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THE ITHACAN

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FINDING A VOICE

A story of senior Steven Kobby Lartey's quiet determination to fight injustice

BY KIRA MADDOX
MANAGING EDITOR

It is Dec. 1, 2014. A group of Ithaca College students have had enough of talking. They have been talking for months, about the shooting of unarmed black teen Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, in August. About the murder of unarmed black man Eric Garner. About the fact that both officers responsible for the deaths were not indicted for the crimes. About Ithaca's own Shawn Greenwood, a black man killed by police officers in a 2010 narcotics investigation. About microaggressions and ignorance on campus. About inequality in general.

Across the U.S., at 1 p.m. EST, the "Hands Up Walk Out" movement is about to begin. Michael Brown's death occurred at this exact time Aug. 9, 2014. Because of conflicting evidence, and only one person alive to tell his side of the story, many people felt that justice had not been served, that justice was not served in many of the other cases mirroring this one.

The sky is clouded, and the air is cold. Senior Steven Kobby Lartey, bundled up in a navy blue jacket and scarf, walks to Free Speech Rock just outside the Campus Center. He can see his breath in the early afternoon air. The rhythmic beating in his chest has sped up only slightly, but he can

still feel its effects.

"I was like, 'Will people come out? Will we have a unified voice?' — and I don't mean unified voice like everyone wants the exact same things, just in general — 'Will people stand in solidarity?' 'Will campus police even allow us to congregate?'" Kobby said.

The questions did not stop him. They did not stop anyone. Just after 1 p.m., some 200 Ithaca College students walked out of their classes as agents in a nationwide protest.

Kobby, along with senior Student Government Association President Crystal Kayiza, senior Kayla Young and sophomore Vin Manta hang a large, red poster up on one of the brick walls of the building. The black, painted lettering reads "HANDS UP DON'T SHOOT," bookended by a pair of dripping, black handprints.

Young is standing at the front, facing the crowd. Armed with a white and red microphone held close to her mouth, her voice is shaking.

"For four and a half hours, Mike Brown bled to death on our pavement," she said. Her eyes are lowered. She reads off of a prepared notecard, but that doesn't change anything. Her voice is shaking, but not with fear. "Mike's story affects

See **KOBBY**, page 4

Editor's Note: This story begins a new series of long-form features that break away from traditional newspaper style by using artistic techniques and literary elements to present an in-depth look at life in Ithaca. In producing these stories, our writers spent substantial time in the worlds of their subjects to understand them on a deep level and attempt to capture their essence. This series will highlight individuals who are not necessarily traditional newsmakers but have found passion and meaning in their lives as members of the community.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TOMMY BATTISTELLI

FUNDRAISING

Charitable donations to college decrease in 2014

BY KYLE STEWART
STAFF WRITER

As Ithaca College sees more alumni making charitable donations, the overall dollar amount of gifts has fallen from last year.

Total charitable donations to Ithaca College decreased in fiscal year 2014 while the number of alumni donors increased, according to a survey administered by the Council for Aid to Education.

The Voluntary Support of Education survey is an annual study of fundraising by colleges and universities. The number of alumni donors increased by 3.7 percent from 4,793 in fiscal year 2013 to 4,969 in fiscal year 2014. At the same time, overall donations decreased from \$10,152,873 to \$8,479,102, a 16.5-percent decline. However, donations to the Ithaca College Annual Fund, the money that supports campus services, reached \$1.4 million in fiscal year 2014, an increase of \$272,547 over fiscal year 2013, setting a new record.

Ann Kaplan, director of the Voluntary Support of Education

survey, said 1,019 institutions, including Ithaca College, participated in the survey, which examined the total gifts versus alumni gifts donated as well as alumni participation.

Two large gifts in 2013, totaling \$3.04 million, contributed to a 20.4-percent increase in total donations that year. Without two similar gifts again, the college

experienced a decrease in donations this year, Kaplan said.

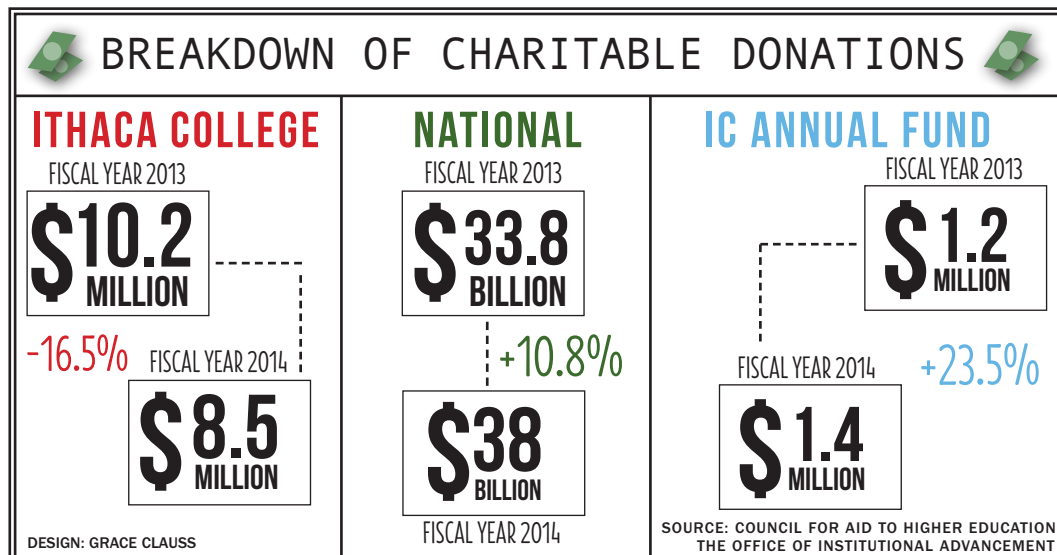
"There were two large personal gifts to Ithaca in 2013, which contributed to a spike in that year and a decline, therefore, this year," Kaplan said.

Stephen Savage, associate vice president in the Office of Institutional Advancement, said the fiscal year 2014 was positive

despite the lower overall totals.

"When you look at the overall dollars it was down, but we expected it to be down," Savage said. "We have been in the process of revitalizing our advancement operation and laying the groundwork for a much more productive and successful

See **ALUMNI**, page 7



College stages first Giving Day

BY AIDAN QUIGLEY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Ithaca College is dedicating a 24-hour period on Feb. 26 to encouraging students, faculty, staff and alumni to donate to the college, the first time the college has held a single-day giving event.

Chris Biehn, vice president for institutional advancement, said the college's initial goal for IC Giving Day is to attain 607 donors, in honor of the Ithaca area code. If 607 donors contribute gifts Feb. 26, a group of alumni will donate a total \$226,000, in honor of the date of Feb. 26.

Anyone, including members of the campus community and alumni, can donate through the icgivingday.com website. Those on campus can also stop by the North Foyer of the Campus Center between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. to donate.

Actor and alumnus David Boreanaz '91 will be using his presence on social media to publicize the event. Boreanaz, who played Angel in "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" and Special Agent Seeley Booth in "Bones," has over 663,000 Twitter followers.

Rob de la Fuente, director of the Ithaca

See **GIVING**, page 7

Nation&World



Clinton visits Haiti

Bill Clinton, former U.S. president and U.N. special envoy for Haiti, left, speaks with the staff of a cholera treatment center under construction in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on Feb. 24. Standing next to Clinton is actor and activist, Sean Penn.

ASSOCIATED PRESS/DIEU NALIO CHERY

California bag ban put on hold

California's first-in-the-nation statewide ban on plastic shopping bags was put on hold Feb. 24 when a trade group turned in enough signatures to place the issue before

voters in 2016.

The American Progressive Bag Alliance, which represents bag manufacturers, had about 50,000 more valid signatures than the 505,000 needed to qualify the referendum

after a random sample of the signatures was tallied, said Bill Mabie, chief deputy for Secretary of State Alex Padilla.

The group had submitted more than 800,000 signatures at the end of last year.

Gov. Jerry Brown signed the bag ban last fall after one of the fiercest legislative battles of 2014, pitting bag-makers against environmentalists. It was scheduled to be phased in starting in July as a way to cut down on litter and protect marine life.

Brazil arrests lead deforester

Brazil has detained a landgrabber thought to be the Amazon's single biggest deforester, the country's environmental protection agency said.

The Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources said Ezequiel Antonio Castanha, who was detained Feb. 21 in the state of Para, Brazil operated a network that illegally seized federal lands, cut them and sold them to cattle grazers.

The agency blames the network for 20 percent of the deforestation in Brazil's Amazon in recent years, though the statement issued Feb. 23 did not provide the estimated scale of the devastation.

ISIS abducts Syrian Christians

The Islamic State militants struck before dawn, staging house-to-house raids in a cluster of villages nestled along the Khabur River in Northeastern Syria. They abducted at least 70 Christians — many of them women and children — while thousands of others fled to safer areas.

The captives' fates were unclear Feb. 24, a day after they were seized, and relatives said

mobile phone service was cut off and landlines also were not going through, adding to the fear and uncertainty about their loved ones. Fighting was reported in the area.

The Islamic State group has a history of killing captives, including foreign journalists, Syrian soldiers and Kurdish militiamen. Most recently, militants in Libya affiliated with the group released a video showing the beheading of 21 Egyptian Christians.

The group's bloody campaign in Syria and Iraq, where it seeks to form a self-styled caliphate, has repeatedly targeted religious minorities since it took control of a third of both countries. The United States and coalition of regional partners are conducting a campaign of airstrikes against the group.

Students arrested for MDMA

Four Wesleyan University students were arrested Feb. 24 in connection with a dozen hospitalizations among people who took a party drug known as MDMA.

The students were arrested on assorted drug charges, police said. The students have been suspended from the university, which is based in Middletown, Connecticut.

The charges against the students include possessing a controlled substance, illegally obtaining or supplying drugs, selling a hallucinogen and possessing drug paraphernalia.

Wesleyan President Michael Roth said the university takes drug distribution allegations seriously and is cooperating with authorities.

Ten Wesleyan students and two visitors received medical attention last weekend.

SOURCE: ASSOCIATED PRESS

College

Rochon to hold meeting about affordability plans

A special meeting about affordability initiatives will be held from 12:10–1 p.m. March 5 in Textor 102 and will be open to all students, faculty and staff. The meeting will also be webcast live.

President Tom Rochon said Ithaca College has developed initiatives in recent years in response to demographic shifts among high school graduating classes and the struggles with higher education cost. He said the initiatives have helped the college improve in respect to affordability, decreasing the rate of tuition increase from 5 to 6 percent per year to less than 3 percent per year in the last two budgets.

However, Rochon said these steps will not be enough to sustain educational excellence at the college and still put the college in a more competitive position with respect to price. In light of this, the meeting will build upon this idea and discuss moving forward in terms of commitment to cost control on behalf of students and their families. Rochon will present a plan of cost reduction steps that must be undertaken in order to meet these twin challenges.

Due to limited seating, students, faculty and staff wanting to attend the meeting must fill out an online form at ithaca.edu/president/marchmeeting/ to reserve a seat.

Those who are not able to reserve a seat and choose to view the

meeting via webcast will be able to submit questions in real-time. Rochon said he encourages campus community members to organize webcast viewing parties to help facilitate discussion of the priorities and initiatives presented in the meeting.

Symposium submissions due online by March 2

The online submission process for faculty sponsors to submit student presentations for the 18th Annual James J. Whalen Symposium will close March 2.

The symposium honors student research, scholarship and innovation with oral presentations, poster presentations and creative works by students from all academic programs, graduate and undergraduate. It will take place in the Campus Center on April 9.

Students interested in participating can contact their faculty collaborator to discuss submitting a proposal. Online proposal submissions will be accepted for presentations, performances, displays and other creative works, which can be a live performance or a work of visual and media art.

Submission information can be found on the Whalen Symposium website at ithaca.edu/sponsored-research/whalen/form/.

Traevana Byrd to leave college for new position

Traevana Byrd, associate counsel in the Office of Legal Affairs, has accepted a position as the

general counsel at Towson University in Towson, Maryland. Her last day at Ithaca College will be March 30.

A going-away reception will be held for Byrd from 4–6 p.m. March 17 in the Klingenstein Lounge in the Campus Center.

During her 14-year tenure at the college, Byrd has held positions as affirmative action and equal opportunity compliance officer, assistant legal counsel, equal opportunity compliance officer and the associate legal counsel. She has advised on diversity recruitment and retention efforts for faculty and staff, discussing the college's commitment to Title IX and managing discrimination investigations and institutional litigation. Byrd has held positions on several institutional committees and has served as a mentor to students, faculty and staff.

Jewish Studies Faculty Showcase to kick off

The Spring 2015 Jewish Studies Faculty Showcase will open with Klezmer: Jewish Roots Music, which will be hosted by Peter Rothbart, professor of music theory, history and composition in the James J. Whalen Center for Music, from 12:10–1 p.m. Feb. 26 in Clark Lounge in the Campus Center.

Rothbart, a composer, performer, writer, artist and teacher, is active as a composer in the acoustic and electroacoustic realms of music, with three Carnegie Hall premieres and an Armstrong Award for radio drama. He has written and

orchestrated for the Utah Shakespearean Festival during their Tony-Award winning year. He has also completed five film scores and his classical works have been published by the Lorenz Corporation, Seesaw Music Publishers and the International Trumpet Guild.

Four students receive J.J. Staff Scholar Award

The J.J. Staff Scholar Award Committee announced the four Ithaca College staff members who received the J.J. Staff Scholar Award for the spring semester.

These recipients include freshman Gary Goss, a business administration major who works

in facilities; junior Christine Gregory, a student in the M.S. Communications program who works as assistant director of music admissions in the James J. Whalen Center for Music; junior Erin Mahon, an anthropology major who works at Information Technology Services; and sophomore Karenn Reeter, a student in the Applied Psychology/Pre-MBA program who works in the library.

Those seeking more information can contact Barbie Bargher, assistant director of student financial services; Denise Duve, assistant director of the Campus Store; Bernard Hogben, access services manager; or Mary Knapp, enterprise applications developer.



Ring in the Chinese New Year

From left, freshman Chuang Li on piano and senior Wenbo Li on clarinet perform "Horse Racing" at the Chinese New Year Concert that took place at 7 p.m. Feb. 21 in the Hockett Family Recital Hall.

JENNIFER WILLIAMS/THE ITHACAN

CORRECTIONS

It is *The Ithacan's* policy to correct all errors of fact. Please contact the editor at 274-3207.

In the Feb. 19 issue, the photo for the article, "SGA addresses survey process," incorrectly stated that the date of the photo was Feb. 16. The photo was taken Dec. 1, 2014.

Got a news tip?

Contact the News Editor at ithacaneews@gmail.com or 274-3207.

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College sponsors second Women Leaders Series

BY YANE AHN
STAFF WRITER

Ithaca College is holding its second Women Leaders Series from Feb. 21 to March 21, a month of workshops and discussions designed to provide learning opportunities for women who are in or want to be in positions of power.

Michele Lenhart, director of Student Leadership and Involvement in the Office of Student Engagement and Multicultural Affairs, said it is the goal of the Women Leaders Series to help women identify their leadership voice and express themselves in the way they want to, rather than how they think they should in a patriarchal society.

Though the series of workshops is in its second year, the college remains one of 12 college campuses to host Elect Her — Campus Women Win, a training program for women running for elective office and have students attend the Women in Leadership Experience retreat to Seneca Falls, New York, both for the third year in a row, Lenhart said. She said the college applies for the two programs through the American Association of University Women.

OSEMA funded the Elect Her event this year, whereas in the past the AAUW had sponsored it, Lenhart said.

“Our hope is that we might have funding to do it in the future, but we aren’t sure that we’ll have funding to do it again,” Lenhart said.

Elect Her, which took place in the Klingenstein Lounge on Feb. 21, was a 4-hour-long training session for women interested in running for leadership positions. Tara Andrews, the Elect Her facilitator



Tara Andrews, the Elect Her facilitator from the American Association of University Women speakers bureau, led exercises that emulated the development of a campaign as part of the Women Leaders Series.

AMANDA DEN HARTOG/THE ITHACAN

from the AAUW speakers bureau, led the exercises that emulated the development of a campaign. Martha Robertson, congressional candidate and Tompkins County Legislator, spoke on her experience running for U.S. Congress. The event also featured a panel that included women currently involved in the Student Government Association, including seniors Crystal Kayiza, Ayesha Patel and Sam Gibble, and sophomore Kaitlin Logsdon. Courtney Brown '14, an integrated marketing communications graduate who works at Imagitas, a marketing consultant company in Massachusetts, also spoke about how to deliver a campaign message to an audience.

Katie Hellmann, residence director of Eastman and Lyon Halls,

has played an active role in expanding the Women Leaders Series. Hellmann said she focused on engaging more students on the intersectionality of gender and other aspects of their identities.

Hellman and Lenhart are facilitating events on their own and in collaboration with several students, including sophomores Rachel Gray, Allie Latini, Katrina Clark and Sarah Logsdon; junior Samantha Guter; and senior Grace Schroeder.

Topics will include the meaning of feminism, female representation in positions of power, the intersection of religion and gender and specific workshops preparing women for the workplace.

The Women Leaders Series will conclude with Women in

Leadership Experience on March 21 in Seneca Falls, New York. The retreat’s theme for this year is “Busting Stereotypes” and will offer an opportunity of networking and discussion among participants, including a trip to the Women’s Rights National Historical Park and Museum, according to the OSEMA page. Preregistration opened Feb. 1, but Lenhart said all seats were filled by Feb. 10.

Hellmann said she hopes people will have a better understanding of themselves after attending these events.

“I hope that women leave educated on either new issues or how to take better care of themselves, or have the opportunity to explore their own identity,” Hellmann said.

Women Leaders Series

February 26 7-8p.m.

Taking Ownership of the F-word
Taughanock Falls Room

February 27 7-8:30p.m.

Miss Representation Film Screening
Textor 103

March 2 6-7p.m.

Women of Faith Panel
Clark Lounge

March 4 11a.m.-2p.m.

Women’s Wellness Fair
Campus Center North Foyer

March 4 3-4p.m.

Femme Finance
Clark Lounge

March 4 4-5p.m.

How Remarkable Women Lead
Taughanock Falls Room

March 5 12:10-1p.m.

How to ask for it— Negotiate for What you Want
Ithaca Falls Room

March 16 11a.m.-3p.m.

Natural Beauty Day
Campus Center

March 16 4-5p.m.

Viral Feminism
Ithaca Falls Room

March 18 4-5p.m.

Women & Work: Taking Charge of your Career Success
Career Services Room

March 18 9p.m.

Open Mic Night
Clark Lounge

March 21

Women in Leadership Experience

New York senator visits Ithaca elementary school

BY KYLE STEWART
STAFF WRITER

New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand voiced her support Feb. 23 for healthier food standards in schools as well as providing nutritious meals to more children during the summer.

Speaking at Beverly J. Martin Elementary School on West Buffalo Street, Gillibrand stood with a group of fifth graders as she addressed the upcoming debate over the Child Nutrition and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children Reauthorization process. The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act is set to expire in September, so Gillibrand is pushing for an increase in the nutritional levels of school meals before the renewal process begins.

“As we prepare to debate child-nutrition standards, we need to make serving healthy food at our schools a priority,” Gillibrand said.

Gillibrand spoke on the history of providing nutritious school lunches, starting with the National School Lunch Act of 1945, signed into law by President Harry Truman.

“Kids back then were starving because of not

enough calories,” Gillibrand said. “They could not get enough food. Today, many kids are starving because they don’t have nutritious food.”

Gillibrand also addressed the Summer Meals Act, which she hopes to expand to provide more children healthy food during the summer at both educational and enrichment programs. The legislation would also provide children with transportation to meal sites. According to a press release from Gillibrand’s office, the act would lower the threshold to allow areas with 40 percent or more of students receiving free or reduced lunch to be eligible for the program, rather than the current threshold of 50 percent.

Travis Brooks, Greater Ithaca Activities Center program administrator, said over the past 10 years, he has noticed children coming to summer programs hungry in the morning. He emphasized the importance of providing meals for all children who qualify.

“When you’re fortunate and you can provide breakfast, lunch and dinner to your family, I think sometimes you forget that there are so many families that



New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand speaks to fifth graders Feb. 23 at Beverly J. Martin Elementary School about issues surrounding the standards for healthy foods in schools.

KYLE STEWART/THE ITHACAN

can’t do that,” Brooks said.

Natasha Thompson, president of the Food Bank of the Southern Tier, said children receive breakfast and lunch during the school year but miss those meals during the summer if they are not enrolled in a camp or enrichment program.

“What a lot of folks don’t know is that nearly 40 percent of the people we serve through our member

agencies are children ages 18 and younger,” Thompson said. “What we’ve noticed is that a lot of our pantries see a spike during the summertime.”

Amie Hamlin, executive director of the New York Coalition for Healthy School Food, said she is encouraged by Gillibrand’s efforts.

“With the last Child Nutrition Reauthorization

Act, Sen. Gillibrand asked for 77 cents extra for lunch, and they only ended up getting 6 cents extra for lunch,” Hamlin said.

Gillibrand said she will continue to be a supporter for more nutritious food in schools.

“Kids get it,” Gillibrand said. “They fully understand this issue. They know what’s good for them, but unfortunately Washington doesn’t.”

Board grants tenure status

BY KAYLA DWYER
NEWS EDITOR

The Ithaca College Board of Trustees decided on which professors would receive tenure, promotion to associate professor status and emeritus status at its February meeting in New York City.

Retired faculty members who were named professor emeritus include Jeff Claus, who retired in 2013 from the Department of Education, and Stephen Hilbert and Dani Novak, who both retired in 2014 from the Department of Mathematics.

Lynn Gitlow, associate professor of occupational therapy, was awarded tenure.

The board of trustees awarded tenure and a promotion from assistant to associate professor to the following faculty members: Peter Martin from the Department of Education, Wei Zhang from the Department of Finance and International Business, Emilie Wiesner from the Department of Mathematics, Steven Gordon from the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies, Elizabeth Berglund Hall from the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Michael Titlebaum from the Department of Performance Studies, Wendy Dann from the Department of Theatre Arts and Eleanor Henderson from the Department of Writing.

KOBBY FROM PAGE 1

us in so many ways. As Ithaca College students, it gives us more purpose than simply being students on a conveyor belt, comfortable in oppression. We walked out today because we believe all lives matter, no matter who we are, and that we must be treated with dignity.”

Kobby is behind Young, staring out into the crowd. He stands humbly, hands folded in front of him as he leans against one of the low walls that circle Free Speech Rock. He is quiet. It is not yet his time. When she finishes speaking, he takes the microphone from her.

“We hear you, we cherish you, we hear your stories,” he says into it. The crowd chants it back with him. “We hear you, we cherish you, we hear your stories.”



It is 2000. The town is called Legon, and it is just outside the major city of Accra, Ghana, one of the first Sub-Saharan African nations to win its own independence in 1957. With a population of more than 2 million, Accra is Ghana's capital and largest city. But North Legon is different.

The University of Ghana is situated just up the hill, standing as a pillar of influence since 1948. The area holds a constant buzz and hum of activity typical of a college town, mixed with a peacefulness lended by the backdrop of soft mountain ranges and blue skies. The morning air smells crisp. North Legon generates an aura of friendliness not seen in the U.S. People are on the street, warm and welcoming; the locals all know each other. The kids hang out at Adjei Mensah Supermarket on the corner after school, talking to the owner. He sometimes gives them snacks, free of charge.

Kobby is 7 years old. His two parents, a mother who is a Ghanaian diplomat and a father who is a financial analyst and the CEO of a technology company, are each one of seven children. Kobby grew up with his family. Family and their stories — Kobby said stories are part of being Akan, a West African cultural group.

“In the Akan tradition, storytelling is an important part of family life,” Kobby said. “So my grandfather would always tell these stories, whether real or not they were so fascinating. But I remember vividly one story my grandfather told us, or a couple of stories. It was about Ghana and its history.”

Everyone is together today: Kobby, his older sister Emelia, his younger brother Kojo and a nearly uncountable number of aunts, uncles and cousins. Kobby's grandfather sits at the center of attention. He usually mesmerizes the children with fun stories about life and history, but it will not be a lighthearted tale this time around. This will be a chilling story, one to teach a lesson: Things are not always just.

The story begins in 1981. Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings has seized power of Ghana through a military and civilian revolt, replacing Lieutenant General Fred Akuffo. During Rawlings' regime, Ghana would come to bend to what is now known as “the culture of silence.” The decade was marked by the intimidation of the press and widespread fearmongering, used to keep people in control. People are anxious. They cannot breathe. This is a dark time.



From left, Kobby's grandfather, Nana Adae-Bosomptra; his brother, Kojo; his sister, Emelia; and Kobby stand together in Ghana near the hills of Aburi, another suburb of Accra.

COURTESY OF EVELIA LARTEY



From right, Kobby; his father, Steven Lartey; his mother, Jennifer; his sister, Emelia; and his brother Kojo pose for a family photo in Delhi, India.

COURTESY OF STEVEN KOBBY LARTEY

During his lifetime in Ghana, Kobby would not see these kinds of atrocities, he would not live with the same fear.

“I was always running around always being, just living life, so as a kid I was like, ‘What? people were not allowed to do these things? They weren't allowed to talk?’” Kobby said. But Kobby is 7 years old. His young mind realizes that there is something not quite right about what his grandfather is saying, but he has yet to learn the words to say it.

The story sits in the back of his mind, compartmentalized for the time being. He has to go play market with his sister. They use leaves from the tree in their front yard as currency and pretend to be at the fish shop.

The story of a militarized Ghana would sit and wait for the right moment, along with all the other stories of oppression he would hear as he got older. Somewhere in that timeline, a phrase would be introduced. A chant. A callback.

“Amandla, Awethu,” born out of anti-Apartheid movements in South Africa during the 1940s, a time when millions were forced into segregation — the largest relocation in modern history. A time when armed police officers would forcibly enter homes, load the residents up onto big government trucks and leave. A time when people had to carry around special passes depending on their ethnic background, much like slaves of the area did in the 1800s. A time when blacks could not own businesses in designated “white” districts without special permission. A time when interracial marriage was illegal. A time that did not end until 1994. The phrase means “Power to the people” in Zulu.



It is 2015. Kobby walks past Textor Hall at Ithaca College. He's on his way to the third floor of Friends Hall for one of his classes. As a legal

studies major, most of his courses are either in Friends or the business school. If he were in Ghana, the temperature would be a warm and rainy 88 degrees, but here in Ithaca it's only in the 20s. A foot of powdered snow has covered the ground, soon to be followed by another foot in a couple of days.

Kobby keeps comfortable under cardigans and infinity scarves. He's not usually one for cold, but today he lightheartedly jokes about a transformation.

“It's so warm out today,” he says, his pace leisurely. He still has nearly 10 minutes before his class begins. “I never thought I would be one to think 25 degrees is warm, you know how I am about the cold.” As he walks, he waves and says hello to people he knows, occasionally stopping to briefly discuss a meeting or event. People are personable with him, as if they've been friends since childhood. It almost seems as if he knows everyone on campus, but he just has that kind of personality.

“As a kid I always enjoyed listening to conversations and listening to people and listening to things and watching things and reading things,” Kobby said. That is partially why he went into the legal field. To learn. To listen. He watched his first election in Ghana when he was still in elementary school.

Back in North Legon, he and his siblings would hang out with the owner of the Adjei Mensah Supermarket. He was a 70-year-old man, and much like Kobby's grandfather, he would tell historical stories about Ghanaian government. Even though he was only in the third grade, Kobby would have debates with him.

“I was always taking these stories and interested by members of parliament who would speak up and have their voice heard, because my grandfather always asked us to be mindful that, growing up, we had people who pushed for systems, pushed against systems, pushed for democracy, pushed for freedom of speech.”

His sister, Emelia, now a 22-year-old Marist College graduate working for a creative branding startup in New York City, says back home everyone calls him “Mr. President.” It's just a joke, yet she said there's still an underlying feeling that maybe it isn't.

“A lot of families will say, ‘Oh yeah, this guy's definitely going to be a president,’” Emelia said. “But he's actually one that, if you ask, eight out of 10 people will say, ‘Well, I think he actually is going to be the president.’”

Emelia can't help but laugh when she talks about her younger brother; her voice is warm and full of the kind of love only an older sibling can have. The kind of someone who knows you and what you've become.

“He's my little brother, but if you ask any of my friends, he's my biggest inspiration,” she said. “I always try to do more, and I always try to think of how to be an activist, because he inspires me

to do that.”

She, too, recalled the stories their grandfather would tell them back in Ghana. About inequality and the culture of silence. About speaking out and having a voice. But now she's hearing those words somewhere else. Somewhere closer.

“Kobby, now when I have conversations with him, they sound just like that, like when we used to sit down and listen to my granddad talk.”

He has developed the same consciousness as their grandfather had, yet Emelia believes he was always ahead of his time, always thinking about others and about the bigger picture. Yet also never forgetting those closest to him.

“The only thing I want for him is to be true to himself and keep doing what he's doing,” she said. “Because he's been doing it our whole lives.”

On his left wrist, Kobby wears a set of three bracelets. He wears them every day — maybe not always the same arrangement, but they have been a daily part of his look for years. For longer than he can remember. Made of recycled glass,

they are hand-painted in warm oranges and yellows, flecked with light greens and navy blues. The patterns vary: stripes, solids, squares. He looks at them fondly, running his fingers along the beads as he speaks.

“For me, it's to remember where

I came from and the depth of the creative mind of the people there, and of course the beauty,” he said. “And also for other folks to know that there's more to Africa and there's more to Ghana than is often portrayed ... I like to keep it on me because, again, it grounds me. Too often when I'm wearing everything Western, if you want to call it that, I want to have something that reminds me of those things.”



Eleven hours. Eleven hours and 5,260 miles over an expanse of Atlantic ocean. Kobby is 11 years old, and he is leaving Ghana. His mother has been relocated to the U.S. and is taking Kobby and his siblings with her.

He sits in his single seat in the airplane. He is not nervous to fly; they have taken long trips before. But in the back of his mind and in the pit of his stomach, Kobby knew this would be an entirely different experience that he never before could imagine.

“I remember at 11 our parents telling us, ‘Your mom is being posted’ — that's the language — ‘posted in D.C. as a diplomat,’” Kobby said. “So we were like, ‘OK, what does that mean? I guess we're going to America.’ So America became this thing, this sort of shadowy notion, until we got here.”

Kobby would enroll in a public school in Maryland with his siblings. Emelia said adjusting to their new life was hard at first, mainly because of the culture shock. People knew little about



“He's my little brother, but if you ask any of my friends, he's my biggest inspiration. I always try to do more, and I always try to think of how to be an activist, because he inspires me to do that.”

—Emelia Lartey”



About 200 Ithaca College students walked out of their 1 p.m. classes as part of the nationwide Hands Up Walk Out demonstration on Dec. 1, 2014.

TOMMY BATTISTELLI/THE ITHACAN



From left, Kobby, seniors Kayla Young and Crystal Kayiza, and sophomore Vin Manta hang up a sign at the "Hands Up Walk Out" rally on Dec. 1, 2014.

TOMMY BATTISTELLI/THE ITHACAN

where she and her brothers came from, having only stereotypes of what they thought Africa was to go on.

After Kobby's freshman year in high school, his mother would finish her duties in the U.S. and would be leaving back to Ghana. But Kobby and his siblings would not go back with her. Instead, they will enroll in boarding school. There are boarding schools in Ghana — ones that were established when missionaries used to travel through the country — yet they decided as a family it would be better for them to remain in the U.S. because they believed there would be better opportunities here. That didn't make things easier.

"It was tough, it was difficult," Kobby said of the permanent move. "It was like your whole world was suddenly different."



It is Dec. 1, 2014. The sky is cloudy, and the air is cold. A crowd is growing as Kobby stands on the raised platform. Some 200 Ithaca College students walked out of their 1 p.m. classes as agents in a nationwide protest.

Kobby pauses a moment. The air is heavy with charged energy. This is a crowd that is angry — angry, and passionate.

The crowd grows silent between speakers. In the front, closest to Kobby, a group of black women is huddled together. Maybe they're friends, maybe they're not. But they're crying. Gloved hands wipe the tears from their cheeks and eyes as the cold bites the trails, leaving a mean sting.

But they don't leave. Others have, and as time ticks on, more will. But they don't.

There is a bitterness that can be felt. A swelling of the heart reflected in every person standing outside that day, who decided to take a stand for something more.

"It basically means being a human being," Kobby said later. "I don't think that you're really fully a human being if you don't have some kind of connection to something bigger and better than yourself. That can mean someone else, that can mean something else. It's not really an option. At least for me it's not really an option."

The winter wind whips the air as Kobby raises a single arm to the sky.



At Ithaca College, Kobby is minoring in African Diaspora Studies and International Politics. Kobby said the classes he's taken at the college, both in the Center for the Study of Culture, Race and Ethnicity and in the School of Business, are essential for sparking dialogue about issues of inequality and awareness.

"Classes like that really created the framework and allowed us to have the political, emotional, and I think in many ways spiritual imagination to think of the world as it should be, as opposed to how it exists right now," Kobby said. "There's a saying called Sankofa, and it's to go back and retrieve. That you can't understand where you are or where you're going if you can't understand where you came from: the past."

Kobby specifically cited the

Gender, Race and Economic Power course he took freshman year in the economics department, as well as courses with Sean Eversley Bradwell, assistant professor in the CSCRE, but he has ensured these types of conversations happen outside of the classroom. His freshman year, he lived in Terrace 3, which at that time was the housed the Housing Offering a Multicultural Experience program. He is now president of the college's African Students Association, where he has helped focus the club on tensions and the diaspora between the African continent and the rest of the world globally. Awareness is the goal of the ASA, and a goal of Kobby's.

Matt Mogeckwu is the chair of the journalism department and also the current faculty adviser for the ASA. He said before he became the faculty adviser of the organization, he would occasionally attend its meetings and follow along with its progress. Being from Nigeria and having been involved in ASA-like groups on other campuses, it was only natural to continue the trend here. From that, he has gotten to know Kobby over the last couple of years.

"He is a very articulate guy," Mogeckwu said. "I used to call him — I still call him — 'Ambassador Plenipotentiary' because he has this air about him that gives that impression ... he's very knowledgeable about things, around here and about where he comes from, and is always ready to educate people about it."



Fifteen-year-old Kobby is at a new students ceremony for Choate Rosemary Hall, a private, Connecticut-located boarding school and preparatory academy. As the school's alma mater plays, he looks back. His aunt is in the crowd. She is crying. She is crying for all the new opportunities he and his siblings will have in the U.S. that they might not have gotten back home. When Kobby thinks back on it, he laughs.

Kobby walks on the 458-acre campus of Choate. Before arriving here, Kobby went to John F. Kennedy High School in Maryland. He now walks

the same halls Kennedy once walked before he graduated from Choate in 1935. Kennedy is one of the school's most notable alumni, along with 11 U.S. ambassadors and at least one Nobel Prize winner.

Choate is marked by its old architecture, giving clues to its age. It was founded in 1890, and the buildings lean heavily toward colonial revival. Red brick walls are accented with white pillars around doorframes and white window trimmings, the insides are a mix of creamy plasters and rich wood paneling.

"I think there was something about Choate, something that Choate made you feel once you entered," Kobby said. "Mrs. Mitchell, she's passed away recently, she was like the secretary at the front desk, she made us feel like we belonged. That it was home."

But his time there was not always easy. As a shy student, Kobby said it was initially difficult for him to open up to people. His very first interaction at Choate was with his headmaster.

"That I made the headmaster laugh was kind of interesting," Kobby said. "As a shy boy I was like, 'What? I made him laugh? How did I make him laugh, I'm not funny.' But again, I was shy, I was a little bit quiet, I was still trying to figure out what it meant to be myself and be by myself."

But Kobby would find himself in time. After a failed run-in with some sports teams — "I tried out for

football. That didn't work out. I was like, 'Why are people hitting each other? What is this hitting they're doing?'" — Kobby would find his place in Choate's Student Government Association, Africa Club and in creating a community service advisory board.

During Kobby's time there, he would rise to be a prefect during his senior year and would go back as a teaching intern in the summer of 2014. Eera Sharma, the director of summer programs at Choate, said while Kobby was an intern he was able to garner respect from the students, something she said is usually very difficult. Because of the closeness in age between high school students and college students — sometimes as few as four years — it can be hard to be seen as a person of authority and not just a friend. But Kobby didn't have this problem, easily being able to play both roles.

This may be due to his tendency to see the good in everyone. Eric Stahura, one of Kobby's teachers and advisers while at Choate, said Kobby was always one for optimism.

"He looked at life with idealized and optimistic lenses. Even when he was 15 years old he wanted to make the world a better place," Stahura said. "But he was especially going to start with Ghana because there were so many things that needed improvement, and he wanted to do that through government, through political channels."

At Choate, the curricula follow the Socratic method. Desks are arranged in large circles, and students have discussions — not lectures — with their teachers.

"I remember one moment that really resonated with me was when we read Dr. King's letter from Birmingham jail, and I was like, 'That man can write,'" Kobby said. "And he could write because there was a humanity in his voice. There was something coming out of the paper and grabbing you and telling you 'You need to read this' and I said, 'I hope one day I can be even half of that'"



About 40 Ithaca College students gather in Williams Hall Room 202 on Feb. 4. The Collective is holding a talk for its Assata Shakur Series, a discussion series aimed at examining instances of inequality and how some people have been fighting against oppressive systems. The Collective is the name given to a group of students on campus, whose goal is to have meaningful discussions among the college community about systemic violence and institutionalized inequality.

"We didn't really call ourselves anything, but we wanted to organize some sort of demonstration to kind of relay the things that we were experiencing at home," Kayiza said. "I think the name The Collective happened because people kept asking, 'What student org are you with?' 'What student org are you with?' So we just needed a name to the people involved."

Continued on page 6



Kobby said his bracelets remind him of home and the places he's come from. He's worn a combination of them every day since his move to the U.S.

TOMMY BATTISTELLI/THE ITHACAN

Last semester, these students organized a number of demonstrations on campus to promote awareness of instances of injustice.

"It's clear to me that they are thinking seriously about a range of political issues and are also interrogating their own politics every step of the way," Asma Barlas, professor in the CSCRE, said. "I should also say that, in my 23 years at IC, the action last semester was the largest political protest on this campus. I found it simply amazing for that reason alone. I'm also impressed with how clearly the students in The Collective understand the nature of structural oppression."

Kobby walks into Room 202, briefly glancing around before taking a seat at the far end near the wall. As he takes off his scarf, his usual tan infinity scarf, he says hello to individual people he knows in the crowd — which happens to be the majority of them. But soon it's time to be serious. He crosses a leg over his knee and places his hand under his chin, listening as Kayiza begins to talk about black representation in the news media.

Kobby took part in the group's previous demonstrations and has kept himself in the loop this semester. He will always be engaged in discussions about inequality, whether on a global scale or specifically looking at the U.S. He has no other option.

"I have no choice but to be engaged: I'm an African living in America," Kobby said. "There's something about that experience that pushes you to be engaged, and my folks always taught me — my grandpa and my mom — you have to really constantly understand the world while seeking to better yourself. My interest started off by what can I do to better myself, and how does that transfer to pushing for something or demanding for something?"

But it is not only Kobby pushing for long overdue answers, pushing for the dialogue that has spent so long being suppressed to come forward among the campus community. It is every member of The Collective. Every student who participated in a protest. Every student who made their voice heard. Every student who stood up.

"One thing I hope people take away from these experiences these last two semesters is that anyone can create the change that they want to see on this campus," Kayiza said. "The Collective is a body of people that brings so many different things to the table, and I think that's why we've



From left, Kobby and journalism department chair Matthew Mogeckwu talk during The Collective's Deconstructing Media Tropes of Bodies of Color discussion held Feb. 4 in Williams Hall Room 202. Mogeckwu is the adviser of the African Students Association, of which Kobby is president.

TUCKER MITCHELL/THE ITHACAN

operated the way that we've done, and there's no leadership hierarchy, and it's not about who's in power and who's visible, it's just about a bunch of people who really care about an issue enough to say something about it."



The winter wind whips the air as Kobby raises a single arm to the sky.

"Amandla!" he cries out into the microphone. "Aweeeethu!" 200 Ithaca College students and faculty yell back at him.

"You can do it louder than that," Kobby says to them. "If we're loud enough, maybe the sun

will come out." The crowd laughs lightly. The sky is dark and crisp and shows no sign of changing. Kobby presses on. "Come on. I want them to hear us all the way across campus. All the way in Terrace Dining Hall, people need to know that we are here. AMAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAANDLA!"

"AWEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEETHU!" The students are screaming it now, and the sound reverberates through the open quad.

Amandla, Awethu. Steeped in a history of fighting oppression, the phrase means "Power to the people" in Zulu.

Amandla, Awethu. The phrase is still used today as a rallying cry for those fighting against oppression. To fight against cultures of silence.

Two-hundred Ithaca College students scream the phrase at the top of their lungs, and the clouds suddenly begin to break. First one ray, then two. A patch of sunlight streaks through the sky and onto the crowd.

The students had had enough of talking, so something was started that day. A call to action. A call for change. Two-hundred Ithaca College students came together for something more than themselves, their shadows lost and unified into one. They are a moving force — a force of voices. Voices that will not be silenced.

Kobby looks up. He smiles. "See, I told you we could make the sun come out."

Ithaca part-time faculty choose not to participate in walkout

BY AIDAN QUIGLEY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Adjuncts and part-time professors at colleges and universities across the country organized a national walkout event Feb. 25, but Ithaca College's part-time faculty did not participate.

The "National Adjunct Walkout Day" was an idea originally proposed in October 2014 by an adjunct professor at San Jose State University, according to Inside Higher Education. The day included walkouts, teach-ins to educate campus communities about adjunct working conditions and grade-ins, in which adjunct professors did work outdoors to raise awareness for lack of office space. Some participants wore T-shirts to identify themselves as adjuncts and protested for higher wages and better working conditions. The informal event was organized through social media, particularly on Tumblr and Facebook, and gathered participants from institutions like Emerson College, Boston College and Ohio State University.

Brody Burroughs, a lecturer in the art department at the college and one of the organizers of the recent unionization movement, said the college's part-time faculty would not be participating.

"Given where we are in the process of working toward unionization — a constructive, long-term action — a walkout demonstration at this time would be counterproductive to our effort," he said.

Rachel Kaufman, a lecturer in the writing department, said the organizing committee for the union effort advised part-time faculty members at the college not to participate. Instead, she said their recommendation was for them to talk to their classes about the issue.

"They are encouraging us to talk to our students about why Walkout Day is happening and just let them know that their professors are adjuncts and open up a discussion about the kinds of issues at their school and in their community," she said.

In response to the reasoning for National Adjunct Walkout Day, James Eavenson, a lecturer in the Department of Health Promotion and Physical Education, said his opinion is that though administrations have a responsibility to make the system financially viable for all who contribute their time and effort to teaching, it is not a career that a person chooses if they want to get rich.

"How we get 'paid' in our professions is the sense of contribution, by solving the problems, by bettering the worse, by seeing the smile and immersion in the student's accomplishments and inspirations," he said.

While he said this is not cause for administrations to disregard their responsibility to make the system financially viable for all who contribute their time and effort to teaching, money is not the reason to enter any profession.

Burroughs said he hoped people on the college's campus would be discussing some of the issues raised by the publicity of the day.

"We hope people will be talking about the issues that affect the lives of contingent faculty and our experience in the workplace," he said.

However, Burroughs said the college's part-time faculty are in solidarity with adjuncts who participated around the country.

"We stand with our colleagues across the country as adjuncts and their allies demonstrate — be it a walkout or a teach-in — the need for action," he said.



Making connections

From left, freshman Quaine Joseph speaks to Brian Delaney and Eric Nichols from PSP Unlimited, a printing and graphic design marketing consulting company and screen printer located in Ithaca, at the Job and Internship Fair on Feb. 25 in Emerson Suites.

MATT GURBARG/THE ITHACAN

FUNDRAISING

GIVING FROM PAGE 1

College Annual Fund, said social media is an essential tool in encouraging peer-to-peer requests for giving. The hashtag #ICGivingDay is being used to publicize the event.

"The entire effort is electronic, social media based," he said. "It's very different when a peer asks you to give. Part of the social media effort is to make this more peer-to-peer: a student asking a fellow student, a parent asking a fellow parent and an alumnus asking a fellow alumnus."

There are hourly challenges and contests that will pit each school against one another, rewarding the individual schools with donation money for those that draw the most participation among its constituents. The college will also gift wrap the Textor Ball, and President Tom Rochon will be appearing in a promotional video with students.

Biehn said historically, alumni participation has been a challenge for the college, so the administration looked into strategies used by other schools to solicit donations.

"We need to think innovatively in order to help alumni participation grow at a more rapid pace," he said. "We looked at what other institutions have done, and one of the concepts is this highly focused 24-hour period with outreach on social media and volunteer groups to increase our number of alumni donors and lead to greater alumni participation."

Data from the Council for Aid to Education's Voluntary Support of Education survey show that the alumni participation rate at the college in the 2014 fiscal year was 7 percent. Biehn said the college aims to get the alumni participation rate up to 20 percent by 2020, as a part of the IC 20/20 initiative.

"We have to move forward substantially this year to eventually get to the 20 percent," he said.

Alex Cammy, student director for the alumni association board of directors for Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow, said it is important for students to contribute.

"I'm going to be giving on Thursday because it's very important to give back and to know what you are giving to," he said. "Tuition only covers 85 percent of the costs at Ithaca College, and it's very important to realize what we get from the institution."

Since the institution is pushing for a high number of donors, de la Fuente said even small gifts matter as they start a habit of donating money back to the college.

"Part of why we are doing this giving day is to raise awareness that \$5 and \$10 gifts matter to us," he said. "Without



Ithaca College President Tom Rochon shouts in front of the Textor Ball as part of a promotional video released in support of the first IC Giving Day, a 24-hour period dedicated to encouraging students, faculty, staff and alumni to donate to the college.

COURTESY OF ITHACA

students and young alumni making \$10 gifts, \$50 gifts and \$100 gifts, getting larger, transformational gifts later in life is very difficult. We appreciate their philanthropy at every level, and it transforms and grows."

Junior Allison Kubit said she had heard about IC Giving Day but was not planning on participating.

"Especially as a current student who pays a lot of money, I don't have any money [to donate] because they have already taken it all from me," she said.

Biehn said students are encouraged to donate even if it's only a small donation.

"We realize for a student, five bucks is a lot of money," he said. "But if someone makes a donation of five bucks, it makes a difference in the overall number of donors, which releases a \$226,000 gift from alumni."

Biehn said some of the special alumni donors reached out to him expressing interest, and he contacted others he thought would be interested in being in the group. If the number of donors hits 953, referring to the address of the college, the alumni group will donate \$100,000 more than the initial \$226,000 to

reach \$326,000. If the number of donors hits 1,480, the group of alumni will donate an additional \$100,000 for a total of \$426,000. Biehn said the alumni group is willing to donate up to \$500,000, the other \$74,000 being donated to the specific schools that win challenges and the school which acquires the most gifts. For example, the school with the most parent donors between 1 and 2 p.m. will get a donation of \$2,000.

Biehn said these alumni realize the importance of giving. "They've all been involved in the college both as philanthropists and people who care deeply about moving the college forward in a strategic way," he said. "They all rose to the challenge."

De la Fuente said students should also realize the importance of giving to the college.

"Students are investing their lives in an IC degree, and this is all about moving IC forward for our students," he said. "The more support the institution can have, the better that is going to be for their Ithaca College experience and for the next students who come along. They should participate because they have a vested interest in this college being successful."

ALUMNI FROM PAGE 1

operation long term."

Savage said the college had hoped to receive contributions from a few major donors this year that did not materialize because it takes longer to work out the details of large gifts.

"We have been in conversation with some major donors that we had anticipated would be finalized in fiscal year 2014, but that just didn't happen, for a variety of reasons, which is not that uncommon," Savage said. "Some of them have been given during the current [2015] fiscal year. We are currently over 50 percent ahead of dollars raised for fiscal year 2015, which can be attributed to gifts from these donors and others."

Savage said he is most excited by the success of the Annual Fund, which raised \$1.4 million from 7,980 donors. This was a \$272,547 increase over last year, a 2.6-percent increase. Donations to the Annual Fund are considered gifts to the college as a whole, Savage said, describing the fund as a stream of revenue that offsets the gap between tuition and the Ithaca College experience.

"The success of the Annual Fund is the big headline," Savage said. "Only a few years ago we were raising \$850,000 annually. Now we are at \$1.4 million and expect to raise \$1.5 million this year."

The percentage of alumni participating has decreased in the past 10 years, following a national trend. This decrease is due to a greater number of alumni of record per student, Kaplan said. She said the number of alumni of record per student compares the number of accurate addresses of alumni a school has compared to the number of students enrolled. The number of alumni of record per student is 11 at the college, greater than the national average of eight.

The percent of alumni participation decreases when colleges improve alumni records, which has been made easier by more advanced technology. While the college's alumni participation increased from 6.9 percent in 2013 to 7 percent in 2014, it has decreased dramatically from 14.4 percent

in 2004.

"The institution can be making a real push to find lost alumni and the more they find, the lower their percentage will be," Kaplan said. "But it's good for them to keep having more and more records. In that way Ithaca is doing better than average."

The 2015 Senior Class Gift Committee established a goal of having 560 senior class donors, or is 40 percent of the class, co-chair Hannah Oppenheim said. The monetary goal this year is \$10,640, and the IC Alumni Association Board of Directors will donate \$75 per senior who contributes. Students donating to the senior class gift campaign can choose to direct their gift to the Annual Fund or to a specific school or program, Oppenheim said.

"Seniors can allocate their gift to where it matters most to them, but the IC Annual Fund supports students across campus and has the greatest impact," Oppenheim said. "By giving to the Annual Fund, you are giving future students the opportunity to create their own unique IC experience, just as you did."

The 2014 Senior Class Gift Campaign raised \$10,889 in donations from 598 donors, which was 37.4 percent of their senior class.

Rob de la Fuente, director of the Annual Fund, said senior class participation declined in 2014, but was still the third-highest participation rate ever. The record for participation was set in 2013 with 38.8 percent of the senior class making contributions.

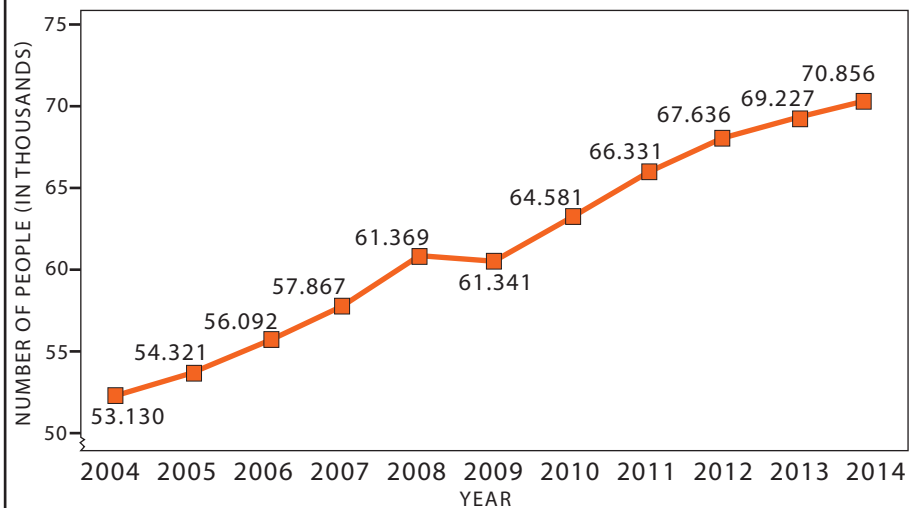
"It's impossible to guarantee, but given the trajectory that 2015 is taking I suspect they will set a new record," de la Fuente said.

Senior Ayesha Patel, who donated to the 2015 Senior Class Gift Campaign, said she thinks it is important for students to consider their financial situation and their experiences at the college when deciding to contribute.

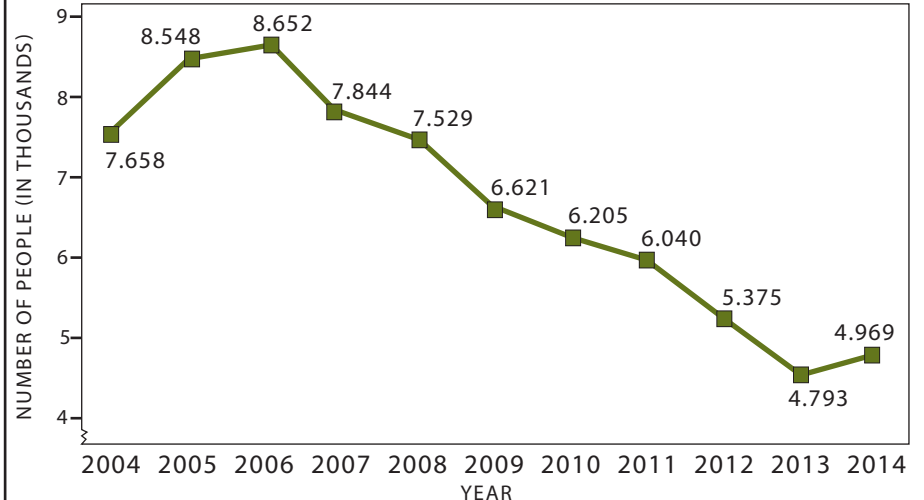
"For me, in the end it was remembering that the money I contribute could help a student have an experience that otherwise might not be there," Patel said. "I've had a great four years at Ithaca College filled with experiences that I know were in part made possible by donors, and I wanted to continue the cycle and contribute what I could to a current or future student's time at IC."

Savage said rebranding the Annual Fund

IC ALUMNI ON RECORD



IC ALUMNI WHO DONATE



SOURCE: COUNCIL FOR AID TO HIGHER EDUCATION THE OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

DESIGN: ALISON TEADORE

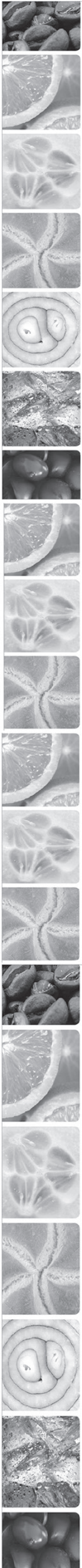
as the Ithaca College Annual Fund three years ago and more advanced soliciting techniques have led to the increase in donations.

"We have become much more sophisticated in how we solicit gifts to make it as personal as possible to resonate with the donor even more," Savage said.

De la Fuente said 602 students donated a total of \$11,287 in fiscal year 2014.

Savage stressed the importance of maintaining good relationships with the college's donors.

"We have been focusing on our stewardship of our donors, so once you make the gift, we acknowledge it," Savage said. "We are trying to do that in a much more timely fashion and a much more personable fashion, and I think that has an impact."



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IC professors teach Spanish filmmaking to students abroad

BY EVAN POPP
STAFF WRITER

“La Poderosa” translates to “powerful” in English, but for some Ithaca College Spanish professors, the phrase has another meaning.

Alejandra Zambrano, lecturer in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, is the founder and executive director of La Poderosa Media Project. The program facilitates filmmaking projects involving Spanish- and English-speaking students in collaboration. Zambrano said La Poderosa mainly operates in Ecuador, but has done workshops in Chile, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Argentina and the United States.

Every summer since 2009, La Poderosa has hosted a six-week session in Bahia de Caraquez, Ecuador, and added a four-week winter program in Chile in January 2013. Zambrano said each summer session usually culminates in two or three completed short films, which both the English- and Spanish-speaking students work on in the afternoons. The English-speaking students receive immersive Spanish instruction in the mornings.

The program is open for students ages 15–22, including college-age students from the United States and Canada as well as Latin America, but no prior filmmaking experience is necessary, Zambrano said.

La Poderosa is currently accepting applications for this summer's program in Ecuador, which runs from May 26 to July 4. Students have until March 15 to apply to receive up to six-credit hours through Stony Brook University. However, the priority deadline for those not applying to receive credit hours is



Alejandra Zambrano, lecturer in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, founded La Poderosa Media Project, which helps English- and Spanish-speaking students produce community-based films in Latin America.
CLARA O'CONNOR/THE ITHACAN

March 1. The application form can be found at <http://www.lapoderosa.org/#!application/cjdx>.

Senior Amanda Hutchinson and sophomore Vanessa O'Connor participated in a two-week La Poderosa program in Ecuador last summer. O'Connor said she and Hutchinson did a version of the program where they worked with other students to create ethnographic documentaries about food in the community of Bahia de Caraquez.

“The idea is to use technology to our advantage to preserve these traditions so that future generations of kids growing up in Bahia will

know how to prepare and cook and understand the cultural dimensions of this food,” she said.

O'Connor said for the documentary, her group featured a woman who made a kind of sausage called Morcilla. She said her group's film was more of a documentary than some of the other projects because the woman they followed sold her products in a market and didn't have time to explain how she made the sausages.

Zambrano said the idea for La Poderosa came when she was in graduate school at the University of Texas at Austin. She began a

pilot program in 2004 and in 2005 received a startup grant from Wellesley College, where she went for her undergraduate. In 2009, she said, the program added American and Canadian students to the fold.

“Since I was in grad school for literature and I liked all these ideas of storytelling and creating ways of expressing your ideas, I started developing a curriculum so that I could teach underserved high school students how to create stories,” Zambrano said.

Jorge Garcia Nunez, the curriculum director of La Poderosa and an assistant professor in the

Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, said La Poderosa has a specific methodology it uses to instruct students on how to make films and learn Spanish: complete Spanish immersion for non-native speakers and producing engaging lesson material.

“How can we create a curriculum that is not only theoretical but also practical in order to get young people in Latin America to finish a movie?” he asked. “I'm always trying to make the contents of the books and the manuals interesting.”

Zambrano said the organization teaches students all aspects of filmmaking, including writing skills, acting, directing and the technical aspects. However, she said La Poderosa places a special emphasis on writing, which the organizers view as an educational void in both American and Latin American schools.

The organization's logo is a motorcycle, which Zambrano said represents the idea of adventure and experiencing different cultures.

Last year, La Poderosa also produced a film in Ithaca directed by a La Poderosa student from Chile and in collaboration with Cornell University. Enrique Gonzalez-Conty, an assistant professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at Ithaca College and a Spanish instructor for La Poderosa two summers ago, said the film is called “La Larga Espera,” or “The Long Wait.”

Zambrano said La Poderosa has made more than 30 films and short documentaries in total, some of which have gone on to win several awards in local youth film competitions in Ecuador.

Students individualize educational experiences

BY AHANA DAVE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When junior Luke Heisinger graduates next year, his degree will say planned studies. However, his education will have been completely different from every other Ithaca College student's.

Heisinger first heard about the planned studies program freshman year as an exploratory major. His interest in helping others propelled him to tailor an international health, social engagement and communication degree, which, he said, combines three areas of public health, organizational management and intercultural communication.

He said one of the hardest parts about the process is picking out the different courses pertinent to the major and that will fit in time for graduation.

While many students create their own major through the program, others use the program as an outlet to pursue majors already existing at other colleges. As a sophomore exploratory major, senior Jacqueline Bilski decided on a degree in holistic psychology, which she said addresses the way the mind, body and spirit are all connected.

As a second-semester sophomore, senior psychology major Isabelle Glass decided to pursue educational studies, which she said analyzes the impact of social standing or cultural background on education.

Both holistic psychology and educational studies are offered as degrees at other undergraduate and graduate institutions.

Students interested in the program have to complete a rigorous application process and are encouraged to meet with Jerry Mirskin, associate professor and planned studies coordinator. As the coordinator of the program, he said his role is to help students develop a concrete proposal that reflects their interests and



From left, senior Jacqueline Bilski; Jerry Mirskin, coordinator of the planned studies program; and senior Isabelle Glass meet Feb. 18 to discuss the students' individualized curriculum plans.
AMANDA DEN HARTOG/THE ITHACAN

can be submitted to the deans of the academic areas that the student intends to pursue for the first round of review.

After the coordinator has received approvals from the department chairs, the application is brought to the planned studies advisory board, which approves the application unless the board finds the proposal can be met by combining an existing major with one or more minors. The board consists of 16 faculty and chairs from several departments.

Students are required to complete one year at the college to be eligible for the program, and they can start planning their proposal as early as their first year, but no later than the first semester of junior year. While each planned studies student has a unique curriculum, at the conclusion of the program, all of the students in the program graduate with a

degree in planned studies.

“I will be graduating this May with a B.A. in planned studies,” Bilski said.

As part of the planned studies program, students also get preregistered for classes required for their majors, Mirskin said.

More than 900 four-year colleges and universities allow students to develop their own programs of study with an adviser's help, according to an article by The Wall Street Journal. There has also been a growth in the number of organized individualized studies or interdisciplinary programs that allow students to personalize their education.

Glass said designing her own major made her experience at the college more worthwhile.

“It made my time here feel little more worth it, I think, than I felt when I was declared in a major that I wasn't enjoying,” Glass added.

Ithaca rations winter road salt

BY MARK PROWSE
STAFF WRITER

The Town of Ithaca's road salt supply has struggled to meet the demands of this winter. The town announced Feb. 20 it will be limiting its usage of salt due to shortages experienced by Public Works.

The announcement explained the town will be focusing its remaining road salt supplies on intersections and hills in an effort to make it through the rest of the winter season. It also warned drivers to be wary of the slippery conditions.

Highway Superintendent Jim Weber said the reason behind the town's new limitations was that the product is simply not available for purchase. He said because salt has a shelf life, companies will only produce according to the quantities ordered by municipalities nearly a year ahead of time. Unfortunately, this winter was harsher than expected, he said.

“We are at a point right now that we do not have options available,” Weber said. “Every municipality in the state and across New England ... they are pretty much running at their limit of what is available versus what the demands are.”

The announcement said the town traditionally uses 2,200 tons of road salt during a winter season. However, this year 3,200 tons have already been used, and despite a move to expand salt storage facilities after the winter of 2013–14, shortages are still being experienced.

“People will see plowed roads, but there will be snow packed on them without being down to bare pavement,” Weber said. “It is imperative for the drivers to adjust their habits to the conditions that exist.”



GIVING DAY

2 · 26 · 15

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VIDEO



Video
Members of the men's track and field team talk about what it's like to compete in a heptathlon and how they prepare for one.



Video
The International Club hosts its annual fashion show, which showcases different types of clothing from around the world.

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News
View images of the Elect Her conference, part of the Women Leaders Series on Feb. 21.



Sports
See pictures from the men's lacrosse game vs. Marywood University on Feb. 22.



Life & Culture
Check out photographs taken from the yoga class Feb. 24 in the Fitness Center.

Public Safety Incident Log

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM
FEB. 6 TO FEB. 12

FEBRUARY 6

SAFETY HAZARD

LOCATION: U-Lot
SUMMARY: Officer reported equipment ruptured hydraulic line and leaked fluid. Environmental health and safety officer cleaned spill area. Environmental Health and Safety Assistant Director Tim Ryan.

MEDICAL ASSIST

LOCATION: Fitness Center
SUMMARY: Caller reported person injured their head on piece of equipment. Person transported to hospital by ambulance. Sergeant Terry O'Pray.

ACCIDENTAL PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: Higgins Stadium
SUMMARY: Officer reported vehicle driving on athletic field. Officer reported person was lost and accidentally drove on athletic field. Officer checking with facility to see if there is any damage. Investigation pending. Patrol Officer Jon Shingledecker.

CONDUCT CODE VIOLATION

LOCATION: Terraces
SUMMARY: Caller reported having difficulty breathing possibly due to smoking marijuana. One person transported to hospital by ambulance and judicially referred violation of drug policy. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones.

FEBRUARY 7

CONDUCT CODE VIOLATION

LOCATION: Boothroyd Hall
SUMMARY: Caller reported intoxicated person conscious but not alert. Person was taken into custody under the

mental hygiene law, transported to hospital by ambulance and judicially referred for irresponsible use of alcohol. Patrol Officer Eric Willman.

MEDICAL ASSIST

LOCATION: West Tower
SUMMARY: Caller reported person having difficulty breathing possibly caused by accidentally taking too much medicine. Person declined medical assistance with ambulance staff. Sgt. Dirk Hightchew.

EXPOSURE OF PERSON

LOCATION: P-Lot
SUMMARY: Officer reported person urinating in public. One person judicially referred for indecent conduct. Master Security Officer Chris Lemore.

THEFT OF SERVICES

LOCATION: M-Lot
SUMMARY: Caller reported person refusing to pay cab fare. Upon officers arrival, person was attempting to pay fare and it appeared to be miscommunication. Theft of service unfounded. Sgt. Dirk Hightchew.

FEBRUARY 8

CONDUCT CODE VIOLATION

LOCATION: Holmes Hall
SUMMARY: Caller reported intoxicated person vomiting. Person declined medical assistance with ambulance staff and was judicially referred for irresponsible use of alcohol. Security Officer Brittany Miller.

OFF-CAMPUS INCIDENT

LOCATION: All other
SUMMARY: Officer reported vehicle

pulled over for failing to stop at stop sign and found passenger had injury to face. Passenger indicated physical altercation had occurred in the City of Ithaca but declined medical assistance or reporting to IPD. Officer issued the driver a warning for stop sign. Patrol Officer Jon Shingledecker.

MEDICAL ASSIST

LOCATION: Campus Center
SUMMARY: Caller reported person passed out and hit their head when they fell. Person transported to hospital by ambulance. Master Patrol Officer Don Lyke.

FEBRUARY 9

TRESPASS

LOCATION: Williams Hall
SUMMARY: Officer reported unauthorized person inside building. Officer determined person was given keys but not on the permission list. Patrol Officer Dan Austic.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

LOCATION: Athletics and Events Center
SUMMARY: Caller reported unknown person put hole in the wall. Investigation pending. Master Patrol Officer Bruce Holmstock.

FEBRUARY 10

FORCIBLE TOUCHING

LOCATION: Emerson Hall
SUMMARY: Caller reported a sexual harassment complaint. Victim stated the person touched their buttocks without them giving consent, made sexual comments and then refused to leave room. This happened on different

dates. Investigation pending. Patrol Officer Jon Elmore.

CASE STATUS CHANGE

LOCATION: Office of Public Safety
SUMMARY: Officer interviewed person regarding forcible touching complaint reported this date in Emerson Hall and one person judicially referred for sex offenses and criminal trespass. Patrol Officer Jon Elmore.

FEBRUARY 11

LARCENY

LOCATION: West Tower
SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person stole clothing. Patrol Officer Jon Elmore.

POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

LOCATION: West Tower
SUMMARY: Person attempted to mail package that contained marijuana. Sender was identified. Sender was then interviewed and later judicially referred for unlawful possession of marijuana. Sgt. Tom Dunn.

HARASSMENT

LOCATION: S-Lot
SUMMARY: Complainant reported contact with victim violating a written restriction. Patrol Officer Jon Elmore.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

LOCATION: Circle Apartments
SUMMARY: Complainant reported a person punched the victim in the face, damaged their property and then refused to leave room. Medical assistance was later declined. Investigation pending. Patrol Officer Jon Shingledecker.

FEBRUARY 12

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT

LOCATION: Textor Circle
SUMMARY: Caller reported property damage motor vehicle accident. Report taken. Patrol Officer Jon Elmore.

MEDICAL ASSIST

LOCATION: Emerson Hall
SUMMARY: Officer reported after person received letter, person made indication of harming themselves. Person was taken into custody under mental hygiene law and transported to hospital. Sgt. Terry O'Pray.

MAKING GRAFFITI

LOCATION: Williams Hall
SUMMARY: Unknown person wrote graffiti. Investigation pending. Patrol Officer Eric Willman.

HARASSMENT

LOCATION: West Tower
SUMMARY: Caller reported overhearing racial slur not directed at anyone. Officer determined two parties directed comments at each other. Two people judicially referred for harassment. Patrol Officer Eric Willman.

FOR THE COMPLETE SAFETY LOG,
go to www.theithacan.org/news.

KEY

- CMC - Cayuga Medical Center
- V&T - Vehicle and Transportation
- AD - Assistant Director
- SASP - Student Auxiliary Safety Patrol
- IPD - Ithaca Police Department
- TCSO - Tompkins County Sheriff's Office

EDITORIALS

NO MONEY, MORE PROBLEMS

SGA's miscalculation of available funds was unacceptable and needs investigation

The Ithaca College Student Government Association announced Feb. 17 that due to a bookkeeping error regarding how much money was available in the Student Activities Fund, it will no longer be able to allocate funds to student organizations this semester.

Senior Brandon Xing, vice president of business and finance, said he doesn't have any evidence as to where the error came from.

Xing said the time frame for when the SGA usually allocates all of its funds need not be examined. "The money runs out when it runs out. It is independent of yearly time schedules," he said. "There are so many factors changing how much money is allocated that a direct comparison of dates wouldn't show the whole picture."

Even so, this situation negatively affected student organizations. Those organizations that had not submitted their budget requests prior to the fund's depletion will not be able to obtain money from the fund. Naturally there will come a point every year when all of the available funds have been allocated, but to come up short on the promised or expected amount by \$2,000 with no explanation is unacceptable, and the SGA and the Office of Student Engagement and Multicultural Affairs must determine how this error happened and ensure it doesn't happen again. The SGA should not take this lightly, because although there may be various factors that affect when money is allocated, the amount of money available should never be in question.

LET ME UPGRADE YA

The college should heed SGA's proposal to improve the campus-climate survey

There is no doubt that the Ithaca College Campus Acceptance, Inclusion and Fairness Survey, which attempted to measure the campus climate about diversity and inclusion by drawing on the opinions of students, faculty and staff, needs improvement. Therefore, a bill passed by the Student Government Association on Feb. 16 that recommends changes and improvements to the survey, including the outsourcing of the survey, should be taken seriously by the administration. The fact that the SGA took a strong stance shows that there were issues with how the survey was handled.

An external consultant should conduct all future campus-climate surveys. This is a sensible decision worth the cost because it provides transparency and gives more weight to the data analysis and the results. It is difficult for an internal survey to have as in-depth an analysis as that which an outside perspective can provide due to the inherent bias.

Although it may be tricky to have the external surveys conducted every two years, the administration should push to have the survey completed as often as is feasible. Another issue was the turnaround time for the results. It took 2 1/2 years for the results of the latest survey to come out. This is unacceptable. This information is important and must be treated as such, and must be released in a timely fashion rather than kept hidden for over two years. Doing otherwise would send the message that the concerns of the campus population are not being prioritized.



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SNAP JUDGMENT

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MICHAEL MCCARTHY
VOICE '17



"ALBANY IS THE CAPITAL OF NEW YORK."
STEPHANIE WAITE
INTEGRATED MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS '17



"THE ENTIRE CAST OF 'LITTLE WOMEN' IS DOUBLE CAST, BUT ONLY THE ROLE OF JO SWITCHES EVERY NIGHT."
SEAN WOODS
THEATER PRODUCTION '18



"MINORITIES GET IMPRISONED MORE THAN EVERYONE ELSE."
ANGELIQUE HUDSON
PSYCHOLOGY '15



"I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, STOP STARING AT ME."
JOE KURZAWA
THEATER PRODUCTION '15

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Microaggressions pave the way for epistemic violence

On Feb. 9, the Office of Institutional Research released the results of the 2012 campus-climate survey. Unsurprisingly, what it uncovered was a vast disparity within the experiences of various identity groups and a need for Ithaca College to promote cross-cultural dialogue and a shift in its diversity agenda.

The Ithacan reported on the results, and actually quoted President Tom Rochon from an email in which he stated the importance of the survey is “easy to over-hype.” But are the uncomfortable lived experiences of the individuals belonging to these various identity groups also “easy to over-hype”? Rochon’s statement and the conclusions reached in the survey reveal fissures within dialogues of inclusivity on this campus. To take a step toward a diverse and inclusive campus, we need to step back and analyze the implications of having such a “microaggressive” campus climate.

Microaggressions can be defined as the everyday verbal, nonverbal and environmental slights, snubs or insults — either intentional or unintentional — which communicate hostile, derogatory or negative messages to target individuals based solely upon their group membership. Microaggressions pave the way to hostile environments which desensitize us to certain groups or individuals and render them less than human. When you create an atmosphere where an individual or group is perceived as less human, it systematically perpetuates the infliction of violence against them and creates a culture of silence that condones these conditions.

Classrooms on this campus are often the site of structural and epistemic violence. Nearly a week before the campus-climate survey results were publicized, a professor began my class by stating, “I don’t care for political correctness.” He then proceeded to discuss the naming of the NFL team the Washington Redskins. He said people should not be concerned about “some” nickname of a sports team but instead focus on other “bigger” issues. These statements were met with chuckles from the majority of students.

Unbeknownst to them, the issue that he



Taranjit Bhatti is a sophomore exploratory major at Ithaca College from Elmhurst, New York. He is a resident assistant as well as the advertising and media chair for the South Asian Student Society.

TUCKER MITCHELL/THE ITHACAN

claimed as so trivial has been a site of struggle since at least 1971 for many activist groups. His blatant disregard of the issues completely desensitized the class to the historical and present atrocities that Native Americans have faced. In that moment, the institutional violence committed against indigenous peoples was legitimized.

This is not just some single isolated issue. Women are constantly objectified and sexualized through media such as IC Crushes. There are rampant issues of folks using the wrong pronouns to address students and other members of the community. The words “gay” and “faggot” are constantly used and are testaments to the production of linguistic violence here on campus. As a Sikh-American, whenever I wear a turban to represent my religious identity I am met with uncomfortable stares and even snickering. What these derogatory and negative messages do is instill a sense of isolation or alienation and expose

notions of power and privilege.

Let me be clear: Addressing microaggressions and other issues of diversity is an academic issue. It is within these walls of college and university institutions that learning and unlearning happens, and therefore the inhibition and eradication of microaggressions rightfully begins here on campus. If they are unaddressed on this campus, this ethos is carried out into the “real world,” and further contributes to this commonplace “american psyche” of an “Us vs. Them” mentality. In order to address the greater inequalities in our social milieu, we need to begin by cultivating a community here on campus that teaches its members about the largely undiscussed historical, institutional and social narratives that are responsible for these divides.

TARANJIT SINGH BHATTI is a sophomore exploratory major. Email him at tbhatti1@ithaca.edu.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Deaf community commonly faces assumptions of disability

Here at Ithaca College, I am an integrated marketing communications major with a deaf studies minor. I am only able to fluently speak one language, which is English. Even though I have been taking Spanish since the age of 5, I was never able to become fluent in the language. However, I was able to pick up American Sign Language much more quickly, and I feel comfortable conversing in ASL after studying it for only two semesters.

I have previously asked deaf people, “What are some assumptions the hearing community makes about the deaf?” Two of the most popular answers were, “people assume that since I can read lips they can talk full speed” and “the deaf are disabled.”

The deaf community isn’t disabled. The hearing impaired are not disabled. Some are even offended by the implication that because they are deaf or hearing impaired, they are unable to do something because of their lack of hearing. Calling a deaf or hearing-impaired person disabled for long enough, the person may actually begin to believe they are, in fact, disabled. The sad thing is if they truly believe they can’t do something they may never try, and that may result in



Sophomore Cherokee Charles speaks to junior emerging media major Rob Mayo using American Sign Language. Charles is a deaf studies minor.

TOMMY BATTISTELLI/THE ITHACAN

many people never reaching their full potential.

Deaf people can do everything hearing people can do. They can drive, learn, teach, tell jokes, play instruments, cook — the list goes on. It can even be argued that everyone is slightly “disabled” in some form or another. I, for example, can’t draw. Is that a disability? I don’t believe so. I wasn’t gifted with the ability to draw, which doesn’t mean that I am unable to function. Obviously this is a little dramatic, but

why does the inability to hear make a person deficient?

I think if people could understand all that the deaf and hearing impaired could do, as opposed to what they couldn’t do, the prejudice against them would diminish.

I believe if everyone was to take at least one American Sign Language course in their lifetime, they would see all that the deaf and hearing impaired are capable of. Taking an ASL class is a great way to really learn a little about the deaf

community. Even learning a little about ASL history could help show that just because someone is deaf or hearing impaired doesn’t mean they are deficient. They are capable of almost anything including creating their own language.

ASL is a mixture of French Sign Language; Martha’s Vineyard Sign Language, originating from Martha’s Vineyard, which had a large population of deaf people; and Fingerspelling, using the ASL alphabet to spell out words. Learning ASL is ideal for people who are visual or kinesthetic learners. ASL is all about motions and facial features, and the only way to learn ASL is to actually practice the signs.

Learning sign language would bridge a gap between two communities. Similar to how children are taught to embrace French or Spanish culture, those who are taught sign language and about deaf culture would be able to embrace the culture and shift what our society determines disabled.

Having the hearing community be able to communicate with someone who is deaf could lead to change that has been a long time coming.

CHEROKEE CHARLES is a sophomore integrated marketing communications major. Her email is ccharle2@ithaca.edu.

The Ithacan blog ONLINE preview

www.theithacan.org/blogs

Angel's
Advocate



Being ‘too much’

Senior year in high school, my school’s psychologist had my entire grade take a quiz that defined our personality type and the percentage of each characteristic we were. Out of everyone in the grade, I was the only person to score as a 100 percent perfect extrovert. There isn’t an ounce of introvertedness in me. And the more and more that I experience life and take in what it has to offer, I realize that being an extrovert is actually pretty hard.

I tend to need other people around me, and I don’t like being alone. With all of that said, I still thought that being an extrovert was the best. However, that all changed when I got to college ...

— ANGEL ZAYAS

ACTIVISM 101



National Eating Disorders Awareness Week

This week all across college campuses, social media pages and other places, people are spreading information on Eating Disorders, warning signs, mental health, body image and so on for National Eating Disorders Awareness Month. On our campus many organizations are tabling on the issue, passing out pamphlets, and asking students to describe their best non-physical feature. There is even a life-size Barbie designed to show how disproportionate and unrealistic the body types of Barbie dolls really are ...

— CHRISTINA TUDOR

ONE STEP AT A TIME



Postponed ... again

We 20-somethings should be enjoying our time in college, and those who are Micklem’s age should be enjoying their retirements. Instead we find ourselves banding together to stare down the insect-spattered grills of the roaring semitrucks trying to get through Crestwood’s gates.

It seems as though our justice system is broken, and in a time where our world is in dire need of justice, I find that far scarier than spending a week behind bars and getting a little behind on my homework ...

— FAITH MECKLEY

Housing Selection 2015

February 2015

- 19 Approvals posted for individual students who want to live in the Circle Apartments
- 20 Garden Apartment Squatting for Fall 2014 on HomerConnect (start time 9:00 a.m.)
- 24 Garden Selection for 6-person Garden Apartments for Fall 2014 on HomerConnect
- 26 Garden Selection for 4-person Garden Apartments for Fall 2014 on HomerConnect

March 2014

- 3 Garden Selection for 2-person Garden Apartments for Fall 2014 on HomerConnect
- 3 Emails due to housing@ithaca.edu from individuals interested in living in the Garden Apartments
- 5 Approvals posted for individuals who want to live in the Garden Apartments
- 17 Single Squatting for Fall 2014 on HomerConnect (start time 9:00 a.m.)
- 17 Residential Learning Community and Substance Free Applications due on HomerConnect by 11:59 p.m.
- 21 Residential Learning Community and Substance Free Approvals posted on HomerConnect
- 24 Residential Learning Community Selection and Substance free housing selection for Fall 2015 on HomerConnect (7:00 a.m. - 8:59 p.m.)
- 26 Single Selection for students with 3+ semester for Fall 2014 on HomerConnect (7:00 a.m. - 8:59 p.m.)
- 30 Block housing applications available

April 2014

- 7 Summer Wait List and Vacancy forms available at the East Tower Office of Residential Life beginning at 9:00 a.m.
- 21 Summer Wait List and Vacancy forms due at the Office of Residential Life by 5:00 p.m.

May 2014

- 4 Block Housing Applications due at the Office of Residential Life by 5:00 p.m.

July 2014

- 7 Block Housing Awards Communicated
- 14 Sophomore selection first come first serve on HomerConnect (7:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m.)
- 16 Sophomore selection first come first serve on HomerConnect (7:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m.)

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APRIL 10
OK GO

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JUNE 5
BUDDY GUY

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W/ THE ANALOG SONS

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GUERRILLA DUB SQUAD

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GOOD JUST GOT SUPER

REACHING FOR PEACE

Ithaca College's student body finds stress relief in the practice of yoga

BY KALIA KORNEGAY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

While to some yoga may appear to be people forming impossible, even painful, poses with their bodies, many find it to be a system set on rejuvenating the body and easing tension. For these individuals, the practice is one that relieves stress, and at Ithaca College, both students and faculty have practiced this art and found it to have a positive impact on their spiritual and mental well-being.

Freshman Ilana Diamant has found stress relief from her experiences in yoga. Diamant has been practicing yoga ever since her mother, a yoga teacher, signed her up for a class during kindergarten to expose her to yoga at a young age. During high school, Diamant said she experimented with a few types of yoga before finally settling on a style called power vinyasa, which places an emphasis on high temperatures and core strength. She said she appreciates its tension-easing aspects.

"Yoga requires so much focus," Diamant said. "You can't be distracted, so even if I'm stressed out about a paper or a project, I can't be worried about it. It's a nice break for an hour and a half to just not think about anything else."

Diamant's sentiments reflect an overall increase in popularity toward this alternative form of exercise and stress relief. According to a 2012 study in *Yoga Journal*, a popular yoga magazine, "20.4 million Americans practice yoga, compared to 15.8 million from the previous 2008 study."

For the student body, the stress relief yoga offers is especially relevant. Stress may come in the form of lack of sleep, large workloads, problems with family or friends and financial difficulties for some students. Several studies, including one from the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, have shown that practicing yoga has resulted in decreased anxiety and depression as well as reduced heart rate and blood pressure.

The college boasts several yoga programs that are open to both students and faculty. The Fitness Center has group exercise sessions from Tuesday to Friday that involve four forms of yoga called kripalu, astanga, iyengar and gentle. There are also yoga classes held through the school's Physical Activity, Leisure and Safety program.

James Eavenson, a lecturer for the Department of Health Promotion and Physical

Education, has been teaching yoga at the college with both PALS and independent classes for 13 years and said he tries to teach every class with an open mind. He occasionally comes to class with a plan for that day, but he's open to reading the atmosphere and the students' feelings. He said this results in a completely different plan in order to accommodate the mood.

"The way I structure classes now is to obviously give them some good teaching, but at the same time to let them chill and to encourage them to relax," Eavenson said.

Dylan Bland, a freshman pole vaulter on the men's track and field team, is currently taking Eavenson's course, *Yoga Study and Practice I*, and said he took the class to improve his overall health as well as his athletic performance.

"I'm not an expert, but I'm currently doing [yoga] through PALS, and my track team does it occasionally," Bland said. "It can help you be more flexible when you stretch before and after a meet. You're much more loosened up."

While yoga has formed a community within the student body, it also has significant presence in town. There are about 10 yoga studios downtown, such as *Mighty Yoga Ithaca* and *The Yoga School*, each offering many specific types of yoga. Along with these studios, however, the larger Ithaca community showed its appreciation for yoga Feb. 22 with an event called "Yogathon," a 4-hour event that promoted practicing yoga in the community regardless of both skill level and age, at the Ithaca High School.

Event coordinator Stephanie Bailey said almost \$15,000 was raised for the Family and Children's Service of Ithaca, which is a service that offers access to mental health care to the citizens of Ithaca. Bailey said practicing yoga during the winter gives people a reason to get out, be active and keep up spirits, despite the cold weather.



BIG PICTURE

For some of Ilana Diamant's favorite yoga poses, flip to the Big Picture on the back page of the paper.



Freshman Holly Perkins leads a yoga class Feb. 24 in the Fitness Center. Perkins teaches yoga every Tuesday.

AMANDA DEN HARTOG/THE ITHACAN

Junior Zack Samuels stretches Feb. 24 during a yoga session in Ithaca College's Fitness Center.

AMANDA DEN HARTOG/THE ITHACAN

Though not all instructors are necessarily faculty, they still see the practice in a similar light. Freshman Holly Perkins became a yoga instructor at the Fitness Center this past fall semester. After quitting dance upon graduating from high school, Perkins decided to look into yoga to find a new focus. She said when she's not teaching, she finds meditating and practicing yoga in her room to be just as fulfilling as when she's in a class, and offers her a method of stress relief.

"It kind of tames my anxiety and stress levels. It allows me to stay in touch with my needs," Perkins said. "That's why when people kind of get a taste of it, they start realizing how much it can impact your life."

Ultimately, Diamant said yoga is an invigorating way to make her happy. She said it energizes her and she encourages students to open their minds to it.

"I think [students] should try it. It's not for everyone, but at the same time some of the people who've said that yoga isn't for them have maybe tried it once, and not every yoga class is made the same," Diamant said. "They seem to think that yoga is a singular concept. It's not. There's many kinds, so I think people should make that effort because once you find a type that's good for you, the benefits are endless."

"Winter is really tough for people," Bailey said. "Anything you can do to treat yourself and your body during this time really helps cure the winter blues. It has been shown that exercise is really good for that."

Eavenson said ever since he left a high-paying job in New York City several years ago, teaching yoga has turned out to be a more spiritually gratifying way to spend his time. While he teaches yoga to students and faculty on campus, he has also been teaching it in India for about 11 years. He said he travels there yearly — sometimes for several months at a time — to teach yoga at a hospital's physiotherapy department. Eavenson expressed that it is different to teach yoga in the two places because of how yoga is represented in India and the West's culture.

"Being a student of yoga continues to give me a goal for living and serving others in a better way," Eavenson said. "As a teacher, it has brought me into a relationship with people in the world."

🌿 ITHACA'S YOGA STUDIOS: 10 PLACES TO PRACTICE 🌿

Mighty Yoga Ithaca – 106 W. State St.
The Yoga School – 141 E. State St.
Blackbird Studio – 509 N. Meadow St.
Sunrise Yoga Center – 119 S. Cayuga St.
Ahimsa Yoga – 215 N. Cayuga St.

Fine Spirit Studio – 201 Dey St. #202
Transform Yoga – 335 W. State St.
The Pilates Room – 1201 N. Tioga St.
Santosh Yoga Center – 120 Brindley St.
Ithaca College Fitness Center



Appreciate, don't appropriate

Freshman Angela Otieno walks the runway Feb. 22 at Interfashional Night in Emerson Suites. Hosted by the International Club of Ithaca College, the event promoted the authentic appreciation of other cultures, which are often commercialized in the West.

CLARA O'CONNOR/THE ITHACAN

Video of the week

After losing a bet with her husband regarding whether "Fifty Shades of Grey" would receive box-office success, Christy Carlson Romano, known for her roles in "Even Stevens" and "Kim Possible," posted a video Feb. 21 of herself standing on the frigid balcony of her Brooklyn apartment for one minute wearing only lingerie.

In the video, Romano explains the premise of the bet, saying that she was appalled by the content of the film and its sexually abusive undertones. "So ultimately in protest of this misogynistic and misguided film, I'm going to exercise my right of consent and stand outside," she said, holding a sign reading "#CONSENT."



BACON ME CRAZY

The Ithacan hunts down the latest in zany consumer products for readers to get their hands on

Little Caesars' newest pizza creation, in which the traditional crust is replaced by a bacon-wrapped exterior, combining the trends of increasingly bizarre pizza innovations with America's fascination with bacon. Earlier this year, Little Caesars' also experimented with pretzel crusts, while other pizza chains added flavors like Sriracha, garlic and basil to their crusts. The Bacon Wrapped Crust Deep! Deep! Dish Pizza also includes pepperoni and bacon toppings.

Little Caesars CEO, David Scrivano, reportedly called the pizza "a more indulgent offering." USA Today reported that one slice of the deep-dish pizza contains 450 calories, 23 grams of fat, 830 milligrams of sodium and 40 milligrams of cholesterol. The pizza became available nationwide starting Feb. 23 and can be purchased for a limited time. One medium pie costs \$12.



ART ATTACK OSCAR STATUE GETS SHOCKING MAKEOVER

On Feb. 19, street artist Plastic Jesus installed a sculpture of the famous, golden statue of the Academy Awards in a crouched pose near lines of white powder. The statue was placed on the corner of Hollywood Boulevard and La Brea Avenue, where the street was closed for the awards Feb. 22. Plastic Jesus is known for his controversial art in reaction to current events and placed a similar statue near the Academy Awards last year. He said this year's piece is inspired by Harris Wittles, the 30-year-old "Parks and Recreation" producer who died of an apparent drug overdose Feb. 19. "My piece is intended to highlight general cocaine and drug use not only in Hollywood, but around the world," Plastic Jesus told BuzzFeed News.



LET IT GO, WINTER AUTHORITIES ISSUE WARRANT FOR ELSA

The police department of Harlan City, Kentucky, issued a warrant for the arrest of fictional ice queen Elsa from the popular Disney film "Frozen" on Feb. 18. After a week in which over a foot of snow was dumped on the rural town, the department released a statement about the suspected culprit, describing her as "a blond female last seen wearing a long blue dress and is known to burst into the song 'Let it Go!'" They followed this message with a more serious one a few hours later, reminding residents to take precautions and stay safe.



celebrity scoops!

Stewart earns Cesar award

Kristen Stewart, known for her leading role in the "Twilight" movies, made history Feb. 20 at the Cesar Awards in France by winning Best Supporting Actress, becoming the first American woman to do so. She was honored for her role in "Clouds of Sils Maria," where she starred alongside Juliette Binoche and Chloe Grace Moretz, playing the role of an ambitious personal assistant to an insecure actress.

Stewart appeared visibly shocked after her win was announced, shaking so much she could barely unfold her written She went thank the committee in French, then saying "I love you" to her co-star Juliette.



quoteunquote



"What are there, like, three cuts in the whole movie? Get out of here. That's not editing. Did you walk in at 10 and leave at 1? Get out. Goodbye."

— Fred Armisen jokingly demanded that the editor of "Birdman" leave the Independent Spirit Awards on Feb. 21, which Armisen hosted along with Kristen Bell.

ONLINE

To see a slideshow of the horse restoration, visit theithacan.org/stewart-park-horses



Local artist Christi Sobel applies pink paint to the tongue of a horse Feb. 24 in The History Center on State Street. This horse is one of 30 that Sobel and her artistic partner Julia John will restore, each of which have their own distinct theme and aesthetic. The Stewart Park carousel is currently closed for winter, and these horses will make their debut when the carousel reopens in May. TOMMY BATTISTELLI/THE ITHACAN

Saddle Up

The horses of the Stewart Park Carousel get a needed makeover

BY COLETTE PIASECKI-MASTERS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Through the windows of The History Center in downtown Ithaca, two artists can be seen stooped over several historic-looking carousel horses. They are painting the intricate details that turn tarnished cast aluminum into a leather saddle or a colorful embroidered blanket atop the textured coat of a stallion. For many long days, Christi Sobel and Julia John, two local artists, work on their new project of repainting the Stewart Park carousel horses.

Originally built in North Tonawanda, New York, by the Herschell Spillman Company and later installed in Ithaca in the early 1950s, the Stewart Park carousel has been a part of the community and a favorite family destination for generations. However, it has been more than 28 years since its horses were last painted, and their hides and saddles have become faded and chipped.

In the summer of 2014, Jeanne Grace, a for-ester for the City of Ithaca, mentioned in the Ithaca Journal how wonderful it would be to have the horses repainted. After reading this, Sobel and John, both natives of Ithaca, teamed up to restore the original vibrancy these historical horses once radiated.

Sobel is a freelance artist and scientific illustrator. John is a sophomore art student at the Maryland Institute College of Art. The pair began the process of sanding, priming and washing the horses in preparation for painting in mid-July 2014 and teamed up with Friends of Stewart Park, a nonprofit organization, to create a plan for fundraising. Grace, who had hoped to see the horses repainted, said the project was a commitment between artists and donors alike.

"It's really a gamble, and that's why I say it's a labor of love," Grace said. "They're only being paid from the money they make through donations ... and they are willing to take that chance because they really want to see the carousel painted. I think it's really an amazing

commitment the two of them have made."

Sobel and John have worked in different public locations in Ithaca throughout the duration of this project. They began at Stewart Park and are currently working in the History Center at 401 E. State St. The artists have expressed gratitude toward their numerous hosts' hospitality, and said they value the conversations they have with community members who stop to share their memories of the carousel. John said their work has resulted in a resurgence of community support and aid for the carousel.

"A lot of people remember riding the carousel when they were kids or taking their own children there or their grandchildren," John said. "People are really happy it's being restored."

The actual process of painting the horses is laborious. Sobel and John estimate each horse has taken about 8–12 hours to paint, not including time spent priming the horses.

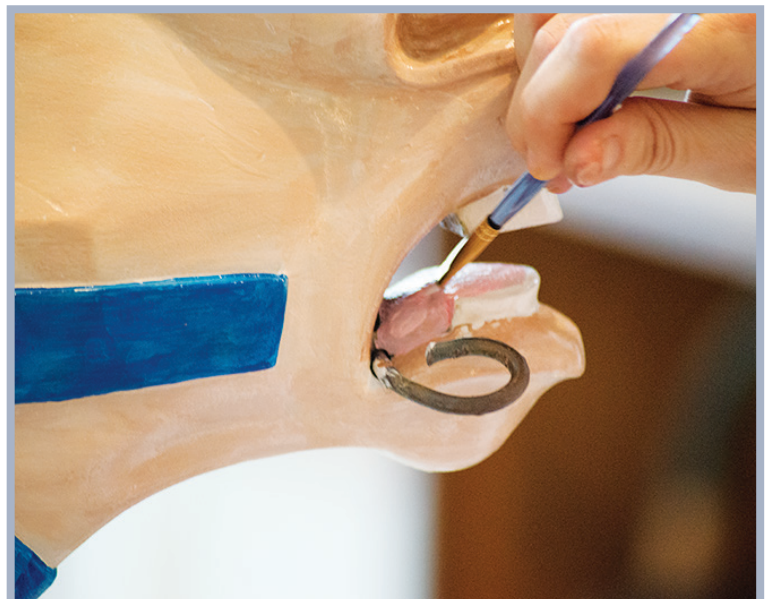
Despite the long hours, they have made it to horse No. 19, and said they are hoping to be done with all 30 horses when the carousel is set up in Spring 2015.

In keeping with the Stewart Park Carousel aesthetic, which aimed for life-like depictions of the horses, Sobel and John have painted each horse as realistically as possible. Nonetheless, the painters exercise artistic freedom by creating each horse with a distinct theme in mind, with themes ranging from winter to Western.

"When little kids ride the carousel, they're going to tell themselves a story about the horse they're on," Sobel said. "They're going to have a favorite horse."

Sobel said it's restoring the horses to their previous likeness that inspires her and John.

"It's been a real pleasure working on the horses — I love putting together such a big project," Sobel said. "My favorite part is putting the little sparkle in the eyes. ... I really love bringing them back to colorful life. I can't wait to see the whole carousel bright and shining."



Christi Sobel details the teeth of a carousel horse Feb. 24. Sobel and artist Julia John said they have decided to repaint the horses in a realistic fashion. TOMMY BATTISTELLI/THE ITHACAN



Christi Sobel paints the constellation Orion on the saddle of a winter-themed horse. Orion, a winter constellation, fits the theme of this particular steed. TOMMY BATTISTELLI/THE ITHACAN

Senior cello recital inspired by lunch with strangers

BY CASEY MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

Senior Madeline Docimo, a music education major with a concentration in cello performance, has grown accustomed to seeing many of the same faces on her travels through the halls of the James J. Whalen Center for Music in her four years at Ithaca College. She's also grown tired of just how many faces she can't place a name to.

"I was like, 'wait a minute,'" she said. "There are so many people around me right now. It's my final semester of my senior year. So many people around me that I don't know ... there's all these other passionate people who are passionate about the exact same thing, and I didn't even get a chance to know them really or know where they come from."

That's when she became inspired to begin a project for her elective recital called, "It's Just Lunch."

As part of her project, Docimo took 12 people who were essentially strangers out for lunch to get to know them better. Now, with the lunches completed, Docimo will compose short musical passages, called motifs, that she feels personify each individual. In turn, those whom Docimo took to lunch will write poems about Docimo and the experience they had with her.

To culminate the project, Docimo and her lunch partners will perform their pieces simultaneously. There will be no prior rehearsal, so the performance will be the first time that Docimo hears the poems and that everyone else hears her music. The concert will take place in

Nabenhauer Recital Hall on March 16. Docimo said the most memorable part of her recital will be the spontaneity of these joint performances.

"The magic of it is, I don't know what they're going to say and they don't know what I'm going to play, so this is going to be the only performance of this piece and it's going to be insanely special for everyone involved," Docimo said. "A lot of it's going to be improvised, so we'll see what happens, and I'm trying to leave as much of the control out of my hands."

Docimo's performance will be very nontraditional in the realm of Whalen recitals, as it will feature food, face painting and spoken-word performances in addition to the music. Associate professor Elizabeth Simkin, Docimo's cello instructor for the past four years, said this performance will be unlike any recital she has seen at the college.

"It's going to have a very spontaneous feeling because ... compared to most of the recitals we have around here there will be part of it which is completely unrehearsed, and we like to rehearse a lot," Simkin said. "We never know what's going to happen with Madeline ... I'm just thrilled to see her running with something without distraction and really kind of deepening into this particular kind of creative capacity."

Docimo said she chose each person she took to lunch based on what she knew about them. Docimo's lunch with junior Matthew



Senior Madeline Docimo practices for her elective recital, "It's Just Lunch." Docimo is a music major with a concentration in cello performance.

JENNIFER WILLIAMS/THE ITHACAN

Byers, for instance, was inspired by their common interest in the Spanish language. She sat down with lecturer Jean Sutherland because Docimo took Sutherland's class as a freshman and wanted to re-connect with the woman that

was one of her favorite professors. Like these two individuals, many of those that Docimo had lunch with were people whom she had crossed paths with briefly or admired from afar.

Junior Christina Christiansen

was one of the first people that Docimo took to lunch. Docimo said she had always seen Christiansen as someone who was "too cool" to approach. However, after their lunch together, Docimo learned that Christiansen felt the same way. The young women said they quickly formed a bond and now are very close friends.

"I found out that we have a lot more in common than I thought we would," Christiansen said. "We have a lot more in common personality wise, and we have very similar world views and personal philosophies ... and I realized that we complement each other really well. We just really hit it off, and there was an instant connection that went further than I think either of us expected it to."

Though Docimo said her new relationship with Christiansen is the strongest bond formed from the project, she was pleasantly surprised to find that she has managed to keep in touch with each person she shared lunch with. These connections, Docimo said, are the most valuable part of the overall experience of the "It's Just Lunch" project.

"The biggest takeaway out of this is just find a way to get to know everyone," Docimo said. "Find a way to be anyone's friend that you want to be. There are so many people that we could connect with, but we just don't. I feel like that's the message that I want to send. It turned out being just so much fun and so natural, so just ask someone out to lunch."

ONLINE
To see a video about Docimo's project, visit theithacan.org/its-just-lunch

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Junior develops Web-based party game

BY ANGELA WELDON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A few friends drove down the highway on a road trip to New York City last June. Making conversation, junior Jack Janson brought up the “Five Clicks to Buddha” Wikipedia game, which is based on the idea that anything could be connected to Buddha within five clicks on embedded Wikipedia links. His friends scoffed in disbelief, but using his phone, Janson proved them wrong. Little did Janson know, this idea would become a full-fledged, Web-driven game.

Inspired by “Five Clicks to Buddha,” Janson began to explore what other topics he could connect online. Janson said he was intrigued by the possibilities of finding links between seemingly unrelated topics on the Internet.

“We kind of got to thinking, my [partner] and I, that if you can link Buddha to anything in the world, why can’t you link anything else?” Janson said.

After researching and checking the concept’s feasibility, Janson came up with the idea to turn it into a modern board game incorporating online tools to find connections. Within a few short months of that car ride in June, Janson and his team turned his idea into a Web-driven board game: Linknotize.

On shelves as of early January, Linknotize is an interactive party game where players try to connect two topics in the fewest number of steps using Wikipedia links.

According to the Linknotize game rules, each round starts when each player rolls the dice, selects two topic cards and sets the



Junior Jack Janson conceived the idea of Linknotize during a car ride last June. As of January, Linknotize has become available for purchase.

TUCKER MITCHELL/THE ITHACAN

timer for 3 minutes. Each player will use a phone, tablet or computer. Starting on the Wikipedia entry of one topic, each player races through links on the page until the second topic is reached or time runs out. The player to connect the cards in the fewest number of steps wins.

Susan Berkowitz, a friend of Janson’s parents, is Janson’s project partner and Linknotize’s main developer. Berkowitz was driving to New York City with Janson when he originally brought up the idea. Berkowitz said Linknotize has modernized the traditional board game, tailored it to current generations and brought

educational fun to kids of all ages.

“This generation of kids really has learned to do everything online,” Berkowitz said. “Now we have this intersection of online and offline.”

Several reviewers have since helped promote the new game. Linknotize recently received a shoutout from Ellen DeGeneres who “exercises her knowledge of pop culture with Linknotize.” Berkowitz said she hopes this will boost Linknotize’s popularity.

This twist on the board game isn’t just fun and games, Janson said. Apart from amusement, he said the game also offers educational value and encourages

constructive use of technology.

“In a world where everybody has a computer in their pocket, it kind of makes sense,” Janson said. “It provides, at least in my mind, some educational benefit, while at the same time of course being fun.”

Juan Arroyo, assistant professor in the Department of Politics at Ithaca College and Model United Nations moderator, has worked with Janson in Model U.N. since Fall 2013. Arroyo said Janson’s own ability to link topics is reflected in Linknotize.

“It doesn’t surprise me the content of the game is fact based, but it’s a game,” Arroyo said. “The simulations are kind of the same way. They’re fact based, but it’s simulated so we can take things in different directions, and the students can be creative. It’s a good fit with what he does in the Model United Nations.”

Arroyo, who just recently learned about Linknotize, said he was impressed by the concept of the game and appreciated the creativity that went into its creation.

“I think it’s very interesting, and it’s a fun way to introduce people to encyclopedias, the Web and to the links between everything,” Arroyo said. “It gets people to understand how many different things are linked together, either immediately or in a more distant way.”

Now available in the U.S. for \$25, Janson said Linknotize is opening players’ eyes to the possibilities of the Internet.

“It teaches you a different way to think about the world,” Janson said. “Everything is interlinked.”



NATALIE DIONNE, INDIA

THE
JETSETTERS

Rickshaws provide new inner peace

Every morning — after eating breakfast made by my host mother, consisting of hot milk, cornflakes, some sort of fried wheat-flour creation and mangoes — I get picked up for school via rickshaw, a motorized, three-wheeled buggy. My driver is consistently inconsistent in his time of arrival, but usually scoots to the front gate of my homestay around 8:30 a.m. and honks his horn.

The route to my school center includes dangerously entering the endlessly busy Bhawani Singh Road, precariously circling around a traffic rotary, crossing over a bridge and then weaving through side streets and neighborhoods. The drive only takes about 6 minutes, but it has consistently been an outwardly life-threatening adventure.

When I first arrived in India three weeks ago, a man named Awadhesh picked me up at the airport in Delhi. It was 3 a.m. and smoggy. My senses were hampered by jet lag, a belly full of three airplane meals and the anticipation of my arrival. That all changed when I sat in a taxi and entered the highway.

It was chaos: unpredictable swerving of motorbikes, brake lights flashing and the road lines seeming to be a soft suggestion as to how the traffic should flow. All that I had learned about road laws when I was a 15-year-old in a driver’s education course was null and void.

After three days spent in Delhi for orientation, I traveled by bus to Jaipur with my peers where we are based for a large part of the semester. It was on this 6-hour long journey where I had the time to evaluate the traffic patterns through a dirty and cracked bus window. They revealed themselves to be organized madness. I listened to the varying pitches of horns and saw women gracefully ride side-saddle on the back of bicycles, the beautifully patterned fabric of their sarees dancing in the wind behind them.

It wasn’t until my first rickshaw ride to school in Jaipur that I was truly immersed in the traffic at the level of all the insanity. The combination of horns blaring, the close proximity to which cars and motorbikes pass and the smell of hot petroleum exhaust in the air mixed with faint bouts of chewing tobacco and musky incense make rickshaw rides an over-stimulating experience.

While swerving, liberal honking and sporadic breaking all kept me on the edge of my small tapestry-covered seat, I’ve started to feel a certain kind of calm inside the yellow and green metal shells of rickshaws. Morning commutes to school and late night rides home forced me to accept that uncontrollable chaos can be productive. The privilege of sharing a language to communicate fails to exist in most rickshaw driver-and-rider relationships I’ve formed thus far, which often leads to yelling brief phrases in poor Hindi and making U-turns without checking for oncoming traffic, but I eventually end up back at my homestay. I’ve found that it is a common theme with drivers who speak no English to get very lost among the side streets. I’ve also found that it is in the common nature of the people on the street to selflessly help direct lost rickshaw drivers when they pull over to ask directions.

As I spend more time in this endlessly unknown place, the constant ruckus of the traffic is slowly transforming into a symphonic tribute to the utter chaos on the streets and in my soul. My time in India has not been void of challenges that have shaken my stability, or moments of gratitude and understanding. But it has never ceased to amaze me, especially when experienced from the back of a rickshaw.

Nuances of language explored in professor’s play

James Pfrehm, assistant professor of modern languages and literatures, had his satirical linguistics-based play, “Death by Dictionary,” published in the Winter 2014–15 edition of *The Fourth Wall Review*. The *Fourth Wall Review* is a print and online journal aimed at publishing pieces by up-and-coming playwrights through the use of audio, video and print art. Pfrehm is also the author of such language books as “Austrian Standard German: Biography of a National Variety of German” and “Kunterbunt und kurz geschrieben: An Interactive German Reader” and has been a playwright since 2001.

Staff Writer Josh Vitchkoski sat down to speak with Pfrehm about the linguistic atmosphere of his play and the art of playwriting.

Josh Vitchkoski: What is the premise of “Death by Dictionary”?

James Pfrehm: It starts out in an office of some newspaper, some fictional newspaper or writing outfit, and there is a journalist — I believe he’s a writer — and it’s like a combat zone. He’s gone berserk on his editor because his editor wants him to not use a specific word in his piece on “the new first decade of the 21st century.” It’s the breaking point of other things in his life. Everything goes to hell based on his editor’s decision not to use a certain turn of phrase in his piece. It’s the straw that breaks the camel’s back, and he holds his editor hostage, and that’s where the play starts. Police show up, they want to talk about “Why are you doing this?” It turns out he’s doing it because of a word that set him off.

JV: What particular genre does this play fall under?

JP: It was meant to be a comedy but really just a highly dramatic and quirky comedy. I don’t re-

ally think in terms of genres. I do think in terms of what would make an interesting story, what would make interesting characters and if the story and characters lend themselves toward a comedy, then I go with comedy. I just recently finished a full-length play last summer called “When a Man Wants a Baby,” and it’s a procreative comedy. It’s about a man who’s trying to hire a surrogate for a baby and all of the funny stuff that ensues.

JV: What made you step into the field of playwriting?

JP: I like creating situations that I can control, like a writing god. I think a lot of writers enjoy that, creating their own worlds, populating them with characters. And then, I really like to make people laugh. My career in standup comedy didn’t go anywhere, so I decided then to look at playwriting. And I love language. I absolutely love all of the different shades of language, shades of meaning, from the pragmatics to the actual semantics, and I like playing with that in plays.

JV: Where did your inspiration for this play come from?

JP: I read an article in 2005 or 2006 about somebody complaining that there was no term for the first decade of the 21st century, and that’s not true. There’s a term for everything. You can make one up even if there isn’t, and we know that because language is inexhaustible in that way. People were upset that they had to say “the first decade of the 21st century,” whereas you say the ‘20s, the ‘30s, the ‘40s, the ‘50s. Somebody had suggested numerous ones like the naughts, the aughts, or the ‘00s. People were grappling with what term to use, and I thought, “Wouldn’t that be funny if I started a play where there’s this



Assistant professor James Pfrehm published “Death by Dictionary” in *The Fourth Wall Review*.

TOMMY BATTISTELLI/THE ITHACAN

cracked-up writer who’s gone berserk because he wants to use the aughts, and his editor says, “That’s not a word?” So there’s this battle between prescriptivists, on what we basically consider correct usage, that the drama arose out of.

JV: Is there anything else you’d like to say?

JP: If you have interests, and those interests coincide at all with what you have to do professionally, find time to pursue those interests. That’s how I got started in playwriting. I was in grad school. I wasn’t being creative. But I found an interest in it and I started reading manuals on how to write plays, going to a bunch of plays, reading as many plays as I could — I was reading three plays a week. Don’t let what you do professionally or academically hold you back from pursuing interests when you have the time.

Play delves into reliability of memory

BY CELISA CALACAL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A man and a woman wake up dazedly in the same house, each venturing out into the living room to discover that their humble residence is surrounded by water. While perplexed by the large body of water surrounding them, the moment they become aware of the other's presence initiates a new wave of confusion. They are unrecognizable to the other, but more so than that, they are unrecognizable to themselves.

Lee Blessing's "A Body of Water" will be performed at Ithaca's Kitchen Theatre from Feb. 18 through March 8. The play weaves together a mystifying storyline that focuses on a couple, Avis (Carmen Roman) and Moss (James Leaming), who suffer from a severe and enigmatic case of memory loss. They attempt to piece together their circumstances through hypothesizing based on their surroundings, such as when they deduce that they are a married couple from the discovery of a wedding ring. However, the introduction of the play's third character, Wren (Lesley Gurule), toys with the couple's memories.

As Moss and Avis attempt to regain their memory and piece together reality, the play explores the reliability of memory. Not only does the couple struggle to assemble their story, but the audience is left to wonder and deliberate over the couple's unusual circumstances as well. With Wren being the only character able to access her memories, she becomes the sole source of truth in the play. The audience is perplexed, since the only information they know of the storyline and the characters is formulated by Wren's recollections of her own memory. Gurule, who played Wren, said the character was untrustworthy and unreliable.

"She was always trying to give the information she thought was most helpful at that particular point



From left, Lesley Gurule, James Leaming and Carmen Roman play Wren, Moss and Avis in "A Body Of Water," directed by Michele Minnick. The play will run from Feb. 18 to March 8 at Kitchen Theatre Company.

DAVE BURBANK/THE KITCHEN THEATRE COMPANY

in time," she said. "Sometimes that was true, or there were elements of truth to it."

Upon her introduction, Wren explains that Moss and Avis are being accused of murdering their daughter, whom they have no recollection of. However, the soundness and believability of the story does not last long, for after constant skepticism and questioning, Wren openly admits to lying about this story. As a result, her credibility falters, leaving the couple and the audience to question her authenticity.

Emily Jackson, artistic associate director and director of audience services and development at the Kitchen Theatre, said the mysterious tone of the play does not

explicitly cause confusion toward its characters and storyline.

"I never feel lost because I feel like the play goes completely in one direction, and then it pulls you in a completely different one," she said. "It never feels like anyone's trying to pull one over on you. You just have to figure out the pieces of it."

Audience member Eric Brooks said the ambiguity of the play's storyline allows for audiences to make their own inferences about the characters and their circumstances based on personal perception.

"All of the parts fit into some whole, which we may not know about," he said. "I don't think it's a play you can apply much linear logic to — you live in the moment of the play."

Gurule also said it was the playwright's intent to make the play confusing for members of the audience.

"It's a little bit like an abstract painting in a way," she said. "You look at it as an individual and you decide what you're interpretation of that is. It's kind of the feeling of this play."

Although the layering of stories results in no concrete explanation to the audience's questions, this plot device allows for thought-provoking speculation. The sheer ambiguity of the storyline leads audiences to reflect upon the reliability of truth and memory, resulting in a play of depth, beauty and mystery — much like a body of water.

hot dates

thursday

A cooking class will be hosted by Anita Devine, a professional vegan chef, at 7 p.m. at GreenStar Cooperative Market, 701 W. Buffalo St.

friday

An Artist Talk will be held at 4 p.m. at the Handwerker Gallery by Mercedes Dorame, the artist featured in the Handwerker's "Origin Stories: Altar Apparitions" exhibit.

Chanticleer, a renowned vocal ensemble, will perform "The Gypsy in My Soul" at 8:15 p.m. in Ford Hall in the Whalen Center for Music.

saturday

'Winterdance 2015' will be performed by the Ithaca Ballet after a four-year hiatus at 7:30 p.m. at the Community School of Music and Arts.

A Solar Home Companion will teach viewers how to make their lives more environmentally friendly at 8 p.m. at Park Hall at Ithaca College.

sunday

'A Midsummer Night's Dream' will be performed in opera form by the Ithaca Shakespeare Company and Opera Ithaca at 2 p.m. at Cinemapolis.

The Finger Lakes Chamber Ensemble will perform music by Schubert, Mozart and Brahms at 4 p.m. at the Unitarian Church on Aurora Street.

Kinky sex scenes fail to save dismal 'Fifty Shades of Grey'

BY STEVEN PIRANI
LIFE & CULTURE EDITOR

There's something to say about a film so enthusiastic as "Fifty Shades of Grey." From its opening shot of churning, grayscale clouds, it presents itself with a certain dignity that assures viewers the following film could be nothing but a markedly mature and composed look into a tumultuous, passion-filled tryst. This impression, however, quickly evaporates, and what is left is a cinematic tumbleweed of sex, stares and shallow characterization. Paired with some wholly irresponsible commentary on relationship dynamics, the film ultimately vaults past the zone of mediocrity into the realm of impressively, astonishingly horrendous.

Based on the 2011 novel of the same name written by E.L. James, "Fifty Shades of Grey" follows Anastasia Steele (Dakota Johnson), a 21-year-old college student who finds herself in the office of wealthy businessman Christian Grey (Jamie Dornan). Anastasia, who is interviewing Grey for her journalist roommate, Kate (Eloise Mumford), is immediately struck by him. Shortly after their first meeting, Christian begins a campaign of gift-giving and smooth-talking, luring her into his extravagant world of kinky sex, fast cars and emotional confusion.

This setup, at first glance, sounds like the archetypal platform for any "unlikely couple" romance film — "Titanic," for instance, often toyed with the notion of rich-meets-poor love. In this respect, "Fifty Shades of Grey" is much like "Titanic," except the titular, sinking ship has been replaced with light bondage and nonstop emotional torture.

"Fifty Shades of Grey" has, arguably, earned its notoriety thanks to its controversial sex scenes, which feature bondage, flogging and other assorted, so-called "deviant" acts. These concepts have had a perplexing effect, distracting

MOVIE REVIEW

"Fifty Shades of Grey"

Universal Studios
Our rating:

☆☆☆☆



Jamie Dornan and Dakota Johnson star as Christian Grey and Anastasia Steele, respectively, in "Fifty Shades of Grey."

COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

audiences from a far more frightening notion than a bit of bed-side roughness: the romanticized emotional abuse of a main character who is consistently portrayed as young and sexually inexperienced. Most denizens of the Internet have likely encountered posts decrying this premise, and it's safe to say they have full merit in their statements — be it the sexual contract Christian demands Anastasia sign to surrender herself to him, or the fact that he entirely does away with said contract after a few moments and has sex with her, make for a wholly disturbing dynamic that betrays the romantic image the film so desperately grasps for. Instead, what is offered up is a tirade of emotional abuse, crafting a profoundly warped image of how any relationship, anywhere, should function.

Disregarding the questionable moral ground "Fifty Shades of Grey" walks on, and instead considering it as a movie, there remains to be very little to enjoy in the film's 2-hour runtime. Johnson's performance is heavy on lip-biting, pouting and sleepy eyelids, and her line delivery often leans more toward lobotomized than her intended, wistfully in-love disposition. Pair this with Dornan's brooding, robotic portrayal of Christian, and the result is a heinously boring film, following two lovers who spend the majority of their time either staring at each other or exploring their own bodies.

The sex scenes are, interestingly enough, the least-excruciating moments in the film, though this doesn't exclude them from being exceedingly campy. The purpose these scenes end up serving is as respite from the excessive, pervasive strangeness of Anastasia and Christian's relationship outside of the bedroom. The kinkiness is there in spades, but compared to the shallow, abusive and confused characters, it seems entirely more orthodox.

Perhaps the only compliment one can give to "Fifty Shades of Grey" is its style, which is admittedly well-executed. Christian's office is classic, modern swank, and viewers may find themselves gawking at the endless, marble tables and city skylines, both of which provide a welcome distraction from everything else happening in the movie.

What is undoubtedly the most shameful thing of all, however, is that "Fifty Shades of Grey" has found a space in theaters in the first place and will distract viewers from other, far more deserving films. This sad notion, paired with the irresponsible and unabashedly dull romance the film presents, make it hard to have any sympathy for the film whatsoever. With this in mind, backed by the moral questionability and sheer inane of the plot, it seems appropriate to award this film absolutely no stars. Instead, it is encouraged that audiences look elsewhere in the hopes of finding some other tantalizing form of entertainment.

Twists and turns propel taut espionage thriller

BY NOAH ORENT
STAFF WRITER

A group of terrorists hold an environmental scientist against his will, threatening to subject him to torture unless he pledges his loyalty to their employer. Before they can do so, a British secret agent takes down the ringleader and proceeds to kill the others one by one. But the mission comes to an abrupt end when the agent is cut down by a female assassin with a hidden agenda that would endanger millions of lives.

MOVIE REVIEW

"Kingsman: The Secret Service"
20th Century Fox
Our rating: ★★★★★

From this fast-paced opening sequence, "Kingsman: The Secret Service" creates a world that channels the works of espionage authors such as Ian Fleming, the creator of the "James Bond" series, and John le Carre, whose career with the British intelligence services inspired him to create the sphinx-like emissary George Smiley. Based on the 2012 comic book series created by Mark Millar and Dave Gibbons, the movie stars Academy Award-winning actor Colin Firth as secret agent Harry Hart, who juggles recruiting devil-may-care street kid Gary "Eggsy" Unwin (Taron Egerton) into the titular intelligence organization and connecting the death of a fellow agent to lispig megalomaniac Richmond Valentine (Samuel L. Jackson).

Reminiscent of the "James Bond" franchise, "Kingsman" satisfies viewers with the usual quota of beautiful love interests, high-tech gadgets and psychopathic industrialists bent on world domination while allowing them to see how future intelligence officers are culled and trained. Although multiplex, the field exercises Eggsy and his fellow candidates undergo prove to be a powerful experience, making the audience feel as if it is

being forced to endure each individual drill. The same can also be said for the numerous plot twists, which move the main plot forward in a well-written way while leaving viewers shocked until the very last scene.

Firth and Jackson are, without a doubt, the film's most compelling forces, adding depth to the stereotypes commonly associated with the spy genre, primarily the reclusive supervillain and the quintessential British gentleman. While Valentine's master plan is eerily similar to the one conceived in the 1979 "James Bond" film, "Moonraker," which involves a billionaire determined to destroy life on Earth and rebuild humanity with a master race, Jackson manages to create a believable character who has a defined set of priorities and a strong aversion to blood and guts. Firth, meanwhile, continues to captivate audiences with stellar acting, a trait that keeps the main plot going in several instances, especially when Hart reveals that he regrets not being able to save Eggsy's father, a fellow Kingsman agent who died in the line of duty prior to the main action of the film. Though their characters don't initially see eye to eye, Firth and Egerton provide an exciting setup with dramatic potency that can be found in every scene.

There are only two minute flaws within the world of "Kingsman" that are inconsequential to the film as a whole. The first is the unexpected overuse of violence, which comes across as slightly forced on the part of rising director Matthew Vaughn, particularly during a key scene in which Hart takes on the members of an obscure Midwestern hate group while being controlled by Valentine's new SIM card. The second is the strong lack of character development found in Valentine's henchwoman, Gazelle (Sofia Boutella), a skilled assassin and double amputee with weaponized prosthetic legs that can cut down



From left, Colin Firth and Taron Egerton star as veteran secret agent Harry Hart and trainee Gary "Eggsy" Unwin in the action-packed British spy drama, "Kingsman: The Secret Service." COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX PICTURES

anything, and anyone, standing in her way. She is, at first blush, a loyal servant who takes great pleasure in inflicting pain on others, but the absence of a backstory and a line delivery that almost appears to be robotic makes Gazelle come across as a character who has zero personality outside of her many interactions with Valentine. Much like Ronan the Accuser in last year's "Guardians of the Galaxy," it feels as though the script gave all the good material to the main cast and left nothing for Gazelle.

Despite these minor faults, "Kingsman:

The Secret Service" is a film that is worth seeing. Cast and crew work in synchronization to fill every scene with thrills while ensuring that no audience member gets tired of looking at the screen. The film is bound to leave viewers at the edge of their seats from start to finish as they embark on a roller coaster ride that proves to be a welcome addition to a market that is dominated by Bonds and Bournes.

"Kingsman: The Secret Service" was written and directed by Matthew Vaughn.

'Smoke + Mirrors' reflects indie band's lack of cohesion

BY KIM JOYCE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Las Vegas-based rock band Imagine Dragons' second album, "Smoke + Mirrors," released Feb. 17, isn't a large departure from the band's debut album, "Night Visions." The group has mastered a formula of rock music that feels just alternative enough to appeal to the hipster masses while maintaining a level of predictability perfect for pop radio. "Smoke + Mirrors" is an album made up of hit-or-miss songs with catchy melodies and lyrics. While this works well for the band's marketability, it erases any chance of cohesiveness from the album.

The album in general is full of tried and tired pop melodies, and though it's worked for the band in the past, it leaves something to be

desired in the way of progress. "Night Visions," was filled with positive rock anthems, and "Smoke + Mirrors" follows suit with the lead single, "I Bet My Life." However, the album falls short, focusing on a much darker theme throughout and taking stylistic tips from a mix of bands. One song sounds like it would fit right in with a Coldplay album, while another would be at home on a Mumford and Sons record. It creates a strange compilation of random-sounding songs. The only connecting thread for many of the tracks is the lyrical repetition of how sorry the band is. As many times as they apologize, it's still not clear what they are sorry about.

The group looks outside of its usual arena-rock box in a couple songs, and those turn out to be the best on the album. "Polaroid," with its simple and deliberate beat, lays a solid foundation for front-man Dan Reynolds' lyrics without all of the theatrics that cloud the rest of the album. The second single off the album,



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"Gold," is the complete opposite, with synthesized sounds galore. The sound effects help to produce a hip-hop-like sound, and Reynolds' metaphorical lyrics wink at the pitfalls of success. The band reminds listeners in "I'm So Sorry" why it's classified as a rock band. With powerful guitar and vocals reminiscent of garage-rock band The Black Keys, Imagine Dragons produces a track that has enough energy to overpower the dreariness of the other songs.

While "Smoke + Mirrors" isn't anything special as a whole, there are a couple gems, and a few songs that will no doubt be heard on the radio for the next year or two.

Instrumentals cloud R&B soul

BY MATTHEW RADULSKI
STAFF WRITER

Raheem DeVaughn released his first album 10 years ago, and he's been a rhythm-and-blues mainstay since. He's acquired three Grammy nominations, and each of his last four albums have been in the Billboard top-10 R&B

ALBUM REVIEW

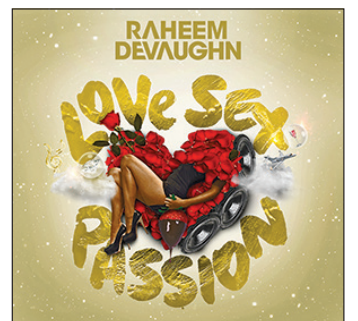
Raheem DeVaughn
"Love Sex Passion"
Entertainment One Music
Our rating: ★★★★★

charts. His latest effort, "Love Sex Passion," still has its moments, but the lavish production hurts the intimate setting. The grandness of the instrumentation is ill-suited for DeVaughn's smooth vocals, which results in an unremarkable but enjoyable album.

Many of the tracks feel over-produced. "Black Ice Cream" has too much going on. Guitar riffs come out of nowhere and there are distracting background vocals. The wordplay is clever and DeVaughn has a good voice but doesn't get a chance to show it.

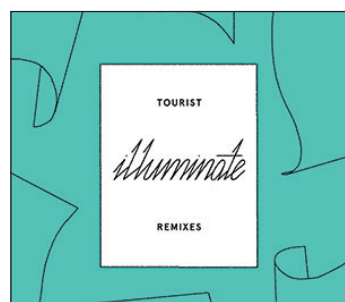
One instance when the way the song is produced supports the crooning rather than masking it occurs on "Pretty Lady." DeVaughn teams up with Trombone Shorty to create a soulful track. Shorty puts his instrument to good use and leaves the listener wanting more from these two.

Nothing about "Love Sex Passion" is radio-friendly, but it is aptly named. When the passion comes through, largely from DeVaughn himself, "Love Sex Passion" is all its title claims. The production, loaded with percussion, piano and loops, ends up being the record's undoing.



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QUICKIES



COURTESY OF MONDAY RECORDS

"ILLUMINATE"
Tourist
Monday Records

On Feb. 15, turntablist Tourist released two remixes of his November 2014 song, "Illuminate." One remix features MJ Cole with a more classic twist on the electronic track, while in the other Tourist remixes himself by adding more electronics.



COURTESY OF INTERSCOPE RECORDS

"SPACE"
Rozzi Crane
Interscope Records

Californian singer-songwriter Rozzi Crane released her first EP, "Space," on Feb. 16. The four-track, indie-pop setlist features Crane's voice heavily, even in "Painkiller" where Maroon 5's Adam Levine is featured in the chorus.



COURTESY OF PARLOPHONE RECORDS, LTD

"GO OUT"
Blur

Parlophone Records, Ltd
Released Feb. 20, electronic band Blur's new single, "Go Out," features heavy guitar riffs and many whirring electronic sounds. Its deliberate groove is reinforced by repetitive vocals. "Go Out" is the first track Blur has produced in 12 years.

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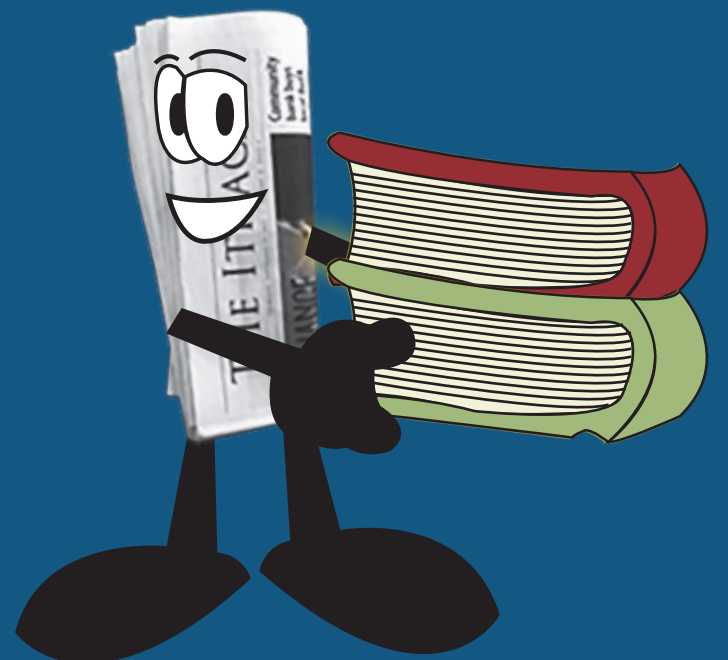
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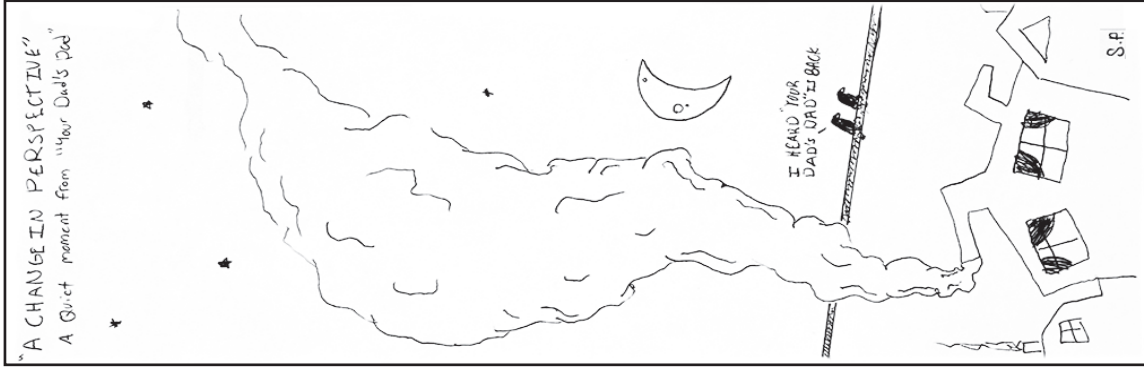
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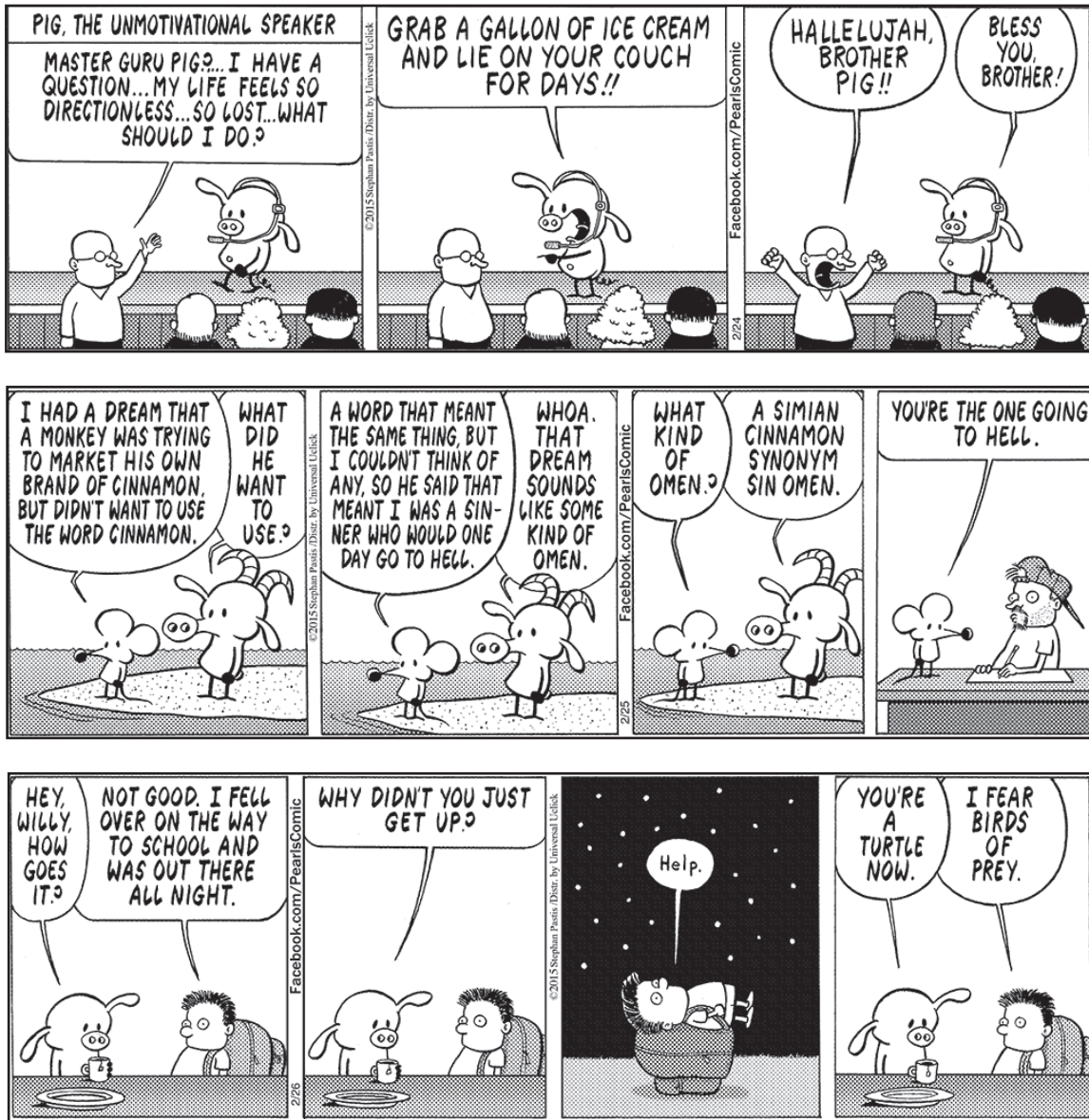
Your Dad's Dad

By Steven Pirani '16



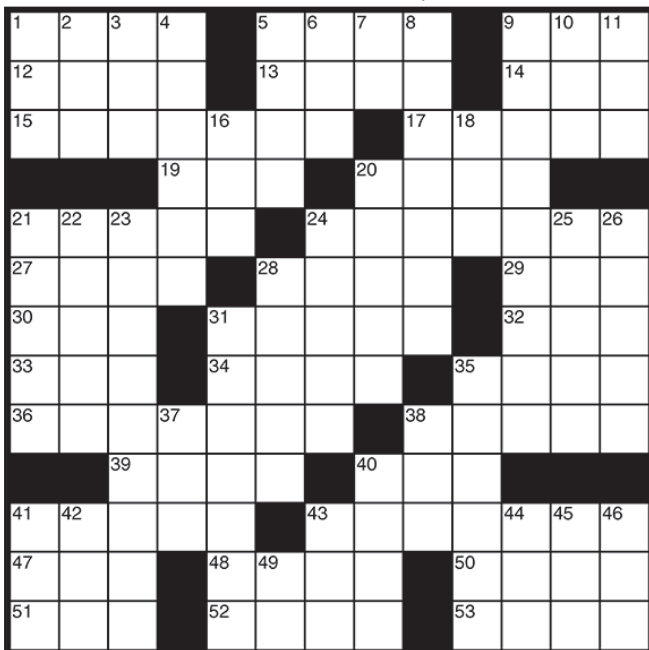
Pearls Before Swine®

By Stephan Pastis



crossword

By United Media



ACROSS

- 1 Vaccine type
- 5 As well as
- 9 Habitual complainer
- 12 Grabbed a taxi
- 13 Like Tonto's friend
- 14 Ecol. police
- 15 Ladybugs
- 17 Strongly advises
- 19 Cul-de--
- 20 Cameo shape
- 21 Loses energy
- 24 Mix drinks
- 27 Wealthy, to Pablo
- 28 Packing crate
- 29 Third letter of the alphabet
- 30 Wheel buy (2 wds.)
- 31 Inches forward
- 32 Price marker
- 33 Sweater sz.
- 34 Veep's boss
- 35 -- move on!
- 36 Bad guys

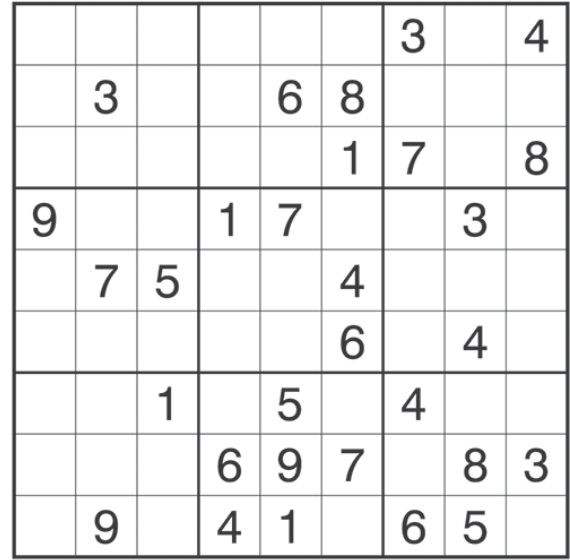
- 38 Compliments
- 39 Miss Kitty's friend
- 40 Meet, in poker
- 41 Gaelic people
- 43 Honcho (2 wds.)
- 47 Just a --!
- 48 Two to two
- 50 Hooray for me! (hyph.)
- 51 Motel room fixtures
- 52 Powdered drink mix
- 53 Multitude

DOWN

- 1 Regal emblem
- 2 Beluga product
- 3 Lime cooler
- 4 Turns loose (2 wds.)
- 5 Knighted Guinness
- 6 -- Angeles
- 7 Tin, in chem.
- 8 Artists' life works
- 9 Forgot to do
- 10 Tarzan's nanny

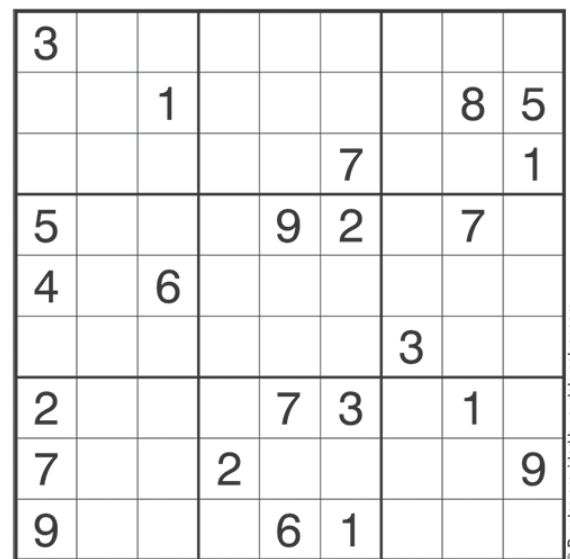
sudoku

medium



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very hard



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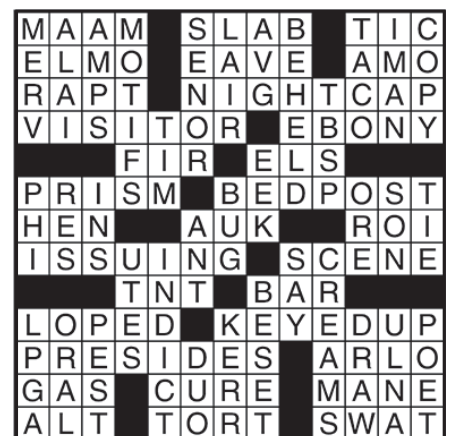
answers to last week's sudoku

Medium	Hard
8 9 6 5 4 1 3 2 7	9 3 5 1 7 8 2 6 4
2 4 1 9 3 7 8 6 5	8 2 4 3 5 6 1 7 9
7 3 5 2 6 8 9 4 1	7 6 1 9 4 2 5 3 8
5 7 8 1 9 2 4 3 6	6 4 7 2 8 3 9 1 5
4 6 9 3 8 5 7 1 2	3 9 8 5 1 4 7 2 6
1 2 3 6 7 4 5 9 8	5 1 2 6 9 7 8 4 3
9 8 4 7 2 6 1 5 3	2 8 6 7 3 5 4 9 1
6 5 7 4 1 3 2 8 9	1 5 3 4 2 9 6 8 7
3 1 2 8 5 9 6 7 4	4 7 9 8 6 1 3 5 2



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last week's crossword answers



- 11 Home-heating fuel
- 16 Refrain syllables
- 18 Informer
- 20 Caravan halts
- 21 Falsely incriminate
- 22 Pharaoh's textile
- 23 Profs and scholars
- 24 Pedestals
- 25 Groovy!
- 26 Ballerina painter
- 28 Inverted V
- 31 "The Unready" for Ethelred
- 35 Company
- 37 Bell and Kettle
- 38 Frat party fixture
- 40 Warble
- 41 Is, to Wolfgang
- 42 Gun the engine
- 43 Mr. Jonson
- 44 Kubrick's computer
- 45 Lyric poem
- 46 Shooting marble
- 49 KY neighbor

EMPIRE 8 FINAL FOUR

MEN'S BASKETBALL



Freshman guard Marc Chasin was named the Empire 8 Rookie of the Year by the conference.
CAITIE IHRIG/THE ITHACAN

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



Freshman guard Erin Woop has contributed key minutes off the bench for the Bombers.
CAITIE IHRIG/THE ITHACAN

Breaking down this year's men's and women's basketball Empire 8 conference tournament

BY KRISTEN GOWDY
SPORTS EDITOR

For the third consecutive season, the seeding for the Empire 8 men's basketball conference tournament came down to the final weekend of regular season play and featured six teams clawing for just four spots.

By squeaking out a narrow 83-74 victory Feb. 20 at Elmira College, the men's basketball team effectively eliminated the Soaring Eagles — who, at 7-7 in conference play heading into the game, would have had a shot at making the tournament if they defeated the Bombers — from tournament contention. The Blue and Gold's win, combined with Stevens Institute of Technology's loss to Nazareth College, secured the fourth spot in the tournament for the South Hill squad.

The Bombers, who finished with a 9-7 record against Empire 8 opponents, will face the top-seeded host, St. John Fisher College, which enters the tournament with a 14-2 conference record and has beaten the Blue and Gold both times the teams have squared off this season.

Head coach Jim Mullins said the Bombers will need to change their game plan if they want to stop the Cardinals, who feature an up-tempo offense paired with a defense that forces opponents to shoot long range.

"I think they're a cut above everyone else in the league," Mullins said. "We'll be looking at tape and trying to determine what we want to do, but I think anytime you get into postseason play there's a huge emphasis on defense and rebounding, and those have been areas that we have struggled in this year."

Although the Blue and Gold have posted the league's best scoring offense by averaging 78.8 points per game, they average just 36.8 rebounds per game, which ranks seventh in the conference.

Fisher features a run-and-gun style offense with a defensive emphasis on help side and guarding the paint, and Mullins said the Bombers will focus on transition defense leading up to the tournament.

Meanwhile, the South Hill squad will look to utilize its height advantage against the Cardinals. At 6 feet 8 inches, Bomber senior center Keefe Gitto will be the tallest player on the floor, and his stat line of 15.7 points and

9.3 rebounds per game should be an advantage for the Bombers because the Cardinals do not field a player taller than 6 feet 6 inches.

St. John Fisher head coach Rob Kornaker said his team will look for speed over height as it attempts to advance to the championship game for the first time since 2011.

"We're not the biggest team in the world, but we are pretty athletic and pretty long," Kornaker said.

In the other semifinal match, the second seed, Alfred University, will take on third-seeded Hartwick College, which earned the spot with a 100-88 victory over Nazareth on Feb. 21.

The Saxons, who enter the tournament with an 11-5 record in league play, feature a scoring attack led by senior forward Dalton Walsh and sophomore guard Tyler Seelman, who average 16.2 and 16.1 points per game, respectively.

However, Alfred head coach Russell Phillips said the Saxons will put the biggest emphasis on defense, utilizing the squad's trademark matchup, trapping press to stifle the Hawks' 75-point-per-game offense.

"With our press, that's not something that many other teams in the league do, so it makes us a little bit more difficult to prepare for," he said. "We try to keep teams off-balance with switching up defenses and switching screens, so the press is unique for the league."

To counter Alfred's defense, Hartwick will look to its balanced scoring attack. Five Hawks average double figures in scoring, and the Saxons will also have their hands full with Hartwick's 6-foot-9-inch center Matt Wilson, who enters the tournament averaging 11 points and 7.3 rebounds per game.

The teams have had a week of practice to prepare for the tournament, which begins Feb. 27 at St. John Fisher in Rochester, New York. Kornaker said the home court advantage should play a huge role in Fisher's chances in the tournament, especially against the Bombers in the semifinal match.

"Coach Mullins is a really good coach, so he probably knows our strengths and weaknesses coming into this game," he said. "Our advantage is playing on our home court. It gets loud in there, and it's pretty small and cramped ... but honestly I think any [team] is capable of winning this thing."

BY STEPHEN PAYETTE
STAFF WRITER

Another regular season has come to an end, and the women's basketball team finds itself in familiar territory. The Bombers currently stand alone in first place in the Empire 8 conference and are getting set to host their fourth conference championship in the last five years. Having home-court advantage is a huge plus for the Blue and Gold, as they have posted a 58-5 record at Ben Light Gymnasium in the last five seasons.

Senior guard Samantha Klie said getting the top seed in the conference and securing home-court advantage has been a priority from the beginning of the season.

"Playing on our home court for the tournament is something we set out to do from day one because we want to have our school behind us at the game, which is huge to have that support," Klie said. "I think either way though, it comes down to our mentality going into the game and just how prepared we can be"

Joining the Bombers this year in the Empire 8 tournament are two programs that have consistently been in the top-four teams each year. St. John Fisher College and Stevens Institute of Technology are making their fifth straight appearances in the conference tournament. The Bombers come into this year's tournament having won the last three conference championships.

The Bombers will play fourth-seeded Nazareth College on Feb. 27 in the semifinal round of the tournament, while second-seeded Stevens will play third-seeded St. John Fisher. The winners of both games will meet in the championship Feb. 28.

Nazareth, which posts a 10-6 record in league play, enters its first conference tournament in 15 years. The Golden Flyers shot their way into the tournament by leading the league in 3-point field goal percentage at 33.3 percent. Junior center Lindsey Kelly and junior guard Veronica Peck lead Nazareth's offensive attack. Nazareth has lost both of its games against the Bombers when the two have met this season.

The Bombers, however, have had a tough time keeping Kelly off the glass, as she is averaging 13.5 rebounds in the two games against the Blue and Gold. Peck has also had success against the college as of late as she scored 18 points in the last meeting.

Freshman guard Jordan Beers said preparing

for Kelly and the outstanding 3-point shooting of Nazareth is something that needs to be addressed in the team's game plan.

"We stress the importance of taking away every player's strength and finishing every play with a rebound," she said.

St. John Fisher, which enters the tournament with a 12-4 conference record, is the only team to beat the Bombers in conference play. The Cardinals hold the highest scoring offense in the conference at 72.5 points per game. Leading the charge for the Cardinals is senior guard Portia Velasco and junior guard Mary Kate Cusack. Velasco ranks sixth all-time in scoring in St. John Fisher history with just over 1,400 points in her career. Cusack, however, leads Fisher's attack this year averaging 16.5 points per game, ranking second-best in the Empire 8, while Velasco averages 14.9 points per game.

Fisher head coach Marianne O'Connor Ermi said she is well aware that her offense has been successful this season, but credits the defense for the team's success.

"When we are aggressive with our defense and turning our opponent over, we create a lot of our offense," Ermi said. "Our pressure defense leads to more scoring opportunities."

At 14-2 in conference play, Stevens possesses the best defense in the league, holding opponents to 54.1 points per game. The Ducks also lead the conference in defensive field goal percentage.

Leading Stevens on the offensive side is junior guard Kaitlyn Astel. Astel averages 16.6 points per game, which ranks first in the conference. As a team, Stevens also leads the conference in offensive field goal percentage at 42.4 percent.

Key for the Bombers heading into the semifinal match is going to be keeping Nazareth off the boards and keeping their offensive leaders in check if they want to be successful in their first game.

Klie said she and her teammates have been preparing differently for this conference playoff game than they did for games during the regular season. She said a slightly altered game plan on offense will help the Blue and Gold against the Flyers.

"In terms of a game plan we've put in a couple new looks offensively, which is something we're focusing on a lot this week," Klie said. "Also, just getting ready to go both mentally and physically."



Senior Keefe Gitto
CAITIE IHRIG/THE ITHACAN



Senior Samantha Klie
CAITIE IHRIG/THE ITHACAN

THE BOMBER ROUNDUP

The Ithacan's sports staff provides updates on the winter and spring squads

WRESTLING BY TOM GARRIS

The wrestling team ended its season on a high note with an 18–15 win over SUNY Cortland on Feb. 18. It is the first time since 2012 the Bombers have beaten the Red Dragons in a dual meet, bringing their season record to 11–2.

Sophomore 125-pounder Jimmy Kaishian started the match off strong for the South Hill squad, gaining his first points of the match

by escaping from the bottom position, then landing a key takedown as the period came to a close. The final score was a 7–3 win.

The Bombers forfeited the 133-pound match, but came back strong, winning the next 184-pound match from Carlos Toribio in a duel between the meet's two top-ranked wrestlers.

Up next for the Blue and Gold is the NCAA regionals from Feb. 28 to March 1.

Box Score: Feb. 18 Ithaca College 18–15 SUNY Cortland
Cortland, New York (11–2) (9–4)

GYMNASTICS BY CAITIE IHRIG

The gymnastics team competed at Rhode Island College on Feb. 21. With a team score of 187.500, the Blue and Gold were able to pull off the victory against the Anchormen.

Freshman Kendra Balcerak had the highest individual score of the day for the Bombers with a first place finish of 9.675 on balance beam. Balcerak also came in first place on the uneven bars with a score of 9.625.

Freshman Rachel Lee and senior Valerie Co-

hen tied for first place on the vault, each posting a score of 9.475.

Balcerak said the team is gaining momentum for the rest of the season.

"We just have to continue to work hard and believe in our skills and more importantly ourselves," she said. "Then everything should fall in place."

The gymnastics team will compete next March 1 at SUNY Brockport.

Box Score: Feb. 21 Ithaca College 187.5–179.950 Rhode Island College
Providence, Rhode Island (2–8) (0–2)

MEN'S TENNIS BY JAKE SIEGEL

The men's tennis team lost its first contest of the year after the squad was shutout 9–0 by the University of Rochester on Feb. 21.

The loss to Rochester is the sixth consecutive time the South Hill squad has fallen to the Yellowjackets in its series.

Junior Chris Hayes said despite the slow start to the season, the team is still very optimistic heading into its next match.

"We competed hard as a team," Hayes said. "Rochester is a very strong team, and although the score may not reflect it, I thought we competed very well and took a step in the right direction heading into this weekend."

The Bombers will look to pick up their first victory of the year as they welcome the St. Lawrence University Saints on Feb. 28 to the Glazer Arena.

Box Score: Feb. 21 University of Rochester 9–0 Ithaca College
Rochester, New York (3–1) (0–2)

MEN'S LACROSSE BY JOELLE GOLDSTEIN

The men's lacrosse team opened its season with a 13–10 victory Feb. 22 against Marywood University.

The Bombers' victory was contingent on their aggressive play — outscoring the Pacers 45–34 and winning 18 out of the 24 face-offs.

Sophomore John Januszkiewicz led the Bombers with four goals and two assists.

Senior attacker James Manilla, who added a goal and two assists for the day, said he was

pleased with the outcome of the match and is looking forward to the next one.

"We're happy to come away with a win, but a game like today's gives us a solid gauge of where we need to improve," he said. "We're all eager to get back on the field and play against another good team to prove ourselves."

Next up for the Blue and Gold is a match against Rochester Institute of Technology on Feb. 28 at Higgins Stadium.

Box Score: Feb. 22 Ithaca College 13–10 Marywood University
Higgins Stadium (1–0) (0–1)

SWIMMING AND DIVING BY COREY FULLER

The men's and women's swimming and diving teams fared well in competition this past weekend, claiming second and first, respectively, in the Upper New York State Collegiate Swimming Association Championship/Empire 8 Championship.

The teams travelled to Webster, New York, for four days of competition.

Head coach Paula Miller received the Women's Coach of the Meet Award, while Erin

Harner was named the Women's Diving Coach of the Meet.

On the other side of the pool, the men's squad finished second with a total of 1,128.5 points, falling only to Stevens Institute of Technology.

Senior Matt Morrison completed a sweep of the diving events. His performance also earned him his third straight Diver of the Meet honors.

The Bombers compete next in the NCAA Championship from March 18–21.



Freshman hurdler Noah Cohen strides down the track in the 60-meter hurdles in the Bomber Quad on Feb. 20 at the Athletics and Events Center. Cohen placed 10th with a time of 9.79.
CAITIE IHRIG/THE ITHACAN

TRACK AND FIELD BY LAUREN MURRAY

The men's and women's track and field teams competed at the Bomber Quad and the Cornell Marc Deneault Invitational over the weekend.

On Feb. 20, senior captain Rashaad Barrett led the Bombers to a second-place finish in the 60-meter dash in 6.94 seconds. Junior Andrew Brandt also recorded a first-place finish in high jump with a height of 2.01 meters.

For the women, the distance medley team consisting of freshman Taryn Cordani, junior Eliza Dewart and seniors Alexa Rick and Leigh Martino finished first with a time of 12:23.94.

On Feb. 21, the men's top performance was

the 4x400-meter relay team with a second-place finish. Juniors John Fausold and Jordan Smith, freshman Gerardo Munoz and senior Dennis Ryan finished the event in an ECAC qualifying time of 3:27.17.

The 4x400-meter women's relay team, consisting of Dewart, junior Christine Kelly, freshman Sophia Feuer and Martino, finished in second, meeting an ECAC standard at 4:02.07.

Both teams compete next Feb. 27 at the New York State Collegiate Track Conference Indoor Championship at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York.

MEN'S BASKETBALL BY MATT RÖTLER

The men's basketball team concluded its regular season Feb. 20 with an 83–74 road win against Elmira College. The win secured the fourth seed in the Empire 8 Tournament.

Seniors Keefe Gitto and Max Masucci led the South Hill squad with 20 points and 19 points, respectively, while junior guard Sam Bevan racked up 15 points in the victory.

The Blue and Gold went into halftime up two points over the Soaring Eagles before both teams exchanged baskets for the first 10 minutes of the second half. The score was tied

at 49 before the Bombers finally pulled away from Elmira.

This was a must-win game for the Bombers, as they needed at least one Stevens Institute of Technology loss to allow the team to secure the final playoff spot in the Empire 8 playoffs.

The South Hill squad finished off the regular season with a record of 12–13 and a 9–7 record in conference play.

The Bombers will play their first playoff game Feb. 27 against St. John Fisher College in Rochester, New York.

Box Score: Feb. 20 Ithaca College 83–74 Elmira College
Elmira, New York (12–13) (10–15)

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL BY JONATHAN BECK

The women's basketball team wrapped up the 2015 regular season with a 66–43 win over Elmira College on Feb. 20 in Elmira, New York, to improve its record to 21–4.

The Blue and Gold started the game with a 14–2 run through the first 9 minutes of action. Heading into halftime with a 27–11 lead, the Bombers never looked back and led the Soaring Eagles by a score of 42–16 with 15 minutes left, and maintained at least a 23-point margin until the final 2 minutes of the game.

Senior forward Francesca Cotrupe scored

a game-high 12 points, grabbing 13 rebounds in the process, for her third double-double of the season. Sophomore guard Alex Gilligan scored 10 points, surpassing 100 points on the season. She became the ninth player to do so this year, which set a program record for the Bombers.

The No. 1–seeded Bombers will face off against No. 4–seeded Nazareth College on Feb. 27 in the first round of the Empire 8 Tournament. If the Bombers win, they will advance to the title game Feb. 28.

Box Score: Feb. 20 Ithaca College 66–43 Elmira College
Elmira, New York (21–4) (10–15)

Men's swimming and diving team boasts perfect record

BY KARLY REDPATH
SENIOR WRITER

With a team of only 23, one of the program's smallest to date, the men's swimming and diving team managed to go undefeated for the first time in over a decade.

After five straight one-loss seasons, finishing with a 15-0 record this year for the first time since 2003 was a huge accomplishment for the Blue and Gold. Despite this achievement, it was kept relatively on the quiet side by head coach Kevin Markwardt.

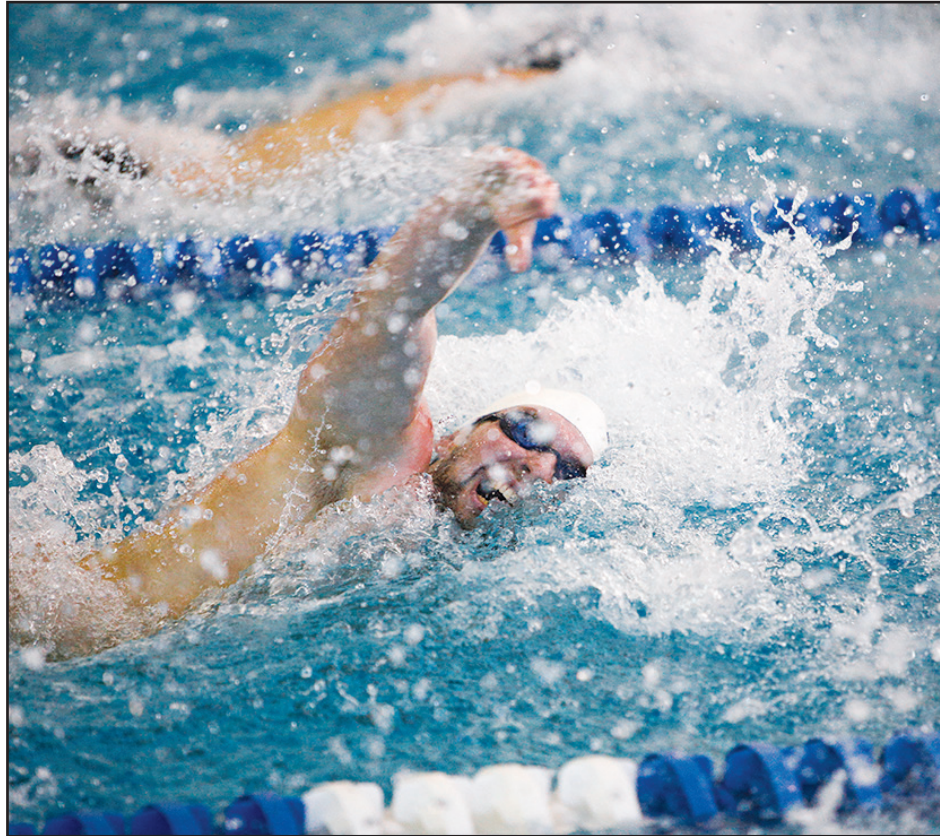
Senior backstrokeer Brendan Marks said Markwardt used this strategy throughout the season so his athletes wouldn't become distracted.

"We know that Kevin is proud of everything that we accomplished, but he doesn't often show it," Marks said. "At the end of the season, he was like, 'I haven't said much to you guys, but you went undefeated and that's huge. That's something that we didn't think that we were going to accomplish, but you guys really put in the work.'"

Senior freestyler Logan Metzger said the undefeated finish for the Blue and Gold during his last year on the team was the adornment of his Bomber career.

"I guess for us during our freshman, sophomore and junior year, really, we were all one meet away from being undefeated," Metzger said. "We still did really well, and we obviously had really great seasons. But it's cool that we brought this team together, and even though we have a much smaller team than in years past we pulled through."

Metzger said the annual quad meet Nov. 22, 2014, in which Hamilton College hosts the Bombers, SUNY Geneseo and Hartwick College, is one they always look forward to because it is usually the most challenging and most exciting for the team. The Bombers earned a victory last year in the meet by only one point over Geneseo. Although they beat the Knights by 32 points this year, Metzger said the team was no less enthusiastic on the pool deck.



Junior swimmer Jeremy Kingsley swims in the 50-yard freestyle during the Bomber Invitational on Dec. 7, 2014, at the Athletics and Events Center. Kingsley finished the race in a time of 22.91.

TUCKER MITCHELL/THE ITHACAN

"We're always the loudest team out there, we're cheering for each other and you can feel the energy," he said. "You get up there and you know that you have the entire team behind you, supporting you and wanting you to do your absolute best. And I think that really translates to better swims in the pool."

After losing six talented seniors last year and many others to injury or study-abroad programs, senior freestyler Clement Towner said much of the team's success is attributed to its smaller size.

"Having fewer numbers this year meant that every single one of us knew we had a job to do," Towner said. "We knew every time we got up on

the block, we had to give it everything we had. There was no, 'Oh, I can sit back and let somebody else take this.' Every race was crucial."

The coaching staff also made the decision to incorporate other forms of training into the program during the season. They hired a lifting coach, who helped the swimmers learn proper techniques throughout the season and also integrated dry-land training on top of the training in the pool. This, the swimmers said, helped them get stronger and be more confident on race day.

Marks said perhaps most important this year was the team's choice to live in the moment and not overthink their victories.

"We would win a meet and we would come in on the following Monday and there's little, if anything, said about what we did," Marks said. "We'd win the meet, everyone knew we swam well, we'd have a good bus ride home, everyone's psyched and then Monday it's back [in the pool] to get to work."

Towner said a first-place finish in the Upper New York State Collegiate Swimming Association Championship/Empire 8 Championships, which took place from Feb. 18-21, would have allowed his collegiate swimming career to come full circle. The team, however, finished second out of 15 teams for the third year in a row to Stevens Institute of Technology.

Senior diver Matthew Morrison said his last showing at the Empire 8 Championships exceeded his expectations, and at the event this year he faced a challenging set of competitors.

"I was really stressed leading up to it because a lot of my competition had returned after taking last year off," he said. "It wasn't until each competition day started that I could get in the zone and [feel] confident. We're all close friends in our conference and wanted each other to do our best. I would have been happy no matter where I finished."

Morrison, the lone diver for the men's team, has placed first in all of the Empire 8's 1-meter and 3-meter competitions since his sophomore year, something that no other diver in Ithaca College history has achieved.

Now the Bombers will look ahead to the NCAA Championships, which take place March 18-21 in Shennandoah, Texas. Morrison said he hopes he and his teammates can finish out the season on a high note.

"I can only hope that as many of us make it as possible," Morrison said. "I've learned a lot from going to Indiana last year and Texas the year before and can only hope things fall into place this last time around. Ithaca has always had a great presence on the national stage and this year should be no different."

Track and field athletes reaching new heights in transition to multi-events

BY JOELLE GOLDSTEIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Imagine spending years perfecting a sport and countless hours deciphering the recruiting process only to discover, upon arrival at college, that you'd be changing events entirely. For many athletes, the process of switching would seem intimidating and unfamiliar. However, if there's one thing that has proven true for four men's track and field athletes, it's that adversity can be embraced.

Freshman Seth Abbott and sophomores Tyler Denn-Thiele, Andrew Ward and Thomas Battistelli are all members of the men's track and field team, but there is something that connects them even further.

All four are multi-athletes, which means they compete in the heptathlon — a grueling, seven-part event that includes a 60-meter dash, shot-put toss, long jump, high jump, pole vault, 60-meter hurdles and a 1,000-meter dash. However, the athletes weren't always multi-eventers. Upon their arrival at the college, they all switched from their respective events to multis.

The switch came about as a result of a decision made by a combination of the athletes and head coach Jim Nichols. Ward said while Nichols selects and encourages the most qualified athletes, he doesn't force anyone to make the change.

"He picks people who are versatile and early in their college career," Ward said. "He says, 'I can't want it more than you.' Usually he will sit you down and ask how you would feel about it."

Denn-Thiele spent his four years in high school strictly as a pole vaulter, and the original thought of switching events was far from intimidating.

"I soon learned that the task was harder than I originally thought," Denn-Thiele said. "Learning many new events meant longer practices, yet less time to learn each event."

However, as quickly as the athletes switched events, they also discovered just as quickly how difficult and frustrating being a multi-eventer is. Ward said the transition was incredibly tough, especially since the Bombers compete in several Division I meets against higher-caliber athletes throughout the season.

"I've known what I was doing on a track since I was 15, and suddenly, I had five new events to learn in a month," he said. "Trying to learn new stuff at age 19 competing with Division I athletes is pretty awful!"

The process of switching events was, by no means, an easy one, Ward said. Each event on the team practices separately, and Ward said the multi-athletes attend all of the practices and sometimes work out three to four times per day. Normal track

practice runs from 4-6 p.m., but the heptathletes often practice from 3-7 p.m. to keep up with their events. Ward said he has learned the importance of consistency and taking advantage of his strengths.

"We did less focus on being fit and more focus on learning new things. It's a lot of trial and error," Ward said. "It was a lot of frustrating hours of just, 'keep trying, keep trying, keep trying.' At a certain point, Coach finally said it was time to be athletic and do it."

And that's exactly what these men have done. For Ward and Denn-Thiele, progress has been evident over the past two years in their time as Bombers. Ward's progress has been especially clear within the past two weeks, when he set personal records in six of the seven heptathlon events he competed in at the Bomber Invitational on Feb. 7.

In his two encounters with the heptathlon, Ward placed sixth at the Cornell Greg Page Relays on Dec. 6, 2014, and seventh at the Bomber Invitational on Jan. 31. Meanwhile, Denn-Thiele placed ninth and sixth at the Cornell Relays and the Upstate Challenge 2015 Indoors on Jan. 24, respectively. Similarly, Abbott placed eighth and fifth in the same meets.

Though the results may not yet be what he has hoped for, in Abbott's



Sophomore heptathlete Andrew Ward leaps over the bar in the high jump during the Cornell Relays on Dec. 6, 2014, at Barton Hall. Ward placed sixth.

TOMMY BATTISTELLI/THE ITHACAN

short time as a Bomber, he said he has experienced personal achievements on the track as a multi-eventer.

"In one meet, I was able to pole vault a full meter higher than I had ever done before — which is an insane improvement," Abbott said.

With hopes to place first in their events, the heptathletes are working hard, while also focusing on keeping themselves healthy and ready to

compete. Though their confidence is still building, much like their multi-event skills, Ward said one thing is certain: The Bombers are ready to outwork their competitors and overcome any adversity thrown their way.

"I've learned that you need to be really patient," Ward said. "It's a learning process — and I'm definitely still in the learning curve — but I've seen progress since the beginning."



THE HOT STOVE

STEVE DERDERIAN

Deaths put sport into perspective

In the past month, several well-known sports figures have died at old ages after successful careers.

At the same time, there were multiple tragic deaths of younger professional athletes in the past year, including former NFL kicker Rob Bironas, 36, and rising MLB star Oscar Taveras, 22, who were both killed in car accidents, and most recently NHL defenseman Steve Montador, 35, who died in his home Feb. 15.

We don't know when that moment of fate is around the corner, and during a recent track and field competition, I almost witnessed firsthand the sight of a similar tragedy.

On Feb. 14, our team traveled to Houghton College to compete in the Empire 8 conference indoor championship title. I was slotted in the fastest heat of the mile, and with one lap to go, I was passed by two runners and missed out scoring.

As disappointed as I was when I crossed the line, I turned back around to see one of my fellow competitors from the race lying on the ground. When he crossed the line, he collapsed due to what I heard was a seizure. Trainers and officials checked his vitals and began chest compressions to get him awake.

Fortunately, we found out two days later that this runner made it out of the hospital and was just beginning to walk again.

It was a close call, and though I was not teammates with this one individual, I still remember that you could have heard a pin drop inside the fieldhouse when trainers were trying to care for him. As track and field competitors, we've jokingly said to one another that we run until we feel like we're going to die and keep going to the finish. This time, this almost came true.

Still, the experience helped put my running career in perspective. Though our team ended up falling short of a championship, I couldn't keep the near-death experience I witnessed out of my head.

I've realized over the years that you never know when you're going to run your last race.

As a track athlete, I'm in a sport where my events involve running with your lungs burning and your legs locking up toward the end. Still, we find ways to push through the pain and finish what we started. I certainly hope my fellow competitor recovers well but will not let this experience ruin a life of athletic pursuits. That doesn't necessarily mean competing in a uniform again, but doing what he loves for the rest of his life.

Stories like these make people cringe and ask why we do this, yet I think it makes us appreciate the sport more. While we certainly never want to see this happen, I think it's a necessary human pursuit — measuring yourself often and being the best you can be.

STEVE DERDERIAN is a senior journalism major. Follow him on Twitter @Steve_Derderian.

Wrestlers to face steep competition in playoffs

BY CHRIS FIASCHETTI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When faced with steep competition at the climax of the season, any team would look to seize the opportunity to perfect every tactic before the event. That is the situation the wrestling team has found itself in heading into the NCAA Tournament.

The Bombers have had a great deal of success and are currently ranked 10th by d3wrestle.com with a number of team members that have individual rankings as well.

Senior Alex Gomez is ranked fourth at 133 pounds, and sophomores Jimmy Kaishian, 125 pounds, and Carlos Toribio, 184 pounds, have been ranked 10th and sixth, respectively.

As a team, the South Hill squad has been victorious in seven of its last eight matches. Of the seven wins, two have come against nationally ranked opponents.

Head coach Marty Nichols said he believes wrestling against such good competition will help the Bombers prepare for regionals.

"We usually try to wrestle [good competition] at the end of the season to get guys retooled and ready for the competition we will be facing at the tournaments," Nichols said. "It's a really good test for us at the end of the year."

That test will come in handy for the Blue and Gold as they are looking to progress through regionals as a team. With three nationally ranked wrestlers and multiple wrestlers that are contenders for the top 10 in their respective weight classes, success could be headed the team's way.

A team like this only comes



Senior captain Alex Gomez competes in the wrestling team's 18-12 victory over Wilkes College on Feb. 13. The nationally ranked wrestler will be one of the biggest factors in the South Hill squad's NCAA Tournament run.

KAITLYN KELLY/THE ITHACAN

around once in a while, and Toribio said he knows it.

"This is the best team we've had so far that I've seen," Toribio said. "We can do it all, and we expect to bring a full house to nationals."

It may seem like a bold prediction, but it is not impossible.

In the middle of the seven-match stretch, the Bombers won the Empire Collegiate Wrestling Conference championship in Oneonta, New York.

Each Bomber had to win his own individual tournaments to give the team a collective victory, which is similar to the way the regional tournament is constructed. To progress to nationals, an individual wrestler must place in the top three in their weight class. If enough

wrestlers place, the team could then be sent to nationals as well.

Nichols said he sees the possibilities that lie in front of his squad.

"I really think we have 10 guys that could go to the national tournament," he said.

Throughout the tournament, there are many intriguing matchups that will be played out. SUNY Cortland will be looking for revenge against the Bombers, while No. 14 Roger Williams University, No. 15 Johnson and Wales University and unranked Wesleyan University could potentially turn into tough matchups for the team.

A big individual matchup to look forward to is Gomez against Nathan Giorgio from U.S. Coast Guard

Academy, who is ranked second in the nation. The duo met previously in the season at the York Invitational, which resulted in a Giorgio victory.

Gomez said he has since been preparing for the rematch.

"I wasn't prepared the first time we wrestled," he said. "I know what I need to do now and I'll be ready to go."

The Bombers are trying to keep the atmosphere light at practice and stay positive while they head to the climax of their season, Nichols said.

"We're having a lot of fun in practice," he said. "The team is upbeat and having a good time. They're still getting better every day, trying to improve. If they continue to improve, good things are going to happen."

Alumna included in Forbes' 30 Under 30 sports list

In January, Uzma Rawn, who graduated from Ithaca College in 2006 with a degree in sport management, was named to Forbes List of 30 Under 30 in the sports industry, which names 30 of the most influential people in sports. The exclusive list includes both athletes — including MLB's Buster Posey, the NBA's Chris Paul and the NFL's Joe Flacco — and people on the business side of sport.



RAWN

Rawn currently serves as the vice president of corporate partnerships at Premier Partnerships, a company that, according to its website, primarily deals with "development and execution of customized commercial sales strategies for top-tier facilities, sports and entertainment destinations, league and team properties, as well as municipal projects." She also heads the company's New York office and recently worked on the deal that allowed for the name change of the Portland Trail Blazers' stadium to Moda Center.

Sports Editor Kristen Gowdy spoke with Rawn about her recent naming rights deal, her award and her time at the college.

Kristen Gowdy: You recently worked on the naming rights deal with the Portland Trail Blazers' stadium. What was your role in that?

Uzma Rawn: We were working with the Trail Blazers, mainly focusing on their naming rights to bring on a partner for what at the time was called the Rose Garden, and they had never had a naming rights partner before at the arena. I was focusing on really mining the Portland market. They say that 75

percent or 80 percent of the naming rights deals that are done for arenas and stadiums are done by companies that are in a 75 or 100-mile radius of the arena. So whenever Premier brings on a new client for naming rights, our entire team makes sure that we are reaching out and talking to all of the brands that are headquartered there, moving their headquarters there, have large employee bases there or have a presence in that market. My role there was just to do exactly that — to make sure I was talking to a number of brands. I specifically focused on the health insurance category because of what was happening in the health insurance industry as a whole with Obamacare. That's how I discovered Modah and that they were rebranding themselves. This naming rights platform allowed them a great opportunity to leverage a partnership, to really introduce their new brand to the community and to communicate who they are or were as a health insurance company, what they represent, what their story is and why consumers should choose them over other suppliers in that market.

KG: How did you get chosen for the Forbes 30 Under 30 list?

UR: To be honest with you, I actually don't know who nominated me. I got a call from Forbes in December [2014] telling me that I had been nominated, and they asked me if I would accept the award if I was chosen. I, of course, said yes, and they asked me to complete a questionnaire which then told me that I was [to] be notified on Jan. 5 if I was selected. So I was so honored and humbled to be chosen to be part of that list among some very inspirational individuals, and I think that something that helped in terms of exposure for me was definitely the Modah naming rights deal that I did.

There was an article that was written in Sports Business Journal, so it just helped get me a little more exposure. I would say that someone took notice and decided that they wanted to put my name in the hat for that, and I'm so grateful and I'd love to find out who it is so I can thank them.

KG: How did your experiences at Ithaca College help you to get where you are now?

UR: Ithaca was so great. I loved my four years there. My professors in the sports management program were phenomenal. The reason I chose Ithaca to begin with is that I always thought, after visiting the [college], that it had a great sports management program and curriculum, and the professors were really involved with the students. There were a lot of opportunities after students graduated where the professors would really help their students with the next step, getting their career in terms of introducing them to other alumni that were working in the sports industry or getting them connected to other sports organizations whether it was agencies or teams that the [college] had relationships with. That's one of the main reasons why I chose to go there.

KG: What's next for you? Do you have any future plans or goals with Premier?

UR: I'm really excited about this new role that I'm in here in New York and leading the New York office. We are a company that's headquartered in LA ... [and] I'm excited to really grow Premier's east-coast presence and really grow our impact and penetration here in New York to make sure we're continuously thought of as the top tier and we keep our standing as the high-level top-tier agency.



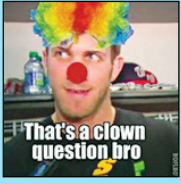
Top Tweets

The best sports commentary via Twitter from this past week

MLB Memes

@MLBMeme

Some perspective:
Floyd vs Manny 5 years overdue
The #Cubs haven't won a World Series in 107 years



Earvin Magic Johnson

@MagicJohnson

The Bucks just acquired the next Jason Kidd in Michael Carter-Williams.



NOT Baseball Tonight

@NOTMLBTonight

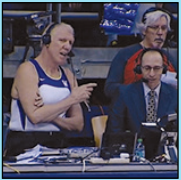
REPORT: Cole Hamels ready for trade. #Phillies asking price is 25 first round picks, an entire team's farm system, and take Ryan Howard too.



Awful Announcing

@awfulannouncing

It's going to take a lot to dethrone Bob Knight for #1 announcing blooper of the year for 2015.



Burnin' rubber

Freshman Jake Goldberg pitches the ball to the opposing team in a co-rec intramural kickball game Feb. 22 in the Athletics and Events Center. Goldberg and his team FREE BOBBY lost to Shake them bears by a final score of 27-5. KAITLYN KELLY/THE ITHACAN

187.5

The total team score the gymnastics team tallied Feb. 21 — its highest in almost three years.

BY THE NUMBERS

The number of points the women's swimming and diving team won by to earn its 15th Empire 8 Championship.

24

GOOD BAD SPORT SPORT

'80 USA Hockey Team



The remaining members of the 1980 United States men's ice hockey team, coined the "Miracle on Ice" squad, gathered Feb. 21 in Lake Placid, New York, to commemorate the 35th anniversary of their gold medal. In one of the most memorable upsets in sports history, the team defeated the Soviet Union national team to advance to the title game. It would go on to defeat the Finland national team for the gold medal.

Kurt Busch



NASCAR driver Kurt Busch lost his appeal Feb. 21 and remains suspended indefinitely from the sport. The 2004 champion is excluded from racing in the Daytona 500 as well. Busch was dealt the punishment the day before he lost his appeal after a judge said he committed an act of domestic violence against his former girlfriend Patricia Driscoll in 2014.

the foul line

Weird news from the world of sports

Spring training is finally underway for avid baseball fans.

Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Cliff Lee decided to kick it off by spurring the media Marshawn Lynch style Feb. 19.

Lee used a Magic 8 Ball to answer questions from reporters during a media session following his first workout of the season.

The Phillies are headed into the 2015 season amid trade rumors of Lee's teammate Cole Hamels, who recently voiced his displeasure with the organization's direction. Quick thinking by Lee to distract Phillies' fans from another losing season.



CLUTCH PLAY of the WEEK

Arizona University's Kevin Newman is a man of many talents. D1baseball.com recently listed the starting shortstop on the baseball team as a preseason All-American. He also lists table tennis as a hobby in his biography on the Arizona Athletics website.

Bottom of the ninth, tie game. It's a situation every ballplayer dreams about at one point or another.

With the game tied 6-6 and two outs for the Wildcats, Newman stole home for a walk-off win against Rice University on Feb. 21.

All that ping-pong ultimately paid off.



Strike a pose

Freshman Ilana Diamant, longtime yoga participant and instructor-in-training, shares some of her must-know poses for beginners and experts alike



Upward Dog

“It really strengthens the core, the legs, the arms. It’s a really good stretch, and it’s a really good transition to other poses.”



Rejoicing Warrior*

“[Rejoicing Warrior] is really fun. It still is a really big stretch, but it’s fun — you feel really powerful.”

*also known as Reverse Warrior



Boat

“Boat is all core, and it’s great and awful at the same time. I can feel it ... because my legs and stomach are trembling, but it feels really good.”



Dancer

“You kind of look ballet-like but really ... [Dancer] stretches your hamstring a lot, and also it just feels really good.”



Tree

“This is just very comfortable to me ... It works your legs, it works your muscles, it works your balance, it works your arms. It’s a really important yoga pose to know.”



Warrior II

“It can be really hard to hold, it really uses your quads. The trick, I’ve found, is to find a really steady place that doesn’t move, which can be hard in a crowded yoga class.”

SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

A SPECIAL SECTION OF
THE ITHACAN

SPRING



was

SPRUNG

As the snow begins to melt on South Hill,
Bomber spring teams are heating up



MEN'S AND WOMEN'S LACROSSE



Men's lacrosse ranked first in preseason Empire 8 poll

BY KARLY REDPATH
SENIOR WRITER

Most of the men's lacrosse team's preseason has been a challenge between reserving indoor space and braving the bitter cold and snow.

Its 2015 season kicked off Feb. 22 with a 13-10 win against Marywood University. The Bombers, who finished at 15-5 last season, look to reclaim last season's Empire 8 title, which was the team's first since 2008.

The Blue and Gold were also recently ranked No. 1 in the Empire 8 Men's Lacrosse Preseason Coaches Poll.

However, junior defender Eli Gobrecht said most of the time the team tries not to look too much into the rankings.

"It basically means that this year we have a target on our back," Gobrecht said. "Being the No. 1 team, everyone wants to beat us. There's a lot of teams on our schedule that kind of circle that game because it's a premiere matchup for them, so it just means we've got to take every day like one day at a time."

After graduating nine seniors last year, the team looked to rebuild as it recruited, and succeeded. Of the 36 players on the team, 12 are freshmen. The team also returns 13 sophomores and 11 upperclassmen with five juniors

and six seniors.

Senior defenseman John Figarelli said he thinks the team has had one of its strongest preseason starts in his four years on the team, and it can have an equally strong season.

"As far as talent from last year, I think we can be just as good — if not better," Figarelli said. "We've been real consistent this preseason, I don't think we've had a preseason where we've put together so many good practices — you know the first three days, coach kicked us off the field and said, 'You guys are lazy,' and ever since then, we haven't had a bad day."

Head coach Jeff Long said the team is looking forward to having some key returners back this season, who he thinks will have a big impact on the team's success.

"We have some good kids at each position that have had some pretty good experience," Long said. "I think the key is really how those next-level kids do for winning games. Your starting team kind of matches up usually pretty even with most of the people we play against. When you make subs, and your level doesn't go down, or it actually goes up a little bit, that's where you



JUST THE FACTS

Head coach: Jeff Long

Last year's record: 15-5

Key returners: James Manilla, John Januszkiewicz, Michael Walker

From left, senior attack James Manilla prepares to pass over a defender in the men's lacrosse team's 10-8 victory over Nazareth College on Feb. 12, 2014.

TUCKER MITCHELL/THE ITHACAN

win a lot of games."

This season the South Hill squad looks to become the first men's lacrosse team in school history to repeat an Empire 8 Championship title, something the upperclassmen said is a huge focal point.

The matchup with the most intrigue for the Bombers is Rochester Institute of Technology on Feb. 28. Rochester was the squad that knocked the Bombers out of the race for an NCAA title last season in the second round with a 20-8 victory.

Figarelli said one of the goals for the team this season is to get further in the postseason than it did last year.

"We [want to] repeat as Empire 8 champions, and as far as the NCAA playoffs go, we'd like to go further than we did last year," he said. "We know it's going to be tough because our midfield is the youngest part of our team right now, as far as experience goes."

The team has had a tough preseason due to the inclement weather in Ithaca thus far, which has restricted outdoor practice times. However, senior attacker James Manilla said he sees it as just another factor that is going to make the team stronger when it comes to its performance.

"We're all pretty firm believers in everything we do up until game

day gives us an advantage," he said. "Whether it's what we're doing in the weight room, things like shoveling the field, just dealing with the adversity that's been thrown at us, I think will only make us stronger as a team."

But for now, Long said he wants to focus his attention on the start of the season.

"Being so young, I think every game is huge right now," he said. "I think we need game experience. So that's going to be our biggest thing is how fast our team can mature. We really do need to go back the old cliché, 'one day, one game at a time,' and get better each day. So that's kind of how we're going to do it."

Women's lacrosse looks to break seven-year conference title slump

BY BRANDON GLASS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

For three straight years, it has been a story of heartbreak for the women's lacrosse team. Three straight years and three straight Empire 8 Championship games lost.

It started in the spring of 2012. After going 12-3 in the regular season, including a program-record tying 10 consecutive victories, the team suffered a crushing home loss against second-seeded St. John Fisher College in the Empire 8 conference title game.

A year later, the pattern continued for the Bombers. A dominant regular season was highlighted by an undefeated 7-0 record in conference play. Yet the conference tournament returned to Higgins Stadium for another championship defeat to the nationally ranked Cardinals.

However, the worst was far from over. After another double-digit win regular season in 2014, the South Hill squad suffered its third-straight Empire 8 title game loss to St. John Fisher on the Bombers' home turf.

For three years, the script has remained the same for this team. But in 2015, the squad has one main goal: rewriting that script.

Senior attacker Emily Peters said the team is using the past three years as motivation to go even further in the postseason this spring.

"Ultimately the goal is to learn from mistakes we made and come back stronger," Peters said. "It's going to be rewarding to finally break the cycle."

Despite not achieving their ultimate goal for the past few years — the Bombers have not made the NCAA tournament since 2011 — senior midfielder Natalie Lang said

the team has not looked at those seasons as a failure.

"One of our goals for every season is to make it to and win the Empire 8 Championship game," Lang said. "The past three years we have worked really hard throughout the season to reach that goal. Each season we have had a great season and made it to the game."

This year, the pieces are in place for the Blue and Gold to make a long postseason run.

The Bombers head into the campaign ranked 18th in the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association preseason poll, only two spots behind Empire 8 rival St. John Fisher.

The team returns two of its three first-team Empire 8 selections from last season in junior attacker Ally Runyon and senior midfielder Molly Fischer. Runyon paced the squad a year ago, tallying 64 points on a team-best 56 goals and eight assists. Sophomore goalie Emily Ross also returns from her second-team Empire 8 campaign.

However, Ross said the team is not interested in individual achievements or awards. Rather, the focus remains on winning the Empire 8 and returning to the NCAA tournament for the first time in four years.

"The main goal is to work for the title," Ross said. "We really try to break it into one game at a time. In the long run, our goal is to get to E8s, win the conference championship, but we have to get one game at a time."

Despite the amount of talent at its disposal, the team knows that the game — or conference for that matter — is not won on paper.



JUST THE FACTS

Head coach: Shannon McHale

Last year's record: 12-6

Key returners: Molly Fischer, Emily Ross, Ally Runyon

Senior midfielder Niki Standera looks for an open teammate in the women's lacrosse team's 9-6 victory over William Smith College. Standera earned all-conference honorable mention last year.

JENNIFER WILLIAMS/THE ITHACAN

Peters said the team has been working hard throughout the preseason to make sure it proves its worth on the field.

"This team, this group of seniors, has worked together for four years," she said. "Not getting complacent is a challenge for a lot of teams. We put a lot of emphasis on constantly challenging each other. We can make a lot of excuses with the weather and snow right now but we don't. Everyone works really hard."

After three straight years of the same story, Lang said the team's depth could be a sign that an Empire 8 Championship may finally be in the works.

"This year, we have 20-some girls who are all talented players and bring something

different to the table," she said. "Any combination of girls can be on the field at one time, and our team has the capability to work as a unit. This year is going to be our year."

The Bombers open their season 3 p.m. Feb. 28 with a home contest against the University of Rochester.

Ross said after three years of disappointment, a conference title would be the least the team's six seniors deserve after their four-year careers.

"[The seniors] are working so hard, and you can see it on the field," she said. "They're 100 percent committed to this team and our goal to be conference champions. I want them to win it so badly, and I want to help them get to that point."



MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD



Men's track and field seeks redemption after indoor defeat

BY MATT HORNICK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Intensity and unity will be key for the men's track and field team in its preparation for the 2015 outdoor season. The Bombers' indoor track and field squad finished second to St. John Fisher College at the Empire 8 Indoor Track and Field Championships on Feb. 14, ending its seven-year streak as the indoor track and field conference champions.

After winning for so many years, junior high jumper Andrew Brandt said it became easy to get complacent, and the team expected to win for the eighth-consecutive year.

"I feel like we had become used to winning, so when Fisher came out with the unexpected performance that they did, it served as a wake-up call," Brandt said.

Head coach Jim Nichols said while the Cardinals put together their best performance of the season and were motivated throughout the meet, the Bombers faltered early and never recovered.

"They had excellent athletes that were excited about the opportunity to win a championship for the first time in their school's history, and they went after it," Nichols said. "The first event was the long jump, and they finished in the top four places, which got them 28 points, and we got one point in the event. So we spent the rest of the event playing catch up."

Freshman sprinter Alex Graap said the Bombers are using this surprising and heart-breaking defeat as motivation as they prepare to kick off the upcoming outdoor season. Graap said the way the team practices has changed in order to encourage better performances in the long run.

"Getting second place in the conference tournament was definitely a tough pill to swallow but that brought more intensity and more fire into the practices, and hopefully we can bring the same intensity to the outdoor season," Graap said.



From left, sophomore Sam Piraneo and junior Dane Eckweiler compete in the 400-meter hurdles at the Ithaca Tuesday Meet on April 22, 2014, at Butterfield Stadium. Eckweiler finished first.

JENNIFER WILLIAMS/THE ITHACAN

The team will look to some of its top returners to carry it through the outdoor season as they did in the winter. Despite the loss at the indoor conference championships, the Bombers earned five all-conference selections at the meet, including senior Rashaad Barrett, junior Stephen Gomez, sophomore Sean Phillips and freshman Tim Chappell. The 4x200 relay team of Graap, as well as juniors Dane Eckweiler, Brandon Leary and Zane Shephard, also earned a second

team all-conference selection. These returners will look to continue their success in the outdoor season.

Though track and field is a compilation of individual events, Brandt said the team is also focusing on building team unity through bonding.

"In order to be successful as a track team, we need to take the 60 people we have competing in individual events and bring us all together," he said. "One of the ways we do

that is we make big pasta dinners together the night before our meets."

Brandt also said during meets, members of the team stand on the track cheering their teammates on and trying to motivate them to do their best, instead of hanging out on the bleachers with their focuses elsewhere.

While the majority of the events in the indoor and outdoor track and field seasons are the same, Nichols said there are many events that are exclusive to the outdoor season. He said the new events may help the team's success because they will encourage hard work.

"When we make the switch from indoor to outdoor, there are new events we need to prepare for such as the steeplechase, the 400-meter hurdles, discus, javelin, hammer throw instead of weight throw and 100-meter dash instead of the 60-meter dash," he said. "Hopefully that will help us be more successful in the spring than we were in the winter, because the guys with new events to prepare for will now understand how much work needs to be put in to have a successful season."

Whether the team can rebound from the disappointment of the indoor season will be seen beginning March 28 when the team hosts the Ithaca Invitational at Butterfield Stadium.

Though their streak as Empire 8 indoor track and field champion is over, the Blue and Gold still have another streak to maintain — the Empire 8 outdoor track and field championship, which they have won the previous eight seasons. Graap said he believes if they continue to work hard, they will not have any problems extending that streak.

"If we keep up the intensity and togetherness that we've shown in practice and stick to the training that coach has been giving us — because he's been successful for a long time — ... we should be able to get right back to it," he said.

Carrying winter momentum key for women's track and field

BY MADDISON MURNANE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Coming off its eighth-consecutive Empire 8 title in indoor track and field, the women's track and field team will look to carry its existing momentum into the upcoming outdoor season.

This winter, the Bombers had 14 athletes qualify for the Eastern College Athletic Conference championships, while five athletes also earned first-team All-Conference honors.

Head coach Jennifer Potter said outdoor success depends on indoor training and performance. Due to the abrupt change to an outdoor schedule, the momentum and training from indoor are essential to carry the team through the spring season. By utilizing the momentum from the winter, Potter said, her athletes hope to peak during the outdoor season.

However, Potter also said unlike the indoor season, weather plays a huge factor in determining performance in the spring.

"I have a wish for the upcoming season," she said. "Please let the weather be cooperative because it's hard to sprint when it is 30 degrees outside."

Christine Benway, senior captain and first-team All-Conference hurdler, said she is feeling confident about the team's outlook.

"At the beginning of the year in indoor, we are still using building blocks, and when outdoor comes, we have already had five months of training, allowing us to be our strongest," she said.

Going into the outdoor season, the team will be able to place athletes in events that are added to the schedule coming from indoor. The new events include the 100-meter hurdles, 400-meter hurdles, discus, hammer throw, javelin, 10-kilometer run and steeplechase. These events will allow the Bombers to add depth and perform stronger across the board, Potter said.

The Blue and Gold will especially look to their top performers from the indoor season to lead the way in the spring. After earning All-America honors last year, senior jumper Emilia Scheemaker will attempt to complete her career as one of the top jumpers in Division III. The South Hill squad will also look to junior sprinter Eliza Dewart and senior and freshman distance runners Alexa Rick and Taryn Cordani, who all posted strong winter finishes.

Cordani said the team's goal is to succeed at the Empire 8



Sophomore thrower Brandy Smith shot puts in the women's track and field team's Tuesday Meet on April 22, 2014. She qualified for ECACs in the meet.

JENNIFER WILLIAMS/THE ITHACAN

JUST THE FACTS

Head coach: Jennifer Potter

Last year's finish: Empire 8 champions, 3rd place ECAC finish

Key returners: Eliza Dewart, Alexa Rick, Emilia Scheemaker

Championships once again.

"There's been a culture of success on the team, and failure isn't really an option," she said. "We're going to want to win the Empire 8s again, but we approach one meet at a time."

Though it features 16 seniors, Cordani said the older athletes make sure their younger teammates have a voice.

"Doesn't matter how old you are, doesn't matter how many points you

score, everyone has an equal say on the team," she said.

She also said one of the biggest reasons for the team's success is the family atmosphere and the focus and priorities of the coaching staff. She said each member of the team supports one another regardless of events.

"Sometimes on track teams you can feel really isolated," Cordani said. "But what's good about our team is that even the throwers support the long distance

runners during their races"

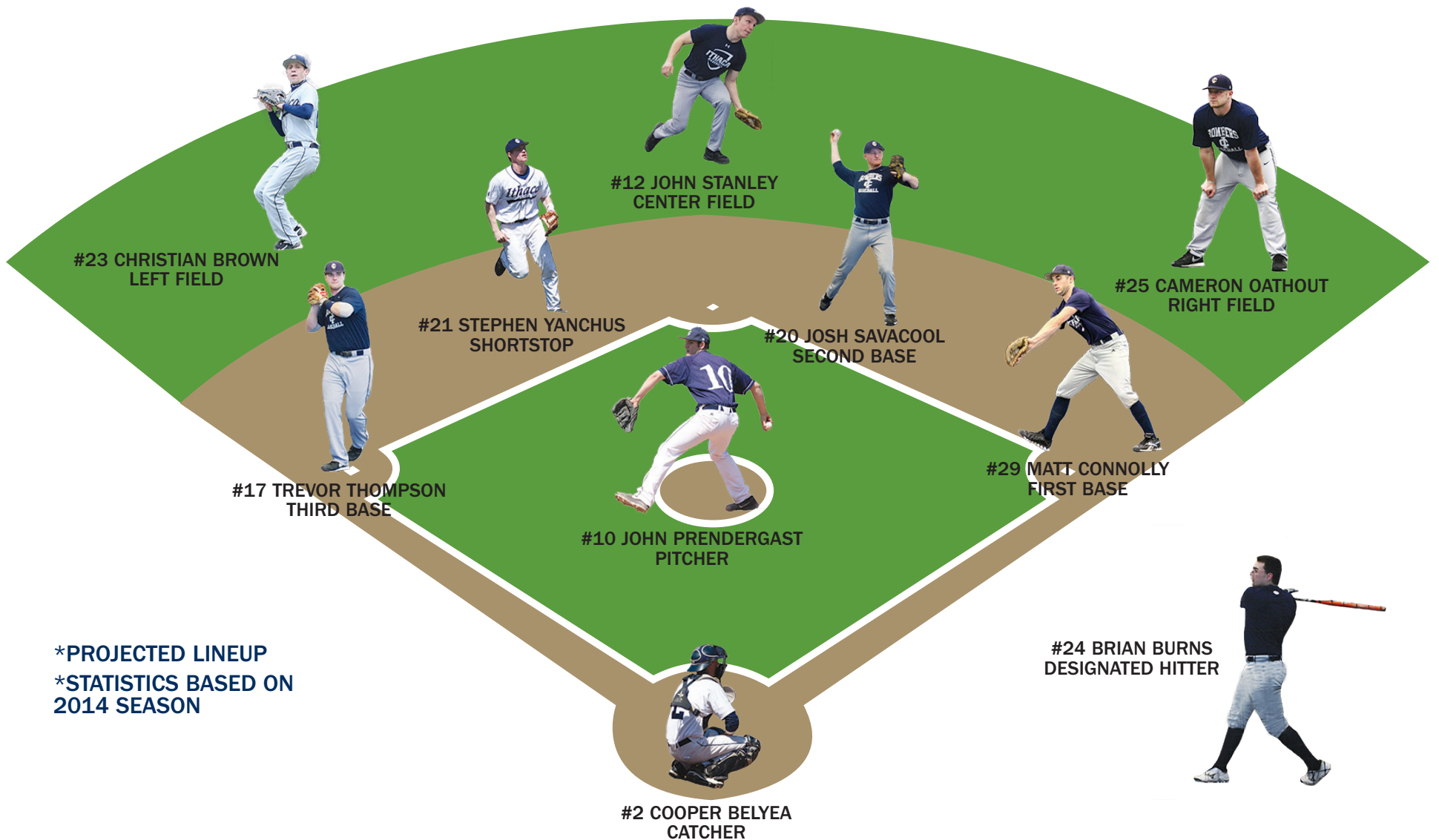
The Bombers will open the outdoor season with the Ithaca Invitational on March 28 at their home track.

Potter said despite the team's long-standing success, winning is not the only goal.

"I challenge everyone on this team," Potter said. "I don't say that I have high expectations, but I challenge them to be the best they can be."

COVERING THE

BASEBALL



BATTING ORDER

1. JOSH SAVACOOOL .288 OBP	4. TREVOR THOMPSON .386 OBP	7. CHRISTIAN BROWN .310 OBP
2. JOHN STANLEY .406 OBP	5. BRIAN BURNS .373 OBP	8. CAMERON OATHOUT .438 OBP
3. STEPHEN YANCHUS .396 OBP	6. MATT CONNOLLY .344 OBP	9. COOPER BELYEYEA .376 OBP

Pitching rotation to anchor defensive-minded baseball squad

BY ANDREW SULLIVAN
STAFF WRITER

The baseball team is coming off a season that, in the eyes of head coach George Valesente, was strong enough to qualify for a spot in the NCAA Regional Tournament. Unfortunately for the squad, its 26–10 record in 2014 wasn't good enough to make the cut in the minds of the NCAA committee.

Valesente said his team was robbed last year.

"We were required to play a team in our league that was a provisional," Valesente said. "The four victories against them were taken off of our record. Instead of being 26–10, we were 22–10, which cost us a tournament bid. We really feel there was an injustice [by the NCAA]."

The controversial ending to last season's strong performance by the Bombers broke the hearts of the players and coaches, especially since the team had lofty expectations coming into 2014 after its unprecedented run in the 2013 NCAA tournament that saw it reach the national semifinal match.

However, the team is as hungry and focused as ever, and Valesente said he believes the 2015 Bombers have the tools to return to their 2013 form. And it all starts with their veteran-heavy pitching staff.

Led by their preseason All-American ace John Prendergast, who compiled a record of 9–1 along with a 2.60 earned run average in 2014, the Bombers' starting rotation will look to shut down opponents as it did last year when it posted a combined 3.63 ERA.

Junior southpaw Benji Parkes, followed by senior hurlers

Jimmy Wagner and Andrew Sanders, round out the squad's experienced rotation this season.

Prendergast said the ample amount of experience between the starters and the bullpen will prove to be the backbone of the pitching staff in 2015.

"Most of our starters and relievers are either seniors or juniors," Prendergast said. "A lot of us have pitched in the [Division III] World Series. That gave us the experience and composure for this season. ... I think when you have four veteran starters coming back it is a necessity. ... I think that was huge for our success in 2013."

The South Hill squad's defense looks just as solid as its pitching heading into this season.

Juniors John Stanley and Cameron Oathout along with senior Christian Brown return as the team's starting outfielders this season after only committing two errors combined in 2014.

Despite the infield being fairly green with sophomores Josh Savacool and Trevor Thompson taking over the duties full-time at second base and third base, respectively, Valesente said the speed and quickness of his infielders, especially up the middle, elevates the team's defensive prowess.

The only question for the baseball team this season is the offense.

The team lost the dynamite hitting and slick fielding of Colby Gee '14, Tim Henry '14 and Luke Stark '14 to graduation. All three players hit well over .300 in their senior years and accounted for five home runs — four of them off the bat of Gee — and 69 runs batted in.

Senior catcher Cooper Belyea said the offense is going to try to adopt more of a scrappy type of play this season.

"We don't have a whole lot of power hitters," Belyea said. "If you look across our position players, there's not a lot of big guys. I think fundamentals is going to be huge for us. Hit-and-running and bunting is going to be huge. Small ball is going to be a big factor this year."

Valesente said the lack of power hitters won't affect the team's ability to score runs. He said he envisions an offense with contact hitters that excel at running the base paths.

"It looks to me like we will be more of a singles-doubles team with good team speed," he said.

Prendergast said the pitching staff doesn't feel any pressure this season to carry the offense, if necessary.

"I think pitchers always feel pressure to keep the score low and give [the team] a chance," he said. "I don't think there's going to be any added pressure. I think we, as pitchers, have a lot of confidence in our hitters this year. I think we are going to have a breakout season, especially offensively."

Valesente said one of the coaching staff's main goals for the 2015 team is to thrive under pressure situations.

"We need to develop an internal game-by-game, inning-by-inning, pitch-by-pitch intensity to want to be the best, to want to be on top," he said. "I think that's our staff's goal — to get these young men thinking the same way, get these young men to play with a purpose, get these young men to want the pressure, to accept the pressure, to enjoy playing in the pressure situations and to learn how to deal with them."

BASES

After each posting winning records last season, the baseball and softball squads will rely on experience in 2015

SOFTBALL



Softball team looks to veteran players to continue winning ways

BY VINICA WEISS
STAFF WRITER

Despite finishing the 2014 season with an overall record of 26–14, regaining the Empire 8 championship title for the first time since 2012 and making a short playoff run, the softball team will look to start fresh in its upcoming 2015 campaign.

In the Empire 8's 2015 Softball Preseason Coaches' Poll, the Bombers tied Alfred University for the first-place spot on the list.

Head coach Deb Palozzi said, after winning the conference last season, the Bombers are ready to come back even stronger, fully aware they are the team to beat.

"We have the bull's-eye on our back, so everyone's going to be coming after us, and we generally get everybody's best game," Palozzi said. "I want to be the one that has the target on the back. I want to be the team they want to beat because that just makes us better in the long run."

While the team has eight new freshmen joining the squad this season, Palozzi said her veteran players will be one of the most important factors to the team's overall success this year.

"We have veteran pitching, so the pitching should be strong. We have veterans behind the plate, and our shortstop and centerfielder are returning, so we'll be strong up the middle," Palozzi said.

Among those noteworthy veterans are the captains of the team, who include senior catcher Monica Capolongo, senior shortstop Francesca Busa and senior

outfielder Nina Lindberg.

While the Bombers are fairly set defensively, at the plate the Blue and Gold will have to replace the powerful bat of 2014 Empire 8 Player of the Year, Sydney Folk '14, who hit .393 with 26 extra-base hits in her last season as a Bomber.

Palozzi said she has no doubt the void can be filled by her lineup this season.

The lineup consists of a number of impressive returners, including leadoff hitter Busa who hit .309 with a team-best 42 hits in her junior season, earning her an All-Empire 8 Second Team selection and a spot on the Empire 8 All-Tournament Team.

In the batter's box, junior first baseman Casey Gavin should also be a big source of power for the Bombers after Gavin hit .371, naming her to the All-Empire 8 First Team, the NFCA All-Region Third Team and the ECAC Division III Upstate Softball All-Star Second Team.

Sophomore outfielder Jessie Fleck will also be an integral part of the Bombers' offense after Fleck hit .324 last season, also earning her a spot on the All-Empire 8 Second Team and the Empire 8 All-Tournament Team.

Off the pitching rubber, the Bombers will have to fill the big shoes of pitching ace Sam Bender '14, who finished last season with a dominant 18–7 record and a noteworthy 1.58 earned run average.

With junior returners Laura Quicker and Allison Macari, who recorded ERA's of 2.52 and 2.05, respectively, and

freshman pitcher Payton Cutting joining the squad, Palozzi said the team should be able to fill the hole left by Bender.

Capolongo said she foresees this year's team success coming through a collective effort.

"For us, the key factor is having everyone on the same page and reaching the same goals, just working hard every day," Capolongo said. "Everybody doing their part is going to make us successful. Our returners need to do what they need to do, but collectively we need to play to our potential."

Palozzi said she thinks it is her team's level of focus that will ensure the Bombers' success this season.

"I think our team culture is that we insist on things being done a certain way, disciplined, because if you're disciplined in certain areas all your plays and everything will work, and I think we hold our kids to a very high standard of play," she said. "Winning takes care of itself if you take care of those things."

After the first game of the season against The College of New Jersey was cancelled, the Bombers will begin action by heading to California to play eight non-conference games from March 9–13 for its spring break trip.

Junior outfielder Tara Condon said the team is more than ready to get the season started on the right note.

"Everyone's stepping up and really performing," Condon said. "No one's backing off or afraid. Everyone's full force, gung-ho, and it's exciting to see every day, and we're all ready for games to start and get the ball rolling."

BATTING ORDER

1. NINA LINDBERG
.277 OBP

4. JESSIE FLECK
.377 OBP

7. NICOLE CIRICILLO
.231 OBP

2. KATE BRAINARD
.250 OBP

5. FRANCESCA BUSA
.319 OBP

8. MONICA CAPOLONGO
.295 OBP

3. CASEY GAVIN
.442 OBP

6. KELLY ROBICHAUD
.368 OBP

9. ERIN MCQUILLAN
.194 OBP



MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CREW



Men's crew looking to build on promising fall season wins

BY ADAM BROBST
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Looking out on Cayuga Lake in February, all that can be seen is about a mile or so of ice stretching up toward the middle of the lake. It may be hard to believe, but in a little over a month, that water will come alive with the sounds of paddles slapping the water in one smooth rhythmic motion, commands being shouted and cheers echoing from shore to shore.

Last year, men's crew had a phenomenal season. Its first varsity boat went undefeated during its regular season and then placed second, third and fourth in the three postseason tournaments in which it participated.

Head coach Dan Robinson said while last year's first varsity boat was one of the strongest he's seen in his tenure at the college, this year's team will provide more depth in the second and third varsity boats.

"Last spring was one of the fastest boats we've ever had," he said. "Last year, the varsity boat was significantly faster than our second string or third string boat. This year it'll be more of a team thing. It'll be good."

However, seven of the eight rowers from last spring's boat graduated, and the Bombers will have to try to repeat their success without those seniors.

Robinson said the team will take a different approach because of its increased depth. He said he holds out hope for this team though, believing they can be just as successful as last year's squad because the returners have improved.

"We have as many guys faster than that intermediate range as there were last year," he said. "We've



Members of men's crew row against the University of Rochester on April 5, 2014. The South Hill squad graduated seven of eight rowers from its first varsity boat.

FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

got real competition [with one another in practice], so it's going to make them all faster."

He also said the 11 seniors on this year's team will be a big factor in replacing the nine seniors that graduated last year.

Senior Dan Brauchli said he believes the loss of the seven seniors may affect the Bombers because they are a lighter boat this year, which gives them the potential to be quicker.

"I think we'll be a little bit lighter, and if we row clean that's one of the best ways to be fast on the

water," he said.

Senior Matt Dorio said the team needs to step up after losing such a big class, but it is ready for the challenge.

"We graduated one of the best classes to ever row for Ithaca crew last year, so it is going to be very important that we believe we can achieve the same things they did, and it is going to take leadership from everyone to get there," he said.

Returning senior Charlie Enright, who was the lone junior rower in the first varsity boat last year, will be key for the Bombers as they

look to begin their spring season.

The crew season technically began in the fall with several preseason regattas that allow the team to see what it needs to improve on and to get back into the swing of things. Robinson said he felt the team had a great fall, and it had finished very strong. He said of the 20 boats the Bombers entered over the course of the fall season, 11 placed in the top three in their respective divisions, which ranged from varsity to junior varsity.

Brauchli said he came away from the fall with the same feeling.

"I think we came off of a pretty strong fall," he said. "We knew that we had some big shoes to fill from those seven guys leaving us, those seniors, we just came in this year with the mentality of we gotta put our nose to the grindstone and be ready to work and demand more from the guy on each side of you."

The South Hill squad begins its regular season with four home meets. In these early season meets, the Bombers will face Division I schools such as the University of Michigan and Trinity College, as well as rival Hobart College. However, Robinson said beating

these big teams can be done through hard work and focus.

"It's good to start with the fastest teams and then see where we stand," he said. "We're going to beat somebody that weekend and then we'll see where we stand and then we'll start getting some momentum"

Brauchli said the team takes competition against the bigger schools seriously.

"One of the really interesting things about men's collegiate varsity rowing is there's no real differentiation between divisions, so therefore we could be going up against big schools like Michigan and I think for us, we try and take it and turn it into extra motivation," he said.

After such a strong season last year, the Bombers hope to repeat their same success and continue to maintain the status of one of Division III's best crew teams, Brauchli said.

Women's crew working to reach NCAA Championship race goals

BY ITHACAN STAFF

After missing the NCAA National Championship race last season, women's crew will look to redeem itself in 2015 with the help of one of the largest freshman classes in the history of the program.

Twenty-seven rowers entered the program this season, which makes up half of the 55-athlete roster. After graduating 10 seniors who were key contributors to the team, assistant coach Beth Greene said she expects big things out of her first-year rowers.

"We have a really strong freshman class," Greene said.

As always, Greene said, the team's main goal is to reach the NCAA Championship race, and it will take a mix of returners and new players to achieve its goal for the first time since 2013.

The Bombers return senior Jennie Peterson, as well as juniors Krista Syracuse, Emily Morley and Carrine Putnam, who all raced in the team's first varsity boat during the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference race last season. These veterans, along with seniors Abigail Foxen and Delaney Pfohl, sophomore Jacqueline McDevitt, junior Katie Ely and freshman Colby D'Onofrio will likely make up the first varsity boat for the Blue and Gold.

Junior coxswain Melinda Keene said while every race is important for the Bombers, the team is especially looking forward to

the ECAC race, which will be key to helping the team qualify for the NCAA Championships.

"All of the races are important in some way for getting to NCAAs, but the biggest, or perhaps most competitive, races are states and ECACs," she said.

Along with D'Onofrio, three other freshmen made the jump to the varsity team: Libby Burns, Catlynn Frank and Emily Vosburg. For a team without any first-year rowers on the varsity roster last season, Greene said, this is a big change because it brings an element of youth that the team did not have last year.

"It is going to be a very different experience because normally there are only one or two freshmen that get pulled up to varsity," Greene said.

Another smaller goal for the team is to defeat rival William Smith College. Greene said a victory over the Herons will help qualify the Bombers for the NCAA Championship.

Foxen said the William Smith race will be an important regatta because they are a comparable team to the Blue and Gold.

Last season, the Bombers' top boat finished second to William Smith's top boat in the April 19, 2014, regatta. This year, the



Members of women's crew race in the Blue and Gold's regatta against the University of Rochester on Feb. 5, 2014, at the Cayuga Inlet.

FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

JUST THE FACTS

Head coach: Becky Robinson

Last year's finish: 2nd place
ECAC finish, 2nd place New York State finish

Key returners: Emily Morley, Jennie Peterson, Carrine Putnam, Krista Syracuse

South Hill squad will face off against the Her-

ons in its first regatta of the season March 28 in Ithaca.

Greene said home matches will be crucial for the Blue and Gold because they allow the team to enter more boats.

"All of our home games are key because it allows more people to get in the water and have experience," Greene said.

Experience will be important for the

Bombers, who will need to develop their freshmen for next year, as they will graduate nine seniors after this season.

Keene said regardless of key returning rowers, developing chemistry in the water will be key, as the mix of veterans and newcomers will need to work together in order to win races.

"It doesn't just take one person for this sport," she said. "It is a team effort, and I think the girls that I am privileged enough to get in a boat with are the epitome of an excellent team."

MEN'S TENNIS

Young men's tennis team looks to one upperclassman to lead with experience

BY JAKE SIEGEL
STAFF WRITER

After finishing with a 10-8 record and falling to Stevens Institute of Technology in the Empire 8 tournament championship match last season, the men's tennis team will take the court once again this year with new goals in mind.

Head coach Bill Austin said the team has had a constant goal throughout the year, even prior to the start of the season: to improve each day regardless of how poorly they are playing. Austin said he tells his team, "Let's be a little bit better tomorrow than we are today. Let's find out how good we can be when we don't have our 'A' game."

This long-term goal is something he said he believes resonates with his players, especially the younger athletes. Youth will be the main obstacle the Bombers must overcome if they want to have a shot at the Empire 8 championship.

Of the nine players on the roster, the Bombers sport just one upperclassman, junior Chris Hayes. Austin said Hayes will use his previous experience on the team to help guide

the young squad through the ups and downs that accompany every season.

Another, more specific goal the South Hill squad is trying to accomplish is to defeat Stevens, the foe who has bested the Bombers four consecutive times in the conference championship. Austin said the inability to overcome the Ducks has haunted the Blue and Gold.

"We need to outwork them," he said. "We are going to work our butts off for the final point."

This season, if the Bombers want to have any shot at silencing the Ducks, they will need to rely largely on their underclassmen. Despite what may appear to be inexperience, sophomore Wes Davis said the squad is going to surprise its opponents.

"The team has much more maturity than what people give them credit for and are better than what many people expect," Davis said.

The South Hill squad also has a new assistant coach, Rich Bonfiglio, who Hayes said has brought a new attitude that teams of the past never experienced.

"Coach Bonfiglio brings a different type of mentality to the team,

which emphasizes hard work and positivity regardless of the score," Hayes said.

Bonfiglio joined the tennis staff this season after serving at Trinity College for the past three years. The team is hopeful Bonfiglio's presence will help it achieve its biggest goal of advancing to nationals.

Bonfiglio echoed Austin's comments on the hard-working mentality of the team, which, at nine athletes, features five fewer than last year's squad.

"We're looking to instill a new work ethic on this team," Bonfiglio said. "Giving 100 percent on the court, the idea of loving to compete and making sure the players grow as individuals are other things we are looking forward to seeing this season."

This group of young Bombers has already been tested, as it lost to the University of Rochester on Feb.



Sophomore Wes Davis competes Feb. 5, 2014.

TUCKER MITCHELL/THE ITHACAN

JUST THE FACTS

Head coach: Bill Austin

Last year's record: 10-8

Key returners: Chris Hayes, Wes Davis

21, marking the sixth-consecutive year that they have been defeated by the Yellow Jackets. Next up for the Blue and Gold is St. Lawrence University on Feb. 28.

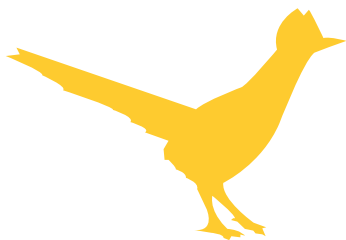
Despite the slow start, Hayes said Bonfiglio's never-give-up attitude

paired with the excited new athletes could make for an interesting and surprising year for the Bombers.

"We're going into this season with much more confidence," he said. "We think we should be able to win every one of our matches."

STAT BREAKDOWN

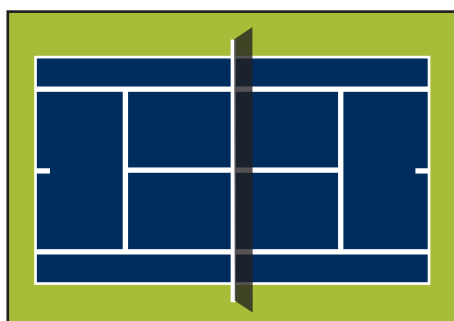
Sophomore lacrosse goalkeeper Emily Ross spent 930 minutes and 45 seconds in goal last season. That's 15.5 hours, or the amount of time it would take to drive from Ithaca College to Jacksonville, Florida.



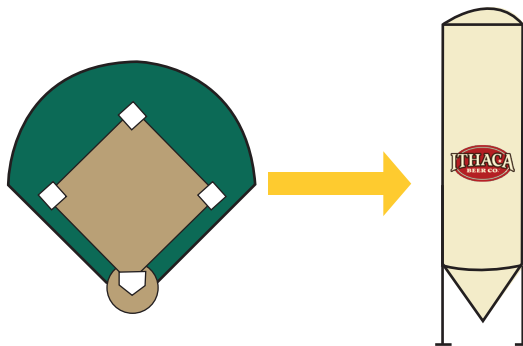
SPEED LIMIT
19.9

Senior sprinter Rashaad Barrett's best 100-meter dash time was 10.94 seconds last season. That's an average speed of 20.5 mph. In comparison, a roadrunner averages 19.9 mph.

Freshman tennis player Ricardo Palau's hometown, Guayaquil, Ecuador, is the largest city in the country. In a straight line, it is about 3,100 miles from Ithaca College or about 136,023 tennis courts put together.



136,023 times



The Blue and Gold combined for 387 total bases last season. Since each base path is 60 feet, that's 4.4 miles combined or the same distance it takes to drive from Kostrinsky Field to Ithaca Beer Company.

The combined height of the men's lacrosse team is 214 feet, which is the same height of Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana — a building on the list of the U.S. National Register of Historic Places.



COMPILED BY STEVE DERDERIAN

JENNIFER WILLIAMS/THE ITHACAN

A SCHEDULE THAT STICKS

Don't miss any of the action this spring on South Hill

BASEBALL Freeman Field

Date	Time	Opponent
March 24	3 p.m.	SUNY Cortland
March 25	3 p.m.	SUNY Oswego
March 26	4 p.m.	SUNY New Paltz
March 28	Noon, 3 p.m.	Elmira College* (DH)
March 29	Noon	Elmira College*
April 1	3 p.m.	SUNY Oneonta
April 8	4 p.m.	SUNY Brockport
April 11	Noon, 3 p.m.	Stevens Institute of Technology* (DH)
April 12	Noon	Stevens Institute of Technology*
April 15	4 p.m.	University of Rochester
April 25	Noon, 3 p.m.	St. John Fisher College* (DH)
April 26	1 p.m.	St. John Fisher College*

DH= Doubleheader

* Empire 8

WOMEN'S CREW Cayuga Inlet

Date	Time	Opponent
March 28	9 a.m.	Canisius College
March 28	9 a.m.	William Smith College
March 28	9 a.m.	Mercyhurst College
April 4	11 a.m.	University of Rochester
April 4	11 a.m.	Rochester Institute of Technology
April 11	11 a.m.	St. Lawrence University
April 11	11 a.m.	Smith College
April 11	11 a.m.	Skidmore College
April 12	11 a.m.	SUNY Geneseo
April 12	11 a.m.	St. John Fisher College
April 25	8 a.m.	Marist College
April 25	11 a.m.	Colgate University
April 25	11 a.m.	Hamilton College

MEN'S CREW Cayuga Inlet

Date	Time	Opponent
March 28	9 a.m.	Hobart College
March 28	9 a.m.	Trinity College
March 28	9 a.m.	University of Michigan
April 4	11 a.m.	University of Rochester
April 4	11 a.m.	Rochester Institute of Technology
April 11	11 a.m.	Skidmore College
April 11	11 a.m.	St. Lawrence University
April 12	11 a.m.	SUNY Geneseo
April 12	11 a.m.	St. John Fisher College
April 25	11 a.m.	Hamilton College
April 25	11 a.m.	Colgate University
April 25	11 a.m.	Marist College

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Butterfield Stadium

Date	Time	Opponent
March 28	10:30 a.m.	Ithaca Invitational
April 21	3:30 p.m.	Ithaca Tuesday Meet

MEN'S TENNIS

Wheeler Tennis Courts/ Glazer Arena

Date	Time	Opponent
Feb. 28	9 a.m.	St. Lawrence University
March 21	3 p.m.	Houghton College*
March 22	Noon	Alfred University
March 24	4 p.m.	Hobart College
April 19	10 a.m.	Nazareth College
April 26	Noon	St. John Fisher College

* Location: Reis Tennis Courts/ Cornell University

MEN'S LACROSSE Higgins Stadium

Date	Time	Opponent
Feb. 28	Noon	Rochester Institute of Technology
March 17	4 p.m.	SUNY Oneonta
March 21	Noon	Elmira College*
March 25	4 p.m.	St. John Fisher College*
March 28	Noon	Cabrini College
April 18	Noon	Hartwick College
April 22	4 p.m.	Alfred University

* Empire 8

WOMEN'S LACROSSE Higgins Stadium

Date	Time	Opponent
March 18	4 p.m.	SUNY Oneonta
March 26	4 p.m.	SUNY Cortland
April 3	4 p.m.	Hartwick College*
April 4	1 p.m.	Stevens Institute of Technology*
April 11	1 p.m.	Nazareth College*
April 12	1 p.m.	Alfred University*
April 21	5 p.m.	Hamilton College

* Empire 8

SOFTBALL Kostrinsky Field

Date	Time	Opponent
March 25	3 p.m., 5 p.m.	King's College (DH)
March 29	1 p.m., 3 p.m.	Elmira College* (DH)
April 14	3 p.m., 5 p.m.	SUNY Oneonta (DH)
April 18	1 p.m., 3 p.m.	St. John Fisher College* (DH)
April 19	1 p.m., 3 p.m.	Nazareth College* (DH)
April 26	1 p.m., 3 p.m.	Buffalo State College (DH)
April 28	3 p.m., 5 p.m.	Keuka College (DH)

DH= Doubleheader

* Empire 8

