

BOUNCING BACK

BY ASHLEY STALNECKER

In February 2020, The Commons was a hub for the Ithaca community, where students from Ithaca College and local residents crossed paths. Downtown was bustling with students and Ithaca residents dining at restaurants, going to bars and browsing through the local shops. Over the course of the year, the COVID-19 pandemic left the future of many businesses uncertain.

However, now that students are returning back to Ithaca, businesses are adjusting and hoping to bounce back after a difficult year.

When college students do not return, a college town's economy suffers. In Ithaca, a city that houses Ithaca College, Cornell University and neighbors Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3), businesses are struggling through a recession. Elia Kacapyr, professor in the Department of Economics at Ithaca College, reported on COVID-19's impact on Ithaca's economy in the Ithaca Business Index. In Spring 2020, Cornell University, TC3 and Ithaca College all went remote to limit the spread of COVID-19. All three colleges planned to return in the fall, but Ithaca College reversed its plan in favor of a fully remote fall semester just weeks before the semester was scheduled to begin.

Kacapyr found that job loss in Ithaca has been proportional to the national job loss, with 9,500 jobs in Ithaca lost, compared to 20.5 million jobs lost nationally in April 2020 alone.

"That was really scary," Kacapyr said. "When that happened, it's just like so earth shattering and of course, the economy immediately went into full lockdown."

At least 14 businesses in the Ithaca

Ithaca businesses struggle and adapt during COVID-19 pandemic

Brett Bossard is the executive director of Cinemapolis, a local theater that shows independent films. The theater has been closed throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, but Bossard is hoping to reopen for private showings in February.

COURTESY OF CAROLINE BISSAILLON

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Survey finds strong resistance from faculty regarding cuts

BY ALEXIS MANORE

The Ithaca College Faculty Council Executive Committee (FCEC) is urging the administration to address faculty concerns regarding the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process after conducting a survey to gather faculty feedback about the cuts.

The council held a vote to determine whether or not faculty members support the draft "Shape of the College" document, which recommends the elimination of 116 full-time equivalent (FTE) faculty positions and 26 departments, majors and programs. The survey ran from Feb. 2 to 10. Participants indicated their support or opposition to the cuts and then provided written feedback as well. Out of the 547 faculty members at the college, 319 faculty members participated in the survey. A summary of the survey results stated that 248 faculty members, or 78% of the participants, opposed the recommended cuts, and that 71 faculty members, or 22% of the participants, indicated that they support the recommendations.

The results of this survey do not reflect the views of the faculty overall. However, the Department of Politics and the Department of Environmental Studies and



The Ithaca College Faculty Council meets March 5, 2020. In February 2021, the council held a vote to gather input on the impending cuts.

NICK BAHAMONDE/THE ITHACAN

Sciences have written letters to voice their opposition to the cuts. Individual faculty members have been critical of the proposed cuts as well.

The summary of the survey stated that the main concern from participants is the lack of transparency surrounding the rationale for the cuts.

"Many are not convinced that the [Academic Program Prioritization Implementation Committee (APPIC)]

recommendations are, in fact, strategic," the summary stated. "One faculty member noted: 'I had truly believed that 'academic prioritization' and the concept of 'don't waste a crisis' were meant in earnest and that the pain of the layoffs would also allow for new curricular opportunities. ... This report suggests a simple, ... irreparable ...

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IC AAUP chapter asks for rejection of cuts

BY ALEXIS MANORE

The newly formed Ithaca College chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) is circulating a petition calling for the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the Ithaca College Board of Trustees to reject the draft plan for faculty, department, program and major cuts.

In January, a group of faculty members began working together to form an AAUP chapter at the college in response to the impending cuts.

The AAUP works to advance academic freedom and shared governance in higher education.

The petition asks for increased shared governance, an extended timeline and increased financial transparency throughout the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process. The college is planning to eliminate 116 full-time equivalent (FTE) faculty positions and 26 departments, majors and programs.

As of Feb. 17, there are 208 signatures on the petition.

Dan Breen, associate professor in the Department of English and chair of the IC AAUP, said the petition was the best method for the chapter to communicate its concerns to the college.

"The three requests the petition makes reiterate questions and

concerns that have appeared elsewhere, but we wanted to present these requests as clearly as possible and tie them clearly to AAUP principles," Breen said via email.

After the rejection of the recommendations for the cuts, the petition calls for the Academic Program Prioritization Implementation Committee (APPIC) to be restructured to include tenured, non-tenure eligible and contingent faculty members.

There are no faculty members on the APPIC.

"While it is certainly the case that Ithaca College faculty were able to contribute feedback to the APPIC as it was in the process of composing its recommendations and after seeing the draft recommendations first circulated on Jan. 13, this does not in itself constitute shared governance," the IC AAUP stated in the petition.

In its report titled "The Role of the Faculty in Budgetary and Salary Matters," the AAUP states that faculty members should be involved in the development of the institutional budget and in relevant financial decisions about salaries, academic programs, tuition and others.

"No faculty members were

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ADMINISTRATION IGNORES SHARED CONCERNS



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NEW PLATFORMS GIVE ATHLETES SPACE TO SPEAK

Community adapts to hybrid classes

BY CAITLIN HOLTZMAN

Ithaca College students are adjusting to taking classes in person again for the first time in approximately 10 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic but are facing some challenges with the hybrid model of instruction.

The spring semester started with fully online classes Jan. 25, and in-person classes started Feb. 8. This semester, there are 10 classes that require 100% in-person instruction, 1,143 hybrid classes, 139 online asynchronous and 685 online synchronous classes, according to HomerConnect. In Fall 2020, there were 42 hybrid classes, 265 online asynchronous, 1,651 online synchronous classes and no classes that required 100% in-person instruction. Professors had the ability to choose what modality they would hold their classes in, meaning students can have a different modality for each class.

Sophomore Madeline Miele said that at first, it felt strange having some students in a classroom and others on a Zoom screen, but it is an adjustment

she has gotten used to. Miele said she felt like professors had time to prepare to be in the classroom again, despite the return to campus causing some worries for her.

"I do get anxious sometimes just because you're sitting there and being like, 'We're in a pandemic and in a class,'" she said. "Then I remember all the precautions with testing and everyone wearing masks and sitting far apart."

The college introduced policies for COVID-19 testing twice a week, mask-wearing on campus and social distancing to keep students, faculty and staff safe. Larger spaces on campus, like the Emerson Suites and the Klingenstein Lounge in the Campus Center, have been converted into classroom settings to maximize social distancing.

Sophomore Angelina Postorivo said she feels like students and professors have made sure everyone is being safe when in the classroom.

"Everyone in the classroom, including the professor, has been really good about the rules," she said.



Jeff Holmes, professor in the Department of Psychology, teaches a hybrid class Feb. 15. Holmes is teaching all hybrid classes this semester to allow students to attend his classes in person or online.

ELEANOR KAY/THE ITHACAN

Miele said she is glad there are limits to how many students can be in a classroom at a time. She said she would not feel comfortable attending classes in person if classroom capacities were not limited. She also said she likes how she can take a class online one day if she does not want to be in person.

Freshman Alison Hitchen is also on campus this semester and has three classes that she takes in person.

Hitchen said that while she usu-

ally attends class in person, it seems like students on Zoom might not get the best view of the professor or the board, and she said it seems difficult for the professor to hear them.

"Just observing the atmosphere in the classroom, it is easy to see that students on Zoom are often neglected," she said.

David Salomon, associate professor in the Department of Art History, said one of his biggest challenges has been trying to connect with

students in the classroom and students on Zoom.

He said it can be difficult to use whiteboard features on Zoom and show students what he is doing.

"It is harder to judge the engagement of students who are attending remotely," he said via email. "I'm still working out how to have meaningful interactions between students in the room and students on Zoom."

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Students march to the beat of a virtual drum

Three sophomores were contracted by drum corps for the 2020 season, which turned virtual. They are now preparing for the 2021 season.



"Cultural Encounters" with Naeem Inayatullah

Host Arleigh Rodgers discusses African drumming, high-intensity Brazilian influences and music criticism itself with Professor Naeem Inayatullah.



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Environmental science department decries cuts

BY SYD PIERRE

The Ithaca College Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences (ENVS) is voicing its opposition to the draft “Shape of the College” document, which recommends that at least three faculty members in the department are cut.

The department sent a letter to the Ithaca College Board of Trustees on Feb. 12 requesting that the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process be reconsidered. In the “Shape of the College” draft, the Academic Program Prioritization Implementation Committee (APPIC) recommended cuts from the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences. So far, at least three faculty members within the department have been notified their positions are recommended for termination by the APPIC.

Fae Dremock, assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences, is one of at least three faculty members getting cut from the department, along with Jed Jordan and Tim Drake, both lecturers in the department.

Jason Hamilton, professor in the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences, said he thinks that the proposed faculty cuts are devastating.

“These cuts have really gone right to the heart of what our vision was when this department was created,” Hamilton said. “The people who made the cuts, they didn’t ask us what the effects would be, they didn’t look to see why we were the way we were. They don’t even know the names of the people they cut in some cases or what they were doing here.”

Dremock said that after learning that her position at the college would be cut, it was hard for her to begin teaching her spring courses.

“I felt very paralyzed,” Dremock said. “Seeing the students, it was wonderful. Because I do love what I do, I care about my students, I do. It’s just part of who I am. I can’t function without actually trying to make the world better. I do that through teaching. After those first couple of classes, it was so depressing, because it felt like this is going to be the last three semesters I teach.”

Drake has been teaching at the college since 2007, before the department was created in 2009. He said he started the field-based course Environmental Sentinels with Jordan and Hamilton based on their work with Primitive Pursuits, a year-round nature awareness program in Ithaca.

“On the surface, we’re taking students out into the woods and doing environmental education,” Drake said. “And yet, there’s kind of something deeper under there, when you spend intimate time outdoors with people in nature and give students a chance to have that access to the natural world in that way.”

Sophomore Imani Turner-Wells said she took Mindful by Nature — a nature awareness and meditation course taught by Drake — during the fall. She said she has struggled with depression during the COVID-19 pandemic, but applying the practices she learned in the course to her own life helped her.

“It’s a shame that people are not going to be able to experience [Drake] because the class was so eye-opening to me about how I was feeling during



Fae Dremock, assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences, welcomes freshmen at the Fall 2019 Ice Cream Social. She is one of three department faculty members being cut.

COURTESY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND SCIENCES

this pandemic and being more mindful of my surroundings and myself and others in nature,” Turner-Wells said.

Laura Waxman ’19 said that Dremock brought new ideas to the department, like an intense environmental justice lens and a focus on analytical thinking. Waxman said she was appalled by the decision because Dremock’s courses are in major demand from students.

“She teaches classes that frankly, absolutely no one in ENVS at the moment is even partially capable and are qualified to teach,” Waxman said. “And the lens that she provides is arguably the most important to the ENVS school because she actually challenges people.”

A group of alumni from the department wrote a letter to Melanie Stein, dean of the School of Humanities and Sciences, and La Jerne Cornish, provost and vice president of academic affairs, expressing their support of Dremock and her contributions to the department, noting her expertise in environmental justice.

Dremock said she was confused and frustrated about the decisions behind the faculty cuts.

“It’s felt like everything was done without inclusion, without true shared governance and without really sitting down department by department and saying, ‘What can we change? What can we do to shrink our budget? What would be the best solution to how we

could handle this?’” Dremock said.

Hamilton said he felt like faculty members feel pressured not to complain.

“They pitted us and the current students against the future students,” Hamilton said. “And it’s not at all a pleasant place. ... There were many other ways that this could have gone down, that we could have together, the administration and the faculty, actually envisioned what a future Ithaca College would look like. And we could have worked towards it together.”

Read the department letter and the alumni letter on page 8.

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College community gets a shot at COVID

BY ALYSHIA KORBA

Some Ithaca College community members who are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine are getting vaccinated.

New York state is in Phase 1a and starting Phase 1b of COVID-19 vaccine distribution. These phases include populations like health-care workers, first responders, teachers, people 65 years or older and some essential workers. People with certain underlying conditions or comorbidities became eligible to receive the vaccine Feb. 15. College faculty who are teaching in-person classes are among the eligible populations.

Tompkins County has struggled with a short supply of vaccines. County health departments make a request to the state each week for the number of doses needed but are not informed ahead of time of how many doses the county will receive.

For the week of Feb. 15, Tompkins County was allocated 800 doses of the vaccine, with 200 of these doses designated for people aged 65 years and older with underlying medical conditions. However, the department announced Feb. 17 that the vaccines would not be distributed due to weather and transportation delays. Those who were registered to receive the vaccine this week at the Cayuga Health vaccination site will have their appointments carried over for a future Cayuga Health clinic, once vaccines are available.

The health department announced that it will hold a pop-up vaccination clinic at Beverly J. Martin Elementary School on Feb. 19. This location will still be administering vaccines, despite the delays.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has authorized the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and the Moderna vaccine for emergency use. Both of these vaccines require two doses.

Paula Turkon, assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences, said she had to travel approximately



From left, Danielle Johanson and Nina Bustamante, sixth-year physical therapy students, show off their vaccination cards after getting the COVID-19 vaccine.

COURTESY OF NINA BUSTAMANTE

one hour to Syracuse, New York in Onondaga County to receive her first dose of the vaccine and had to cancel one of her classes.

Turkon said that although she had to go to Syracuse for her vaccination appointment, the appointment itself was an efficient process.

“A bunch of other people that I know have gotten the vaccine and the process is getting more and more streamlined, and it’s taking less and less time,” said Turkon.

Some students have also been able to get the vaccine. Sixth-year physical therapy student Nina Bustamante received her second dose of the vaccine Feb. 12 at the Shops at Ithaca Mall vaccination site. She was approved to be vaccinated through the Department of Physical Therapy because she works with patients in person.

“I am really lucky that the PT department was able to get us students approved for vaccinations,” she said.

She said she experienced body aches and chills following the second dose of the vaccine. According to the CDC, common side effects of the vaccines include pain, redness and swelling at the injection site and chills, lethargy and headaches.

Patricia Hunsinger, lecturer in the Department of Art, said she had to miss work because of the timing of her second dose appointment and because of the side effects she experienced. Hunsinger said she experienced swelling at the injection site and lethargy.

“We all want the vaccination and will sign up for it at any time as long as we can even get it!” Hunsinger said via email. “It’s like a lottery. If you are lucky enough to get the vaccination, you’ll compromise whatever it is you must do so that you can get the shot.”

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Finance forums open to students

BY ALEXIS MANORE

InInfinity Presentations, which are meetings about the financial status of Ithaca College, are now open to students.

The first InInfinity Presentation of Spring 2021 is from noon to 1 p.m. Feb. 22. The meeting will be held over Zoom, and it is open to faculty, staff and students at the college. At the presentation, Bill Guerrero, vice president for finance and administration, and members of the Division of Finance will speak about the college’s finances and provide updates about the 2021–22 fiscal budget. A Zoom link was sent to faculty, staff and students via email Feb. 15.

Previously, the meetings were open to students, but during the fall semester, they were open to faculty and staff but not students.

Throughout Fall 2020, the Open the Books coalition campaigned for increased financial transparency from the college. At the All-College Gathering on Feb. 9, President Shirley M. Collado said that the college is financially transparent and that its financial information is available.

Guerrero said that sophomore Grace Madeya, vice president for business and finance for the Student Governance Council (SGC), requested that the meetings be open to students during a discussion about how the college can be more financially transparent.

In Fall 2020, the SGC passed the Fall 2020 Tuition Transparency Request Bill. The recommendation asked the college to publish a breakdown of what it spent students’ tuition money on after it refused to give tuition discounts when it decided to hold classes remotely for the fall. The college denied the request.

Guerrero said the annual audits and Form 990s are available to the public.

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FROM BUSINESSES, PAGE 1

community have gone out of business during the pandemic. Popular bars on The Commons like Moonies Bar & Nightclub and Silky Jones closed in March, with only Moonies Bar & Nightclub planning to reopen after restrictions on social gatherings are lifted. Regal Cinemas in the Shops at Ithaca Mall will remain closed indefinitely.

The financial strain of a pandemic threatens already vulnerable colleges and their respective college towns. According to a study on college towns and COVID-19, the outlook for higher education is changing from stable to negative.

According to Kacapyr's report, Ithaca's primary job provider, education and health services, is down 500 positions out of more than 32,000. Due to the pandemic's effects on the college's finances, Ithaca College is planning to eliminate 116 full-time equivalent faculty positions.

Since March 2020, the college has laid off or furloughed at least 264 staff members.

The leisure and hospitality industry, however, is down 1,300 jobs out of 5,000.

According to Kacapyr's report, the economy had risen to just under half of pre-COVID levels by the end of 2020. Kacapyr said that colleges' abilities to remain open now that students have returned would impact the economy's ability to continue rising.

From April to December 2020, economic activity increased in seven out of the eight months. In December, the economy ran at 95% of 2019's level.

Jennifer Tavares, president and CEO of the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce, said that

the economic impacts of COVID-19 will affect Tompkins County into 2021 but that the county will see benefits from community initiatives as the economy recovers.

"The economic impacts are devastating, and they're widespread, and there's a lot of industry sectors being impacted, for sure," Tavares said. "But I think if everyone wasn't so creative and collaborative and willing to work together to address it, it could be a lot worse."

Despite loss of revenue, Cinemapolis is one business that has been able to retain its staff. Cinemapolis is a theater in Ithaca that primarily shows independent films. Brett Bossard, executive director of Cinemapolis, said that due to the business's nonprofit status and dedication to being a living wage employer, he could keep all 12 employees on the payroll while Cinemapolis remained closed. Bossard said Cinemapolis has used funding from the Federal Paycheck Protection Program and dipped into the business' reserve funds to continue paying employees.

The theater has been closed since mid-March, when the pandemic first shuttered businesses across the nation. Bossard said Cinemapolis' revenue is less than half of what it normally would be. Normally the theater brings in approximately \$1 million a year, but Bossard said he would consider it lucky if the theater earned \$500,000 in 2020.

"It's definitely going to be a challenge," he said. "We're very fortunate that we have a generous landlord, an understanding community and a very supportive community financially that we're able to survive."

Bossard said Cinemapolis plans to open at the end of February with



Businesses on The Commons have been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some have been forced to close.

MIKAYLA ROVENOLT/THE ITHACAN

private showings for groups of 10 to 15 people.

Rates and more information will be available to the public later in the month.

Due to limited seating restrictions and a lack of independent film releases, Bossard said Cinemapolis will not have public viewings until further notice.

However, Cinemapolis will work with Ithaca College for its annual Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival, which will be held virtually this year.

When many businesses in the entertainment and leisure sectors of the economy had to remain shut down for much of the year, businesses selling alternate forms of entertainment saw a small boost that evened out profits for the year. Joseph Wetmore, owner of Autumn Leaves Used Books, said he has seen a rise in tourists coming to Ithaca to buy books.

"People couldn't go to concerts, people couldn't go out and do the normal things they did, so they found entertainment they could do, which included buying books and games and movies and stuff," Wetmore said.

Wetmore said the bookstore normally has four employees other than himself.

When the store closed in March, he had to lay them off. After the store reopened in July, he only rehired one of those employees to cut down on costs.

He said the bookstore was often a place where visitors could sit down and hang out for a couple of hours.

Now, he has had to limit seating, and the cafe, Ten Forward, that was on the upper floor has closed. It will not be reopening, he said.

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FROM VOTE, PAGE 1

weakening of the college."

Another concern was the speed of the APP process. The college community was made aware of the APP process in October 2020. The APPIC released its recommendations in January, and the feedback period on the plan ended Feb. 15. The plan will be finalized and delivered to President Shirley M. Collado and La Jerne Cornish, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, for approval before March 1. Although the entire APP process will occur over a three-year period, the development of a plan for the cuts and its finalization has occurred within five months.

The survey summary stated that participants said they would like the process to be delayed to explore alternatives to the cuts and figure out how the cuts will impact curricula.

"Curricular redesign,' one faculty member noted, will be a significant investment of faculty resources," the summary stated.

The FCEC previously requested for the APP process to be delayed, but the administration denied the request.

Some faculty members are worried about a lack of shared governance between the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the faculty, the summary stated. It stated that this was particularly troubling considering that these cuts would result in curricular changes, but faculty were allowed little input.

"I would love to see a deeper and more frank, open discussion that includes students and affected faculty," a faculty member said in the summary. "It feels like there is a disconnect between the people 'on the ground' and SLT, and I am hopeful that the gap can be bridged and the rifts ... can be repaired."

The summary stated that some faculty members questioned the relationship between the draft document and the college's mission values, asked what the college will look like after the cuts are made and asked how the cuts tie into the strategic plan, Ithaca Forever.

The need to resize the college is included in the strategic plan, and Collado and Cornish have repeatedly said that these cuts are in line with the plan.

Faculty members noted a lack of financial transparency — a concern held by many throughout this process — and question the desire to have a student body of 5,000.

Collado has previously said that all of the college's financial information is available, despite members of the administration refusing requests to disclose their salaries to *The Ithacan*. The first InInfinity Presentation of Spring 2021, a meeting in which the Division of Finance discusses the college's finances, will be from noon to 1 p.m. Feb. 22. For the first time since the college switched to remote instruction, the meeting will be open to students.

The summary stated that some faculty members proposed alternatives to the cuts, asked that the COVID-19 pandemic be taken into account when terminating faculty, asked for the adoption of rehiring practices and requested the plans for the next phases of the process be made available.

The summary stated that faculty members who indicated their support for the APP process were less likely to provide a written statement.

Others wrote that they had already provided input in other ways and did not want to in the survey.

"I support the proposal not because I think it's perfect, but because it is our best option for long-term stability," a faculty member said in the summary.

The FCEC said in the summary that it understands the downsizing will be painful but that faculty concerns exceed the understandable disappointment that goes along with their peers losing their jobs.

"Faculty are asking searching questions that go beyond the predictable sadness, and it would benefit us all to hear them answered," the summary stated. "We have learned that large numbers of faculty remain unconvinced that the APPIC process has been inclusive of faculty voices, or strategically driven by curricular need."

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FROM PETITION, PAGE 4

appointed or elected to APPIC, and therefore the faculty have not fully participated in the process of decision-making or implementation," the IC AAUP said in the petition.

The petition asks for the timeline of the APP process to be drawn out.

This will allow for more faculty members to be on campus to participate in the process and for those whose positions are recommended for termination to be allowed to retain their jobs throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some faculty members have not returned to campus and are teaching their classes remotely because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Faculty Council has previously requested that the APP process be delayed, but the administration denied this request.



Dan Breen, associate professor in the Department of English, is the chair of the newly formed American Association of University Professors chapter at Ithaca College.

FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

This would include audited financial statements; breakdowns by department; projected revenues and expenses, including administrative salaries and new hires within the administration.

It will also include the performance of the endowment; a summary of the total liquid assets; and a justification of why the college needs to decrease enrollment to 5,000 students.

In its report "Recommended Institutional Regulations on Academic Freedom and Tenure," the AAUP states that an elected faculty governance body should participate in discussions surrounding financial exigency — an imminent financial crisis which threatens the survival of the institution as a whole.

This includes the spending of one-time money or reserves, furloughs, pay cuts, delayed compensation plans, early retirement packages and cuts to noneducational programs and services, including expenses for administration.

"Yet the college community has been told

repeatedly that we are not presently in a condition of financial exigency," the IC AAUP stated in the petition. "Certainly, no faculty-elected or faculty-appointed body has participated in a determination of financial exigency. In addition, the campus community has not been informed of any specific alternative proposals or possibilities that may have been considered, nor have faculty participated in the identification of criteria for the elimination of positions."

The results of a vote conducted by the Faculty Council showed that many other faculty members share these concerns.

"The petition has signatures from various constituencies — IC students, alums, former faculty members, faculty members at other institutions and community supporters — but the goal was to present it primarily to IC faculty," Breen said via email.

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No faculty members were appointed to the APPIC, and therefore the faculty have not fully participated in the process of decision making.

—IC AAUP Petition



The petition also calls for the college to release a document that presents the college's financials.

IC alum works for President Biden

From South Hill to the White House, Rob Flaherty '13 started his new position as the director of digital strategy for the Joe Biden administration last month.

Flaherty oversees a team that manages the White House's social media, online communication and digital partnerships.

Prior to his current role, he was digital director for the Biden 2020 presidential campaign, digital director for the Beto O'Rourke 2020 presidential campaign and deputy digital communications director for the Hillary Clinton 2016 presidential campaign, among other positions.

Contributing writer Chris Tolve spoke with Flaherty about his time at Ithaca College and his time working in the White House so far.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Chris Tolve: What is daily life like at the White House?

Rob Flaherty: It's surreal. ... Every day is different, and it has been a whirlwind. We just got in the door less than a month ago, but it feels like a longer time than that. We are still trying to figure out where the water cooler is, while also trying to communicate directly with the American public about the president's agenda.

CT: Did you ever think you would be working at the highest levels of the U.S. federal government?

RF: No, certainly not. ... I was doing News-watch on [Ithaca College Television] and I always wanted to go into politics. But this is something of a dream job for me. ... On my walk home, I leave the Eisenhower Executive Office Building and I'm facing the White House every day. It's this crazy moment of, "I can't believe I'm here."

CT: How will digital strategy under Biden differ from that under the Trump Administration?



Rob Flaherty '13 is serving as director of digital strategy for the Joe Biden administration. He previously worked on presidential campaigns for Beto O'Rourke and Hillary Clinton.

COURTESY OF ROB FLAHERTY

RF: We have a bunch of different core strategic needs. We have to make the government more accessible and trustworthy. But we also need to show off the president's empathetic leadership. It is a dark moment for the country, and we have a lot of work to do, so we have to put him in those situations where he can speak directly to everyday Americans who are getting the brunt of the COVID crisis. ... So, part of our strategy is to get off of the White House platforms and on to the influencers, creators and YouTubers to communicate with folks wherever they might be online.

CT: What challenges did you face during the transition after the election?

RF: It is public record that the transition was not given all of the information that it would have liked to be given. That said, it was still one of the most successful transitions of all

time. With the speed at which they staffed the government and the effectiveness with which they got an agenda up and running, they were certainly able to overcome those challenges.

CT: What advice do you have for current students?

RF: If you want to go into this line of business, it is really rewarding. ... So, go out and get experience. Start knocking on doors. ... In this world that we are in where everything is being reinvented all of the time, we really need thoughtful doers, people who can think critically about the world around them and then execute. By the nature of being a part of the Ithaca College community, you're well set up for that. Just go do it.

CONTACT CHRIS TOLVE
CTOLVE@ITHACA.EDU

Trustees discuss impending cuts

BY ALEXIS MANORE

The Ithaca College Board of Trustees provided feedback on the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process and discussed the college's financial health and enrollment strategy in its February meeting.

In a Feb. 15 email to the college community, President Shirley M. Collado and Dave Lissy '87, chair of the board of trustees, announced that the board met Feb. 11 and 12 over Zoom for its annual February meeting.

The email stated that the board met with the executive councils of the Faculty Council, the Student Governance Council (SGC) and the Staff Council, as well as with members of the administration, to discuss the return to campus. The board also held plenary sessions to discuss financial health, strategic pricing and the APP process.

Board members shared thoughts about the proposals in the document about the recommendations for faculty, department, program and major cuts outlined in the draft "Shape of the College" document.

"Trustees were incredibly impressed by the work of the APPIC," the email stated.

The board voted unanimously to adopt the blueprint for strategic pricing and value strategy. The email stated that this strategy will allow the college to better yield and retain students.

The Board of Trustees met with Bill Guerrero, vice president for finance and administration, to speak about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the college's finances and the endowment. The board will vote on the 2021-22 budget in its May meeting.

CONTACT ALEXIS MANORE
AMANORE@ITHACA.EDU

THE FACES OF AUSTERITY

BY HARRIET MALINOWITZ



IC CLOSED TO DEBATE?

Scott Thomson, director of forensics and assistant professor in the Department of Communication Studies, has always enjoyed a good argument.

From his undergrad days as a member of the U.S. National Debating Team through his graduate studies in Argumentation to his job as director of forensics, coaching Ithaca College's Speech and Debate team over the past 20 years, Thomson has revelled in sparring about ideas.

He's even taught an Ithaca Seminar called "The Rhetoric of Conspiracy Theory."

He loves to travel, and he has had the chance to when the team attends regional and national tournaments. Last year, he led the team to victory in the Junior Varsity Division championship in St. Louis, Missouri. One of the things he likes best about the debate team, he said, is that, "It's a place anyone can join." Students from all different backgrounds have participated, leading to "outstanding diversity."

Thomson, 55, is a first-generation college student with a son currently attending the college. His wife is from Mexico and teaches in an Ithaca elementary school and loves it. Heading south of the border is often on the family's travel itinerary, and they are active in the local Latinx community.

If he has to leave Ithaca for a new job, he will also have to depart from serving on the board of One World Market on the Ithaca Commons — a nonprofit, fair-trade store where proceeds go to the international artists who create the products.

Thomson has been committed to keeping the employees safe and employed through the COVID-19 pandemic.

By losing its coach as part of the "rightsizing" plan, the debate team may be approaching the end of its approximately 100-year-old existence.



PROFESSOR CLAIMS CUTS BELIE IC'S ANTI-RACIST GOALS

Lenora Warren is a lecturer in the Department of English at Ithaca College, with a Ph.D. in English from New York University in New York. She is an African-American and Latina woman and has taught African-American literature at Ithaca College for approximately two years. At 42, she is a runner who has vowed to run a marathon for her 45th birthday. She left a tenure-track job at Colgate University in Hamilton, New York, because her husband was the executive director of the Cornell Prison Education Program, "and I didn't want to become one of those super-commuter couples."

She also happened to be having a baby, who is now a 21-month-old toddler.

Warren's book, "Fire on the Water: Sailors, Slaves, and Insurrection in Early American Literature," is about the history and literature of abolition and insurrection in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. She reflects, "I'm interested in how violence becomes a political act and gets read — and racialized — which depends on which audience is reading it. Of course, this impacts our current moment." As a scholar proposed to be terminated at Ithaca College, she feels herself to be in "a surreal position," "demoralized" and with "a sense of total identity loss."

She still gets invitations to publish articles — chapters for two different Melville anthologies are in the works — but, "I don't have a position to support that. When you're not working for a college, academic work is unpaid labor. And I'll be working in isolation."

Warren finds it especially perplexing that the college claims to believe in diversity and anti-racist education, yet "is cutting that part of the curriculum away." She said that she had to stop attending administration-run faculty forums "because at a certain point I started to feel very dispirited by the language of, 'This is going to be hard for all of us; our college is going through a hard time.' I realized that the 'we' being referenced were the ones who were staying, whose jobs were safe — not the ones being fired. It isn't even my college anymore."

This series aims to put human faces on the faculty members who have been notified of their termination as a result of the Academic Program Prioritization process. Faculty members interested in sharing their stories can reach out to Harriet Malinowitz, lecturer in the Department of Writing, at bmalinowitz@ithaca.edu.

COLLEGE BRIEFS

Esports room available for use and gaming equipment loans

The Office of Recreational Sports and Information Technology announced the opening of the Ithaca College Esports Room located in Friends Hall 101. College community members are eligible to use the facility provided that they are in compliance with all testing and screening requirements from the college and are cleared to access campus.

The room will be open Monday through Saturday from noon to 11 p.m. The room can be reserved up to two days in advance at recreation.ithaca.edu. The maximum capacity of the room is eight people. Upon arriving, individuals will be required to check in with their Ithaca College ID cards at the Lab Consultant Station across the hall in Friends 110.

The room features six gaming stations. Computers and workstations are spaced six feet apart to allow for physical distancing. Community members are encouraged to bring their own controllers if they are able. A variety of gaming equipment will be available to check out from the Lab Consultant Station for use in the Esports room.

Pre-submitted questions accepted for virtual all-staff meeting Feb. 24

There will be a virtual all-staff meeting at 1 p.m. Feb. 24. Virtual meeting details will follow. Questions can be pre-submitted online until noon Feb. 19 at <https://bit.ly/3jTBsr5>. There will be time during the meeting to answer incoming questions as well.

Contact humanresources@ithaca.edu with any questions.

Deadlines are extended to submit applications for IC London Center

The Ithaca College London Center is accepting applications for the summer 2021 and Fall 2021 programs. The application deadline for the summer program has been extended to Feb. 26 and the application for the fall program has been extended to March 15.

Students can register for a virtual information session for more information. Sessions will be held 12:10–1 p.m. Feb. 23, 6–7 p.m. March 1, 12:10–1 p.m. March 16 and

7–8 p.m. March 31. Students can also schedule an appointment with a study abroad adviser.

Staff members invited to attend two-part virtual meditation series

The Employee Engagement Committee is inviting Ithaca College staff members to partake in a two-part Introduction to Meditation series led by Diana Dimitrova, director of international student and scholar services, and Laura Amoriello, assistant professor in the Department of Performance Studies, of Mindful IC. These sessions are being held specifically for staff to introduce them to the practices that Mindful IC offers during its Noon Hour Meditation program. No experience is necessary. The next session will be held at noon March 12.

Theater company to stream play directed by Ithaca College professor

The Kitchen Theatre Company will stream a 2017 production of Duncan Macmillan's "Every Brilliant Thing," directed by Wendy Dann, associate professor in the Department of Theatre Arts. The interactive play will be available for streaming on the Kitchen Theatre Company website Feb. 18–25.

"Every Brilliant Thing," is a play that uses comedy to explore depression and raise awareness about suicide.

The Kitchen Theatre will be sharing its recording of this play to subscribers. Individuals can obtain a regular or a pay-what-you-can subscription to gain access to this stream by visiting <https://www.kitchentheatre.org/act-2>.

School of HSHP continues to host discussion series on COVID-19

The School of Health Sciences and Human Performance announced that the Spring 2021 edition of Conversations on COVID will commence at 2–3 p.m. Feb. 19. The program began in Fall 2020.

The guests for this one-hour event will be Melodie Kolmetz, director of didactic education and assistant professor in the Physician Assistant Program; Jenna Heffron, assistant professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy; and Joe Ungco, assistant professor in the Department of Occupational



S'more winter fun with Spring Welcome

Freshman Lauren Hoffman roasts marshmallows for s'mores Feb. 13 at the fire pits outside the Campus Center. Have S'more Fun was one of many events held across campus for the Spring Welcome, which will continue for the next two weeks.

ELEANOR KAY/THE ITHACAN

Therapy. Conversations on COVID is open to all college faculty, staff, students and alumni as well as community members.

BOLD Scholars program seeking nominations for sophomores

The Ithaca College BOLD Women's Leadership Network is accepting recommendations for scholars. College community members can submit a recommendation for sophomore women or female-identifying students to apply to be a BOLD scholar.

Students can be selected in their sophomore

year to be in the cohort for their junior and senior years. They will receive financial support of up to \$27,500 per year, intensive career mentoring, leadership training and the opportunity to develop a campus transformation project.

Recommended students for the program must be in the Class of 2023, be enrolled full time, be female-identifying, have a minimum GPA of 2.5 and have excellent leadership abilities. The scholarship is need-based. Email BOLD@ithaca.edu or Samantha Elebiary, BOLD Program Director, at selebiary@ithaca.edu with any questions.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM FEBRUARY 1 TO FEBRUARY 7

FEBRUARY 1

ASSIST TOMPKINS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

LOCATION: Coddington Road

SUMMARY: Caller reported a two-car property damage accident. Officer responded and assisted on scene until Tompkins County Sheriff's Office arrived on scene. Patrol Officer John Norman.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

LOCATION: Upper Quads

SUMMARY: A caller reported two males fighting. The officer said the individuals stated they were friends and were play-fighting. Master Patrol Officer John Tagliavento responded.

OFF-CAMPUS INCIDENT

LOCATION: Unknown

SUMMARY: Caller made alarming statements to dispatch about harming themselves. Officer reported call came from out of state and were attempting to locate caller. Master Patrol Officer Waylon DeGraw responded.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

LOCATION: Terraces

SUMMARY: A caller reported seeing someone stumbling as they were walking. The officer reported that people were making designs in the snow. Patrol Officer John Norman responded.

RAPE 3RD DEGREE

LOCATION: Unknown

SUMMARY: A caller reported thirdhand information regarding a rape that occurred in Fall 2019 between two known persons. Sergeant Chris Teribury responded.

MEDICAL ASSIST/ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: East Tower

SUMMARY: A caller reported information that a person was having difficulty breathing. The Office of Environmental Health and Safety reported the person was transported to the hospital by ambulance. Fire Protection Specialist Enoch Perkins responded.

FEBRUARY 3

ACCIDENTAL PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: Hilliard Hall

SUMMARY: An officer reported water leaking through the ceiling. Maintenance determined a roof leak caused by snow melt. Patrol Officer Joe Opper responded.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

LOCATION: Upper Quads

SUMMARY: A caller reported that an unknown person walked in on another person while in the shower. Master Patrol Officer Waylon DeGraw responded.

FEBRUARY 4

MEDICAL ASSIST/ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: Terraces

SUMMARY: A caller reported feeling anxious and nauseous. The officer reported the person declined medical attention. Master Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

FEBRUARY 5

MEDICAL ASSIST/INJURY RELATED

LOCATION: Roy H. Park Hall

SUMMARY: A caller reported tripping over a cart and injuring both knees, elbow and wrist. The officer reported the person declined medical assistance. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon responded.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

LOCATION: Circle Apartments

SUMMARY: A caller reported receiving an automated crash alert for their vehicle. The officer located the vehicle and reported no accident occurred. Master Patrol Officer Waylon DeGraw responded.

PUBLIC HEALTH LAW

LOCATION: Lower Quads

SUMMARY: The Office of Environmental Health and Safety reported a person refusing to wear a face

covering. The officer issued the person a warning for a violation of the conduct code. Fire Protection Specialist Max Noble responded.

MEDICAL ASSIST/ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: The Campus Center

SUMMARY: A caller reported a person was having an allergic reaction. The officer reported the person was transported to the hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Joe Opper responded.

SCC COLLEGE REGULATIONS

LOCATION: The Campus Center

SUMMARY: A caller reported a large group not wearing masks. The officer issued the persons a conduct warning for violation of the community agreement. Patrol Officer Joe Opper responded.

FEBRUARY 6

PUBLIC HEALTH LAW

LOCATION: The Campus Center

SUMMARY: A caller reported there were individuals at a gathering not social distancing and not wearing masks. The officer reported that a warning was issued for a violation of the community agreement and the individuals dispersed. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded.

SCC DRUG VIOLATIONS

LOCATION: Terraces

SUMMARY: A caller reported that there were individuals smoking in their room. The officer reported that one person was referred for violation of the college drug policy. Patrol Officer Joe Opper responded.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

LOCATION: All other

SUMMARY: A person reported that a known person on a social media site was in possession of a handgun. The officer reported the picture was taken off campus of a fake prop gun. Master Patrol Officer John Tagliavento responded.

PUBLIC HEALTH LAW

LOCATION: O-Lot

SUMMARY: A caller reported there was a large group playing football not wearing masks. Master Patrol Officer John Tagliavento 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

OPINION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021

7



MOLLY STANTON/THE ITHACAN

EDITORIALS

Administration casts aside college community's voices

What does the administration need to understand that the Ithaca College campus community is unhappy about the Academic Program Prioritization process? Countless letters, organizations and a faculty vote have all expressed the same sentiment: The collective decision is to slow down.

There is no denying that the college needs to make painful department and program cuts and layoffs. But it is the haste of the process, accelerated by a global pandemic, that infuriates the community. It is the lack of transparency, despite self-proclaimed assertions, that heightens the collective anger.

Over 300 faculty members participated in a survey that measured “up-or-down” faculty support of the “Shape of the College” draft. According to the vote, 78% of respondents indicated concerns and opposition to the draft. Approximately half of the faculty abstained from the vote — perhaps because of a fear of retaliation, or a hopeless feeling that no matter what they say, the administration will not listen.

How much clearer do members of the campus community need to be that there needs to be a change?

Actions speak louder than words — especially buzzwords like “bold” and “nimble.” This utter lack of respectful and collaborative leadership has only been exemplified through the testaments in the letters and statements made by students, faculty, staff and alumni about this process. Just one example of this is when a request from alumni to meet with the Ithaca College Board of Trustees was met with a “no.”

The administration, it seems, cannot — or is choosing not to — hear these concerns. People are sharing the hurt and grief they are feeling as a result of these decisions. But clearly, feelings don't factor into the college's strategic plan.

The administration is mercilessly severing ties with its most important constituents. The administration will struggle to regain the trust of the campus community, and we will see if it will move to a leadership model that is truly collaborative and inclusive.

Rebuilding Ithaca's economy will require student effort

What is a college town without colleges? It is no secret that the COVID-19 pandemic had a severe impact on Ithaca's economy, especially when such a large part of the student population did not return in the beginning of the academic year. Many businesses were forced to close, and others have been forced to restructure.

Undergraduate students make up approximately 21% of the population of Tompkins County. Because they are part of the community and utilize its resources for most of the year, they have an obligation to support it. Part of this can be done by being intentional when deciding where to shop and choosing to support local shops and restaurants.

Though college students are only in the area for a limited time, Ithaca is still a home for us. The businesses within the community play a large role in creating the Ithaca we know and love. The Commons would not be The Commons if it were not for the incredible people and businesses.

As small businesses suffer, Ithaca College has only challenged the economy further by proposing to fire over 100 faculty members. Many of these employees at the college who will lose their jobs will unfortunately need to move out of the area, meaning that there may be an even more adverse impact on the economy. Clearly the college is not changing its course, but what is in our power is to support small businesses.

Luckily, being back on campus provides students, staff and faculty the opportunity to help local businesses. It is undoubtedly disappointing that there is no weeklong spring break this year for students to either return home or go on vacation. However, it is important for students to see these days as opportunities to engage further with the local Ithaca community.

With the ongoing pandemic, we are provided a unique opportunity to invest in the community. It is a perfect time to engage, explore and try new places. The next time you go to order on Amazon, consider heading downtown to support a local business instead.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send to ithacan@ithaca.edu.

ALL LETTERS MUST:

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

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send to ithacan@ithaca.edu or to the opinion editor akohli@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

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND SCIENCES (ENVS) ALUMNI LETTER, FEBRUARY 2021

Alumni support professor impacted by APP

Dear Dean Melanie Stein and Provost La Jerne Terry Cornish,

We, the alumni of the Ithaca College Environmental Studies and Sciences Department (ENVS), write to you in support of Dr. Fae Dremock, who is scheduled to be cut from the department as part of the Academic Prioritization Process.

Dr. Dremock was one of the most influential professors we encountered during our time as Ithaca College ENVS majors. She offers important and relevant coursework centering on environmental justice, communication, writing, and activism that is provided by no other professor in the department. Rather than focusing on the ways we have benefited from Dr. Dremock's expertise personally, we want to help the administration understand what the ENVS program as a whole stands to lose if she were cut.

The emphasis on hard sciences in the department needs to be balanced by learning skills in critical thinking and writing, particularly as part of a liberal arts school. As a human being and as a professor, Dr. Dremock models the importance of these skills. She speaks her mind, even when she risks being judged or dismissed. More often than not, she takes these risks on behalf of her students and their education. These traits are essential for sustaining a robust department and helping the ENVS program to grow. Most of the faculty in our department teach us how to write scientifically and objectively, which is of course a valuable and necessary skill. However, Dr. Dremock is the only professor who teaches us

environmental writing, with the purpose of capturing and holding the attention and the hearts of all audiences, including laypersons, across all genres. For example, some of the hottest global temperatures ever were recorded in 2020. How do climate scientists convey the urgency of these extreme temperatures to the world's citizens? It is nearly impossible to do that with, albeit detailed and accurate, very long and dry scientific reports. This is precisely where Dr. Dremock's expertise is crucial. She teaches her students how to convey the severity, the destruction, the loss, the heartbreak, the urgency, and the authentic human struggle associated with climate change and environmental destruction. She teaches us how to tell stories by modeling her own story. By revealing to her students what it was like to grow up poor and Hispanic in Texas and encouraging her students to showcase their own stories. ...

She is the only professor in the ENVS department who devotes her course content to issues of environmental activism and communication. In our experience, no other professor has discussed the intersection of racism, classism, wealth inequality, and sexism within the context of environmental action. She truly dives into the complex, multi-layered and multi-faceted nature of environmental justice. She forces her students to think, to contemplate, and to evaluate the decisions that they make as environmentalists. We know this because we've been in her courses. We've discussed the ethics of contami-



From left, Fae Dremock, assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences, and Denise O'Leary '17, celebrate commencement. O'Leary is one of the 19 signatories of the letter.

COURTESY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND SCIENCES

nation, disaster, and triage. We've contemplated the layers of decision making that goes hand in hand with addressing a crisis. In a time when this country is finally setting its sights on social and racial justice, this department (and Ithaca College) needs to step up our efforts to be more environmentally and socially conscientious. We gravely need her perspective, her coursework, and her expertise. We need to believe that the college truly values social and environmental justice, related degrees of study,

and faculty members who are leading the way.

On a personal note, Dr. Dremock gave us some of the most valuable writing skills of our college careers. She taught us how to examine our writing closely, how to engage an audience, how to write about the places we love, and most importantly, why we write what we write. Finally, as a mentor to students under her wing, she goes above and beyond what we have observed or experienced with many other professors. She invests

herself in the success of each and every one of her students, and, particularly when it comes to mentorship and advising, this is incredibly apparent.

We hope that this letter gives you a better understanding of how Dr. Fae Dremock contributes to the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences and what will be sacrificed if she is cut.

Sincerely,
ENVS Alumni '17-'20
View the signatures at theithacan.org/envsalumniletter.

ENVS LETTER TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, FEB. 12, 2021

ENVS faculty members share dismay over cuts

Dear Chair Lissy, and all members of the Ithaca College Board of Trustees,

The Faculty of the IC Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences write to you to share our dismay at both the process and result of the current Academic Prioritization Process (APP). The proposed cuts to our faculty will have far-reaching effects on our degree programs because each one of us represents specific specialty areas. Every faculty hire in ENVS was a strategic decision based on considered evaluation during external program review and consultation among faculty and administration for building strength in particular areas.

With these cuts, the administration has made curricular decisions regarding the shape of our B.A. and B.S. degrees and our minor. These decisions result in the de-facto determination of the substance of our curriculum without our input. As proposed, the recommendations would impact ENVS in many ways, including the following:

- The elimination of Dr. Fae Dremock's position means that students would lose her invaluable expertise in writing, science communication, and environmental humanities, as well as life experience in environmental advocacy and resilience as a first generation BIPOC (LatinX) woman. Dr. Dremock has been a powerful force promoting diversity and inclusion in ENVS. She has brought lived experience, empathy, and a tireless devotion to student learning that invites first-generation, low-income,

and students of color to find their place in environmental studies. She has created a center of gravity in our department around environmental and climate justice, one of the most important growth areas in environmental studies and a key leverage point for mainstreaming anti-racism, social justice, and inclusive excellence. Her removal extinguishes a vibrant and successful program in experiential environmental humanities, which included an international, peer-reviewed online journal (Alluvian) and



The proposed cuts to our faculty will have far-reaching effects on our degree programs because each one of us represents specific specialty areas.

— ENVS faculty members



a student-led online environmental communication outlet (Roots).

- The elimination of our part-time



Fae Dremock, assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences, joined the department in 2014. She has been laid off, effective May 2022.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

faculty members Mr. Tim Drake and Mr. Jed Jordan will result in the loss of irreplaceable expertise and teaching skill in experiential environmental education. Mr. Drake has been a leading force in contemplative pedagogy and in the formation of the Nature Rx program at IC.

It is particularly troubling that people were told their positions were cut based on the recommendations of the "draft" the Shape of the College were commenced — even before the document was publicly released. While

we are committed to providing our students with the best learning experience possible with the resources available, we owe our students and employees nothing less than to approach any necessary changes in a collaborative, strategic, and inclusive manner.

We respectfully request that the APP be paused and reconsidered with true collaboration and good-faith discussion on the actual future shape of Ithaca College.

Sincerely,
The Faculty of the Environmental Studies and Sciences Department

GUEST COMMENTARY

Anthropology alumni respond to proposed cuts

As students in the Department of Anthropology, we studied a most pressing question: What does it mean to be human? We learned that, in its most basic form, anthropology is the study of our own behavior, cultures, biology and evolution. Now as alumni, we have gone on to fulfilling careers, but, perhaps most importantly, are informed citizens with critical thinking skills and an appreciation for human diversity.

These experiences led us to disbelief when, in October 2020, Ithaca College announced that it would be dismissing at least 100 faculty due to concerns stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. In January 2021, the college's proposed layoff and program cuts were released and among other significant reductions and restructuring, faculty were informed that the Department of Anthropology would be dissolved.

We vehemently oppose the decision to dissolve the Department of Anthropology — an economic resolution without consideration for the enormous impact that anthropology has for a liberal arts education. Instead of embracing the Academic Program Prioritization as an opportunity to restructure anthropology and related departments in ways that best serve the interests of faculty and students, the college and the Academic Program Prioritization Implementation Committee (APPIC) opted for a shortsighted approach.

This choice demonstrates a clear lack of appreciation for the Department of Anthropology and its impact on the campus community. Along with their courses, students attend field schools, earn

departmental honors, contribute to publications as both students and alumni, present at conferences, give TedX talks, lead public seminars and bring notable speakers to campus. Anthropology majors are routinely selected to represent the Summer Scholars Program and join the National Anthropology Honors Society. Students across the college double major or minor in anthropology, demonstrating its inherent interdisciplinary nature. Moreover, the department provides significant numbers of general education courses through the Integrative Core Curriculum.

In addition to teaching, anthropology faculty members are world-class scholars, producing groundbreaking research, publishing in prestigious journals and presenting at national conferences. Faculty research contributes to students' holistic education, providing a glimpse into the wide impact anthropology has on the global community. With the proposed dissolution of the department, there will be fewer opportunities for seminars, research opportunities, honors, or notable speakers related to anthropology, and faculty research will suffer due to higher teaching loads and funding changes. Furthermore, it is unclear whether consideration has been given to the collection materials currently in the department's care, which require the expertise of anthropology faculty and are vital to students' education and training. Dissolving this department is an immense disservice to a community built



On the left, former anthropology students met with paleo-artist John Gurche. On the right, former anthropology student Macy O'Hearn '13 participated in the excavation of Myers Farm in 2013.

COURTESY OF LUKE ST. CLAIR AND MACY O'HEARN

over decades, including students currently enrolled, alumni who remain connected and future students who may never be exposed to the field of anthropology.

This decision does not demonstrate an "inclusive and holistic process" that "demonstrates a heartfelt compassion for faculty and staff," nor "affirms our institutional commitment to the liberal arts," as President Collado claims. Frankly, it is the opposite and it is insulting. It is even more difficult to accept in light of the recent loss of Dr. Sue-Je Gage, a tireless departmental champion and invaluable mentor. As we continue to grieve her passing, dissolving the department is a dismissal of her legacy. Despite claims that the anthropology major will be maintained, the program will

suffer needlessly due to this reckless restructuring, something other departments also face.

We urge the President, Provost and APPIC members to listen to the growing resistance among the Ithaca College community and reconsider the decision to dissolve the Department of Anthropology. We strongly believe that working closely with faculty to reimagine a department that both serves anthropology students and adheres to financial constraints makes the most sense for the college's future. If the purpose of the APPIC is to prioritize and preserve the education of Ithaca College students, the proposed dissolution of the Department of Anthropology is antithetical to this goal.

Signed by: Stefanie Mercado

Altman '13; Alexis Anthony '14; Shannon Anthony '14; Hannah Antonson '13; Alison Armour '16; Emma Heath Bealo '13; Margaret Butler '17; Cristin Carlin '13; Alison Carter '13; Bella Ciabattini '13; Valerie Falconieri '13; Kasey Gregory '19; Kaitlyn Gough '18; Jamie Hom '13; Brittany Kenyon-Flatt '13; Gabriel Lefferts '15; Amber Zdrozny Lessard '13; Danie Martin '17; Walter Martzen '19; Paula Merkle '18; Macy O'Hearn '14; Page Plocic '14; Cherrie Rhodes '11; Erin Mahon Scott '16; Kayla Sewell '14; Alison Siegel '16; Michael Spears '10; Zoe Vock '14; Kassie Wahlstrom '14; Talia Watson '11; Theodora Weatherby '16; Adam Netzer Zimmer '13.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Implementation of APP neglects space for grief

BY ANNA GARDNER

I am, like so many others, dismayed with the impending decision that the resizing of the college will move forward. But the resizing isn't the problem, it is a symptom of the problem. The real problem is the other unsustainable models the college can't seem to shake.

From a growing reliance on an abusive system of adjunct faculty, to taps on the wrist for racist, homophobic and bigoted teaching by tenured faculty, and probation for staff who dare to question their organizational divisions, the wounds inflicted by Tom Rochon were still fresh at the beginning of President Collado's inauguration. Like a traumatized dog that's been taken in by a shelter, just shaving off all the matted fur and giving them a new name does not make a companion. You have to build their trust, or they will continue to bite and lash out.

Those who implemented these unfavorable working conditions at the college are mostly no longer a part of it, minus some choice white men who still serve as trustees. From my last academic year on campus, 2018–2019, five new vice presidents have joined the Senior Leadership Team. Their allegiance is not held to the campus community members whose time on campus outlasts theirs, but to the bottom line. I am holding out hope that our president and provost are in it for the long haul, and I know I'm not the only one. But I beg you to call a spade a spade. This isn't "holistic" or

"innovative." This sucks.

Staff and contingent faculty are my friends. Hardly any campuswide acknowledgment of their furloughs-turned-to-layoffs has occurred. It seems as though staff have no review process written into their handbook when major reorganization happens at the college — just a private conversation with their dean or supervisor with the expectation they will quietly pack their things and go. And for those further down the chopping block, beyond their Zoom screen, a suffocated panic is taking place to find a side hustle to cover day-



I don't know when or if the campus community will be able to rally behind Ithaca Forever.

— Anna Gardner



care costs or make sure their unemployment can cover the rent.

I don't know when or if the campus



Anna Gardner '19 graduated with degrees in film, photography and visual arts and art history. While at Ithaca College, she was an inaugural Presidential Fellow.

JACKIE MARUSIAK/THE ITHACAN

community will be able to rally behind Ithaca Forever. For my respective constituency, alumni, in 2019, only 6% of the 70,000+ of us make a donation of any amount to the college. I don't think this is indicative of an unwillingness to ever give. I do think the Division of Philanthropy and Engagement is out of touch with its donor base. Unfortunately, emails in my inbox about a COVID-19 potential superspreader event where "Bombers were involved at several levels, all the way up to the owner's suite," while whole departments are being axed doesn't motivate me to give. There's an upcoming day of giving on March 18 that may want to commit to transparency rather than gloss over the current turbulence on campus. Thankfully the Board of Trustees outlined what not to say to alumni

who are rightfully upset about their programs being cut (i.e. saying the goal for a more sustainable financial model "is not simply about reductions ... as the college is also currently investing in new areas of study.")

We are still in a pandemic and these layoffs need to stop. To those who were furloughed and sought new jobs under their pay grade, to those who will have to continue to teach until their termination date, to those who have to stay quiet for fear of retaliation, to all those who may be swept under the "Shape of the College," you deserve better.

ANNA GARDNER is a 2019 Ithaca College graduate. Contact her at agardner1@ithaca.edu.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Alumni must be involved in APP

Ithaca College alumni have not been consulted about the “Shape of the College.” Two weeks ago, alumni sought to rectify this gap by organizing a virtual Town Hall. It was attended by nearly 150 community members who expressed serious concern with the Senior Leadership Team’s (SLT) decision to cut important members of our community. These concerns have been echoed in national coverage as well as the numerous heartfelt testimonials alumni have provided.

We shared our collective concerns with the Board of Trustees through our alumni letter, which includes a pledge to earmark donations to preserve people and programs. We are excited about realizing this pledge and becoming recognized as more substantive participants in IC’s public, pedagogical and financial future. It is our professors and programs we remember, and it is to them we want our donations to flow.

Our letter was accompanied by a request to meet with the Board and SLT. On Feb. 15, Board Chairperson David H. Lissy responded via email that such a meeting is “impossible.” President Collado also declined a meeting with our network, without explanation, even though she touts she is always “listening.” Considering so few alumni have been able to



Dave Lissy '87, Ithaca College Board of Trustees Chair, and Vice Chair Jim Nolan '77 meet with the campus community in October 2019. Some alumni are unsatisfied with the board.

ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN

speak with the SLT directly, the stakes are far too high to write anything off as “impossible.”

Lissy shared that the board met with the Alumni Association Board of Directors and had a “productive dialogue,” but the majority of alumni were neither informed nor involved with these behind-the-scenes meetings and, thus, were not adequately represented.

Real equity would require sustainable endowments; real faculty governance would mean both open books and an openness to the processes of collective bargaining; real

sustainability would be holistic, not a slash-and-burn that keeps administrative bloat, financial accumulation and outsized service spending intact. A real liberal arts mission, more to the point, would mean cherished programs are preserved and workers are considered indispensable.

The fallout from the current path will be dire. It will further alienate the alumni base, sever institutional memory, erode degree value, increase unsavory public relations, dilute the educational experience and dampen donations,

forever changing the landscape of what has made IC distinct and valued. This is not the future we want, but it is the one that leadership is shuttling towards with hastened and myopic pace. It is time to acknowledge that the strategic plan has failed and has already fractured our community. We must now take the time to pool our creative and critical resources for a truly sustainable vision.

Sincerely,
Chris Zivalich '12; Sara-Maria Sorentino '08; Sarah Grunberg '08; Greg Peterson '09; Samantha DiFalco '18

GUEST COMMENTARY

Performative activism is not allyship

BY SHARIFA ABUKARI

Black History Month has always been a bittersweet moment of respect. I smile and joke around when non-Black people wish me a happy Black History Month, jest and jeer when fellow Black people throw it into conversation. But I am always reminded that to many non-Black Americans, the relevance of Black creatives, inventors, writers, intellectuals, children, families and their stories is fleeting.

Non-Black Americans are reminded every February that Black lives not only matter, but are essential to the fabric of their society. They are allowed to casually forget these truths the rest of the 11 months, unless of course a Black person being brutally murdered is retweeted onto their timeline. Then, they have no choice but to feel something — anger, guilt, sadness or frustration — but only long enough to reach out to their closest Black friend and dump their emotions onto them under the guise of “condolences” and “sympathy.”

It is hard to enjoy a month dedicated to the excellence of my people knowing that we are excellent year round.

I am tired of my white peers being performative allies by only attending protests occasionally and reposting black squares on their Instagrams whenever a Black life is taken. Time and time again, my white peers have proven to me that whether or not they are perceived as being racist is more important to them than acknowledging and actively dismantling the inherent racist ideologies they harbor unknowingly. White fragility prevents them from understanding that only respecting Black voices in fleeting moments is an act of racism and erasure of Black people.



Junior Sharifa Abukari reflects on white fragility. She hopes that non-Black people will execute true allyship more than once a year for Black History Month.

MIKAYLA ELWELL/THE ITHACAN

I once lost a good friend because her inability to see past white fragility prevented her from listening to what I had to say. She accused me of using Vodun, a West African religion based on the worship of spirits and nature, to “do something” bad to her, an act she presumed led to her bank account getting hacked. One of my Black friends, who was in the room during the accusation, confronted her and told her that her actions were racist and violent. She responded, “Every time I act out or erupt, your first instinct is to turn the conversation to race.” When I spoke to her after, trying to reason with her and tell her why that exact mentality was racist, she became defensive. She proceeded to tell me it didn’t make sense for me to say she was racist because she cared about my pain during the height of the Black Lives Matter protests last summer.

With white fragility and performative activism running rampant in the minds of

well-meaning white people, it is becoming increasingly impossible to actually educate and bring attention to Black voices outside of the spaces and timelines deemed appropriate by white people.

To call oneself an ally requires tedious research, comprehension and deconstruction of, in some cases, core beliefs rooted in oppression. It is not easy and it is not pretty, but it is your job to listen to Black voices, even when they are telling you something that is uncomfortable to hear. The first thing allies should do is listen and create spaces for Black voices to be heard and understood.

The only road to equality and liberation is one paved with the blood, sweat and tears of those whose ancestors worked hand-in-hand to build the systems of oppression we face today.

SHARIFA ABUKARI is a junior journalism major. Contact her at sabukari@ithaca.edu.



ASK A FRESHMAN

MIKAYLA TOLLIVER

How has adjusting to campus been?

Being on campus for the first time is like starting college for a second time. In a completely remote first semester, I found that the academics of online school were the only aspect of college I had to worry about. Open up the laptop, sign in and deal with the side effects of online school.

Admittedly, last semester wasn’t entirely bad. I made connections with some of my peers from my freshman seminar, realizing later that I already had friends on campus. It’s much easier to connect with people once you’re in person. I also figured out that I have another academic interest. I met people with a major that sounded interesting to me, and I realized I could major in this too: cinema and photography. I have always loved the concept of visual storytelling in addition to the written ones I express through my writing major.

Being on campus is not what I expected. Having attended a summer writing program at Ithaca College a couple summers ago, I had memories of what campus was like in a pre-pandemic world. I thought I knew what the college would be like, but did not consider the small details that have changed. This includes everything from limited events to only walking down and up certain staircases. In my first few days on campus, I felt lost. Everything was overwhelming, especially the dining hall with its long lines and blasting music. Adjusting to living in a dorm room is definitely a challenge. I’ve never shared a room with another person, communal bathrooms aren’t favorable and being in an entirely new location made me feel lost internally.



I thought I knew what the college would be like, but did not consider the small details that have changed.

— Mikayla Tolliver



There’s a kind of loneliness that is involved with the first days of moving to campus. We’re trying to adjust to new habits and responsibilities, all while attempting to make new friends and connections. My advice is that people, friends, come with time. On my first two nights on campus, I grew frustrated wondering how I could make friends quicker. I soon realized this was flawed thinking because forcing friendships is never enjoyable.

Being on campus poses its own challenge, like being around a large number of people during a pandemic. I do, however, feel safer than I thought I would. I would never wish to return to a completely remote semester. On campus, I’ve met people beyond a screen, got to explore campus, study in the library, laugh with friends and still have time to be with myself and learn independence.

ASK A FRESHMAN is a column that answers questions about the freshman experience. MIKAYLA TOLLIVER is a freshman writing and cinema double major. Contact her at mtolliver@ithaca.edu.

STREAMING IN STYLE WITH FLAME NIGHT FEVER VIRTUAL DRAG SHOW BRINGS QUEENS TO SMALL SCREENS

BY EMILY LUSSIER

For many Ithaca drag fans, the third Thursday of every month is special. After a long day of work, they rally together, dressing up in their shiniest clothes and putting on their flashiest makeup, excited for what will no doubt be a thrilling night. Once everyone is all glammed up, they walk to the couch, open up a laptop and pull up Flame Night Fever, a virtual drag and burlesque show, on Twitch.

From performers in colorful little dresses dancing to hits from “Mamma Mia,” to others geared up in leather, posing on motorcycles while lip-syncing to Britney Spears, Flame Night Fever has a little bit of everything for everyone.

“We usually make a nice cocktail, put on a spicy lip color, and I’ll always dress up for it,” Shelby Buche ’18 said. “Even if there’s only a few people there, it’s always a special, exciting time, and for me it really did replace going in person to those types of events and seeing those exact people.”

Flame Night Fever was created during the pandemic, in May 2020, by co-hosts and producers Tilia Cordata and Kitschy Scofflaw ’17. It streams on the third Thursday of every month on Twitch a video livestreaming platform. The suggested donation is \$1–20 through Venmo or PayPal, and tipping individual performers is encouraged.

Flame Night Fever is a variety show rooted in drag and burlesque but also featuring an eclectic mix of performance art, including circus acts and puppeteers. Depending on the individual performer and their style, drag and burlesque often features provocative, sometimes comedic performances with dancing, singing or lip-syncing, lavish costumes and makeup.

Scofflaw said Flame Night Fever hosts performers with a range of experiences. They said some performances are basic, one-take shots while others are highly edited. Cordata and

Scofflaw host the show live, engaging with the audience through the comment section and introducing each pre-recorded act.

“Because people can create the video art in advance, they can do things that you could never do live that are just incredibly unique and amazing,” attendee Prince Cunningham said.

Cordata said that at the start of the pandemic, she and Scofflaw were working together on “Drag Me to School” — a program at Cornell University’s LGBT Resource Center that Cordata started three years ago — when they decided to create a virtual drag show as well.

“It was kind of pitched as a one-time thing, and then as we were planning it, we were seeing the amount of interest, and we were like, ‘Oh maybe we’ll do a couple more,’” Cordata said. “Then as the pandemic stretched out, we realized it just was a recurring thing because this wasn’t going away.”

Lea Davis, technical director of Flame Night Fever, said the first few Flame Night Fever shows were held on Zoom before moving to Twitch. She said she began using Open Broadcaster Software (OBS), a cross-platform streaming and recording program, to livestream on Twitch. Davis, a theater lighting designer, said that when the pandemic hit, she had to learn new skills in order to keep working, like how to use OBS and livestream.

“When [COVID-19] hit, when your whole career is based on events and gatherings, everything stopped for me,” Davis said.

Davis said Flame Night Fever gets 150 to 200 unique visitors every show from all over the world.

Scofflaw said virtual shows are very different from in-person shows, especially because the audience interaction and energy is so different.

“Every once in a while I have that moment during the show where I’m just like, ‘I’m just screaming at my computer for two hours. This



Lulu La Femme and Perka Sexxx are two performers featured in Flame Night Fever.
COURTESY OF FLAME NIGHT FEVER

is weird,” Cordata said.

Cordata said the comment section helps her feel reconnected to the LGBTQ community amid the pandemic.

“I got into drag and have persisted through drag mostly for community involvement, like building spaces for the community and being visible,” she said.

Cordata said Flame Night Fever does activism work. They assemble resources for anti-racism and also donate a portion of their profits to local or national organizations every month.

Davis said that while hosting, Cordata and Scofflaw try to promote an interactive comment section through trivia, games and jokes.

“We’ve just gotten comfortable on the air in a way that almost feels like a bar and like a communal space online, but it’s taken a really long time to adjust to that,” Davis said.

Davis said Flame Night Fever’s stream has gotten kicked off of Twitch a few times due to restrictive policies about sexual content and nudity on the platform. According to its Community Guidelines, Twitch restricts all content that “involves nudity or is sexual in nature,” including sexually explicit and sexually suggestive content. Sexually suggestive content includes groping or explicit gestures, erotic dances and pole dances.

“We’ve learned how to finagle around it,” Scofflaw said. “We don’t put burlesque in the tags ... on Twitch because that kind of flags it for them, and we try to put anything more risqué toward the end because it does take a minute for them to take the stream down.”

Despite these restrictions, Flame Night Fever performers have complete freedom in their performances, though they are asked to keep guidelines in mind, Cordata said.

“It’s very much their own creativity and their art that we’re just showcasing,” she said.

The next show, Flame Night Heartburn, will be at 8 p.m. Feb. 18. Scofflaw said the theme for this show is Valentine’s Day-inspired.

Like usual, there is a lineup of 10 performers for the show, Scofflaw said. Each show has a different lineup, though there are some frequent performers, they said. Scofflaw said Flame Night Fever is always accepting submissions at flamenightfever@gmail.com.

One performer returning to Flame Night Fever is Veruka Dagger ’18, an Ithaca College alum based in Los Angeles. Dagger said that through her ties to Scofflaw and Cordata, she got involved with Flame Night Fever during its first show in May and has performed a few

times since. She said that though there are some drawbacks to virtual drag shows, like the disconnect between performers and the audience, she appreciates the level of control performers have over their work. They have the power to record and to delete, making it easier to brand themselves, Dagger said.

“I think something that’s great about digital drag shows and Flame Night Fever is that what you put out there is 100% authentically you,” she said.

Seasoned performers like Dagger will also be sharing the virtual stage in Flame Night Heartburn with newbies like Brooklyn Bridges, a former Ithaca College student and recent Cornell transfer.

Bridges said she started doing drag before coming to Ithaca College. She said she got into the local drag scene and was inspired by other performers, including Dagger.

Bridges said she has been refining her makeup and dance skills during the pandemic. However, she said she knows a lot of college queens who were not able to practice their crafts during quarantine like she was.

“I know for other queens, it’s been really difficult because either they are very focused on getting a paycheck because clubs are shut down and performance venues are shut down [or they] ... didn’t have access to their stuff or were in spaces that weren’t safe for them to make their art,” Bridges said.

For her first Flame Night Fever performance, Bridges will be performing to “Cyber Sex” by Doja Cat.

“My name was out there, and they know I’m a busted baby queen, but luckily they’re placing their trust in me to perform, and I will not disappoint,” Bridges said.

Davis said Flame Night Fever is important because it is a gathering place — though not a physical one — for the LGBTQ community. She said she feels appreciative of the community the show has cultivated.

“I think there is a wide audience for drag,” Davis said. “I think I kind of forget this living in Ithaca, but there are a lot of queer people out there who are really seeking queer art and creativity. ... When I feel my best about this, I remember that we are really helping people see one another.”



Hannah the Hatchet will be performing in Flame Night Heartburn at 8 p.m. Feb. 18 on Twitch.
COURTESY OF FLAME NIGHT FEVER



RETURN TO CAMPUS
STUDENTS ADAPT TO COLLEGE LIFE DURING THE PANDEMIC

Freshman Vanivy Delaney hugs her mother as she finishes moving into her dorm Jan. 28. Ithaca College students must remain in Tompkins County for the entirety of the semester. ALYSSA BEEBE/THE ITHACAN



Residential Director Tanner Jones helps Freshman Ava Goossen with check-in Jan. 28 at the A&E Center. ALYSSA BEEBE/THE ITHACAN



Students lined up to check into their housing Jan. 28 at the A&E Center before starting a mandatory 24-hour quarantine. ALYSSA BEEBE/THE ITHACAN



Sophomores Rachel Rose and Meredith Garrity work in the Ithaca College Library during the first mini-break Feb. 16. The college is giving students five of these in place of this semester's spring break. MIKAYLA ELWELL/THE ITHACAN



Cyndy Scheibe, professor in the Department of Psychology, teaches a hybrid classroom of students in person and on Zoom Feb. 15 in the Emerson Suites. ASH BAILOTT/THE ITHACAN



IC Square provides a space on campus where students can remove their masks to eat. ASH BAILOTT/THE ITHACAN



Freshman Scout Frost walks through the "Entrance Only" doors into Phillips Hall on Feb. 2. BEC LEGATO/THE ITHACAN

Students march to the rhythm in drum corps

BY MADDY MARTIN

In addition to their weekly school work, some Ithaca College students spend hours practicing their instruments, working out and rehearsing routines so they can be in top shape for the competitive world of Drum Corps International (DCI).

DCI, described as “Marching Music’s Major League,” is a league of elite, competitive brass ensembles for students up to the age of 21. The DCI season runs from late June to the second week of August when performing groups and drum corps travel around the country and compete with each other. During competitions, teams perform complex marching routines that combine music with physical movement to create an auditory and visual spectacle. There are two divisions within DCI: the larger World Class and the smaller Open Class. Drum corps are independent organizations, usually not part of a scholastic institution, and have a membership limit set at 150.

DCI has no official tie to Ithaca College, but Alexander Shuhan, professor in the Department of Music Performance, said he has had several students participate in DCI in the past.

Sophomore Justin Lordi, a marching baritone player for the Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps, a World Class drum corps, said he was first exposed to drum corps in 2018 when his high school band director showed him a video of a drum corps performance. Shortly after, Lordi said he begged his parents to bring him to his first drum corps show.

“The sound was insane,” Lordi said. “The presence of everyone in the core and the brass hitting in phases, it was a sound I’d never heard before,

and I was like, ‘I want to do that. That would be amazing.’”

When he was 16, sophomore Isaac Schneider, a euphonium player for the Spartans Drum and Bugle Corps, an Open Class drum corps, said he saw a drum corps show in Chicago and became obsessed with it.

“I was immediately like, ‘This is something I have to do,’” Schneider said. “When I became a junior in high school I started deciding, ‘I’m going to major in music education and go all into this music thing.’ That’s when I decided I was going to start seriously looking into drum corps.”

Sophomore Timothy White, a euphonium player for the Blue Knights Drum and Bugle Corps, a World Class drum crop, said he had wanted to do drum corps since he was a kid because his older brother was a member of the Hurricanes Drum and Bugle Corps, a drum corps that is part of the Drum Corps Associates (DCA). DCA is a separate league from DCI that allows members of all ages. While he was in high school, White joined the Hurricanes himself.

“When I was going through really tough times in my life, it gave me a family,” White said. “The DCA guys were already attuned to my family because of my brother so joining them with big open arms was really nice.”

Schneider said he auditioned for the Phantom Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps during his senior year of high school without expectation of getting in so he could have the experience of auditioning.

Schneider didn’t make the Phantom Regiment but later auditioned with Shadow Drum and Bugle Corps.



Sophomore Timothy White completes an online assignment for the Blue Knights Drum and Bugle Corps. Drum corps members keep in touch and practice over Zoom amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

COURTESY OF TIMOTHY WHITE

Schneider said he got a contract but wasn’t in the financial situation with entering his first year of college to pay the corps fees. During November and December of 2019, Schneider auditioned for the Spartans and made it in.

“I signed the contract and accepted my spot, and that was when it really started, but then COVID kind of ruined it,” Schneider said.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March 2020, the DCI 2020 season was canceled. Despite having just joined their respected corps a few months before, Schneider, Lordi and White were left practicing with their respective corps members over Zoom.

Lordi said the Cadets have continued to hold virtual rehearsals on Zoom. The corps sent out dance routines for members to perform on their own, Lordi said, and post videos of in a Facebook group. Lordi said he was left practicing wherever he could.

“I would just find a space that I had enough room in and went, ‘Alright I’ll do it here,’” Lordi said. “Sometimes I would do it in the basement of my parents’ house. Here on campus, I would find a really big practice room in the School of Music and do the visual stuff there.”

Despite not having the chance to compete yet and only communicating with their corps members on-

line, Lordi, White and Schneider said there is a strong sense of community within their drum corps.

“At the core of [drum corps] it is about being a family first, and through this family, uplifting people to be disciplined, productive community members who can communicate beyond music and be outstanding individuals,” Schneider said. “There’s this musical and performative aspect that’s really competitive, but the culture extends to ... building a community and family of people that can be taken into the real world.”

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Professor’s documentary captures life on the border

BY KATHERINE KROM

Every year, hundreds of people cross the Chihuahuan Desert in Mexico for two weeks, traveling into the United States on horseback. Cathy Crane, associate professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies, depicts this scene in her new documentary “Crossing Columbus.”

“Crossing Columbus” was featured online by the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. Feb. 10–16 and was shown at Cornell Cinema in October. The National Gallery of Art also showcased “El Mar La Mar,” a documentary by Joshua Bonnetta, associate professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies, in February. “El Mar La Mar” is about the oral history of the Sonoran Desert on the U.S.-Mexico border.

“It’s been an odd year to introduce a film into the world,” Crane said. “When you make films, it is very nice to know that they will be seen. I am always very grateful for an opportunity to have my work be accessible to people who would otherwise not see it.”

Crane began working on “Crossing Columbus” in 2016 while finishing her previous film, “The Manhattan Front.” “Crossing Columbus” is focused on Columbus, New Mexico, a small border town. During the height of the Mexican Revolution in 1916, Mexican revolutionary general Pancho Villa raided Columbus. Crane said that each year, the residents of Columbus commemorate the event by crossing the U.S.-Mexico border on horseback.

Crane said she learned about the event when she was looking for archives for “The Manhattan Front,” her first feature-length fiction film, and found material of the U.S. Army on horses

in the New Mexico desert.

“I was born and raised in Arizona, so I found that strange,” said Crane. “Horses in the desert aren’t strange, but an army in the desert is.”

Crane proposed a documentary about the event for a sabbatical in 2017 and applied for residency in New Mexico.

Crane worked with two alumni Daniel Masciari ’15 and Cory Dahn ’14 on the documentary. Masciari was the film editor for “Crossing Columbus” after working with Crane on “The Manhattan Front.” Masciari said that the team filmed 200 hours of footage and spent a year and a half cutting it into 80 minutes.

While filming, Masciari said the team focused on the shot of the border fence and how powerful an object that divides two countries can be.

“I think if there is one thing that the audience should take away, it’s the absurdity and the bizarre nature of a physical division between two countries,” Masciari said. “This film is not really that political a film. There are implicit political things, but you can be on many sides of the spectrum and have a similar experience. ... So when you are watching this film, you realize that people don’t forget what has happened and people’s memories are really strong.”

Dahn is from New Jersey and said that working on this film in Mexico took him out of his comfort zone.

“I am not really a Spanish speaker,” Dahn said. “I can understand a little bit, but it’s not a strength of mine. Cathy told me to ‘Walk across the border into Juárez, and Antonio, our translator, is going to pick you up and drive you



Cathy Crane, associate professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies, traveled to New Mexico for her new film. This is a still from the trailer.

COURTESY OF CATHY CRANE

out to where you are going to film and meet up with the horse ride.’ That was a pretty surreal moment. I don’t know how much you know about the city of Juárez, but it’s not exactly considered a very safe place to be.”

Crane said the filming of the documentary was a learning experience for her as well.

“I am not a fan of the talking head,” Crane said. “I don’t really like to photograph people talking. The atmosphere, the audio recording in the desert, is perhaps one of the most difficult things to do, and do well. I had a sound designer that got all that material; he did incredible work with that.”

With the coronavirus pandemic still present, Crane said that many film productions and viewings are still in question with theaters closed and festivals canceled. Now that the film is finished, Crane said she will be taking a break.

“I do enjoy the times when I am not traveling, like during COVID,” Crane said. “I just read and think through ideas and sort of wander around in my little house and go for walks. For me that is also part of the creative process.”

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Period piece loses itself to convoluted storyline

FILM REVIEW: "L'ultimo paradiso/ The Last Paradiso" Silver Productions



BY SYDNEY BRUMFIELD

If modern soap operas no longer carry enough drama and passion, look no further than "L'ultimo paradiso," *The Last Paradiso*. Directed by Rocco Ricciardulli, this Italian film paints a narrative of love, loss, vengeance and betrayal while class warfare ensues throughout a village in the Apulia region of Italy in the 1950s.

Inspired by true stories Ricciardulli heard from his mother during his youth, the story follows Ciccio Paradiso (Riccardo Scamarcio) as he fights for better living conditions for himself and his fellow villagers. The community is composed of olive farmers who live under the thumb of Cumpà Schettino (Antonio Gerardi), the mayor of the village and owner of one of the largest olive farms, who refuses to pay them living wages. As Ciccio's movement gains momentum, tensions mounting in his private life begin to take precedence.

Ciccio, despite being married, falls madly in love with Schettino's daughter, Bianca Schettino (Gaia Bermami Amaral). After Ciccio mixes business with pleasure, chaos ensues in the lives of the Paradiso family and their village. The complex twists and turns in the characters' lives and high-stakes scenarios give this film the feel of an Italian soap opera.

Though interesting and jam-packed with conflict, the plot is confusing as characters' stories grow increasingly tangled with one another's. Deeply hidden family secrets emerge around every corner, throwing more complications into this already dense narrative. Most notably, rather than using the established cast of characters to resolve the conflicts created, new and estranged characters come completely out of left field with little to no set up. These sporadic additions muddy the overall denouement of the story.



"L'ultimo paradiso" is a melodramatic Italian film that tells a story of love, loss and betrayal in 1950s Italy. The film is beautifully shot, but its convoluted plot leaves the audience confused.

COURTESY OF SILVER PRODUCTIONS



COURTESY OF SILVER PRODUCTIONS

As a whole, the writers are unsuccessfully torn between telling two stories. On one hand, they depict the rise and fall of Ciccio and how his own selfishness is his greatest enemy. At the same time, they depict Italy post-WWII as it grapples with immense inequality following the fall of its fascist regime and the placement of a weak government. At times, Ciccio's personal conflict serves to successfully mirror the socioeconomic conflict in Italy, but more often than not, these dual plots come across as cluttered and difficult to follow.

The film beautifully matches color with on-screen conflict. At the beginning of the film — as Ciccio and Bianca's love blossoms and there seems to be nothing but hope for the

farmers' uprising against Schettino — the film utilizes natural lighting. Additionally, the characters wear brighter and more vibrant costumes in the first half of the film. With the emergence of doom and as the conflicts begin downward spirals, the lighting becomes white and gray. For the second half of the film, the characters' costumes also shift to being much darker. This creates an effective visual strategy that enhances the viewer's emotions.

The forbidden romance between Ciccio and Bianca is the most enticing element of the film. The dialogue written between the two characters is melodic. Their most poetic lines, like, "Every time I see you, it's like my head is on fire and I can't make sense of anything," whisk the

audience off into the dreamscape of these two lovers. Scamarcio and Amaral's performances are extremely compelling, and their chemistry is palpable. Despite Ciccio already being married, the filmmakers do an excellent job of getting the audience to root for these star-crossed lovers.

Though well-intentioned, "L'ultimo paradiso" crammed as much as it could into its story, making it overwhelming at times. This period-piece romance is packed to the brim with drama and convoluted twists that may captivate some viewers but leave others confused and browsing for other titles.

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Emotions of promising film thrown off by soundtrack

FILM REVIEW: "Little Big Women" Each Other Films



BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

One of the most striking lines of dialogue in Joseph Hsu's film "Little Big Women" is, "Practicing Buddhism depends on fate." For the women of the new Mandarin-language Netflix film, fate has rigged their family on a slippery slope of grief. The Buddhist philosophy — which teaches followers that fate is user-controlled — is in contradiction with their actions and their words.

Set in Taiwan, the film follows a widow named Lin Shoying (Shu-Fang Chen) and her three adult daughters after the family patriarch has passed away. But the truth is, he was never really present in their lives to begin with. So, how do they grieve him?

This question rings throughout most of "Little Big Women." Despite making ambitious ventures into exploring what it means to grieve, the film is seriously burdened by the thick, sticky layer of schmaltz that was poured into too many of its scenes, right from the beginning. In the opening scene, Lin is shopping at a market and interacting with the happy-go-lucky shop owners who give her free seafood. A gleeful accordion plays in the background. Cheap hits at sweetness like this appear throughout the film.

Once "Little Big Women" gets into it, there is much drama to be had. After the death of Lin's unnamed husband, the actors bring

sensitive performances to grief, particularly Lin's eldest daughter Ching (Ying-Hsuan Hsieh). The actors invest mortality into the front end of their characters' identities, as they now have to individually question their role as women in their family and their place in society.

One of the wins that "Little Big Women" scores is by creating grief-driven friction between Lin and her daughters. In a dinner scene that cleverly positions them in front of their father's funeral shrine, Lin unloads on her daughters about how she believes they failed the family. She continues this behavior throughout the film. Any psychologist would put her in the anger stage of grief.

Lin's heavy hands bear down on her daughters as she criticizes their lives, their decisions and their dreams. Lin's failure to recognize that her harshness is motivated by grief creates an affecting and captivating dilemma that many families have experienced.

As the tragedies of the film continue — like when Ching comes down with a major health issue — the film develops a pattern that is sure to disappoint audiences. When a scene has silence and allows the actors to perform without the soundtrack, the film hits solid emotional punches. When a scene includes its exceptionally unexceptional score of overused orchestral swellings, the emotion is lost. The shame is that a version of "Little Big Women"



"Little Big Women" is a Mandarin-language film with excellent cinematography and performances from its actors. However, a mismatched soundtrack drags it down.

COURTESY OF EACH OTHER FILMS

with a less prominent score would be a great film. In too many scenes, Hsu uses the score as a crutch when he doesn't need one. A scene at the end of Lin singing karaoke while crying features a melodramatic orchestral composition that changes the scene from moving to unintentionally funny.

"Little Big Women" isn't all bad on the technical aspects. In terms of cinematography, the film kills it. Crisp, coordinated and colorful, the visual design of the film uses the world that surrounds the family to its benefit. When Lin cries in a temple at the end

of the film, the composition choices and production design make for a visually and emotionally memorable scene.

Despite the shortcomings of "Little Big Women," Hsu has shown potential to become a great filmmaker. With delicate performances, active cinematography, strong themes and an incredibly out-of-place soundtrack, "Little Big Women" is a great film trapped in the body of a bland film.

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Drama detaches from reality of romance

MOVIE REVIEW: "Malcolm & Marie" Little Lamb Productions



BY JACKSON NOEL

What role nepotism plays in the failure of "Malcolm & Marie," Netflix's latest award-winning disaster, should be obvious. The film, written and directed by Sam Levinson — son of Oscar-winning director Barry Levinson — and costarring John David Washington — son of Denzel Washington — plays out like a deeply privileged take on the failure of relationships that only growing up in the padded upper echelon of Hollywood could provide.

Malcolm (John David Washington) and Marie (Zendaya Coleman) roll up to their secluded mini-mansion after a night of praise at the premiere of Malcolm's latest film. All is well until Marie reveals that her exclusion from Malcolm's thank you speech opened deep wounds in their relationship. Such begins an exhausting argument lasting over an hour between two people who love to yell. Unfortunately, despite all the noise, they fail to sell a realistic depiction of 21st century romance.

Their spat takes many forms, moving through discussions of life and relationships to quibbling about the general public's lack of appreciation for art. None of the debating feels convincing, a fatal flaw considering that shouting is all "Malcolm & Marie" has to offer. The script works more to showcase the biggest words Levinson can muster rather than to explain how these two mismatched fighters fell in love in the first place. This approach to depicting a relationship looks inspired by how lovers interact in a cheesy acting class instead of the real world.

"Malcolm & Marie" also functions as an example of Hollywood attempting to cash in on ready-made, micro-budget films created during the COVID-19 pandemic. The overhead for

this film is minimal, with only two cast members and one location. While not exactly a respite from the news — Malcolm provides a brief excuse for why they spend a night of celebration isolated rather than at an after-party — the eight-month turnaround for "Malcolm & Marie" works as evidence for how the upper class is handling the pandemic.

Filmed on sultry black and white 35 mm film stock, "Malcolm & Marie" tries to evoke the independent spirit of early John Cassavetes or the Hollywood New Wave, minus any of the rugged authenticity. The camera roams freely around the interior, following Malcolm's exaggerated dancing and Marie's sly eye rolls. The presentation is unfortunately too flashy for material so hollow.

The easy standout is Zendaya's performance as Marie. For all the film's overstated arguing, her physical movements are subtle but noticeable. At the same time, it should surprise no one that the most talented actor in the microscopic cast excels. Early in the film, the audience aligns with Marie solely because her character actually feels invested in the situation, making everything that comes afterward feel one-sided. A depressing waste of Zendaya's talent.

Perhaps a more apt title would have been "Malcolm Versus Marie." For the extent of the taxing experience, Malcolm and Marie spend little time actually on the same side. Rarely does a film appear so detached from reality in terms of both what makes a romance interesting or what audiences want to see. The most rational conclusion for the creation of this film is that "Malcolm & Marie" is what happens without movie theaters for a year.

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"Malcolm & Marie" is an out-of-touch film that attempts to mimic the independent feel of New Wave Hollywood.

COURTESY OF LITTLE LAMB PRODUCTIONS

Rock band sticks to formula

ALBUM REVIEW: "Medicine at Midnight" Roswell Records



BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

Foo Fighters probably won't be making any new fans with its 10th studio album, "Medicine at Midnight." It is shamelessly a Foo Fighters record — loud, fun and awesome. Fans will love it to death, and everyone else will be left with their ears ringing and their heads shaking, which is both a good and a bad thing.

The band had planned to celebrate its 25th anniversary with the album release of "Medicine at Midnight" and a tour visiting cities that the band toured through in 1995, all before COVID-19 stopped the Fighters in their tracks. Having performed a sorrowful yet timely rendition of its song "Times Like These" on Saturday Night Live in November and more recently at the inauguration of President Joe Biden, "Medicine at Midnight" was ripe for release Feb. 5.

If there is one thing to respect about Foo Fighters, it is its reliability. "Medicine at Midnight" is a solid album with entertaining tracks, similar to many of the band's previous albums like "One by One" and

"Wasting Light." Although there isn't much new that Foo Fighters bring to "Medicine at Midnight" — especially lyrically — there is still much fun to be had.

The album stumbles out of the gate with the exceptionally cliché song "Making a Fire." While the other eight tracks on the album at least retain the band's tremendous sound, "Making a Fire" is squeaky clean and sounds fresh out of an insurance commercial. The repeated "na-na-na" chorus and stale guitar riffs are incredibly overused and out of date, making for a painful opening.

It's not until its third track, "Cloudspotter," that "Medicine at Midnight" figures itself out. "Cloudspotter" gives listeners the abrasive, grunge high they look for in a Foo Fighters album. Dave Grohl, the lead singer, guitarist and songwriter for Foo Fighters, dominates the song with his mighty voice.

Had this quality of production carried over into the album's title song, "Medicine At Midnight," it would have been a track to call home about. Unfortunately, "Medicine At Midnight"



COURTESY OF ROSWELL RECORDS

drowns its extraordinary guitar solo in an overwhelming and obnoxious chorus. The first half combines well-performed lyrics with mysterious percussion, building up to Pink Floyd-level guitar solo. The solo needs more room to breathe, free from the chorus that re-enters too quickly.

Because Foo Fighters is such an A-tier rock band, there will always be a market for its music. But rock albums that never die test new sounds, experiment with lyrics and create unforgettable guitar riffs, and "Medicine at Midnight" does not earn this achievement.

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POPPED CULTURE

Korean media set to gain popularity

BY AVERY ALEXANDER

Webtoons, a form of fun and nifty virtual comics designed to be read on the go, have become a fairly regular part of Western pop culture. Today, this medium, which was originally popular in Korea and other East Asian countries, continues to evolve. As the webtoon industry changes, it has the potential to help bring Asian entertainment further into the foreground for the rest of the world.

As with other aspects of Korean popular culture — like skin care, K-pop, food and makeup — once the market for webtoons became known in the United States, Americans quickly grew interested in the industry.

WEBTOON, a popular webtoon reading app, was originally launched in Korea in 2004 by JunKoo Kim. It debuted its services to the United States in 2014 and is often considered to be one of the most popular webtoon apps. Another less popular but well-known webtoon service is Tapas, created by Chang Kim in 2012.

I myself am obsessed with WEBTOON. I noticed a rather interesting trend — WEBTOON has been adapting some of its most popular comics into Korean dramas, or, more simply, K-dramas. I first noticed this when watching the 2016 drama "Cheese In The Trap." It wasn't until later that I realized that the show had been based on a webtoon of the same title, originally published on WEBTOON in 2010.

In December 2020 alone, WEBTOON released two major K-drama adaptations — "True Beauty," released on the streaming service Viki, and Netflix original "Sweet Home." WEBTOON doesn't show signs of slowing down, with other adaptations already planned for the coming year.

Converting comics into live-action shows isn't limited to just the WEBTOON service, however, as other Korean-made comics from alternative services have found their places on the small screen. Other K-drama adaptations include "Love Alarm," originally published by Kye-Young Chon on Daum Webtoon.

There have also been a handful of webtoons converted to Japanese animation or, more commonly, anime. Anime is another popular form of East Asian media that has found a diehard following in the United States.

The WEBTOON service has converted some other comics like the slice-of-life comic "My Giant Nerd Boyfriend" into a bite-size internet miniseries. However, anime and cartoons are already a staple in Western entertainment and receive recognition from audiences all around the world. K-drama is a new, primarily unexplored market outside of Asia, and these adaptations carry the potential to expose Western audiences to a fresh genre.

American consumers make up 5–6% of K-drama national viewership. It wouldn't surprise me if K-drama saw a boom in popularity in the coming years, much like webtoons saw in the 2010s. Adapting globally popular comics into dramas is a pretty solid way to get more foreigners interested in this niche.

An increase in K-drama popularity wouldn't be out of character for American consumers. The world is a bit obsessed with Korean culture right now — just look at BTS, the wildly popular South Korean boy band.

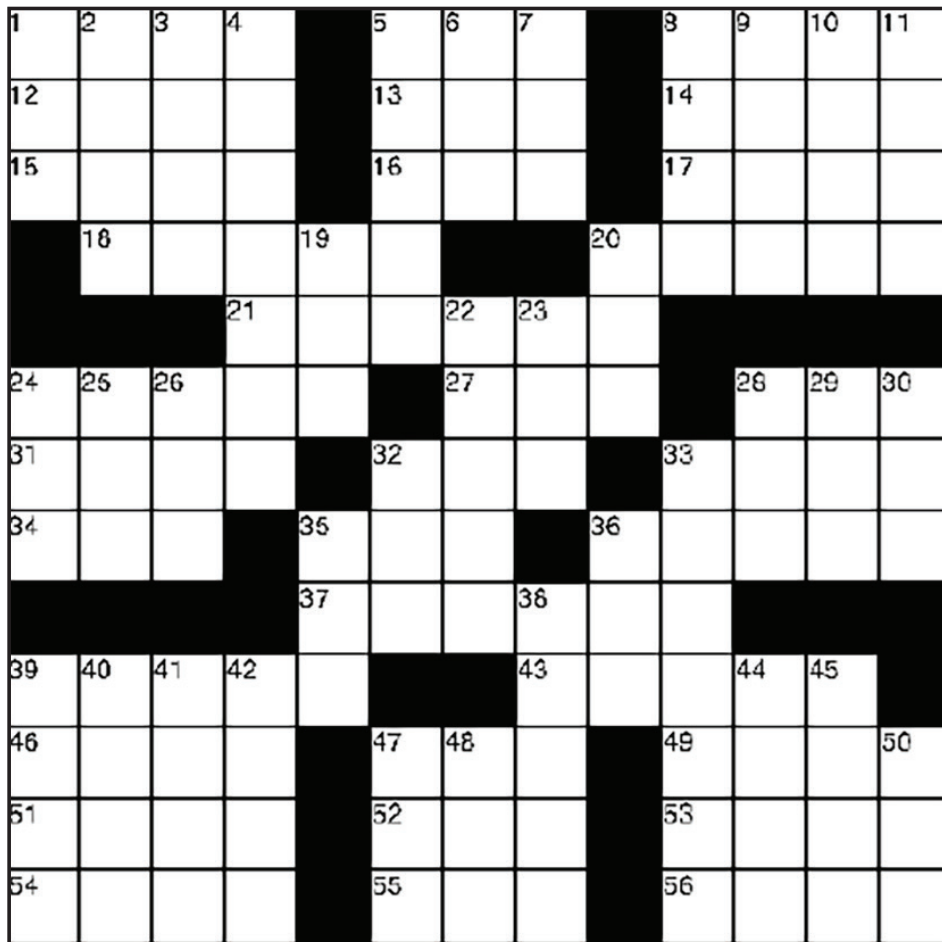
The move to webtoon drama adaptations is a clever marketing strategy. With any luck, it will diversify America's entertainment content and hopefully give K-drama the recognition it deserves.

POPPED CULTURE is a weekly column, written by Life & Culture staff writers, that analyzes pop culture current events. Avery Alexander is a junior English major. Contact her at aalexander2@ithaca.edu.

DIVERSIONS

crossword

By United Media



ACROSS

- 1 Island near Borneo
- 5 Cultivate
- 8 Not bad
- 12 Eddie's cop character
- 13 Distinct period
- 14 Grease gun target
- 15 Orange peel
- 16 Cash substitute
- 17 Scallion kin
- 18 Place
- 20 Kayak
- 21 Put up boards
- 24 Unwilling
- 27 Spanish article
- 28 Pooh- —
- 31 Atlas dot
- 32 Existed
- 33 Dueler with Hamilton
- 34 Expected any time
- 35 Smokehouse hanger
- 36 Meditators
- 37 Distant planet
- 39 Desire
- 43 Arm bones
- 46 Freight hopper
- 47 Debate side
- 49 Composer — Stravinsky
- 51 "The Mammoth Hunters" author
- 52 Musical notes

DOWN

- 1 Glass container
- 2 Poles' connector
- 3 Chimney
- 4 Firm, as pasta (2 wds.)
- 5 Swiss heroine
- 6 Pizarro's quest
- 7 — Claire, Wis.
- 8 Festivity
- 9 Wagon pullers
- 10 Diet spread
- 11 Hockey feint
- 19 Contented sigh
- 20 Music albums
- 22 Andes ruminant
- 23 Dawn goddess
- 24 Cap
- 25 Big Ten sch.
- 26 Stout
- 28 Moth or ant
- 29 "Exodus" character

- 30 Four-baggers (abbr.)
- 32 Armed conflict
- 33 Sarajevan
- 35 Tone
- 36 "Futureworld" name
- 38 Medical worker
- 39 Action star Jackie
- 40 Cad
- 41 Help a thief
- 42 Tennessee players
- 44 The chills
- 45 Bubbly drink
- 47 Winter woe
- 48 Nutritious grain
- 50 Pull apart by force



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sudoku easy

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

answers to last issue's sudoku:

easy

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

medium

6	3	1	2	4	7	5	8	9
4	5	9	8	3	6	1	2	7
7	8	2	9	5	1	3	4	6
3	9	7	6	1	8	2	5	4
1	2	5	4	7	3	9	6	8
8	4	6	5	2	9	7	3	1
9	6	3	7	8	2	4	1	5
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medium

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4						9		1
		6	3					8

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Junior football player Donte Garcia celebrates after Ithaca College defeated SUNY Cortland in the 61st annual Cortaca Jug game Nov. 16, 2019 at MetLife Stadium.

FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

BY MICHAEL MEMIS

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, athletes have been affected in ways they had never imagined. With sports seasons being abruptly canceled and team meetings being held over Zoom rather than on the pitch, student-athletes have been dealt challenges that a lifetime of competition could not prepare them for.

However, as a result of the pandemic, student-athletes have been given new platforms to speak their minds and opportunities to participate in activities they may not have before, including guided journaling, yoga classes and informational sessions on topics like self-talk, intuitive eating and self-care.

Two new virtual platforms Ithaca College athletes have been engaging with are Untold Athletes, a national social media platform and website that formed in March 2020 for athletes struggling with the sudden loss of their seasons, and The Hidden Opponent, a national nonprofit organization that is working to destigmatize mental health in sports.

The pandemic has continued to have a negative impact on student-athletes' mental health. The NCAA recently released results from a Fall 2020 follow-up to its NCAA Student-Athlete COVID-19 Well-Being Survey, first conducted in Spring 2020. In both surveys, participants reported struggling with mental exhaustion, anxiety, hopelessness and depression. These results were especially high among women, student-athletes of color, LGBTQ student-athletes and those facing economic hardships.

Untold Athletes has also given athletes a space to voice their opinions on topics like the pressures of being an athlete, recovering from injury, race in sport, gender inequality, body image and mental health. The program came to South Hill in September as its first college satellite branch. The partnership was in part due to an effort between Erienne Roberts, associate director of athletics, and Whitney Johnson, the Untold Athletes chief of business development.

"I wanted to make sure we highlighted DIII athletes, and Ithaca came first to mind," Johnson said. "Instead of just highlighting a few of [the college's] athletes, let's help them build something where all of their athletes can get a voice and be heard and really just show off the amazing institution that Ithaca is."

The college's branch of Untold Athletes has featured 20 Bombers across all sports and classes over the past five months. Three Bombers had the opportunity to be featured on

the national platform prior to the partnership, including junior track and field athlete Katelyn Hutchison, junior football player Donte Garcia and soccer player Devon Morris '20, who said she was surprised by the reaction her story got.

"It was kind of mind-blowing reading some of the comments underneath the actual post on Untold Athletes," Morris said. "I think one of them said, 'Devon should have a movie made about her,' and I was like, 'What? People think that? I was just doing my thing!' It really didn't hit me until it was actually posted and out there and people were reacting to it."

Garcia's interview with Untold Athletes was the first time he had anything published about him. He said seeing it online felt empowering.

"I think the whole point of it was to help us find our voice and get our voices heard, and I definitely felt that," Garcia said. "It kind of gave me the confidence to continue to want to grow."

Brigham Young University tennis player David Ball created Untold Athletes after he lost his senior season due to the pandemic. The organization has mostly interviewed Division I athletes. The only other Division III schools featured besides Ithaca College are Hamline University, Lewis and Clark College, Pomona-Pitzer Colleges and Messiah College.

"I think it speaks volumes just the visibility we have as a college, the connections that we build and bridge throughout the association, our administrative team being open and innovative to new ideas, and really wanting [our students] to have an empowered student-athlete experience," Roberts said.

Similar to Untold Athletes, The Hidden Opponent gives athletes a platform to share their personal experiences with mental health. Victoria Garrick, then a University of Southern California volleyball player, founded The Hidden Opponent in 2019. The Hidden Opponent has held events to help athletes with issues such as identity loss and life after sport, suicide awareness, depression and anxiety, eating disorders and other issues in athletics.

Madeline Barlow, former swimmer at Bloomsburg University and sports psychology coordinator at Drexel University, hosted a talk in January with The Hidden Opponent athletes called "How to Fall Back in Love With Your Sport." Barlow said there are aspects of mental health that are specific to the student-athlete experience that make it important for them to prioritize it just as much as their physical well-being.

"Many athletes will have similar experiences across sports ... with this mindset of

pushing, pushing, pushing to do the most and be the best," Barlow said. "It comes back to this idea that athletes are looked at as superhuman or on this high pedestal sometimes, and there is a lot of pressure behind that. ... I think it really is about that pressure, that expectation, and the 'Do the most, be the most, or you're not enough' [mindset], and those are things that can really negatively impact an athlete, especially at the college level."

Barlow said she felt the organization is effective in its mission to destigmatize mental health in sport.

"It's really beautiful, and even just being on that one talk two weeks ago, the energy of all the athletes that showed up for that was really, really beautiful," Barlow said. "People are connecting and they're not alone. They know they're not alone in any of these challenges, these mental health challenges, by providing them with a safe space."

A little over a year after The Hidden Opponent was founded, the Campus Captains program was launched, allowing college and high school chapters to be formed. The organization has been increasing engagement with hundreds of Campus Captains on more than 30 campuses nationwide and across all levels of college and high school athletics. Kaylen Buschhorn, graphic design intern and blog contributor, said Campus Captains make conversations about mental health more comfortable for athletes.

"We really want to destigmatize mental health," Buschhorn said. "We want it to be something that's so commonly talked about, that it's just like an everyday conversation. Nobody should be embarrassed or not talk about it because they're like, 'Oh I'll be judged,' or, 'It will make me less of an athlete or less of a strong person.' I think the main goal is really just to make sports culture something that accepts that there are mental health challenges and that we all are facing a hidden opponent, and we just need to work together to get over it."

The Bombers have two Campus Captains for the college's chapter, which formed in November. Senior tennis player Max Prestwich is the president of the chapter, and sophomore field hockey player Arla Davis is vice president. The chapter is recognized officially by the national organization but has just started the process of becoming an official club at the college and plans to have biweekly meetings once more athletes become involved.

Hutchison said she hopes to see more



Senior tennis player Max Prestwich competes in March 2019 at Glazer Arena.

ASH BAILLOT/THE ITHACAN

platforms like Untold Athletes and The Hidden Opponent develop in the future so athletes are given a space to speak about issues outside of their sport.

"I definitely think more platforms like that will become more common," Hutchison said. "The common notion has been athletes are just supposed to shut up and play. We're really not supposed to have our own opinions. Now we're seeing more athletes being open to talk about social injustices and other things that are affecting them, like dealing with gender, race, disabilities and things like that."

Editor's Note: Arla Davis is sports editor of The Ithacan.

Alumni establish fund in retired coach's name

BY TOMMY MUMAU

George Valesente, former head baseball coach at Ithaca College, will be remembered for his 41-year coaching career. Even as he steps away from the position, he will have a lasting impact on the program with a new fund established in his name.

Three former Ithaca College baseball players started the George Valesente '66 Endowed Baseball Fund. Steve Guinan '86, Gregg Kidd '84 and Dave Feldman '56 provided the funding to establish this endowment in honor of the iconic coach. The fund was created to provide the baseball team with the resources it needs to grow the program. This includes



It's so great to see that we have so many alumni willing to push us to even newer levels.

— Garrett Callaghan



providing funding for the team's annual spring trip to California, where the Bombers usually begin each season. The alumni endowment will also be put toward purchasing new equipment and upgrading facilities, like the field. Kidd said he has committed to

contributing \$25,000 and believes the fund will have approximately \$100,000 to start. This amount is in total, not yearly.

Valesente said the team will not be traveling to California this season due to the changes in the academic calendar and travel restrictions and will most likely be playing its games within the state. The college has yet to make a decision regarding spring sports competition. The college stated in its announcement Nov. 9 that a decision would be made in January or February.

Senior outfielder Garrett Callaghan said he is grateful to the alumni who are making the effort to improve the program.

"It's so great to see that we have so many alumni willing to push us to even newer levels," Callaghan said. "Whether it's financial support or building facilities for us or paying our way out to California for a year, it means a lot."

Kidd said he believes the establishment of the fund can be attributed to the impact that Valesente left on the hundreds of players he coached in his tenure with the program. In over four decades as head coach, he served as a mentor both on and off the diamond.

"He was a good role model," Kidd said. "He probably instilled some level of discipline in me that I didn't have. I absolutely got more out of the four years involved with the baseball program than I did from the educational aspect, which should say a lot."

Valesente came to South Hill in 1962 as a three-sport athlete, competing on the Bombers' soccer, basketball and baseball teams.



Jake Binder '19 prepares to swing at a pitch in a game against SUNY Canton on March 30, 2019, on Valesente Diamond, named after former head coach George Valesente '66, at Freeman Field.

ABBEY LONDON/THE ITHACAN

The 2005 American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame inductee led the Bombers to two national titles and 1,136 victories in his career.

Valesente said he is honored that his former players hold him in such high regard and that he is proud that their experience with the baseball team has prompted them to give back to the program. Valesente said he hopes that the fund will help the team remain competitive against opposing schools.

"It's wonderful to know that my time coaching has been

instrumental in the development of young men's lives as they mature, developing discipline, work ethic, dedication and humility," Valesente said. "Knowing that this endowment for the baseball program will provide assistance which can be drawn upon for many years is sincerely gratifying."

While the hall of famer no longer serves as the head coach of the program, the Valesente baseball legacy is carried on at the college by his son David Valesente, current head coach of the Bombers baseball team. David Valesente said he is

also humbled by the gesture of the alumni and is grateful that they are committed to helping the program succeed.

"It's incredible," David Valesente said. "It's something that's highly valuable to our program. It really speaks to the relationships and the connections that my dad built with hundreds of players. Now, having the opportunity for them and my dad to give back to the program annually is very special."

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Athlete creates network for women in sports media

MaryKate Siegel '19, a former Ithaca College field hockey player, recently founded a new social media brand called "Women Changing The Game" to help more young women enter the male-dominated world of sports media.

In 2017, approximately 10% of sports editors and 11.5% of sports reporters were women, according to SportsPro. Siegel started the account on Instagram in September while searching for a job after her Corporate Partnerships Game Day internship with the New York Jets ended. "Women Changing The Game" has since expanded to a website, a podcast, TikTok and LinkedIn. In under a year, the Instagram account has grown to over 700 followers while the TikTok account has over 120.

Contributing writer Aidan Charde spoke with Siegel about the creation of the account and her goal to make the sports media industry more inclusive.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Aidan Charde: What was the idea behind Women Changing The Game?

MaryKate Siegel: After I graduated college, I had two internships, and I was supposed to start a third when COVID-19 hit and cancelled it. It was extremely difficult looking for other jobs, especially because sports basically stopped for a while, so I knew I needed a way to stay connected in the sports world. When that was happening, I realized I lacked mentorship from women in the industry and that I lacked confidence in reaching out and networking, so I decided to create a space meant solely for women to connect in the industry. ... I started this on Instagram, just because I found that would be the easiest way to get started. I could be creative with my posts and gain

a following on the platform. ... My overall mission is to just bring it into classrooms and to sports teams, to fully introduce this world to girls and to bring more leaders into schools that may not have this privilege that Ithaca does with [its alumni community].

AC: How did the media resources that Ithaca College offers help you to make this account?

MS: All the alumni visits in classes definitely helped me. I would highly suggest to all the students now that when those alumni come in, take advantage of that. Really ask questions and pay attention because that's going to help you, and then try to connect with those people after. I would also say it influenced me because a lot of these people who were coming in to give the talks for sports were men. So with "Women Changing The Game," I wanted to bring about that change, and maybe start a trend where women who work in sports come and give these talks.

AC: Do you think getting more women in sports to talk could influence more young women to get into sports media?

MS: Yes, 100%. I think if young women get exposure during school, they are more bound to go into these fields. With "Women Changing The Game," I want to bring more women in to tell them stories and give advice because I know I wish there were more women coming in and telling me these things when I was in school. If more of them had come in and told me about what working in sports is like, maybe I would have gotten involved with internships earlier, which are really important to have in sports.



MaryKate Siegel '19 recently founded a new social media brand called "Women Changing The Game" to assist women aspiring to work in the sports industry.

COURTESY OF MARYKATE SIEGEL

AC: How do you think that playing field hockey influenced you to start "Women Changing The Game"?

MS: I think that playing sports in college definitely made me want to stay in the field of sports. Just being surrounded by athletes and obviously the coaches who work in sports motivated me to do that more.

AC: How has your experience been so far?

MS: I love it so much. I do not even care if I have a huge following, because if I can help one girl get her dream job, that's all I care about, so it's been so rewarding. On the other side of it, I have spoken with so many cool women in the industry who are just doing great things. I get to interview them and get advice from them first

hand, which has been a great experience itself. So no matter where it goes, I want to continue it just for the fact of helping people and gaining knowledge from these women in the industry who are breaking barriers.

AC: If you could give advice to the women at the college who are in sports media, what would it be?

MS: Be confident with yourself in the sports world, since it can be intimidating going into such a male-dominated field. We can build off one another and encourage and empower one another.

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Freshman Lexi Held saves a shot on goal at the women's lacrosse practice Feb. 10 at Higgins Stadium. The team is training in hopes of competing in the spring.

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