

THE ITHACAN

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A NEW CHALLENGE

Bomber sports will have a harder conference schedule starting Fall 2017 with the change to the Liberty League. **Page 25**

SENDING LOVE

Ithaca College students and faculty are using modern forms of technology to keep long-distance romance alive. **Page 19**

END OF AN ERA

President Tom Rochon's legacy may be better defined by fiscal security than communal identity. **Page 9**



BY GRACE ELLETON
NEWS EDITOR

A camping tent with shiny, gray nylon siding does not blend inconspicuously into the Peggy Ryan Williams Center's professional aesthetic.

Yet on the morning of May 2, IC Students for Labor Action and members of the contingent faculty union erected the tent in the lobby of Ithaca College's administrative building, symbolizing their message to the administration: They were there to stay.

However, their initial plan to occupy the PRW Center for three days was cut short. The student group and the faculty union planned to occupy the building for three days to protest what they call "retaliatory firings" of three contingent faculty members who had been involved in the union's previous negotiation efforts. David Kornreich and Shoshe Cole, assistant professors in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, and Rachel Gunderson, instructor in the Department of Health Promotion and Physical Education, were all previous members of the full time-contingent faculty bargaining committee and have filed an unfair labor practice lawsuit against the college with the National Labor Relations Board.

Senior Taylor Ford, president of IC Students for Labor Action, said the occupation was called off because the administration responded to their requests to bargain over the positions of the faculty. He said the union would like to either get the faculty members their positions back or reach a settlement with the college instead of moving forward with the lawsuit.

In a statement issued on Intercom, the administration said it met with members of the union April 21 and told them they would be willing to discuss the topic after the college filed its response to the NLRB lawsuit. That filing took place May 1. Ford said the union was not guaranteed a bargaining session by the administration, prompting the occupation.

Despite the agreement to come to the table to discuss the terminated positions, in the statement, the college said the union "has continued to publicly misrepresent that three faculty on

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Sitting in, standing up



Students for Labor Action ends occupation of PRW

Senior Taylor Ford, president of IC Students for Labor Action, organized the occupation to protest what they call "retaliatory firings" of three faculty members. The occupation was planned for three days but ended early after an agreement was made with the college.

SAM FULLER/THE ITHACAN



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Alumni donations decrease due to presidential uncertainty

BY SIERRA GUARDIOLA
STAFF WRITER

Ithaca College saw a decrease in both donations and the IC Annual Fund for the fiscal year 2015–16, which the college is attributing to the transition period between President Tom Rochon's stepping down and the selection of the new president. However, donations to the college have been increasing this fiscal year, Chris Biehn, vice president for Institutional Advancement and Communication, said.

In the 2013–14 fiscal year, the college received \$8,479,102 in donations and \$1,436,035 in donations to the IC Annual Fund. In the 2014–15 fiscal year, total donations received were \$14,714,661, with donations to the IC Annual Fund reaching \$1,787,966. However, in the 2015–16 fiscal year, these numbers decreased, with total donations reaching \$8,163,411 and the IC Annual Fund receiving

\$1,607,392, according to the Voluntary Support of Education survey. The total donations had increased by about 74 percent in the 2014–15 fiscal year but decreased by about 45 percent in the 2015–16 fiscal year. The donor retention rate — the number of donors who continue to donate year after year — also decreased from 72 percent in 2015 to 51 percent in 2016, Biehn said.

Overall, colleges and universities in the U.S. saw a 1.7 percent increase in charitable donations for the 2015–16 year, according to the VSE survey. Of the top 20 colleges that raised the most money during 2015–16, Cornell University ranked sixth, with the total amount raised at \$588.26 million, according to the Council for Aid to Education.

Biehn said that when he first found out the numbers had decreased for in fiscal year 2015–16, he was concerned. However, according to VSE

historical data, the college also saw a decrease in the grand total of donations during the fiscal years 2009–10, 2011–12 and 2013–14. The IC Annual Fund saw a decrease in donations during the fiscal years 2009–10, 2010–11 and 2013–14.

"We need to build philanthropy at Ithaca College — it's the margin of excellence that other colleges have achieved," Biehn said.

He said he thinks one factor in this drop was the early retirement announcement from Rochon following student protests during Fall 2015 criticizing how the administration handled racially insensitive incidents. Many donors said they wanted to wait to see what the new presidential search brought to make sure the new selection still aligned with their priorities before donating, Biehn said.

The college needs greater

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