

# Refugee policy

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Because of the turmoil and terrorism in Syria, there has been an influx of immigrants seeking refuge in the U.S. and many other countries throughout the world. Until last month, Michigan had the greatest number of Syrian refugees in the nation. California just surpassed Michigan with 1,500. Southeastern Michigan is a popular destination for refugees. According to Gilleran, the large Middle Eastern population in Metro Detroit attracts lots of immigrants.

Refugees often find themselves in Troy, Dearborn and Clinton Township after being successfully vetted through the government, according to the Detroit Free Press. The Department of State and Department of Homeland Security will then choose a location for the refugees to resettle by coordinating with nine national non-profit relocation organizations.

According to the White House, for refugees to enter the U.S. for relocation, they must first undergo rigorous background checks and examinations. This begins with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees taking iris scans and interviewing all potential relocation candidates.

Those deemed eligible move on to be interviewed by the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, the National Counterterrorism Center and the State Department.

If they pass all background checks, they are examined by a doctor. Any potential refugee with a disease such as tuberculosis or other highly contagious diseases will be denied entry.

Each potential refugee is checked against global terrorism databases to ensure no terrorists enter the U.S.

As in depth as this process seems, the Waterford Township board of trustees believes it is inadequate to protect against terrorists entering their community. In protest of the resettlement program, the township passed the resolution stating that they will not actively partake in the the program until it is revised to protect citizens from a terrorist threat.

But Waterford's efforts carry no legal weight. The refugee resettlement program is completely controlled by the federal government, so states and local governments have no power over their participation in it. Gilleran said the township is just letting their opinions on the topic be heard by higher government offices.

Kathy Jensen and Nancy Rieth teach English Learning, a district-wide program that helps students learn English as a second language. Most of their students are in exchange programs or are immigrants or refugees, like Hussain and Hasan, and some still speak their native languages at home.

Over the course of their careers, Jensen and Rieth have worked with several refugee students, some of which hail from Syria.

"Most of them do come from challenging backgrounds. I would say the majority of them do," Jensen said. "Not this year, but we've had them in the last couple years from Syria."

Jensen said they have students of different nationalities year to year depending on what's happening throughout the world, such as the refugee crisis.

While Hussain cares about the severity of the war in Syria, he understands the fears of those in Waterford and the passage of the resolution.

## The vetting process

Refugee cases that receive referrals from the UN are screened at a U.S. Refugee Processing Center by government agencies including the FBI, State Department and Department of Homeland Security.

After being accepted, candidates undergo a health screening by the Department of Health and Human Services, which checks if candidates have infections and diseases—such as tuberculosis—before entering the country.

Within one year of entrance into the U.S., relocated refugees must apply for a green card with USCIS. That involves another set of government background checks and screenings.



The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees completes background checks on and interviews all applicants then recommends a small percentile of those for resettlement.



The Department of Homeland Security makes the final decision as to if a refugee will be accepted for resettlement. If there is any reasonable doubt, the candidate can be screened through additional background checks.



Accepted refugees complete a cultural orientation, and the Department of State and USCIS coordinate with nine national non-profit relocation agencies to choose a location for them to resettle. They are also screened by Customs and Border Protection and the Transportation Security Administration.

Information from the New York Times, Detroit News, TIME and the Department of State

ALEX HARRING

"I can see how it is a good idea," he said. "There could be terrorists coming in acting as refugees, so I guess it's good for the safety of the people."

Still, the situation is complicated. While he sees both sides of the argument, he still has family in Syria and doesn't like the idea of them potentially being denied refugee status because of a scared government.

"Of course I wouldn't feel good about it," he said. "(The war) is getting bigger, and I care about it because I still have family over there."

Contributing: Ritika Sanikommu

# Anthropology students search for artifacts in Detroit



**DIGGING IN THE D** | Anthropology students dig in hopes of finding buried artifacts. "We got down and dirty in the mud, and (we got to) really dig up some of the old past of Detroit, so it was lots of fun," senior Garrett Clark said.



**SHUFFLING** | After digging, senior DJ Mattes searches through the dirt looking for artifacts.



**ALL ABOARD** | The former Michigan Central Station in Corktown Detroit, now known as Roosevelt Park, was the site of the dig.

By Michal Ruprecht  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Anthropology students dug deep into Detroit's history-rich soil hoping to find artifacts that would paint a picture of the past. On Monday, Nov. 1, seven students joined the Wayne State University Anthropology department in its four-week-long dig at Roosevelt Park in Corktown, Detroit, home to the former Michigan Central Station.

"Things went better than I actually expected," social studies teacher Barry Mulso said. "It was a beautiful day, the kids had a great time."

During the 1830s-90s, many Irish households flourished in Corktown. However, after the decision to build a train station there, a large number of those dwellings were removed, leaving artifacts behind. By uncovering those remains, students were able to recreate life in Detroit back in the late 1800s.

Senior Lily Adzgian's father, who volunteers at the digs, helped Mulso organize the trip. Mulso has taken kids on digs before, but this one was different.

"We originally thought that we were going just to go watch them do it," he said. "The instructor of the class wanted to involve the students in the dig, which is really cool. We are literally having some hands-on experience with it."

Throughout the trip, students followed procedures that day-to-day anthropologists use to preserve artifacts they excavate. In addition, students explored physical and cultural anthropology. Both types gave students a comprehensive view of the field and what one would do as an anthropologist. This real-world experience aided senior Garrett Clark's understanding of what a career in anthropology is really like.

"We got down and dirty in the mud, and (we got to) really dig up some of the old past of Detroit, so it was lots of fun," Clark said. "It (gave) me a better idea of what really being an anthropologist is like since I actually did some of the digging myself."

During the dig, students unearthed a variety of items, like bricks, goat bones and buttons, that helped them learn more about Detroit's history. When Adzgian discovered artifacts, she was amazed by how much paperwork was required to document the location.

"It was really interesting," she said. "It's more of being specific of how you find stuff, and you can't just go and dig stuff, you have to go by layers, which was kind of a surprise, and then when you find something, you can't immediately take it out. There's a lot more paperwork than I originally thought."

By utilizing the fragments, students found out what people ate and owned in the past. This allowed them to further learn about the standard of living in that society. Mulso said this is a great way for students to experience what's it like to piece together an anthropological puzzle to create a snapshot of Detroit's past.

"This is interesting stuff," Mulso said. "As you dig down, you start to see the layers of life that have occurred on those locations overtime, and it is just like looking at a timeline. Through the stratification of the soil, you get to see what happened over time as well. As you dig deeper, obviously artifacts will get older, and at a certain point you're going to stop seeing those. You kind of paint a picture (of) the history of the city in that area during that time frame."

After the trip, both Adzgian and Clark want to take an anthropology class in the future and wish to pursue it as a hobby.

Since only half the class went on the trip, Mulso wants more students to go in future years because it is a rare opportunity. He also hopes to repeat the trip next year because he finds many students gain a passion for anthropology when they actually experience it.

"Those real-world experiences usually translate into something solid, something concrete for people to kind of wrap their brains around," he said. "I feel it's my duty to kind of spur that interest and give them as much information as possible to figure out what they want to do."

Contributing: Syeda Rizvi



**LISTEN** | Anthropology students gather around to listen to instructions on digging up artifacts from a Wayne State University Anthropology professor.