



GONE

ITHACA COLLEGE APPROVES PLAN FOR FACULTY CUTS

BY ALEXIS MANORE

On the night of Feb. 24, approximately 75 students gathered and placed candles on the steps of the Ithaca College Library to honor the faculty members who will lose their jobs as a result of the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process. Earlier that day, President Shirley M. Collado and La Jerne Cornish, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, approved the recommended elimination of 116 full-time equivalent (FTE) faculty positions.

The Academic Program Prioritization

Implementation Committee (APPIC) released its final recommendations for the APP in the “Shape of the College” document Feb. 18. The final recommendations, like the draft document, recommend the elimination of 116 FTE faculty positions and 26 departments, programs and majors.

Colleges all over the United States have been making cuts to faculty and staff positions due to decreased enrollment and financial issues exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Robert Kelchen, associate professor of higher education and chair of the Department of

Education Leadership Management and Policy at Seton Hall University, said colleges are making cuts in part because of the COVID-19 pandemic but also because of concerns about finances.

“[Ithaca College’s plan] is one of the most aggressive cuts I’ve seen in the country,” he said.

In a Feb. 24 email to the college community, Collado and Cornish said the changes will occur over the next three academic years.

“Transformative change is difficult and frequently personal, and we understand that the changes to come for our academic programs and the changes that have already happened in our

nonacademic programs profoundly affect the lives of our colleagues, friends, students and alumni,” they wrote in the email. Collado and Cornish did not have more to say to *The Ithacan* after the release of the email.

David Lissy, chair of the Ithaca College Board of Trustees, and Jim Nolan, vice chair of the board, also sent an email to the campus community stating that the board voted to support the decision to accept the “Shape of the College” recommendations.

CUTS, PAGE 4

Administration loses arbitration case to contingent faculty union

BY MADISON FERNANDEZ

The American Arbitration Association (AAA) has ruled against the Ithaca College administration in a case involving the college’s action against a contingent faculty member.

The AAA ruled that Tom Schneller, assistant professor in the Department of Music Performance, did not violate the union’s Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), as the college claimed. In May, Schneller posted an open letter to Intercom on behalf of the union, titled “Solidarity in a Time of Crisis: A Plea from Your Contingent Colleagues.”

The letter urged the college’s administration to be creative in its attempts to save money amid the COVID-19 pandemic and to support contingent faculty members, who are most at risk of being laid off.

This letter was posted before La Jerne Cornish, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, announced the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) plans to the Faculty Council in October.

The letter asked for tenured, tenure-track and non-tenure-eligible notice (NTEN) colleagues to “consider refusing summer overload credits” and to pressure department chairs



The Contingent Faculty Union urged the administration to be creative in its attempts to save money during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

“to privilege the most vulnerable faculty for these overages so that those who find themselves jobless in the fall might have a final few paychecks before being laid off in August.”

Rachel Fomalhaut, lecturer in the Department of Writing, said in a November interview that a total of 77 contingent faculty members were not rehired for Fall 2020. She said that for Fall 2020, the

list she received from the administration showed a total of 142 contingent faculty. This included 27 full-time contingent faculty members and 115 part-time contingent faculty members. On average, she said there are usually between 220 and 250 part-time and 60 full-time contingent faculty members in a semester.

ARBITRATION, PAGE 4

SGC passes legislation opposing faculty cuts

BY SYD PIERRE

The Ithaca College Student Governance Council (SGC) passed a resolution expressing no confidence in the “Shape of the College” proposal outlining faculty and program cuts at its Feb. 22 meeting.

The No Confidence in Shape of the College Recommendation resolution resolves stopping the implementation of the “Shape of the College” draft in order to incorporate more student, staff and faculty input. The bill recommends that the college create a committee composed of five students, five faculty and five staff representatives selected by the campus community to be involved in the decision-making process; establish regular meetings with the SLT to create engagement between different groups, like the SGC, the Board of Trustees, the Contingent Faculty Union, Faculty Council, Staff Council and the campus community; and email weekly APPIC updates. Updates for the APP are currently posted on the Office of the Provost’s website.

The bill recommends that these recommendations be implemented before President Shirley M. Collado and La Jerne Cornish, provost and senior vice president for academic

affairs, announced their final decision to adopt the “Shape of the College” document Feb. 24.

“On Monday, the Student Governance Council voted no confidence in the Shape of the College Recommendation,” the SGC said in a Feb. 24 statement to *The Ithacan*. “We stand by our students and we will continue to advocate for shared governance in the hopes of promoting student voices and concerns.”

The SGC passed the No Confidence in Shape of the College Recommendation resolution with a roll call vote of 15–1 with no abstentions. Sophomore Austin Ruffino, senator-at-large, voted against the bill. At the meeting, Ruffino did not say why he voted this way and has not responded to requests for comment.

The bill was sponsored by senior Agnes Scotti, Class of 2021 senator; junior Sebastian Chavez, Students of Color Coalition senator; junior Jacqueline Laferrier, class of 2022 senator; and junior Lauren Miller and co-sponsored by junior Kellie Swensen and student organizations Ithacappella, IC Voicestream, IC Second Stage, Students of Color Coalition, Model United Nations, Ithaca College

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EVERYTHING IS NOT FINE FOLLOWING CUTS



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ATHLETE SPENDS SEMESTER OFF THE GRID

Department forms plan for inclusion

BY OLIVIA STANZL

The Ithaca College Department of Physics and Astronomy has created an Anti-racism and Inclusion Action Plan to combat discrimination and microaggressions within the department.

Kelley Sullivan, associate professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, chairs the Anti-racism and Inclusion Action Team, which includes Colleen Countryman, assistant professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy; senior Oluwasekemi Odumosu; junior Cyerra Adams; junior Antara Sen; sophomore Ted Mburu; and freshman Matt Weil. The 14-page plan includes action items for Faculty and Staff Education; Student Education; Representation; Student Support; Community; Curriculum and Pedagogy; and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) leadership.

The highest priority items include bringing in diverse speakers, having DEI discussions at department faculty meetings, helping students find identity-based conferences to

attend and developing a more equitable curriculum.

“Our students are facing microaggressions, these subconscious digs, that add up,” Sullivan said. “I’ve been a victim of these as a woman in physics. Small numbers of women, lots of biases against our abilities, and they build up. They’re hard to deal with. We want to make sure that not just the faculty but also the students have an awareness of what microaggressions are, what their biases are and how they can combat them.”

Sullivan and Luke Keller, Dana professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, have begun to actively educate themselves on issues relating to diversity, equity and inclusion.

In the summer of 2019, the National Science Foundation awarded Sullivan a grant that provides scholarships for high-performing students from low-income backgrounds who are committed to pursuing a degree in computer science, mathematics, physics or astronomy.

Sullivan and her team focused their programming on building a



Members of the Department of Physics and Astronomy have created a plan to combat racism within the department. The 14-page plan includes action items like bringing in diverse guest speakers.

COURTESY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

community because it has been shown to build retention and improve students’ success. This grant has allowed the program to create the STEM residential learning community, have STEM seminars and award 14 students with scholarships up to \$10,000 a year.

The action team has also decided it is important to change the freshman curriculum. Sullivan said the action team believes the current curriculum favors students with a stronger math background than others.

Throughout Spring 2021, the team plans to coordinate DEI discussions at faculty meetings, work with student organizations to create informative poster displays for classrooms, have the faculty representatives and the department chair work with administration to hire a student advocate in Student Financial Services who will help students understand their financial aid opportunities.

“I’m happy to be getting more education as well as being a part

of taking steps towards change,” Weil said.

Odumosu said she hopes that the department’s plan will encourage others to take similar steps.

“All it needs is a few passionate people,” Odumosu said. “It makes a difference having those things written down and having a plan for the department.”

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MULTIMEDIA

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Trader Joe’s finally opens in Ithaca

Trader Joe’s opened at 8 a.m. Feb. 19 to a crowd that had been there since approximately 7 a.m.



“Open The Books” with Julia Machlin and Sara Stohl

Host Arleigh Rodgers sat down with Open the Books organizers junior Julia Machlin and sophomore Sara Stohl to discuss their playlist of protest music.



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Music masters programs eliminated

BY JILLIAN BLEIER

Second-year graduate student Nicholas Villane is studying in the Masters of Music in Composition program at Ithaca College, with the goal of becoming a university professor. He already has two acceptances into doctoral programs, which he attributes to his experience in the program.

Out of the five graduate programs that are being recommended for discontinuation, four are Masters of Music (M.M.) in the School of Music. These programs include the M.M. in Performance, Conducting, Composition and Suzuki Pedagogy and String Performance. Each M.M. is a two-year program with 30, 36, 30 and 32 credits required, respectively.

Students and faculty said they are astounded by the college's decision to cut these programs, especially because the college started as a music conservatory in 1892.

"To be cutting a big part of what makes the conservatory part of the school the way it is was pretty shocking," Villane said.

Villane said he completed his undergraduate studies at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida. He said he believes that he has grown more in the last year and a half than in his four years as an undergraduate student.

"As a graduate assistant, to be able to work with theory professors really closely and be able to learn skills that I hope to use in my own classroom in the future was an experience I don't think I was



Alyssa Comeau '20 conducted for the IC Campus Band as a graduate student, but non-major ensembles may not be able to continue without graduate students like Comeau to lead them.

COURTESY OF ALYSSA COMEAU

going to be able to get anywhere else," he said.

Charis Dimaras, professor in the Department of Music Performance, said he also believes undergraduate students would lose mentors if the graduate programs are cut.

"It cuts the bridge between our impressionable younger students that look at those graduate students as intermediate examples between us — international concert artists — and where they are at the moment, and somehow are able to imagine now their future towards reaching higher and becoming more," he said.

Graduate students and assistants do work behind the scenes

in the school. This includes helping conduct ensembles, filling teaching assistant positions, teaching non-major classes, teaching secondary instrument classes, accompanying ensembles and running social media accounts for the school.

"With the grad students leaving, there's a good chance that we will have very limited possibilities for offering classes to non-majors, which of course runs completely contradictory to the Ithaca Forever plan, which has as one of its components that schools should be more integrated," said Les Black, chair of Graduate Studies in Music and associate professor in the Department of Music Theory,

History and Composition.

Alyssa Comeau '20 graduated from the M.M. in Conducting program and formerly conducted IC Campus Band, an ensemble composed of non-major students and major students practicing secondary instruments.

"It makes me reconsider sending my current high school students to apply, and that's just sad," Comeau said. "I would love to say, 'Go get a degree at Ithaca,' but it's really difficult for me to do that when it feels like the school as a whole doesn't support that music grad program."

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Future of clubs vague after cuts

BY ELIZABETH KHARABADZE

Some Ithaca College students and faculty members are concerned about the future of clubs that are losing advisers due to the impending faculty cuts.

The Academic Program Prioritization (APP) cuts include several faculty members who serve as advisers to student organizations on campus.

In order to be recognized as a club, student organizations need to have a full-time faculty member agree to be the adviser.

Michele Lenhart, director of the Office of Student Engagement, said that every year, there is some adviser turnover as a result of people leaving the college.

"The Office of Student Engagement can help with this process by posting requests to solicit a new adviser for a specific club or sharing the list of people who are interested in becoming advisers to see if there might be a match on that list," Lenhart said via email.

The Ithaca Outing Club is in danger as the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies, which houses the club, is recommended to be cut.

Matt Vosler, assistant professor in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies, is the adviser for the club. His position is also recommended to be cut.

He said it might be difficult to find someone else to advise the club because they would need to have experience leading people in outdoor activities in a safe way. Vosler said he has a wilderness first responder certification, meaning he is able to provide first aid relating to injuries that might occur outdoors.

Vosler said he feels like spending time outdoors has helped students' mental health, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"With that going away, I really fear that a lot of students are going to miss out on those opportunities that add to the type of experience that one would want to have at a place like Ithaca College," he said.

Juan Arroyo, assistant professor in the Department of Politics and adviser to the Model United Nations, is among the many faculty members being cut as a result of the APP. Arroyo said he believes the cuts would have an impact on student enrollment if Model UN were to be cut.

"Lots of high school students are totally passionate about [Model UN] and they want to continue in college," Arroyo said. "Many people say, 'I came to Ithaca College because of the Model UN team,' and people stay at Ithaca College for the same reason."

Junior Autumn Michels is a member of Model UN and said her time being part of Model UN has provided her with a community. Michels said she is worried about the future of the club.

"I think that Juan makes the team what it is," she said. "The kind of community that's felt within the club is because Juan goes out of his way to make a community in his own house and in his daily life to involve the club as much as possible."

Jennifer Herzog, lecturer in the Department of Theatre Arts, serves as the adviser for the Student Alliance for Israel (SAFI). Her position is also in jeopardy due to the APP.

Herzog voiced concern about the APP and the speed at which it was implemented. She said she believed there was not much room for feedback from the community to be considered.

"It's one thing to hear somebody's issues, and it's another thing to actually act on them," Herzog said. "I don't necessarily feel like these issues were processed in that manner."

Herzog said that despite the cuts, she has faith in the future of SAFI. She said she hopes the club will continue with a new adviser.

Herzog also said she would continue to support the club in any way that she could.

"I tell my students on the first day of class that by enrolling in my class, I automatically care about them — whether they like it or not," Herzog said. "If I see you and I get to work with you on a daily basis, I instantly care about you. That's how I feel about my theater students, and that's how I feel about my SAFI students."

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Recreation department opposes APP

BY SYD PIERRE

The Ithaca College Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies (RLS) and the community organizations its students work with are voicing their opposition to the "Shape of the College" recommendations, which recommend the discontinuation of the entire department.

The Academic Program Prioritization Implementation Committee (APPIC) recommended the elimination of the RLS department and its majors, Therapeutic Recreation and Outdoor Adventure Leadership.

RLS is housed in the School of Health Sciences and Human Performance. Some students, faculty and alumni of the program are disappointed in the decision and feel that the elimination of the program would harm the local community. The RLS department wrote a letter to the APPIC but declined to share it with *The Ithacan*.

Junior Edie McRoberts said she found the department after participating in the Jumpstart program Experiencing Connections by Heading Outdoors (ECHO). She said that because of this, she added her second major, Outdoor Adventure Leadership, and participated in the Immersion Semester Program (ISP) in Spring 2020.

ISP is a semester-long, 18-credit outdoor excursion open to all students at the college. The trip occurs for the duration of the spring semester and students develop outdoor leadership skills while backpacking, hiking, rock climbing and mountaineering.

"I'm really grateful that I did because I can't imagine how I would be able to do everything without them. Those opportunities — and all the outdoor things that I've been able to do because of it — it's made a super, super huge impact on my life," McRoberts said.

Jennifer Wells, assistant professor in the Department of RLS, has been teaching at the college since 2013. She said she was



Juniors Leah Harbison-Ricciutti and Clare Collins, senior Emily Rose and Adelia Alexander '20 went to California for the Immersion Semester Program in Spring 2020.

BENJAMIN DINOIA/THE ITHACAN

surprised by the recommendations and thought that the department would get absorbed into another department at the college, not completely eliminated.

"It saddens me for the students who are in the curriculum who found a home for their profession, for what they really want to do in their lives, because it is a question of passion," Wells said.

Molly Hajjar, lecturer in the department of RLS, said via email that she hopes that the college will find new opportunities for students to pursue wellness once the department is eliminated.

"Recreation plays an important role in maintaining health socially, mentally, spiritually and physically," Hajjar said. "Empowering students to learn how to build this into their own lives and those around them is a void that will be left as a result of the recommendations."

RLS partners with organizations in the

Ithaca area, including the Ithaca Youth Bureau, the Ithaca Children's Garden (ICG) and the Racker Center.

Elizabeth Klohmann '88, director of the Ithaca Youth Bureau, wrote a letter Jan. 29 in support of the department.

Dan Brown, executive director of the Racker Center, wrote a letter Feb. 2 encouraging the college to reconsider the elimination of RLS.

Erin Marteau, executive director and CEO of the ICG, also wrote a letter Feb. 1 stating how the elimination of RLS would negatively impact its community partnerships.

"Ithaca College has always been a leader in this regard," the ICG letter stated. "It would be a tragic loss to imagine IC, and the City of Ithaca, without this important department's contributions."

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FROM CUTS, PAGE 1

In a Feb. 24 All-Staff Meeting, Brad Hougham, associate provost for faculty affairs and co-chair of the APPIC, said the APPIC proposed the minimum possible FTE eliminations in the draft document, so reducing the numbers further was not possible.

He said that the APPIC listened to the feedback the campus community provided and that one concern from the campus community was the ability of departments to deliver curriculum after the cuts have been made.

Hougham said there was a desire for the college to retain all of its faculty, departments, majors and programs.

He said the lack of changes is not because the APPIC did not listen to the feedback.

"This is not because the feedback was not considered or wasn't sincerely requested," Hougham said.

Concerns Continue to Grow

College community members have been concerned about the APP process, specifically the lack of shared governance, the speed of the process and the lack of financial transparency.

In a Feb. 24 statement, the Open the Books coalition expressed its frustration with the approval of the plan. The coalition stated that even though the plan has been approved, it is still working to stop the cuts and push for shared governance and financial transparency.

Hundreds of alumni have joined the group "IC Alumni Against Austerity," which is working to encourage alumni to take action against the cuts.

Samantha Wolfe '11 said she is disheartened to hear that the

college is cutting faculty positions, especially those in the School of Humanities and Sciences, because she majored in sociology during her time at the college.

"The top-down and dismissive approach of the APP does not reflect the spirit of my alma mater," Wolfe said via email.

Some faculty members have also come together to create an American Association of University Professors (AAUP) chapter to fight the cuts, push for shared governance and advocate for academic freedom.

Dan Breen, associate professor in the Department of English and president of the IC AAUP chapter, said it has not yet been formally recognized.

Breen said the administration has yet to recognize the petition.

"The response of the college community hasn't been appreciated as fully as it should be," he said.

Breen said the chapter is communicating with the national AAUP organization to figure out its next steps.

Jenna Mortenson '19, former vice president for campus affairs for the Student Governance Council (SGC), said she was familiar with the strategic plan from her time as a student but thinks that it is being implemented at a faster pace and more extensively than she expected. She said some of the important documents, like the draft "Shape of the College" document, were unavailable to alumni, which she found frustrating.

"I love Ithaca, and I'm happy to sing its praises to everybody, and I loved my experience there," she said. "I think it felt a little jarring to put so much time in and see that certain recommendations and data weren't available to a whole



Senior Shoshanna Maniscalco lights candles at a Feb. 24 vigil by the library in honor of faculty members who will be terminated.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

population of the IC community."

Zack Ford '07, former president of the Student Government Association, now known as the Student Governance Council, and secretary of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, said that no one wants to lose faculty members and programs but that the college urgently needs to make change.

"It's important not to turn objections to this proposal to negative feedback that hurts the college," he said. "It's true that this is painful and simultaneously true that it's good for the college."

On Feb. 23, the American Political Science Association wrote a letter to Collado and Cornish that opposed the terminations of Alex Moon and Juan Arroyo, assistant professors in the Department of Politics.

"The termination of employment for Drs. Alex Moon and Juan Arroyo would severely undercut both the department's

capacity to provide introductory education on U.S. Politics but also conflict the college's commitment to fostering a community that can 'provide all community members with opportunities to develop, debate and critically evaluate strategies to address complex problems,'" the letter stated.

Sophomore Clare Martin said they felt like the administration dismissed student concerns with its decision.

"They've decorated this email with so much fluff language, they're putting so much emphasis on using 'our' and 'community,' and it just feels like they're trying to avoid the anger that's going to come from the students they're so blatantly ignoring," Martin said. "The fact that the plan that's going to cut so much is called 'Ithaca Forever' is the biggest joke I've ever heard."

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FROM LEGISLATION, PAGE 1

Futures, Ithaca College Democrats, IC Votes, Ithaca College Planned Parenthood Generation Action and Passion Project.

"We understand that cuts are somewhat inevitable in the survival of educational institutions," Scotti said. "However, when you don't include students or faculty in the decision-making process, it doesn't represent like shared governance, and it doesn't prove that the higher administration is really on our side."

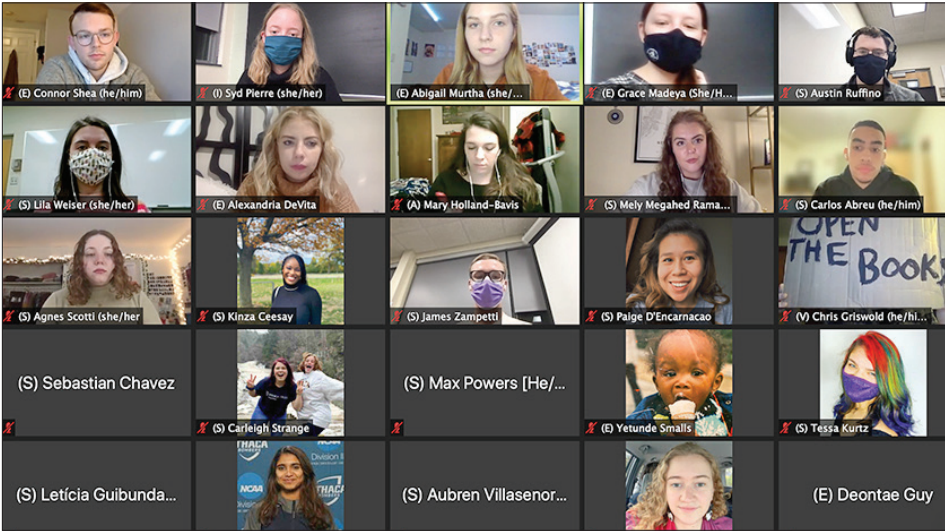
Students, faculty and alumni at the college have expressed their disappointment in the recommendations. Alumni and programs that are slated to be cut have written letters opposing the cuts. The Open the Books coalition has held five protests on campus. Students and faculty members have created petitions. A survey from the Faculty Council showed that a majority of participating faculty members are resistant to the cuts.

Scotti said she wrote the bill as a formality and as one of the only ways she could communicate with the SLT.

She said that she did not expect anything to happen as a result of the bill because the administration has not listened to previous requests to delay the cuts and has not responded to previous calls to change the makeup of the committees.

The SGC also passed the 2021 Ithaca College Financial Transparency recommendation, which encourages the college to release a breakdown of the fiscal health of the college. In Fall 2020, the SGC passed a similar bill — the Fall 2020 Tuition Transparency Request Bill — which recommended that the SLT publish information about the cost of tuition for Fall 2020. The administration declined to enact this request.

The SGC passed the 2021 Ithaca College Financial Transparency recommendation with a vote of 16–0 with no abstentions. The bill recommends that the college release financial information, like options that were



The Ithaca College Student Governance Council passed the No Confidence in the Shape of the College Recommendation at its Feb. 22 meeting. It also passed two other bills.

COURTESY OF THE STUDENT GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

evaluated prior to the recommendation; explanations of how the "Shape of the College" will allow the college to overcome current financial issues; the cause of the college's current financial status and a breakdown of SLT salaries per IRS Form 990, the tax form the college is required to file that reports the results of its financial operations. The Form 990 for previous fiscal years are publicly available for viewing. The college has denied requests from *The Ithacan* to release the current salaries of the SLT.

As previously reported by *The Ithacan*, Collado has publicly said that she and other members of the administration have elected to reduce their salaries for the 2020–21 fiscal year. Although the salaries for the current fiscal year are not known at this time, members of the SLT froze their salaries for the 2019–20 fiscal year. This means that they did not take a salary increase from the 2018–19 fiscal year to the 2019–20 fiscal year, Dave Maley, director of public relations, said. Thus, with the voluntary salary reductions in place, the 2020–21 fiscal year salaries are presumably lower than the reported 2018–19 fiscal year salaries.

The bill was sponsored by the same senators, individuals and organizations that sponsored the No Confidence in Shape of the College Recommendation resolution.

Chavez said the bill was written to gain more transparency for the campus community.

"Not all of us have the knowledge to understand the financials, but it should be easy for our students to have access to those financials and easy for our faculty members to have access to those financials," Chavez said.

The SGC debated including the section about the SLT salaries in the bill. Senior Carleigh Strange, School of Music senator, said she was worried about the response that section would get from the SLT.

"As much as I would love to know what these salaries are, I think that this is a perfect excuse for them to look at this recommendation and say, 'Absolutely not, I'm not going to share that information, no way,' and then discredit the entire recommendation," Strange said.

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FROM ARBITRATION, PAGE 1

Dave Maley, director of public relations, said that there was a reduction of 34 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions among the contingent faculty from Fall 2019 to Fall 2020.

He said some of this was a result of a drop in enrollment, the closing of the Los Angeles program for Fall 2020, the pause on faculty sabbaticals and Center for Faculty Research and Development released time awards and the filling of previously vacant full-time lines, some of which were filled by contingent faculty.

"It's a really big drop, and we do have concerns, especially because the administration has been so hostile," Fomalhaut said.

The union said Schneller received a letter of warning from Cornish accusing him of violating the CBA by calling for a strike. According to Article 12 of the CBA, "The Union agrees that it will not call, instigate, engage or participate in, encourage, approve or endorse, nor will it permit any Faculty member in the bargaining unit to call, instigate or participate in, any strike; sympathy strike; sit-down; slow-down; demonstration that interferes with or disrupts the fulfillment of their duties as educators as a result of the Union or bargaining unit Faculty members' action; withholding or delaying any grades, academic evaluations or other required documents as a form of concerted activity (as defined by the National Labor Relations Act); or any interference with or stoppage of work by bargaining unit Faculty members. Any bargaining unit Faculty member engaging in any conduct prohibited by this Article may be subject to immediate disciplinary action, including discharge."

The union stated that it was not calling for a strike but rather suggesting that continuing faculty members consider a voluntary assignment of summer overload credits to contingent faculty members.

"If our suggestion were followed, the same classes, taught by qualified IC instructors, would be offered without adverse impact on the student experience," the union stated in a June Intercom post. "Instead of calling for a strike or work stoppage, we were asking for more work, not less."

Additionally, the union stated that the clause does not apply to tenure and NTEN faculty at the college because they are not members of the bargaining unit.

The union argued that this suggestion did not interfere with teaching duties because overload credits totaling over 24 credit hours in an academic year are voluntary.

Schneller said he was threatened with future disciplinary action "up to and including termination," and the administration asked for the union to retract the open letter. The union filed a grievance, stating that Schneller was discriminated against for exercising legitimate union activity. According to the union, Cornish denied the grievance. The union then took the matter to arbitration with the AAA.

The arbitrator found that Schneller's actions did not warrant disciplinary warning, the college has been ordered to expunge the warning from Schneller's file.

"Their decision to pursue a lengthy and costly legal fight, at a time when ostensible financial constraints are being used as a justification for mass terminations among staff and faculty, displays a clear error in judgement and management," the union stated in a Feb. 18 press release.

Schneller said the campus community needs to continue to resist the APP.

"It is important for the campus community to recognize the gulf that separates the administration's public rhetoric from its actual behavior," Schneller said via email.

Emily Rockett, assistant counsel in the Office of the General Counsel, said to *The Ithacan* in a June interview that the college wanted the union to talk directly with the administration rather than posting on Intercom.

"I think a factor that doesn't come through in Intercom is that the college and the union have labor management committees that meet to discuss issues," she said.

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Open the Books protests against cuts

BY JORDAN BROKING

For the fifth time in the last three months, students lined the crosswalk by the Peggy Ryan Williams (PRW) Center to protest the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process. At this demonstration, they held a banner that stated, “The APP is a virus.”

“It’s a virus of its own,” senior Chris Griswold said. “It’s something that’s going to cause detrimental harm to many, many people at this institution and in this town.”

The Open the Books coalition is a group of Ithaca College community members advocating against the proposed program and faculty cuts. Approximately 12 people attended the protest at 8:30 a.m. Feb. 22. Some protesters taped off two doors at the main entrance to the PRW Center with yellow caution tape and red danger tape. The group also lined up posters outside the doors to the PRW Center that read, “Stop cutting” and “Decisions Made Here May Be Hazardous.”

Griswold said the coalition is calling for financial transparency because students do not know the administrators’ current salaries nor do they have clarity regarding how endowment money can be spent.

“We want our institution, who claims they value diversity and equity and inclusion, to be held to a higher standard because they told us they would be held to that higher standard,” Griswold said.

During the InFINITY presentation Feb. 22, Bill Guerrero, vice president for finance and administration, said the endowment is approximately \$390 million. He also said the college draws



Students voice their opposition to the faculty cuts at a protest organized by the Open the Books coalition Feb. 22. Protesters held a banner at the crosswalk outside the Peggy Ryan Williams Center.

JORDAN BROKING/THE ITHACAN

approximately \$15 million from the endowment annually. The college has not responded to *The Ithacan’s* requests to disclose the administration’s current salaries.

Seniors Maria White and Jenny Lema also attended. Lema said one of her concerns with the APP is faculty of color being fired. She said she and others have reached out to the administration asking if there was any clear indication of what help will be given to the faculty members of color who were recommended to be fired. Lema said that they have not heard back yet.

“As a Latinx person, I can’t find any faculty and professors that I can relate to,” Lema said.

The college has stated it

will not terminate any tenured or tenure-eligible faculty members. This leaves non-tenure eligible, part-time per-course faculty, adjunct faculty and faculty employed by term appointments to be recommended for termination.

Nationally, faculty of color tend to hold adjunct positions within colleges. In an opinion piece for Inside Higher Ed, President Shirely M. Collado and La Jerne Cornish, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, stated that more than 70% of the college’s contingent faculty members were white.

Some of the faculty members who were notified that their positions are recommended for

termination have added their names to a list that is circulating on social media.

White said she took classes with two of the professors on the list and said the close-knit relationships she and others have with their professors is the true defining point of her education.

“When I think about the most positive aspects of my IC experience, it really comes down to the relationships with the professors and supporting them and showing up for them because they’ve shown up for us,” White said.

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UK COVID-19 cases found

BY ALYSHIA KORBA

Two more cases of the U.K. variant of COVID-19 have been confirmed in Tompkins County.

Both individuals are in isolation, and all close contacts are in quarantine. Both cases were identified following travel, according to a Feb. 22 press release from the Tompkins County Health Department. The cases were identified through Cornell University’s COVID-19 testing lab as a part of its services for the Cayuga Health System and Tompkins County, the department stated. The health department has notified the regional New York State Department of Health and the New York State Wadsworth Public Health Laboratory of the cases.

There have been a total of six cases of the U.K. variant in the county. The health department announced the first case Jan. 15. Another three cases were identified Feb. 3. The U.K. variant was first found in New York state Jan. 4. As of Feb. 20, there were a total of 136 U.K. variant cases identified in New York state.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.K. variant is a more contagious variant of COVID-19. In January, experts in the U.K. stated that this variant may be associated with an increased risk of death as compared to other variants of COVID-19, but more studies are needed to confirm this finding, the CDC stated.

Frank Kruppa, Tompkins County public health director, advised residents to continue to follow COVID-19 guidelines.

“We are confident that we successfully identified and isolated the cases in this situation,” Kruppa said. “This is a more contagious mutation of the virus, and we need to be vigilant. We all still have a part in stopping the spread and must continue to diligently wear masks, avoid crowds and keep distance from one another.”

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THE FACES OF AUSTERITY

BY HARRIET MALINOWITZ



POLITICAL THEORY EXPERT FEELS GASLIT

Alex Moon, assistant professor in the Department of Politics, is 56 and has a Ph.D. from Cornell University. He has taught courses about U.S. politics, political theory, constitutional law and the Supreme Court for 21 years at Ithaca College.

He participates on panels and gets interviewed on issues related to elections, campaign finance and why students do not vote.

In addition to having served on the Faculty Council and diversity task force, Moon is active in several professional associations, regularly presenting papers, organizing conferences and governing as an elected officer of the Association for Political Theory.

He is currently working on a book about the epistemic duties of citizens — what they need to know to be viable political actors and respond to others who spread falsehoods, are unreasonably credulous or choose to remain ignorant.

Moon loves teaching, reading and writing, and being a politics professor at the college is his dream job. He fears he’ll have to leave academia, causing him to feel “disoriented, depressed and anxious.”

He has a 12-year-old daughter and is “super worried about losing [his] house and disrupting her life, as well as her feeling like her world is precarious.” Moving away from upstate New

York is “just unthinkable,” as he’d lose child custody along with their daily routines.

Over 30 years ago, he worked in management and analytics for the New York City government, which gave him expertise in budgets and insights into the college’s current plans.

“Who would want to send their kid to a downsized college when they can spend the same amount of money on another one that’s not?” he asked. “I wish they would just stop gaslighting us about the whole process, pretending it’s grassroots and community-led and instrumentalizing cherished progressive values for a narrow, discredited marketplace strategy. We’re academics who pay attention to language and the ways it’s used to manipulate, but they’re treating us like consumers or gullible voters.”



COMMUNITY TIES AT RISK OF BEING LOST

Sergio Pedro, 56, assistant professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, is Portuguese by origin and is a specialist in 17th century Spanish literature. He has taught in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures for 15 years and also teaches language and linguistics.

The elimination of Pedro signals the potential end of the linguistics minor at Ithaca College. “Language and literature,

language acquisition, linguistics — this is my world. I trained my whole life to do this, and I love teaching,” he said.

Beyond that, the college is, he said, “my livelihood, my retirement.” Although he is unlikely to find another job in his field, leaving the area is not a viable option because his life partner is a tenured professor at Cornell University. “My life is here.”

Often, he bridges the campus–community divide as faculty adviser to the student group Intercambios. The group engages in conversational practice with Spanish-speaking members of the Ithaca community and teaches English as a second language to area farmworkers.

Pedro is also faculty adviser for the Ithaca College group Big Brothers Big Sisters, which provides mentoring for at-risk children, and he chairs the advisory board of its local chapter.

When he is not engaged in those pursuits, he plays guitar and bass in local rock bands.

“I teach because I love that moment when you get your students to understand that the culture and world they live in is just one among others or when they read past what’s on the surface of a text and engage in critical thinking.”

He said he feels strongly that the best thing about the college is its faculty and that the college would have been better served had decisions been left to them.

He stressed that faculty would not focus on “corporate thinking” that prioritizes “putting millions into marketing to high schoolers and making the campus look good. To watch this blow be dealt to the college is heartbreaking.”

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

SGC to hold student town hall to get suggestions and feedback

The Ithaca College Student Governance Council (SGC) will hold a Student Town Hall at 6 p.m. Feb. 25. This is the first SGC town hall, and the event will take place virtually. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions, share ideas and give feedback to the SGC. The link to register for the Zoom meeting is at <https://bit.ly/3pzZJDO>.

Nominations open for award honoring faculty excellence at IC

Ithaca College is accepting nominations for the President Shirley M. Collado Faculty Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Ithaca College Community. The \$5,000 award is given to a faculty member who exemplifies Collado’s vision of excellence in education, demonstrated through an inclusive approach to practices of teaching, research or leadership on or off campus. The award is intended to support the professional development of the recipient to enhance their capacity for leadership. The award is made possible by donations from Gloria Hobbs, honorary alum and trustee of the college.

Faculty at the associate professor rank or above are eligible for the award, whether they are tenured or continuing contract. Faculty members can nominate candidates for the award. Self-nominations are also accepted. Letters of support from colleagues at the college or outside the college are expected. The recipient of the award is expected to give a talk as a part of the Provost’s Colloquium series.

Nominations must include a CV from the nominee, a nominator’s statement and letter of support. Complete nominations are due on or before April 2.

Fundraiser aims to collect money to support indigenous community

The Groundswell Center for Local Food and Farming is collecting donations to support the Cayuga SHARE Farm. SHARE stands for “strengthening Haudenosaunee-American relations through education.” The fundraiser is looking to collect \$120,000 to cover taxes and

fees of the farm property, which is located within the Haudenosaunee Confederacy homeland. New York state does not recognize Cayuga sovereignty, and the community will lose its property if it is unable to raise \$116,000 by April 16. If the goal is not met, the money raised will be used to help the Cayuga people relocate within their homeland. Donations can be made at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-cayuga-share-farm>.

Sports media program releases Spring 2021 speaker series lineup

The Sports Media Program has announced its lineup for its Spring 2021 speaker series. The first speaker will be Chris Barriere ’11 at 1:15 p.m. Feb. 25. Ivan Dashkov ’11 will speak at 1:15 p.m. March 11. Felicia Hall Allen will present at 1:15 p.m. March 25. Alex Falk will speak at 1:15 p.m. April 1, and Mandy Gutmann will speak at 1:15 April 8. These events are free and open to the college community and prospective students. People interested in attending can contact Ellen Staurowsky, professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies, at staurows@ithaca.edu, or senior Indira Varma at ivarma@ithaca.edu.

IC students and alumni promote inclusivity at virtual reading event

Ithaca College students and alumni are promoting a more inclusive educational environment for transgender and nonbinary youth with a virtual book reading. Families, children and all members of the community are invited to attend the reading, which will include books like “When Aidan Became a Brother” by Kyle Lukoff and “My Rainbow” by DeShanna Neal and Trinity Neal. This event is a part of the sixth annual Jazz and Friends National Day of School and Community Readings. Ithaca College students and alumni will read the books aloud and facilitate discussions after the readings. The event will be held at 4 p.m. Feb. 25. Register for the event at <https://bit.ly/3qLxMdy>.

IC Gerontology Institute to host discussions on managing stress

The Ithaca College Gerontology Institute is collaborating with the Finger Lakes Geriatric Education Center to produce the “Stress



IC gets icy for Spring Welcome event

From left, freshmen Cassidy Gallivan and Olivia Waguespack ice skate at the Skate Across Campus Spring Welcome event Feb. 20 on the academic quad. Spring Welcome events will continue on campus through Feb. 27.

ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN

Resilience in a Pandemic” series.

The next speakers in the series will be Susan Salahshor, assistant professor and program director of the Physician Assistant Program, and Melodie Kolmetz, director of didactic education and assistant professor in the Physician Assistant Program.

This event will explore tools to help people ground themselves during uncertain times caused by the pandemic.

The next meeting of the discussion series will be held at noon Feb. 25. People who would like to attend can register for the event at <https://bit.ly/3klSa2J>.

Panel to discuss representation of LGBT individuals in media

The Center for LGBT Education, Outreach and Services is hosting a panel discussion on LGBT representation in media and the arts at 1 p.m. Feb. 26. The panel will discuss how LGBT representation impacts LGBT and non-LGBT professionals, and how it effects everyone who consumes media and the arts.

Panelists include Ashton Muñiz ’14, Jessie Earl ’14, Isabel Galupo ’14, Calvin Kasulke ’13 and Stephen Tropiano ’84, program director of the Ithaca College Los Angeles program.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM FEBRUARY 8 TO FEBRUARY 14

FEBRUARY 8

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: West Tower
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The officer reported the alarm was caused by burnt marijuana. Officers were unable to find the source of the odor. Master Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

MEDICAL ASSIST/ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: Circle Apartments
SUMMARY: The Tompkins County 911 Center reported a person complaining of stomach pain and requested transportation to the hospital. The officer reported one person was transported to the hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon responded.

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

LOCATION: East Tower
SUMMARY: A caller reported two persons in possession of drug paraphernalia. The officer reported that the items were secured and the Office of Residential Life will refer two persons for unlawful possession of marijuana. Patrol Officer John Norman responded.

ASSIST ITHACA POLICE DEPARTMENT

LOCATION: All Other
SUMMARY: Tompkins County Dispatch requested information on a person reported missing through

the Ithaca Police Department. The officer reported that the person was located. Security Officer Kevin English responded.

FEBRUARY 9

MEDICAL ASSIST/ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: Whalen Center for Music
SUMMARY: A caller reported that an individual was feeling lightheaded after passing out. The officer reported the person declined medical attention. Master Patrol Officer Waylon DeGraw responded.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT

LOCATION: Farm Pond Road
SUMMARY: A caller reported a property damage motor vehicle accident involving a deer. The officer reported that grounds was contacted for the removal of the deer.

FEBRUARY 10

ASSIST CORNELL POLICE DEPARTMENT

LOCATION: All Other
SUMMARY: The Cornell Police Department requested information regarding two persons involved in a suspicious incident on the Cornell University campus. Master Patrol Officer Waylon DeGraw responded.

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Circle Apartments
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire

alarm. The officer reported the alarm was caused by burnt food. Master Patrol Officer Waylon DeGraw responded.

FEBRUARY 11

PETIT LARCENY UNDER \$50

LOCATION: U-Lot
SUMMARY: A caller reported that an unknown person entered a vehicle and stole a parking permit. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon responded.

SCC DANGER TO SELF

LOCATION: The Campus Center
SUMMARY: An officer reported that persons were climbing on the entrance overhang between the north stairs. The officer reported the persons were given a warning for conduct code violation. Patrol Officer Joe Oppen responded.

FEBRUARY 12

SCC ACTS OF DISHONESTY

LOCATION: Unknown Location
SUMMARY: A person found a driver’s license and turned it over to the Office of Public Safety. The officer determined the driver’s license was fictitious. Master Patrol Officer John Elmore responded.

FEBRUARY 13

TRESPASS NO DEGREE

LOCATION: Academic Complex
SUMMARY: An officer reported persons running in the building. The

officer reported three persons were located and issued a conduct warning for being in the area after hours. The officer escorted the persons out of the area. Master Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

FEBRUARY 14

CHECK ON THE WELFARE

LOCATION: East Tower
SUMMARY: A caller reported third-hand information of an individual who intentionally harmed themselves. The officer determined the person was not an immediate threat to themselves or others. Master Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

OFF-CAMPUS INCIDENT

LOCATION: All Other
SUMMARY: A caller reported that an individual was sexually assaulted at an off-campus location by a known person. The officer reported that they turned over the information to the Ithaca Police Department for investigation. Patrol Officer Joe Oppen responded.

ACCIDENTAL PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: Hilliard Hall
SUMMARY: A caller reported a group being loud and possibly setting off fireworks. Officers met with residential life staff who reported the noise was from a known individual who was banging on the entrance door. Master Patrol

Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

MEDICAL ASSIST/ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: Terrace Dining Hall
SUMMARY: A caller reported a person passed out. The officer reported the person declined medical assistance. The person was transported to the hospital by friends. Sergeant Don Lyke responded.

PETIT LARCENY OVER \$200

LOCATION: West Tower
SUMMARY: A caller reported that an unknown person stole a bike from a bike rack. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded.

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Circle Apartments
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The officer reported the alarm was caused by burnt food. Sergeant Don Lyke 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



MOLLY STANTON/THE ITHACAN

EDITORIALS

Is ten seconds of fame worth years of damage?

You can only hear phrases so much before they become meaningless. “Transparency” and “shared governance” have been reliable go-tos for President Shirley M. Collado throughout the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process.

Collado’s empty promises have helped her build a facade for the external press. This past spring, Collado was featured on the likes of MSNBC and Bloomberg about Ithaca College’s potential reopening in the fall. The plan was unsuccessful, but at least the president got a little publicity. While the failure to bring students back to campus for Fall 2020 was immensely disappointing — especially after it was touted to national media outlets — the change was understandable. Things were out of the administration’s control.

What’s less understandable, and definitely more in the administration’s control, is the APP. The speed of this process has overwhelmed students, alumni, faculty, staff and the administration alike. It’s been obvious that over the last four months, the administration has not been open to discourse with the campus community. So, instead of directly addressing the campus community, the logical answer is to provide a 1,500-plus word op-ed to the national press ... Right?

On Feb. 18, Collado and La Jerne Cornish, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, published a commentary about the necessity for the cuts in *Inside Higher Ed*, a well-known education publication. Just days before, the same outlet published a story

about the resistance to the APP at the college. Getting coverage in a national outlet for the community’s response is one thing, but writing an opinion piece full of the same tired tropes to save face is another. Time and time again, it is evident where the administrations’ priorities lie. PR stunts like this feel like a last-ditch effort to save enrollment.

In the commentary, Collado and Cornish write about the inequities between tenured and tenure-track faculty versus contingent faculty. They write, “We hope that this reality will invite a conversation among faculty about faculty legislation and whether they wish to continue to privilege tenure and tenure-eligible status moving forward.” What use does a conversation about this have after the fact?

At the end of the commentary, Collado and Cornish reflect on their identities. The college’s leadership has unfortunately triggered attacks that are rooted in systemic racism and sexism, which are completely unwarranted. However, there is a difference when the campus community is asking to be heard and involved more in these decisions. Letters, protests and testimonials are not attacks. They offer perspectives on an egregious process that ruptures the stability of the college and our trust within.

In order to do right by our students and our institution, the administration should start by listening and taking the campus community’s anger into consideration rather than dismissing it to a national readership. It’s the least they can do after approving the cuts. We deserve candid conversations, not a strategic press release that attempts to repair the college’s reputation.

Allyship must continue beyond designated spaces

Like its predecessors, this Black History Month was yet another cop-out for non-Black Americans to proclaim allyship without action. “Allies” who posted a black square to their social media feeds over the summer seem to be silent now, despite racial injustice continuing to surge.

Black and Asian Americans are more likely to report adverse experiences due to their race or ethnicity since the COVID-19 pandemic began, according to the Pew Research Center. As the pandemic continues, it would be a failure to not recognize the violent racism hurled at Asian-American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) individuals. A national coalition, Stop APPI Hate, received over 2,000 accounts of anti-Asian hate across the nation between March 19, 2020 and Dec. 31, 2020.

As a predominately white institution, it is even more important for those with privilege at Ithaca College to take a stand against these issues. Members of the campus community, especially those who are not people of color, must not remain ignorant to the acts

of racism that have come about as a result of the pandemic. Students of color at the college have been fighting for racial justice for years. There have been countless instances of racial bias and discrimination at the college, and, many times, students’ voices have been disregarded by other members of the campus community.

The college is not known for its proactive anti-racism. In Fall 2020, it was disappointing to see that it took a public callout from Ithaca College Department of Theatre Arts Black, Indigenous and People of Color (ICTA BIPOC) — a group of students and alumni — for the college to address these issues. While it is reassuring to see students take agency, it is frustrating that the burden relies on them to take matters into their own hands.

As allies, the fight for racial justice must be intersectional. The work does not end when social media moves on. Allyship is a constant process of listening, learning and advocating. Allowing hateful rhetoric to justify any kind of violence, verbal or physical, is abusive.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR OR GUEST COMMENTARY

Letters must be 250 words or fewer and emailed or dropped off by 5 p.m. Monday in Park 220. Commentaries must be 500–650 words. Must be written by an individual or group who has an educated opinion or is an authority on a specific subject.

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

IC AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS (AAUP) PETITION REGARDING APP, FEBRUARY 2021

Ithaca College AAUP petitions to reject cuts

Response and Petition re: APPIC Recommendations

The Ithaca College chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) urges the College’s Senior Leadership Team and the Board of Trustees to reject the recommendations submitted by the Academic Program Prioritization Implementation Committee (APPIC). It is our view that the proposed faculty reductions in these recommendations violate at least three crucial AAUP principles, and are harmful to the future of the institution, namely those of shared governance, of academic freedom, and those relating to the termination of faculty appointments. Our explanation of each of these claims follows on the succeeding pages.

We call upon the Senior Leadership Team and the Board of Trustees to take the following actions:

1) Reject the APPIC recommendations

2) Return to the APP process with the following changes:

A) A reconstituted APPIC, which should include seats for tenured, TE, NTEN, and contingent faculty members

B) An extended timeline, to allow for more wide-ranging engagement during a time when the majority of faculty will be back on campus and to allow for faculty members in positions slated for discontinuation to retain their employment during the worst of the pandemic

C) Release to the IC community of a document detailing a full and comprehensible assessment of the College’s financial picture, including audited financial statements with breakdowns by department or planning unit, line-item details of projected revenues and expenses over the next five years including administrative salaries and new hires in administration, endowment performance, total liquid assets, and a clear justification of why the

College must be reduced to an enrollment of 5000

Rationale:

1. Shared governance:

Shared governance entails meaningful participation in the processes of decision-making and implementation, not merely of information gathering. 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, according to the AAUP. Similarly, while faculty certainly contributed to the Strategic Plan, faculty were not consulted on the decision to reduce the undergraduate enrollment of the College, nor has it been explained to the campus community why it is necessary for the College to serve fewer students. In “The Role of the Faculty in Budgetary and Salary Matters,” the AAUP has affirmed that “The faculty should participate both in the preparation of the total institutional budget and (within the framework of the total budget) in decisions relevant to the further apportioning of its specific fiscal divisions (salaries, academic programs, tuition, physical plant and grounds, and so on). The soundness of resulting decisions should be enhanced if an elected representative committee of the faculty participates in deciding on the overall allocation of institutional resources and the proportion to be devoted directly to the academic program.” No faculty members were appointed or elected to APPIC, and therefore the faculty have not fully participated in the process of decision-making or implementation.

2. Academic freedom:

The notion of academic freedom does not extend simply

to research agendas by individual faculty members. Pedagogy is also an important element of academic freedom, which the College acknowledges in the ICPM 4.4.1 (2), citing the AAUP’s treatment of

“That the institution may have the authority to perform a certain action does not therefore mean they have an obligation to perform that action.
- Ithaca College AAUP

academic freedom in the 1990 Policy Documents & Reports, as is curricular design, which the College acknowledges implicitly in the following section by linking curricular design with instruction and locating both explicitly within the faculty’s purview: “the faculty have primary responsibility for such fundamental areas as curriculum and instruction” (4.4.1.1). While it is true that vacant TE and tenured lines revert to the Provost’s Office, the general purpose of this reversion is reallocation rather than elimination. As such, current practice does not in our view serve as an apposite model for the reductions proposed in the APPIC recommendations. Instead, these recommendations infringe upon the faculty’s

academic freedom by effectively mandating curricular changes through the reduction of the faculty by between one fifth and one quarter, thereby guaranteeing that curricula cannot be delivered as they presently exist. Departments and programs will be forced to change their curricula in response to the recommendations because present curricula cannot be staffed at such dramatically reduced levels.

3. Terminations of appointments:

The primary rationale provided by the APPIC for the recommended reductions is financial. In section 4c of “Recommended Institutional Regulations on Academic Freedom and Tenure,” the AAUP asserts that faculty appointments may be discontinued as a result of financial exigency only after all other avenues have been explored:

There should be an elected faculty governance body, or a body designated by a collective bargaining agreement, that participates in the decision that a condition of financial exigency exists or is imminent and that all feasible alternatives to termination of appointments have been pursued, including expenditure of one-time money or reserves as bridge funding, furloughs, pay cuts, deferred-compensation plans, early-retirement packages, deferral of nonessential capital expenditures, and cuts to noneducational programs and services, including expenses for administration.

And further:

Judgments determining where within the overall academic program termination of appointments may occur involve considerations of educational policy, including affirmative action, as well as of faculty status, and should therefore be the primary responsibility of the faculty or of an appropriate faculty body. The faculty or an appropriate faculty body should also exercise

primary responsibility in determining the criteria for identifying the individuals whose appointments are to be terminated. These criteria may appropriately include considerations of length of service.

The responsibility for identifying individuals whose appointments are to be terminated should be committed to a person or group designated or approved by the faculty.

Yet the College community has been told repeatedly that we are not presently in a condition of financial exigency; 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. AAUP does not presently take a position on the question of whether these reductions are permitted by the terms of the *Ithaca College Policy Manual*, primarily because it is our view that this question is beside the point. That the institution may have the authority to perform a certain action does not therefore mean that they have an obligation to perform that action.

In January, a group of faculty members began working together to form an AAUP chapter at Ithaca College in response to the impending Academic Program Prioritization (APP) cuts. The AAUP works to advance academic freedom and shared governance in higher education. Dan Breen, associate professor in the Department of English, is the chair of the IC AAUP.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Community needs updates on administrative cuts

BY MICHAEL TWOMEY

I retired from the English department in 2017 after teaching at Ithaca College for 37 years. In that time, the college went through several rounds of “rightsizing,” so the current situation is all too familiar.

The “Shape of the College” recommends some changes that have been needed for a long time. It makes sense to streamline the admissions process so that students don’t feel pressured to enter with a declared major. And it makes sense to reduce the number of credits required in some majors so that students can more easily take courses outside their majors without an overload. Likewise, a 3/2 load for faculty, a four-course load for students and a common class schedule for the entire college are all improvements.

However, the document tells the same old story about cutting the faculty without a word about cutting the administration. The document alleges that a major reason for “rightsizing” is that “as the student body decreased and the faculty increased in recent years, the curriculum proliferated without consistent oversight and was not guided by a particular collegewide vision.” The faculty is here implicitly being made responsible for increasing itself in order to

deliver an ever-expanding curriculum.

In fact, faculty cannot be hired without administrative approval. What’s being suppressed in “Shape” is that all increases in the number of faculty over the years occurred with the administration’s blessing. What’s also being suppressed is that the administration can and does create new administrative positions without any approval by the faculty.

If the college is losing students, what about the role of the Admissions Office? From Fall 2018 to Fall 2020, the full-time equivalent enrollment declined by over 1,200 — an unprecedented drop of 18.8%. The document seems to assume that Admissions can’t help the college recover from the pandemic or adapt to changes in the college-age demographic. And how can the Division of Philanthropy and Engagement attract donations to a college that is so drastically reduced from what it was? As reported by *The Ithacan*, a member of the Facebook group IC Alumni Against Austerity is quoted as saying, “We are people who can literally support the institution, and if they make Ithaca unrecognizable to us essentially, that’s not something that we’re going to be convinced to support.”

A major problem is the impact these



In 2007, Ithaca College named Michael Twomey a Charles A. Dana Professor of Humanities and Arts. Twomey retired from the Department of English in 2007.

COURTESY OF MICHAEL TWOMEY

cuts will have on education at the college. These cuts will force immediate and drastic curricular changes upon a greatly reduced faculty. The remaining faculty will have to scramble to cover courses taught by released colleagues, and in some cases, they will be forced to revise majors and minors. This will have to be done quickly so as not to disadvantage students. At best, the cuts will be disruptive, but at worst, IC’s educational diversity will be seriously compromised. To cite one example, students taking courses in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures will now be limited to four traditional European languages (French, German, Spanish, Italian). Arabic, Hebrew, Latin and Linguistics will be gone, and Chinese will

continue at the 100-level only.

The cuts target the lowest-paid, most easily released faculty. In contrast, well-compensated administrators — whose salaries can be seen in the Form 990s filed with the IRS — are not mentioned in “Shape.” Do they get to keep their jobs and their benefits, even though over the past 10 years it was the IC administration that allowed the faculty to grow and the number of students to shrink? At the very least, the faculty and students deserve an open and full accounting of whether there will be cuts on the administrative side of the college.

MICHAEL TWOMEY is a retired Dana professor. Contact him at twomey@ithaca.edu.

FACULTY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (FCEC) SURVEY RESULTS, FEB. 16, 2021

Majority of faculty survey participants reject cuts

PROCESS:
Following the release of APPIC’s “Shape of the College” draft, departments, curriculum committees, and academic policies committees were invited to provide feedback. Honoring our institutional commitment to inclusion, and having been told that not all departments on campus had opportunities for ample discussion, Faculty Council conducted a survey in order to identify what percentage of faculty are persuaded of the appropriateness of the “Shape of the College” recommendations, and to ascertain whether the draft has the faculty buy-in necessary to be successfully implemented.

The survey ran from February 2nd to February 10th. Faculty were invited to indicate whether they support or oppose the draft as a whole, and to submit written feedback. Below, we offer an overview of the survey’s findings, and our own conclusions as the Faculty Council Executive Committee for Faculty Council.

RESULTS AND SUMMARY:
319 faculty participated in the survey. Of those, 71 faculty indicated that they support the recommendations (22%); 248 faculty indicated that they oppose the recommendations (78%).

The most frequently repeated comment offered by faculty who participated in the survey is that the community should be provided with a rationale for the specific cuts; lacking that, they are unsure what the broader strategic thinking is behind the plan. Many are not convinced that the APPIC recommendations are, in fact, strategic. As an example, 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... weakening of the college.”

Numerous faculty members stated that the recommendations are taking on too much at once, in too compressed a period of time. Many wished to see the process slowed down so that the college community could explore alternative paths and study how the recommendations will impact the curriculum. “Curricular redesign,” one faculty member noted, will be a significant investment of faculty resources. “Faculty who remain will bear a significant burden of [that] labor.”

Many of those who responded stated that the APPIC process was not inclusive or in line with the principles of shared governance. In particular, faculty felt that the recommendations essentially mandate curricular changes, without faculty input. Some who had been involved in the early APP process expressed frustration at seeing little evidence of their work in the recommendations. One faculty member noted: “I would love to see a deeper and more frank, open discussion that includes students and affected faculty... 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.”

Faculty noted too that the relationship between the “Shape of the College” draft and Ithaca College’s mission and vision is unclear, with some asking: What will IC look like when these cuts are made? How are the cuts specifically tied to IC Forever? Some faculty also saw a lack of economic analysis and financial transparency regarding the reasons for and impact of each recommendation. Many continue to express a desire to more fully understand the choice of 5000 as the size of the student body, which is the clear driver of revenue and, therefore, the overall economic position of the college.

Some offered specific suggestions for alternative paths, asking that the timing of the pandemic be



The Faculty Council issued a survey to gauge faculty support for the recommended faculty cuts listed in the “Shape of the College” draft. Pictured is a Faculty Council meeting held Sept. 5, 2017.

FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

taken into account when terminating faculty; that re-hiring practices be adopted should the college’s position change; and that the objectives of subsequent phases and their timelines be made available.

Several faculty members expressed support for the recommendations, with one faculty member noting: “I support the proposal not because I think it’s perfect, but because it is our best option for long-term stability,” and tells those who think otherwise to “WAKE UP.” Others remarked that they had already provided feedback in other venues, and thus were not providing more here.

Finally, at least one faculty member provided feedback on the Faculty Council survey itself, noting that it would be dangerous to assume that these results speak for all faculty. Specifically, Faculty Council Executive Committee was asked to present the survey findings with the utmost care.

CONCLUSIONS:
Our goal in conducting this survey was to provide the senior

leadership with a summary of the faculty response to the APPIC recommendations, recognizing that this survey is far from scientific and does not capture all faculty voices. Some chose not to fill it out at all and those who support the recommendations were less likely to add a comment in the text box. Nevertheless, we think that what the survey does capture is important to hear, as faculty buy-in will be essential for the work that must be done in the coming years to adjust to and implement these many changes.

There was no possibility, of course, that a process of downsizing could happen without pain. But faculty are asking searching questions that go beyond the predictable sadness, and it would benefit us all to hear them answered. 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. Many remain puzzled about the basis for the undergraduate target number of 5000, and question whether

the College can make clear-sighted decisions about its appropriate long-term size at a moment when the picture is clouded by COVID. Ethical concerns have been raised about the termination of many long-term, dedicated faculty and staff in a dire economic moment. And many see the reductions as untethered to a clearly articulated vision for Ithaca College. (We recognize that the reductions aim to make the college financially sustainable, but that in itself is not a vision.)

The FCEC urges the SLT to do everything in its power to address these questions and concerns—openly, directly and, ideally, in venues where give-and-take is possible—so that we can move past this moment of great strife and come together as a community that is collectively focused on providing the best possible educational experience for our students.

Sincerely,
Chris McNamara, Chair, and the members of the Faculty Council Executive Committee

GUEST COMMENTARY

A price too big to ignore: The cost of Ithaca College

BY MAILLI MCCORMACK

As a student from a low income background, the price of higher education is no secret. I spent my first year at Ithaca College under insurmountable stress, worrying about how I’d pay for school. I kept my financial situation extremely private, as it brought me much shame. This was a mistake. I ignored my bill because I didn’t know how to pay it, and I was too afraid to ask for help.

I spent my years in high school dedicated to my family as my mom was going through a psychotic break. I had little to no guidance, and I take responsibility for some of that. When I attempted to resolve my outstanding balance over the summer before attending the fall semester, I was told that I would have to cover about \$23,000.

I was advised by financial aid services to take a leave of absence, find a job and make money to pay my balance out of pocket. This was a slap in the face. I had already commodified my trauma, emotions and learning disability in hopes of getting help. Such neglectful advice did not help me. But, I took a leave of absence anyway, knowing I couldn’t afford the semester.

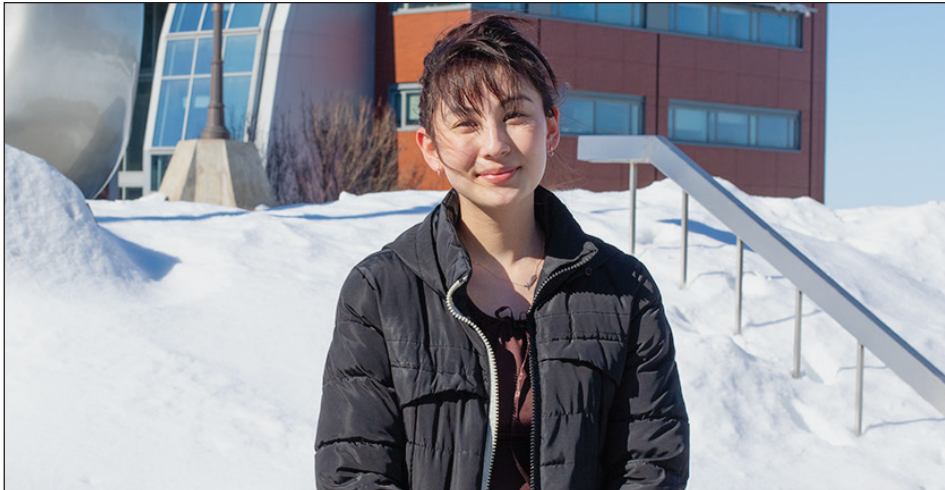
I wasn’t able to work because I had already lost two jobs that I depended on, and I needed to keep my 72-year-old father, who was working on the frontlines during a pandemic, safe.

Come winter, communication with financial aid services was touch and go. I was told to fill out different documents and forms, all in hopes of maneuvering my situation to a better, more reasonable place. There were many times when I was asked to do something, I would do it, and then I would be told there was more that needed to be done.

As frustrating as this was, I can’t even blame the people I was communicating with. They had little to no power in being flexible and adaptive to my financial state, even if they wanted to. It was a matter of administrative bureaucracy.

I found that as I communicated with higher offices, including President Shirley M. Collado, the rules and documents that constrained financial aid services became increasingly malleable. The structures that we accept as just “how things are” revealed themselves as arbitrary and unnecessary. Still, I had to find a way to pay for my education.

Terrified for my future yet filled with humiliation, I made a GoFundMe. My friends, family



Sophomore Mailli McCormack created a GoFundMe campaign to help pay for her tuition. She hopes to foster open dialogue about the price of higher education.

ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN

and community showed up for me more than I could have ever expected. I also decided to take out a private loan in addition to my federal loans. Although I most likely won’t be able to pay off my debt, buying a degree offers a chance of a better life — one with more agency.

This is not an issue unique to Ithaca College. This is a national crisis that every educational institution must address. The cost of education only continues to rise, and as the wealth gap exponentially increases, the accessibility to education narrows. Contemporary jobs require contemporary education. Although earning a degree doesn’t guarantee you a secure job that pays above minimum wage, pursuing higher education is

sometimes the only way out of the poverty cycle and oppressive forces that hinder our socioeconomic mobility.

We cannot talk about promoting diversity and inclusivity when institutions are actively restricting an entire economic class of people. I’m only scratching the surface of a far more complex issue of class intertwined with a multitude of other social and political issues. Although I can’t offer much of a solution so long as capitalism reigns, I hope telling my story inspires others to engage in this kind of dialogue.

MAILLI MCCORMACK is a sophomore politics major. Contact her at mmccormack1@ithaca.edu.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Radical communion in the face of austerity

At the beginning of this month, the U.S. Department of Labor released a report revealing that institutions of higher education have eliminated 650,000 jobs since February of last year. This is a 13% workforce reduction over a one-year period — a shocking devastation to those who rely on the industry for their livelihoods, as those of us on the chopping block know here at Ithaca College.

Financially, this strategy makes little sense as the elimination of dedicated faculty and staff will impoverish curriculum and student experience, while also failing to ameliorate deficits caused by the continuing COVID-19 crisis. But, as our administration likes to remind us, these problems loomed long before the pandemic's existence. And this is true, though not in the way that they mean it: questionable management strategies in the areas of enrollment, yield and retention have made Ithaca College an outlier in the larger higher ed landscape. Whereas institutions in New York state saw, on average, a 4.1% dip in enrollment in Fall 2020, Ithaca College experienced a 17% loss in enrollment according to recent National Student Clearinghouse data.

In a very public and recent defense of their austerity plan, the president and provost insist that they “are driving systemic change that dismantles the status quo” by “interrogating systems of established power.” But their austerity measures are precisely the status quo, taken from a playbook used by countless college administrations employing corporate management styles poised to exacerbate racial, gender and class inequities and solidify power in the hands of the managerial class. Magical rebranding of austerity cuts in the guise of “Ithaca

Forever” won’t change the impact that they will have on the college community.

When management tries to sell the idea that there’s just not enough to go around, a common strategy is to emphasize and exacerbate the existing campus divisions. Our college’s administrative policies, whether witting or not, rely on a divided campus from conception to implementation. The strategic plan depends upon scarcity-model tactics that split and isolate, even as it touts interdisciplinarity and inclusion in its outward-facing rhetoric. For alternatives, we can start by looking at resistance-shaped policies adopted by institutions like Hampshire College or, more recently, Oberlin College.

“

We have come to see each other again as human beings in need of, more than anything, real connection.

- Ithaca College Contingent Faculty Leadership Committee

”

There is, however, a silver lining to our school’s predicament. And this comes, perhaps, from the alchemy of shared pain. Between all of the Zoom classes and department meetings and virtual committee work, between navigating childcare disasters and pandemic depression and crying



The Ithaca College Contingent Faculty Leadership Committee commends the community for its solidarity amid the faculty and program cuts. Pictured is a contingent faculty rally from January 2017.

FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

with each other (so much crying), the college community has managed to find some solace in solidarity. To overcome the institutional silos that separate us. We have come to see each other again as human beings in need of, more than anything, real connection.

We should be looking to the students in these times — the brilliant, beautiful, steadfast students who are being told these cuts are being made in their names. They have taken it upon themselves to defend us — through rallies and social media campaigns and outreach that spans the country. They are fighting for their mentors, educators, friends and, in at least one case, their parents. They humble us with their

confidence and vision each day, with their tenaciousness and unwavering sense of right and wrong.

To our colleagues who feel helpless in the face of these impending decisions, please realize that there is an alternative to slow death by austerity, but it must be demanded. It must be campaigned for and hard won. Resistance is not futile and power structures are not set in stone, as the recent arbitration case that was fought and won by the union against the administration demonstrates. So come out to the next AAUP chapter meeting to see how you can help or the next contingent faculty union committee meeting if you’d like a sense of agency

and true shared governance. See what your remarkable peers are doing at @icopenthebooks and @icalumniagainstausterity.

And to the administration, if you’d like to participate in truly dismantling the status quo, just take the elevator down three floors, to where those students are standing out in the wind and cold and snow, asking to be heard, demanding an alternative to business as usual, and listen to what they have to say.

The IC Contingent Faculty Leadership Committee
James Miranda
Rachel Fomalhaut
Tom Schneller
John Burger
Mark Baustian

GUEST COMMENTARY

Zoom classes are harmful to student mental health

BY DEENA HOUISSA

I have lived with social anxiety and bipolar disorder my whole life. Keeping in control of my anxiety and mental health in general has been pretty difficult for me, especially in the age of Zoom. Feeling like nothing is certain amplifies my anxiety. How many COVID-19 cases are in Tompkins County? How will I meet up safely with that cute guy I asked out on Discord with the pandemic going on? How does one feel in control when the world around me is so confusing?

Having a therapist helps a lot when it comes to dealing with my mental health issues amid a pandemic. She helps me unpack a lot of these uncomfortable feelings that I have been bottling up for a long time. Because of COVID-19, being able to meet people in person isn’t a possibility. I find it pretty difficult to connect with people through the Zoom calls, but it’s a start. I met most of my friends on the internet, but what sucks the most is that I can’t meet up with them.

The stigma of mental health in the United States is still a pretty big issue, and mental health awareness is very important. I have parents who are both immigrants from Tunisia. Opening up about my mental health wasn’t the easiest thing to do. In most Arab countries, talking about mental health isn’t even a thing. The usual view of mental health in my parents’ home country is, “Pray it away. It will probably go away.”

With everything virtual, although the physical aspect of social interactions is gone, I still feel anxiety when I’m on a Zoom call. I still feel that painful feeling in my heart when I’m called on in class randomly. I still have to show my face in all my classes, and talk to people when I have no idea how they will react to my existence. I know this sounds a bit dramatic to some, but this is how it feels. My palms still sweat, I still feel light headed when I’m in a bigger lecture. These are all downsides to having anxiety. These things used to affect me even when COVID-19 did not exist, but now it’s amplified. I think more



Freshman Deena Houissa explains how the shift to Zoom during COVID-19 affects her mental health and how she deals with social anxiety and bipolar disorder.

ELEANOR KAY/THE ITHACAN

about myself than the actual classes that I’m in.

Zoom fatigue is also too real for me. I feel like I’m staring at a screen all day and don’t get actual work done, considering everything’s online. I take my medications, which subdue my symptoms, and have regular therapy sessions, but this anxiety still is an overwhelming issue for me. With social anxiety and bipolar disorder, it’s hard to tell when I’m going to feel amazing and when I might feel like the whole world is against

me. I have many friends who are supportive of me and my mental health, which helps significantly.

Everything almost feels unnatural when dealing with my mental health online, because this is the first time I’m dealing with everything like this. I am learning to adjust, but most importantly, others need to be more aware of these issues.

DEENA HOUISSA is a freshman journalism major. Contact her at dhouissa@ithaca.edu.

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THURSDAY, FEB. 27, 2020

THE ITHACAN

VOLUME 87
ISSUE 20

ACCURACY • INDEPENDENCE • INTEGRITY

FROM IMMIGRANT TO CITIZEN

Ithaca College professor officially becomes a United States citizen



From left, Miri Hadar-Bessire, lecturer in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, stands next to Judge John C. Rowley on Feb. 19 at the Tompkins County Courthouse. Hadar-Bessire was one of 35 people who became U.S. citizens.

BY ABBEY LONDON

Twelve years ago, Miri Hadar-Bessire, lecturer in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at Ithaca College, fled her home country of Israel with her 1-year-old son, Leryan, toward the end of the Second Lebanon War. "There were bombs everywhere, [and] missiles coming from Hezbollah," she said. "I said, 'No more. That's it. I'm done.' ... Lives in Israel were never easy. It's always war, always something going on and terror attacks, and I just had to live in peace."

Hadar-Bessire officially obtained her citizenship Feb. 19 at the Tompkins County Courthouse. She was one of 35 citizens in Ithaca who were naturalized by Judge John C. Rowley that day. Thirty-five petitioners took an Oath of Allegiance to the U.S. during the ceremony to finalize the legal status of the new citizens.

In Ithaca, as of 2018, approximately 18% of the population was foreign-born, and approximately 12% of people were noncitizens, according to the World Population Review. On Feb. 2, 2017, the City of Ithaca Common Council unanimously approved Ithaca as a sanctuary city to provide refuge for immigrants, as previously reported by The Ithacan.

Hadar-Bessire said the thing she is most excited to do now is to vote in the upcoming 2020 presidential election.

"When you are an immigrant, you are held to very high standards," she said. "You are always afraid that if you ... [do something] wrong, you'll be deported. ... [Now] nobody's going to deport me. ... I can vote. I can make my voice heard. I can protest. I can be."

From left, Miri Hadar-Bessire, lecturer in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, stands next to Judge John C. Rowley on Feb. 19 at the Tompkins County Courthouse. Hadar-Bessire was one of 35 people who became U.S. citizens.

ABBIE LONDON/THE ITHACAN

CITIZENSHIP, PAGE 4

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DIVERSIONS

crossword

By United Media

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
18							19		20			
			21		22			23		24	25	26
27	28	29			30	31	32			33		
34					35				36			
37					38				39			
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			44		45	46		47		48	49	50
51	52	53			54		55					
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

ACROSS

- 1 Chuck Yeager, e.g.
4 Kukla's friend
8 Mope
12 Prim
13 Sub — (secretly)
14 Soprano — Gluck
15 Most robust
17 Uncluttered
18 Use, as force
19 Garden hopper
21 Ca++ or Na+
23 Fundamental
27 Cry loudly
30 "Mister Ed" actor
33 Cousteau's summer
34 Sinister
35 Pump abbr.
36 Didn't give way
37 Lamprey
38 Cow-headed goddess
39 Groundless
40 Fourth estate
42 Building wing
44 Sheik colleague
47 Things on a list
51 Small amount

DOWN

- 1 Tooth problem
2 Persuade
3 Brontë heroine Jane —
4 Certain corn chip
5 Caviar, actually
6 Helper, briefly
7 Western alliance
8 Chinese bear
9 Pamplona shout
10 Ms. Thurman
11 Make lacework
16 Jackhammer
20 Pecs' neighbors
22 Pesters
24 Watermelon leftover
25 "— do for now"
26 Surrender territory

- 27 Pager's sound
28 Maintain
29 Deceitful cunning
31 Avril follower
32 If not
36 Knife handles
38 Dogma
41 Lines of stitches
43 Mortgages
45 March 15, in Rome

- 46 Repetitive learning
48 Sicilian volcano
49 Demeanor
50 Kilt wearer
51 I, for Wolfgang
52 Miners dig it
53 Beret cousin
55 Beaded shoe

last issue's crossword answers

J	A	V	A		H	O	E		G	O	O	D	
A	X	E	L		E	R	A		A	X	L	E	
R	I	N	D		I	O	U		L	E	E	K	
	S	T	E	A	D				C	A	N	O	E
				N	A	I	L	E	D				
L	O	A	T	H		L	O	S		B	A	H	
I	S	L	E		W	A	S		B	U	R	R	
D	U	E		H	A	M		Y	O	G	I	S	
				U	R	A	N	U	S				
C	R	A	V	E				U	L	N	A	S	
H	O	B	O		F	O	R		I	G	O	R	
A	U	E	L		L	A	S		A	U	D	I	
N	E	T	S		U	T	E		N	E	A	P	

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sudoku

easy

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

hard

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

answers to last issue's sudoku:

easy

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

medium

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

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Shoppers line up outside Trader Joe's new location at 744 S. Meadow St. during the store's grand opening Feb. 19. Some customers waited in line for hours before opening.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

NAUTICAL GROCERY STORE DROPS ANCHOR

Trader Joe's new Ithaca location opens

BY ARLEIGH RODGERS

The words Ithacans have been waiting to hear: Trader Joe's has docked ship in Ithaca.

On Feb. 19, shoppers lined up outside the store at 744 S. Meadow St. to scour the newly installed, tightly packed shelves. When Samantha Maione, a store leader called a Mate, arrived for her shift at 6:45 a.m., she said she saw customers already waiting in anticipation.

Word of a Trader Joe's in Ithaca surfaced in March 2020 when the Ithaca Voice reported that a location in Ithaca was in its early stages of development. Locals have expressed their desire for the grocery chain to open a store in Ithaca, even forming social media groups like "Ithaca Needs A Trader Joe's," now renamed "Ithaca HAS a Trader Joe's." The store's opening was confirmed Jan. 26, making it the 29th store in New York state and the 515th in the country.

Ithaca College senior Natalie Smith said she arrived at Trader Joe's on opening day around noon, where she sought out nut butters and dried mango in the bustling store. As someone who does not eat gluten, dairy or refined sugars — something she posts about on her health food Instagram, @nataliesnaturalfood — Smith said she is excited to have a Trader Joe's to buy ingredients for the recipes.

"Their products are unique, and you can't get them anywhere else," Smith said. "Every time I go to Trader Joe's, the workers are just so nice and helpful."

Grand openings are special, Maione said, so to celebrate the opening of a new store, certain products around the store were comped for lucky shoppers, and the first 1,000 customers also received a free reusable Trader Joe's bag. The Ithaca location's hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day except Sundays, when it is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Chanel Courant '20 graduated in December and still lives in Ithaca, so she applied to be part of the Crew. As a Crew member,

Courant said, she works at the cash register, unpacks daily deliveries and stocks shelves.

Senior Jules Baumann is also part of the Ithaca Trader Joe's Crew, though this isn't the first time she has worked at the store. From May to August 2020, Baumann worked at the Trader Joe's Denville, New Jersey, location, where along with being a crew member, she created shelf tags for products and designed signs in chalk for outside the store. Inside each store is a painted mural, and the Ithaca location features images of Ithaca attractions like Buttermilk Falls, Cayuga Lake and even East and West Towers.

Employees like Courant and Baumann have been preparing the store since the beginning of January.

"I've worked in retail before, but I've never worked a job where there was so much of a focus on customer interaction and just making sure that the customers feel really welcomed," Courant said.

Courant said that when she was hired, her hourly pay was \$16 per hour. Because of the pandemic, the hourly rate has gone up \$4 because of Trader Joe's hazard, or "thank you," pay. Wages were initially increased \$2 per hour at the start of the pandemic, with another \$2 per hour added in February 2021. Courant also said that when she and her co-workers receive the COVID-19 vaccine, they will be paid for two hours of work per dose.

Baumann, who lives off campus, said she plans to switch her grocery shopping to Trader Joe's from Wegmans because she likes the options and pricing of Trader Joe's better. As an employee, she also receives a 20% discount.

"Our store makes it so accessible, between all of their frozen meal options, and those are enough to give you ideas for what you can make even using their fresh stuff," she said. "I think that students in general are going to be really excited just to have a Trader Joe's."

Affordability is a relative term. Sophomore Bianca Sessegolo said that because she is



Trader Joe's employees celebrate with a ribbon cutting ceremony Feb. 19. The store's hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day except Sundays, when it is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

ASH BAILOT AND MIKAYLA ROVENOLT/THE ITHACAN

paying for all her current expenses, namely groceries and rent, she does not find Trader Joe's products within her price range. She said she spends approximately \$100 on groceries per month, half of a cost she splits with her roommate. They buy most of their groceries at Price Chopper, the Dollar Tree or Walmart, she said.

Other community members will not be shopping at the store. Monica Lewis, a two-year resident of Ithaca and associate dean for alumni affairs and development in the College of Arts and Sciences at Cornell University, said she will stick to her usual rotation of buying groceries from Wegmans, GreenStar Co-op and the Ithaca Farmers Market.

Lewis said she was skeptical that Trader

Joe's would come to Ithaca because of the economic toll the pandemic took on grocery stores. Locally, GreenStar was hit particularly hard as a result of the pandemic. The store said in December 2020 that for the past six months, it had experienced an average loss of \$55,000 per week.

Lewis said that instead, she would go to Trader Joe's for its flowers and specialty, desert or seasonal items. Before she moved to Ithaca, Lewis and her family lived in St. Louis, Missouri, where she frequented the store.

"There's a consistent high quality to their products and a novelty factor that actually hits the right mark," she said.

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Handwerker Gallery opens hybrid exhibitions

BY EVA SALZMAN

During Ithaca College's remote semester in Fall 2020, the Handwerker Gallery could not provide students with the in-person art viewing experiences that so many appreciated. With students on campus for Spring 2021, the Handwerker is preparing for gallery-goers to return to the space.

The gallery will be featuring two exhibitions, running from Feb. 24 to April 9. "Do it (home)," curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist, will offer an interactive aspect. The exhibit encourages viewers to enter the artists' world by following a set of instructions the artist created. "A CLOSER LOOK" will feature work from 13 artists who were originally part of a permanent art collection created for the college between 1963 and 1972. This revived exhibition pulls works from the collection that have relevance within the context of the events of this past year.

When it was announced that the fall semester would be completely remote, Mara Baldwin, director of the Handwerker Gallery, adapted the gallery to be accessible virtually. The virtual exhibitions featured 360-degree virtual scroll photographs that gave viewers a detailed view of each exhibition as if they were walking through the gallery.

Now, with students on campus for the spring semester, Baldwin is looking forward to bringing the traditional in-person experience back to the gallery.

"I hope that people are able to find some joy and insight in experiencing the gallery and doing something that seems more normal," Baldwin said. "I think that's why so

many students came back this semester, because of the desire for access. And, you know, intimacy, like being in space with others, even with the constraints that we have to work around to be safe."

Like many other galleries have done during the pandemic, the Handwerker Gallery will be sharing a portion of the show on its social media accounts. Each day, the gallery's social media accounts will feature a set of instructions from the artists of the "do it (home)" exhibition. Virtual galleries will also be available for both exhibitions on the Handwerker's website.

Senior Carly Hough, a Handwerker Gallery monitor, said they are looking forward to getting back into the gallery space.

"I love working there," Hough said. "I really love the location of the gallery because I feel like I see a lot of people when I work, and I really miss having events there and getting to work with artists."

Hough said they hope students who have not been into the gallery will take the opportunity to go in.

"I think that sometimes people are a little intimidated by the gallery, like not sure what it is and not sure if you have to pay to go in," Hough said. "So I hope that people who haven't been in before will be like, 'This is an opportunity I should really take to go see some art.' And I hope that it can be like a way for people to de-stress."

The gallery will be adhering to the COVID-19 safety regulations that the college has put in place in order to keep visitors safe. This will include the addition of markers on the floor to indicate a 6-foot distance. Baldwin said



From left, art preparator Brian Quan and senior Annie Shaw prepare the Handwerker Gallery for its opening Feb. 24. The gallery held virtual exhibitions and events throughout the fall semester.

FRANKIE WALLS/THE ITHACAN

she and her staff are ready to work hard to ensure these regulations are followed in order to keep the gallery open.

"The gallery is a small space, but it's also pretty easy to keep an eye on things," Hough said. "I have a feeling that most people at Ithaca are going to be pretty respectful of that. I'll definitely miss getting to have big events in there, but I'm just happy to be in the space at all."

Sophomore Ellen Chapman said she plans on returning to the gallery when it reopens.

"I'm just looking forward to the Handwerker reopening," Chapman said. "It'll be nice to have another spot on campus to visit, plus I like going to see other people's art. It's important to appreciate their hard work, even if they don't know you are."

Before the pandemic, Chapman said she frequented the gallery and

saw it as a place to relax.

"I really enjoy the fact that the Handwerker is a nonjudgmental space," she said. "I went there alone a few times, and it was really nice to just look at the art. There isn't any pressure to try and interpret or explain it, you can just stand there and be like, 'That's pretty,' and that's enough."

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Local musicians boogie for State Theatre fundraiser

BY PARKER SCHUG

The annual Boogie Shakedown celebration is typically held during a chilly Ithaca Memorial Day weekend. However, this year, Boogie Shakedown is becoming Boogie for the State, a virtual event to celebrate local music and raise money for The State Theatre of Ithaca.

The Shakedown will take place at 7 p.m. Feb. 28 and will showcase performances from over 10 local bands. Since 1998, Boogie Shakedown has been a backyard get-together for Ithaca musicians and their families. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, live performances have mostly been put on pause. The State Theatre has adapted to a virtual setting to maintain the tradition. The concert, which will be streamed on Facebook and YouTube, is free to watch, but donations will be encouraged throughout the event.

Viewers can expect performances from artists who have graced the Boogie Shakedown stage in the past, like Plastic Nebraska, Maddy Walsh & The Blind Spots, Sim Redmond Band, Johnny Dowd, Mary Lorson and Billy Cote of Madder Rose, Common Railers, The Small Kings, The Rungs, Janet Batch, The Sutras and Don Bazley and The Moles.

Brian Fiorello, manager of Plastic Nebraska, said it is important to keep the spirit of local music alive amid the pandemic.

"This area is big with original local music and music festivals, so [Boogie Shakedown] was kind of the first gathering of people, and you started to get that first taste of music and a little mini music festival," Fiorello said.

Many in-person festivals in Ithaca last year were canceled or shifted to virtual programming because of the pandemic.

Maddy Walsh, lead singer of Maddy Walsh & The Blind Spots, said that for performers, this is an opportunity to reunite — even if it is over a screen.

"I remember when we first started playing, there were a few musicians who had babies, and now there's this whole other part of the party," Walsh said. "There's a bunch of kids running around, and they all know each other from having been at this party for years and years."

The State Theatre opened in 1928 and is located in Downtown Ithaca.

Doug Levine, executive director of the State Theatre, said many live event venues are struggling amid the pandemic. Nearly 90% of independent concert venues are at risk of closing their doors due to the pandemic, according to a June report from the National Independent Venue Association.

Boogie for the State is not the theater's first effort to keep itself afloat. In November, the theater launched the Save Your Seat campaign. Supporters had the opportunity to purchase a customized plaque to be placed on one of the theater's seats. With 1,600 seats in the theater, the goal was to raise \$160,000 to cover the deficit from not hosting a show since March 2020. The State Theatre announced that it met its goal Dec. 30.

Prior to the pandemic, students from Ithaca College would attend concerts at local music venues like the State Theatre and The Haunt, located near the Ithaca Farmers Market. The Haunt was sold last year, and the demolition of the building began the week of Feb. 22.

Junior Brooke Bernhardt attended a Walk the Moon concert at the State Theatre in 2019 and said she would be sad if the theater had to close.



"Boogie for the State" is the name of this year's virtual Boogie Shakedown concert and fundraiser for the State Theatre. The concert will be streaming 7 p.m. Feb. 28.

MIKAYLA ELWELL/THE ITHACAN

"It's a beautiful old-fashioned theater and a nice concert space," Bernhardt said. "I'd hate to see a space like that shut down."

In an effort to make Boogie for the State run smoothly, each performer pre-recorded their performances. All of the performances will be edited together for the livestream.

"One thing that we learned is with true live streaming, there's a lot of risk and a lot of stress involved because so much can go wrong, but when you have people recording them in advance, you get the good take," Levine said. "Then you can put it all together, and the way we stream it out, we kind of ensure that it's a

smooth, good stream."

Walsh said she is looking forward to not only participating in the concert but also watching other performances.

"We're happy to submit a musical contribution from ourselves, but I love tuning into the other bands, and that's sort of the joy of this particular festival, party, is that musicians get to watch other musicians bring their stuff to the stage," Walsh said. "To see them and hear them again will be a total joy."

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Netflix rom-com ties up trilogy in a bow

MOVIE REVIEW: “To All the Boys: Always and Forever” Netflix



BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

Similar to many recent Netflix rom-coms, the experience of watching “To All the Boys: Always and Forever,” is like eating a giant bowl of powdered sugar in one sitting. If viewers are into that, then more power to them. If not, they must avoid this film at all costs.

“To All the Boys: Always and Forever,” the final film in the “To All the Boys” trilogy, picks up where its predecessors — “To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before” and “To All the Boys: P.S. I Still Love You” — left off. Lana Condor reprises her role as Lara Jean, a diffident, high-achieving high schooler. In the first film, Lara Jean’s life changed when letters she had written and addressed, but not sent, to her childhood crushes were mailed by her toothy-grinned sixth grade sister Kitty (Anna Cathcart). One thing led to another, and she ended up with smoking hot jock Peter Kavinsky (Noah Centineo) as her first boyfriend. Their relationship is tested in the second film, leaving “Always and Forever” to wrap things up.

The films’ world is squeaky clean, carrying a perpetual false-setto that brings out its goofy version of reality. The characters who populate Lara Jean’s high-school are all conventionally attractive and conventionally happy. Pseudo-melancholic pop music plays over every scene. Lara Jean narrates her relationship with lines that can only be described as ripped from a 14-year-old’s Tumblr page.

There is something worth noting about the actor who plays Peter, as well as most of the actors at the high school — they’re all adults in their twenties. Perhaps the filmmakers haven’t seen what high schoolers look like, but Peter, played by a 24-year-old, does not look like an 18-year-old. The same goes for almost all of

Lara Jean’s friends.

Lara Jean, now a senior, is hearing back from colleges she hopes to go to. Her number one choice is Stanford University, where she hopes to attend with Peter. But after visiting New York University on a senior trip to New York City, Lara Jean decides the East Coast might be in her future. The dilemmas that the film presents are barely enough to pass as drama. While most high school seniors question their college choices, the candy-coated atmosphere of the series doesn’t give the audience enough room to bask in the emotion that should come with it.

The previous two films in the series have also done this film the disfavor of wrapping their plot threads up in a pleasant bow by their credits. When Lara Jean goes through relationship troubles with Peter, the audience knows they will be all right in the end. Even when Lara Jean questions her college decisions, there isn’t anything long term that changes who she is. She is, in effect, the same person as she was in the beginning of the series — just as kind, just as hardworking and just as lovable. By the end of the film, everything falls together perfectly for her — ironically while Lara Jean’s voice-over tells the audience how messy and difficult life is.

Perhaps looking too deep into it is the problem. Maybe eating that bowl of sugar is what some audiences want. For that, “To All the Boys: Always and Forever” will work like a charm. But for fans of legitimate coming-of-age movies that show the grungy, imperfect lives of young people — more along the lines of “Eighth Grade,” “Lady Bird” and “Dazed and Confused” — “To All the Boys: Always and Forever” is best forgotten.

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“To All the Boys: Always and Forever,” is squeaky-clean and misses the mark of a legitimate coming-of-age story. COURTESY OF NETFLIX

Acting anchors historical film

MOVIE REVIEW: “Judas and the Black Messiah” Participant Media



BY JACKSON NOEL

In 1968, FBI director J. Edgar Hoover exclaimed that the FBI would do anything in its power to “prevent the rise of a ‘messiah’ who could unify and electrify the militant Black nationalist movement.” As presented in “Judas and the Black Messiah,” the target of this message is clear: Fred Hampton, chairman of the Illinois Black Panther party — here played superbly by Daniel Kaluuya.

However, the FBI needed evidence to put a bullet in Hampton, so they sent Bill O’Neal (LaKeith Stanfield) to gather proof that Hampton was a violent combatant. So begins the painfully relevant biblical tragedy of Hampton’s death.

Hampton and O’Neal should be fighting on the same side. Early on in “Judas and the Black Messiah” — directed by the talented Shaka King — O’Neal is the target of police hostility. The two have a common enemy in unjust policing that holds them down, making the betrayal that lends the film its

parabolic title all the more heartbreaking. The film follows O’Neal from petty carjacker to FBI informant working undercover in the Black Panthers with aching detail.

Even though the film reaches highs, the script moves through several stale, detectable beats to earn them. The inclusion of FBI agent Roy Mitchell (Jesse Plemons) gives the narrative a cliched antagonist. His scenes show cartoonish villainy that undermines the complex dynamic of O’Neal and Hampton. O’Neal’s depiction falls short at points as well, with its lack of depth exhibited through his character constantly reminding the FBI that all he cares about is the paycheck.

However, Kaluuya and Stanfield anchor these characters in deep humanity that only fantastic acting can provide. In a powerful scene, O’Neal must lie about not working as an FBI informant. But as soon as he’s alone, his defense disappears, and tears stream down his face. For anyone who has followed the news for the last few years, the pain that Black individuals face is recognizable. O’Neal has faced so



“Judas and the Black Messiah” is an intense and emotional historical film. COURTESY OF PARTICIPANT MEDIA

much pain that all he can do to survive is put up a stern face in front of others.

“Judas and the Black Messiah” may not provide a definitive account of the Black Panther party, but it is the film for today. Great political films extend to conversations beyond the screen and administer an extra splash of cold water. “Judas and the Black Messiah” is something even more special than a standard political potboiler — it is a potential award winner with something germane to say.

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POPPED CULTURE

Films help reflect on presidency

BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

For too many Americans, the Jan. 20 inauguration of President Joe Biden invited a quasi-return to normalcy. But the core problems that led to the election of Donald Trump are overwhelmingly worse now than they were in November 2016. So with the Trump train derailed for at least a few years, there is time for America to ask itself some important questions. How did we get here? And, most importantly, where do we go from here?

For me, the best way to answer these questions is by revisiting some films about Trump’s presidency that came out during his term.

The first and most obvious film worth revisiting is Michael Moore’s 2018 documentary “Fahrenheit 11/9.” While “Fahrenheit 11/9” does feature a character study of Trump, Moore’s renewed anger is directed at the gutless Democratic elites who opened the door to Trump. In a showman-esque fashion similar to Trump himself, Moore aims his crosshairs at the likes of Barack Obama, Hillary and Bill Clinton, other corporate Democrats and The New York Times-led mainstream liberal media.

Although a stylistically unexceptional film for Moore, “Fahrenheit 11/9” pokes Democratic viewers in the ribs and tells them: “Hey! We’re supposed to be the good guys.” The character of the corporate Democrats is revealed when Moore displays how Obama came to the rescue of Michigan’s now-criminal Republican Governor Rick Snyder after he poisoned the people of Flint, a city with a majority Black population and over 40% of residents living below the poverty line.

Adam McKay’s 2018 film “Vice,” which unfortunately generated just as much buzz as former Vice President Dick Cheney himself, is worth revisiting. In acerbic scenes dripping with irony, “Vice” explains how Cheney used dangerously corrupt methods — favoring the unitary executive theory, dodging the Federal Advisory Committee Act and redefining the vice presidency — to expand the powers of the executive branch.

By wielding these powers, Cheney formed policies that led to the rise of Trump. Bush and Cheney continued the multi-decade tear of deregulating big banks resulting in the Great Recession, which many have cited as part of Trump’s anti-establishment populism. And of course, the endless wars in the Middle East that Cheney got the U.S. into were ripe for Trump’s isolationist promises. “Vice,” among other things, successfully depicts Cheney as the Sith lord we remember him to be.

Finally, “Borat Subsequent Moviefilm,” the wiser big brother of the first “Borat” film, makes fun of it all — conspiracy theories, right-wing terrorism, social media influencers, the COVID-19 pandemic and the White House.

It is the ultimate film of the Trump era, showing the uncomfortable truth of the dystopian, dysfunctional version of America we feared. “Borat Subsequent Moviefilm” does what all political art should do — capture the time in history it finds itself in, leaving the audience with a portrait of America exactly how it was in October 2020.

Whichever film we watch, reflecting on the Trump era will be necessary to save ourselves. In many ways, the Trump era made our problems clearer than ever before — a broken government, the manipulative powers of Big Tech, racial injustice, a pandemic and climate destruction. Now we just have to solve them.

POPPED CULTURE is a weekly column, written by Life & Culture staff writers, that analyzes pop culture events. Elijah De Castro is a sophomore writing for film, T.V. and emerging media major. Contact him at edecastro@ithaca.edu.

The abbreviated encyclopedia of Ithaca College student culture

Six things to know about student life and legends

BY ANTONIO FERME, ARLEIGH RODGERS, AVERY ALEXANDER AND MADDY MARTIN

Ithaca College has inhabited many forms. Before the college settled on South Hill, there was the Ithaca Conservatory of Music, a music school founded in 1892 that ran out of four rented rooms in a house on East Seneca Street.

Over the decades, the music conservatory slowly took over old downtown theaters and rooms above storefronts. On South Hill in 1960, the first campus building — Egbert Union, now called the Campus Center — was erected. Since then, the campus has continued to grow, and with each generation of students comes new traditions and stories.

This year’s new students spent their first semester off campus and therefore have not had the chance to hear the urban legends and histories passed among students. *The Ithacan’s* Life & Culture section has compiled a list of stories, terms and traditions that students should know about the college’s culture as they settle into campus life.

Pubs before “The Pub”

“The Pub” is a common nickname used by students to refer to IC Square, a campus food court in the Campus Center, but there is some history to this nickname. According to the Feb. 12, 1987 edition of *The Ithacan*, the pub and coffeehouse sold non-alcoholic drinks from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and alcoholic drinks from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.

Roger Eslinger, former director of Campus Center Student Activities and Conference and Event Services, worked at Ithaca College until 2002. Eslinger said the first on-campus pub was located on the floor below where Towers Marketplace currently is. He said that in the early 70s, the pub moved to the second floor of the Campus Center, then called Egbert Union, where it remained until 1986.

Eslinger said students used to walk down from the library around 9:30 p.m. to enjoy drinks at the Egbert Hall pub before heading back to their dorm rooms for the night.

“It was never the big go-to,” Eslinger said. “It was never a drunken crowd, ever.”

The pub was student-run, with students working as servers, bartenders and managers. Eslinger said that working in the pub was as much an educational experience as it was a job. Workshops were held to teach student employees about management, communication and teamwork.

Faculty members would make brief appearances in

the pub to connect with students in a more casual setting outside of class, Eslinger said.

“The power structure was taken away when the faculty member wasn’t standing at the head of the class and being all-powerful,” Eslinger said. “When he came to the Egbert Hall pub, everybody was on equal ground, and that was done on purpose.”

In the mid-80s, Egbert Hall underwent a renovation, Eslinger said. IC Square was completed in 1987.

The Feb. 12, 1987 edition of *The Ithacan* explains that the pub and coffeehouse concept was implemented to make the space inclusive to students who were both under and over 21 after the drinking age was raised from 19- to 21-years old in 1985.

IC Square once contained a pub and coffeehouse that sold alcoholic drinks.
ANNA MCCRACKEN/THE ITHACAN



Before the pandemic, the Saturday before finals week was Kendall Day, a day of partying. Kendall Avenue fills with students throughout the day.
FRANKIE WALLS/THE ITHACAN

Eric Howd, assistant professor in the Department of Writing, graduated from the college in 1990 and said he remembers playing keyboard in his band at the pub and coffeehouse when he was a student. Howd said there was a triangular stage located in the corner near where Ithaca Bakery is today.

“It was just a blast,” Howd said. “It was really sad to see [the pub and coffeehouse] go, but I can see why they took away the alcohol and the stuff like that, and I kind of like referring to it as ‘The Pub’ still.”

Now, The Pub is officially called IC Square, a food court-style dining area with no alcohol in sight.

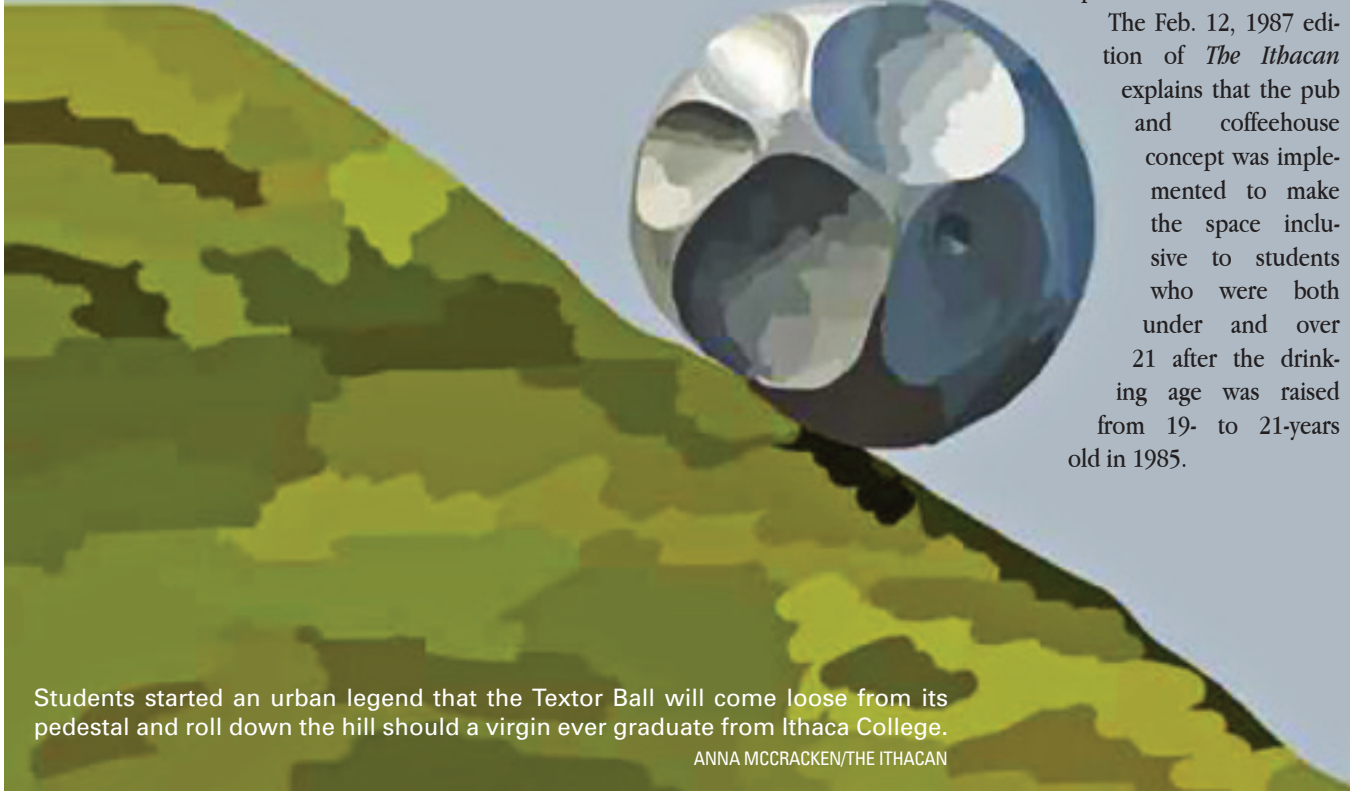
Introduction to Partying 101

Every college town has a bar that students flock to on the weekends — and sometimes the days preceding. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, two popular go-tos for students at the college were Moonies Bar & Nightclub and Silky Jones, both on the Ithaca Commons.

Silky Jones — known for its LGBTQ nights on the first Thursday of every month — permanently closed earlier this year. The future of Moonies is uncertain, said senior Henry Feigen, who is a DJ associated with Moonies.

Senior Shane Fox said the bars are an essential part of the undergraduate social experience at the college.

“They were the places you went to meet people, and it helped you socialize with your



Students started an urban legend that the Textor Ball will come loose from its pedestal and roll down the hill should a virgin ever graduate from Ithaca College.
ANNA MCCRACKEN/THE ITHACAN



A student who jumps in the fountains before Senior Splash is allegedly cursed not to graduate.

ANNA MCCrackEN/THE ITHACAN

peers," Fox said. "It was a staple for all of the students who went to the college."

While Ithaca College does not recognize any Greek life, fraternities like Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi), Delta Kappa Epsilon (DKE) and Kappa Sigma (KE) run off campus. Greek life was banned from campus after a student died in 1980 as a result of hazing during a Delta Kappa fraternity's initiation. If students want to experience Greek life, they typically make the trek to Cornell University.

Kendall Day

Crushed beer cans strewn across a field. Drunk college kids. Kegs open to celebrate the end of a semester. This is Kendall Day, the annual block party on Kendall Avenue, a road behind the South Hill Recreation Way trail. The party is attended primarily by students from the college.

On the Saturday before finals week in May, students celebrate the end of classes and sometimes the warm weather.

Kendall Day is a "darty" — a "day party." Kendall Day-related celebrations began in 2008, when Adam Young '09 and a group of friends hosted the first massive party at 164 Kendall Ave. Twelve years later, the celebrations have become a day of tradition similar to Cortaca, the annual football game between the college and SUNY Cortland.

Senior Alessandro Vecchi said the event is humorous to him because of the timing — partygoers head to the event, typically inebriated, a few days before finals week starts. But Vecchi said that having the event during the daytime actually allows for studying the rest of the day, if necessary.

"I think it reminds people that while academics is a priority for most people, it's okay to take a day for yourself," he said. "It's the weirdest way of saying, 'Self-care is good.'"

Kendall Day has had a long history with police. In 2015, there were six arrests for disorderly conduct — approximately 3,000 people attended — as well as consumption of alcohol under the age of 21.

Senior Kate Sinclair said she remembers going to Kendall Day in 2018, her freshman year, with some friends on her floor of West Tower.

"I feel like people will definitely go hard on Kendall Day," she said. "It's so crazy thinking about that now with COVID, having that many people in one congregated space. But I feel like it, especially as a freshman, ... [was] a new sense of freedom."

Not everyone participates in the morning's festivities. Richard Ramos '20 said he did not participate in Kendall Day while at the college.

"I'm not the type of person that goes to too many

parties per se," he said. "Near the end of the semester, there's a lot of exams at that point that I prioritize."

Kendall Day was not thrown in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic and because the majority of students were not living in Ithaca after Spring 2020 classes transitioned online.

Textor Ball

The sculpture that stands proudly atop Textor Hall has been the source of hypothesis and folklore for students ever since it was installed back in 1967.

The structure goes by many names, including the Textor Ball, the Fish and even the golf ball from the gods. While the official title of the sculpture is the Textor Disc, that fact has not dissuaded curious students from their speculations.

One of the urban legends surrounding this ambiguous piece of art is the story that if a virgin graduates from the college, the ball will come loose and roll down the hill.

The structure was created by Jack Squier, an artist, Cornell graduate and former Cornell professor.

In an interview with *The Ithacan* in 2014, Squier said the sculpture was created by embedding a steel frame in foam, encasing it in resin and fiberglass and then covering the structure with aluminum leaf.

"It's an abstraction based on a series I did called 'Heads,'" he said in the interview. "This was a big version of one of them. [I] decided to call it a Disc to keep it from sprouting mustaches."

The Ghost of East Tower Past

The elevator doors don't open sometimes. They stop on random floors without being prompted. Sometimes, they just stop working entirely. With all the mechanical issues the residence hall East Tower elevators have, it's no wonder students say they're haunted.

Senior Carley Teachout said they lived on the 11th floor of East Tower their freshman year. Teachout said they would frequently walk up 13 flights of stairs to avoid the elevators altogether.

"It always stopped on the 9th floor, and then it would randomly go all the way to the 13th floor and not stop at all," Teachout said. "And then it would go all the way back to the ground floor. It was weird things like that that would leave you scratching your head. You're waiting for it and the lights start flashing and then you go, 'I'm going to take the stairs.'"

Teachout said students in East Tower became more cautious of the elevator after a room on the 10th floor caught fire in Spring 2018. Water damage from the sprinklers made the elevators even less reliable.

"It was at that point I personally had given up on the elevators and stuck to walking up the stairs," Teachout said.

Junior Jennifer Peisner said she lived on the sixth floor of East Tower her freshman year and once got stuck in the elevator for 30 minutes. She said she went into the elevator, the doors shut, the elevator moved a foot and it stopped.

Peisner said she tried to call campus security, but her phone didn't have any service, so she had to yell to one of her friends to call them for her.

"It wasn't really scary because I was on the first floor," Peisner said. "If the elevator dropped, it would have dropped, like, a foot, and I would have been completely fine. But it was a pretty interesting experience."

Teachout said they don't think the elevator is really haunted.

"It's one of those silly things that people make up because sometimes it's more fun to blame extraterrestrial beings and spirits and energies rather than just saying what it is," Teachout said.

Don't jump in the fountain before graduation ...

The Dillingham Fountain, with its five geysers overlooking Cayuga Lake, is one of the most iconic features of Ithaca College. The fountain is also a location rooted in tradition, as every student looks forward to plunging into them on graduation day for Senior Splash.

Teachout, a president's host, said the hype for Senior Splash starts during the campus tours before students are even enrolled. Part of the tour involves warning prospective students not to jump into the Dillingham Fountain before Senior Splash or risk not graduating due to bad luck, Teachout said.

Teachout said the president's hosts speculate that the story was created by the administration to limit the number of students jumping in the fountains.

"It makes your Senior Splash a little more special," Teachout said. "You finally get to jump in with your entire class and have that moment of finally being done, even though it's usually freezing cold and not really worth it. But it is worth it because it's the thing that they marketed to you since going on your first tour."

Howd said that in his days as a student, there was no story about jumping into the fountains resulting in bad luck. Howd said that seniors jumped in the fountains during graduation, but it was not an event organized by the school. Jumping into the fountain became a part of Senior Week in 2000 to limit injuries and property damage, according to the college.

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The residents of East Tower theorize that the dorm's faulty elevators could be haunted.

MOLLY STANTON/THE ITHACAN

STEPPING UP TO THE BASE

Softball player goes off the grid for experiential remote learning

BY CONNOR GLUNT

From paddling down the rushing white-waters of Idaho to scaling the steep canyons of Utah, sophomore softball player Miriam Maistelman left Kostrinsky Field behind this year to canoe, climb and hike through the wilderness out West.

"I think it's the athlete in me that searches for that rush," Maistelman said. "It's pretty taxing and demanding and challenging, but I've just chased that desire. For me right now, I would just be distracted [with online classes]."

Maistelman initially planned on taking a gap semester during Fall 2020 to backpack and hike from Idaho to Arizona, but she expanded the semester into a full year when she was offered a job to live and work on a tree farm in Washington. Maistelman began her expedition with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) canoeing in Idaho then backpacking through Utah and Arizona. The farm she works at partners with Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF), an organization that provides her a place to live while she logs and maintains the health of the forests surrounding her farm.

NOLS is a nonprofit school that focuses on outdoor learning experiences. WWOOF is a program that places WWOOFers on farms all around the globe to learn and practice sustainable living.

Maistelman is no stranger to the great outdoors. She first enrolled in a NOLS program in eighth grade. She has also continued to pursue her passion for backpacking ever since her

first hike on Mount Washington when she was 5 years old. Maistelman has backpacked and hiked throughout her childhood, so she did not find these experiences daunting — rather, she said they offered her a more productive way to spend her time compared to online classes. Maistelman is an environmental studies major at Ithaca College, and she said that working on the tree farm has taught her about forestry, logging and sustainable farming.

"A standard education is beneficial for most students, myself included, but I have gained a wealth of knowledge through this experience," Maistelman said via email. "With NOLS, I was able to acquire more technical skills, network with people like me and experience a rugged and brutal aspect of the wilderness that gave me a deeper understanding of myself and my potential."

For someone who has her sights set on hiking in Banff, Alberta, and backpacking the Appalachian Trail, the NOLS and WWOOF programs provide Maistelman with the experience she needs to be prepared. Now she's spending her final days in Washington wrapping up her work with WWOOF before traveling home to Wisconsin. Once the summer rolls around, she will be off to Arizona until August to work with the Arizona Conservation Corps, clearing and maintaining the paths of national parks.

When Maistelman is at home, she will be back to preparing for the upcoming softball season. From going to batting cages to refining her fielding ability, there will be no time to waste.

"When I'm at home is when I'm really able to train again," Maistelman said. "I have a facility where I'm able to hit and throw and work on my velocity, my hitting, my glove work and all of those different variables. ... But in terms of skill, whenever I'm home, I'm going to have to take advantage of my time and resources to make sure I'm still with it."

Maistelman has stayed in contact with softball head coach Hannah Quintana since the team had its Florida trip interrupted by the outbreak of COVID-19 in Spring 2020. The two have talked about Maistelman's academic and athletic futures as well as the opportunities that could stem from Maistelman's work over the last six months. Quintana said she thinks Maistelman will be up to speed when she returns to South Hill.

"She's someone that when she commits

her mind to anything, she'll go in 100%," Quintana said. "I know when it is time to start training again, when she does get back on campus in the fall, she'll be ready to go."

Although hiking is something Maistelman has loved since a young age, it has not taken the spot that softball has in her heart. Since she has not been able to train or do any workouts during her NOLS and WWOOF programs, she said she cannot wait to get back to the game.

"Softball, for me, is all I've ever really known," Maistelman said. "I love it. I want to stay in shape and keep up with my ability by practicing and training. It's a part of me, and it's something I always want to do."

The softball team is training on campus this semester. Quintana said that although it would be ideal to have the whole team together in preparation for its season — which the Liberty League has not yet made a decision about — she believes Maistelman made the right choice taking a gap year.

"I thought the experience she was getting outside the classroom was worthwhile," Quintana said. "I think being remote, just being on a computer for her classes in the fall, just wouldn't have been a good fit, so I was excited to hear her so passionate."

During her canoeing and hiking trips during Fall 2020, it was hard for Maistelman to stay in touch with her teammates. Sporadic service and delayed communication allowed small windows for her to reconnect with her friends from Ithaca, making it difficult to catch up on the missed time. One of her teammates, fifth-year Frankie-Ann McCauley, found a solution to share what she wanted to tell Maistelman even when she did not have cell service. When McCauley thought of something she wanted to share with Maistelman, McCauley said she wrote it down in a notebook and shipped it out to Wisconsin.

McCauley said she is excited that Maistelman had the opportunity for these experiences, but she is looking forward to Maistelman's return to South Hill.

"There seems to be this timeline and pressure from society of when you need to get your degree, when you need to be in school, and it's not that cut and dry," McCauley said. "All these opportunities are presenting themselves to her at this point in time, and we can't say that they'll be there five years from now. ... When it's the right time for her to come back, she'll be here, and it's going to be so exciting."

When Maistelman does return in the fall, it will certainly take some adjusting. The cool autumn seasons of Ithaca do not share many similarities with the dry deserts of southern Arizona, and her days will no longer be spent on outdoor adventures. Instead, most of her August will involve preparing for the upcoming softball season and getting back into the pattern of being a student-athlete.

"I think I'll be able to find a way to have that balance of working and recreation and traveling," Maistelman said. "I have the entire month of August off before I go back to South Hill, and I think I'm going to be spending a lot of that time just getting myself back into the headspace of being a student-athlete and familiarizing myself with the details and my skill."



COURTESY OF MIRIAM MAISTELMAN



Sophomore softball player Miriam Maistelman works in Cochise, Arizona, in November 2020. She took a gap year from Ithaca College to backpack.

COURTESY OF MIRIAM MAISTELMAN

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Maistelman climbs up a ledge in Vantage, Washington, in February.

COURTESY OF MIRIAM MAISTELMAN



Students develop creative media team

BY DANIEL KING

A group of Ithaca College students with just a couple of cameras and a few years of experience have teamed up to snap pictures of athletes in action to spruce up the Bombers' social media accounts.

The Office of Athletic Communications is composed of associate director Justin Lutes and athletic communications associates Dan DeCaria and Bridget McCann. Previously, each team's social media accounts were run by individual team coaches or managers and Lutes. In February 2020, sophomore Peter Raider approached Lutes with an idea to have a student-run creative content team. Raider is now the manager of creative content for the Office of Athletic Communications.

The group started with seven students and ran its first project during the 2019–20 basketball season with live social media campaigns during games. The team is now made up of 19 students and is divided into two groups — one that creates the photographs, videos and graphics and one that works with teams to build a social media schedule and post the created content.

However, COVID-19 threw a wrench in the students' plan. The team anticipated it would start creating content for the 2020 spring sports teams' social media accounts, but after the college sent students home in March 2020, Raider said most of



Sophomore Peter Raider takes a photograph during a lacrosse team practice Feb. 10. He serves as the manager of creative content for the Office of Athletic Communications.

ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN

the group disbanded.

"Through the fall, I knew I wanted to start this team back up, but I was trying to think of the best ways to do so," Raider said. "Before classes started, I started to build up a team, and it all came together. It's all working out really well."

Lutes said the team has spent time contacting each team's coaching staff to identify who runs its social media accounts. The student team then works with whoever is running the account to produce content then post on their respective platforms. The primary account

for Bomber Sports then reshapes the post to drive traffic to that particular sport.

"They're putting an emphasis to build out the brands of our teams by providing them with the content," Lutes said. "We haven't been able to play games, so I'm excited to see where it goes when we get back into competition."

Lutes said the Bombers Sports Instagram just reached 6,000 followers and gained more than 200 followers this past semester alone.

Senior Emma Fruhling is one of the assistant managers

of creative media. She attends practices for gymnastics, wrestling, women's soccer and both men's and women's dive teams. She said the team is always looking for students who are interested in helping to produce content.

"There's no better times to make mistakes than the time that you're in college," Fruhling said. "The biggest thing I could say to any freshman is to jump at any place or opportunity in front of you."

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OUT OF BOUNDS

EMILY ADAMS

There is no such thing as the GOAT

When Tom Brady led the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to victory in Super Bowl LV, he secured his position as one of the most successful football players of all time. Brady has seven Super Bowl rings and holds NFL records for most career wins, playoff wins, passing yards, passing touchdowns — and that's just to name a few.

After the Buccaneers' resounding 31–9 win against the Kansas City Chiefs, who were strong favorites before the game, social media was inundated with the dreaded "Greatest Of All Time" (G.O.A.T.) debate that erupts after any iconic athlete performs well. Not only is determining a G.O.A.T. a Sisyphean task, but it also consistently excludes women and athletes from less popular sports.

Following the Super Bowl, ESPN's SportsCenter posted an image on social media depicting professional athletes who are considered to be the G.O.A.T. It included Brady, LeBron James, Michael Jordan, Tiger Woods and Muhammed Ali, among others. Serena Williams was the only woman portrayed, and her image was tucked in the shadows at the back corner.

The G.O.A.T. debate overwhelmingly celebrates the athletes who have the most publicity behind them. Casual sports fans think that Tom Brady is the greatest athlete to ever live because they see him play football every weekend for months each year. They do not watch Simone Biles nail moves that no other gymnast can attempt. They do not watch Diana Taurasi become a top-five scorer in the WNBA at age 38. They don't watch Sarah Sjöström set six individual world records in women's swimming.

Everyone has a different interpretation of what it means to be the "greatest." It becomes even more challenging to compare athletes across eras within single sports. It can easily be argued that Brady is not even the greatest athlete to ever play football. Peyton Manning has more league MVP awards, Joe Montana was undefeated across four Super Bowls and Aaron Rodgers has stronger stats. There is too much nuance to isolate a true "greatest."

It is also nearly impossible to equate success in one sport to another. Tom Brady has won more Super Bowls than any other quarterback in the history of the NFL, but he has won those titles on some of the most talented teams in the history of the NFL. Brady's lack of speed and weak run game are major flaws, but throughout his career, he has had all-star running backs to fill the gaps. Michael Phelps has 13 individual gold medals won completely on his own ability, but Phelps also does not face the additional challenge of leading and organizing a team. There is no reasonable way to compare those different types of greatness.

Greatness can also be defined outside of competition. Tom Brady has failed to make any significant contributions to social justice causes that have always been an essential part of sports. Tommie Smith and John Carlos made enormous sacrifices when they chose to protest racism at the 1968 Olympic Games. Allyson Felix has been a trailblazer for the rights of pregnant professional athletes. Billie Jean King paved the way for women athletes to receive equal pay. The greatness of those athletes and so many like them transcends winning records or stat sheets — and shouldn't that be what it is all about?

OUT OF BOUNDS covers sports beyond the playing field. **EMILY ADAMS** is a senior journalism major. Contact her at eadams3@ithaca.edu.

Coach uses social media to help players

BY EMILY ADAMS

After Ithaca College canceled fall sports for the 2020 season due to COVID-19, second-year graduate student Anna Bottino, a graduate assistant for the field hockey team, missed the game she loves. Since Bottino could not be on the field working with the Bombers, she took her coaching skills online in the forms of one-on-one Zoom training sessions and a new Instagram account called Field Hockey Training Collective (FHTC).

Bottino played field hockey at the University at Albany as an undergraduate, and she reconnected with her former teammate Kelsey Briddell to create FHTC. The pair posts content three to four times weekly, aimed at teaching young field hockey players both the physical and mental skills of the sport. The account launched Jan. 15 and currently has 180 followers. Briddell said FHTC will hopefully continue growing, as it is still in the beginning stages.

"It's not where we want it right now because it's really new," Briddell said. "We're hoping that with consistency of the things that we're posting and the quality of them, that will end up gaining more attention and more followers. I think it can be so much bigger than it is right now."

Bottino, a graduate student in the sports psychology program at the college, starts the week with Mindfulness Mondays, sharing tips for improving mental wellness and performance.

Kaitlyn Wahila, head coach of the Bombers field hockey team, said that Bottino's knowledge of mental health and mindfulness have been a huge contribution to the program during her time as a graduate assistant.

"She is just so mature beyond her years and has been so grounding for our team," Wahila said. "She has brought an



Second-year graduate student Anna Bottino, graduate assistant for Ithaca College field hockey, co-created Field Hockey Training Collective with a former teammate.

PAIGE TOLAN/THE ITHACAN

awareness to mental health that, to be honest, I really didn't have before she arrived. She has really helped the players recognize the importance of it."

Bottino said her favorite part of the account is the Sunday Coffee Talks on Instagram Live every other week with someone in the field hockey world.

On top of co-managing FHTC and helping to coach the Ithaca College field hockey team, Bottino is holding individual virtual training sessions via Zoom for field hockey players ages 6–17 all over the country. She helps them improve technique through exercises that can be done in an athlete's basement or living room. She said the training helps players work on their skills amid pandemic restrictions, and it keeps her engaged in the game.

"I love working with young kids,"

Bottino said. "I definitely want to be able to incorporate more athletes and find more creative ways to train remotely as we work through everything and in our current circumstances."

Wahila said Bottino's involvement in field hockey beyond the college's team has been helpful for the Bombers to see and engage with as well.

"She's working to provide an environment where any student-athlete — high school, college, anybody — can see," Wahila said. "Whether you're working on your mental health, your individual skill, recruiting advice, she's to bring it all together and offer this platform where student-athletes can show up and learn something."

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Sophomore Abby Marraccino performs a dive at diving practice Feb. 19 at the Kelsey Partridge Bird Natatorium. The team held an intrasquad swim meet the next day.
ABBEY LONDON / THE ITHACAN