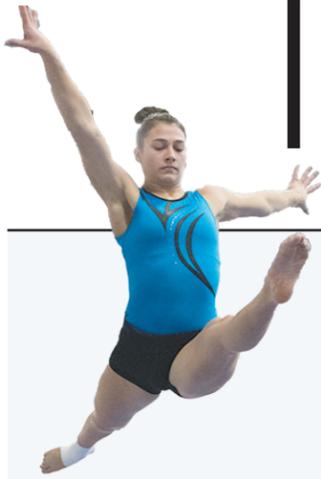


THE ITHACAN

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EARNING A SPOT

The Ithaca College gymnastics team holds internal competitions to determine its lineups.

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SAFETY COMES FIRST

The Office of Residential Life sets guidelines for the dorms to ensure the safety of students, so they must be followed.

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DRIVE TO DESIGN

Students pair their creativity with knowledge of business to create original designs for their clothing brands.

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Collado emphasizes commitment to leadership



Ithaca College President Shirley M. Collado speaks at the All-College Gathering on Jan. 26. She discussed her goals for the semester.

MAXINE HANSFORD/THE ITHACAN

BY SOPHIA ADAMUCCI AND FALYN STEMLER

NEWS EDITOR AND ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Ithaca College President Shirley M. Collado reflected on her first semester as president, addressed the recent revelation of her 2001 sexual abuse conviction and discussed her goals for the spring semester at the All-College Gathering on Jan. 26, which was attended by students, faculty and staff.

Collado started her approximately 27-minute speech by addressing the news that in 2001 she pleaded no contest to a sex abuse

charge after a former patient of hers claimed she and Collado had entered into a monthslong sexual relationship that started when Collado was the patient's therapist. Collado said that she acknowledges the campus community is having difficult conversations about her past and that she is open to having honest and respectful dialogue about the topic.

"You may be questioning my commitment to supporting and respecting individuals with mental illness or survivors of abuse," Collado said. "You may be questioning my ability to empathize with those in crisis. I'd like to reiterate

today my complete commitment to ensuring the respect and understanding for all individuals without reducing them to their most visible labels, diagnoses or social markers."

Stickers that said "President Collado has my full support" were handed out at the entrance of the Athletics and Events Center by Sybil Conrad, assistant director of Campus Center and Events Services, and others.

Collado said that she understands that critics may think that individuals with

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Class of 2018 to walk during graduation

BY RYAN KING
STAFF WRITER

During Ithaca College's Commencement on May 20, the Class of 2018 will become the first class in over two decades to walk and have their names read during the ceremony.

David Prunty, executive director of auxiliary services, who co-chairs the Ithaca College Commencement Committee, said the committee is still working out some of the logistical changes that will have to be made to ensure everyone's names are read without adding too much time to the ceremony. Some of those logistical issues include whether the names will be read to the entire class body or through individual school ceremonies, but Prunty said he anticipates that students will have their names read in individual school ceremonies.

"As soon as we made the decision to go in this direction, the committee's been meeting not every day, but close, to figure out all the implications of that decision," he said. "There's a

“It does set a tone and definitely says that Ithaca College is trying to be more student-focused.”

– Fatoumata Jallow

lot of things that need to be figured out, both from a purely logistical perspective and from a symbolism perspective.”

This change is a result of months of deliberations by the Commencement committee. At the beginning of the fall semester, President Shirley M. Collado tasked the committee with developing logistical options for having names read during Commencement.

During the fall semester, a group of parents created a petition on Change.org asking the college to let students walk and have their names read during graduation. The petition garnered over 2,150 signatures and prompted the Commencement committee to host a forum to get feedback on the issue.

In addition to the forum, the Commencement committee conducted a survey of over 2,600 parents, students, alumni and faculty. A majority of participants supported the decision to read names and let students walk during Commencement.

Prunty also said that he anticipates there will be an opt-out mechanism in place for students who do not want to have their names called or to walk during graduation, but that nothing has been finalized.

The Commencement committee does not have an estimate for how much time this change will add to the ceremony, but Prunty said that they are looking into cutting different components of Commencement to save time. One thing in particular that he said could be tweaked is the procession and seating, which currently takes about an hour.

"Year one is going to be an experiment," he said. "We're taking our Commencement

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East Tower residents recover after fire

BY MADISON FERNANDEZ
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Residents of East Tower have moved back into their dorms and are recovering their damaged items after they were displaced by a fire that occurred on the 10th floor of the residence hall Jan. 25.

The fire started at approximately 8:55 a.m., according to an email sent to students by Thomas Barkal, residence director of East Tower. Students were evacuated from East Tower after safety personnel from the college reported heavy smoke in the hallway of the 10th floor, which activated the sprinkler system, according to the Ithaca Fire Department's Facebook page.

The fire was contained to a single room on the 10th floor, an Intercom announcement sent by Dave Maley, senior associate director of media relations, said.

No one was injured in the fire. The fire was caused by an improperly used hot plate, according to a release from the Ithaca Fire Department.

Michael Leary, assistant director for the Office of Judicial Affairs,

said he cannot share if the individual who caused the fire is being judicially referred.

The 296 East Tower residents were directed to West Tower during the fire, where staff was available to assist students with notifying professors about missing class or to obtain appropriate winter clothing.

Freshman Samantha Rachmuth, an East Tower resident who lives on the 11th floor, was asleep when the alarm went off. She said that the residents were expecting to have a fire drill and that she did not think it was an actual fire.

"As soon as you got to 10, you just, your entire face was just smelling of fire," Rachmuth said. "It wasn't a lot, but you could definitely smell it."

East Tower, with the exception of the 10th floor and select rooms on the ninth floor, reopened at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 25, Bonnie Prunty, director of the Offices of Residential Life and Judicial Affairs and assistant dean for first-year experiences, said.

Residents who live in these rooms were assigned temporary



The Ithaca Fire Department responds to a fire that broke out at approximately 8:55 a.m. Jan 25. No one was injured in the fire.

KRISTEN HARRISON/THE ITHACAN

housing in vacant rooms on campus unless they had friends they preferred to stay with, she said.

Prunty said that more than half of the residents took advantage of the assigned rooms.

"In some ways, I'm not

completely surprised by that because it is a first-year building, so the likelihood is that the students whom students know best are the ones that live on their

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