

Faculty worry about senior leadership

BY ALEXIS MANORE
AND FALYN STEMPLER

Ithaca College faculty members are beginning to express concerns about the Shirley M. Collado administration's leadership regarding issues of finances and campus climate.

Certain faculty members, particularly from the Roy H. Park School of Communications, have expressed frustration about the lack of plans presented by Collado's administration regarding the college's enrollment, budget and fundraising, as well as addressing microaggressions in the classroom.

These issues have been raised at faculty meetings with the administration, most recently at the All-Faculty Meeting on Jan. 30, a discussion that escalated when Janice Levy, professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies, read from a prepared statement of her concerns.

She said she and other faculty have felt belittled by the tone and manner that La Jerne Cornish, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, used when approaching faculty during meetings about incidents of microaggressions in the classroom. Levy said she is frustrated by Cornish's generalizations made about Park School faculty, vague allegations about microaggressions in the classroom and the lack of solutions provided for moving forward.

In recent years, there have been ongoing complaints about microaggressions either perpetrated or tolerated by faculty in Park classes.

The All-Faculty Meeting was hosted by Cornish; Rosanna Ferro, vice president of student affairs and campus life; and Elijah Earl, senior research analyst in the Office of Analytics and Institutional Research, Cornish said via email.

Cornish said via email that the purpose of the meeting was to share the results of the 2019 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). This data is exclusively given to faculty, so *The Ithacan* cannot access the data. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session in which Levy read her prepared statement.

In addition to expressing her concerns, Levy also questioned if Collado's 2001 no-contest plea to a sex abuse charge, which became public in Spring 2018, has impacted the college's fundraising abilities. Collado has consistently denied being guilty of the charge.

Levy said she only raised that question because the college's applications and enrollment have gone down in recent years.

"I was only suggesting that we have to look at every possible reason that things are not going well for Ithaca College," Levy said. "I wanted people to understand that



From left, Chris McNamara, clinical associate professor in the Department of Physical Therapy and chair of the Faculty Council, and La Jerne Cornish, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, speak Dec. 3.

MAXINE HANSFORD / THE ITHACAN

that in and of itself could be affecting people's decision to send their children here."

For the 2019–20 fiscal year, the college made departments cut their budgets to reallocate funds and balance the budget. This move was in response to the projected lower enrollment for the Class of 2023.

At the All-College Gathering on Jan. 28, Collado alluded to imminent changes, including budget cuts that could result in positions and departments being eliminated. At the same meeting, Collado told the campus community that the college is facing a financial crisis because of issues like lower enrollment and stagnant donations.

The college is dependent on tuition and student fees for its funding. As a result, some faculty members are nervous about the security of their jobs and departments at the college. The administration has previously said that the college's lower enrollment coincides with trends in higher education for private, residential and tuition-driven institutions.

The budget for the 2020–21 academic year will not be released until the Ithaca College Board of Trustees meeting in May, Collado said at the All-College Gathering.

During the All-Faculty Gathering, several faculty members attempted to intervene after Levy made the remark about Collado.

Belisa González, associate professor in the Department of Sociology and director of the Center for the Study of Culture, Race and Ethnicity, said she interrupted Levy because she disliked the personal nature of Levy's attacks on the administration. González said the remarks about Collado and the

entire administration were disrespectful and inflammatory.

"When you lead with insults and derogatory statements, any sort of — in my opinion and in my experience — any legitimate questions that you have are going to be completely lost," she said.

“

"I was only suggesting that we have to look at every possible reason that things are not going well for [IC]."

— Janice Levy

”

In retrospect, Levy said, she regretted making personal remarks because she thinks it allowed fellow faculty members to deflect from her core argument that the college is facing serious issues.

"The only thing that I regret about what I said was that it gave people an opportunity to deflect the conversation away from what the real issues are," she said. "My intention was to disturb the meeting in a way that would get people to focus on what was really important

to talk about in a forum where we have faculty that are together."

González said that although she thinks no administration is above critique, she also believes the faculty is treating this administration differently because of its demographic makeup as a majority woman-of-color leadership team.

"If I was going to call somebody a racist, I would have just done it," González said. "But I've been doing this work long enough to know that it's kind of almost too easy, and it doesn't at all expose the nuances of what it means to live in a racialized structure that we participate in whether or not we want to."

Tom Pfaff, professor in the Department of Mathematics, said in an email thread of faculty members who have joined a faculty-concerns listserv obtained by *The Ithacan* that he thinks it is inaccurate that people are more critical of this administration because it is predominantly women of color. He said he believes faculty members were also critical of Benjamin Rifkin, former provost and vice president for educational affairs under former President Tom Rochon. Rifkin stepped down after serving for approximately one year.

Faculty, staff and students raised concerns in 2015 about the Rochon administration's handling of campus climate issues, including classroom microaggressions, when the campus community organized protests led by POC at IC that demanded that the administration address racism on campus. The series of protests were followed by a vote of no confidence for the Rochon administration, and Rochon

TO FACULTY, PAGE 4

Police warn of druggings

BY CAITLIN HOLTZMAN

The Ithaca Police Department is warning people to be aware of possible drugs being slipped into drinks at bars located on The Commons, according to an Intercom announcement Feb. 6.

There has been an uptick in reports of such incidents downtown, IPD Sgt. Kevin Slattery said.

Slattery could not disclose which bars are being currently investigated.

He said he would warn that all students should be conscious of their drinks and surroundings.

It is also unclear if these recent incidents are related to similar incidents that occurred in March 2019, as previously reported by *The Ithaca Voice*.

The previous reporting also did not disclose what bars were reported. The investigation is ongoing, Slattery said.

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Coronavirus tests negative

BY CORA PAYNE

Two Cornell University students who were quarantined for symptoms that met criteria for the 2019 novel coronavirus tested negative, according to a statement issued by Cornell University administrators Feb. 9.

The students were tested for the coronavirus, officially named "COVID-19," by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and both tests were negative, according to an updated statement from Ryan Lombardi, vice president for student and campus life, and Sharon McMullen, assistant vice president of student and campus life for health and well-being.

There are currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New York state, and the risk to the community remains low, according to the statement. No other members of the Cornell University community are undergoing testing for the virus, according to the statement.

In the United States, 13 cases have been confirmed as of Feb. 12, and 60 potential cases are being investigated, according to the CDC. There are cases in six states, including Washington, California, Arizona, Illinois, Wisconsin and Massachusetts.

The COVID-19 has currently infected over 42,600 people in China and killed over 1,016 people. Over 170 cases are currently confirmed outside China across over 20 countries.

The virus can be transmitted via saliva, urine and stool, as well as through respiratory droplets.

It generally takes three days from the time of infection for symptoms to manifest, and 15% of the infected contract severe pneumonia, according to new Chinese research.

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LIFE & CULTURE | page 13

HIP-HOP DANCE GROUP PREPARES FOR SHOWCASE



OPINION | page 9

FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION MUST LISTEN



SPORTS | page 19

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL REBOUNDS TEAM

NATION & WORLD

Thailand recovers from worst mass shooting ever in country

Authorities in northeastern Thailand began releasing bodies to relatives Feb. 10 after security forces cornered and killed a soldier who carried out the country’s worst mass shooting after an hourslong siege at a shopping mall. The soldier killed 29 people starting with his commanding officer in a stunning tragedy that began Feb. 8 and ended Feb. 9 when security forces shot dead the heavily armed attacker in Terminal 21 Korat, an airport-themed mall in Nakhon Ratchasima.

World Health Organization gives name to coronavirus

World Health Organization (WHO) director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus announced a new name for the disease caused by a new virus — COVID-19 — saying officials wanted to avoid stigmatizing any geographic location, group of people or animal that might be linked to the disease and to make it clear it was a new coronavirus discovered in 2019. The daily death toll in China from the virus topped 100, pushing the total fatalities above 1,000 Feb. 11 as the WHO announced a new name for the virus. Despite the official end of the extended Lunar New Year holiday, China remained mostly

closed for business as many remained at home, with approximately 60 million people under virtual quarantine.

Utah legislature to not rebuke Mitt Romney for impeachment

Utah lawmakers said Feb. 11 they will not consider proposals to censure or recall U.S. Sen. Mitt Romney following his vote to convict President Donald Trump at his impeachment trial. Utah House Speaker Brad Wilson said the Republican caucus decided not to advance either proposal. Instead, Wilson will be present a citation thanking the president for his administration’s work on issues “critical to Utah.” The citation will also urge Congress members to put the process behind them.

Harvey Weinstein trial to close as Weinstein declines to testify

The defense rested its case Feb. 11 in Harvey Weinstein’s rape trial without the disgraced Hollywood mogul taking the witness stand, setting the stage for closing arguments in a landmark #MeToo trial punctuated by graphic testimony from six accusers. Weinstein chose not to testify, avoiding the risk of having prosecutors grill him on cross-examination about the allegations. Jurors are expected to hear the defense’s closing argument Feb. 13, followed by the prosecution’s closing Feb. 14.



Protesters rally against vote in Lebanon

A protester shouts in front of soldiers during a protest against a Parliament session vote of confidence for the new government Feb. 11 in Beirut. Clashes broke out near the Parliament building.

HUSSEIN MALLA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Actor Jussie Smollett indicted for six new charges in Chicago

Actor Jussie Smollett was indicted Feb. 11 on charges of lying to police about a racist and anti-gay attack he allegedly staged on himself last year in Chicago. The indictment came from

a special prosecutor who was appointed after Cook County prosecutors dropped 16 counts of felony disorderly conduct last March. Special prosecutor Dan Webb said in a statement that Smollett faces six counts of disorderly conduct.

Source: Associated Press

MULTIMEDIA

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The 22nd Annual Downtown Ithaca Chili Cook-Off

More than 30 restaurants brought the heat during Downtown Ithaca’s annual Chili Cook-Off on Feb. 8 on The Commons.



Pulse Hip Hop Team dances toward showcase

Ithaca College’s hip hop dance team rehearses three times a week to prepare for its upcoming spring showcase.

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The Ithacan

Protestant Community undergoes rebranding

BY ALYSHIA KORBA

It may seem like the Protestant Community (PC) at Ithaca College's new identity as the Lighthouse Christian Fellowship (LCF) is just a name change, but members of the community said it is a way to show that they are welcoming anyone into their community.

In the past, the community has been criticized for not being welcoming to Christian people who identify as LGBTQ. In 2017, two students, Vanessa Zimmerman '19 and Annalise Haldeman '19, claimed that fellow members of the PC criticized and verbally attacked them when they announced that they were in a same-sex relationship.

This account of discrimination resulted in a New York State Division of Human Rights complaint filed against the college in November 2018.

IC Color, a group that aims to end discrimination in the PC, was also founded as a result.

Rev. James Touchton, the former chaplain of the PC, resigned from his position in Fall 2018 because of the stress of the students' claims, according to a statement he made in a Facebook post. Zimmerman and Haldeman both called for him to resign.

Following the accounts of discrimination in the PC, the college created the position of director of religious and spiritual life and hired Hierald Osorto in the position to help students create welcoming religious

and spiritual spaces.

While this name change is not a direct result of these conflicts, junior LCF President Elizabeth Bierly said, it is part of the group's movement toward a more welcoming image.

"Regardless of the name of our group, we absolutely take responsibility for the fact that there were students in the group who were not welcoming, who were not accepting and who caused very real harm to other students," Bierly said. "It is also important to recognize that those actions are in the past. That's not us trying to brush over them, but we are a different group of students now than we were four years ago."

The name was chosen by PC members through anonymous name suggestions followed by a vote. Bierly said the name Lighthouse Christian Fellowship is meant to reflect the welcoming space the group hopes to create.

"A lighthouse kind of connotes this idea that people can see it and that they know that it's there," Bierly said. "My hope is that people are able to see our community and know they have space that they can walk into and feel loved and welcomed just as they are."

Bierly said LCF decided to change its name after talking to prospective members at an organization fair in August. She said people felt intimidated by the Protestant Community title.

"We had about 15 [students] walk up to us and say, 'I'm not really sure I can be part of the Protestant Community because I'm not Protestant,' or



Members of the newly renamed Ithaca College Lighthouse Christian Fellowship, formerly the Protestant Community at Ithaca College, gather to worship at an Evensong service Jan. 22 in Muller Chapel.

KRISTEN HARRISON/THE ITHACAN

'I'm nondenominational,' or 'I come from a specific background,'" Bierly said. "Actually, six out of the 10 students on our council last semester were talking and said that they were hesitant to come to the Protestant Community because the term Protestant connoted something maybe more traditional or different than what they were expecting."

Many major Protestant denominations do not accept LGBTQ individuals. The United Methodist Church recently announced plans to split into a branch that accepts LGBTQ

members and clergy and a branch that remains anti-LGBTQ. The decision will be voted on in May.

Freshman Caroline Peyron is a member of the Ithaca College Catholic Community but has also been attending services held by LCF.

"It's just very different, in a good way," Peyron said. "I didn't even know it was a thing until last night, and then, of course, I went, and I loved it."

Osorto said the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life has also been working to reach more students who previously did not feel comfortable

joining religious groups. One of the ways the office is doing this is through Uncommon Changemakers. Osorto said this is a cohort of students that will likely be launched the first week of March with the goal of connecting students who do and do not have religious affiliations.

The group hopes to do this by bringing these students together for discussions centered around religion and spirituality.

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Student-faculty documentary up for Emmy

BY CORA PAYNE

James Rada, associate professor and chair of the Department of Journalism, knew he had to jump at the chance when he and students from the Roy H. Park School of Communications were offered the opportunity to produce a documentary for Memphis Public Broadcasting Service affiliate WKNO in Spring 2017 about the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

"[WKNO] said they didn't have anything planned but would love if someone filmed a documentary," Rada said. "I thought, we're ready, able and willing to do this — let's do it."

The final product, a documentary titled "With INFINITE HOPE: MLK and The Civil Rights Movement," was recently nominated in the Documentary/Historical category of the Midsouth Regional Emmy Awards.

The 34th Annual Midsouth Emmy Awards will take place at 9 p.m. Feb. 15 and will be streamed online.

The Midsouth regional chapter is just one of 19 chapters that make up the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

A show is considered regional if it does not reach more than 50% of U.S. households; programs that reach more than 50% of the country must enter into one of the national Emmy competitions instead.

To date, the documentary has aired more than 460 times on 250 public television stations across the country. The film is also available on its website to be viewed in completion for free.

Rada gathered a team of faculty and students in the Park School to travel around the South interviewing seven historians and 16 prominent civil rights activists who participated in various events of the movement, including the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Birmingham Children's March and the Freedom Rides. Throughout 2017, the team filmed interviews in Alabama and Tennessee. The project took approximately a year to produce.

Rada, and Chrissy Guest and Maria Mejia Yepes, assistant professors in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies, produced the documentary.

The student team of associate producers included Christy Calcagno '18, Kalia Kornegay



From left, Kaila Kornagay '18 and James Rada, associate professor and chair of the Department of Journalism at Ithaca College, helped create a documentary in 2017.

COURTESY OF JAMES RADA

'18, Emily Varga '18, Katie Jones '19, Elena Maria Piech '19 and Sophia Tulp '19.

Kornegay, who was a journalism student, conducted interviews for the documentary. She said interviewing primary sources from the civil rights era helped bridge the gap between the past and the present.

"Sitting and listening to these people speak, it was so inspiring," Kornegay said. "It helped me really see that this wasn't just something that happened long ago. It is so much closer than we think or realize."

Tulp, who was a journalism student, said that although King is often remembered for his civil rights advocacy, the documentary also touches on a lot of his other activist causes.

"It is so important to note what a lot of these sources were sharing with us, which is that [King] was a very nuanced man," Tulp said. "A lot of these sources pointed out that he was incredibly adamant about economic justice, capitalism not being the best system. It wasn't just about 'I have a dream.' There was a lot of economic policy and anti-war policy attached to his legacy as well."

In a speech called "Beyond Vietnam," King denounced the Vietnam War and advocated for international peace. King also denounced capitalism throughout his life, writing that "capitalism has seen its best days."

Rada said he believes the stories around the civil rights movement are some of the most important stories to tell.

"To me, the civil rights movement ... is the true American revolution because this is what democracy looks like," Rada said.

Rada said students were carefully selected to work on the project based on several factors. Rada reached out to faculty in the Park School for recommendations, and then he reached out to individuals that seemed to be a good fit.

"I look for students who have the journalistic aptitude but also the proper professional and cultural attitude," Rada said.

Kornegay said every student that worked on the project brought something different to the table.

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Trustees hold meeting in LA

BY FALYN STEMPLER

This year's annual February Ithaca College Board of Trustees meeting is taking place in Los Angeles from Feb. 12 to 13, President Shirley M. Collado announced during the All-College Gathering on Jan. 28.

During the meeting, the board is touring the college's Los Angeles satellite campus, Collado said. The purpose of this is to highlight the importance of the center, Collado said at the All-College Gathering.

Collado said she will be joining the board for a meeting with Bob Iger '73, CEO of The Walt Disney Co.

During that meeting, they will discuss the future vision of the college, Collado said.

"We are very grateful that Bob Iger will be joining us at this event," Collado said. "He and I will engage in a conversation about leadership and the college's future."

Iger and his wife, Willow Bay, recently endowed the college with a scholarship that promotes diversity in media.

Collado, as well as other senior leadership team members, including La Jerne Cornish, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, attended the meeting.

The board will return to campus for its annual May meeting, Collado said.

The May meeting is when the 2020–21 fiscal budget is anticipated to be released, Collado said.

The budget is sometimes released during the February meeting, but since 2018, it has been released in May.



COLLADO

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FROM FACULTY, PAGE 1

subsequently resigned in July 2017.

Pfaff said in an interview that he thinks it is important for the faculty to criticize the administration and that the administration needs to seriously address the concerns.

Pfaff said in the faculty-concerns listserv he thinks it is possible that Collado's no-contest plea to the sex abuse charge could be affecting donations and the number of students applying to the college.

"I don't think the college is 'tanking' because the president was convicted," Pfaff said in the email. "There are many factors contributing to our financial concerns. But, may the president's past legal issues be having a negative impact on giving, which has been awful for the last two years, and application. It is a possibility. This all goes back to my main point of that there are viewpoints on campus that are kept silent."

When reached out to for comment, Cornish did not directly address the comments made about Collado, but she said Levy's remarks derailed the conversation about the student experience. The provost's statement serves as the college's comment on the faculty meeting, said Bob Wagner, chief communication officer at the college.

"If I could separate [Levy's] concerns from the manner in which they were expressed, I would say that many of us share some of [Levy's] concerns: namely, the financial health of the college, the challenges of enrollment in the current higher-education landscape and the challenges associated with recruiting and retaining faculty of color," Cornish said via email.

Cornish said she will be scheduling another All-Faculty Meeting later this month to continue the conversation about the student experience.

In response to the All-Faculty Meeting, the School of Humanities and Sciences Faculty Senate said in an email to faculty and *The Ithacan* that it is committed to respectful, constructive dialogue about challeng-

es the college is facing.

"We believe that vitriolic and sweeping denunciations have the potential to polarize us, making it that much more difficult for us to engage in the complex conversations that are so necessary for the health of our institution, our student body and our faculty," the email said.

Chris McNamara, clinical associate professor and clinic director in the Department of Physical Therapy and chair of the Ithaca College Faculty Council, said via email that the issues raised at the Jan. 30 meeting were concerns that both the faculty and administration share.

"The most central theme of the meeting that emerged in retrospect, however, was communication: how we communicate with each other, with our students and with leadership and how leadership communicates with us," she said via email. "This meeting sparked critical dialogue among faculty, and, at its regularly scheduled meeting the following Tuesday, Feb. 4, Faculty Council began an open, honest and respectful conversation on these and other topics that we believe are essential to the success of IC."

At the Faculty Council meeting Feb. 4, the council went into executive session twice and did not discuss any topics on the agenda, which included discussing the All-Faculty Meeting, while in open session.

The All-Faculty Gathering was not the first contentious meeting between faculty and the administration this semester. Following an all-Park School faculty meeting Jan. 21, some Park School faculty members said they felt Cornish was condescending and did not provide plans for improving the climate in the Park School.

Cathy Crane, associate professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies, said via email that Cornish's tone was "derogatory and disrespectful" during the Park School faculty meeting. Crane said she could see why Park School faculty members, particularly Levy, reacted the way they did during the All-Faculty Gathering.

"It was not seeking collaboration,



Ithaca College President Shirley M. Collado discusses the community's concerns about the campus climate and the college's financial health status at the All-College Gathering on Jan. 28 in the Emerson Suites.

ATHINA SONITIS/THE ITHACAN

let's put it that way," Crane said. "Maybe they were seeking collaboration, but it was unsuccessful in doing so because of the tone of the delivery."

Cornish did not directly address the fact that some faculty members felt she has been condescending when asked via email.

Jill Loop, instructor in the Department of Journalism, said she spoke up at the Park School faculty meeting because she was frustrated with the lack of steps being presented by the administration to address microaggressions in the classroom.

"There isn't really a whole lot of guidance [for faculty]," she said. "We're leaving too much up to anecdotes and rumors and not enough up to 'This is what's happening, and here is the proposal to fix it.'"

The Collado administration created a bias reporting system in

Fall 2018. The most recent microaggression incident that became public occurred at the end of Fall 2019. Students of color expressed feeling uncomfortable after Anne Hamilton, interim lecturer in the Department of Theatre Arts, asked the class to write racial slurs, including the N-word, on the classroom whiteboard Nov. 21 because of a play the class was reading. Hamilton was removed from her position the same day.

Scott Hamula, associate professor and chair of the Department of Strategic Communication, said he and other faculty members feel as if they are not receiving the level of support they should from the administration.

Hamula said he specifically took issue with a portion of the All-Faculty Meeting in which NSSE data was presented. The data showed students felt that they were not being

challenged or supported by faculty, but no information was provided on how to address the issue. He said he thinks the college should conduct a faculty climate survey.

Diane Gayeski, dean of the Park School, said via email that she is sympathetic to the faculty members who are worried.

"Nobody among us would deny that unfortunate situations have occurred that have left members of our community feeling unwanted and disrespected," Gayeski said via email. "We need to acknowledge this and learn how to be better allies. ... This is exactly the kind of situation that is bound to lead to miscommunication."

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IC students have less diverse political opinions than before

BY SAM HAUT

Elijah Earl, senior research analyst in the Office of Analytics and Institutional Research, presented data collected from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) to the Student Governance Council on Feb. 10. The data stated that Ithaca College students have become more insular when discussing politics.

NSSE is a survey that collects information pertaining to freshmen and seniors' college experiences and their thoughts on campus culture. NSSE is conducted every three years, with the most recent survey conducted in February 2019. Earl said his main focus was on how the data has changed since the survey was last conducted in 2016.

Earl said the survey takes the average score of students, with one being never and four being very often.

Earl said in the category, "discussions with diverse others," there was a decline in "people with political views other than your own." In 2019, the data showed 2.6 for freshmen and 2.5 for seniors, which is down from 2.8 for freshmen and 2.7 for seniors in 2016.

Earl said the difference in scores for the college's seniors is much lower compared to other Mid-Atlantic private institutions while the freshman score is slightly lower.

Earl said he thinks that politics have become more polarized since the 2016 presidential election and that the data reflects this. Data from the Pew Research Center shows that Democrats and Republicans have grown further apart on their opinions on which issues should be prioritized.

He said that this data affirms that the college

is a majority liberal institution and that students with more conservative views do not feel comfortable sharing their opinions.

"We are stifling ourselves at times, to the point where a lot of our more, I won't say conservative, but students who don't necessarily identify as far left or very left, feel kind of afraid to speak out in class about any of their beliefs," Earl said.

Freshman Connor Watson, student director of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, said he agreed that students who are not very liberal do not feel comfortable sharing their political opinions.

"Me personally, I have no issue saying it," Watson said. "I don't always agree with the status quo that lives on campus because let's face it, there is a status quo, and it's very heard, and there have been many times where I don't necessarily agree, but I don't want them to find out."

Earl said the survey had an increase in the response rate. In 2019, 41% of freshmen responded and 34% of seniors responded. In 2016, 29% of freshmen responded and 32% of seniors responded. He said this is an improvement over peer schools, which had 28% freshmen and 30% seniors respond in 2019 and 28% freshman and 30% seniors respond in 2016. The 2019 response rate was the highest response rate since 2006.

Before NSSE was conducted in 2019, representatives from the Office of Analytics and Institutional Research discussed how to increase participation in NSSE with the SGC.

Earl said the 2019 data shows there is greater student perception of the college as a "supportive learning environment." In 2016, the college



Junior Elijah Nishiura, vice president of campus affairs, listens to Elijah Earl, senior research analyst in the Office of Analytics and Institutional Research, present data.

BROOKE BERNHARDT/THE ITHACAN

was dealing with tensions between students and faculty, along with protests against the college's handling of racial issues, which lead to former president Tom Rochon stepping down.

"Fortunately [in] 2019, we made a complete turnaround in perceptions of IC being a supportive learning environment have actually gone from being a little bit below our peers to being above our peers," Earl said.

After discussing NSSE data, the SGC passed the Equal Opportunity Textbook Act to help limit the cost of textbooks for students. The bill, which is a recommendation, passed 5-0, with one abstention. The bill was sponsored by sophomore Hunter Simmons, Class of 2022 senator.

Simmons said the bill will promote the use of open education resources (OERs), which he said

are teaching and learning tools that are available to everyone for free.

Simmons said students can spend an average of over \$1,200 per year on textbooks, and he hopes his bill will help lower this cost for students.

According to a study by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, the average cost of textbooks is \$153 per course, which, with four courses per semester, can lead to students spending \$4,896 over four years.

Junior Allison Kelley, vice president of business and finance, said the bill is the first step in a longer process, as the SGC discussed other topics surrounding the cost of classes.

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Professor publishes colonialism article

Enrique González-Conty, Latin American Studies coordinator and assistant professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at Ithaca College, published an article in the Fall 2019 issue of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies (CENTRO) Journal.

His article, titled “Building Puerto Rico’s Anti-Colonial Literary Canon: Nilita Vientós Gastón’s Venture with Asomante,” was published in CENTRO, a peer-reviewed journal that is dedicated to Puerto Rican studies.

Staff writer Caitlin Holtzman sat down with González-Conty to discuss his research.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Caitlin Holtzman: What inspired you to do this research and publish the article?

Enrique González-Conty: The article comes from a research project that I did awhile ago for my master’s. So I did my master’s at The University of Texas at Austin, and I was in a class about writing journals. ... Through that class, looking at journals in Latin America, I discovered this journal that I write about that’s called “Asomante.” It was surprising because rather than being taught about the journal in Puerto Rico because I did my undergraduate degree at the University of Puerto Rico, I had never heard about “Asomante” before.

CH: What was your research process like?

EGC: UT Austin has an amazing Latin American studies library. So they had most of the issues of this journal. ... I was able to look at most of them at the [Nettie Lee Benson



Enrique González-Conty, assistant professor and Latin American studies coordinator in the Ithaca College Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, published an article in CENTRO Journal.

MAX SOBEL/THE ITHACAN

Latin American Collection]. ... My process was going to the Benson Latin American collection and looking at the issues and then reflecting on why were the people that were publishing being included in the journal.

CH: You mention the anti-colonial nation-building project. Can you talk about that a little bit?

EGC: One aspect of that is the Spanish launching literature that was written in Spanish because English was being enforced in several institutions in Puerto Rico, like in courtrooms and also in schools. And even though we were a colony of the U.S., people spoke Spanish. They did not speak English.

The U.S. government, since the beginning, started to impose assimilation. ... It was a colonial practice in the sense that Puerto Ricans didn’t have any say. It’s not like [the U.S. government] asked, “Do you want to learn English?” It was like, “We’re going to impose English in schools and in the courtrooms.” ... So the anti-colonial nationalist project was using literature to push back against assimilation.

CH: What would you say is the overall importance of anti-colonialism in Puerto Rico?

EGC: Something that is interesting is, for example, talking about Gastón today is really important because she was already mentioning and writing about the problems of colonialism in Puerto Rico in her own years. ... Probably today Puerto Rico is facing the worst crisis because of the earthquake and Hurricane Maria. ... How is it facing opposition today, and how it has been fought in the past so that we can move forward? ... I think it was maybe 25 years after her death people were starting to publish her work again, to look at it. But now with the earthquakes and Hurricane Maria, it’s totally relevant to go back to her work to see that some things have not changed.

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Debate team wins title

BY JULIE DANNEVIG

Junior Callie Nguyen is the first student from Ithaca College to win the championship title at the National Forensic Association’s Lincoln-Douglas Debate in the junior varsity division at the Gorlok Gala forensics tournament.

Nguyen and sophomore Sarah Lawal represented the college’s speech and debate team at the tournament Jan. 24–26 in St. Louis at Webster University.

Nguyen, president of Ithaca College Speech and Debate, said she and Lawal competed against students from approximately 40 other universities. The topic of the debates were energy policy, Nguyen said.

“Speech and debate strains your brain,” she said. “Being able to survive that is very impressive. But [the speech and debate team] is a lot of fun. We travel, and we make a lot of friends from different schools.”

Scott Thomson, assistant professor in the Department of Communications Studies and the coach and adviser of the speech and debate team, said the team was created in 1920.

The team currently has 10 active student members, Nguyen said.

It competes in approximately seven tournaments per semester, she said.

Nguyen said she has been competing in debate tournaments since high school. She said she was interested in continuing this hobby.

She joined the college’s team after a classmate recommended she go to a meeting, Nguyen said.

Lawal, who joined the team in Spring 2020, said the Gorlok Gala forensics tournament was the first intercollegiate debate competition she participated in.

She won in the novice division against competitors from Hillsdale College and Illinois College, she said.

“It was an amazing experience, and I had a lot of fun,” Lawal said. “I can’t wait to continue participating in future tournaments and strengthening my speech and debate skills.”

Thomson said the team teaches a variety of skills because debating requires quick thinking and attention to detail.

“The skills all around are incomparable,” Thomson said. “You learn to do research efficiently — how to do research and record things and organize them in a way that you can then draw different things from them. You learn to be an advocate and think on your feet and defy arguments and have strategies.”

Nguyen said the organization is very welcoming. She said the team offers valuable experience in public speaking and quick thinking.

“After every tournament, you feel good,” Nguyen said. “Even if you totally bomb it, you still make a lot of good friends and have a lot of meaningful conversations with other people.”

Lawal said she values the impact the team has had on her public speaking skills and how her practicing and work directly pays off.

“The most rewarding aspect of the team is being able to put into practice what I am learning through competing,” Lawal said. “Being able to be a part of something that is so informative and also fun makes the speech and debate team special compared to other organizations on campus.”

Nguyen said she believes any student should join the team.

She said it is useful in honing public speaking skills and offers a place for collaboration and team spirit.

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Students cover Iowa Caucus for CNN

BY CORA PAYNE

With primaries underway for the 2020 election, Ithaca College students are hitting the campaign trail to cover the election through internship opportunities.

Three students covered the Iowa caucuses with CNN. Seniors Sarah Horbacewicz and Giulia Villanueva Lopez and sophomore Tara Lynch worked as runners for journalists, stand-ins for broadcasters and tallied support for every candidate among caucus attendees.

James Rada, associate professor and chair of the Department of Journalism, selected the three students to collaborate with students from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, to cover the Iowa caucuses Feb. 3.

Three students, including seniors Kristen Mirand and Sierra Guardiola, traveled to New Hampshire on Feb. 11 to cover its primary, and five students will travel to Memphis, Tennessee, for the Super Tuesday primaries March 3.

The students flew to Iowa together a few days before the caucuses to help CNN prepare, Villanueva Lopez said.



From left, seniors Giulia Villanueva Lopez and Sarah Horbacewicz and sophomore Tara Lynch covered the Iowa caucuses on Feb. 3 in Des Moines, Iowa, for CNN.

COURTESY OF TARA LYNCH

Villanueva Lopez is an international student from Paraguay, where her aunt is also a CNN correspondent.

“We got to Iowa, and I’m not American, so for me, I was thinking, ‘Where even am I? Where am I going?’” Villanueva Lopez said. “None of us had ever been to Iowa before, so we really just jumped right in.”

The evening of the caucus was a hectic experience, but working with other students and industry professionals was a beneficial learning experience, Horbacewicz said.

“I was running to get the next interviewee, and someone else is counting, and then someone else was helping the reporter,” Horbacewicz said. “We could just look at each other across the room and communicate, ‘Now you go there. I’ll go here.’”

The 2020 Iowa caucuses faced many roadblocks. The caucuses attempted to use an app for the first time to keep track of votes, but the app was not thoroughly tested before attempting statewide use. The app failed because of coding issues, according to reporting from The New York Times. Troy Price, Iowa Democratic Party chairman, announced he was stepping down after the reporting of the results was delayed.

Caucuses consist of state citizens going to precincts across the state to show their support for their chosen presidential candidate. To do so, attendees separate into groups in different sections of the room based on which candidate they support.

Then they are counted to deem which candidate has the most support.

“Obviously, there were major delays in getting any results,” Lynch said. “It was interesting to see how CNN handled that and adjusted to adversity.”

Horbacewicz said it was helpful to collaborate with Drake University students because everyone brought different skills to the table. While the Ithaca College students had training in media and journalism, she said the Drake University students brought knowledge about the state.

Lynch said that interning at the caucus provided valuable experience for her career aspiration of being a broadcast journalist.

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Students to present research on race in media

BY ALYSHIA KORBA

Two pairs of Ithaca College students have been accepted to present their research on race depiction in media at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research from March 26 to 28 at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana.

The pairs conducted their research, which included producing their own surveys, last semester in their Mass Media Research course with Allison Frisch, assistant professor in the Department of Journalism. Junior Elizabeth Bierly and senior Diana Castillo researched the depiction of mass shooters in media depending on their race, while seniors James Murphy and Nicole Pimental looked at the depiction of athletes based on their race. Ithaca College will pay for transportation and accommodations for one student from each pair to attend the conference, Rowan Larkin '19, administrative assistant in the Office of the Provost, said. Neither team has decided which member will attend.

Frisch said she encouraged all her students to submit their research.

"It's a very high-profile place that's recognizing that our students are of a very high caliber," Frisch said. "These students put in so much time. They overcame some challenges, and I know they worked some very long hours and late nights to get this done, and I just think it speaks to how dedicated they were to their work that they were chosen."

Frisch said the goal of the course is for students to learn methods of quantitative research and how to apply it to journalism. Murphy said the project was an opportunity to practice these

research methods and apply them to their own projects.

"The project process itself was definitely a great opportunity to be able to use your skills in a way that is really valuable in today's world, especially in journalism," Murphy said.

Bierly said she wanted to research mental health, and Castillo said she wanted to research issues surrounding race and diversity. They discovered those issues intersect in coverage of mass shootings.

Castillo said that they chose to focus on mass shootings because it is a relevant topic and that there is a lack of research about the media's portrayal of perpetrators of mass shootings.

"Liz [Bierly] had brought up the idea of mass shootings, and since it was so prevalent in this day and age, that's something that we wanted to somehow focus on," Castillo said. "Then I brought up the topic of race in regards to how different perpetrators are viewed: what words are used, what photos are used, how they describe them."

Bierly and Castillo analyzed 93 mass shootings between 2012–16. They found a strong correlation between perpetrators' races and how they are depicted in the media. White perpetrators are more likely to be described as mentally ill while black perpetrators are often depicted as violent criminals, according to their research abstract on the conference website.

Bierly said her expectations and hypothesis going in were debunked in the research process.

"Originally, I thought that there would be a huge difference in coverage between smaller casualty



From left, seniors James Murphy and Nicole Pimental were accepted to present their research on how the media reports on athletes based on their race at a national conference in March in Montana.

REED FREEMAN/THE ITHACAN

shootings versus trends in how the media covers larger mass shootings," she said. "But actually, it turns out that pretty much how it's applied in main media coverage can be applied even at a small local outlet, which was really interesting."

Pimental said she and Murphy chose their project in a similar way to Bierly and Castillo. Murphy said he wanted to focus on sports, and Pimental said she wanted to study racial issues, so they decided to research the portrayal of race in sports media.

Murphy and Pimental used a survey to see if racial stereotypes from other research impact people's perceived credibility of sports media. The survey was based on two sports articles with different framing of the athletes' races. The survey found that participants found the article that challenged stereotypes more credible than the article that reinforced the stereotypes, according to their research abstract.

Pimental said many survey participants believed there are racial stereotypes put into sports reporting.

The research confirmed that while black athletes are often described as more physically talented, white athletes are often described as more intelligent, she said.

"One study in particular that we found was that audiences in their study thought that piece that reinforced the racial stereotypes was more credible than the ones that didn't," Pimental said. "So I thought that was really interesting, and it was something that we hadn't seen before."

Bierly said she hopes to continue her and Castillo's research as an independent study to make the research more comprehensive and add more data to the map of mass shootings she created.

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Student self-publishes book of her own poetry

BY ANNA DE LUCA

Ithaca College freshman Greta Unetich knew from a young age that she wanted to pursue a career in the STEM field. However, she also had another passion that she kept secret: writing poetry.

On Dec. 29, she independently published a book of poems, and she revealed her secret love for writing.

"I just didn't feel comfortable telling people," Unetich said. "When this book came out, it was a huge shock to everyone because they didn't expect it. This was kind of written to prove that I can do both."

The novel, "Look Both Ways," is a collection of short poems based on her observations she has made in life about her relationships with friends and strangers that have impacted her. The poems also cover her experience of struggling between wanting to pursue both science and writing.

It has taken her five years, since she was in eighth grade, to write the collection. She published the novel through Kindle Direct Publishing, which allows authors to maintain ownership of their work and the price. The novel can be purchased on Amazon or her website for \$8. She has currently sold 25 copies, she said.

Since publishing the novel, she said she has heard from some of her favorite writers, including Chris Purifoy, also known as Analog de Leon, and Emmy Marucci, who said they enjoyed reading it.

She said the book speaks to the struggle of figuring out what you want to pursue when you have multiple passions.

"I'm more than sure there are people who are dealing with conflicts if their hobbies are what they love to do, if they want to major in it in school or even if they just want to work on it on the side like I am," she said.

She said she hopes this book resonates with other people who struggle to pursue hobbies outside their career paths and encourages them to pursue them anyway, even if there will be backlash from people in their lives. Having more free time in her schedule at college has helped her to finish up the book, she said.

"Do it," she said. "You cannot be afraid of what other people are saying about you. You can't be afraid of what other people are saying to you. They cannot do anything to you. Just go for it."

The book helped me realize I need something other than my career to keep going in life.

– Taylor Callis

Unetich said this is the first of many books she hopes to publish throughout her life. She is also working on releasing a collection of essays that she wrote during her senior year of high school, a collection that she said she is submitting to Buzzsaw Magazine on campus.

Unetich said that she submitted "Look Both Ways" to Andrews McMeel Publishing on Feb. 7.

Freshman Katherine Urbano, who is good



Freshman Greta Unetich published a collection of short poems she wrote. The collection, entitled "Look Both Ways," is currently available for purchase on Amazon.

CAROLINE BROPHY/THE ITHACAN

friends with Unetich, said she admires how Unetich makes time for things she cares about outside school.

"She's just really focused on school," Urbano said. "She's a [biology] major, and that's a lot of work. She's really dedicated to school but then also having a way to enjoy writing like she does, which I really admire that."

Urbano said she had no idea Unetich had been writing a book.

"I started screaming like, 'Oh my gosh, I didn't even know about this. ... Oh my gosh, this is so cool,' because it's not like your friend your age just publishes a book," Urbano said. "I feel like a proud mom."

Freshman Taylor Callis, who is also friends with Unetich, said Unetich is someone with a positive outlook on life even when things get stressful.

"[She is] a very bright person overall. Even if something's getting her down, she still tries to push through and keep everything positive," Callis said.

Callis said that she knew Unetich writes poetry but was unaware that she was creating a book of her work.

"She told me she was writing poetry, but I didn't know she was planning on publishing it," Callis said. "Even then, I was still surprised because we didn't really talk much before coming here, so I only knew her as the [biology] major, so it was a nice surprise."

Callis said Unetich's ability to publish a book unrelated to her career path has inspired her to look for hobbies outside her career, too.

"It inspired me to explore my interests outside my major," she said. "Her book inspired me to push my limits outside, so I joined a few service clubs because that's what I like to do, and I was going to focus on career-oriented clubs just to help me get experience. The book helped me realize I need something other than my career to keep going in life."

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COLLEGE BRIEFS

Students attend science event to showcase physics process

Ithaca College sophomore Muhtasim Hossain, juniors Oluwasekemi Odumosu and Joshua Schmidt, and Matthew Sullivan, professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, participated in the World Science Festival’s City of Science event. City of Science is a touring event in which properties of science, technology, engineering and math are combined in interactive demonstrations and activities. Hossain, Odumosu, Schmidt and Sullivan presented on quantum levitation.

IC Residential Life makes changes to living learning communities

The Office of Residential Life recently announced plans for expanding and enhancing the residential learning community (RLC) experience for students for the 2020–21 academic year. RLCs are topical, interest-based housing communities that focus on sharing ideas and interests and engaging in community activities and lectures. Each RLC includes one or two RLC faculty or staff associates who mentor the community. In addition to some of the long standing RLCs, including Honors and the Outdoor Adventure Learning Community, two new RLC communities will start this fall. The new Entrepreneurship and Innovation (E&I) RLC will be located in Rowland Hall. In collaboration with partners from the School of Business, the E&I RLC will focus on the entrepreneurial mindset and taking idea generation to business development. The new STEM RLC will be located in West Tower and geared toward first-year students enrolled in the STEM disciplines. This RLC was created through a National Science Foundation grant received by Kelley Sullivan, associate professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. Along with the new additions, a few of the RLCs for Fall 2020 will be relocated to new buildings, such as the Interfaith community and Quiet Study.

College to host diversity expert for conversations about inclusion

The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, the Center for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Social Change and Hillel at Ithaca

College are hosting Yavilah McCoy, an educator, anti-racism activist and diversity, equity, and inclusion consultant for two events. Both events are part of Better Together Days, an Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC) program that brings campuses together for a week of interfaith action. At 12:10 p.m. Feb. 18 in Klingenstein Lounge, McCoy will engage in dialogue with faculty regarding the growing need to advance justice across interracial, intercultural and interfaith differences on college campuses. McCoy’s keynote presentation will take place at 7 p.m. Feb. 18 in Klingenstein Lounge. The presentation will focus on the paradox of how one can hold progressive beliefs and principles and still think, speak and act in ways that perpetuate racial bias. McCoy will discuss concrete steps in achieving a more equitable campus environments.

Students with strong academics honored by athletics department

The Office of Intercollegiate Athletics and the Office of the Provost hosted their fourth annual scholar-athlete luncheon Feb. 6 in the Emerson Suites to celebrate the exceptional academic achievements of current junior and senior student-athletes. More than 60 student-athletes from 23 of Ithaca’s 27 sponsored varsity programs received invitations to the ceremony.

Each student-athlete obtained a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher since their arrival to the college three or four years ago. Senior Peyton Greco of the women’s golf team served as the keynote speaker. Will Rothermel, associate director for the athletics office, and Barb Belyea, clinical professor and associate chair of the Department of Physical Therapy and faculty athletics representative, spearheaded the initiative to honor the student-athletes’ performances in the classroom.

Language professor to present research on early French explorers

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures will be hosting a brown-bag lunch at noon Feb. 13 in the Dorothy D. and Roy H. Park Center for Sustainable Enterprise Room 301. At the lunch, Rachel Paparone, assistant professor in the modern languages and literatures



IC students pot plants in celebration

Junior Gianna Aiello and sophomore Silas Cox plant succulents to celebrate Tu B’Shevat, the Jewish New Year for Trees, on Feb. 10 in the Center for Natural Sciences greenhouse at an event sponsored by Hillel at Ithaca College.

MOLLY BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

department, will talk about her current research on the pastoral in Early Modern travel narratives. She will focus on the methods with which French explorers in North America interpreted the landscapes and people that they encountered as well as how reframing these narratives in terms of the pastoral can help people better understand contemporary attitudes toward nature.

IC Second Stage finalizes shows for their spring semester lineup

IC Second Stage finalized the productions it will put on throughout the spring semester. On April 3 and 4, the organization will present “Puffs,” a stage play written by Max

Cox with a loose connection to the Wizarding World of Harry Potter. On April 10 and 11, it will present “Bare: A Pop Opera,” with music by Damon Intrabartolo, lyrics by Jon Hartmere and book by Hartmere and Intrabartolo. On April 30 and May 1, IC Second Stage will present “Next to Normal,” a 2008 American rock musical with book and lyrics by Brian Yorkey and music by Tom Kitt. Auditions for “Puffs” will take place between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Feb. 15 in Job Hall Room 160. IC Second Stage is an organization for students who are interested in a creative outlet outside of the college’s main stage theater productions.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG
SELECTED ENTRIES FROM JANUARY 27 TO FEBRUARY 1

JANUARY 27

MEDICAL ASSIST/INJURY RELATED

LOCATION: Bogart Hall
SUMMARY: The caller reported a person who fell and hit their head was now suffering from dizziness, nausea and pain. The person was transported to the hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Sophia Dimkos responded.

FIRE/ACTUAL FIRE/FLAME/IGNITION

LOCATION: Circle Apartment Building 211
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. Activation was caused by a fire in a toaster oven. A fire extinguisher was used to put the fire out. Patrol Officer Brian Versoza responded.

JANUARY 28

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

LOCATION: Landon Hall
SUMMARY: A person reported that in December 2019, an unknown person had knocked on the window asking for entry into the building. Patrol Officer Shawn Lansing responded.

MEDICAL ASSIST/INJURY RELATED

LOCATION: James J. Whalen Center for Music
SUMMARY: The caller reported a person was feeling faint, fell and hit their head. The person was transported to the Hammond Health Center by an

officer. Security Officer Joe Oppen responded.

SCC BULLYING OR CYBERBULLYING

LOCATION: All Campus
SUMMARY: The caller reported being bullied by members of a group. Patrol Officer John Norman responded.

JANUARY 29

LARCENY OVER \$200

LOCATION: Campus Center
SUMMARY: The caller reported an unknown person stole their backpack. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain responded.

CHANGE IN THE CASE STATUS

LOCATION: Campus Center
SUMMARY: The caller reported the backpack originally stolen Jan. 29 from the Campus Center was located and turned over to Public Safety. The item was not stolen. The officer determined the item was not stolen and the incident was unfounded. Master Patrol Officer Waylon DeGraw responded.

ASSIST NY STATE POLICE

LOCATION: All Campus
SUMMARY: Tompkins County 911 Center reported NY State Police were attempting to locate a person for a welfare check. NY State Police reported the person was located at an off-campus location. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon responded.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

LOCATION: Terraces
SUMMARY: The caller reported overhearing two unknown people talking and one person asking the other about possessing a weapon. The officers were unable to locate the people involved. The investigation is pending. Patrol Officer Daniel Redder responded.

JANUARY 30

SCHEME TO DEFRAUD SECOND DEGREE

LOCATION: Garden Apartment Building 25
SUMMARY: The caller reported an unknown person tried to arrange fraudulent payments for items this person was selling online. The investigation is pending. Patrol Officer John Norman responded.

ACTS OF DISHONESTY

LOCATION: E-Lot
SUMMARY: The officer reported a vehicle was found to have a fraudulent parking permit and the vehicle was towed from campus. One person was judicially referred for acts of dishonesty. Security Officer Jordan Bartolis responded.

CRIMINAL TAMPERING THIRD DEGREE

LOCATION: Hood Hall
SUMMARY: During health and safety inspections, the caller reported

marijuana paraphernalia and a plastic bag covering a smoke detector. The officer determined the paraphernalia was not used for drugs and judicially referred a person for tampering with fire safety equipment. Master Patrol Officer Robert Jones responded.

JANUARY 31

SCC IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL/DRUGS

LOCATION: Hilliard Hall
SUMMARY: The caller reported a person had injected marijuana. The person was transported to the hospital by ambulance and referred judicially for irresponsible use of drugs. Patrol Officer Brian Versoza responded.

V&T LEAVING SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT

LOCATION: J-Lot
SUMMARY: A person approached an officer and reported that one vehicle damaged another and left the scene. Security Officer Joe Oppen responded.

CRIMINAL TAMPERING THIRD DEGREE

LOCATION: Emerson Hall
SUMMARY: The officer reported an unknown person bent an electrical outlet cover. The investigation is pending. Sergeant Donald Lyke responded.

FEBRUARY 1

TRESPASS NO DEGREE

LOCATION: Recreation Trails
SUMMARY: The officer reported two people on trails after hours. A warning was issued. Master patrol Officer Waylon Degraw responded.

SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE

LOCATION: Z-Lot
SUMMARY: The officer reported two people were in a parked vehicle. The officer determined that the persons were talking and no assistance was needed. Master Patrol Officer Waylon DeGraw responded.

SCC DISRUPTIVE/EXCESSIVE NOISE

LOCATION: West Tower
SUMMARY: The officer reported a noise complaint. The officer judicially referred two people for a noise violation. Security Officer Kevin English responded.

Full public safety log available online at www.theithacan.org.

KEY

SCC–Student Conduct Code
V&T–Vehicle & Transportation
AD–Assistant Director
IFD–Ithaca Fire Department

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OPINION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

9



JACOBA TAYLOR/THE ITHACAN

EDITORIALS

Faculty and administration must communicate, not argue

In November 2015, over 1,000 students walked out in protest against then-Ithaca College President Tom Rochon. Many students claimed no confidence in Rochon's leadership after he failed to respond to multiple events involving racial discrimination. Following these events, students, faculty and staff took a vote of no confidence in Rochon's leadership. Rochon then stepped down, and most of his administration followed.

Fast forward to January 2020, and the current concerns on campus somewhat mirror those from 2015, although the level of tension is nowhere near as high. There are reports and anecdotes of microaggressions occurring in classrooms across disciplines. It is clear that the issues of microaggressions and the administration not knowing how to handle them were problems in 2015, and the very same problems persist five years later.

At the All-Faculty Meeting on Jan. 30, there was a concern raised by faculty members, particularly those in the Roy. H Park School of Communications, that the administration is not providing enough guidance on how to solve the problem of microaggressions in the classroom.

This issue came to a boil when Janice Levy, professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies, spoke out in frustration against the administration's treatment of Park School faculty, especially in discussions involving incidents of microaggressions in the classroom. After Levy's comments, the meeting apparently became chaotic, with faculty speaking over one another.

Some faculty members in the Park School felt La Jerne Cornish, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, had a

condescending tone and did not provide a plan for how to address microaggressions in the classroom. Cornish said she felt Levy's comments derailed the All-Faculty Meeting.

There is clearly a breakdown in communication between the faculty and the administration, with each side leaving more upset than before from meetings that are supposed to facilitate conversations about mending the campus climate. The issue of microaggressions at the college is systemic, and it needs to be addressed as such.

The people who lose the most in these conflicts between faculty and the administration are students. Every day, students are pushed to immerse themselves in dialogues, subjects and teachings that might exist outside their experiences and comfort zones. Perhaps it is time for faculty and administrators to step back, examine the way they talk to one another and push themselves to learn beyond their comfort zones as well.

As people in positions of power, it is necessary that faculty members take responsibility for any microaggressions that happen in their classrooms. Administrators need to listen to the concerns of the faculty and reevaluate their own communication style.

It is time to move past the current divisiveness and start vital conversations about the college's financial health and enrollment challenges.

The only way for the community to grow is through open dialogue and willingness to learn. If faculty and the administration continue to refuse to partake in both, the college's challenges will continue to grow, and both administrators and faculty will be at fault.

New name alone cannot change culture of group

Following a few years of controversy, the Protestant Community (PC) at Ithaca College has taken steps to be more welcoming, an action that signifies a new era for the community.

In the 2017–18 academic year, members of the PC reported being discriminated against because of their LGBTQ identities. This conflict was poorly addressed and resulted in a New York State Division of Human Rights complaint being filed against the college, and the chaplain stepped down.

The community has recently rebranded and is now named the Lighthouse Christian Fellowship (LCF). The name change is a well-intentioned first step to improving a community that faced years of turmoil. The students who now make up the community are a mainly new group that is working to prove LCF is not the PC.

However, there also needs to be action taking place to ensure the name change is not just covering up the group's problematic past.

The college is known for being one of the most LGBTQ-friendly campuses, and all spaces on campus must be welcoming to LGBTQ students, including the chapel.

While there have been efforts to improve the messaging for a new generation of community members, LCF needs to commit itself to creating a community that is welcoming to all new members. Changing the culture of

a group is not something that happens overnight, but if every member of LCF is committed to implementing real change, it is possible.

“

The name change is a well-intentioned first step to improving a community that faced years of turmoil.

”

Other initiatives, like the Uncommon Changemakers program, will help LCF interact with the greater college community. The new initiative aims to connect students who do not have religious affiliations with those who do. By having both religious and nonreligious students interact, there will be an exchange of ideas and values that will hopefully benefit all involved.

The group's past should be remembered, and if LCF is serious about change, the college community will be stronger.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send to ithacan@ithaca.edu.

ALL LETTERS MUST:

- Be 250 words or fewer
- Emailed or dropped off by 5 p.m. Monday in Park 220.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send to ithacan@ithaca.edu or to the opinion editor at ksustick@ithaca.edu.

ALL COMMENTARIES MUST:

- Convey a clear message
- Be written by an individual or group who has an educated opinion or is an authority on a specific subject
- Be between 500–650 words. Whether more or less space is allotted is at the discretion of the editor.

NATIONAL RECAP

Teacher unions call shooter drills ineffective

BY KATE SUSTICK

Despite the goal of improving student safety, new research shows that active shooter drills may be negatively impacting students. The nation's two largest teachers' unions are demanding change.

The American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association called for an end to surprise drills and drills that simulate gun violence. These unions call for the revision or complete termination of these drills because of the ways they negatively affect the students that partake in them.

The unions previously joined forces with the advocacy group Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund in order to conduct research into the effects of drill implementation in schools. Everytown then released a report Feb. 11 on its website providing research it did in schools all across the country. The implementation of shooter drills, a \$2.7 billion dollar industry, appears to increase student trauma.

Lily Eskelsen Garcia, president of the National Education Foundation, requests that schools pay extra attention to where these drills are going wrong and adjust them accordingly.

"Everywhere I travel, I hear

from parents and educators about active shooter drills terrifying students, leaving them unable to concentrate in the classroom and unable to sleep at night," she said to the Associated Press. "Traumatizing students as we work to keep students safe from gun violence is not the answer."

The report recommended that schools concentrate on properly training staff and faculty on how to respond if there is an active shooter. This training includes guidelines which direct schools to work with mental health officials in order to create age-appropriate drills and to ensure that parents, educators and students all are aware of a drill in advance of it taking place.

Everytown recommends never simulating an actual shooting.

"In Indiana, they were shooting teachers with rubber pellets so they would feel the adrenaline of what a school shooting would feel like," said Shannon Watts, founder of Moms Demand Action. Watts also described to AP the events that took place at a school in California in which "a superintendent hired a stranger to wear a mask to rattle the doors of classrooms without letting faculty and students know."

The effectiveness of drills in preventing the impact of gun



The two largest teachers' unions in the U.S. are calling for the termination of active shooter drills that simulate gun violence in schools, as these drills have proven to scare students.

DOUGAL BROWNLIE/AP NEWS

violence is unclear. In the key findings of the Everytown report, researchers confirm that there "is extremely limited research available on drills' effectiveness." The report also states that because of the newness of drills, there is not enough data available to accurately and comprehensively examine the effects of them.

Abby Clements, who was

teaching at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, the day of the mass shooting that killed 26 people in 2012, argued that a drill is not enough to save lives in the moments of an actual shooting. Clements said the students at Sandy Hook knew their emergency protocols, ranging from evacuation routes to where to hide out of sight

in the classroom.

"Frightening students with some type of active drill, I think, ... is barbaric," she said to AP. "There is no way you could possibly be prepared for the ... ways that a shooting could go down with weapons of war."

CONTACT KATE SUSTICK
KSUSTICK@ITHACA.EDU

OPEN LETTER

A message from the Ithaca College H&S Faculty Senate:

In the wake of the all-college faculty meeting that took place on Thursday, Jan. 30 and the debates that it has sparked, the H&S Faculty Senate wishes to express our collective commitment to respectful and constructive dialogue that will allow us to navigate the very real challenges that we are facing as a community. Those challenges include maintaining the college's fiscal health while educating our diverse student body in a fully welcoming, supportive and academically rigorous environment. We believe that vitriolic and sweeping denunciations have the potential to polarize us, making it that much more difficult for us to engage in the complex conversations that are so necessary for the health of our institution, our student body and our faculty.

There is bound to be disagreement among us, but we hope that our debates can model for our students the kind of thoughtful, intellectually nuanced discourse that we value despite the fact that it appears to be evaporating in the larger society in which we live. We believe that such debates are only possible if we assume goodwill even in those people with whom we disagree, if we listen at least as much as we speak, and if we agree that we are, despite inevitable and sometimes productive dissension, one college.

Sincerely,
The H&S Faculty Senate
Claire Gleitman, English; Jennifer Tenant, Economics; Hugh Egan, English; Kelley Sullivan, Physics; Michael Trotti, History; Dara Engler, Art; Wendy Dann, Theatre Arts; Chrystyna Dail, Theatre Arts; Matt Klemm, History; Marella Feltrin-Morris, Modern Languages and Literatures; John Barr, Computer Science; Emilie Wiesner, Math; Gustavo Licon, Center for the Study of Culture, Race and Ethnicity; Jessica Dunning-Lozano, Sociology; Department Chair, Sociology

NEWSMAKER

Lecturer writes about gender in seascapes

Dyani Taff, lecturer in the Ithaca College Department of English, is currently writing a book that combines her interests in environmental humanities and gender.

The book, titled "Gender Seascapes and Monarchy in Early Modern English Culture," examines the way early modern writers utilize seascapes to discuss a larger issue of social authority and hierarchy.

Opinion editor Kate Sustick spoke with Taff about her upcoming book, her research and the ways in which blue humanities can evoke the meaning of the present by looking to the past.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Kate Sustick: What inspired you to choose your specific discipline within English?

Dyani Taff: In graduate school, I thought I was going to work on translation. ... What I came to eventually was going to my adviser and saying, "Hey, that part in 'Paradise Lost' where Satan's wings are like a ship. That's interesting." And she said, "You should write about boats." that turned into a real interest in what we call environmental humanities, ecocriticism or blue humanities. ... It was a slow process of figuring out what my intervention in that conversation might be, which turned out to be to say ... that gender is a central category of analysis that hasn't really been looked at in a lot of the studies of maritime metaphors or blue thinking ... in early modern literature. How can you not? [Gender] is all there. It's always there.

KS: You're currently writing a book. Could you tell me more about that project?

DT: The book, which is a revision of [my] dissertation, is called "Gender Seascapes and Monarchy in Early Modern English Culture." That project is solidifying that central claim that seascapes, ... shipwrecks, naval



Dyani Taff, lecturer in the Department of English, is writing a book that shows how early modern writers used seascapes to analyze gender and power hierarchies.

NICK BAHAMONDE/THE ITHACAN

warfare or metaphors comparing a marriage to a ship or the governing of a state to a ship ... are ways that early modern writers who are trying to work out problems with social authority. What does it mean to be in control? Who should be controlling when? What is the gender of power?

KS: In your research, gender juxtaposes natural elements in unusual ways. What do you think were early modern intentions in doing so?

DT: A fair amount of the time, the intention was to try to shore up patriarchal normative hierarchies. ... There's people writing about how to be a good husband, and [their] investments are certainly in defining and ensuring the institution of marriage, saying "This is what counts and what it looks like." These metaphors [found in seascapes] offer

visions of human/nonhuman collaboration that in turn puncture this idea that it is a simple hierarchy, that it's ever really just one person in control.

KS: Do you hope to expand this research in the future?

DT: One of the values of blue humanities is the way it allows us to do the work of looking at the past critically. It's not that we're so similar to people in the past or we're totally alien from them. ... [For example], dealing with the fact ... that our discourse about the environment is often really broken. We need to look to the past in order to understand how we got here. I think that's one of the pressing concerns that maritime humanities can do going forward.

CONTACT KATE SUSTICK
KSUSTICK@ITHACA.EDU

GUEST COMMENTARY

Passions do not have to pay the bills

BY KYRA SKYE

During class, a Pro Tools session with music we were supposed to cut up, organize and rearrange was loaded onto the computer screen. I have an opportunity to learn how to do this, which I can then transfer to mixing my own music! As a songwriter and music producer, I want to create a living in which I record, sell albums, and perform all over the world.

I found myself slipping into a daydream about rock stardom when my professor tells our class, “You won’t make much money if you want a music career. But this is still good to know when you’re cutting up music for radio spots!”

Why would you tell your students this? Having a career as a recording artist and touring musician is my dream! I have already been on a national tour with the band Izzy True, released an album with them, and performed at festivals like SXSW and Cayuga Sound. I even have my own solo EP out! This is what I have been creating for myself and want to continue to cultivate for my future.

I rolled my professor’s words around in my head throughout the day, wondering if there was any truth to them. When it came to money, have I really made that much by playing music?

I made some cash through the Izzy True album and my own EP, but even with both of those combined, it would not be enough to pay a month’s rent. On Spotify, artists only make around \$0.00331 and \$0.00437 per stream to rights holders. In order to make an average monthly minimum wage, an artist would need



Senior Kyra Skye, a musician and producer, challenges the stereotype that pursuing music is not a viable career option by supplementing other interests in order to make a living.

LUCAS CAVANAGH/THE ITHACAN

roughly 400,000 streams.

Streaming services make music incredibly accessible and cheap. One month of a subscription account is the same cost of a single album. It makes the argument for buying records difficult when it is all available for easy consumption for the same price. In the fourth quarter of 2019, Spotify had 124 million premium subscribers worldwide, up from 96 million in the corresponding quarter of 2018. I foresee this number continuing to grow.

Musicians make most of their money through touring and selling merchandise at their shows. In order to make a living wage as a musician, touring consistently and finding other means for your music to be showcased — like through

sync licensing in a film or commercial — is necessary. Touring constantly can lead to burnout. For me, having to always be performing in order to make sure I have a roof over my head would most likely lead me to resent touring.

Music is a passion and great love of mine. I do not want it to carry the pressure of my livelihood and well-being, especially when it relies on the precariousness of constantly booking gigs and hoping to sell enough merchandise to buy groceries

Creating sound design for other projects is something I like doing, but does not carry the same love I have for music. This profession keeps my audio editing skills fresh and helps me buy that tour van I

have been checking out!

My conclusion is this: Do not give up on your dreams. However, you also do not have to find ultimate fulfillment in the thing you do to make money. When the things you are passionate about do not carry a financial burden, you have more freedom to create. You never know when a moment of opportunity will strike and you can finally book that national tour of your own. It will come, and it will be beautiful because you will not have had to sacrifice it for your well-being. It will all come together — all with a stocked fridge and a roof over your head.

KYRA SKYE is a senior writing major, musician and producer. Contact her at kcamposmarquetti@ithaca.edu.



SEEKING JUSTICE

JOHN TURNER

Virus does not justify racism

I am studying abroad in London, and I had the chance to take a weekend trip to Paris. The only issue was that I needed to find a place to stay. I came across a nice apartment on Airbnb that was close to the Eiffel Tower, so I asked the host if I could check in late since my plane would not land until nearly midnight. The response I got was shocking. “Hello John,” she replied, “an American I am okay with, but not a Chinese person with their viruses.” I was confused that she would single out Chinese people until I realized that she was referring to the coronavirus outbreak.

The coronavirus has been said to be responsible for several outbreaks throughout the world, according to Live Science. This includes the severe acute respiratory syndrome pandemic of 2002–03 and the Middle East respiratory syndrome outbreak in South Korea in 2015. Most recently, there has been an outbreak of coronavirus throughout China. Some coronaviruses have caused epidemics and others have caused mild to moderate respiratory infections, like the common cold. No matter the effect of a viral outbreak, it does not permit people to be xenophobic and racist. Many, like the Airbnb host who took the time to single out Chinese people, feel as though in times of outbreak and disease they are justified in being xenophobic.

Those who are xenophobic generalize a whole country by assuming that everyone in said country is potentially ill. This mindset disregards the individuals that reside there and could even impact them from getting help. This way of thinking further perpetuates the dichotomy of “othering” those that live differently than what an individual is used to. People fear what they do not understand.

This is the same mindset that leads to stereotypes and implicit biases. Negative portrayals of different ethnic groups are perpetuated in times of public health emergencies. I have seen memes of people mocking Chinese people saying, “That’s why you shouldn’t eat bats,” and a meme of Disney princesses with masks and Mulan being the only one without a mask as the header reads, “Sorry Mulan but we never know.” Not only are these memes insensitive but they further ostracize those in China. This state of mind is so toxic because it allows for xenophobia to take center stage instead of the well-being of those affected being the main priority.

The same thing happened when there was the Ebola outbreak. The Verge reported in 2014 that people were turned away from restaurants and jobs because they appeared to be from West Africa even though they had never come into contact with the Ebola outbreak.

Instead of people saying, “I’m glad I’m not in China,” they should be saying, “How can I help those affected?” This is everyone’s issue, not just China’s. Times like these are when unity is of the utmost importance because it just takes one person to bring coronavirus to your doorstep. Then it will not be a “they” problem but an “us” problem.

SEEKING JUSTICE is a column that examines race and cultural competency. JOHN TURNER is a sophomore journalism major. Connect with him at jturner@ithaca.edu.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Physical therapists can paint outside the lines

BY CAROLYN LANGER

Physical therapy (PT) students in the Ithaca College School of Health Sciences and Human Performance learn the same information in order to create a standard of professionalism in practice. However, this means that there is almost a cookie-cutter effect in our training. We leave school all knowing the same information, therefore trained to abide by similar practices.

The education standard provides lines for a physical therapist to color inside of during fieldwork. When PT students graduate, they are entering a predetermined field of PT. This is almost reassuring coming from such a prestigious school like Ithaca College, where PT students rarely need to worry about finding work postgraduation. But I am not concerned about whether I will find work but rather the fact that I am graduating and entering a field full of beaten paths. This is not meant to discredit the physical therapists in the field or the aspiring ones who are reading this today. I would like to shine light upon how much larger the coloring book of being a physical therapist can be.

The way every physical therapist learned during school will change their versions of how they teach in the field. I learn well by singing songs, drawing pictures of structures and writing out definitions in order to physically have the material in my hand. I need these interesting stimuli in order to remain focused and inspired.

When I am explaining material to my peers I explain what I know using the same



Junior clinical health studies major Carolyn Langer wants to use holistic elements in her practice including music, drawing, as well as natural and outdoor aspects.

SURINA BELK-GUPTA/THE ITHACAN

mnemonics, pictures or sing-alongs. I believe that it is the physical therapist’s job to include engaging ways for the patient to participate, just like it is the student’s job to include engaging ways of learning in their studies.

Physical therapy can include more of the abstract like art or music in order to tie together concrete and abstract concepts.

For example, singing along while doing an exercise in order to time yourself or drawing in order to improve strength in a sprained

wrist both provide nontraditional forms of engaging physically in activity.

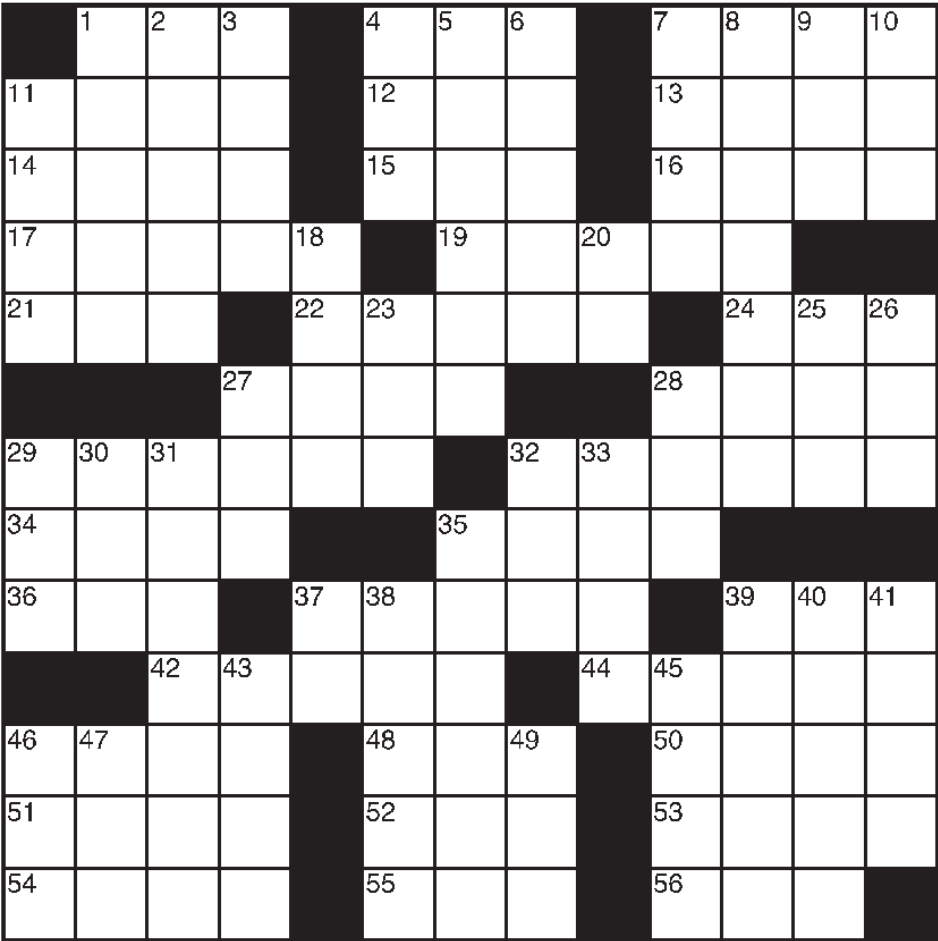
My dream is to build from the knowledge I am collecting in school to practice holistically. I aim to not just focus on the physical aspects because a patient is a person with an overall need for growth. I aim to create my own path — provide healing and inspiration for my patient’s entire self, not just to suit their injury.

CAROLYN LANGER is a junior clinical health studies major. Contact her at clanger@ithaca.edu.

DIVERSIONS

crossword

By United Media



ACROSS


- 1 Pool player's stick
4 Hard wood
7 Voting district
11 Throw
12 Ms. Hagen of films
13 Z -- -- zebra
14 -- hygiene
15 Menacing sound
16 Guantanamo locale
17 Dish with saffron
19 Barbecuer's garb
21 Dawn goddess
22 Common expression
24 Half-star movie
27 Furrowed
28 Cheney, Biden or Pence
29 Quoting
32 Rugged mountain range
34 Cultivated, as soil
35 Go separate ways
36 Wind up
37 Rough cabin
39 Skill
42 Urge forward
44 Sling mud at
46 Ice sheet
48 Pleased sigh
50 Jason's vessel of myth
51 Promises to pay
52 I-70
53 Neck and neck
54 Pour forth
55 Morning dampness
56 "-- a Rebel"

DOWN


- 1 Knickknack
2 Eurasian mountains
3 La senorita
4 Before Sept.
5 Channel
6 A Marx brother
7 Baylor site
8 Into pieces
9 Umbrella spoke
10 Spiral molecule
11 Wish
18 Helsinki native
20 Real estate abbr.
23 Make a tunnel
25 Poetically above
26 College stat
27 Youngster

last issue's crossword answers






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3/1 ROSANNE CASH
3/7 AN EVENING WITH GRAHAM NASH
3/12 O.A.R. *SPRING FLING TOUR*
3/14 TIG NOTARO
3/25 BÉLA FLECK & THE FLECKTONES
4/5 DAVID SEDARIS
4/9 THE BEACH BOYS
5/1 LYLE LOVETT AND JOHN HIATT
5/5 THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS
5/28 CITY AND COLOUR

HAUNT

2/7 BRANDON "TAZ" NIEDERAUER
2/11 ANDY FRASCO + BIG SOMETHING
2/15 DURAND JONES
2/16 MIKE DOUGHTY
2/22 QUINN SULLIVAN
2/26 CJ CHENIER
3/4 GEOFF TATE

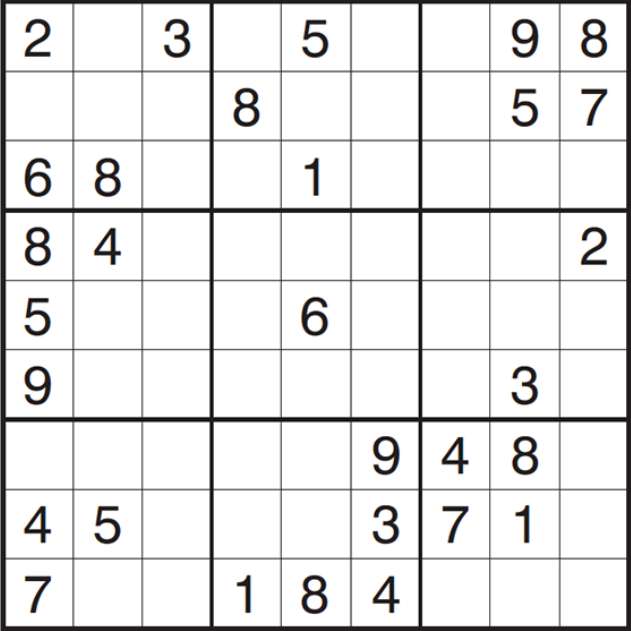
HANGAR

2/9 JOHN SEBASTIAN
3/13 HOWARD JONES
3/18 TOM PAXTON
4/4 BURNS SISTERS
4/23 ALASDAIR FRASER & NATALIE HAAS
5/9 CHRIS SMITHER

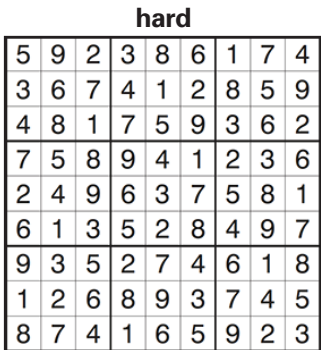
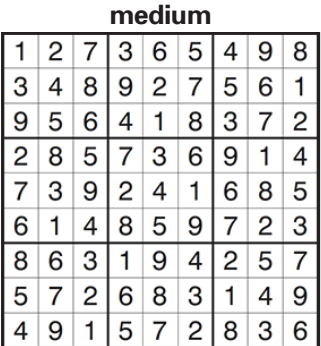


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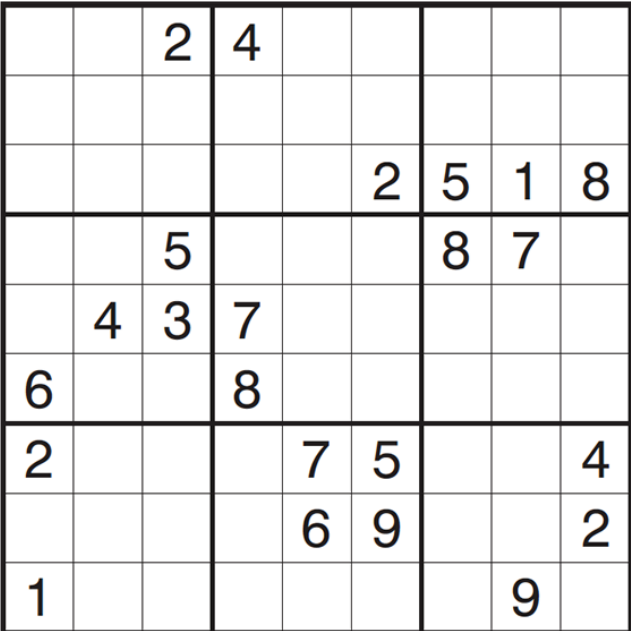
sudoku medium




answers to last issue's sudoku:




very hard




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Six of the 13 members of Ithaca College's Pulse Hip Hop Team rehearse one of their routines for their upcoming spring semester showcase Feb. 23 in the Emerson Suites.

ATHINA SONITIS/THE ITHACAN

BY HANNAH FITZPATRICK

Typically, Pulse Hip Hop Team, an Ithaca College dance team dedicated to hip-hop dancing, performs its spring semester showcase in March. With the showcase moved up to Feb. 23, the women in the group have been filling the Fitness Center three days a week to sweat, choreograph and perfect every step before their biggest show of the year.

Because of the earlier performance date, junior Zoe Werth, vice president of Pulse, said preparation for the showcase has been hectic but rewarding. The spring semester showcase is at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Feb. 23 in the Emerson Suites.

"It's really stressful, but I feel like time is now on our side," Werth said. "But that's not to say that we haven't been putting in the work that we need to do, and each week it comes together



Junior Zoe Werth is a member of the team. Auditions are in the fall semester.

ATHINA SONITIS/THE ITHACAN

even better than I think it is. Because of the time constraints, it does feel a little rushed, but I'm always surprised to see how well my dancers are doing."

Werth is one of 13 members of Pulse. Auditions for the group take place every fall semester, and people of all skill levels are welcome to try out for the team.

Junior Lauren Stapleton, president of Pulse, said she has been a member of Pulse since Fall 2017. Stapleton said that though she had prior dance experience in multiple styles, she had little hip-hop experience before joining Pulse.

"I didn't even know about the auditions until somebody told me after [I posted] a dancing video on my Snapchat story and asked if I was going," Stapleton said. "I ended up going. And it's funny, my shoe broke on my way to my audition, so I was dancing with a broken shoe. And I thought that maybe it wasn't a good sign, but I pushed through it, and I met some of my closest friends during the audition, and we've been tight ever since."

Werth has also been a member of IC Unbound Dance Company since Fall 2017. IC Unbound is one of the largest dance groups at the college, and it focuses on contemporary-style dance.

Other dance groups at the college include Defy Dance Company and Rock Hard Dance Company. Werth said Pulse stands out from other on-campus dance groups because of its specialization in hip-hop and its small size.

"I think our size makes us different because we are one of the smaller teams but not too small, so it feels more like a dance studio than a large team," Werth said. "It allows us to form close bonds with our teammates and support each other while we get better at what we love doing."

Though newer hip-hop moves have been rising in popularity through apps like TikTok, hip-hop has a history that runs deep in American culture and dates back to the late 1960s and early 1970s. At the beginning of the modern hip-hop era, people would take to the streets and invent dance moves inspired by the complex rhythms and styles associated with African dancing.

There are also a variety of substyles. For example, the East Coast developed a hip-hop style primarily found in New York

that includes characteristics like complex lyrics and break dancing, while the West Coast has techniques like popping and locking that serve as the style's fundamental roots.

Pulse features many of these iconic styles in its routines. One particular routine the group is preparing for its showcase heavily relies on popping and locking. The dancers artfully move their bodies to Rihanna's "Rude Boy" and Doja Cat's "Juicy."

Another style common within hip-hop culture is heel dancing. In this substyle, many of the same rhythms and movements associated with hip-hop are present, but they are all done while the performer is wearing high heel shoes. This is most often found in the choreography of popular musicians like Beyoncé in her music videos for "Run The World (Girls)" and "Single Ladies (Put A Ring On It)."

Freshman Lia Montalvo, one of the newest members of Pulse, is choreographing the heel routine, which is one of the 12 dances in the upcoming showcase. Her routine, titled "Take It Easy," features five dancers, including herself, dancing to a mix of two slower R&B songs. For this routine, which she started working on in Fall 2019, Montalvo said she chose to focus her choreography around lyrics rather than rhythm.

"It is a very seductive piece that I find to be extremely empowering, as do the other people involved," Montalvo said.

Montalvo has previous dancing experience in hip-hop, ballet, modern and jazz styles, but she said her experience in Pulse has allowed her to move outside her comfort zone and explore a new side of dancing she had never been exposed to before.

"They have open auditions where anyone can choreograph, so I was like, 'Sure, why not?'" Montalvo said. "I've only choreographed for myself or for me and another person, so having to worry about formations and putting everyone where they're supposed to be has been really hard, but it's been so nice. I'm trying out props and everything with my routine, and I'm so excited to see how it will turn out onstage."

Currently, there are only women in the group, but men are welcome to audition and join. Montalvo said the female environment is one of her favorite things about Pulse.

"I love that we're all women, and we just come and support each other and have a great time," Montalvo said. "Every time I come to practice, I don't have to worry about schoolwork, tests or anything else stuck in my mind, and I can dance those problems away."

Stapleton said she hopes that in addition to the dancers giving their best performances, everyone can take something from their showcase and learn to love dance a little bit more.



Sophomore Akiya Sanders and the team practice their moves in the Fitness Center.

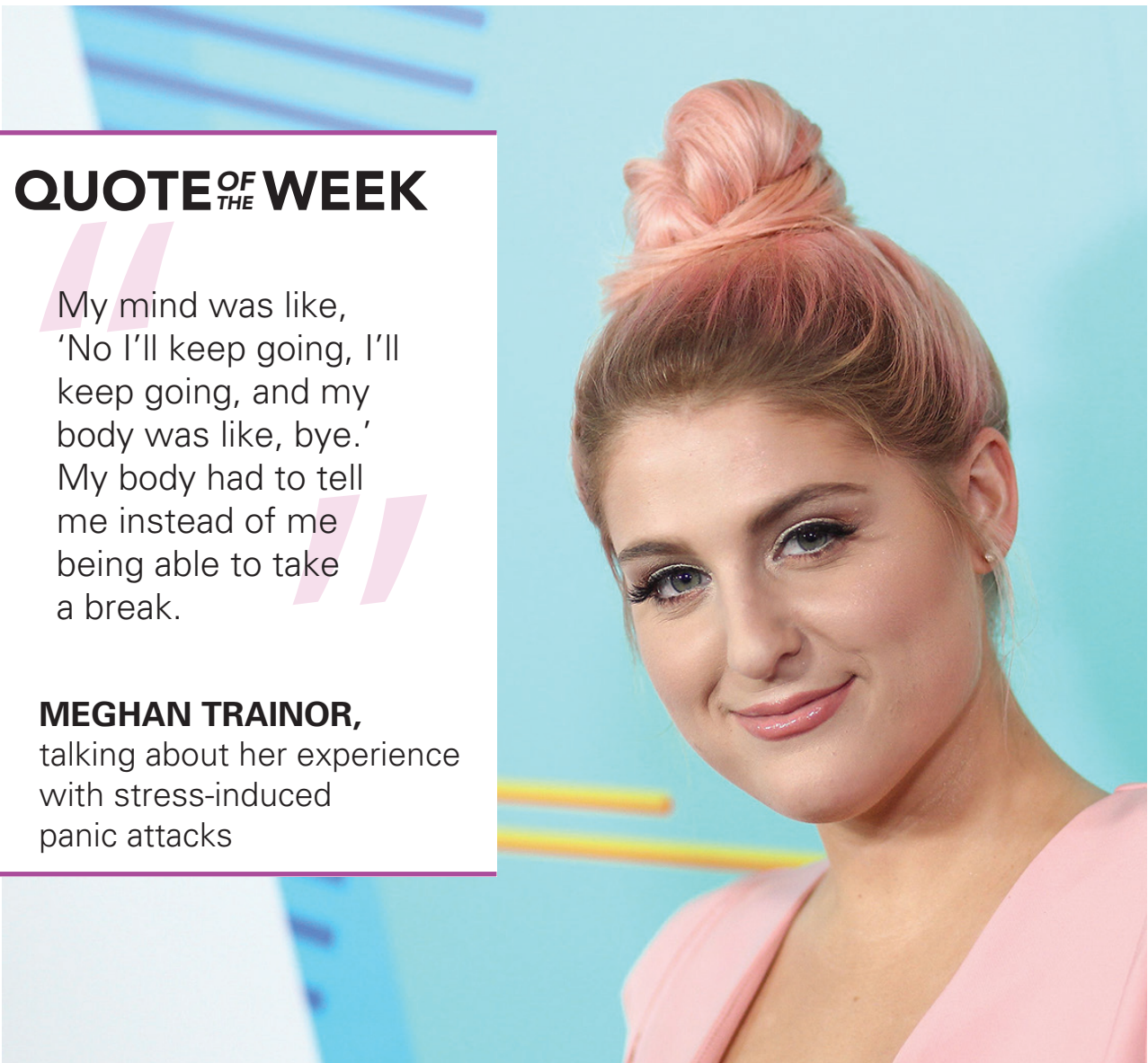
ATHINA SONITIS/THE ITHACAN

"This showcase isn't just for us," Stapleton said. "It's for entertaining the audience and bringing the community who doesn't dance and the community who does together into something that they can all join, like one big celebration. Because we're all just here to celebrate our love for dance and our love for entertainment."

CONTACT HANNAH FITZPATRICK
HFITZPATRICK@ITHACA.EDU

CULTURED

The Life & Culture editor’s breakdown of mainstream and alt culture
Compiled by AVERY ALEXANDER



QUOTE^{OF THE} WEEK

“My mind was like, ‘No I’ll keep going, I’ll keep going, and my body was like, bye.’ My body had to tell me instead of me being able to take a break.”

MEGHAN TRAINOR,
talking about her experience with stress-induced panic attacks

SPOTLIGHT

ACTOR COMES OUT IN MIDST OF CRITICISM

“The Good Place” actor Jameela Jamil came out as queer on Twitter on Feb. 5 after controversy circulated about the celebrity’s role in the new HBO Max series “Legendary,” a ballroom voguing competition. People said that the casting of Jamil was erasure of black LGBTQ culture, which originated voguing. HBO Max clarified that Jamil will not be hosting the show but will be a member of the judging panel. In her post, Jamil said that she had not come out before because she feared she would not be accepted by her family or her ethnic community. “I added a rainbow to my [Twitter] name when I felt ready years ago, as it’s not easy within the South Asian community to be accepted,” she said. “This is absolutely not how I wanted to come out.”



HOT

- Videos and pictures of Bill Nye strutting the runway in a patterned jacket at New York Fashion Week recently went viral. The Blue Jacket Fashion Show benefits the Prostate Cancer Foundation, an organization that devotes money to research prostate cancer. The actor’s father died from the disease, and Nye has since participated in many charities to further research on the illness.
- Adam Sandler won the award for best male lead for “Uncut Gems” at the Film Independent Spirit Awards on Feb. 8. During his acceptance speech, Sandler offered some lighthearted jokes about his apparent Oscar snub. He said, “It reminded me when I briefly attended high school and was overlooked for the coveted yearbook superlative category best looking.”



NOT

- Snoop Dogg posted a video on Instagram slamming journalist Gayle King for bringing up Kobe Bryant’s 2003 rape case in an interview with former WNBA star Lisa Leslie after the basketball player died in January. The video consists of Snoop Dogg accusing King of targeting black men for media attention. Many people online also accused King of disrespecting Bryant’s legacy.
- Jennifer Lopez and Shakira’s Super Bowl performance has been criticized for being too sexy. The performance saw the two Latina singers embracing their heritage and their femininity. “We [put on] a show that I believe was a celebration of women and our Latino culture that I think was ... well received,” Lopez said to Variety.



Event to honor two iconic black female writers

BY KARA BOWEN

Ithaca College students, professors and community members will contribute their writing and performance arts to celebrate two of the most influential black female writers in the literary canon, Toni Morrison and Audre Lorde. The performances are part of a birthday celebration for the authors that will be held at 6 p.m. Feb. 18 at Southside Community Center.

Nia Nunn, associate professor in the Department of Education, is the president of Southside Community Center's board of directors and has frequently used Morrison's work in her courses. She said that after Morrison died in August 2019, she wanted to do something special to honor her legacy. Nunn also said that because Lorde and Morrison share a birthday, she wanted to take the opportunity to celebrate both of the women.

Nunn said she first developed a love for Morrison's work when she read "Sula" in high school. Morrison was known for her novels that addressed the black female experience, and she received a Nobel Prize in Literature in 1993 and a Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for her 1987 novel "Beloved."

"That was when I saw myself in reading and literature very differently," Nunn said. "Like s—, this black woman gave herself permission, didn't wait for any external sources of permission or feel this need to apologize or defend or break down all elements of a story. She just did it."

This birthday party is part of Southside Community Center's "African American Women's History Month," a series that combines celebrations for Black History Month and Women's History Month.

Derek Adams, associate professor

in the Department of English, will be speaking at the event along with Nicole Horsley, assistant professor of women's and gender studies in the Center for the Study of Culture, Race and Ethnicity. In July 2019, Nunn was invited to speak on a panel for the Lorde documentary "Litany of Survival" screening at Cinemapolis. She said Horsley, who was in the audience, stuck out to her. Horsley spoke several times throughout the panel discussion, and Nunn said Horsley's passion and understanding of Lorde's work were palpable.

"There's this element of her delivery, her passion, her love for black people," Nunn said. "She exudes all things Audre Lorde."

Lorde was a black lesbian poet, essayist and activist who died in 1992. Horsley said Lorde's work gave her confidence in her identity as a black lesbian. She said she focuses on Lorde's essay "Uses of the Erotic" to inform her teaching of black sexuality.

"I study porn and sex, and so I think that they, and all these things combined, really helped me to understand that it's OK to be me," she said. "Usually, you don't see women of color doing this work, pretty much because of the taboo that surrounds it."

Nunn said the celebration is a way for her and her colleagues to demonstrate the extent of their knowledge so they can better teach others

"What I find for ... faculty of color, and particularly black faculty, we are oftentimes ... positioned to do a lot of racial consciousness 101, which I dig," she said. "That's a part of my craft, ... but in addition to that, to be able to take ourselves to another level and our knowledge, to another level with how we teach and what we have to offer each other."

Nunn said that she grew up in a



Associate professor Nia Nunn works with the Community Unity Music Education Program in 2017. She is planning a Toni Morrison and Audre Lorde birthday celebration Feb. 18 at Southside Community Center.

COURTESY OF ALYVIA COVERT/THE ITHACA VOICE

household that emphasized a love for blackness but that living in the predominantly white City of Ithaca meant that most things in her life were dominated by a white gaze except for Morrison's work.

"Toni Morrison and her explicit work really interrupted a white-dominated gaze," she said. "Brilliant, she enrolled everybody, but it wasn't about making sure to define and explain to folks. No, she's on some human stuff."

Nunn also said Morrison and Lorde's works opened doors for young black poets and writers. She said she selected student performers who found their inspirations from Morrison and Lorde.

One of these young poets is freshman Makiyah Adams. She will start her

performance by reciting one of Lorde's quotes or poems and then follow it with her own work.

Makiyah said that she received a collection of Lorde's poems when she was a kid and that it greatly influenced her own work.

"If you say, 'I'm a black woman or black girl who wants to write poetry,' people are like, 'You know who you should read? Audre Lorde,'" Makiyah said. "So I kind of grew up with her work in much of the same way that people might grow up with 'Alice in Wonderland.'"

Makiyah said that in her work, she draws from historical and literary references and relates them to her own life experiences and identity. She said

she tries to emulate the deliberate and specific nature of Lorde's work in her own poetry.

"I think that Audre Lorde challenges us to be intentional with the language that you use," she said. "So when I'm writing things, I try not to be too vague."

Nunn said that she wants to continue to learn and teach about Lorde and Morrison and that this event allows her to do both of those things.

"I'll give, I'll give, I'll give, but feed me, too," she said. "And there's still so much Toni Morrison and Audre Lorde I haven't read, so they still keep feeding me. And I'm just excited to contribute to sharing that with everyone else."

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Writing professor publishes her 39th poetry collection

Katharyn Howd Machan, professor in the Ithaca College Department of Writing, has been writing poems about her relationship with her daughter since 1987, and she recently published her collection titled "A Slow Bottle of Wine." The collection is about Machan's experiences with love and her daughter's former heroin addiction.

"A Slow Bottle of Wine" is the 2019 winner of the Jessie Bryce Niles Chapbook competition, which is a national contest hosted by The Comstock Review.

Machan has been teaching at college since 1977. She has published 38 collections of poems. "A Slow Bottle of Wine," which is her 39th collection, is projected to be released in mid-February.

Staff writer Julia DiGeronimo spoke with Machan about the inspirations for the collection and her work as a poet.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Julia DiGeronimo: When did you start writing poetry?

Katharyn Howd Machan: I started writing poetry when I was very little. I wasn't good at much else. I took lots of dance classes and this and that, sports and all that. I was never very good, but I could write. I remember my first little book I put together. I think I was 8 years old. ... It was about 1967, so I've been writing for half a century.

JD: What does being a poet mean to you?

KHM: I will take you right to where I always quote [the] wonderful Gary Snyder. He says that a poet should create

"communitas." That's a Latin term. ... The role of the poet is to make the community happen, to bring together in a very important way. ... The writer Herbert Gold said that at a time of war, you need soldiers to protect you. You need doctors to help with the bodies that are hurt in that war. What do you do about the spirit and the soul? That's when you turn to the poet.

JD: How did you get the name "A Slow Bottle of Wine?"

KHM: "A Slow Bottle of Wine" is a titled poem in the collection, and it's based on my time in Provence, France, in 1987.

JD: Could you summarize what the collection is about, or are they all their own stories?

KHM: This is a very tightly thematic collection, "A Slow Bottle of Wine." It opens with poems from 1987 when I traveled to France and fell in love with a man that I thought was quite wonderful. ... He turned out to be a very dangerous man and drank very heavily. He threatened me one night with a gun and a stiletto. I had to flee ... not knowing I was pregnant with my daughter. The story in the poems [goes] on from there. ... "A Slow Bottle of Wine" emerged out of the dark shadows of addiction for her. In her late teens, she became addicted to heroin. ... I was absolutely helpless. I almost lost my mind. It was my poetry, writing the poems, that helped me survive, trying to come to grips with what had happened to my daughter. ... Here's the most beautiful part: She has been clean for nine years. ... To me, this is a book that people can read and, I hope, find healing in some way. Life can go on even in



Kathryn Howd Machan, professor in the Department of Writing, is publishing a new poetry book titled "A Slow Bottle of Wine." She has already published 38 collections.

CAROLINE BROPHY/THE ITHACAN

the darkest shadows.

JD: What do you think your favorite poem or part of "A Slow Bottle Of Wine" is?

KHM: My favorite part is very difficult to say because I worked very hard to make it a cohesive collection. There really isn't one that I would say stands out for me. ... To me, the most important part is not a single poem but for people to read, essentially, a narrative done with lyrical poems.

JD: How does the collection compare to your other works?

KHM: This one is intensely autobiographical, but I've had several other collections that are that way as well. It seems that editors seem to really like autobiography. ... The idea of revealing the self to help others, be an example

to others, that ... can help in your emotional survival, psychological survival — to write your stories down.

JD: What did it feel like to win the Jessie Bryce Niles Chapbook competition?

KHM: Winning the Jessie Bryce Niles Chapbook competition is very important to me. ... I know that they had hundreds of applicants, and when the judge called me, which was an honor in itself, she wanted to talk to me about the book and tell me that out of the 25 finalists, mine rose up so much higher than the others. ... It's very deeply gratifying to be selected when there's [so much] competition for poetry now.

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POPPED CULTURE
ELIJAH DE CASTRO

Growth on display
at 92nd Oscars

At the 92nd Academy Awards, actress Jane Fonda dramatically paused before announcing the Best Picture winner: “Parasite.” South Korean director Bong Joon-Ho walked to stage for the fourth time that night, shaking his head in disbelief.

I predicted that Sam Mendes’ “1917” would win, but I’m glad I was wrong. The win for “Parasite” is a watershed moment for international films as it is also the first film not in English to win Best Picture.

That was Feb. 9, 2020. Let’s rewind the clock a bit.

Three years ago, the Dolby Theatre was one lit match away from a conflagration on the night of the 89th Academy Awards as one misplaced card led to numerous apologies before the team of “La La Land” gave its Best Picture Oscar figurines over to the rightful winners: the team of “Moonlight.”

Like with “Parasite,” the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences chose a film that was different from a typical Hollywood one. It chose “Moonlight,” a rich identity drama about a black, gay man over “La La Land,” a pleasant musical about a white, heterosexual couple. The decision seemed to symbolize a choice between unconventionality and comfort.

And yet for the Academy’s 91st awards in 2019, the nominees were an onslaught of widely appealing films — “Black Panther,” “Vice,” “A Star is Born,” “Bohemian Rhapsody” and, the winner, “Green Book.” Since then, us critics of the Academy have dismissed “Green Book” as kitsch, celebrating the white savior relationship that satisfies the Academy’s out-of-touch voters.

It seemed like the Academy returned to nominating lighter films with universal appeal to reconnect with viewers after declining ratings. The show’s ratings for the 90th awards in 2018 dropped, and viewership hit a record low of 26.5 million viewers. In the four years since the 2014 Oscars, viewership was diced approximately in half, signaling an internal alarm with the Academy.

Perhaps this was why it chose “Green Book,” a cursory biopic of black musical prodigy Don Shirley’s road tour of the Deep South, for the Best Picture win. The film was described as sterilization, which Carol Shirley Kimble, the niece of Don Shirley, acknowledged: “It’s once again a depiction of a white man’s version of a black man’s life,” she said.

Director Alfonso Cuarón’s “Roma,” front-running competitor to “Green Book,” was not a common or cozy story. “Parasite” was not cozy either, but it was sharp, deft and moving at a breakneck pace. It had the crowd-pleasing appeal that the black and white film “Roma” did not.

If “Roma” had possessed this quality, Cuarón’s dejected, Mexico City-based drama might have been the first international feature in history to win Best Picture. But its loss to “Green Book” was considered a cheap move to appeal to Oscar voters and solidified the Academy’s unaltered, moderate status.

The win for “Parasite” is similar to that of “Moonlight” and seems to be a rejection of films like “Green Book.” Most importantly, the film’s win opens a door to a new wave of representation in Hollywood awards shows. But it doesn’t loosen a century of disregard for international films. Unfortunately, time will only tell whether or not the Academy is open to more films like “Parasite” — and to giving them awards when credit is due.

POPPED CULTURE is a biweekly column, written by Life & Culture staff writers, that analyzes pop culture current events. Elijah de Castro is a freshman writing for film, TV and emerging media major. Contact him at edecastro@ithaca.edu.

Documentary lets Swift tell her story

DOCUMENTARY REVIEW: “Miss Americana” Netflix ★★★★★

BY THOMAS MACHACZ

The Netflix documentary “Miss Americana” is an exercise in public image. Throughout her now 14-year career, Taylor Swift has become an extremely divisive artist. Her fans have been vehement advocates of her lyrical honesty and wholesome messages, yet her critics have been skeptical of her wholesome nature. To explore Swift’s career is to dissect her public image and determine what feels genuine and what does not.

“My entire moral code as a kid and now is a need to be thought of as good, and obviously I’m not a perfect person by any stretch, but overall, the main thing that I always tried to be was ... a good girl,” Swift says early on in Lana Wilson’s documentary. As the singer speaks, footage rolls of her at the piano with a kitten marching benignly on its keys. It’s a moment that’s almost cartoonishly sweet, but there’s something in the clarity with which the singer expresses herself. There is a certain sadness building beneath her words that makes her statement feel sincere.

“Miss Americana” takes the audience through the creation of Swift’s latest album, “Lover.” The documentary also serves as a retrospective of Swift’s journey from a guitar-toting teen to a pop icon and political voice. Between charming scenes of Swift working out lyrics in the studio and moving from concert to concert, Swift recounts her meteoric rise to fame and how it challenged her mental health.

The film’s simple, warm, handheld cinematography adds a healthy dose of realism

and honesty to the production. Wilson’s camera is curious, frequently exploring Swift’s often extravagant surroundings. The cinematography offers quick glimpses at the mass of people who work tirelessly to help maintain Swift’s ever-complicated career.

Throughout the documentary, Swift shares her fears and insecurities with the audience liberally, each one leading almost too perfectly to a message about self-care. She remains the storyteller she’s been since day one, using the ups and downs of her own life to create a narrative of sincere, if uncomplicated, female empowerment. While satisfying the desire for a narrative of growth, these messages begin to feel rehearsed after a while. They lack the specificity and clarity of her opening statements.

In allowing Swift the opportunity to craft her own narrative, “Miss Americana” feels both refreshing and limited. Here, her story is never out of her hands, in sharp contrast to the rest of her career as a public figure. When Swift is in front of the camera, it is clear that she has a series of messages to divulge. She knows the person she wants to be presented as in this documentary and what that person stands for. Wilson is happy to oblige. But in doing so, the film hides the aspects of Swift that might be considered more controversial, or even more honest.

The beauty of a career-spanning music documentary is the ability to get into the mindset of an artist, seeing deeper than what their public persona might allow. “Miss Americana” succeeds in showing us a brief, entertaining history of Swift as an artist but fails to get at what makes Swift such a special case



The Netflix documentary “Miss Americana” is a look into the life and career of pop star Taylor Swift. COURTESY OF NETFLIX

in her field.

Despite the documentary’s selective view of Swift, it is undeniably impressive to see her growth as a creator and a distinct female artist. There is plenty of fascinating footage and stories to be found in “Miss Americana,”

but not much to expand anyone’s understanding of Swift beyond her current public image. And it seems that is just the way Swift wants it to be.

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Film combines comedy
and coming-of-age story

MOVIE REVIEW: “37 Seconds” Netflix

★★★★★

BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

Great coming-of-age films delicately balance comedy and drama like no other genre. First-time director Hikari’s “37 Seconds” has the same youthful enthusiasm and sincere drama that other coming-of-age films like “Lady Bird” and “Dazed and Confused” have. The highlight of “37 Seconds” is that this story is from a perspective audiences rarely hear — a young woman with cerebral palsy.

As with many other coming-of-age stories, “37 Seconds” is about a fight for independence. While Yuma Takada’s (Mei Kayama) cerebral palsy physically holds her back, Yuma’s mother (Kyoko Takada) has spent so much time taking care of her that she feels Yuma cannot be her own person. But Yuma is ready to prosper without the tenacious grip of her mother.

The movie does stumble out of the gate and starts slow and, in some ways, generically. The film is at its best when Yuma

is exposed to the world with agency and desires of her own. When it’s at its worst, it falls back on tropes familiar to coming-of-age films. Fortunately, these tropes are only present in the beginning.

After introducing the audience to Yuma, “37 Seconds” uses her disability as a pathway into a remarkable story. The film carries the weight of its subject matter with a steady stream of dark comedy. When Yuma, an aspiring manga artist, submits her adult manga to a studio, the people there find it inaccurate and tell her to try again once she is no longer a virgin. So Yuma hires a male prostitute. When she gets uncomfortable with the male prostitute she hired touching her, she urinates to gross him out. He gets up and runs away while Yuma sits there laughing.

It is dark humor like this that makes “37 Seconds” such a sharp and sweet story. Yuma is naturally funny, and her charm fills every ever



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scene. The film gives Yuma little moments in which her sunny personality shines through a dark moment. In a moving scene near the end of the film, Yuma explains that it was just 37 seconds without oxygen at birth that caused her muscles to fail. Hikari does not move the camera or show different angles to forge a sense of dramatic weight during this moment. This serves as one of those rare scenes in which a film finally makes sense to the audience and to itself.

Hikari’s melting pot of drama and comedy is laconic and smooth. She has demonstrated her ability to tell a story not just analogous to other great coming-of-age films but one that is also exclusive to herself. Progressive, hysterical

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Album hindered by forgettable sound

ALBUM REVIEW: “Walls” Sony Music Entertainment ★★☆☆☆

BY KARA BOWEN

Louis Tomlinson was never one of the flashiest members of One Direction, even during the band’s peak of success. There hasn’t been much to characterize him since the group’s disbandment in 2015 besides a handful of collaborative pop singles. The release of his first full solo album, “Walls,” could have been the opportunity to stand out and construct a new identity apart from One Direction. But postrelease, Tomlinson’s persona is still as murky as before.

It might be unfair to only consider Tomlinson’s solo work in the context of One Direction. To keep comparing an artist’s solo work to that of his ex-bandmates’ four years after they split up is a bit like beating a dead horse. But in Tomlinson’s case, it’s impossible not to, especially when it’s up against music from powerhouse personalities like Harry Styles and Zayn Malik.

During the band’s existence, Tomlinson’s voice was less immediately impressive but still able to hold its own. “Walls” is similarly middling. It can’t compare to Styles’ and Malik’s chart-topping releases or even Niall Horan’s pleasantly unremarkable album, but it’s miles better than Liam Payne’s disastrous record release.

It’s difficult to describe what characterizes “Walls” because it seems like the album doesn’t really know, either. It sure is music. But there’s little strong, artistic energy that shines through. Tomlinson seems like he’s been relegated to background

support in his own songs. His personality seems to be trapped behind, well, a wall. Apart from a nasally Northern accent, it’s often difficult to get a sense of who Tomlinson is and what story he is trying to tell.

Not all songs are devoid of life. When Tomlinson’s lyricism breaks out of a cut-and-dry mold, he’s successful at communicating an effective story. “Two of Us,” dedicated to his mother who died of cancer, is genuinely touching. “We Made It” uses enough detail in the lyrics to paint a vivid picture of young love. But in general, the lyricism is simply too vague. The chorus in “Habit,” for example, is a series of metaphors so overdone they mean nothing: “You’re the habit that I can’t break/ You’re the feeling I can’t put down.” There are hints of a story but no heart or clear characters. It’s not specific enough to be meaningful but not abstract enough to be purposeful.

The album as a whole suffers the same problem: Not much is revolutionary, and most of the songs boil down to neat pop-rock. In songs like “Walls” and “We Made It,” Tomlinson leans so far into semiacoustic guitar and nostalgic lyrics that it almost sounds like an Oasis rip-off. But the sound in these songs is so refreshing from the rest of the album that it’s difficult to complain about

“Walls” isn’t a failure. It’s just a missed opportunity. Tomlinson shines when he’s able to break through the semiartificial gloss that coats most of the songs. Perhaps it’s a lingering side effect from



“Walls” is a weak solo album from the former One Direction member. Tomlinson fails to bring real artistry to his pop lyrics. COURTESY OF SONY MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT

being a past member of one of the biggest players in the music industry. There’s a solid foundation for authentic, strong releases in the future. But for now, the whole album is kind of like a sugar-free cookie: easily digested and quickly forgotten.

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Discordant narrative fails to maintain a steady beat

MOVIE REVIEW: “The Rhythm Section” Eon Productions

★★★☆☆

BY EVAN HANGLEY

Predictable, disorganized and monotonous are just a few words to describe “The Rhythm Section,” a fast-paced action drama directed by Reed Morano. The entirety of the film’s strengths can be summed up in two words: Blake Lively.

Mark Burnell is the author of the novel that the movie is based on as well as the screenwriter for the film. Burnell crafted a story that lacks plot, secondary character development or any sort of structure. As a result, the film has secured itself a place on a list of films that are not worth a second watch.

When her family is killed by a bomb on-board an airplane, Stephanie Patrick (Blake Lively) resorts to a life of prostitution and drug addiction. Stephanie is haunted by the knowledge that she was supposed to be on the plane too. She then embarks on her hero’s journey: She must get clean, find the killer and avenge her family.

The film establishes that Stephanie was a

language student at Oxford University. Therefore this film is classified as an international action flick. Ironically it jumps locations with-out once encountering a character who speaks anything besides English. This adds to the extensive list of weaknesses in the project.

Just when she needs him most, Stephanie meets Iain Boyd, or B (Jude Law), as ex-secret service member who becomes her mentor. B forces Stephanie to run and effectively kick a man in the groin. Despite some high-energy action scenes between the two, their relationship is rather mundane. Indeed, Stephanie discovers that B’s primary task was to stop the plane from crashing, which he failed to do. With this newfound distrust, Stephanie follows her own path toward vengeance.

As soon as Stephanie went her own way, falling into a trap was inevitable. There is absolutely no context given that the character Marc Serra (Sterling K. Brown) is a villain until the film’s final minutes. Brown brings little to the character, and this lack in development



COURTESY OF EON PRODUCTIONS

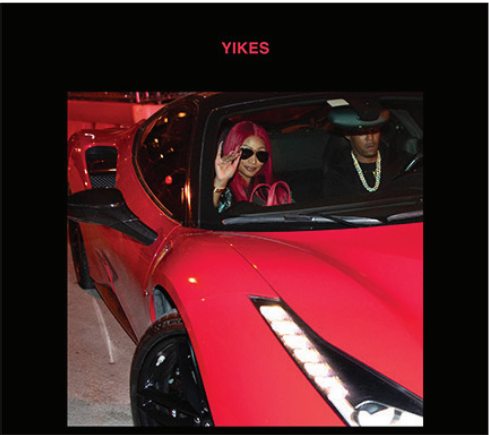
immediately establishes him as one of the driest villains in modern cinema.

Though this film’s strengths are few and far between, Lively’s ability to channel a character so unlike any of her prior roles makes for a performance worthy of acknowledgment. Predominantly recognized for her role in “Gossip Girl,” Lively shows that she is more than capable of playing a vast array of identities, re-establishing her as a worthy contender in the acting community.

Despite a captivating viewing experience and a female lead who is easy to root for, “The Rhythm Section” misses out on one too many beats to leave any sort of lasting impression on the viewer.

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QUICKIES



COURTESY OF YOUNG MONEY/CASH MONEY RECORDS

“YIKES” Nicki Minaj, Young Money/Cash Money Records

Remember when Minaj said she was quitting music? Well, thank God that wasn’t true. “Yikes” solidifies Minaj’s excellence in the rap genre, namely through her lyrics.



COURTESY OF RED BULL RECORDS INC.

“ALL THE WAY OVER” sad alex, Red Bull Records Inc.

This song is conventional electric-pop, but “all the way over” is captivating anyway. The song’s sound is relaxed, and it’s just catchy enough to enjoy on a second or third listen.



COURTESY OF MAJOR TOMS / ASYLUM RECORDS UK

“BIRTHDAY” Anne-Marie, Major Toms / Asylum Records UK


“It’s my party, and I’ll cry if I want to” is becoming an old trope to write songs about, yet that’s the basis for “Birthday.” Anne-Marie’s another year older, but this song won’t age well with her.



COURTESY OF DEF JAM RECORDINGS

“INTENTIONS” Justin Bieber, Def Jam Recordings

Bieber writes another song about his wife, Hailey. Though this song is more vibrant than Bieber’s last single, “Yummy,” that is not really saying much for songs both defined by repetitive lyrics and basic back beats.



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BOUNCING BACK

Basketball team rebounds after slow start

BY EMILY ADAMS

Dan Raymond, head coach of the Ithaca College women's basketball team, has a sign hanging on his office door that reads, "Adversity happens to every team. ... Your culture will work for you or against you. Create it intentionally!" This season, his team has taken that message to heart.

The women's basketball team started the 2019–20 season on a three-game losing streak and was defeated by more than 10 points in all three losses. Since the losing streak ended, it has lost only two games and is currently ranked No. 1 in the Liberty League.

This season, the team has only two returning starters and two seniors. Senior Cassidy O'Malley and junior Grace Cannon were significant contributors in 2018–19 and have taken on even more significant roles this year.

"I knew we were losing a lot of talent," O'Malley said. "It was just getting people ready to step into

roles they hadn't before. I sort of knew it would be more of an adjustment period, and people would have to do things they might not be as comfortable with."

In 2018–19, the team had one of its best seasons in program history. The Bombers made it to the Elite Eight of the NCAA tournament after winning their first-ever Liberty League title. However, the team graduated five senior leaders, three of whom were regular starters and all of whom played significant minutes in every game.

The squad suffered from that adjustment period during the early weeks of the season, kicking off the year with a 1–3 record. Raymond said the impact of losing last season's seniors was even more significant than he expected.

"When we started getting into actual competition is when all of us realized that it was going to take some time for the players that were assuming these new roles to adapt and adjust to the expectations that we all have for each other," he said.

Senior guard Kellyanne O'Reilly, junior guard Megan Yawman and sophomore forward Cara Volpe did not start a single game last season, but they have started every one this year.

O'Reilly has played the second-highest number of minutes on the squad this year, behind O'Malley. Despite being a senior, it is only her second year as a Bomber because she transferred last season from Division I Manhattan College. Raymond said O'Reilly has been crucial to the team this year.

"She's become a complete player," Raymond said. "She's not just a shooter, and I think that's how people would have described her last year. She transferred in after two years of really not playing, and it took her some time to get her confidence back. It's been a real pleasure to see that happen for her."

Volpe said that she felt more prepared to be a starter this year because of the talent on last season's squad.

"In practice, we had to play against those girls, and they're good, so just playing against them made me better," she said. "Then coming to this season, I knew the shoes to fill, and the expectations were so high, so that made me work even harder."

The team has never had a losing record since Raymond became head coach in 2000. Volpe said the early losing streak motivated the team to turn its

O'Malley said that even though she was feeling the pressure to win during this time, the upperclassmen took on the responsibility of keeping the team motivated and excited despite the early losses.

"We talked about preseason, how much talent, how good we were going to be, and I thought, 'What if it just doesn't connect?'" O'Malley said. "I think it was really important to be like, 'Hey, this is not going to be how the rest of the season goes, and we are going to find a way to fix what's going wrong.' I think we really did do that in the end."

Volpe said the team's leadership has been spread out more among the entire team this season rather than being concentrated in a small group of seniors. The team does not name captains, a practice that she said allows every member of the team to have their voices heard.

"Everyone has to step up because there's only two [seniors]," Volpe said. "I think everyone has to play a leadership role. Everyone has to be vocal and talk. I think it's made everyone closer, and everyone's comfortable because it's not just one person running the show."

The Bombers' upcoming game against league opponent St. Lawrence University will be one of the most significant of the year for them. St. Lawrence is currently ranked second behind the South Hill squad in the Liberty League and handed the team the loss that broke the seven-game win streak 47–63. Volpe said the Bombers will be looking for redemption when they face the Saints on Feb. 15 in Ben Light Gymnasium.

"We shouldn't have lost that," Volpe said. "We're gonna beat them. That's a really big game, and we're fired up. Since we left there a couple of weeks ago and lost, we've been talking about that game."

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Senior guard Kellyanne O'Reilly dribbles the ball toward a defender during the team's game against Hamilton College on Jan. 28.

PETER RAIDER/THE ITHACAN

Sophomore forward Cara Volpe lobs the ball to a teammate during a game against Union College.

PETER RAIDER/THE ITHACAN



Junior Lindsey Duhamel performs a dive off the 1-meter board Feb. 8.
MIKAYLA ROVENOLT / THE ITHACAN

THE BOMBERS ROUNDUP

The *Ithacan* provides statistical updates on all the Bombers' varsity squads during the season

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

	59–51			66–46	
ITHACA	FEB. 8	UNION	ITHACA	FEB. 9	RPI

NEXT GAME: 5:30 p.m. Feb. 14 against Clarkson University in Ben Light Gymnasium

MEN'S BASKETBALL

	93–82			62–60	
ITHACA	FEB. 8	UNION	ITHACA	FEB. 9	RPI

NEXT GAME: 7:30 p.m. Feb. 14 against Clarkson University in Ben Light Gymnasium

MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING

NAME	PLACE	EVENT	RESULTS
Ethan Godfrey	2nd	3-meter dive	323.45
Theo Summerville	4th	3-meter dive	389.40
Michael Salvino	5th	1-meter dive	330.40

NEXT MEET: 10 a.m. Feb. 19 at the Liberty League championships at the Kelsey Partridge Bird Natatorium

WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING

NAME	PLACE	EVENT	RESULTS
Karalyn Pawcio	1st	3-meter dive	277.15
Eliana Wallock	2nd	1-meter dive	270.25
Ava Lowell	3rd	1-meter dive	255.75

NEXT MEET: 10 a.m. Feb. 19 at the Liberty League championships at the Kelsey Partridge Bird Natatorium

GYMNASTICS

NAME	PLACE	EVENT	SCORE
Cameryn Nichols	1st	All-around	37.975
Cassidy Marquette	1st	Vault	9.650
Courtney Christoforo	1st	Uneven parallel bars	9.750
Zoe Kyriakopoulos	9th	Uneven parallel bars	9.250
Paige Landes	10th	Balance beam	9.450

NEXT MEET: 1 p.m. Feb. 16 at Cornell Big Red Invitational in Ithaca

MEN'S TRACK & FIELD

NAME	PLACE	EVENT	SCORE
John Blake	2nd	3,000-meter run	8:52.38
Ben Tiber	4th	1-mile run	4:30.94
Kasim Cisse	1st	High jump	2.06 meters
Dominic Mikula	1st	Pole vault	4.90 meters
Harrison Buttrick	2nd	Weight throw	17.44 meters

NEXT MEET: 1 p.m. Feb. 14 at the David Hemery Valentine Invite in Boston

WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD

NAME	PLACE	EVENT	RESULTS
Amanda Wetmore	2nd	60-meter dash	7.94
Kendall Wellauer	1st	Weight throw	15.26 meters
Margaret Nickerson	1st	800-meter run	2:17.15
Logan Bruce	2nd	60-meter hurdles	9.20
Estelle Yedynak	1st	High jump	1.62 meters

NEXT MEET: 1 p.m. Feb. 14 at the David Hemery Valentine Invite in Boston

WRESTLING

	41–6			38–3	
ITHACA	FEB. 8	WILLIAMS	ITHACA	FEB. 8	WESLEYAN

NAME	WEIGHT	OPPONENT	SCORE
Ben Brisman	149 pounds	Williams	22–2
Sam Schneider	165 pounds	Williams	8–4
Eze Chukwuezi	184 pounds	Williams	23–5
Tito Colom	141 pounds	Wesleyan	18–4
Dymir Davis-Carruth	197 pounds	Wesleyan	3–1

NEXT MATCH: 7 p.m. Feb. 14 at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Women's track dominates in national rankings

BY TYLER EVANS

The Ithaca College women's track and field team not only competes against some of the best athletes in Division III at meets and invitationals but in practice as well. The Bombers run, sprint and jump alongside their nationally ranked teammates daily.

The team, which is ranked No. 4 in Division III, currently has five athletes across eight events who are ranked in the top 10 nationally. Freshman Meghan Matheny is ranked No. 1 in the pole vault, and senior Parley Hannan is first in the nation in the 1-mile run, the 3,000-meter run and the 5,000-meter run. Freshman Tia Jones, senior Sarah Rudge and sophomore Logan Bruce are all ranked in the top 10 of their events as well.

Hannan said she has set high expectations for herself for the indoor season and plans to continue building on her early success.

"My goal is to win the 5k and 3k events at nationals this year," Hannan said. "I also want to break the Division III 5k record at nationals this year. It is still early in the season, and I know I can run faster."

Hannan's personal-best time is 16:44.57, and the current record for the indoor 5,000 meter is 16:23.12. It was set in 2019 by Kaitlyn Mooney of the Coast Guard Academy. Mooney has not yet raced during the 2019-20 indoor track and field season, but she placed 34th at the NCAA Division III Cross-Country Championships.

"When I started running for the team, I was not logging how many miles I was running per week," Hannan said. "When I started working with the coaches and logging my miles, I was

running around 10 miles more than I should have been per week. Fixing that in my training will allow me to run even faster this season."

Having athletes at the top of national rankings is not uncommon for the Bombers. Katherine Pitman '18, Brandy Smith '17 and Taryn Cordani '18 all won multiple national championships during their time at the college.

Pitman was a two-time indoor national champion in the pole vault and currently holds both the indoor and outdoor Division III national records. Smith was a three-time outdoor national champion in the discus, and Cordani won two titles in the outdoor 10,000-meter run and one in both the indoor 3,000- and 5,000-meter races. Head coach Jennifer Potter said she credits the coaching staff with the team's continued success.

"The coaching staff here has been together for awhile and are experienced," Potter said. "That helps with teaching and developing our athletes so they can take it to the next level."

Potter is currently in her 17th season as the women's track and field team's head coach. Erin Dinan, assistant coach for long distance, has been at the college for 13 years, and Matt Scheffler, assistant coach for pole vault, has coached for 14 years.

Potter said she also believes the culture of the team allows the athletes to perform at their best.

"Our philosophy is 'person first, athlete second,'" Potter said. "Our athletes understand that our motivation goes beyond track and field. We encourage our students to grow outside of the team, and that is a big factor for our success



Senior Parley Hannan takes the lead against her competitors in a tri-meet against The College at Brockport and SUNY Oneonta. She is ranked nationally in the 1-mile, 3,000- and 5,000-meter runs.

MOLLY BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

over the years."

Matheny, who is from Lansing, New York, has trained with Scheffler for several years, and she said the successes of former Bombers motivate her.

"I knew both Kat [Pitman] and Alex [Rechen '16]," Matheny said. "Their success in the pole vault led them to be All-Americans and leaders of the team. Seeing what they were able to accomplish makes you hungry to do the same."

While the Bombers have seen success with the distance and field events in recent years, the team has had very few All-Americans in the sprint events. The squad's last 200-meter dash All-American was

in 2011, and there has never been a 60-meter dash All-American.

Jones will have a chance to change that this season. Jones is currently ranked fifth in the 60 meter and seventh in the 200 meter. She also broke the college's record for the 60-meter dash in her first meet of the season Dec. 7 at the Cornell Greg Page Relays.

Potter also said she is expecting more athletes to put up high-ranking performances as the team approaches the Liberty League and All-Atlantic Region championships.

"It is still early in the season, but we are excited with our accomplishments so far," said Potter. "The rankings will change, and we

are pushing our athletes to do better. We know we can get even more people to the top."

Potter said that while she is pleased with the individual successes of the athletes, her goal is a team victory at the NCAA championships. The Bombers' highest finish at the indoor national meet was second place in 2017.

"We give everything we have," said Potter. "Our goal is to win nationals. We do keep track of national rankings and focus on team [personal bests] as well as the Liberty League, but our team goal has always been nationals."

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Junior gymnast discusses preparation for nationals

In the 2019 Ithaca College gymnastics season, then-sophomore Courtney Christoforo won the individual title for the uneven bars at the National Collegiate Gymnastics Association championships. Now with a new season underway, Christoforo strives to defend her title and lead her team to success.

The Bombers have competed in four meets so far this season, most recently falling to Springfield College and Ursinus College on Feb. 9 in a tri-meet in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Staff writer Willy Wright spoke with Christoforo about what she is doing to get back to the national stage and how the team has performed throughout the start of the season.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Willy Wright: How have you stayed motivated after reaching such a high accomplishment last year?

Courtney Christoforo: For me, it's more about the team. I want to do my best because I want our team to be as successful as possible. Gymnastics is an individual sport, but in college, it's more about the team. So I want to set that good example for my teammates and the underclassmen and try to be that example of hard work so everyone can be on that level. If we're all on that level, we can be really successful as a team.

WW: Now a junior, how has your role transitioned into being a leader on the team?

CC: I've seen a big difference this year. We have a leadership team, so me and another

one of my teammates are enthusiasm leaders. We are in charge of keeping the energy up and trying to pick it back up if we have a bad event. But it's also been more about communicating with teammates if they're concerned about anything or if they're struggling. A lot of them have been reaching out to me as somebody who can help them with whatever they are struggling with. It feels really nice to be able to do that for them.

WW: What have you done to mentally and physically prepare to get back to compete for a national championship again?

CC: I still have to go back and get into [nationals]. Mentality is the problem for me especially, so we've really been working on positive affirmation and making sure I have confidence in myself so I can perform at my best. The physical stuff is down — just the mental stuff is really important to focus on because with having that extra pressure, it's important to know I can do it and remain confident.

WW: How have you and the team performed so far this season in comparison to your expectations and goals?

CC: It wasn't the start that we hoped for. We had some injuries and a few setbacks, but every year is different, so we really try and keep that in mind — that the process is going to be different every single year. We have our goal of where we want to get to, and so every day we focus on that in the gym. We really try not to have expectations because we do know that every year is different, and we will get there, but this year is just



Junior gymnast Courtney Christoforo chalks her hands before competing in the uneven bars against The College at Brockport on Feb. 1. She placed first in the event.

COURTESY OF ITHACA COLLEGE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

taking a little more time. But we have all the talent and all the potential, so we're going to get there for sure.

WW: What's been a difference-maker for the success of the team so far this season?

CC: A difference from this year compared to last year is that we have a smaller team. So I think that we are super close as a team, all of us together. In terms of enthusiasm, there's obviously less of us to cheer, but that means everyone has to be extra loud and excited. I think that's something, in the beginning, we struggled with a little bit because we didn't have those extra people, but we really picked it up for our home meet last weekend, and it made such a big

difference. Having those loud cheers helps pick everything up.

WW: What can we expect to see from the team's performance for the rest of the year?

CC: I'm really excited for the rest of the season. We had one struggle two weekends ago, and it really showed us where we were. We've been making some lineup changes and improvements. We've changed our focus in the gym. So I feel like everything is going to fall into place, and I'm really excited to see how well we do. We're going to do really well as the season goes on.

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Music students: contact Associate Dean David Pacun for information.

** Application deadline for Fall 2020 is March 6 **

International Programs – Job Hall, 2nd floor – intlprog@ithaca.edu – 274-3306



THE BUZZER

The Ithacan’s breakdown of Ithaca College’s week in sports



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

SOPHOMORE KASIM CISSE

Cisse cleared a personal-best height of **2.06 meters** to win the high jump at the Utica Invitational on Feb. 8 in Utica, New York. The performance improved Cisse’s national ranking to **No. 8** among Division III athletes.

ABBEY LONDON/THE ITHACAN



COMPETITION OF THE WEEK

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL VS. UNION

The women’s basketball team posted a strong **win** over Union College on Feb. 8 behind a **double-double** from senior forward Cassidy O’Malley. Junior guard Megan Yawman was key on defense with **seven rebounds**.

PETER RAIDER/THE ITHACAN

EVENTS TO WATCH

1 P.M. FEB. 14 AND 9 A.M. FEB. 15 IN BOSTON

The No. 4-ranked women’s track and field team will take on Division I and professional competition at the David Hemery Valentine Invitational hosted by Boston University.



ITHACA

at



DAVID HEMERY
VALENTINE INVITATIONAL

1 P.M. FEB. 16 AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY IN ITHACA



ITHACA

at



CORNELL BIG RED
INVITATIONAL

The gymnastics team will compete against Cornell and the University of North Carolina as well as several other schools from New York state at the meet.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

We’ve really been working on positive affirmation and making sure I have confidence in myself so I can perform at my best.

– COURTNEY CHRISTOFORO
GYMNAST



Freshman Massimo Giacona performs a solo at Ithacapella’s Block III concert Feb. 8 in the Emerson Suites. Ithacapella is the all-male a cappella group on campus.

CAROLINE BROHPY/THE ITHACAN