

Ithaca police face proposed changes

BY SYD PIERRE

The proposed plans for public safety reform in Ithaca are receiving mixed reactions from the Ithaca community.

Ithaca’s “Reimagining Public Safety Collaborative” initiative was created following an executive order from New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, which requires all municipalities with police departments to adopt a plan for police reform by April 1. Ithaca City and Tompkins County officials and officials from the Center of Policing Equity (CPE) released the 98-page reimagining draft to the public Feb. 22. The draft includes 19 recommendations, including replacing the City of Ithaca Police Department (IPD) with a “Community Solutions and Public Safety Department” that will include “armed, uniformed first responders called Community Safety Officers” and “unarmed first responders called Community Solutions Officers.”

There are currently 63 funded sworn officer positions in IPD. There is one chief and two deputy chiefs. There are four lieutenants and nine sergeants. There are also eight civilian employees and 16 part-time school crossing guards included in the 2021 IPD budget, according to the draft. The draft does not include the proposed number of armed and unarmed officers that the new department would have.

The draft does not include any recommendations related to Ithaca College’s public safety department or Cornell University Police.



Officials from the City of Ithaca and Tompkins County have proposed replacing the Ithaca Police Department with the “Community Solutions and Public Safety Department.”

ASH BAILOTT/THE ITHACAN

At a press conference Feb. 22, Tompkins County Administrator Jason Molino and Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick emphasized that the draft was just the beginning of the process.

Tracie Keese, co-founder of CPE, said the

recommendations were not embraced by the entire community. She noted the historical mistrust many people, especially people of color,

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FACULTY COUNCIL

Potential vote of no support

BY ALYSHIA KORBA

The Ithaca College Faculty Council discussed a vote of no confidence against the administration during its March 2 meeting in response to the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) faculty and program cuts.

The council planned to go into closed session to discuss the APP with President Shirley M. Collado and La Jerne Cornish, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. Collado and Cornish approved the Academic Program Prioritization Implementation Committee’s (APPIC) recommendations for faculty and program cuts Feb. 24.

The council first discussed the APP process during its Oct. 6 meeting and has since voiced opposition to the planned cuts. The council also wanted to discuss an opinion piece about the APP that Collado and Cornish wrote for Inside Higher Ed.

Closed session meetings are limited to Faculty Council members, but the content of the session is not confidential.

“Faculty Council invited the president and provost to attend the meeting to have a conversation with faculty, and the president and provost agreed that if faculty wanted to have that conversation, it would be with faculty alone,” Dave Maley, director of public relations, said via email.

Chrissy Guest, associate professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies and member of the Faculty Council Executive Committee (FCEC), said Collado and Cornish would only agree to attend the meeting and answer questions if the discussion was held in closed session.

“Please be aware that this discussion will take place in a closed session — meaning only Council members will be present — because the President and the Provost would agree to take our questions only under these conditions,” Guest said via email. “Although this was not FCEC’s desire (we felt that both The Ithacan and faculty guests should be present), we accepted the conditions with the understanding that this is not executive session.”

During the closed session, council members asked Collado and Cornish about their intentions with their Inside Higher Ed piece, whether they are concerned that many faculty members expressed disapproval of the APP, how they will restore relationships with alumni donors and what the future of the college looks like.

Several questions were centered around shared governance, according to the Faculty Council Meeting Report written by Claire Gleitman, professor and women’s and gender studies coordinator in the Department of English and secretary of the council. One council member asked Collado and Cornish what shared governance means to them.

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Alumni group voices opposition to faculty cuts

BY MAKAYLA CAROZZOLO

Ithaca College Alumni Against Austerity (ICAAA) voiced its discontent with the approval of the final recommendations for faculty and program cuts in a March 1 event.

The ICAAA is a group of alumni who are opposed to the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process. President Shirley M. Collado and La Jerne Cornish, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, approved the final recommendations for the cuts Feb. 24. This event occurred directly after a meeting with alumni, the Ithaca College Board of Trustees and the Alumni Association Board of Directors on March 1. Some alumni requested that the meeting be moved to before the APP plan was set to be approved, but these requests were not taken.

Approximately 94 alumni, students and faculty members attended the gathering.

The event opened with John Burger, lecturer in the Department of Health Promotion and Physical Education, singing a song he wrote for the faculty who were terminated as part of the APP. He said he wished the group was meeting under different circumstances, but the fight has just begun.

Greg Peterson ’09 explained that the college does have financial issues but not like other institutions during the pandemic.

“This [APP] was intended to be a gradual process, however, COVID presented an opportunity to take advantage of a moment of collective trauma that we’re in and really reengineer this school, at a time where people are more willing to give up things that they would normally protect,” Peterson said.

Sarah Grunberg ’08, former lecturer in the Department of Sociology, and Sara-Maria Sorentino ’08 started a GoFundMe fundraiser March 1



Junior Sebastian Chavez, Students of Color coalition senator for the Student Governance Council, helps hold an Open the Books banner at a Feb. 8 protest against the cuts.

ASH BAILOTT/THE ITHACAN

called the “IC Alumni Action and Worker Support Fund.” The money raised will go toward resisting the APP and to the staff and faculty who are being impacted by the cuts. Of the money raised, 80% will go to the impacted faculty and staff and 20% will fund legal fees, movement building, materials and printing. The fundraiser also calls on the college’s leadership to stop all the layoffs; establish shared governance where students, faculty and staff have decision making power; bargain in good faith with the Contingent Faculty Union; and release a clear document outlining the college’s financial status.

Fae Dremock, assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences, spoke about the departments getting slashed at the college. She said these decisions

have cost her and many others a career. She said the process ignores curricular needs and institutional history, without faculty input.

Departments at the college have voiced their opposition to the cuts and the consequences that these cuts will have on their curriculum.

Elijah Breton ’16 said it is necessary for alumni to have a say in these decisions. He expressed dissatisfaction with the Alumni Association Board of Directors. The alumni board works in an advisory capacity to help guide the college’s efforts to create strong ties between the alumni and the college. He said he thinks the alumni board’s role in these decisions and how they represent the alumni voice need to be examined.

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SWIM AND DIVE COACHES TAKE ON NEW TASKS

Student employees decrease for spring

BY ALYSHIA KORBA AND
CAITLIN HOLTZMAN

Some departments on campus are having to adjust to operate with fewer employees while former student employees look for other jobs amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hayley Harris, vice president for the Office of Human Resources, said she is pleased to see many departments across campus returning to operation and having student employees. She said there are currently approximately 2,300 student employee positions filled. However, she said many students have multiple jobs, and there are likely approximately 2,000 student employees, which she said is around the usual number of students employed each year.

“Some units were not able to employ their usual numbers of student employees over the past year,” she said via email. “These include Dining, Athletics and the Library — all areas that were impacted by our move from in-person to remote instruction, with its corresponding lessening demand

on campus operations.”

Scott McWilliams, director of Dining Services, said dining currently has fewer students employed than usual due to a lower number of students who applied for jobs. He said that as of Feb. 12, there are approximately 126 students employed by Dining Services. Usually, he said there are approximately 200 student employees in dining. McWilliams said he hopes to have more students working in the dining halls soon.

“Now, due to COVID-19 protocols, everything has to be served, there’s nothing that students can touch,” he said. “It takes a lot more hands to do that.”

Food in the dining halls is served to students in a buffet-style line rather than students being able to serve themselves. McWilliams said that training student employees has also been difficult. He said usually training occurred in person, but now it is all done virtually.

Bernard Hogben, access services manager for the Ithaca College Library, said there were 38 students



Senior Nicole Brokaw is a student manager at the Ithaca College Library. She is one of 28 students who are employed there. This is a decrease from the 38 students who previously worked at the library.

ABBIE LONDON/THE ITHACAN

employed at the library before COVID-19. There were 26 student assistants and 12 student managers. He said now there are 14 student employees, 11 student assistants and three student managers. Hogben said student managers have more library training than assistants and also receive training from the Office of Public Safety as they work overnight after regular library staff go home.

Hogben said the number of students employed at the library depends

on the library’s budget and hours.

Senior Nicole Brokaw is a student manager in the library and began working there during her freshman year.

She said the change in the library’s hours of operation has affected the hours she works as a student manager. Brokaw said she is working a similar number of hours as she did previous semesters, but her schedule has significantly changed.

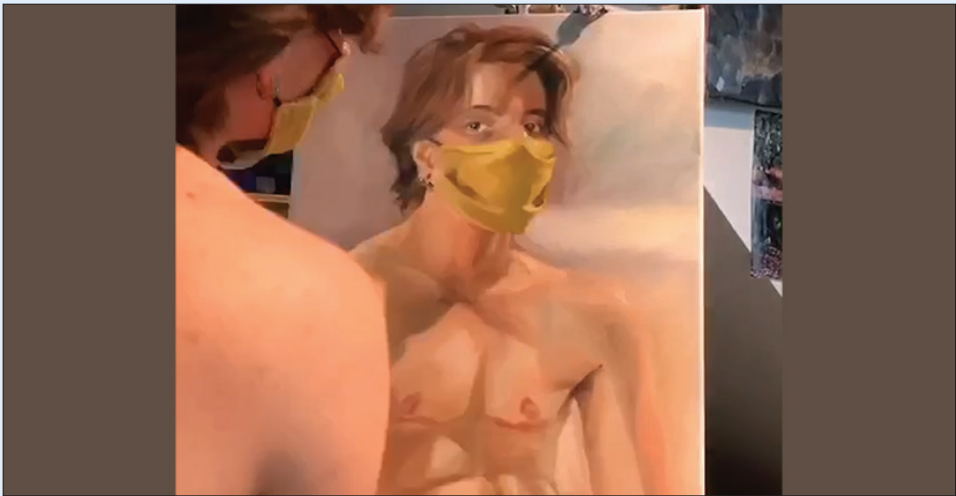
“I’m having to work different days

of the week, like I don’t normally work on weekends, but I am working on weekends now to make up that extra like four hours that I would normally be working overnight,” Brokaw said. “For students that, like me, have exclusively worked overnight, it’s like a little bit of a shift.”

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IC Creatives: Avi Kendrick

In a new series featuring artists from Ithaca College, senior Avi Kendrick shares their photography, drawings and paintings.



A Conversation with Alyssa Carbonell

Host Frankie Walls spoke with junior Alyssa Carbonell to discuss her experience as an Asian-American woman at a predominantly white institution.

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The Ithacan

Administration speaks about APP

Ithaca College President Shirley M. Collado and La Jerne Cornish, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, will be proceeding with the faculty and program cuts associated with the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process.

Collado and Cornish approved the recommended elimination of 116 full-time equivalent (FTE) faculty positions Feb. 24. Throughout the APP process, some college community members have been concerned about the lack of shared governance, the speed of the process and the lack of financial transparency.

Editor-in-Chief Madison Fernandez spoke with Collado and Cornish on March 1 about the campus community's reactions to the changes and the APP process moving forward.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Madison Fernandez: So just to start off, I'm interested in how you two interpret transparency.

La Jerne Cornish: With regard to transparency and the APP process, my office has an APP website. We put out an update every week. We sought feedback from the faculty, following the guidelines in Section 4.9.8 [of the Ithaca College Policy Manual], which clearly lay out the review process and who's involved in the review process. ... And so with regard to transparency, I don't know what more we could have done. People may not have agreed with the recommendations or with the final decision, but it isn't that we didn't provide information on a weekly basis



Ithaca College President Shirley M. Collado answers questions at a press conference in September 2018. Collado approved the plan to cut 116 full-time equivalent faculty positions Feb. 24.

JULIA CHERRAULT/THE ITHACAN

because we did.

Shirley M. Collado: There are varying degrees of thoughts and opinions across campus, and we get that. For me, it looks like being really accessible and giving multiple opportunities, venues, times, formats, if you will, to share information and address questions directly. I have regular open office hours each week, and they're full, there are students who come and see me sometimes individually, sometimes in pairs or trios. ... I introduced the idea of hosting these conversations with the president. ... In terms of transparency, for me, it's access, consistent and direct ways of giving people the information that they need. That doesn't guarantee that people will like the information or agree

with the decision.

MF: Are you planning to address petitions that are going around and the bills that SGC passed?

LC: Petitions asked us to stop the work. We are not reconstituting APPIC, we are not stopping the reduction of faculty. We've done that work, and now we have to continue into parts two and three. I said repeatedly, there are three parts to this work: alignment, restructure and reorganize, strategic growth. ... Part one is done, and we will now have to shift our focus to get faculty, staff and students ready to engage with us as we go through parts two and three, concurrently and together. But both bills, the petition and the bill, ask us to reject the recommendations from the APPIC committee. ... And we're

not going to do that.

SC: I think our response was our announcement in the decision that we made and how we're moving forward, and in fairness to your question too, most recently, we know that there's a set of bills that have come from the SGC that we received on Friday. ... One of them was, as you know, basically a lack of confidence in the APPIC. The decision has been made, it was announced and as the provost said, when we're not reversing it. We're moving forward. There's a lot more to do.

A longer version of this interview will be published on theithacan.org on March 5.

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Communications studies major eliminated

BY ALYSSA BEEBE

Students, alumni and faculty within the Department of Communication Studies at Ithaca College are disappointed with the elimination of the communications studies major, which is being cut as a part of the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process.

The communication studies major is in the Department of Communication Studies and is housed in the School of Humanities and Sciences. The communication studies major focuses on the effects of communication, both verbal and nonverbal, with a broad background of liberal arts. The department also includes the culture and communications major, which will be retained.

Scott Thomson, assistant professor in the Department of Communication Studies and adviser for the speech and debate team, said the major has three areas of focus: the performance of speech, the study of rhetoric and the social and scientific area of study.

The communication studies Bachelor of Arts had 16 students enrolled in Fall 2020, according to the Office of Analytics and Institutional Research. The communication studies program is one of the oldest at the college, having found its roots in the elocution and rhetoric courses inaugurated by George C. Williams, former Ithaca College president, in 1897.

The major was especially attractive to exploratory students like senior Rianne Rochester and Sean Themea '16.

Themea said he struggled to find his footing at the college. Before he found the communication studies major, he said he considered transferring to another college, but then he found the program.

"If it wasn't for Scott [Thomson] and the communication studies program, I might not be a Bomber," Themea said.



Heather Brecht, lecturer in the Department of Communication Studies, teaches a class March 2. Brecht's position, along with the major, has been slated for elimination.

ASH BAILOTT/THE ITHACAN

Thomson said faculty members often conduct research with students, host events and bring students to conferences.

"By the time students graduate, they really feel like they are a part of us," Thomson said.

Thomson; Heather Brecht, lecturer in the Department of Communication Studies; E. Christine Thompson, lecturer in the Department of Communication Studies; and Regina Carpenter, lecturer in the Department of Communication Studies, have said that they are being eliminated. Additionally, Stephen Moshier, professor in the Ithaca College Department of Communication Studies, is retiring at the end of this year.

Sophomore Laura Illoaei said she loved being in Brecht's Fundamentals of Interpersonal Communications class and wished she could

take more classes with Brecht.

"She is the kind of professor that you would be sad if she canceled class," Illoaei said.

Junior Bella Cruz said that although she is in the culture and communication major, she worries she will have fewer course options with faculty in the Department of Communications being cut.

"Lots of great professors I've had are leaving too, and that's very sad because I had such a great connection with many of them," Cruz said. "The professors that remain are going to be overworked trying to pick up the slack and the student-professor connections are going to be strained as a result."

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Aging studies included in cuts

BY JORDAN BROKING

Senior Mackenzie Schade was in a lacrosse meeting when her friend texted her saying that the aging studies major is to be eliminated as part of the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process.

"If I wasn't in that meeting, I would've started crying immediately," Schade said. "But because I was in that meeting, I had to pull myself together, and then after the meeting, I was just so upset."

Schade said she came to Ithaca College knowing she wanted to major in aging studies, in part because of the personal interactions with professors in the major.

"Because classes are not huge, most classes are 10 kids maybe, ... they just know you on such an individual level that I was just so lucky to have," Schade said.

The aging studies major is one of the majors, programs and departments slated to be eliminated as a result of the APP process. The aging studies major is in the Department of Gerontology, housed in the School of Humanities and Sciences.

Mary Ann Erickson, associate professor in the Department of Gerontology, is one of two professors who will remain at the college following the APP cuts. In a request for comment, Jessica Valdez Taves, assistant professor in the Department of Gerontology, said Erickson will speak on behalf of the entire department.

"It's hard on all of us as faculty members to see people that we know who are now slated to lose their positions," Erickson said. "It's not as hard on us, you know, obviously who get to stay, but there's still that loss and concern for those who are leaving."

The APPIC recommended that the aging studies major should be discontinued, but the minor, in addition to the Gerontology Institute and Longview partnership, can continue.

As part of the Longview partnership, aging studies students can visit Longview Community Senior Living and interact with adult students there. Seniors living there can also travel to campus and take classes at the campus as well. With COVID-19 restrictions, the partnership has turned to a virtual setting.

"[The minor] is really important to us because that means that most of the classes that we teach about aging will still be offered to the minors," Erickson said. "We feel pretty strongly about the value of the minor."

According to the Office of Analytics and Institutional Research (AIR), only seven students enrolled in the aging studies major for Fall 2020.

Senior Emma Brown-Shaklee first came to Ithaca College as a music major. She said she heard about gerontology at Accepted Students Day when she met with aging studies students.

"The students, they are what drew me in, or who drew me in," Brown-Shaklee said. "They're just really warm and compassionate and engaged. ... It really helped to have gerontology to come home to."

According to the American Geriatric Society, there are 6,796 certified geriatricians in the United States and 3,590 full-time practicing geriatricians. As of 2018, the older adult population was 49.2 million.

The society also projects that there will be a 45% increase in demand for geriatricians between 2013 and 2025.

Sophie Hudes '19 said she is upset about the major getting cut.

Hudes credited Erickson for helping her look at other areas of the aging studies field and deciding on where she wanted to work. Hudes currently serves as Director of Life Enrichment at the Delaney of Bridgewater, a retirement community in Bridgewater, New Jersey.

While she said she thinks it is great that the college is keeping the minor, she does not know how the program will look as there were only three professors in the department before the APP process began.

"If I didn't take the classes that they provided me and given me the hands-on working experience, ... I don't think I would be where I am today," Hudes said.

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FROM POLICE, PAGE 1

have in issues surrounding policing.

“I want folks to understand [that] although we created a process we felt, for the time period that we had, that we could reach out to folks and to get that information,” Keese said.

The draft was mentioned in an article about Myrick that was published in GQ on Feb. 22, prior to the public release of the draft. The draft was presented to the Ithaca City Common Council on Feb. 22 and was met with mixed reviews.

At the Common Council meeting, IPD Chief Dennis Naylor said he was frustrated with how officers learned about the draft from the article first, rather than from himself.

“They just feel so dejected and devalued,” Naylor said.

Myrick later apologized to the IPD and Common Council.

Some Common Council members expressed concern about the budgetary impact of the recommendations.

“I recognize you can’t put dollar amounts against every one of these ideas at the moment,” said Rob Gearhart, 3rd Ward Alderperson and associate dean for the Roy H. Park School of Communications. “But the sooner we can understand the scope of what we are hoping for and what impact that has on our budget, and how things might not be able to be funded and what impact that has on the plan, that will be really important.”

The Ithaca Police Benevolent Association (IPBA), the IPD union, strongly objected to the proposed recommendations.

Approximately 156 community members attended a virtual public forum Feb. 25 in which the draft was also met with primarily negative reactions.

Myrick said the recommendations

would not rebrand the IPD but instead design a new department.

Some community members also criticized Myrick for sending mixed messages about his opinion on the IPD, noting specific incidents that have occurred over the past 10 years in Ithaca.

There were ongoing protests against police brutality and racism in Ithaca throughout 2020, specifically aimed at incidents involving the IPD.

The IPD faced criticism for its handling of an incident on The Commons involving Cadji Ferguson and Rose DeGroat, two Black Ithaca residents, in 2019. DeGroat was initially charged with felony second-degree attempted assault, resisting arrest and obstructing governmental administration, but her charges were later dismissed. Ferguson was found not guilty of disorderly conduct.

Some community members at the college have also had negative interactions with the IPD. In 2016, Kyle Goldstein ’18 was allegedly detained and arrested by Ithaca police officers. Goldstein suffered permanent eye damage as a result of being pepper sprayed.

Three professors at the college, Paula Ioanide, professor in the Center for the Study of Culture, Race and Ethnicity (CSCRE); Belisa Gonzalez, associate professor and director of CSCRE; and Sean Eversley Bradwell, assistant professor in the Department of Education, have been working with the reimagining initiative.

There are five working groups that tackle different parts of the reform movement: a leadership administration/budget group, an IT/data analysis group, an academic/research group, a communications/community group and a law enforcement/public safety group.

Ioanide is a part of the IT/data analysis group.



The Ithaca Democratic Socialists of America held a “Festival Against Hate” on Oct. 24 in response to a “Back the Blue” rally held the same day on the Ithaca Commons. This resulted in a tense face-off.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

Molino headed the collaborative and said he wanted faculty members involved to bring an additional perspective to the table.

“They’re members of the community, they have a level of expertise, ... and that’s an important piece as we go through this and assess the information and look at solutions,” he said.

Ioanide said she thought the community engagement aspect of the collaboration was extensive, but it is unclear whether the community input in the collaboration will result in actual concrete policy changes.

“Partially why I wanted to get involved was to make sure the community input is well-represented and not misappropriated to do something else,” Ioanide said.

Over the past few months, Park

Scholars at the college partnered with WRFI Community Radio and the Ithaca Voice to create a five-part radio and podcast series titled “Which Way Forward,” which explored solutions to address policing and public safety through interviews with city officials and community members. The series aired from Feb. 1 to 5.

Senior Skylar Eagle worked on “Which Way Forward” and said the goal of the project was to build on existing discussions around police reform and encourage more communication on the local level. The series looked at alternatives to policing, community responses to police brutality in Ithaca and grassroots organizations that are working for equitable public safety.

“We kind of collectively decided

that this was something that we needed to cover, especially since these conversations were starting to happen locally and all of these protests were happening weekly,” she said.

A part two of “Which Way Forward” is currently in the works and will air in May, Eagle said.

Junior Danny Malone said he was surprised to see Myrick take a radical approach to reform. He said he was supportive of the draft.

“Regardless of if the proposal is approved or not, I think it will fuel conversation and action,” Malone said via email. “We’ve had enough symbolic victories and it’s time for true change. This proposal, I think, is the first step.”

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FROM COUNCIL, PAGE 1

“The President said that she sees shared governance as creating space for meaningful input, providing channels for constructive feedback and being clear about where the final locus of authority resides for different decisions,” the report states.

A council member also asked, “What is on the other side of this when the college’s prospects seem so bleak?” Collado said the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) is exploring fundraising opportunities.

“She also said, regarding IC’s future, that there will likely to be more pain to come, specifically for staff,” the meeting report states.

Following the closed session, Jason Harrington, associate professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies, said he appreciated the discussion that other council members facilitated during the session.

“My colleagues on council who asked some amazing questions that I thought, in many cases, were really brave,” Harrington said. “And for that, I thought we got further than in many other meetings.”

Fatima Hajjat, assistant professor in the Department of Marketing, then made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was approved, and the rest of the meeting was held in executive session, meaning only Faculty Council members were allowed in the meeting. Unlike closed sessions, everything that happens during executive sessions is confidential.

According to the meeting report, the council agreed to report what happened during the executive session. The report states that the council discussed a vote of no confidence against the administration during the executive session as well as other possible actions that they could take to show faculty concerns.

No confidence votes are held when groups within the college community believe that the president is ineffective at running the college. They are symbolic votes because it is the Ithaca College Board of Trustees that has the power to remove a president from their position.

The Student Governance Council passed



The Ithaca College Faculty Council meets in March 2020. The council met March 2, 2021, with members of the administration to discuss the faculty and program cuts.

NICK BAHAMONDE/THE ITHACAN

the No Confidence in Shape of the College Recommendation resolution during its Feb. 22 meeting. The resolution recommends stopping the implementation of the APP in order to incorporate more input from students, faculty and staff. Students held a no confidence vote for former president Tom Rochon after students held protests against racism on campus, and the college community believed that Rochon was unfit to change the campus climate and lead the college.

Due to the late hour, the council voted to table the discussion until March 17, according to the report.

The report also stated that the council will reach out to constituents to see if faculty are in favor of holding a vote of no confidence or if they would rather take other steps.

At the beginning of the meeting, Christina Moylan, director of public health emergency preparedness, answered questions from faculty about protocols for COVID-19 exposures in

classrooms. Chris McNamara, clinical associate professor and clinic director in the Department of Physical Therapy and chair of the Faculty Council, asked questions that were submitted by faculty members.

One question asked whether or not professors have to quarantine if one of their in-person students tests positive for the virus.

Moylan explained that most professors would not have to quarantine if they were following the COVID-19 guidelines, which includes wearing a mask and social distancing. She said each case is different, so there is not a standard response to a COVID-19 case in the classroom.

Moylan also discussed the college’s plan for Fall 2021. Moylan said that the college is expected to be fully open for Fall 2021 and that she does not anticipate the semester to be greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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FROM ALUMNI, PAGE 1

“Simply put, they failed us,” Breton said.

James Miranda, lecturer in the Department of Writing and chair of the Contingent Faculty Leadership Committee, said these decisions are a step toward mediocrity for the college.

“It’s the contingent faculty that are really taking the brunt of this, which is very sad seeing that this union was just formed in 2017 after extensive effort after many, many people who worked for years to make that union happen,” Miranda said. “It is now being essentially gutted by the school, the only faculty union on campus.”

The college is not eliminating tenured and tenure-eligible faculty, and according to Section 4.9.8 of the Ithaca College Policy Manual, terminations resulting from the discontinuation of a program will be done in the order of part-time per-course faculty, adjunct faculty, faculty employed by term appointments, non-tenure-track faculty, tenure-eligible faculty and tenured faculty.

He said the Contingent Faculty Leadership Committee has made requests to the college to aid terminated faculty members. He said it asked the administration to mention COVID-19 in the termination letter so that staff can get unemployment insurance sooner and to send the termination letters out in a timely fashion. He said it also requested that the college do anything it can to keep faculty members on H-1B visas, which allow people to work in the United States if they receive an offer of employment, so they would not be deported. He said they requested library and Netpass access so faculty can continue their research and write letters of recommendation for students and alumni.

“We were told categorically no to every single request, categorically no because the answer was really, ‘We are not legally obligated to do that,’” Miranda said.

CONTACT MAKAYLA CAROZZOLO
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Visiting scholar program eliminated

BY ALEX HARTZOG

After escaping from Nicaragua on Christmas Day in 2018, Pedro Molina, Ithaca College's International Visiting Scholar in Residence, is now struggling to plan his future after the college decided to end the Scholar in Residence program.

The Ithaca City of Asylum (ICOA), an organization that offers asylum to international writers, scholars and artists, has been sponsoring writers-in-residence, many of whom have been exiled from their homes, since 2001. The Office of the Provost and the Honors Program at the college have supported three of those writers, beginning in 2012. Dave Maley, director of public relations, said that Molina's residency will be over at the end of the 2020–21 academic year.

The process of phasing out the program began before the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) began. The decision to not appoint a new scholar is not specifically associated with the APP but is consistent with its objectives, Maley said.

The Office of the Provost told the ICOA in September that it would not be seeking a scholar in residence for the upcoming year, Barbara Adams, assistant professor in the Department of Writing and founding member of the ICOA, said.

Adams said the ICOA began helping Molina search for alternative placements and positions that would allow him to stay in the U.S. and sponsor his visa, as ICOA does not have necessary funds to sponsor Molina's residency without support from the college. While in Ithaca, ICOA helps pay visa, legal and housing fees for Molina and his family, Adams said.



Pedro Molina is a cartoonist at Confidencial in Nicaragua and a visiting international scholar in residence at Ithaca College. With the program eliminated, he will need a new sponsor for his visa.

COURTESY OF PEDRO MOLINA

Molina is a cartoonist who draws daily comics for Confidencial, a Nicaraguan digital publication. Molina fled Nicaragua after police raided the offices of Confidencial, killing one journalist and jailing two others. He said being able to continue his work in safety has helped him greatly, as he no longer has to fear for his family's or his own safety.

"The problem is, the situation in my country — the crisis — is still going on," Molina said. "It's even worse than when I left. Going back is not an option."

Molina said he feels the main benefit his involvement in the Scholar in Residence program has on his students is the unique perspective he is able to provide.

"[The reason the program is valuable] to the Ithaca community is that they are able to learn from a different perspective, different sensitivity, about what is happening around the world and how the rest of the world sees what is happening in the U.S.," Molina said.

Raza Rumi, former scholar in residence, director of the Park Center for Independent Media and a current board member of the ICOA, said that the Scholar in Residence program was extremely valuable to him and his family.

"It enabled me, first of all, to become a part of a very vibrant community on campus and outside the campus and it enabled me to continue work on my writing and

journalism," Rumi said.

Alicia Swords, associate professor in the Department of Sociology and former director of the Honors Program, said the Scholar in Residence program allowed honors to offer classes from the perspective of those who are being targeted for their actions and views.

"I think that's a model that really should be replicated, not undone," Swords said. "It's a model for knowledge to be created by the people most directly affected. ... It's a real shame that Ithaca College isn't resourcing this program."

CONTACT ALEX HARTZOG
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COVID cases fall below 100

BY CAITLIN HOLTZMAN

Active COVID-19 cases have fallen below 100 in Tompkins County for the first time in months.

As of March 3, there were 81 active cases, with 12 new cases reported the same day. Active cases have been under 100 for the last four days.

The last time there were fewer than 100 active cases in the county was Nov. 11, with 73 cases.

There have been a total of 3,452 cases in the county since March 14, 2020. There are three hospitalizations and 27 reported deaths due to COVID-19, as of March 3. Tompkins County is also seeing more people get vaccinated. As of March 3, 10,829 people have received their first dose and 7,116 have received their second dose of the vaccine.

The average number of daily positive cases has also decreased throughout February. The average for February was 16.3 cases per day while the average for January was 31.2. Since Feb. 10, Tompkins County has reported no new COVID-19 deaths.

Ithaca College has also seen a low number of cases since students moved back, despite delays in testing and COVID-19 guideline violations.

During the week of Feb. 21–27, there were five cases at the college. In the previous week, there were two cases. As of March 2, there are six active cases: two residential students, two off-campus students, one faculty member and one staff member. Due to the low number of cases, the college announced Feb. 17 that it would be relaxing some restrictions related to COVID-19 starting March 1.

Testing at Ithaca College is done through a saliva self-collection process. Samples can be dropped off by 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday at the Athletics and Events Center, the Campus Center and Terrace 13.

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THE FACES OF AUSTERITY

BY HARRIET MALINOWITZ



NATURE IS THE PRESCRIPTION

Matt Vosler, assistant professor in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies, has a clear approach to mental wellness: get people outdoors. At 36 and in his fifth year at Ithaca College, he has three advanced degrees and a work history that includes Outward Bound in Maine, Naturalists at Large in California and wilderness therapy in Utah. He is a certified Wilderness First Responder with a focus on wilderness medicine.

His entire department is being cut, leaving no one at the college trained and certified to safely facilitate outdoor adventures.

Vosler is the coordinator of the Nature Rx Program, an interprofessional group that "uses the restorative benefits of nature as a prescription for stress and depression," he said.

He is also the coordinator of the Ithaca Outing Club, which in its first three years became the largest club on campus. Living a life in which the boundaries between work and play blur and 80-day wilderness expeditions with students are the standard, Vosler is also dedicated to blacksmithing, woodworking, scuba diving and traveling. He said he is dubious that he will find other teaching work.

"I teach resilience and survival, so I'll probably figure

out what to do, though I still have loans to pay," Vosler said. "Maybe I'll go live in a van."

He noted the ways that the college incorporates the area's natural wonders into its recent promotional material. There's no clear demarcation between the town of Ithaca and the college in the new recruitment video, "A Place Called Progress." Campus scenes are presented as if they are the same "place" as the lakes, gorges, waterfalls, rivers and fall foliage that surround Ithaca.

"The natural beauty of the Finger Lakes is something we as an institution identify with, yet by cutting the department and clubs that provide the most access to that, the students will be losing a lot," Vosler said. "It's tragic."

For the past six years, Dyani Johns Taff, lecturer in the Department of English, has taught in the Departments of Writing and English. She is 35 and a mother of two young children. A specialist in early modern literature and culture, she has published journal articles and book chapters, and has a book contract with Edinburgh University Press for her forthcoming book, "Gendered Seascapes and Monarchy in Early Modern English Culture."

Though she is a part-time faculty member, Taff has been a nonstop contributor to the college. She has taught



BREAKING THROUGH THE SILOS

courses on poetry, William Shakespeare, "Literature and the Environment," a senior seminar on Renaissance Literature called "Women, Science and Politics" and interdisciplinary freshman courses. She is the English department's liaison to the Department of Education and represents contingent faculty members as Contingent Faculty Union steward.

Having served as a strategic planning task force member, she is well aware of the college's stated intention to break the silos on campus and has worked toward that end. She has co-coordinated the Medieval and Renaissance Colloquium, in which cross-disciplinary faculty share their work, form reading groups and invite outside scholars for talks. She worked with faculty in the Departments of History, Communication Studies, Philosophy and Religion, and Art History to develop a new interdisciplinary minor in Global Premodern Studies.

She has also joined the IC Natural Lands Committee, whose members serve as stewards and education coordinators for the Natural Lands.

"I was hoping to eventually teach up there and bring literature to the outdoors," she said. "I had a lot of long-term ideas about bringing environmental humanities into the curriculum."

A longtime dancer, rock climber and hiker, Taff's ultimate passions are teaching and scholarship. "I haven't seriously considered a different career, and there's no future for this one," she said.

With the current academic job market dried up, the future is discouraging, she said.

"I'm a mess," Taff said. "I love my department, I love my students, this feels like the end of all that."

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 hmalinowitz@itbaca.edu.

COLLEGE BRIEFS

Students able to apply for DANA Student Internship Program

Ithaca College students are invited to apply to the DANA Student Internship Program by March 8.

The program is for students receiving need-based financial aid from the college and is made to provide valuable work experience for students. The award is given to freshmen, sophomores and juniors with a GPA of 3.0 or above.

Academic year interns are expected to work 10 hours per week for the 30 week internship period. Interns will receive employment compensation and a scholarship of \$1,200 per year. Summer interns are expected to work 40 hours per week for the 10 week internship period.

Art history professors have their articles published in art journal

Jennifer Jolly, professor in the Department of Art History, and Risham Majeed, assistant professor in the Department of Art History, published essays in the March 2021 issue of the "Art Bulletin."

The "Art Bulletin" is the flagship journal of the art history discipline and the College Art Association. Jolly's article, titled "The Aesthetics of Conflict: Perspective and Anamorphosis in Siqueiros's Art of the 1930s," discusses Mexican muralist David Alfaro Siqueiros's use of principles of dialectical materialism and experiments with perspective as a way to politically engage viewers. Jolly presented an overview of the article at the Provost's Colloquia in Fall 2019.

Majeed's essay, titled "Expanding Artistic Geographies," reviews two exhibits, "Caravans of Gold, Fragments in Time" and "Sahel: Art and Empires on the Shores of the Sahara." Majeed's essay discusses historical African art within the Medieval Art category.

New Learning Management System in final revision phase

The Learning Management System (LMS) Governance Committee are making final revisions on the new LMS pilot plan.

The college is switching to Canvas from Sakai and is currently in the process of reviewing the initial pilot plan and adding in feedback from campus community members. The final plan will be released by the end of

the week along with a list of expectations and participation opportunities.

There are four phases in the implementation of Canvas. These phases are vision and planning, initial implementation and exploration, full implementation, and review and refinement. The college is currently in the last phase.

Instructional Development Fund grant proposals open for faculty

Grant proposals for the Instructional Development Fund (IDF) are due by April 15.

The grants fall into two categories: Diversity or International Projects, and Direct Course Enhancement. Guidelines for the grants are on the Center for Faculty Excellence website. IDF grants for direct course enhancement are intended to improve methods of instruction or context in courses at the college. The fund also encourages faculty to respond to academic needs by cultivating expertise, updating teaching skills and developing innovative instructional resources and materials that contribute to a more current or improved curriculum.

Proposals must specifically address concrete benefits to laboratory or classroom instruction. IDF grants also support and encourage projects that incorporate diversity and international or cultural content. Immediate curricular impact is not necessary for the proposal, but groundwork for future courses that encourage the exchange of ideas and practices focused on enhancing diversity will result.

Grant applications for scholarly and creative faculty work open

Grant applications for summer faculty work are available until March 26.

The grants are used to support post-terminal degree scholarly and creative endeavors. Proposals can be submitted by full-time continuing Ithaca College faculty members and faculty that are employed on at least a half-time basis.

The awards provide \$4,187 in compensation for eight weeks of work.

Professors invited to speak at Post-Sabbatical Colloquium

La Jerne Cornish, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, is hosting an event for campus community members March 25.

The event is in recognition of the intellect



Soaring out of cold weather into spring

From left, freshmen Liam Kirby and Jason Demers celebrate the arrival of spring weather by playing frisbee Feb. 27 outside of Phillips Hall. Ithaca had a high of 43 degrees Feb. 27, allowing many students to spend time outside.

LEXI DANIELSON/THE ITHACAN

and creativeness of college faculty members. Michael Smith, professor in the Department of History, is presenting on the origins of the climate crisis and how to move forward. Brandy Bessette-Symons, associate professor in the Department of Psychology, is presenting on the influence of emotion on memory. Zenon Wasyliv, professor in the Department of History, is presenting on Soviet secular holidays and rituals in Ukraine.

Office of Student Engagement opens scholarship applications

Scholarships through the Office of Student

Engagement (OSE) are now open for the 2021–22 academic year.

Descriptions for all of the scholarships are available through the OSE Service and Involvement Scholarship website. Students can apply for multiple scholarships through one application. Each scholarship has different qualifications but most involve some sort of campus involvement or community service.

Some of the scholarships are only open to students with financial aid. The priority deadline to fill out the FAFSA is March 1.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM FEBRUARY 15 TO FEBRUARY 21

FEBRUARY 15

MEDICAL ASSIST/ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: Circle Apartments

SUMMARY: A caller reported a person passed out, but regained consciousness. The officer reported that the person declined medical assistance. Master Patrol Officer Waylon DeGraw responded.

HARASSMENT 2ND DEGREE

LOCATION: East Tower

SUMMARY: A caller reported receiving information regarding another person being physically harassed. Patrol Officer Joe Oppen responded.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

LOCATION: G-Lot

SUMMARY: A caller reported a vehicle tailgate was open and unattended. The officer was unable to locate the owner and secured the vehicle. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain responded.

FEBRUARY 16

ACCIDENTAL PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: Center for Health Sciences
SUMMARY: Environmental Health and Safety reported accidental property damage to a wall and ceiling due to a water leak. The officer reported damage documented and photographed. Master Patrol Officer Waylon DeGraw responded.

ACCIDENTAL PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: Center for Health Sciences

SUMMARY: A caller reported accidental property damage to a wall and small overhang due to a water leak. The officer reported damage documented and photographed. Master Patrol Officer Waylon DeGraw responded.

FEBRUARY 17

DISORDERLY CONDUCT NO DEGREE

LOCATION: Circle Apartments

SUMMARY: The caller reported an unknown person threw eggs at their front door and windows of their residence Feb. 16. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon responded.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

LOCATION: Garden Apartments

SUMMARY: A caller reported receiving unordered items in the mail from Amazon. The officer reported the caller was instructed to contact Amazon. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded.

FEBRUARY 18

ILLEGAL DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE

LOCATION: Z-Lot

SUMMARY: The officer reported a person illegally dumped garbage. The officer reported the person was issued a warning for illegally dumping

garbage. Master Patrol Officer John Elmore responded.

AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT 2ND DEGREE

LOCATION: All Campus

SUMMARY: A caller reported third-hand information that a known person made verbal threats over the phone to another person. Sergeant Don Lyke responded.

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

LOCATION: Garden Apartments

SUMMARY: Tompkins County Dispatch reported a person was having an elevated heart rate and an adverse reaction from marijuana. The officer reported person requested transport to the hospital by ambulance. Officers conducted a search of the room. One person was referred for possession of marijuana. Master Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

FEBRUARY 19

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Circle Apartments

SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The officer reported the alarm activation was caused by burnt food. Sergeant Don Lyke responded.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 4TH DEGREE

LOCATION: Garden Apartments

SUMMARY: A person reported an-

other person damaged a wall. The officer reported one person referred for criminal mischief 4th degree. Master Patrol Officer Waylon DeGraw responded.

HARASSMENT 2ND DEGREE

LOCATION: Garden Apartments

SUMMARY: A caller reported third-hand information of a person harassing another person and damaging a wall. One person referred for harassment. Master Patrol Officer Waylon DeGraw responded.

FEBRUARY 20

SCC IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCHOL/DRUGS

LOCATION: Terrace 6

SUMMARY: A caller reported an intoxicated person. The officer reported one person transported to the hospital by ambulance and referred for irresponsible use of alcohol. Master Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

MEDICAL ASSIST/INJURY RELATED

LOCATION: Loomis Court

SUMMARY: The officer reported twisting and injuring knee due to snow conditions. Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

FIRE ALARM UNDETERMINED CAUSE FOR ALARM

LOCATION: Terrace 5

FEBRUARY 21

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

LOCATION: Circle Apartments

SUMMARY: A caller reported three people referred for drinking games and irresponsible use of alcohol. One person referred for unlawful possession of marijuana. Patrol Officer Sophia Dimkos responded.

CHECK ON THE WELFARE

LOCATION: Circle Apartments

SUMMARY: A caller requested a welfare check for a person who had made threats to cause harm to themselves. The officer reported the person was located and determined to not be a threat to themselves or others. Master Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa 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



Original Comic: KC Green

MOLLY STANTON/THE ITHACAN

EDITORIALS

Claiming transparency is not actual transparency

Selective transparency does not count as transparency when you are making decisions that impact the entire campus community.

On March 2, the Faculty Council Executive Committee (FCEC) invited President Shirley M. Collado and La Jerne Cornish, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, to discuss their Inside Higher Ed op-ed and the final Academic Program Prioritization (APP) decisions. Though the FCEC expressed its desire to keep the meeting open, it accepted the president and provost’s conditions to keep the session closed.

While it is understandable that some faculty members would be comfortable without the press in attendance, journalism serves as the Fourth Estate — a check on administrative powers. By restricting *The Ithacan*’s reporting, the administration is not upholding its promise of being fully transparent and open to the public. Also, by preventing faculty guests from attending, they circumscribed the type of participants and range of questions

they might face.

We commend the Faculty Council for sharing the meeting report after the meeting. It is disappointing that if it were not for the report, those outside of the meeting would not have known about the fears and frustrations that faculty members shared with the administration.

It can’t help but feel like the administration is trying to protect itself from criticism and protect the college’s image.

When asked about transparency throughout the APP process in an interview with *The Ithacan*, Collado and Cornish said they felt as though they have been transparent. Collado said that to her, transparency is “consistent and direct ways of giving people the information that they need,” but “that doesn’t guarantee that people will like the information or agree with the decision.”

This is true. But if alumni, faculty, staff and students have been repeatedly asking for more transparency, is it not evident that the administration can offer more — or even reevaluate what transparency means to them?

Abolishing police is a threat when policing still exists

Following the unjust deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and countless other innocent Black lives, protests around the world and locally called for police reform and abolition. Instead, the City of Ithaca, Tompkins County and the Center for Policing Equity responded with a performative proposal.

The “Reimagining Public Safety” draft report states, “The total abolition of law enforcement agencies was not seen as a viable approach to reimagining public safety in Ithaca and Tompkins County.” However, abolition is the next step of radical change in America. Abolition deconstructs the agencies that were built to continue systems of oppression.

The systems that were designed to protect society do not include Black people. Our current policing system upholds systems of oppression. Black people are more than three times as likely to be murdered by police officers than white people. The systems that were designed to protect society do not include Black people. Instead, while white people are raised

to trust the police, Black people are raised to be cautious, understanding that the police are a threat to their safety.

When people call for abolition, they do so because nobody should die at the hands of a police officer. Police abolition is meant to create communities that can provide for their own safety and well-being.

The proposal still promises to deliver more transparency and reduce the number of armed officers. The draft also proposes to replace the Ithaca Police Department (IPD) with the “Department of Community Solutions and Public Safety,” which would include armed “public safety workers” and unarmed “community solution workers.”

The plan funnels more money into policing, ignoring that true abolition allocates money, time and commitment to affordable housing, rehabilitation and the community. While the plan is more ambitious than what the United States has seen so far, to claim that it is the “most ambitious” or “radical” is ignorant and ignores the work being done by Black grassroots organizers.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send to ithacan@ithaca.edu.

ALL LETTERS MUST:

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

GUEST COMMENTARY

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

ALL COMMENTARIES MUST:

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

GUEST COMMENTARY

Saying farewell to Ithaca College after 18 years

BY SANDRA STEINGRABER

For the past 18 years, I have served as our campus’ scholar in residence, recruited by a previous provost with a vision for shaping the college into a laboratory for environmental sustainability.

My post has been a joyful one. As a biologist with a master’s degree in poetry, a background in journalism and a national platform in the climate movement, I have represented Ithaca College around the world — in Congressional briefings, at the Paris climate meetings and inside church basements in struggling communities on the frontlines of environmental injustice.

My interdisciplinary scholarship and activism were welcomed on campus, and I flourished, authoring books, editing monographs and collaborating with filmmakers to create narratives that speak truth to power.

In addition to teaching my own class within the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences (ENVS), I serve as a guest speaker across campus. My position thus offers me an extraordinary view of the Ithaca College curriculum.

Each year, I lecture in 10 to 20 classes. Indeed, I may be the only faculty at Ithaca College who has taught or co-hosted programming in all five of our schools.

What does climate change have to do with human performance? Well, higher heat and humidity represent health threats to outdoor athletes.

In California, three-quarters of new oil wells are drilled in Black or Latino communities. To understand the permitting of fossil fuel infrastructure, one needs to

understand systemic racism.

Women and gender studies shows us that domestic violence and sex trafficking accompany oil and gas fracking.

And music? Ask me about the wood used to make Stradivarius violins. It’s sourced from forests now being decimated by extreme weather patterns in Italy.

Because climate is connected to everything we love, it is also connected to all the classes we teach.

Last year, encouraged by Provost Cornish, I sought funding to launch a Center for Climate Justice at Ithaca College. My idea was to create a national destination for students seeking engagement with the climate crisis that would equip them with tools to envision a renewable future, and make it so.

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Finally, and because I believe in transparency: my salary is \$31,050.

– Sandra Steingraber

”

To that end, I joined fellow faculty and staff serving on IC’s Climate Action Group. This committee worked for the better part of last year, drafting recommendations and helping to shape my



Sandra Steingraber is a distinguished scholar in residence in the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences. She is leaving Ithaca College following the finalization of the faculty cuts.

COURTESY OF LAURA KOZLOWSKI

own ambitious proposal.

The good news: after a year of planning and writing, I got the grant.

The bad news: both faculty co-chairs of the Climate Action Group are now among those losing their jobs as a consequence of Academic Program Prioritization, which, as far as I can see, is disaster capitalism for higher education.

All told, at least nine IC professors who teach some aspect of the climate crisis — in five different departments — are on the chopping block, with Recreation and Leisure Studies disappearing altogether.

Here’s the thing: When an administration decides that the most important task is aligning the size

of the faculty to the correct proportion and does so by eliminating non-tenure track faculty, unique, irreplaceable areas of expertise are lost.

It’s our contingent and NTEN faculty who are engaged in some of the most innovative, intersectional, progressive teaching on campus. I know because I’ve literally taught across our curriculum for 18 years.

I can’t launch an intersectional Center for Climate Justice by myself.

At some point, I could no longer honestly assure my grantor that the climate initiative it was funding had the broad and deep support of the IC faculty, staff and administration.

Also, as a matter of conscience,

how could I launch a center devoted to the idea of justice when so much injustice would be taking place all around me? It’s traumatizing.

I’ll be leaving Ithaca College at the end of this year. I am sorry. I wanted to build a thriving Center for Climate Justice here, but I’m demoralized and aware that the collective intellectual capacity I was counting on is being sacrificed to austerity.

Finally, and because I believe in transparency: my salary is \$31,050.

SANDRA STEINGRABER is a distinguished scholar in residence at Ithaca College. Contact her at ssteingraber@ithaca.edu.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Brain injury awareness needs to be illuminated

BY MOLLY MACFARLAND

For most people, the thought of being impacted by a brain injury or even knowing someone who has dealt with one is unimaginable. Admittedly, the thought never crossed my mind until 11 years ago when my father had a massive stroke, one of the most common types of brain injuries.

What started out as an ordinary day in March of 2010 ended in my father becoming part of the 5.3 million people in the United States living with a permanent brain injury-related disability, according to the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA). As I have witnessed firsthand how brain injuries affect individuals both physically and cognitively, it is imperative that we create a dialogue to help bring awareness to brain injuries. The BIAA recognizes March as Brain Injury Awareness Month, presenting an opportunity to reflect on this topic and address the harmful stigma surrounding brain injuries.

The BIAA takes great pride in continuing to foster this tradition year after year, doing its part every March with a public awareness campaign. This year’s central message is *#MoreThanMyBrainInjury*. This campaign is designed to bring awareness and education to the general public about the prevalence

of brain injuries and what it is like to live with one. Further, *#MoreThanMyBrainInjury* emphasizes the need to destigmatize these injuries and promotes resources and support available to those impacted and their loved ones.

Many people with disabilities may feel constrained and trapped by their label of injury. Therefore, the BIAA’s central message of *#MoreThanMyBrainInjury* serves as a catalyst for awareness and empowers individuals to overcome labels of limitation and stigmas. Because every brain injury is different and comes with a range of difficulties, including compromised cognitive function, speech, language, perception and paralysis, this has resulted in stigmas that are extremely dangerous and disrespectful.

Often in brain injury recovery, the individual may seem perfectly fine and in tune one day, but physically and mentally worn out the next day. Because of this, individuals can experience discrimination from family, friends, co-workers and others, as well as suffering from self-stigma due to physical and social isolation. It is crucial to remember that those who have sustained brain injuries are valuable members of our communities too and deserve utmost respect.

Lives are impacted by brain injuries every single day and everyone is at risk, whether



Junior Molly MacFarland addresses the prevalence of brain injuries. The Brain Injury Association of America recognizes March as Brain Injury Awareness Month.

ASH BAILLOT/THE ITHACAN

it is a child who falls playing in the yard, a victim of a car accident or a survivor of a stroke. We need to do our part to support those who are living with brain injuries, as this is a topic that affects all people, regardless of age, race, gender or background. It is integral that we all do our part this

March to become educated, aware and empowered in honoring Brain Injury Awareness Month.

MOLLY MACFARLAND is a junior integrated marketing communications major. Contact her at mmacfarland@ithaca.edu.

OPEN LETTER, FEB. 24, 2021

Open the Books responds to APP finalization

Today - February 24th, 2021 at 11:07am - President Shirley M. Collado formally announced that Ithaca College will move forward with the Shape of the College plan, as presented by the Academic Prioritization Process Implementation Committee on February, 17th, 2021. As a result of this plan, 116 full-time equivalent (FTE) faculty positions and 26 majors, programs and departments will be eliminated in the name of creating a more “lean,” “sustainable” institution.

We’re angry. Insulted. Tired of the constant bureaucratic hypocrisy we’ve seen for months - even years. Since November, students, faculty, staff, and alumni alike have implored the Senior Leadership Team, President Shirley Collado, and Provost La Jerne Terry Cornish to recognize the dangerous, damaging precedent that they set by choosing to pursue a rushed mission of austerity in the midst of an international health, housing, and economic crisis.

We have made clear that the APP goes beyond the “sustainability” of Ithaca College; beyond an artificial fear of a “student enrollment cliff” quickly approaching on the horizon; beyond the “right-sizing” of a college which never felt too big, or too small, but felt like home. The decision made today proves that the Ithaca College administration does not “prioritize student success and sense of belonging,” as President Collado stated in today’s announcement. Cutting programs and educators that bring diverse perspectives and unique opportunities in favor of a profit-centered education model directly contradicts the values that Ithaca College promised students they would

uphold. The implementation of drastic cuts ahead of any perceived long-term enrollment decrease, leaving students with larger classes and fewer opportunities for one-on-one engagement, is a recipe for disaster. Put more plainly, it’s a self-fulfilling prophecy which guarantees the very student enrollment cliff which senior administrators fear so much.

“
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Insulted. Tired of
the constant
bureaucratic
hypocrisy we’ve
seen for months –
even years.
– Open the Books

Make no mistake - the implementation of the APP at Ithaca College is yet another crystal-clear example of Ithaca College administration governing on behalf of the top earners in higher education, strategically eliminating unionized workers and scholarly troublemakers en masse under the guise of “Ithaca Forever”. We see what is happening here. We see the increasing disappearance of our contingent and part-time faculty members. We



Students hold a vigil outside the Ithaca College Library Feb. 24 in honor of the faculty members who will be terminated due to the Academic Program Prioritization Implementation Committee’s cuts. ASH BAILLOT/THE ITHACAN

see the precarious position our administration is creating for scholars young and old; for BIPOC and queer educators who, disproportionate to their white, cis, and straight colleagues, find themselves outside the protections of tenured and tenure-track positions. We see it all. And so do our comrades at educational institutions across the United States. In today’s email, President Collado claimed that “we have listened attentively and closely over the past several weeks and months as members of our community—students, staff, faculty, alumni, IC

families, and community members—have shared with us their thoughts on the proposed changes.” Over the past 6 months, we - students, faculty, alumni, and staff - have begged the administration to see the implications of this disastrous choice, while being repeatedly stonewalled by cold, bureaucratic indifference. We have hosted weekly meetings, town halls, livestreams, and COVID-safe, in-person gatherings. The administration was explicitly invited to these events and refused to attend. What the Office of the President offered in return were siloed Zoom webinars which fail to deconstruct the imbalanced, top-down power structure we know all too well. When questions about the APP were raised in restrictive and inaccessible meetings, they were either ignored or shot down. In the end, their non-existent attempt to collect real, unmediated feedback from the campus community makes one thing very clear - they were never going to listen to us in the first place.

Open the Books and IC Alumni Against Austerity were not created to cause trouble for the hard-working Ithaca College community, nor to provide an outlet for boredom or rebelliousness. Our coalition was created to resist rushed changes which will not only endanger the livelihoods of our fellow community members, but will eviscerate the spirit of colleagues, students, and comrades who remain at IC.

Some might say that we should pursue our organizing through “formal” channels, officially endorsed by the administration. Well, in collaboration with the Student Governance

Council, we did just that. On Monday, February 22nd, the Student Governance Council (SGC) passed two bills, by nearly unanimous decision, which call for financial transparency and shared governance at Ithaca College. The administration has chosen to ignore them. It is evident that the idea of students holding any kind of real power to influence critical institutional decisions is nothing but a fallacy, which the SLT dangles over the heads of students, faculty, and alumni alike.

In the end, we could be wrong. Heartless layoffs could be the only way to “save Ithaca College”. But how would we ever know without a real, inclusive, non-hierarchical reconsideration of the APP process where ALL community members are equally and thoroughly consulted? How will we know without a clear, complete outline of Ithaca College’s past, current, and future finances? How will we know if we’re categorically shut out?

And if sacrificing our workers and their humanity is the only way to save IC, would we even recognize what’s left? What good is “Ithaca Forever” if it’s corporate, cold, and disconnected?

Our resolve does not waver, and our demands remain the same:

1. Halt the implementation of the APP Process at Ithaca College immediately.
2. Implement a system of real shared governance at Ithaca College, in which decision-making power is distributed evenly among tenured, NTEN, contingent, and part-time faculty, students, staff, and alumni.



From left, sophomores Gianna Nigro and Julia DiGeronimo attend an Open the Books protest Feb. 19 outside of the Peggy Ryan Williams Center. This was the group’s fourth protest since October. MIKAYLA ELWELL/THE ITHACAN

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

While I agree that Malcolm & Marie isn’t Oscar-worthy, I couldn’t help but notice the review’s inaccuracies. Honestly, the author’s analysis seemed based upon a single watch. Author Jackson Noel argues that the film lacks self-awareness about the supposedly upper-class protagonists who, “roll up to their secluded mini-mansion after a night of praise at the premiere of Malcolm’s latest film.” The couple are actually lent the place by Malcolm’s production company for that weekend. In fact, a significant disparity between the two is their contrasting relationships with class. While Malcolm’s parents are affluent and college-educated, Marie’s aren’t so lucky. Thus begins Noel’s confusing and inaccurate tirade against Malcolm & Marie. The article falsely sets the film during the pandemic, describing the setting as “a brief excuse for why they spend a night of celebration isolated rather than at an after-party.” Yet, the film

attributes much of Marie’s anger to her interactions with Malcolm’s colleagues at the after-party from which they’ve returned. Yes, the dialogue definitely read like Levinson’s excuse to use the biggest words he knows. However the depiction of Malcolm & Marie as an ignorant detachment from modern romance is extreme. The couple’s arguments detail a codependent need to stay together alongside an inability to compromise their own egos. If that doesn’t encapsulate toxic relationships under the pressures of social media, then I’m unsure what can. Malcolm & Marie is far from perfect, but I’m surprised that *The Ithacan* would allow simple mistakes about a film to be the basis of any review. Best, Juliana Luis, Class of ’23



SEEKING JUSTICE

JOHN TURNER

Becoming numb to the injustice

I distinctly remember at the age of 13 sitting in my grandparents bedroom on the edge of their bed anxiously awaiting the verdict of George Zimmerman’s trial. I had hoped that he would be convicted for wrongfully killing Trayvon Martin and would spend years in prison. To my surprise, the reporter on the news announced that Zimmerman had been acquitted of all charges and would be released into society to do what he pleased. A rush of hopelessness rippled throughout my body after the verdict had been read. This was the first time in my life that I saw for myself that Black people were not treated fairly in this country. I quickly came to terms with the fact that this country could abuse us over and over again without suffering any consequences. That night I saw myself in Trayvon Martin, and that was the night I became numb to injustice.

On Feb. 23, it was announced that the officers who killed Daniel Prude would not be charged for killing him while responding to a mental health call. Compared to when I found out Trayvon Martin would not be getting justice, I felt absolutely nothing when it was announced that Daniel Prude would not be getting justice either.

I didn’t feel sadness, anger, fear, optimism, defeat or denial. It felt like a normal Tuesday. For a second, I almost felt guilty for not being enraged or upset at the news. But my numbness has come from years of seeing people who look like me perpetually abused by a country that was built on our backs. I was surprised when Trayvon Martin did not get justice. I was in shock when George Floyd literally had his breath taken from him by the people who were “sworn” to protect him while people stood and watched. I was saddened when Breonna Taylor was forgotten after it was no longer trendy to post a black square on Instagram. I felt defeated when Tamir Rice was killed for playing with a toy. I had no words when Sandra Bland’s death was treated as normal. Sometimes, it seems like I have no more emotions to feel.

All these emotions — shock, sadness, defeat and hopelessness — would eat me alive if I felt them on a daily basis. It seems as though a Black person is being wrongfully killed every other week. To combat being complacent in my grief, I have become numb to injustice. Numbness is distinct from denial; when you’re in denial you completely ignore reality, but when you are numb, you are fully aware that reality is there. You just can’t allow that reality to consume you.

What progress has really been made? What resolutions have really been found? What are those in power really doing to make a change? I constantly hear about the concept of reimagining a world where there are no police or there isn’t a prison industrial construct — how can I reimagine when it seems as though my reality will never change? I don’t even know what justice and equality look like at this point.

I want to make it very clear that I did not write this to receive white pity or sympathy. I wrote this so that white people can see the harm they cause, either direct or indirect. You have no right to feel shocked anymore if you are white in America because you contribute to this issue. Instead of feeling sad for Black people, get up and do something about it.

SEEKING JUSTICE is a column that examines race and cultural competency. **JOHN TURNER** is a junior journalism major. Contact him at jturner3@ithaca.edu.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Indian bills harm small farmers

Currently, Indian farmers are protesting three new bills that will gut government price subsidies and other agricultural protections. These bills will further impoverish vulnerable small farmers and peasant workers who already struggle to sell their goods on the international market. Current price subsidies guarantee that their goods will sell at a marginal profit, which would be essentially erased with the new bills.

The right-wing government led by the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have a historically poor record when managing civil liberties. Prior to Modi’s PM appointment, his administration infamously invoked riots in 2002, leading to the slaughter of Muslims in his home state of Gujarat. Recently, he has been active on the international stage with former President Donald J. Trump.

The current iteration of the farmers’ protests began in November when an organized front marched to Delhi. Their encampments at the Delhi border have become places of festive folk songs, dance and community. A significant aspect of the modern movement is that it brings together many different factions of the rural farming society across tribes, castes and religions.

Currently, the government has jailed prominent farmers



Senior Akshan Shah examines the Indian government after the release of three bills that remove agricultural protections for small farmers. Farmers have led protests since August. MIKAYLA ELWELL/THE ITHACAN

and protesters for sedition and other political crimes. Despite potential legal proceedings, these individuals could spend years in jail before their cases are reviewed and innocence can be proven.

None of this feels democratic or fair. Democracy is a vague term used by everyone from Joe Biden to Modi and even college administrators. Concretely, democracy is discussed in my politics classes as the combination of political representation and characteristics of civil society. These include diversity in types of household, community services and diverse forms of enterprise.

India lacks in almost every democratic category, according to society’s most vulnerable. The poor languish and suffer from increasingly anti-democratic policies such as the new farm bills. The BJP regularly kills and covers up killings of the poorest. Representation is inherently lacking.

Civil society is also not fairly represented in the international scope of India. Corporate farms stand to benefit immensely from the new farm bills. They will effectively sell their goods at extremely low prices, take over the poor farmers’ lands and further cement themselves as the ruling class in India. There is

increasing polarization of lifestyle in India between the richest and poorest, according to several international measures.

The Modi government is another parasitic symptom of what an anti-democratic state is capable of inflicting on its citizens. India is a 74-year experiment that has continued the suffering of India’s most vulnerable. Rural, alliance-based organizing from farmers and their families is a crucial step in the reimagining of India itself.

AKSHAN SHAH is a senior politics and sociology major. Contact him at ashah@ithaca.edu.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Will spring ever arrive at Ithaca College?

BY JULIA YOUNG

As I walk across campus this winter, I can’t help but notice how somber it feels. It’s not just the snowy clouds above or the missing students filling the paths to buildings, but the prospect of permanently losing part of our campus community. We will lose some of our valued mentors, and we may not even be able to say goodbye in person.

I’m the president of a campus organization, and our advisor, Jennifer Herzog, a lecturer in the theatre arts department, is one of the faculty at risk of losing her position. She continues to play an integral part in ensuring that our organization is strong by providing us educational materials, attending meetings and giving us her own insight whenever we ask.

Even after news of the faculty cuts came out, she continued to charge forward with the same passion she had when she first started. Knowing that highly respected, involved faculty may have to leave, particularly after years of dedicating their service to the body of our campus, is tough. We’re essentially being told that going above and beyond isn’t enough. We’ve lost a lot, and they’re taking even more away from us. Rather than expecting a sense of hope that it’ll all go back to some semblance of what Ithaca College was like prior to the pandemic, I feel a sense of dread and worry that it will never return to what it was like — the full potential of IC that I only got to experience for a semester and a half.

I’ve seen the way the pandemic has impacted student morale and student engagement. We don’t want to engage. Seeing each other virtually just isn’t the same as seeing each other in person and having to decide whether to attend school virtually or



Sophomore Julia Young discusses the impact of the faculty cuts and how they will affect student morale and engagement beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. SURINA BELK-GUPTA/THE ITHACAN

in person was stressful enough. Adding the Academic Program Prioritization recommendations makes everything feel colder, like the long winter is going to last forever, and spring won’t ever arrive.

My time as the president of a student organization has taught me that professors do much more than educate. They contribute to campus culture, they are involved in student life and they motivate their students to be leaders in our community. As Ithaca College takes our professors away from us, they’re taking away our guides. They’re taking away the people who inspire us. Above all, what’s clear to us students is that few, if any, professors deserve their position to be terminated.

I know that the college is in a tight financial situation, and I know that it has been exacerbated by the pandemic. However, the pandemic will eventually end, and some of these changes will not be able to be undone. There will be lasting effects: Students will

lose mentors, the campus culture will be forever changed and future students may not feel the magnetic pull that I felt to go to IC.

I would consider myself lucky. My department isn’t being cut. My major is safe. For the most part, I can envision my future beyond Ithaca College. But what I am at risk to lose matters just as much: what my future at Ithaca College looks like.

Now that the college has decided to implement the proposed Academic Program Prioritization, I’m afraid our community will lose what makes Ithaca feel like Ithaca. When this is over, I hope the leadership of Ithaca College does not look back and regret the long-term effects that its decisions will bring. When all the snow melts, I hope spring will come and students will still feel inspired.

JULIA YOUNG is a sophomore speech-language pathology major. Contact her at jyoung10@ithaca.edu.

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THURSDAY, FEB. 27, 2020

THE ITHACAN

VOLUME 87
ISSUE 20

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 at Ithaca College, 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.

ABBEY LONDON/THE ITHACAN

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 five-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"

CITIZENSHIP, PAGE 4

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DIVERSIONS

crossword

By United Media

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ACROSS

- 1 Backtalk
4 Think-tank output
8 Gawk at
12 Collection of tales
13 Dunaway of films
14 Wry face
15 Scorches
17 Custard ingredient
19 Psyche component
20 Hydrox rival
21 Leave-takings
23 Note before mi
24 Noisy dispute
26 Gloomy
29 Love in a gondola
31 Fierce feline
32 Not masc.
34 Traffic cone
37 "Cogito ergo —"
38 Swift horse
40 Facade
42 Have rapport
45 Forum hello
46 Speaker's pause
48 Cringe
50 Painter — Magritte

DOWN

- 1 Cabinet post
2 Toughen up
3 Fix potatoes
4 Possibilities
5 Pub. prosecutor
6 Stared at
7 Sponsorship
8 Mystic sound
9 Collapses financially (2 wds.)
10 Pull laboriously
11 Help-wanted abbr.
16 Standard
18 Earth, in combos
21 Twisted
22 Out caller
25 Ooola's guy

- 27 Big bird
28 Ewe's mate
29 Tooth fillings
30 Dobby, for one
32 Not close
33 Sooner than
35 Aloud
36 Dec. precursor
39 Block
41 Caligula's nephew
43 Plaything
44 Roulette bets
46 Free
47 Eavesdropped
49 Touché provoker
51 Livy's "it was"
52 Visitor from Melmac
53 Yes, in Kyoto
55 Mag fillers
57 Near
59 MIT grad, perhaps

last issue's crossword answers

ACE	FRAN	POUT
COY	ROSA	ALMA
HARD	EST	NEAT
EXERT	TOAD	
	ION	BASIC
BAWL	AMES	ETE
EVIL	GAL	HELD
EEL	ISIS	IDLE
PRESS	ELL	
	EMIR	ITEMS
IOTA	DOMESTIC	
GRAM	ETON	NEO
HEMS	SECS	ANT

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sudoku medium

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

very hard

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

answers to last issue's sudoku:

easy

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

hard

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

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MORE THAN PICTURES

Graphic novel writing workshop concludes annual Will Eisner Week

BY SYDNEY BRUMFIELD

Find a superhero cape and a pen because it is Will Eisner Week at the Tompkins County Public Library. The library holds the week every March in honor of the late cartoonist Will Eisner, who is often referred to as the father of the graphic novel art form.

From 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Mar. 5, Will Eisner Week will conclude with “Beyond Bang, Wham, and Pow: How to Create Compelling Narratives in Comics,” a comic writing workshop that is run by Ithaca College’s Graphic Novel Advisory Board (GNAB). The workshop will be held virtually and is free to the public.

Will Eisner Week is celebrated by libraries, museums, schools and comic book stores across the country to promote graphic novel literacy and freedom of speech. The Tompkins County Public Library began celebrating Will Eisner Week in 2019.

Eisner was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1917. His career as an artist spanned almost 70 years until his death in 2005. He was a trailblazer, developing visual panel layouts associated with graphic novels. Most notably, he was the creator of crime fighter and superhero comic series “The Spirit,” “Lady Luck” and “Uncle Sam.”

Sophia McKissick, community engagement and outreach librarian at the Tompkins County Public Library, said that Will Eisner Week was created as a celebration of his contributions to the art world and also graphic novels in general.

“This week helps people understand that [graphic novels] are not just superhero kid stuff,” McKissick said.

Interest in graphic novels is on the rise. Amid the pandemic, graphic novels saw weekly gains of as much as 30% over 2019, according to Forbes. According to a report on graphic novel sales from Publishers Weekly, combined sales of graphic novels and periodical comics in the U.S. and Canada totaled approximately \$1.21 billion in 2019.

McKissick said that when she assisted with the first Will Eisner Week held at the library, it was originally just a meeting of the Panel Graphic Novel Book Club, a local book club. Since then, Will Eisner Week has grown tremendously.

Tompkins County Public Library’s week is composed of three days of activities. It started with the meeting of Panel by Panel, where this year McKissick led a discussion of the winner of the Will Eisner Award-winning graphic novel,

“Snow, Glass, Apples” by Neil Gaiman and Colleen Doran.

“People can sometimes be dismissive of graphic novels as not ‘real’ books,” McKissick said. “I think that’s really underselling the level of talent and work that goes into them.”

On Tuesday, the second day of Will Eisner Week, the library ran a cartooning basics workshop with the illustrator Corinne Roberts.

During “Beyond Bang, Wham and Pow: How to Create Compelling Narratives in Comics,” GNAB plans to teach attendees about the written element of this art form. At the workshop, GNAB will be teaching the dos and don’ts of how to effectively use narrative so that it works with pictures instead of against them.

“People can sometimes be dismissive of graphic novels as not ‘real’ books. I think that’s really underselling the level of talent and work that goes into them.”

— Sophia McKissick

Junior Kaitlyn Dennehy is one of the members running the workshop as a part of GNAB. Dennehy said the GNAB started out as a class offered at the college and is transitioning into a student organization. GNAB is dedicated to doing community outreach to schools and libraries to help them accumulate graphic novel collections.

This is the first year GNAB is working with the library on Will Eisner Week.

This workshop intends to offer insight into the art of writing graphic novels for

individuals aged 12 and older. Senior Angelina Randazzo, a member of GNAB, said anyone who is interested in writing or has a passion for graphic novels, and any artists who want to step outside their comfort zones and try something new, should register online for this virtual workshop.

“I think comics and graphic novels are a lot of fun,” Randazzo said. “I think they have a lot more freedom than textual novels, and I think anyone should really try.”

Dennehy said she will be talking about plot and story structure, and the workshop will also discuss how the visuals and the written text work together. Dennehy said the group attempts to change the public’s perception of graphic novels.

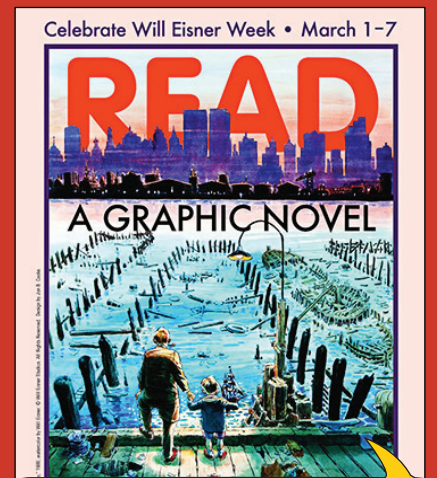
“We think that graphic novels aren’t given enough credit,” Dennehy said.

GNAB informs people about the educational benefits of graphic novels, beyond just being an entertaining form of literature. Dennehy said graphic novels increase visual literacy and critical thinking, which is increasingly important now, especially with a large amount of media being predominantly visual.

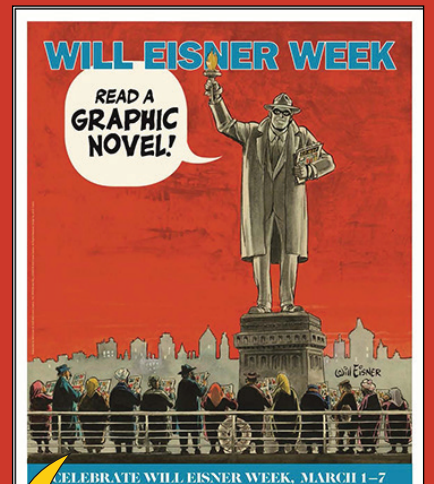
Senior Coletrane Herrmann, a member of GNAB, is helping at the workshop as well. Herrmann will be crafting practice activities for the workshop in a sort of mad-lib style in which he will be providing prompts and blanks to help people get their creative gears turning.

“That’s really what I am most interested in, seeing how the participants will work with what I’ve written and how they write their own new stuff,” Herrmann said. “Seeing if they write differently knowing that the context is for a graphic novel versus than if the context was for a book is fascinating.”

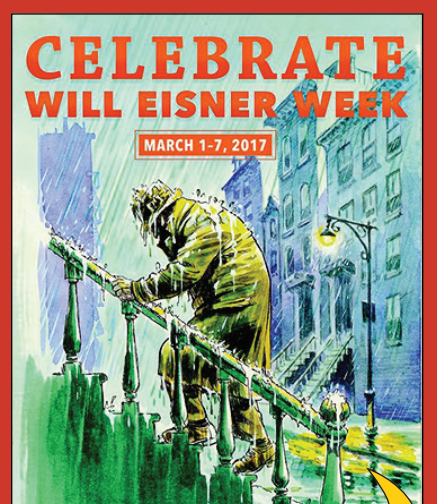
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Will Eisner Week is held every March to honor graphic novels and the late artist.
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This year’s poster for Will Eisner Week features Eisner’s character The Spirit.
Copyright © 2020 Will Eisner Studios, Inc.



The “Beyond Bang, Wham, and Pow” workshop happens 4 p.m. March 5.
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READ A GRAPHIC NOVEL!



Will Eisner was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1917. He was a comic book artist for 70 years and created popular series like “The Spirit,” “Uncle Sam” and “Lady Luck.”

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Actors social distance for Spring 2021 season

BY CONNOR AHERN

After being away from the Ithaca College stage for a year, singers, actors, dramaturgs, directors and set designers are preparing for the Spring 2021 season through Zoom and socially distanced rehearsals.

The Department of Theatre Arts will be showing four productions during Spring 2021. Sophomores Clari Atherlay and Aaron Hutchens said “The Trojan Women” will premiere in March, and “Head Over Heels,” “The Magic Flute” and “Stop Kiss” will premiere in April. They said there will be free Zoom screenings of many of the shows, though some are still awaiting confirmation.

Everyone involved in the productions has been following the COVID-19 guidelines during rehearsals and will follow them during performances. Atherlay said this includes wearing a mask and maintaining at least a 6-foot distance apart at all times, 12 feet apart if they are speaking and 20 feet apart if they are singing.

Each show will be performed in front of approximately 50 people in theaters that normally seat 400. Atherlay said the audience will be selected from students and staff but will mostly be people who worked on the show.

“The Trojan Women”

Ellen McLaughlin’s “The Trojan Women” is an adaptation of the classic Greek tragedy. Enduring death and bloodshed, the women of Troy watch as their sons and husbands battle in a war that ravages their homes.

Junior William DeVary, who plays Talthybius, said the play investigates what life means when the women in it exist in such a desolate state. The play follows the women through human trafficking, abuse and the commodification of their bodies.

“I think it speaks fundamentally and profoundly on this moment that we’re in right now and sheds light on aspects of our lives and aspects of the world that, for many of us, are very easy to ignore,” DeVary said.

DeVary said everyone working on the production has been supportive while working under the new guidelines.

“The Trojan Women” will be performed in person to limited college personnel at 8 p.m. March 5 and 11 a.m. March 7 in the Clark Theatre. It will also be made available online to the public March 20 via Zoom.

“Head Over Heels”

Originally written by Jeff Whitty and James Magruder, “Head Over Heels” features hit songs from the 1980s rock band The Go-Go’s. The production is a jukebox musical comedy set in the fictional kingdom of Arcadia, where a royal family receives a prophecy of doom from an oracle.

Senior Logan Geddes takes on the role of Musidorus, a shepherd who assumes the persona of a woman to pursue the princess he is secretly in love with. Geddes said the experience helps Musidorus explore his identity in unexpected ways.

“It’s a really uplifting story about the power of community and acceptance,” Geddes said.

“Head Over Heels” will be performed in person to limited college personnel at 8 p.m. April 2 and 11 a.m. April 4 in the Hoerner Theatre. It will also be made available online to the public via Zoom on a date in April that has not yet been announced.

“Stop Kiss”

Originally written by Diana Son, “Stop Kiss” tells a tale of the unexpected love that is found between Callie, a savvy yet misguided New York City traffic reporter, and Sara, a newcomer



Andrew Sprague ‘20 rehearses for the opera “Dido and Aeneas” with the rest of the cast Jan. 25, 2020. Rehearsals for shows this spring are held on Zoom or socially distanced with actors in masks.

EMILY SILVER/THE ITHACAN

to the area. The couple’s love story comes to a screeching halt when they become victims of a hate crime.

Paula Murray Cole, associate professor in the Department of Theatre Arts, will be directing “Stop Kiss.” Cole said the cast will be challenged to convey an intimate story of Callie and Sara with the additional challenges of social distancing and masks.

“Ultimately, I believe this is a story about daring to love, facing up to change and personal challenge, finding our resilience and making a commitment to one another — what can matter most to the shape and quality of our lives — then and now,” Cole said.

“Stop Kiss” will be performed in person to limited college personnel at 8 p.m. April 16 and 11 a.m. April 18 in the Clark Theatre. It will also be made available online to the public via

Zoom on a date in April that has not yet been announced.

“The Magic Flute”

Mozart’s fairy-tale opera, directed by Ellen Jackson, lecturer in the Department of Music Performance, with musical director Christopher Zemliauskas, assistant professor in the Department of Music Performance, tells the story of the young Prince Tamino, who embarks on an adventure to save Princess Pamina. The pair undergoes a series of trials to reveal the true villain.

The production stage manager, senior Chris Griswold, said Jackson has completely reworked the piece to be set in the modern Midwestern United States.

Griswold said this production is going to be unlike any other that the department has put on before. The set, lights and costumes will be sim-

plistic and minimal. Due to COVID-19 guidelines, the orchestral accompaniment, singing and dialogue will be pre-recorded. The recorded audio will play while masked performers act out the opera on stage.

“There’s not going to be hundreds of people in an audience coming together for two hours to watch people perform something completely live on stage,” Griswold said. That’s not something that we’re going to have for a long time.”

“The Magic Flute” will be performed in person to limited college personnel at 8 p.m. April 30 and 11 a.m. May 2 in the Hoerner Theatre. It will also be made available online to the public via Zoom on May 15.

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Discussion series honors inspirational women at IC

BY GRACE AZAULA

During a time of social distancing and isolation, the organizers of the Women Leaders Series are still striving to unify and celebrate the women of the Ithaca College community.

The ninth annual Women Leaders Series launched its first event March 1 and will continue hosting 11 more virtual events throughout March. The series was organized by Student Leadership Consultants sophomore Jolivia Manning, sophomore Julia Colucci and senior Natalie Chiapperi, as well as Michele Lenhart, director of student engagement. Lenhart said that in past years, the series included 10–20 in-person workshops, networking events and a trip to Seneca Falls. Because of the pandemic, all in-person events were canceled and replaced by virtual programming.

Lenhart said the theme of the series is “Essential Women,” an idea that was inspired by the essential workers who have worked throughout the pandemic. Lenhart said that for the first three weeks of March, members of the Ithaca College community will be able to nominate women within or outside of the college community who inspire them. The Office of Student Engagement will then create posters spotlighting the nominees to hang around campus.

In addition to the Recognizing Essential Women event, Manning said there are new events that focus on women working in male-dominated fields, like the Women in the Outdoors event March 10 and the Women in STEM event March 16. Manning said that as a health sciences major, she was excited for the opportunity to plan an event featuring female alumni who understand the struggles of being a woman in STEM.

“Being a STEM major, it’s not necessarily

easy,” Manning said. “You do have moments when you feel knocked down or when you’re just not motivated at all, and some of those individuals or alumni that we’re having have been in our shoes.”

Chiapperi, an environmental science major with a minor in outdoor pursuits, said she hopes that this event provides women in male-dominated fields the opportunity to build a network of women who can support one another.

According to research compiled by Catalyst, women in the United States made up 25.8% of computer and mathematics professionals, 18.7% of software developers or applications and systems software professionals, 15.7% of architecture and engineering professionals and 13.9% of civil engineers as of 2019. Research also found that women are more likely to be in lower paying positions compared to men.

“I think it’s a really good way to bring students within the same field together at school and then work together moving forward, and also to learn from women in other fields and see what they’re doing and succeeding in their field,” Chiapperi said.

Colucci said she thinks the series is also applicable to women in all fields and will help students build confidence that is essential to self-growth.

“Regardless of which major you’re in or which career path you go down, you’re going to face similar challenges,” Colucci said. “A lot of women face self-doubt because of their gender. And just things like that, where there is discrimination and even within yourself, like inner conflicts, because of everything that society has drilled into you and everything that society



Julie Dorsey, assistant professor and chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy, was a panelist at the Women Leaders Series event March 1 on Zoom.

COURTESY OF OFFICE OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

has built into other people around you, that make your experiences pretty similar.”

Lenhart said that the events being held virtually allows the office to invite more guest speakers. One of the guest panelists is Julie Dorsey, assistant professor and chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy. Dorsey received the IC Women of Distinction award, alongside Te-Wen Lo, associate professor in the Department of Biology, and Tiffany Valentin, assistant director in the Office of State Grants, as part of last year’s Women Leaders Series. The award aims to honor female faculty or staff members who act as role models and advocate for women in their field. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the in-person awards ceremony was canceled. Dorsey said that to make up for last year’s celebration, all 2020 IC Women of Distinction recipients were panelists at the kick-off event for the Women Leaders Series.

Dorsey said she was looking forward to having authentic conversations with fellow recipients and students about her past experiences.

“The three of us, we have no problem being real and sort of telling the good stuff and the bad stuff,” Dorsey said. “I think that modeling that and showing that to students can be really powerful. Anytime that students can hear, in particular women, in the workplace who are in leadership roles, who also can be vulnerable and be real.”

Colucci said she is excited for the remaining events and hopes that attendees leave the Women Leaders Series feeling united as a community.

“I really want attendees to feel heard and understood and that their experiences are common and can be shared with other people,” Colucci said. “As women and female-identifying students, we will face similar experiences with discrimination or inequality. I think, unfortunately, that’s how it is for now. I think that talking about it, and teaching others about it, will hopefully resolve the issue more and more as time goes on.”

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Alum sets the stage with new LGBTQ young adult novel

BY MOLLY SHEETS

Carey Parker is standing on the stage, their diva-like voice filling the entire auditorium. Tears fill their eyes at the end of the song, realizing that they can no longer sing it in the Sunnyside High School production of “Wicked” due to the discrimination they face at school for their identity. This is the plot of Ithaca College alum Steven Salvatore’s debut book, “Can’t Take That Away.”

Salvatore, who graduated in 2008, has always enjoyed writing, and they are currently an adjunct professor at colleges in Westchester County, NY. Salvatore’s most recent accomplishment is the upcoming publication of “Can’t Take That Away,” which will be released on March 9. The book has been ranked 25 on Amazon’s Teen and Young Adult (YA) Theater Fiction.

The book follows Carey, a genderqueer teen. Carey auditions for the typically-female role of Elphaba in their high school production of “Wicked.” They get the part, but are eventually kicked out of the musical after a series of prejudiced actions from a teacher and classmate. Carey and the rest of their friends then rally in protest and attempt to get Carey reinstated as the lead.

Salvatore said writing the book was a good way to process their own genderqueer identity.

“I wanted to work through all of the things that I was feeling,” they said. “I wanted to channel that into a character who is in a lot of ways like me, but also in a lot of ways not like me at all. I’m not a singer.”

Through personal experience, Salvatore said they were able to understand the emotions and struggles that come with being a genderqueer teen. Salvatore is hoping that queer young adults can see that they have a voice and can overcome prejudice as well.

“I wanted to give a voice to genderqueer teens and genderqueer people in general who just never really got a chance to see themselves, and who need to see themselves,” they said.

Salvatore’s book is coming at a time when LGBTQ characters in YA literature are becoming more prominent, but still remain in the minority. Mainstream publishers published 108 LGBTQ YA books in 2018, according to writer and researcher Malinda Lo. However, according to Lo’s report, only 4% of these books had a nonbinary or genderfluid main character.

Salvatore said they hope that their book sparks an increase in the publication of more LGBTQ forms of media.

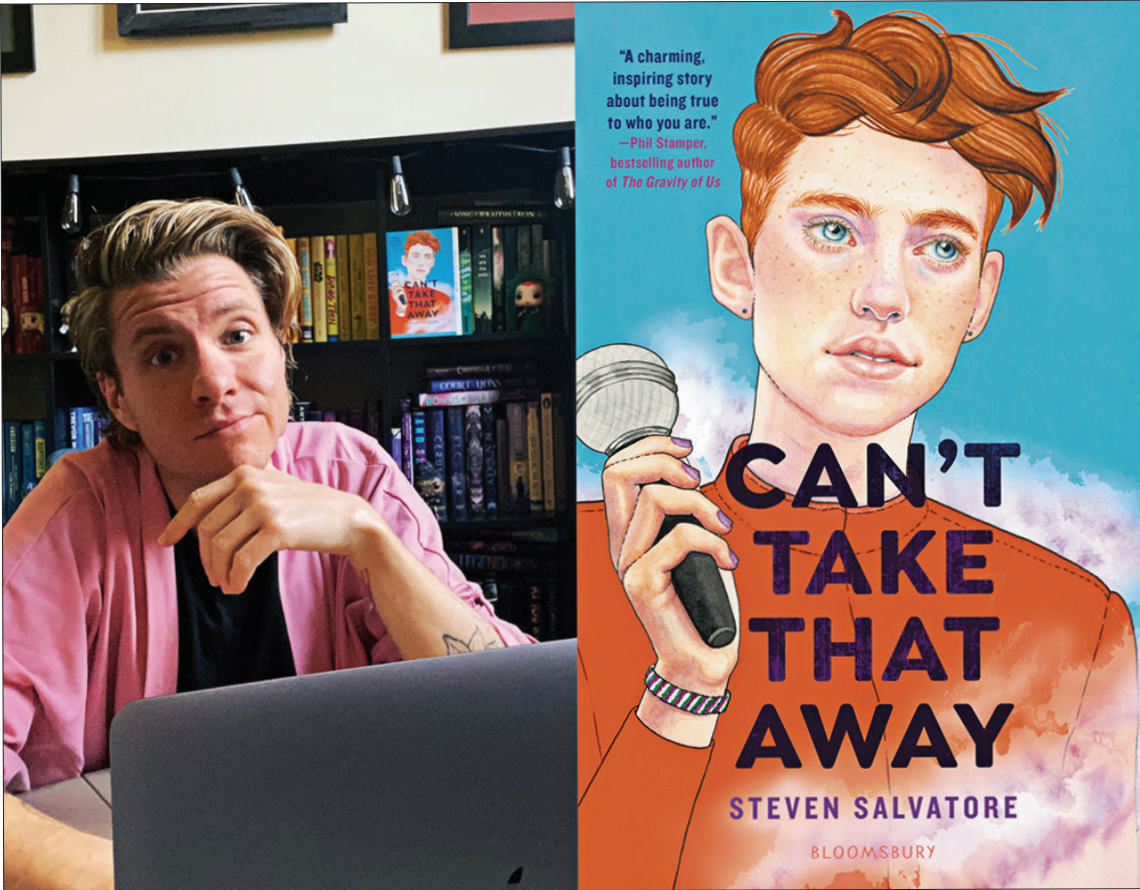
“I can’t name another published young adult book that has a genderqueer main character,” Salvatore said. “There’s something wrong with that. So then that means that my book then represents everybody who is genderqueer, which is inherently problematic because my experience is not a universal experience.”

In 2007, Salvatore took the Writing Children’s Literature course at Ithaca College. This course sparked Salvatore’s interest in YA literature, jump-starting their career in composition and writing.

“Taking that course actually opened my eyes to all the possibilities of YA,” they said. “Young adult literature tackles stuff that adult fiction doesn’t with the same amount of depth and nuance. In young adult fiction, it’s more poetic.”

The Department of Writing at the college has not only helped Salvatore learn about their passion, but to understand their identity.

“When I was at Ithaca, there was an out professor that I knew in the writing department,” they said. “This made me feel safe and comfortable. It allowed me to see that I want to teach



Steven Salvatore '08 has their first novel, “Can’t Take That Away,” coming out March 9. The young adult novel follows Carey Parker, a genderqueer teen, fighting to perform in the school play. COURTESY OF STEVEN SALVATORE

college writing one day, and I can actually have that.”

Rachel Fomalhaut, lecturer in the Department of Writing, teaches Queer Studies at the college this semester. The class includes large and small group discussions that highlight topics like queer history and sexual identities throughout time. Fomalhaut said she believes that books like “Can’t Take that Away” and classes like Queer Studies help students further understand who they are.

“In some ways it’s wonderful to feel how intensely a lot of the students are connecting the materi-

al,” she said. “Many of the students needed this class.”

Junior Z Prince writes coming-of-age stories with queer themes. Similar to Salvatore, they base many of their novels and short stories on personal experiences.

“Since all my characters are queer, I resonate with them,” they said. “It feels cathartic in a way, to write as someone who is not me, and have their situation be different.”

Prince is currently working on a queer YA fantasy novel inspired by “Cinderella.” The novel features magic, a childhood friends-to-lovers romance and the relationship be-

tween selfishness and self-preservation.

“Most of my characters need to figure out who they are and who they want to be,” they said. “Those are oftentimes two different things.”

Although Carey’s story has some hardships, Salvatore said that good things come out of hard times, a testament to their personal life experiences.

“There’s a lot of pain and there’s a lot of hardship that Carey experiences in the book, but there is a balance between the darkness and the light,”

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Alumni discuss implications of LGBTQ portrayals in media

BY CHARLIE BECHT

The Ithaca College Center for LGBT Education, Outreach and Services used the documentary, “Disclosure: Trans Lives on Screen,” as a starting point for its conversation about LGBTQ representation in media in a panel Feb. 26.

The panel, “Tired Tropes and Stale Stereotypes: LGBTQ Representation in Media and Arts,” consisted of LGBTQ alumni with experiences in the media and arts field. Jessie Earl ’14 is a journalist and YouTube personality who discusses LGBTQ issues and superhero and sci-fi pop culture. Calvin Kasulke ’13 is the author of the novel “Several People Are Typing,” to be released in September 2021. Ashton Muñoz ’14 is an actor, performance artist and activist based in New York City. Isabel Galupo ’14 is a staff writer for Nickelodeon and Hasbro’s recently announced Transformers television show. Stephen Tropiano, director and professor of the J.B. Pendleton Center in Los Angeles and author of “The Prime Time Closet: The History of Homosexuality on Television,” was also a panelist.

“Disclosure” came out on Netflix in 2020. Featuring Laverne Cox, Chaz Bono and Mj Rodriguez, among other transgender creatives, the documentary discusses Hollywood’s harmful impacts on the trans community.

Luca Maurer, director of LGBTQ Education, Outreach and Services, organized the event. One of Maurer’s goals for the panel was to

highlight the history of the LGBTQ community. The panel discussed how in the past, LGBTQ identities have been presented as stories of tragedy and not highlighted as tales of inspiration and celebration.

“The LGBTQ+ community was really loved into existence, primarily by trans women of color who lived in times that were so much more difficult and dangerous,” Maurer said. “Sylvia Rivera, Marsha P. Johnson ... there are people in our history who were caring for our community, looking after each other, way before there was an idea of a network of mutual aid.”

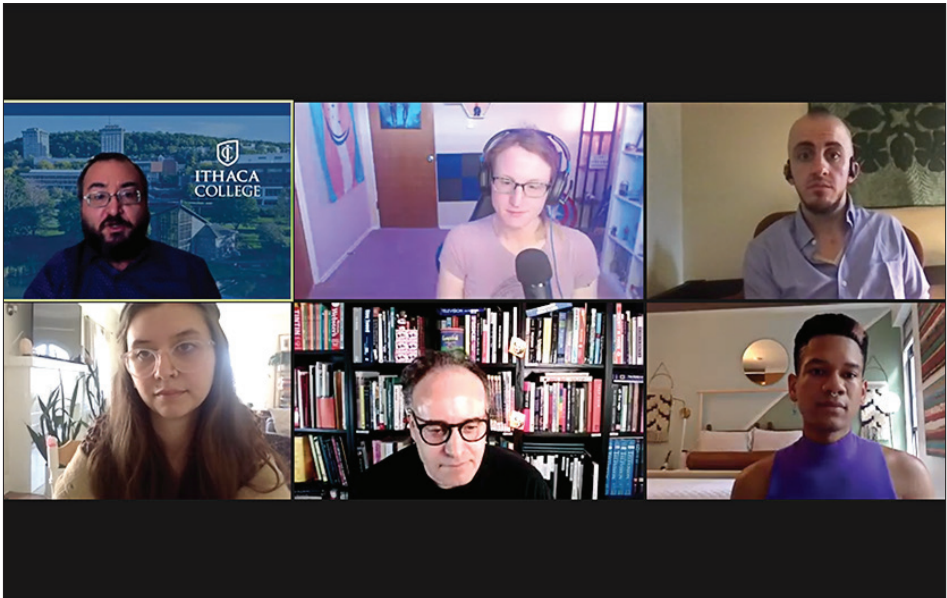
Earl said the media is a major influence on people’s perception. This has been exhibited with gay men being perceived as sexual predators because of the Hays Code. The Hays Code was a Hollywood Production code from the mid-20th century that in part banned sexual perversion in films.

“We see the framing of trans people as ‘deceivers’ in film and television, informing legislation in politics with trans people in bathrooms and sports,” Earl said.

Tropiano said it is important to write for younger audiences. He said that up until recently, there were no portrayals of LGBTQ youth.

“Even though we are in this culture where there are more things on TV and there are more people who are ‘out’ ... there’s still that person who is struggling ... we can’t just assume that because things are more visible, we are alright,” Tropiano said.

Members of the panel stressed the importance of authenticity in writing LGBTQ



The panel, “Tired Tropes and Stale Stereotypes: LGBTQ Representation in Media and Arts,” was held Feb. 26. The panel featured LGBTQ media professionals. COURTESY OF CENTER FOR LGBT EDUCATION, OUTREACH AND SERVICES

characters going forward. They spotlighted the need for a greater LGBTQ presence both in front of and behind the camera, and that the predominant voices telling LGBTQ stories should come from the community.

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) reported that LGBTQ representation in film has been increasing. In 2019, more LGBTQ-inclusive movies were released than ever before, with 18.6% of major studio films including LGBTQ characters. However, no major studio releases in 2019 included a single transgender character.

Galupo said that in her experience, a lack of diversity in the writing room is not conducive to the creative process.

“Your writing is always going to be better if

you have a diverse room that is representative of so many different types of people ... because new ideas and interesting ideas come out of tension,” Galupo said. “The best writing experiences I’ve ever had have been in rooms where ... we all have different identities.”

The call to action from both the film and the panel is for creators to tell LGBTQ stories with integrity, authenticity and with the community as part of the process.

“If you can’t see yourself or see ... images of people like you or what you might be, it becomes difficult to imagine a future for yourself,” Kasulke said.

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Streaming market spread too thin

BY AVERY ALEXANDER

Since Netflix first launched streaming options in 2007, streaming services have exploded into a massive multibillion dollar industry. In the early years, there were limited options, but as time has passed, more and more streaming services have appeared and continue to pop up. While these new services may seem to present an opportunity for innovation and market diversity, the rapidly expanding industry might actually bring about its own downfall.

There are a staggering number of streaming services in existence, including Disney Plus, HBO Max, Hulu, Discovery Plus and Netflix. There are also more specialized services like CH Media and the anime streaming service Crunchyroll. There are over 300 services available in the United States.

At first, it makes perfect sense that companies would want to invest in this industry. After all, 55% of American households subscribe to more than one streaming service, according to a study conducted by Leichtman Research Group.

A major reason why an increasing number of services is counterproductive is because it is all getting quite expensive. The average American household pays for approximately three streaming services at any given time, but most consumers aren't willing to pay more than \$21 per month for all of their services combined. As more services appear, Americans will be forced to either break their budget or make a choice between the services they would like to have.

If you, as a consumer, want to have HBO Max, Netflix and Amazon Prime Video, those three services alone will run you \$39 per month. That's \$18 more than the average American consumer wants to pay. The simple convenience of streaming services has led to many people cutting the cord on cable. Even though the price for streaming services is significantly less than the price of cable, the cost is on the rise.

Many Americans might be willing to pay for more services, but many of the options that exist are just not worth the extra cost. Some examples of these less-than-optimal selections include Quibi, which closed down after less than a year, and the now-shuttered HBO Go.

Ultimately, the ever-increasing number of streaming options is an example of market saturation. When a market becomes oversaturated, products and services within that market no longer generate new demand.

So, what are the long term effects if this oversaturation is allowed to continue? Many people theorize that eventually, consumers will simply stop paying for streaming services entirely. Experts believe that customers will turn to piracy. While 18% of consumers report that they don't watch any form of pirated content, 37% say that they would turn to illegal means of consumption in response to an up-tick in service options, according to a survey conducted by Broadband Genie.

Forty-seven percent of American consumers report that they are already suffering from "subscription fatigue," according to a study conducted by Deloitte. Seeing as there has already been an increase in consumers turning to pirated content, services need to reevaluate their business practices now. Otherwise, the industry will continue to splinter and inevitably render itself obsolete.

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

Crime film gives power to female leads

REVIEW: "I Care a Lot" Netflix



BY SYDNEY BRUMFIELD

Giving a much-needed breath of fresh air to the crime-thriller genre, "I Care a Lot" is a gratifying adrenaline rush from start to finish. Written and directed by J Blakeson, this engrossing narrative follows the morally opaque endeavours of Marla Grayson (Rosamund Pike) and her partner, Fran (Eiza González). Together, they attempt to seek the legal guardianship of elders in order to drain them of their life's savings. Their master plan seems foolproof—that is, until they hook a fish too big for their boat.

Marla forcefully assumes the legal guardianship of lonesome Jennifer Peterson (Dianne Wiest), who has no recorded living relatives to take care of her after being deemed medically incapable. To Marla, Peterson looks to be a goose sitting on top of a golden egg. However, not all that glitters is gold when it is revealed that Peterson's money is a product of her son, Roman Lunyov (Peter Dinklage), who is the head of the Cleveland Russian Mafia.

Blakeson manages to keep viewers engaged with his delectably evil plot, making Marla an antihero for the ages. Marla Grayson is a strong and confident woman who has made a career out of manipulating the dubious institution that is the American healthcare system. She has built herself from the ground up and fights mercilessly throughout the film for success and financial stability for herself and Fran.

The beautiful partnership between Marla and Fran is a joy to watch. Lesbian relationships in film are all too often made the sole focus of the narrative, but not in this case. "I Care a Lot" avoids



"I Care A Lot" is a refreshing crime-thriller film that follows the morally opaque endeavors of Marla Grayson and her partner, Fran. The film also works to normalize lesbian relationships.

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tokenizing the relationship, providing a refreshing normalization of the main characters' sexuality. The love between Marla and Fran is palpable. While the two exhibit genuine compassion and empathy for one another, they are not hypersexualized.

Blakeson also tackles themes surrounding toxic masculinity throughout the film. Marla faces blatant sexism and verbal abuse from men but cowers to no one. The women in this film refuse to abandon their ambition, especially in the face of the patriarchy.

"I Care a Lot" pushes the boundaries of what is commonly associated with crime thrillers. The audience is continuously tasked with evaluating its own morals. The viewer wants Marla to succeed in her schemes but knows that it comes at the expense of others. Marla is a much-needed female figure in the media, one that breaks away from feminine stereotypes and is allowed to be just as flawed as other male characters in this genre. With her emergence, it would be brilliant to see more characters like her created.

"I Care a Lot" is unapologetically ruthless and leaves audiences clinging to the edge of their seats. In the end, Marla is the criminal who viewers love to root for, a feminine twist on Walter White. Her biggest weapon is a flawed healthcare system created by America's institutions, which she exploits terrifyingly well. She is not a mob boss or a kingpin but an intelligent, capable woman — and isn't that threatening enough?

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Actor writes dark comedy about backstage identities

REVIEW: "A Bright Ray of Darkness" Penguin Books



BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

Ethan Hawke, beyond being one of Hollywood's most sophisticated actors, is a sensitive introspect who enjoys philosophizing. It's no surprise that the pen Hawke writes with in his new novel "A Bright Ray of Darkness" combines the nuance of his acting with his personal plights of identity.

Readers of "A Bright Ray of Darkness" who have seen Alejandro González Iñárritu's award-winning film "Birdman" will notice the similarities immediately. Both portray a fictional disgraced actor brought to life by real-life actors with the peak of their fame behind them. In the case of "A Bright Ray of Darkness," the fictional actor is William Harding, written by the real-life actor Hawke.

In a similar fashion to "Birdman," "A Bright Ray of Darkness" takes a painfully pretentious pitch — the abstract telling of a washed-up actor putting on a Broadway show — and communicates its conventional ideas through ridiculous characters in an attempt to prevent being overblown and hollow.

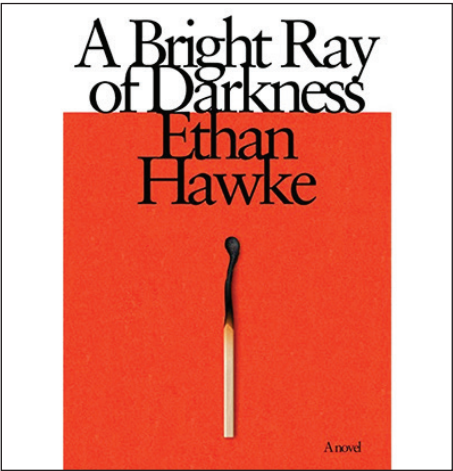
Harding, a has-been actor in his 30s, is going through a premature midlife crisis. The existence of his wife humiliates and enrages

him. He loves his kids and their innocence. When he falls asleep, it's usually with a belly full of whiskey. He hates when fans come up to him and ask him for a picture. When he gets a chance to cheat on his wife with a young woman, he can't hold an erection. It's certainly a familiar type of character seen across different mediums.

Harding is acting in a show of Shakespeare's "Henry IV," which Hawke did in 2003 when he was the same age as Harding, and is trying to get a post-fame resurgence. Harding's insecurities lead him to cerebralize far too much of his life, with his ego trying to make sense of everything. He is self-deprecating, constantly looking for evidence for why he is so miserable.

Hawke's acidic style doesn't hold back, making for pages that put the red-hot shame and belittlement Harding feels about himself directly in the reader's face. "I left the studio unconscious and in an ambulance after 5 months of shooting. And no one from the cast, the crew, or the production has called yet to see if I'm alive. That should give you some idea the kind of giant asshole I've become," Hawke writes.

Hawke describes Harding's castmates on the set of "Henry IV" as stereotypical to



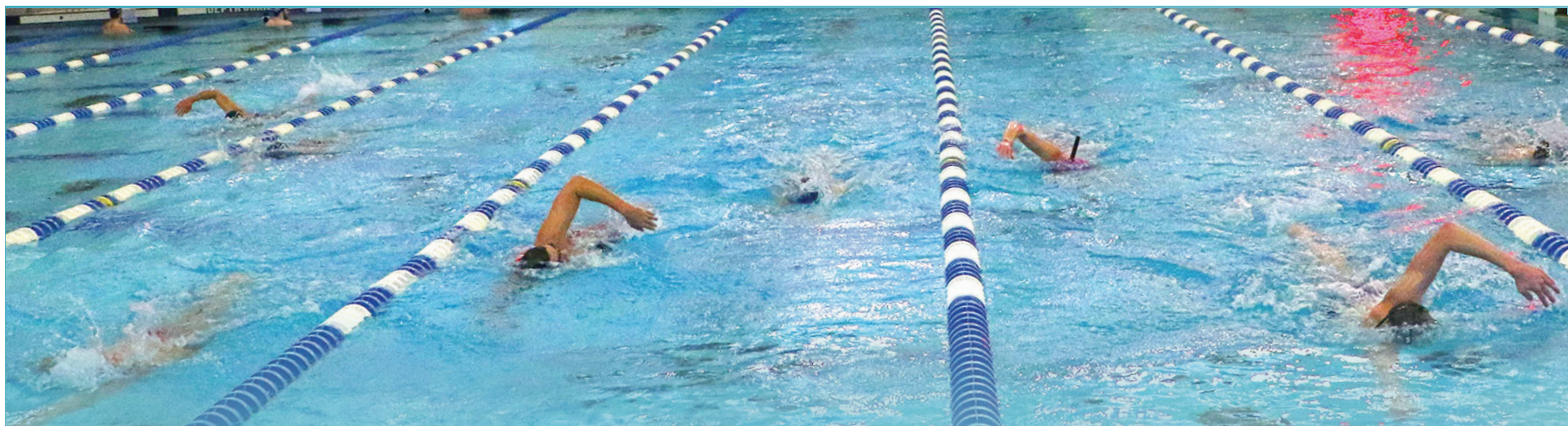
"A Bright Ray of Darkness" is a comedic novel about an actor's fall from grace.

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show business, including the cocaine-fuelled "intellectual" actor, the newbies and the director that demands unrealistic performances. By using show business archetypes, Hawke is able to write his own ideas about life that would come across as pseudo-intellectual had it not been for the character delivering the line. For instance, during a cocaine-fueled rant, the intellectual actor says, "People will light a crack pipe and steal a television just to try and feel that they exist, to ramp up the idea that something is in fact happening."

These moments throughout the book make for an entertaining and thoughtful read. The result is a rich, searing novel about shame, redemption and the purpose of art.

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Ithaca College women's swimming and diving team does laps during practice Feb. 19 at the Kelsey Partridge Bird Natatorium. The team returned to practice in January.

ABBEY LONDON/THE ITHACAN

Diving into new waters

Swimming and diving coaches lead two teams for first time

BY ARLA DAVIS

After months of being drained of both water and athletes, the Kelsey Partridge Bird Natatorium saw life again as Ithaca College divers were finally able to face an opposing team, Carnegie Mellon University, on Feb. 27. However, this meet looked different than any the team has competed in before. With the Bombers being the only ones on South Hill, and the opposing team being over 300 miles away in its own pool, fans watched the two teams compete next to each other on a Zoom screen rather than in the stands.

COVID-19 guidelines have left the Bombers training in pods based on where they live, sharing lanes with just one other teammate compared to the usual three to six and wearing a mask until the moment they jump into the pool and again the second they step out of the water. However, the challenges that COVID-19 presented the Bombers are not the only ones Kevin Markwardt, men's and women's swimming and diving head coach, and the team have faced. When Paula Miller, former women's swimming and diving head coach, retired from coaching after 36 years in June 2020, Markwardt was promoted to head coach of both teams. He and Mike Blakely-Armitage, assistant swimming and diving coach, are now the only two coaches for 70 athletes. Susan

Bassett, associate vice president and director of the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics, said that there was no specific need to combine the two teams under one coaching staff, but this was a great opportunity to bring Blakely-Armitage as a full-time assistant for both programs.

Despite the obstacles that come with coaching two teams at once, Markwardt said the experience has been enjoyable because the men's and women's teams have been able to connect more than they did in past years.

"The teams have had a good interaction throughout the years, but there was obviously a certain amount of separation because you had two different head coaches," Markwardt said. "What I'm enjoying is that there's so much synergy when you have a men's and women's team. There's a lot of things you can take advantage of and work together."

Markwardt said the coaching staff has been working to find balance between wanting to push athletes while still being mindful of the stressors they face during the pandemic. When the Bombers first started practice, they had to undergo a five-week progression to ensure athletes would not get injured after being out of the water for so many months.

"As coaches, we have an innate desire to want to push kids, challenge them and give them the opportunity to be the best they can be," Markwardt said. "Honestly, that's had to be tampered with because as an athletics department as a whole, we had to recognize that kids would be out of shape. ... We have had to embrace that, and not necessarily make changes, but emphasize other things like stroke technique, skills and team building."

Senior swimmer Morgan Hoffman-Smith said that because of COVID-19 guidelines and social distancing, the Bombers have not really been able to see what it is like to have both teams train under one coaching staff.

"Both coaches are doing a great job and have provided us with everything we need and more, but they can only be stretched so far," Hoffman-Smith said via email. "Having two head coaches and two assistant coaches in the past made it easier for teammates to get individual attention and time with

coaches. ... With a sport like swimming individual details matter. It is crucial for athletes to get that individualized attention. We need that constant attention, feedback and correction every time we hit the water. The coaches can only be at so many places at one time that it's almost impossible to ask them to cover what we had last year."

However, Hoffman-Smith also said this obstacle has given the upperclassmen on the teams step into a bigger leadership role and has helped the men's and women's teams become connected in the way Markwardt had said.

"We are starting to rely less on the coaches and more on each other," Hoffman-Smith said via email. "It also may be beneficial in bringing the men's team and women's team closer, becoming one team rather than two separate teams. With the two head coaches, there seemed to be a sort of divide between the men's and women's team as the two head coaches ran the teams differently."

Blakely-Armitage said that while the teams do have separate identities, they do share some values — specifically the idea of the team being a family and developing a sense of togetherness. Both teams also said they wanted integrity and work ethic to be established in their cultures.

"I think taking some of the really great parts of each team and combining it into a sort of program philosophy has been a great thing about this merge," Blakely-Armitage said.

Markwardt said the Bombers spent their fall Zoom meetings having discussions about the overall program's culture. He said they did this during their time away so that the Bombers could focus on training when they got back to campus.

"We're very conscious of Zoom fatigue, so we found it a challenge to keep working on team culture things where we can't be in big groups, but we don't want to overemphasize or overburden them with Zoom," Markwardt said. "We got to be creative in thinking of ways to continue the culture and team-building part of it."



Kevin Markwardt, Ithaca College head swimming and diving coach, keeps time at practice Feb. 19.

ABBEY LONDON/THE ITHACAN

Hoffman-Smith said team bonding has been a priority for the women's team, along with finding ways to keep practice light and fun. She said the team has hosted Zoom game nights and gone on hikes together. However, she said training in pods has made building the women's team culture difficult due to upperclassmen being separated from freshmen.

"For me, the first years are not in my pod, so I don't really see them," Hoffman-Smith said. "I haven't really interacted with them, so it's a little harder to create a more unified team culture that way."

Senior swimmer Stan Zaneski's experience with training pods has differed from Hoffman-Smith's. He is the only senior in a pod of freshmen team members, which he said has given him a different perspective on the sport as his last season has not gone quite as he hoped it would.

"[The freshmen] are looking at this semester as a way to get ready for next season when they have their first season," Zaneski said. "But in my sense, I've had to really analyze, 'Why am I here? What am I getting out of this? What can I get out of this?' I've essentially had to pull myself away from, 'I want to swim fast and I want to do well,' to 'How can I support them and make this the best year possible for them?'"



Mike Blakely-Armitage, assistant swimming and diving coach, checks the score clock Feb. 19.

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Liberty League to resume spring sport contests

BY ARLA DAVIS AND
CONNOR GLUNT

When senior lacrosse player Indira Varma read the email from Susan Bassett, associate vice president and director of the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics, that Ithaca College will compete in sports for the first time in nearly a year, she breathed a sigh of relief. Finally, she no longer had to worry about the uncertainty of her senior season.

“Our team has been working incredibly hard the last two months, and to know that our hard work will be rewarded is so nice to hear,” Varma said via email. “I was just so happy to know that I will have one more chance to play on Higgy with my teammates for my senior year.”

The Liberty League announced March 1 that there will be athletic competition this spring after canceling fall and winter sports for the 2020–21 academic year. The presidents of the Liberty League unanimously voted in support of holding league competition no earlier than March 26.

Liberty League Commissioner Tracy King said student-athletes and team personnel will follow strict COVID-19 protocols. King stated that the league will move forward with cautious optimism as COVID-19 infection rates have declined regionally and nationally. Although all Liberty League schools are permitted to have athletic competition, each member has the ability to opt out.

The news impacts men’s and women’s golf, men’s and women’s lacrosse, men’s and women’s rowing, men’s and women’s tennis, men’s and women’s outdoor track and field, baseball and softball — all of which the college has, except men’s golf.

The Bombers’ schedules will

be modified as the NCAA reduced the number of required competitions to qualify for Division III playoffs by 50%. Opponents will consist of Liberty League members with some nonconference institutions following guidelines similar to those established by the college. Bassett said these opponents may include those in the Empire 8 conference, including SUNY Cortland and Nazareth College, and some in other NCAA divisions — specifically Colgate University racing against the women’s crew team.

The Bombers will be able to begin competition the weekend of March 19, with the exception of the track and field teams, which are racing March 6 at Nazareth College, as a pilot to test the college’s return-to-play protocols, Bassett said.

Junior track and field athlete Logan Bruce said she is excited to compete again, as this has been the longest she has gone without competing since she was five years old.

“For so long I wondered what it would be like to be at a track meet again, and honestly I’m still unsure, but I can tell you that we’re ready,” Bruce said. “Personally, I’m thrilled beyond belief. . . . Competition is one of the best parts of sports for me, so I am over the moon at the opportunity to again.”

There will be no overnight stays for away events. Bassett said no outside spectators will be permitted to attend the events; however, there is discussion of allowing students at the college to attend with a daily health screening badge that shows the student is cleared for campus, a mask and social distancing.

Face coverings, as well as social distancing, will be mandatory at all times except during competition.



From left, junior Mallory Chamberlain defends freshman Alexis Kellish at lacrosse practice Feb. 5. The team will be able to compete in the Liberty League after losing last season to COVID-19.

ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN

Athletes and officials will not be required to wear a mask while competing but will be required to when standing on the sideline or talking to coaches.

Bassett said athletes will not have to quarantine after competition despite leaving the county — as outlined in the college’s community agreement — because they will remain with people from South Hill for the entirety of the trip.

“We feel that because basically what they’re doing is getting on our bus and staying together when they get off the bus,” Bassett said. “When we go to another campus, we won’t be going anywhere like restaurants — just that athletic facility. . . . We’re not really engaging with the other county.”

Sophomore lacrosse player Andrew Tinnesz said his biggest concerns starting competition again are remaining healthy as a team and being able to finish the entire season, since his first run with the Bombers was cut off last spring.

“The biggest concern for me now is keeping everyone around me safe,” Tinnesz said. “I really just want to play lacrosse again since our season got cut off last year. We as a team have been really conscious of the regulations in front of us and feel like we have a chance to go all the way [through the season] as we keep following the guidelines.”

Bassett said the presidents of the Liberty League are still discussing the potential of hosting one day of

competition for fall and winter athletes during the last week of April.

Tinnesz said that hearing that the Liberty League is resuming competition was motivation to continue training hard.

“My first reaction was probably, ‘Thank God,’” Tinnesz said. “We have been practicing for a month — pretty much six days a week. When you do that for a long enough time without games, you start to lose hope. I think everyone was really relieved, and it’s just another motivator for the season and the games to come.”

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Club sports teams worry about decrease in funding

BY SYD PIERRE

Despite Ithaca College varsity spring sports being cleared to compete in the Liberty League conference this season, club sports teams will be allowed to practice and train on campus during the spring semester but will not be allowed to compete. Some club sports teams have concerns about funding and safety heading into the semester.

Susan Bassett, associate vice president and director of the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics, said the Office of Recreational Sports has developed a return-to-sport plan for club sports and intramural teams. Each team will be required to designate a safety officer, submit a safety plan and follow protocols like social distancing, enforcing mask-wearing and de-densifying facilities.

“Club sports do not have the same level of supervision to move forward safely at this time,” Bassett said via email. “Hopefully, as we continue to make progress managing COVID-19 we will be able to continue to expand club sport engagement.”

Currently, there are 27 competitive and semi-competitive club teams and 13 performance and recreational club teams at the college. Competitive teams consist of more traditional sports, like ice hockey, rugby and basketball, and teams that attend competitions during the academic year, including cheerleading, equestrian and ski teams. Performance and recreational clubs include different dance forms and nontraditional sports clubs, like Ithaca Outing Club, Circus and K-Pop Dance.

Sophomore Sarah Cashton, club equestrian team secretary, said the club is planning to continue riding lessons similar to years prior but is currently unable to practice under club sports. She said the team has put safety protocols into place, like reducing the number of students

in a car for carpooling and implementing contact tracing for both the college and the farm. Team members also wear masks unless they are mounted, as horseback riding is a naturally socially distanced sport.

Senior Megan Szuchman, captain of the women’s club softball team, said the softball team usually practices off campus at a field in Lansing, which costs \$300 per practice session.

“I think we’re going to have to just kind of practice on the grass fields,” Szuchman said. “Those are obviously free to us, even though we would rather practice on an actual softball field, but just between the money and the COVID stuff, we really don’t know if it’s really possible.”

Funding for club sports teams is awarded on an as-needed basis, typically ranging between \$500 to \$10,000 per club, Reilley said. While the budget for club sports has not yet been finalized, Reilley said he expects the budget to be significantly less than previous years.

In the 2018–19 academic year, club sports were allocated a total of \$91,100, and in the 2019–20 academic year, clubs were allocated \$90,625, Reilley said. He said that so far in 2020–21, \$1,500 has been allocated to the Esports Club to fund its membership in the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC).

Senior Dina Barossi, club sports assistant, club athlete senator on the Student Governance Council and treasurer for the club women’s lacrosse team, said the funding gets allocated to the competitive teams first and then noncompetitive teams have to request the remaining amount from the Club Sports Council (CSC). She said the CSC is made up of representatives from each team who decide how much funding the team receives.

Reilley said the funding is used for travel, professional services like instruction and officiating, facility rentals and league dues. The



The Ithaca College club softball team practices on its field in Lansing, New York, in 2018. The club pays \$300 per practice session to utilize the off-campus location.

COURTESY OF ITHACA CLUB SOFTBALL

funding that teams receive cannot be used for food or personal expenses. On top of that funding, teams are also required to fundraise 40–60% of the amount they allocated, Reilley said.

Barossi said that in a typical year, teams could ask the CSC for money to rent field space off campus and pay for transportation and gas to commute. She said that probably would not be an option this year, given the decreased budget, and teams will have to fundraise more while also following COVID-19 guidelines.

“If we don’t do that specific travel because we don’t have the money from the school, or we don’t have the money from fundraising or from upping our dues, then we’re in jeopardy of losing our spot in the [New England Women’s Lacrosse] League, which would end us as a club,” Barossi said.

Szuchman said she is concerned that the

softball team will be in trouble because it missed fundraising in the fall.

“It’s even tough right now to complain about money when the school is laying off so many people,” Szuchman said. “They don’t even have money to pay their own employees, let alone the kids who are trying to do extracurriculars.”

Reilley said he understood the importance of funding but would prioritize safety as a higher concern.

“Additional requests for funding will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis throughout the semester,” Reilly said. “With our phased return to activity and the COVID safety precautions we’ll be observing this semester, funding will not be the limiting factor for club activities.”

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Professor teaches course about women in sport

BY CONNOR GLUNT

The Park School of Communications introduced a new course this semester to highlight women in sports media.

The sports media program introduced the elective Women's Sport Media Incubator, which is taught by Ellen Staurowsky, professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies. Staurowsky, who published the book "Women and Sport: Continuing a Journey of Liberation and Celebration" in 2016, was recently brought back as a professor at the college in 2020. The class is centered around a semester-long research project related to the history and current events of women in sport.

She was first approached about the opportunity by Mead Loop, professor in the Department of Journalism and sports media program director, to create this course after she returned to the college, but Staurowsky said she has had the idea for a long time.

"As soon as he offered that invitation, the tumbler in my head just clicked almost immediately," Staurowsky said. "I really felt that it was a service to our students to engage them in this very live conversation, which is going on right now, that we needed to be graduating our students with a much more nuanced appreciation."

That need for this course was centered around the findings of a Nielsen report from 2019, Staurowsky said. According to the study, the demand for more women in sports has recently increased.

"There's a very conscious decision to bridge the gap between what corporations understand women's sports as an asset versus what the actual value of women's sports is,"

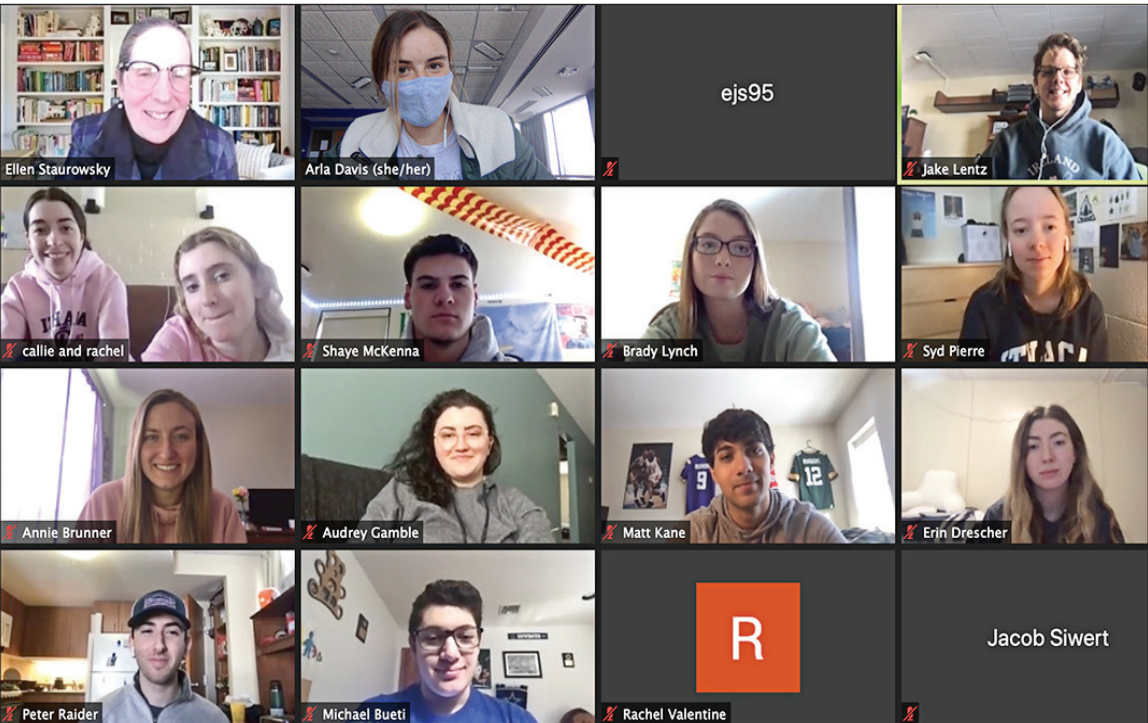
Staurowsky said. "What's beginning to happen is we're beginning to see that gap closing more and more, resulting in more sponsors for women's sports, more conversation around elevating the level of coverage, both in terms of percent and quality."

“We as a department can change the way we get more women involved in sports media.”

– Jake Lentz

Staurowsky said she wants her students to be able to refine their topics for the research project over the duration of the course. Students in the course have just begun the research process by choosing their teams and topics. Some of these topics include the sexualization of women in sport, the inclusion of transgender and LGBTQ athletes in sports media, and the pay gap in women's sport media. The goal is to eventually reach a conclusion of how to create change in the sports media industry.

"With this being the first time that we've done this, there is a little bit of flying by the seat of our pants, because we're catching a wave right now," Staurowsky said. "We're making the path as we go along. I really am trying to build a relationship between



Ellen Staurowsky, professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies, teaches the class Women's Sport Media Incubator on March 2. This is the first semester the class is being taught. COURTESY OF ELLEN STAUROWSKY

industry and what we do so that we're actually working on live projects for industry clients."

Loop said he is optimistic about the course's long-term outlook, as it filled quickly during registration.

"We know where the growth is in sports media," Loop said. "It is women producing and consuming sports media. So this is the right direction for us to go because it represents the reality of the larger society."

The course has 25 seats, and 14 of the students enrolled this semester are women. Staurowsky said it was the first and only class in the sports media major in which she has had more

female students than male. Senior Al-lura Leggard said she was drawn to the class due to Staurowsky's reputation and the course description.

"I saw Professor [Staurowsky's] class, and I really loved the idea of women in sports because it is something that is such a topic that people don't discuss, and if they do discuss it, it is very vague," Leggard said. "I think it is so important to really go into depth about it and go into the understanding of it as well as just going into the understanding of just gender itself, gender and sex in sports."

Sophomore Jake Lentz said an aspect of the class that he

appreciates is the open discussions Staurowsky encourages.

"We as a department can change the way we can get more women involved in sports media," Lentz said. "For men, it gives them things to look for that they do without thinking that could be disrespectful towards women in the field. For women, it gives them a safer environment to talk about things."

Contributing writer Kyle DeSantis contributed reporting to this story.

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Former basketball player steps into head coach role

BY CONNOR GLUNT

Following a historic run to end the 2019–20 season, Jim Mullins, Ithaca College men's basketball head coach, announced his retirement. When the team looked to replace Mullins, it turned to one of the best players in program history.

Sean Burton '09, head men's basketball coach, played four years as a Bomber. He ended his career at the top of program statistical categories, like third in points, second in assists and first in free-throw percentage. Burton also took home two Empire 8 Player of the Year awards and was the only Bomber to be named to three All-American teams. Burton played basketball for two years in Iceland before returning to the United States to coach. He started as an assistant coach at Babson College, but once the phone rang with an offer from Ithaca College in 2015, Burton knew he was going to come back to his alma mater.

"I was in a good situation [at Babson College], but my pride for Ithaca and love for the program drew me back," Burton said. "Once the job opened, I knew I couldn't pass it up."

Burton said that Mullins did not give any indication during the 2019–20 season that it would be his last, but Mullins said that a combination of winning the Liberty League in 2020 and health complications ultimately pushed him to step away. Burton went through the same hiring process as the other candidates who were considered for the position, and it was announced to the players during a team Zoom meeting after the 2019–20 season what the coaching staff would look like for the 2020–21 season.

"In my mind, he's been a co-head coach with me for the last several years," Mullins said. "Sometimes, I think in athletics, there may be a tendency to look outside [for hiring]. But the

grass isn't always greener on the other side. Sometimes you just have the best person available already in your organization."

Currently, Burton's former position has not been filled, but the team has two student assistant coaches — senior David Aiello and first-year graduate student Sebastian Alderete, a former player. Burton said his focus is on coaching, not hiring another assistant coach.

It has been a long wait for Burton's first practices as the head coach of the team, but the team is making the most of every practice together so far.

"We're fortunate enough that Ithaca College has decided to allow athletics back on campus," Burton said. "We're following all of the COVID protocols to make sure we're safe and healthy throughout these workouts. It's unbelievable to be back in person, working on our skill set, our camaraderie and chemistry as a team moving into next year."

One of the aspects Burton values the most about being a head coach is being with his team daily. Since early January, the team has broken up into two groups running non-contact drills. The team hopes to be able to run contact drills, like small three-on-three scrimmages, as soon as this month.

"We always tell the guys to control what we can control, and that's what we're doing right now," Burton said. "We obviously missed being with the guys all fall. The best part of the job for me is that day-to-day interaction with the players."

It was a teamwide effort to stay in contact during the remote fall semester, and part of that burden fell on the team's two captains, senior Cooper Macklin and junior Skylar Sinon. Burton implemented a buddy system to have his players check on each other daily to stay in



Sean Burton '09, men's head basketball coach, oversees practice Feb. 27 in Ben Light Gymnasium. Burton earned All-American honors three times as a Bomber.

ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN

communication and make sure their workouts were completed. Sinon said Burton's familiarity with the team assisted in the position change.

"I think with Burton, he is definitely more of a vocal coach and hands on," Sinon said. "[Mullins] would be in practice but be kind of quiet and wait to say something. ... They're both great coaches, just in their own way."

Part of why the team was excited about Burton's promotion was him being a player's coach. His experience playing and knowing what the players like has resonated with the team, sophomore Liam Spellman said. Burton approaches every practice with a general plan of what he wants to focus on, but he leaves some leeway for his players to decide what they want to work on.

"He loves the game of basketball," Spellman said. "Through practice, he just brings a great energy to the team, wants us to get better and wants to bring the best out of us. He just

really likes the game of basketball, and we try to replicate that for him and love it just as much as he does."

With the canceled season, Burton wants the team to improve with every practice. Burton said the team strives to be the best shooting team in the conference, but next season they have their sights set beyond the Liberty League.

"We have our goals of winning the [Liberty] League again, defending our title and winning the regular season," Burton said. "We've been able to lead the league in almost every offensive stat, and we want to continue to do that, just more so on a national level and be top 10 or five in a lot of offensive categories. ... Our goal is to be the most disciplined team, to hold each other accountable."

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Senior Samantha Healy competes in shot put at the intrasquad track meet Feb. 27 at the Athletics and Events Center. Healy's throw reached the 11.72 meter mark.

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