to work that you did. For example, habitat for humanity gives certificates for people who volunteer. It not only shows your hours worked tasks completed but most importantly it shows the skills you have learned while acting too as a reference for any future resumes.

Volunteering helps both the community and the volunteer live happier, healthier and more fulfilling lives. It may highlight your passions, give an outlet to the change you want in the world and help you find your best self. Most of all, it gives us the power to turn our small contributions into a mark that will never leave this world. As the words of Martin Luther King Jr so eloquently put it: "if I can not do great things I can do small things in a great way" and with charity we can make these small but great things into something truly great."

# Ocelot Opinions

*Ocelots share their favorite halloween movies*



INTERVIEWS BY  
KATHRYN WENSKE  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



To invoke the spooky mood of October, students may watch Halloween movies as part of their yearly tradition. Many of these holiday-themed movies are accompanied by nostalgia from their childhood, or are simply a fun movie they continue to watch as adults. Whatever may be the case, whether to reconnect with the feelings and memories of their adolescents or pure enjoyment, what is the movie that ignites such emotions and do they resonate with you?

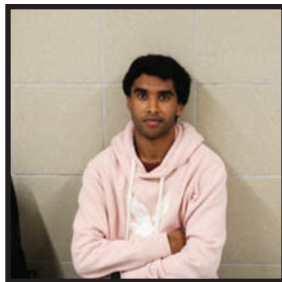
For a further breakdown on Ocelot Opinions, check out our YouTube Channel at The Schoolcraft Connection



[www.youtube.com/@SCCONNECTION](http://www.youtube.com/@SCCONNECTION)

**Rohan Comadelo**  
Major: Health Information Technology

"I don't really have one because I just watch movies when I get time. I'm a huge movie person, I just don't really have a favorite [that stands out], and I watch them for fun. [A few random movies] I like are Diary of A Wimpy Kid and The Long Call. That's what I know of, there are a couple others I can't remember, but I like family adventure and comedy in general."



**Kyle Anderson**  
Major: General Studies

"My favorite Halloween movie would be the Scream series. I really like the commentary on the horror genre, specifically the slasher. I think the jumpscare are overplayed so yea I'd say it's more comedic and making fun of the genre. I'll watch the new ones when they come out but it's not exactly a movie I go out of my way to watch."



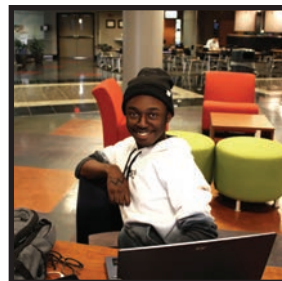
**Caleb Roberts**  
Major: Culinary Arts

"My favorite Halloween movie would probably have to be any of the Child's Play movies. I grew up watching those movies and Chucky, really any horror movies with me and my twin brother and it always reminds me of the holiday. I guess you could say I watch them out of ritual, but it doesn't even really need to be in October, like if I kinda feel like watching it, I'll watch a Child's Play movie."



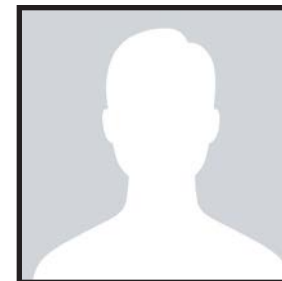
**Matthew Wilder**  
Major: General Studies

"I guess I'm gonna go with a classic, Nightmare Before Christmas. I mean, everyone loves a good classic, and it's a good Disney movie. One of the better ones, at least: compared to the new ones. [When I first watched it] I was like, hey, this is cool; it's spooky, it's festive, I like it. It's a cool combination."



**Tiffany Cavera**  
Major: Early Childhood Education

"[My favorite is] Halloween Town, the whole series. I like the plot, with the little kids and it's this magic adventure of a bus and [the main character's] grandmother which is so fun. [it's a very homey movie], yea. I was very young when I watched it when it first came out with my sister so the movie reminds me of that memory."



**Jasmine Wynn**  
Major: Computer Science

"Nightmare Before Christmas. It's just a nostalgic, childhood movie. Usually I watched it in my elementary classroom, I don't really [watch every year], I don't have time."



# DIVERSIONS

Find Answers on Page 26!

## WORD SEARCH

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Halloween

Vampire

Werewolf

Boo

Trick or Treat

Candy Corn

Witch

Skull

Skeleton

Party

Scary

October

frankenstein

Casket

Ghost

costume

mummy



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Schoolcraft Connection  
Newspaper

# WE ARE HIRING!

OPEN POSITIONS

- Managing Editor
- Graphic Designer
- Campus Life Editor
- Writing Staff
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Compensation and Flexible Hours!

For additional information,  
call 734 462 4422

[www.schoolcraftconnection.com](http://www.schoolcraftconnection.com)



# MAKE THE MOST OF BEING A STUDENT.



*Leaders grow here.*

## ATTEND EVENTS

**GET INVOLVED!**



SIGNUP FOR  
IN PERSON OR  
VIRTUAL  
EVENTS TODAY  
BY SCANNING  
THE QR CODE

## JOIN A CLUB

**GET INVOLVED!**



JOIN A CLUB  
OR  
ORGANIZATION  
TODAY BY  
SCANNING THE  
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For more information, contact the Student Activities Office at 734-462-4422





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ANSWERS

ANSWERS

# Diwali Celebration

*Schoolcraft Asian Student Association and DIWA, invite you to Diwali, an evening of entertainment and Indian catered dinner!*

**Sunday, November 5, 2023**  
**6:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.**  
**Schoolcraft College, Vistatech Center**  
**18600 Haggerty Rd., Livonia, MI 48152**

**Tickets: \$25 per person**  
**Children age 3 and under are free**  
**Children and adults of all faiths are invited!**  
**Tickets must be purchased in advance.**

Purchase tickets from:  
 Schoolcraft Student Activities  
 Lower level - Vistatech Center  
 or by calling 734-462-4422

Anna Maheshwari at 248-345-5313  
 or by email:  
 amaheshw@schoolcraft.edu

Alka Srivastava at 734-748-2035



**Diversions and layout by**  
**Sasha Spearman**

# Student networking

BUILDING YOUR BRAND - HOW TO NETWORK  
PREPARE TO MEET EMPLOYERS AT THE UPCOMING ANGLERI QUALITY SYMPOSIUM  
"QUALITY IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF MOBILITY"

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023, 4:30 TO 6:00 PM

JEFFRESS CENTER, ROOM 122

(ENTER IN THE YELLOW ENTRANCE ACROSS THE PARKING LOT FROM VISTATECH)



**Kim Keaton Williams**  
Vice President,  
Talent Acquisition &  
Development and  
Chief Diversity Officer  
McLaren Health Care



**Ram Ramanujam**  
Retired & ReWired  
Northville Township Economic  
Development Council Board



**Liam Fahey**  
Schoolcraft Student  
President, Manufacturing &  
Engineering Club  
Business Development Manager,  
Plexus International

## You're going to an event with networking, now what do you do??

Networking is an important part of getting that next job, changing careers, and building your own professional network. This is a great opportunity to learn:

- Learn what networking and why it is important
- How to build contacts and relationships that grow your network and advance your career
- Use your network to identify trends/insights in your field and to hear new ideas and perspectives
- How to enhance your professional image and speak confidently with employers

**Not sure how to prepare yourself for networking or  
the follow up that comes after?**

**Join us to learn how!**

QUESTIONS?  
FOUNDATION@SCHOOLCRAFT.EDU OR  
PH: 734-462-4455



Schoolcraft Connection 

# Want to be featured in the newspaper?

Submit your poetry to  
**sc.connection@apps.schoolcraft.edu!**



All SC community members welcome, and will be randomly selected to be featured in every issue of the newspaper. Submission does not guarantee publication.  
For more info, call 734 462 4422.



**Check out the  
Schoolcraft Connection story 'The  
Mario party battle royale'  
at  
schoolcraftconnection.com**

# Happy HALLOWEEN!

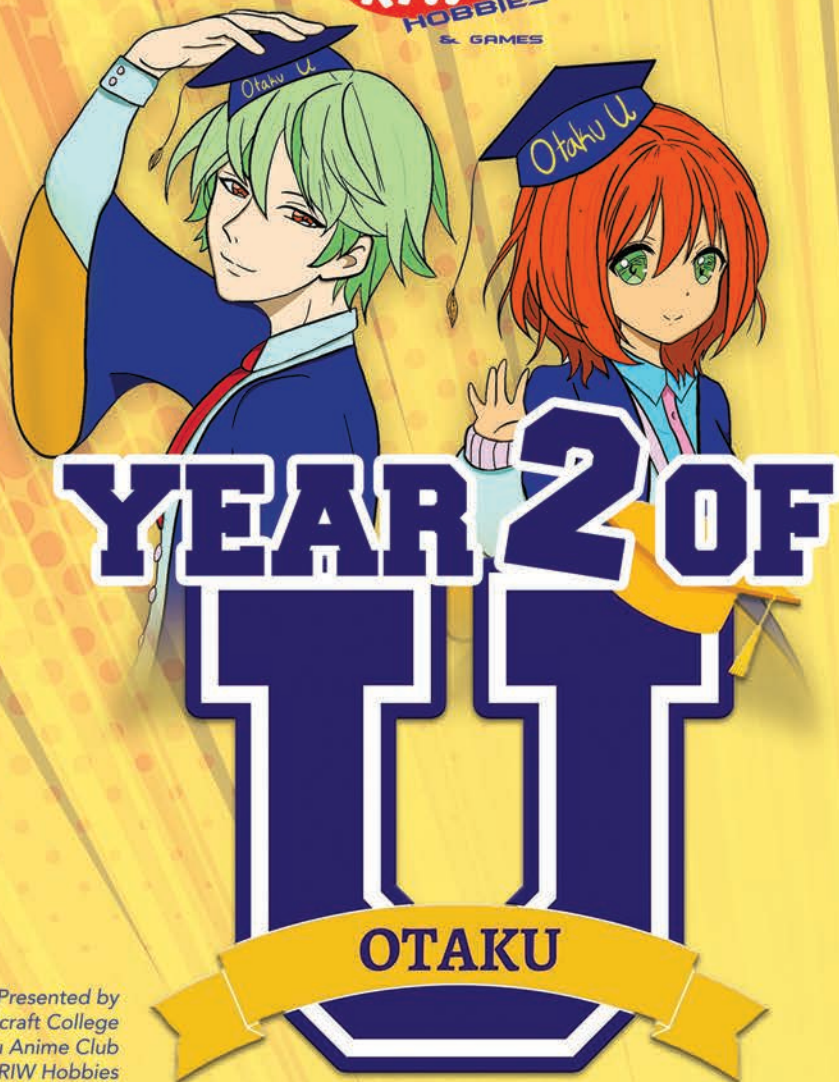
Be safe, have a dnd even though Halloween is on a Tuesday and we all have to work

OCTOBER  
31

Schoolcraftconnection.com



**RIW**  
HOBBIES  
& GAMES



Presented by  
Schoolcraft College  
Otaku Anime Club  
and RIW Hobbies



SCAN ME

**PURCHASE  
YOUR  
TICKETS NOW!**

[WWW.OTAKUU.ORG](http://WWW.OTAKUU.ORG)

The meaning of Otaku to the Otaku Anime Club Leadership/Consulting Team and their members is a passionate fan of anime, manga, comics, cartoons, video games, or K-Pop/J-Pop. U is taken from the word "university" because the convention is being held on a college campus. Otaku U is an event for people of all ages to be able to share their passions with other like minded individuals for a day!

# ALL AGES ANIME CONVENTION

**December 2, 2023**

**10 a.m. to 10 p.m.**

Schoolcraft College • Vistatech Center  
18600 Haggerty Rd.  
Livonia, MI 48152

## Tickets prices:

Registration Wristband at the Door is \$10  
Presales Online is \$7 and  
\$5 for anyone 10 & Under

(Presales will end at 11:59 p.m. on December 1, 2023)

## ATTRACTIONS INCLUDE:

- Vendor Hall Filled with Talented Local Vendors and Artists
- Tabletop Gaming Area Hosted by Event Sponsor: RIW Hobbies & Games
- Anime AMV Viewing Inside Our Vendor Hall
- Cosplay Contest Inside Vendor Hall
- Cosplay Hangouts/Photo Ops
- Video Gaming Play Lounge & Gaming Tournaments in the Student Activities Lounge
- Name That Anime Team Trivia Game!
- Evening Karaoke
- Special Voice Actor Guests:  
Tyson Rinehart & Aaron Campbell
- Musical Guest: Playing With Power
- Panels and More!!!

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!** If you are interested in purchasing Otaku U tickets, go to <https://otakuu.org>. For additional questions, contact the Student Activities Office at 734-462-4422 or email [sc.sao@apps.schoolcraft.edu](mailto:sc.sao@apps.schoolcraft.edu)



Schoolcraft College

