

# The Ellsworth American.

## Schoodic Institute names new advancement director

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**WINTER HARBOR** — Alyne Kemunto Cistone, a nature lover and lawyer with a specialty in international law, has been appointed director of advancement for the Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park.

Cistone said her new position will enable her to advocate for Acadia and hopefully help preserve its future for generations to come.

The Schoodic Institute partners with the National Park Service (NPS) in operating one of 20 research learning centers within the NPS.

Cistone said research conducted at the Schoodic Institute has far-reaching impact locally, nationally and internationally.

“My major goal is to ensure that the Schoodic Institute has a sustainable financial future,” she said. “It will take more than just me to get this done. It will take the Winter Harbor community supporting what we do and the state of Maine and the country supporting what we do.”

A native of Kenya, Cistone moved to the United States in 2003 to attend Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland, Ohio.

Prior to that, she studied at the University of Nairobi and Kenya School of Law.

While earning her law degree she interned at Amnesty International in Washington, D.C., and then served as interim advocate for Africa.

She then taught legal studies and international law at Ursuline College in Ohio.

It was while Cistone was in Cleveland that she met her husband, Joseph Cistone, executive director and chief executive officer of IPM (International Partners in Mission).

IPM is an interfaith nonprofit organization headquartered in Cleveland that works to improve the lives of women and children in 20 countries. The organization has executive offices in Bar Harbor.

It was Cistone who introduced his wife to Acadia National Park, where he had been vacationing at Blackwoods Campground for years.



Alyne Cistone  
PHOTO BY WILLIAM BREHM

“My first thought was, ‘What can be more beautiful than Africa,’ but then I saw what he was excited about,” she said. “That was my initial, magical connection to Maine.”

It was during one of their trips to the park that she learned about College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, where she was appointed a visiting professor and taught classes in international law.

Subsequent to her position at COA — where she is a member of the board of trustees — she was appointed executive director of the Island Housing Trust in Mount Desert.

The nonprofit provides affordable housing solutions for working families on MDI.

It was while taking a sabbatical from the Island Trust — the couple have three young children and Joseph travels extensively — that she learned about the position at the Schoodic Institute.

Cistone said her love of nature and the NPS’s role in preserving that experience stems from her childhood in Kenya.

“I grew up in a small town in a country that values nature and conservation,” she said. “I’ve always been attracted to nature and what it can do for us.”

Cistone said she appreciates the long view taken by the Schoodic Institute and hopes to play a part in helping to find effective ways of providing sustainable conservation solutions.

“I’m a lawyer, so I’m an advocate at heart,” she said. “I also love to help connect people to their passions.”

She said her new role as director of advancement is “fancy terminology for being a piece of a big puzzle.”



## Jacqueline Weaver

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