

## Religious groups keeps connected in creative ways



From left, Hierald Osorto, director of the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, and junior Jalen Lisbon, interfaith program assistant for the office, sit inside Muller Chapel on March 24. The chapel is closed to the campus community due to the COVID-19 pandemic.  
ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

BY ELIZABETH KHARABADZE

As Muller Chapel stands in empty serenity on the Ithaca College campus, religious groups are finding new ways to create open and welcoming community spaces for students in a virtual setting.

Although the college is open for both online and in-person instruction for Spring 2021, religious organizations continue to meet virtually. Muller Chapel itself is not currently open for the community, but Hierald Osorto, executive director for student equity and belonging, and director of the Office of Religious and Spiritual life, said the office holds regular weekly virtual gatherings for the college community. The office hosts meditation sessions at noon every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Students looking to engage with others in a spiritual environment can do so in one of the many religious groups on campus — the Catholic Community at Ithaca College, Lighthouse Christian Fellowship (LCF), Hillel at Ithaca College, the Muslim Student Association, the Christian Community Church and the Ithaca

RELIGION, PAGE 4

## IC maintains COVID-19 protocols despite statewide relaxations

BY CAITLIN HOLTZMAN

As more people get vaccinated for COVID-19, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released new recommendations for vaccinated people. However, not many restrictions will change at Ithaca College.

As of March 23, the CDC said fully vaccinated people can visit each other maskless and without social distancing, visit unvaccinated people who have a low risk of experiencing severe COVID-19 symptoms and do not have to quarantine or be tested after being exposed to a person positive for COVID-19 if they are asymptomatic. However, fully vaccinated people should still wear masks in public, avoid large gatherings, wash their hands and get tested if they experience COVID-19 symptoms.

The CDC also said people are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after the second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or two weeks after the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine. In New York state as of March 24, 26.9% of the population has received their first dose of the vaccine and 14.1% of the population has received



Eligible New York residents receive vaccines against COVID-19 on March 20 at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse, New York.  
MIKAYLA ELWELL/THE ITHACAN

their second dose.

Although statewide restrictions are changing, Christina Moylan, director of public health emergency preparedness, said the college is not anticipating rolling back campuswide COVID-19 restrictions or guidelines.

Moylan said there are only a few new guidelines that affect the college. One of these is the CDC's new guideline saying people two weeks out of their second dose do not have to quarantine

following exposure to a person positive for COVID-19. Those students and employees are exempt from quarantining as long as they are asymptomatic. She said students can give the Hammond Health Center a copy of their COVID-19 vaccination card so the center has a record of who is and is not vaccinated.

"If we know that you're fully vaccinated — which is one of the

VACCINES, PAGE 4

## Community responds to anti-Asian violence

BY ALYSHIA KORBA AND  
SYD PIERRE

After a March 16 mass shooting in Atlanta that resulted in the death of eight people — six of whom were Asian women — Ithaca College senior Hana Cho, co-president of the Asian American Alliance (AAA) at the college, has been experiencing extreme anxiety and has struggled to focus on their schoolwork.

Cho is a second-generation Korean-American and said they have been worried about their safety as well as their family's safety.

"My mother is an essential worker in a white community, and I was already worried about her facing harassment during COVID," Cho said. "Now, I am restless until she comes home."

The shooter in Atlanta targeted spas and massage parlors owned by Asian people. Although the majority of the victims were Asian women, the shooter claimed the attack was not racially motivated. He said he has a sex addiction and targeted what he saw as sources of temptation. The police seemingly sympathized with the shooter, stating that he had a "bad day" and "was at the end of his rope." However, many have made it clear that the shooting was an act of

racist misogyny and hatred.

Although Cho does not identify as a woman, they have also experienced harassment and fetishization because they are often perceived as a woman.

"It's obvious that the shooting is connected with the fetishization of Asian women, and I can't help but wonder if the harassment I face will one day escalate to something similar," they said.

Asian women have long been hypersexualized and fetishized in the United States. The Stop Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Hate report found that from March 2020 to February 2021, AAPI women report experiencing hate incidents 2.3 times more than men.

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) released a statement March 18 following the shooting that has been met with criticism from members of the college community. Some have said the college should have made it clear that the shooting was a hate crime against Asian people.

"While the motive for the Tuesday killings of six Asian women in the Atlanta area remains unclear

VIOLENCE, PAGE 4



# Education degrees in HSHP eliminated

BY JORDAN BROKING

Sophomores Adam Buttaccio and Jake Cole are health and physical education teaching majors at Ithaca College. Dreams of becoming coaches led them to choose their degree at the college — a degree that will no longer exist in the near future.

The health education, physical education and dual degree in both health and physical education are among the programs to be cut as part of the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process.

“It’s a program that has existed for such a long time that it’s kind of weird that they just cut it with, my guess, no thought because of the lower student enrollment in the major.”

According to the physical education department’s website, the program has been around for almost 90 years, making it one of the longest-running programs at the school.

According to the Office of Analytics and Institutional Research, 34 students enrolled in the three

majors during Fall 2020. In prior years, the number of students in all three programs combined hovered around the same number.

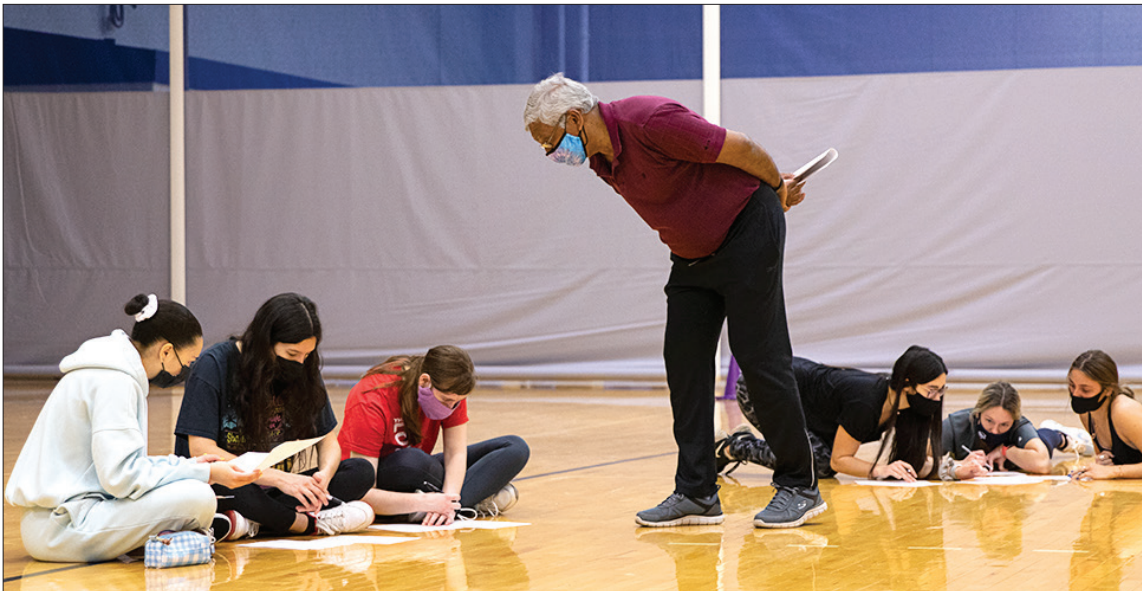
The programs offer classes that focus on teaching different strategies and forms of games. Additionally, students take psychology, exercise science and general education classes.

“I didn’t want a big crowded class,” Buttaccio said. “With a smaller class, you’re able to connect more with your classmates, and I think that’s important when it comes to teaching.”

Senior Molly Sear said she became a physical education major her sophomore year after initially enrolling in the college as a journalism major.

“Having such a close-knit family, I guess you could say, was perfect,” Sear said. “I couldn’t imagine myself going anywhere else.”

Buttaccio said he and others in his program did not hear about the majors getting cut until Raj Subramaniam, professor in the Department of Health Promotion



Raj Subramaniam, professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Physical Education, works with students during his Teaching Fitness in Physical Education class March 24 in the Ben Light Gymnasium.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

and Physical Education, emailed his students.

“It has saddened me,” Subramaniam said. “I’ve been in this field for more than 30 years. ... This has been the lowest point in my academic career.”

Prior to the Academic Program Prioritization Implementation Committee releasing its initial draft recommendations, Subramaniam said there were talks of the programs being discontinued. Once the

cuts were announced, he said the teacher education faculty in the department wrote feedback.

In the recommendations that the professors provided, the department spoke about the impact these cuts will have on the shortage of health and physical education teachers across the state, as well as the obesity epidemic.

“The physical education and health care education teachers are directly involved with this obesity

epidemic that we have in the country,” Subramaniam said.

The APPIC recommended that in the future, health promotion and physical education students may “opt to explore an M.A.T. [Master of Arts in Teaching] graduate-level initial certification pathway” in collaboration with the Department of Education.

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## MULTIMEDIA

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### IC Drone Squadron hosts first Fly Day

IC Drone Squadron is a club for drone enthusiasts on campus. At the first Fly Day, participants learned about drones and witnessed them flying firsthand.



### A Conversation with Abbey London

Host Frankie Walls sits down with junior Abbey London to talk about her experience as a person with disabilities on the Ithaca College campus.

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The Ithacan



# Club works for inclusivity in music

BY JILLIAN BLEIER

A new student organization on campus is supporting minority and underrepresented students in the Ithaca College School of Music.

Junior Malaya Press founded the Musician’s Intersectionality Initiative (MII) in February. The goal of MII is to create a safe and equitable environment in the School of Music for students and faculty by providing forums for discussions about curriculum and diversity and resources for students. Press said the increase in protests for the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement during this past summer alongside Pride month in June inspired her to gauge student interest on Facebook regarding the creation of her organization.

“When we are learning about music, it is very much just this one perspective that we are getting, and that is not what the world is like,” she said.

Junior Caitlin Glastonbury, treasurer of MII, said one of the biggest goals of MII is to help students and faculty in the School of Music be more open to having uncomfortable conversations about the challenges that musicians of color and LGBTQ musicians face.

“We are aiming to create a space in which musicians who are not white, cisgender, heterosexual individuals in the School of Music are



The Music Intersectionality Initiative was formed in February 2021 to help facilitate conversations surrounding the challenges that underrepresented students face in the School of Music.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

comfortable completely, outwardly themselves and representing themselves through their music, in a way that many people in the majority have the privilege of doing without even thinking about it,” she said.

As a new organization, the current student involvement of MII consists of approximately three to four regular attendees for Zoom meetings and, on average, approximately 20 students for open forums, senior Grace Dashnaw, marketing chair for MII, said.

Press said student engagement has been low for most student organizations because of the COVID-19 pandemic pushing

meetings and events online.

“I think involvement is just the biggest challenge we’ve had so far, just because it is difficult to get something like this started,” Dashnaw said. “Not that students don’t want this to happen, it is just that we need more involvement to move forward.”

Sara Haefeli, assistant professor in the Department of Music Theory, History and Composition and faculty adviser for MII, said student interest in organizations with a goal of increasing diversity in repertoire and the School of Music curriculum can be traced back to 2015. She said Ithaca students engaged in BLM protests on

campus in 2015 that sparked similar conversations to the ones happening today.

Kristina Shanton, music librarian and faculty advisor for MII, spoke at MII’s first event, held March 17 over Zoom, titled “Diversify your Repertoire.”

“It’s easy to only know what you constantly see being reinforced in mainstream recordings, what symphonies are programming, what ensembles are playing, and sometimes you have to work a little bit to find these composers who have traditionally been underrepresented,” she said.

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# Staff statement supports APP

BY MAKAYLA CAROZZOLO

The Ithaca College Staff Council released a statement March 15 in response to the recent dialogue surrounding the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process.

The Staff Council is the representative body for all non-faculty staff at the college. The council expressed confidence in the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the APP process in the statement. In the statement, the council empathizes with the pain expressed by faculty colleagues who have been cut as part of the APP process. The council states that over the past year, staff members have been primarily impacted by cuts at the college, which are expected to continue this year. At least 264 staff members have been furloughed or laid off since March 2020.

“We believe that clear communication, transparent decision-making and compassion are critical elements for remaining strong as an institution and we hope that innovative ways will be identified to preserve faculty and staff positions whenever possible, but we understand that in some cases it will not be possible,” the statement said. “We urge the administration to share and build with us their vision and hope for the future. We need tangible signs of optimism.”

The Staff Council wrote that the college had expected financial challenges and said the 1975–1997 administration of President James J. Whalen projected in 1994 that there would be enrollment challenges over the next 20 years. Staff Council said that the college was already on a path of change and that the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the need for change.

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# Students form new Muslim student group on campus

BY ALEX HARTZOG

On her first day as a transfer student in Spring 2020, junior Kinza Ceesay went to Campus Center Dining Hall at Ithaca College to find that she was unable to eat any of the food being provided. None of it was halal, the religious dietary standard of Islam. Ceesay, outraged, vowed to make a difference at the college.

Together with freshman Mely Megahed Ramadan, senator-at-large for the Student Governance Council (SGC), she began the recognition process for a new club, the Ithaca Muslim Student Association. The club has yet to be officially recognized. This process started in February 2021 when the two decided they could do more than just give Muslim students access to halal food.

“No matter how small our community is, we can still make our voices heard as a community,” Ceesay said.

After the club becomes recognized, its first article of business is planning a Ramadan kickoff event April 12. Ramadan is a holy month in Islam meant to commemorate Muhammad’s first revelation.

The club currently has five members that comprise the executive board and is looking for more members.

“We are a very open and accepting community looking for more people to work with and to hear from,” Megahed Ramadan said.

Ceesay and Megahed Ramadan met at an SGC meeting, and the two said they shared a desire to build a Muslim community on campus to provide a safe place for Muslim students. The student organization can also help students field questions and concerns rather than going straight to the administration or the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, Ceesay said. In 2017, students campaigned to have a Muslim religious leader at the college to support Muslim students and increase Muslim student enrollment at the college.

“Not having a student-led initiative, not having a place where students can take action on something that’s very close to their identity, I think it’s just so detrimental,” Megahed Ramadan said.

Ceesay and Megahed Ramadan reached out to Heraldo Osorto, executive director for student equity and belonging and director of the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, in February 2020 to have him act as the club’s adviser.

Osorto said he feels that having an organization for Muslim students provides the community a higher level of agency and visibility on campus. The organization will allow the community to have a unified voice that can interact with the college administration, Osorto said.

“They are continuing the work of others that have come before them who have raised the need for there to be a visible presence of Muslim students on our campus, and I look



Junior Kinza Ceesay is the vice president of the new Muslim Student Association. The club was started in February 2021 as a way to create a safe space for Muslim students.

HANNAH WILKINSON/THE ITHACAN

forward to seeing where it goes,” Osorto said.

According to the Pew Research Center, there were 3.45 million Muslims across the U.S. in 2017. Ceesay said the club’s goal is to focus on what unites them as a community rather than what divides them.

“Just being able to be there for individuals, regardless of whether or not we practice differently, because the whole religion of Islam is being able to be with one another cohesively and get along without judging one another and without forcing our practices onto other people,” Ceesay said.

Megahed Ramadan said she chose to come to the college after two years of searching for an institution that best fit her needs, but the absence of a Muslim community nearly made her reconsider.

“I was a little deterred by that, and I ultimately decided that maybe that could be a

place where I stepped in or something,” Megahed Ramadan said.

During Ramadan, observers fast from sunrise to sunset, a practice which Ceesay said she was worried about being faithful to at the college given dining hall hours. The college’s decision to send students home in March 2020 resolved this problem for her, but she said she knew she would have to face it when she eventually returned this semester.

“It was just that question of being able to be around a community during times of prayer and times of fasting,” Ceesay said. “That was a concern of mine that I didn’t have to endure because the semester was cut short. If we did have to stay on campus, it would have been a stressful time.”

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FROM RELIGION, PAGE 1

College Pagan Community.

Osorto said the office’s main goal for the semester is to build on underlying themes of beauty and connection.

“How do we create a sense of belonging that is important for folks when they gather?” Osorto said. “It’s important for folks when they come to the chapel for Shabbat service, for Mass, for Bible study or for the Pagan meeting. ... Can we cultivate a sense of that?”

Hillel fosters a sense of belonging through weekly virtual events. Sophomore Isaac Schneider, vice president of Hillel, said the group holds community bonding events like trivia games. The group also held the Purim Drag Show on Feb. 25 in celebration of the Jewish holiday.

“There’s always something going on for all of the holidays coming up, and there’s always an event happening every other week,” he said.

Despite the relative success of virtual events, with a range of five to 150 attendees, there has been some difficulty in engagement when so many students are burnt out from virtual settings, Schneider said.

Some aspects of in-person events have continued in a socially distant manner. Jewish students looking to receive meals for Shabbat — a day of rest in Judaism — could sign up to receive meals called Shabbboxes at the

chapel following Shabbat services. From there, students can either take the meals back to their dorms or eat in small groups at Terrace Dining Hall.

Junior Leah Dolin is a student who receive a meal from Hillel every week.

“Seeing as I really only do the Shabbboxes every week, I really only get to see those people for a quick hello,” Dolin said. “But the fact that I went from not going to Hillel at all and being awkward with the people there to getting the Shabbboxes every week and being comfortable with the people I’ve met there is really great.”

Hillel is also hosting an in-person Passover Seder on March 27, the first night of the holiday. Students can either attend the 5:30 or 8:30 p.m. seating at Terrace Dining Hall.

Students are also able to get a to-go Passover meal, which includes the ritual items for a Seder plate, an entree and dessert.

The LCF, formerly known as the Protestant Community, continues to meet virtually every Wednesday with Evensong — a weekly student-led worship service consisting of both music and testimony.

Alongside the weekly Evensong, members of the group engage through student-led Bible study.

Junior Elizabeth Henning, president of LCF, said the club has had a presence at virtual student organization fairs to reach out



From left, Abbe Lyons, cantor for Hillel at Ithaca College, and Max Kasler, springboard innovation fellow for Hillel, sing in the chapel.

COURTESY OF LAUREN GOLDBERG

to new members.

“A lot of our mission in the past has been connection, fellowship and community, so, to me, that’s what the heart of Lighthouse is, so that’s what we’re trying to maintain,” Henning said.

The Catholic Community at Ithaca College is staffed by religious leaders from Cornell University. Dan McMullin, director for the Ithaca College and Cornell University Catholic Communities, said he spends every other Thursday in the Muller Chapel on campus for in-person confession. Confessions over Zoom, Skype or the phone are not valid sacraments. He said there is also in-person Mass at 1 p.m. Sundays at the Immaculate Conception Parish in Downtown Ithaca for Ithaca College and Cornell students. Registration is

required for these Masses.

McMullin livestreams Mass on alternating Thursdays from the Muller Chapel.

“Everyone is experiencing Zoom fatigue, and that’s why we’ve tried to find at least two in-person opportunities,” he said.

The Ithaca College Pagan Community also carries out virtual bi-weekly meetings.

Sophomore Marco Painter, director of communications for the IC Pagan Community, said there were both positives and negatives for organizing virtually.

“The virtual world is fantastic to bring together Pagans who may not be able to be open about their faith with others like them,” Painter said.

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FROM VACCINES, PAGE 1

incentives for students to provide us with that information when we do the contact tracing process — if we know that you’re fully vaccinated, then we will help facilitate with the [Tompkins County] Health Department to provide that exemption,” she said.

Moylan said that to the college’s knowledge, a large part of the campus community is not vaccinated, which is why most of the college’s guidelines are not changing.

In addition to quarantine, the college’s travel guidelines are also still in place, Moylan said. The college has stated that travel is not permitted outside of Tompkins County except in emergency situations, and students must fill out the Emergency Travel Request form. Travelers into New York who are fully vaccinated are no longer required to quarantine upon arrival if they do not present symptoms.

Junior Lynnette Hartwell said that she has received her first dose of the vaccine and that her friends will also be fully vaccinated by the end of the semester. She said she is looking forward to being able to sit down and get dinner with them.

“Something I didn’t realize was such a huge part of my life and the way that I lived was planning to go see people over a plate of food,” Hartwell said.

Restaurants in New York state, excluding New York City, can begin having up to 75% capacity for indoor dining as of March 19. However, restaurants must continue keeping six feet of distance between tables and patrons.

Junior Sebastian Fullerton got his first dose of the vaccine and said he is also looking forward to being able to sit and eat with friends.

He said that overall, he is looking forward to just being able to spend time with friends indoors once they are all vaccinated.

“Right now, when there are people around each other, there’s a little bit of nervousness,” he said. “I really can’t wait for that to be gone because I love hanging out with my friends, and I really want to get back to hanging out with them normally.”

Fullerton said he has not thought of any plans to make with friends post-vaccination, but just wants to be able to spend time with them.

Hartwell said her birthday usually falls during the college’s finals week. She said she and her friends will be vaccinated at that point and are looking forward to being able to safely celebrate.

“I’m really looking forward to being able to be in person with them and get to see them again and hopefully be able to go out to a restaurant to celebrate. ... Just part of that normalcy that we don’t have right now,” Hartwell said.

Fullerton said he is happy to see lessened restrictions and a slight return to normalcy as more and more vaccines roll out.

“Even though it’s going to be in its early stages so there might not be a whole lot of other people that have both vaccinations, I am looking forward to spending time with those who are vaccinated fully,” he said.

Hartwell said she is looking forward to spending time outside with her vaccinated friends as the weather in Ithaca gets warmer.

“We could actually go outside and not have to be wearing 3,000 layers of clothes to be able to hang out and talk to each other,” she said.

FROM VIOLENCE, PAGE 1

at this time, it is evident that the targeting of members of Asian communities has increased across our nation,” the statement initially said.

Cho said they were disappointed by the SLT’s response to the shooting. They said they expressed this disappointment in an email to President Shirley M. Collado and received an apology.

Sophomore Paige D’Encarnacao, Class of 2023 senator for the Student Governance Council (SGC) said in an interview she felt insulted that the SLT’s statement said the shooter’s motives were unclear.

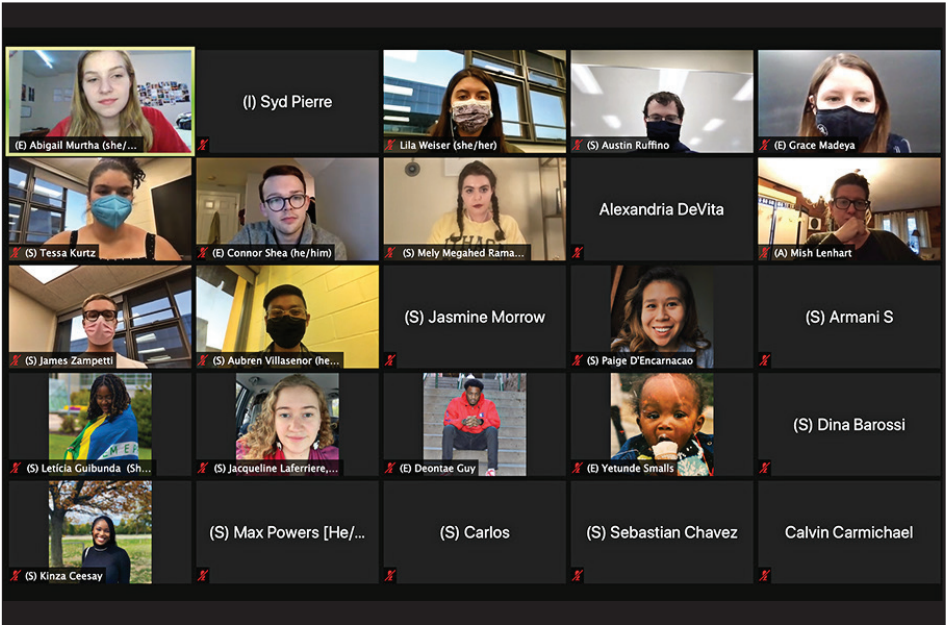
“That was extremely hurtful to me because it was a racial driven mass shooting,” D’Encarnacao said. “When SLT said that it seems like they don’t believe that it was a racist incident.”

The SLT has since edited its statement, but it still does not identify the shooting as a hate crime.

Cho said the AAA has put out statements of its own about anti-Asian hate crimes and the Atlanta shooting.

“The connection the shooter had to COVID-related Sinophobia and anti-Asian misogyny is not lost on us,” the AAA wrote in its statement about the shooting. “We mourn the lives lost in an act of white supremacy.”

The U.S. has seen an increase in anti-Asian hate crimes since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Because the virus originated in China, Asian people have increasingly been discriminated against and have faced violence. Former President Donald Trump fostered anti-Asian sentiments throughout the pandemic, calling the virus the “Chinese virus” and the “kung flu.” Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, 31% of Asian adults in the U.S. have reported being



Members of the Ithaca College Student Governance Council expressed discontent with the college’s statement about a shooting that killed eight people, six of whom were Asian.

COURTESY OF THE ITHACA COLLEGE STUDENT GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

targeted with racist slurs or jokes and 26% of Asian adults have felt like someone may threaten or physically attack them, according to the Pew Research Center.

D’Encarnacao said she has been advocating for the college to release a statement about the increase in anti-Asian hate crimes since the beginning of February, and said the college’s statement was too late.

“The statement was generic, not personable, and it felt like they genuinely didn’t care about the Asian community at Ithaca,” D’Encarnacao said.

The SGC expressed its dissatisfaction with the college’s response to anti-Asian violence during its March 22 meeting.

Senior Agnes Scotti, Class of 2021 senator, said she does not feel that a statement is enough to address the issue of racism.

“I do feel like one of the problems that we

have, especially with our administration, is that they kind of write these kinds of emails and then they kind of wash their hands of it, because they feel like they’ve done enough,” Scotti said.

Senior Connor Shea, president of the SGC, said the SGC was working on a statement but felt like it was not enough.

“We could release it, but, it’s like what more?” Shea said. “What is more? What action are we going to do, right? And that’s where I’m stuck ... we’re continuing to edit a statement, but my hesitancy is, it’s just words.”

And is that what our community needs, or is there something else that SGC can be doing?”

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# COVID-19 variants found in county

BY ALEXIS MANORE

There are now three different variants of COVID-19, all of which are more contagious or severe than earlier variants, in Tompkins County.

In a March 22 statement, the Tompkins County Health Department announced that cases of the U.K. variant, the New York City variant and the Southern California variant of COVID-19 have been sequenced in Tompkins County residents.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.K. variant was first detected in the United States in December 2020 and was first detected in New York state Jan. 4. As of Feb. 22, there have been a total of six cases of the U.K. variant in the county. The health department announced the first case Jan. 15. Another three cases were identified Feb. 3.

The U.K. variant is a more contagious variant of COVID-19. In January, experts in the U.K. stated that this variant may be associated with an increased risk of death compared to other variants of COVID-19, but more studies are needed to confirm this finding, the CDC stated.

The New York City variant was first found in November 2020 and may both be more contagious and affect the infected more severely. The Southern California variant is also more contagious than other strains of COVID-19. The COVID-19 vaccines are less effective against both of these variants.

“At this time, we are not asking the community to do anything beyond the current guidance to respond to the presence of these variants,” said Frank Kruppa,



The Tompkins County Health Department is requesting that everyone who is eligible sign up to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine is less effective against certain variants of the virus.  
COURTESY OF THE TOMPKINS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Tompkins County public health director, in the statement. “Vaccination, mask-wearing, hand-washing and distancing are still our most important tools to ensure less opportunity for variants and mutations to occur and spread.”

The department is also alerting residents about an increase of COVID-19 cases in the county.

As of March 24, there are 152 active cases in the county and 3,761 total positive cases since March 2020.

“While we’ve vaccinated nearly one-third of our residents, the disease is still present,” Kruppa said in the statement. “We have to do what we know works to stop the spread. ... While more people

are allowed to gather under new guidance, it doesn’t mean that you can stop wearing masks and keeping distance.”

The New York state government recently relaxed its COVID-19 restrictions surrounding gatherings. As of March 22, 100 people can attend indoor social gatherings in public spaces, and 200 people can attend outdoor gatherings. The guidelines allow 10 people to gather indoors in residential spaces and 25 people to gather in outdoor residential spaces.

The department asked for everyone who is eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccines to sign up to get vaccinated.

Currently, this includes those

in phases 1a and 1b. Those who are over 50 and reside in New York, first responders, those with comorbidities, and in-person college faculty and essential in-person staff, among others, are eligible to receive the vaccine.

There are currently five active COVID-19 cases at Ithaca College, with 238 total cases since August 2020. Testing for the spring semester at the 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.

**CONTACT ALEXIS MANORE**  
AMANORE@ITHACA.EDU

# Reed responds to allegations

BY ALEXIS MANORE

U.S. Rep. Tom Reed (R-NY) took full responsibility after being accused of sexual harassment and announced he will not run for public office in the future.

Reed represents Ithaca, which is located in New York’s 23rd District, and was reelected to the congressional seat in the 2020 election. Reed was elected to represent the 29th congressional district from 2010 to 2013 and the 23rd district from 2013 to 2023. In a Washington Post article published March 19, a former lobbyist accused Reed of sexually harassing her in 2017.

In the article, former lobbyist Nicolette Davis accused Reed, who was visibly intoxicated, of rubbing her back, unhooking her bra from outside her blouse and moving his hands up her thighs. Davis alleged that someone sitting next to her had to pull Reed away from her and escort him out of the restaurant.

Reed has been vocal about issues of sexual misconduct.

In a March 21 press release, Reed apologized to Davis.

“In reflection, my personal depiction of this event is irrelevant,” the statement said. “Simply put, my behavior caused her pain, showed her disrespect and was unprofessional. I was wrong, I am sorry and I take full responsibility.”

Reed stated that he will not run for public office in the future and that he will retire from public service Jan. 2, 2023.

The statement said that when he first took office in 2010, he pledged to only serve for six terms, or 12 years.

Reed had previously considered running for governor of New York after Gov. Andrew Cuomo began facing backlash for multiple allegations of sexual misconduct and accusations that he had altered data about the number of nursing home deaths related to COVID-19.

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# THE FACES OF AUSTERITY

BY HARRIET MALINOWITZ



## LABORING FOR LOVE, NOT MONEY

Julie Fromer, 51, lecturer in the Department of English, has taught at Ithaca College since 2012 and taught full time from 2003 to 2005. In between, she stayed home to care for her young daughters and wrote a book.

Teaching is her passion, making her forcible exit from her job distinctively poignant.

“I love teaching, and I think I’m good at it,” she said. “My students seem to really respond to my teaching. I’ll be heartbroken to stop.”

Fromer will not face financial struggles as drastically as some of her colleagues who have been terminated. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, she commuted to the college from her home in Corning, where her husband is a physicist at the Corning Glass Company.

“I got paid just enough to commute between Corning and Ithaca,” she said. “This has totally been a labor of love.”

Fromer frequently taught three Integrative Core Curriculum courses, Fantasy and Fairy Tales, Vampire Literature and Mysterious Muddles, and Commonplace Crime: Gothic Novels and Detective Fiction, as well as a writing intensive course in Romantic-Victorian Literature.

“I focus on close reading with students and helping them articulate their ideas in writing,” she said.

She received her Ph.D. in 19th century English literature in 2002 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her book, “A Necessary Luxury: Tea in Victorian England” was published in 2008 by Ohio University Press. She described it as “a study of how an exotic good imported from China, and later India, became necessary to everyday English life and to defining one’s national identity.”

She said she will use her newly freed-up time to embark on a project exploring smoking and the role of tobacco in Victorian literature.

She said she will also continue her practice of vegetable gardening and growing most of what her family eats during the year.

She holds out hope that someday she will be able to return to teach her students.



## PUPPETRY AND PEDAGOGY

Rose Howard, 38, lecturer in the Department of Theatre Arts, graduated from the college in 2004. She was a first-generation student and graduated with a BFA in Theatre Production and Design — the very program in which she now teaches. She met her husband, who had graduated from the same program six years previously, at an alumni function.

“I’m a practitioner, so I was never formally trained as an educator,” she said. “Other colleges across the country are

undergoing similar austerity measures, and their faculty will be flooding the job market.”

Some of Howard’s most proud accomplishments are her work on Broadway.

She was a props associate and rehearsal coordinator for shows like “South Pacific,” “Sunday in the Park with George” and “Les Liaisons Dangereuses.” The production of “South Pacific” won a Tony for scenic design, in which props play a crucial part.

She freelanced for many years, building and designing the set, lighting and costumes for off-Broadway and black box theatres in New York and Seattle.

Then, she said, she and her husband decided to move out of the city. Coming home to Ithaca, where they had enjoyed their undergraduate days, was such a compelling idea that they moved here without jobs.

Howard spent a year as operations manager at The Cherry Artspace. She is also a member of the Ithaca Puppet Pod, recently marching in two Arctic Animal Parades dressed as a giant otter.

At the college, she has taught and co-taught courses like Production and Scenic Technology, Theatrical Drafting and Model Building, and Theatrical Design Foundations. Skilled in carpentry, electrics, puppetry, scene painting and sewing, she mentors students working on productions at the college.

Looking ahead, she has started part-time work in a small, local solar company and hopes that it may become full time.

“I’ll miss the interactions with students,” she said. “I’ll miss being part of this community. This college has had a big impact on my life.”

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



# COLLEGE BRIEFS

## Enrollment strategy presentation to be held for campus community

Laurie Koehler, vice president for marketing and enrollment strategy (MES), and members of the MES leadership team will hold the next Path to Progress presentation 10–11 a.m. March 26.

MES hosts Path to Progress, which is an ongoing series for the campus community. Presentations will focus on the unit's priorities, including admission, retention, marketing and branding efforts, financial aid, constituent engagement, and analytics and institutional research.

A Zoom invitation will be sent to all faculty, staff and students. Individuals requiring accommodations should contact Mary Nann, executive assistant to the vice president of MES, at [mes@ithaca.edu](mailto:mes@ithaca.edu).

## Senior Leadership Team changes reporting structure and personnel

Ithaca College President Shirley M. Collado has announced changes to the structure of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

The college is still searching for someone to fill the position of vice president for finance and administration but will not fill the positions of vice president, general counsel and secretary to the Board of Trustees.

The SLT has changed its reporting structure to accommodate the vice president, general counsel and secretary to the Board of Trustees vacancy. As of March 1, the Office of Legal Affairs is reporting to Odalys Diaz Piñero, chief of staff in the Office of the President. This group consists of college counsel Emily Rockett; associate counsel Phil Garin; Title IX coordinator Linda Koenig; and Omar Stoute '17, deputy Title IX coordinator.

Collado said this approach mirrors the use of existing resources and staff expertise that defined the transition plan for the Division of Finance and Administration, a plan that included the decision not to hire an interim vice president to avoid the additional expense.

Starting July 1, Dave Weil '87, M.S. '89, associate vice president of Information Technology (IT), will join the senior leadership team as chief information officer. Weil will continue to lead the whole of the college's IT operation, which includes applications and infrastructure, engagement and client technologies, information security, and learning and innovative technologies.

## Updated group fitness schedule features hybrid workout classes

The Fitness Center's block four group fitness schedule is now available and features both Zoom and in-person classes. The block four schedule can be found at <https://www.ithaca.edu/fitness-center/group-exercise>.

Registration will open 48 hours prior to the scheduled class start time and will close 30 minutes beforehand to allow the staff time to send the Zoom meeting invitations. Visit [recreation.ithaca.edu](http://recreation.ithaca.edu) to register.

Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact Sean Reilley, associate director of recreational sports, at [sreilley@ithaca.edu](mailto:sreilley@ithaca.edu) or (607) 274-3294. Requests for accommodations should be made as soon as possible.

## Politics department hold event to celebrate professor emerita

The Department of Politics is holding a virtual symposium honoring the retirement of Asma Barlas, professor emerita in the Department of Politics.

The symposium, "Reflections on Identity, Race and Colonialism, and Islam," will feature a keynote lecture by Barlas, "The West, Islam and the Mirror of Difference." This event will be held 3–7:30 p.m. March 26, with the keynote lecture beginning at 6 p.m. The event was originally scheduled in 2020 but was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The symposium is a chance for alumni and others to share reflections about the work they did in Barlas' courses on the topics of the symposium.



## Geese honk for start of spring in Ithaca

Two Canadian geese honk and swim at the pond outside the Muller Chapel on March 21. March 20 marked the first day of spring, and Canadian geese can be seen around campus as they migrate north for the spring and summer.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

Individuals can email the department at [politics@ithaca.edu](mailto:politics@ithaca.edu) with any questions about the symposium or requests for accommodations. Register for the event at <https://tinyurl.com/2ccz6h7d>.

## Professor has article published on international athlete training

Justine Vosloo, associate professor in the Department of Exercise Science and Athletic Training, published a paper titled, "The Transnational Experience of Sport Psychology Practitioners from Training to Practice" in the May 2021 issue of Psychology of

Sport and Exercise.

The paper examined the process of obtaining international training and educational experiences by expatriating, the process of repatriating and the challenges associated with this and the lived experience of transnational migration in sport psychology practitioners.

In this qualitative study, participants highlighted the positive influence that their transnational training experiences had in their personal and professional lives.

The full article can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/n9ba8rzn>.

# PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM MARCH 8 TO MARCH 14

MARCH 8

### SCC IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL/DRUGS

LOCATION: Terrace 6  
SUMMARY: A caller requested a welfare check for a person who appeared to be intoxicated. The officer reported that the person was found to be intoxicated but declined medical assistance. The person was referred for irresponsible use of alcohol. Master Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

### MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT/PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: Circle Lot 3  
SUMMARY: A caller reported a two-car property damage motor vehicle accident. Master Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

MARCH 9

### ACCIDENTAL PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: Facilities Garage Building  
SUMMARY: The officer reported that paint on the lower rear quarter panel of a vehicle came off while washing the vehicle. Master Patrol Officer John Elmore responded.

### SCC COLLEGE REGULATIONS

LOCATION: D-Lot  
SUMMARY: A caller reported a large group playing basketball and not wearing masks. The officer reported that approximately 10 people were

playing basketball, and all were in compliance with the community agreement. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded.

### ACCIDENTAL PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: Circle Apartments  
SUMMARY: A caller reported water leaking from an upstairs apartment caused damage to the ceiling. The officer reported that the water was coming from a leaking pipe. Patrol Officer Joe Oppen responded.

### ACCIDENTAL PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: Garden Apartments  
SUMMARY: The Office of Environmental Health and Safety reported a damaged air conditioning unit. The officer reported that the damage was caused by heavy snow and ice falling from the roof. Patrol Officer Joe Oppen responded.

### FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Circle Apartments  
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The officer reported that the alarm activation was caused by burnt food. Fire Protection Specialist Max Nobel responded.

### SCC COLLEGE REGULATIONS

LOCATION: Friends Hall  
SUMMARY: A caller reported a large group in a room not wearing masks.

The officer reported that there was a small group in compliance with the community agreement and social distancing. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded.

MARCH 10

### FORCIBLE TOUCHING NO DEGREE

LOCATION: On-campus residence hall  
SUMMARY: A caller reported third-hand information that persons were having sexual contact with another person without consent. Deputy Chief Tom Dunn responded.

### FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Circle Apartments  
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The activation was caused by burnt food. Patrol Officer Joe Oppen responded.

MARCH 11

### MEDICAL ASSIST/ILLNESS-RELATED

LOCATION: Hood Hall  
SUMMARY: A caller reported pain in arm and hand. The officer reported that the person was transported to the hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Sophia Dimkos responded.

### SCC DRUG VIOLATIONS

LOCATION: Terrace 11  
SUMMARY: A caller reported people smoking and the odor of marijuana. The officer referred two people

for drug and community health agreement violations. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded.

MARCH 12

### ACCIDENTAL PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: Center for Natural Sciences  
SUMMARY: A caller reported that a pipe was leaking water. The officer reported that the water caused damage to ceiling tiles. Sergeant Chris Teribury responded.

### OFF-CAMPUS INCIDENT

LOCATION: All Other  
SUMMARY: A caller reported to Title IX that one person's actions and behavior were causing alarm. Deputy Chief Tom Dunn responded.

### MEDICAL ASSIST/PSYCHOLOGICAL

LOCATION: Terrace 11  
SUMMARY: A caller reported a person needed to be taken into custody under mental hygiene law. The officer reported that the person was transported to the hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain responded.

### DISORDERLY CONDUCT NO DEGREE

LOCATION: Circle Apartments  
SUMMARY: A caller reported that an unknown person threw eggs at a

residence. Master Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

MARCH 13

### SCC COMPLY/ID AND DIRECTIONS

LOCATION: Holmes Hall  
SUMMARY: A caller requested assistance with an individual who refused to identify themselves. The officer provided assistance and the person was identified and referred for failure to comply with ID and directions. Patrol Officer Sophia Dimkos responded.

### ASSIST ITHACA POLICE DEPARTMENT

LOCATION: All other  
SUMMARY: Ithaca Police Department requested information on a person involved in a traffic stop. The officer reported that the information was confirmed. Master Security Officer George Whitmore responded.

Full public safety log available online at [www.theithacan.org](http://www.theithacan.org).

### KEY

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





MOLLY STANTON/THE ITHACAN

## EDITORIALS

### Anti-Asian discrimination is a virus that must end

Racism is ingrained in America. America consistently subjects people of color to exploitation and abuse—the mass shooting in Atlanta is a disgusting byproduct of centuries of systemic racism.

When news broke that yet another attack on Asian Americans occurred, mainstream American news outlets prioritized objectivity over empathy. Coverage from outlets like The New York Times stated that it was not clear whether the attacks were racially motivated. A Georgia official said the shooting suspect was merely having a “bad day.” The suspect told police his “sexual addiction” motivated him to carry out an act of terrorism.

A “bad day” does not justify murder. Neither does fetishization. Six of the eight victims were of Asian descent, and four of them were Korean. All but one of the victims were women. Racism and misogyny are the unfortunate answer. Eight people had their lives stolen. Eight families are unjustly being condemned to continuous “bad days” because of a

white man’s anger.

Like many institutions, the Ithaca College administration responded to the attacks. It offered the campus community an insufficient email that stated a motive remained “unclear” and called on the community to create “a society that is inclusive and equitable and that values the lives and experiences of everyone.”

As a predominately white institution, it is not enough to just offer respect or sympathy — people of color on campus have been waiting for years to see actionable change.

Anti-Asian violence is racism, and it will not be solved by hollow rhetoric that does not recognize how deeply institutionalized these systems are within our society. Go beyond offering solidarity. Educate yourself on policies that have harmed the Asian American Pacific Islander community, speak out against Asian stereotypes and discuss the fetishization and objectification of Asian women.

We must challenge racism by altering our rhetoric and advocating for actionable change.

### ‘Wellness days’ do not alleviate college stress

Several “wellness days” dispersed throughout the semester do not provide the relief of a traditional spring break. They instead offer a mere pause — assuming that professors do not load up on assignments in order to compensate for losing a day of class.

In addition to classes, editors and staff members on *The Ithacan* take part in hours of work throughout the week.

After seven weeks of exhaustive reporting at *The Ithacan*, we are taking a week off. We will return the week of April 5, with our next print edition coming out April 8. Two of our last three wellness days fell on main production days for the paper, meaning we just had more time to work — there was no break.

Between classes and a nonstop news cycle, our editors, reporters, fact checkers, photographers and multimedia content creators deserve time to stop and recuperate. The work is fulfilling, and we are grateful to be in these positions, but we also need time

to rest. The entire college community does. We are overcoming a pandemic, collegewide changes and the individual challenges life presents. All of us need more than one day to even begin recovering.

While some professors are trying to be accommodating, workloads remain overwhelming. Considering the pandemic and its individual hardships, random days off do nothing to alleviate the stress students are under. Professors also deserve a break. Constant work with hardly any time off is exhausting. Studies have shown that time off from school can lower stress, decrease risk of heart disease, improve one’s outlook on life and increase motivation. More than ever, an actual break — not just a day to catch up on work — is essential.

Students are drained. Professors likely are as well. No one is thriving because of a couple of days off. This semester is not breezing by, and it is wearing us all out. We should prioritize sustaining our mental health in general, but even moreso during a pandemic.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send to [ithacan@ithaca.edu](mailto: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](mailto:ithacan@ithaca.edu) or to the opinion editor [akohli@ithaca.edu](mailto: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

Why I choose Manolos over men in terms of love

BY ANGEL SOHU

One of my biggest joys in life is buying a new pair of shoes. The feeling of grasping a pair of boots made of Italian leather, sheepskin, etc., is such a euphoric moment for me — almost orgasmic. I’ve always wondered why buying new shoes brought me so much joy. As I grew older, I began to realize a pattern: I tend to have an urge to buy a new pair of shoes every time a romantic endeavor fails.

Why is it easier for me to find a pair of Manolo Blahniks on sale at Saks than to find a man who will wave hello to me when he sees me in public? I can blame men as a whole, but that always makes me feel cruel. I can blame myself, but that’s not healthy. The one plausible reason I can think of is something that is always teetering in the back of my mind, and forever will, whether I like it or not: Men are embarrassed by me because I’m a transgender woman.

Finding love as a woman is already hard. Add being a woman of color on top of that, and it’s even harder. Now add being a trans woman of color, and the concept of finding love seems like a fairytale. As a transgender woman, you are constantly being tested:

Constantly having to worry about being feminine enough, wondering if someone actually likes you for you or if they fetishize you for something out of your control. You have to prove to cisgender society that you are a real woman. Most men, in my experience, don’t see me as a normal girl until I prove to them that I am. I’ve heard it all. From men telling me they want to be with me but we can’t let anyone find out about us, to men telling me that they would date me if it wasn’t for that one little detail. The first time a man told me he loved me, he told me we had to break up. I bought the most romantic shoes I could think of to cope: maroon Prada ballet flats made of heavenly soft velvet. Something about the soft touch of velvet comforts me. I ended up ruining the shoes when I stepped into a huge puddle of mud and rain, go figure.

I think what hurts the most is that men don’t even try to make an effort. They immediately throw me out like I’m damaged goods. On the bright side, I possess the most important factor to cis people: Beauty. What cisgender people really mean when they call me beautiful is that I don’t disturb society. I can blend. This is a comfort to them.

A couple of summers ago, I



Senior Angel Sohu discusses finding love in a cisgender society. Sohu said her narrative reflects her unique experiences in life and does not represent the perspectives of all transgender women.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

got a vagina. I thought that would change everything. It didn’t. I’m tired of having to constantly have to upkeep my appearance 10 times more than any cisgender girl I have ever met. I’m tired of having to be conscious all the time about the way I speak or move. I’m tired of making myself palatable to these men and still not being enough. Having men being terrified of openly loving me has been severely

ingrained into my psyche, and I see the effects it has on me every single day of my life.

I love love, but to say I haven’t partly given up on it would be a lie. Nowadays, I take what I can get. I’ve taught myself not to complain about the mistreatment I endure. What I’ve learned through my troubles with love is that I don’t have many options. I don’t have the privilege to be picky in choosing my “prince

charming.” I can either settle for what I’m being offered, or be alone. At the moment, I’m fine with filling that void by ordering a new pair of strappy sandals or leather sneakers every week. A pair of Sam Edelman booties may not cuddle with me at night and kiss my forehead, but at least they’re forever.

**ANGEL SOHU** is a senior CMD major. Contact her at [asohu@ithaca.edu](mailto:asohu@ithaca.edu).

GUEST COMMENTARY

Ithaca College has failed its survivors for too long

BY ROSWELL ECKER

Trigger warning for abuse, assault.

When Ithaca College announced Dr. Shirley M. Collado as our next president in 2017, I (alongside much of the campus community) was thrilled; as a woman of color with a background in psychology and a focus on trauma, she seemed like the perfect candidate, especially in contrast to her predecessor.

That December, I participated in IC’s TEDx event where I presented my experiences with Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID). At that event, I had a personal exchange with President Collado where she looked me in the eye, shook my hand and told me how much she was looking forward to seeing me talk about DID.

One month later, *The Ithacan* published an exposé revealing Collado’s 2001 conviction for abusing a former patient: one with DID.

The victim’s story is corroborated by multiple sources from The Center at the Psychiatric Institute of Washington (PIW). Collado denies the abuse but does admit to inviting the patient to live with her: a massive ethical violation in its own right. PIW specializes in treating PTSD and dissociative disorders, which means that Collado was working with vulnerable survivors with histories of abuse and still thought it acceptable to

breach that boundary.

What struck me most about the campus response was how devoid it was of empathy for survivors. The Board of Trustees revealed that they’d known from the start and stood by her; a petition circulated among faculty and staff to share their support, and I heard peers, some even survivors themselves, parrot the same excuses we hear constantly: “It was a long time ago,” “The victim can’t be trusted,” et cetera.

I was one of the few people publicly criticizing her at the time and received numerous messages from faculty and staff saying, “Thank you for speaking up, my entire department supports her and I’m scared to say anything for fear of losing my job.” But all criticisms of Collado, regardless of validity, were dismissed as racist. The author of *The Ithacan* exposé is white, so it was largely waved off as a smear campaign. Survivors’ criticisms were similarly dismissed, even when they were people of color themselves.

It’s well-documented that people of color are more likely than their white peers to be falsely accused of rape. That’s a fact, so I can understand why people were wary of the story right away. But I kept waiting for them to read the article, to recognize that Collado herself admitted to violating one client-therapist boundary, and that never



To anyone who needs to be listened to, Roswell Ecker ‘18 offers their shoulder. They stated no one is alone in this, and community members deserve to be heard.

COURTESY OF ROSWELL ECKER

came. I saw friends, fellow survivors, drop out of school as a result. The college pointed us to the chronically overbooked CAPS, offered students group processing sessions through the Advocacy Center, and that was the extent of the formal response. To my knowledge, no resources were ever made available to faculty and staff.

I keep coming back to that interaction at TEDx. I can’t fully express how insidious it was for Collado to go out of her way to connect with me, to acknowledge my DID and paint herself as someone I could trust. And when her history

caught up to her, she — like so many other abusers — cast doubts on the reliability of the victim. Despite evidence to the contrary, despite touting herself as an ally to survivors, despite having been professionally trained to know better, she blamed the victim, and it worked. A community that fails its most vulnerable is a failed community, and the college has been failing survivors for a long time.

**ROSWELL ECKER** is a 2018 Ithaca College graduate. Contact them at [roswelletal@outlook.com](mailto:roswelletal@outlook.com).



GUEST COMMENTARY

# Prospective students deserve transparency

BY MEGAN HANDLEY

Anyone who knows me knows that I love my school. When I came home from my personal campus tour in 2018, I knew I had to go to Ithaca. I said something to my mom along the lines of, “If I go anywhere else, I’ll picture myself here.” Looking around now at a college and world changed by a pandemic, economic decline and administrative negligence, I’ve come to wonder if I would have made the same decision.

Now, as a junior, I do a lot of things. I write across different organizations on campus. I’ve had three internships. I’ve been on four different ICTV shows. My job as a tour guide in the Office of Admission, however, has been the one most affected — and not in the way you’d imagine. You’d think the main hindrance would be not being able to meet prospective students in person, but the biggest roadblock has come with my dedication to transparency.

As a tour guide, my number one priority is honesty. Having been on over 15 college tours before committing to Ithaca, the thing that bothered me most was when I felt like I was walking through an hour-long advertisement. I remember wondering how it could be possible that everything about a school was positive, that each institution was this pillar of academia and personal progression — a haven compared to the public high school I attended, where at least half of the students

were only there out of obligation. Leaving my Ithaca tour as an undergraduate, I thought this idea of perfection was the case. Even though my tour guide had been honest about how cold it was and that the food was about what you’d expect from a dining hall, everyone around me seemed to be glowing; they were all laughing in groups, advertising clubs or simply just studying something they wanted. I wanted that.

“What’s not okay is impersonating perfection, hiding bruises showing clearly on the surface.”  
— Megan Handley

And now I’m here, giving tours and telling prospective students whose shoes I was once in that the food is, in fact, par at best. But now, I have to handle something new entirely — I’ve cracked through the facade the college advertised. I’ve seen the administration talking



Junior Megan Handley is a tour guide in the Office of Admission. Handley has struggled to discuss the recent faculty cuts and lack of transparency from the administration with prospective students.  
COURTESY OF RICHARD MORRIS

in near riddles to explain essential rules regarding COVID-19 or faculty cuts; I’ve spoken to a favorite professor on the edge of losing their position. I’ve gotten sick (as all first years inevitably do). I’ve made friends who didn’t last. But, in the end, I also made friends who did, and those are the people that have made everything more than worth it.

But how do you tell all of this in a Zoom panel with wide-eyed students who haven’t been able to set foot on a college campus, one they’re supposed to soon be paying thousands of dollars to? How do I tell them yes, it’s terrible what’s happening with

our faculty, and I’m not happy, but I still wouldn’t choose anywhere else to be getting my college education?

It’s been a process of learning how to bridge this disconnect, especially through learning how to express love for something even when you’re at odds. But one thing I know for certain: We won’t make any progress toward making this place one that matches the glowing advertisement without having an open conversation about it. It’s okay to not be perfect; nothing in life is without flaws. What’s not okay is impersonating perfection, hiding bruises showing clearly on the surface.

To the incoming class at any university — no college is perfect. Ask the weird questions, the ones that make you feel awkward but end up being the most important. At your next tour, instead of asking a student what the dining hall is like, ask why they’ve decided to stay where they are. Ask them why they decided to love a place and its people so deeply even when faced with the most difficult of battles. Only there will you find if that is the place for you.

**MEGAN HANDLEY** is a junior television and radio major. Contact her at [mhandley@ithaca.edu](mailto:mhandley@ithaca.edu).

GUEST COMMENTARY

# How will Ithaca College proceed in years to come?

BY THOMAS PFAFF

Recent commentaries have suggested that the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and faculty have differing views on how to enact the practices of transparency and shared governance,” and that “moving forward we need meaningful collaboration.” Is the definition of transparency really in question? What gives us hope that the SLT might act differently in the future?

The SLT has repeatedly refused to state the amount of their pay cut even when Cornell’s administration has done so, instead allowing speculation that the pay cut was little to nothing. They have consistently refused to engage in meaningful dialogue with, and instead have admonished, the Open the Books coalition and its student activists. Weeks ago, the College’s American Association of University Professors chapter sent a letter with questions, and the letter has yet to be acknowledged, let alone receive a response. The IC Alumni Against Austerity group repeatedly asked to meet with the SLT about the Academic Program Prioritization Implementation Committee (APPIC) in an open Zoom format; instead, the alumni association sponsored a closed webinar, only after the final APPIC decision. Finally, when given a golden opportunity in an interview with *The Ithacan* to elaborate on transparency and suggest improvements, Ithaca College President Shirley M. Collado started by punching down on the student reporter. These issues aren’t new. For example, the Honors Program, a program known for increasing yield, was “replaced”

without faculty input. The problems extend from transparency, to shared governance, to the decisions themselves.”  
— Thomas Pfaff

fewer students is over \$20 million (1000\*(tuition: \$46,610)\*(1-0.55)=\$20,974,500, where 0.55 is the approximate discount rate, as previously stated by administrators in meetings), while the cuts are projected to save only \$8 million and won’t be fully realized for years. We were told that we need a 12:1



Thomas Pfaff, professor in the Department of Mathematics, calls for transparency from the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). He poses questions for the SLT to answer.  
BRENDAN IANNUCCI/THE ITHACAN

student-faculty ratio, based on historic averages instead of finances or quality of education. Now we are told the college will be around 4,300 students in the next few years, putting us back to a 10:1 ratio. Is 12:1 really that important, or will more faculty be cut? Our historically weak yield has declined further the last few years, especially when compared regionally. Meanwhile, New York state colleges saw a 4% decrease in enrollment this past year, while IC was down about 15%. All of this leads to real concerns about the decision-making and fiscal future of the college.

These examples provide clear evidence of a lack of transparency, openness and shared governance and don’t instill hope for the future. To change this narrative, I would like detailed responses to the following questions that allow for the campus community to ask follow-up questions. Faculty live in a world of peer review, and that process often improves our work, and these questions are put forth in that spirit.

- 1) How did the SLT arrive at 5,000 students? How will 5,000 students be distributed across campus effectively? Programs need a minimum number of students to offer an appropriate selection of upper-level classes.
- 2) What are the budget projections over the next five years? Please address how we will close our deficit. Include details of projected revenue and cost.
- 3) The brand that is Ithaca College has taken steps backward. Morale is low. Please provide an overview of how you will improve this situation. Simply telling faculty we will have travel money and raises isn’t inspiring, since we already had that.

The campus community looks forward to the SLT’s responses and engagement in a peer review process so that we all understand our current situation and future. I would be happy to address any questions the SLT may have.

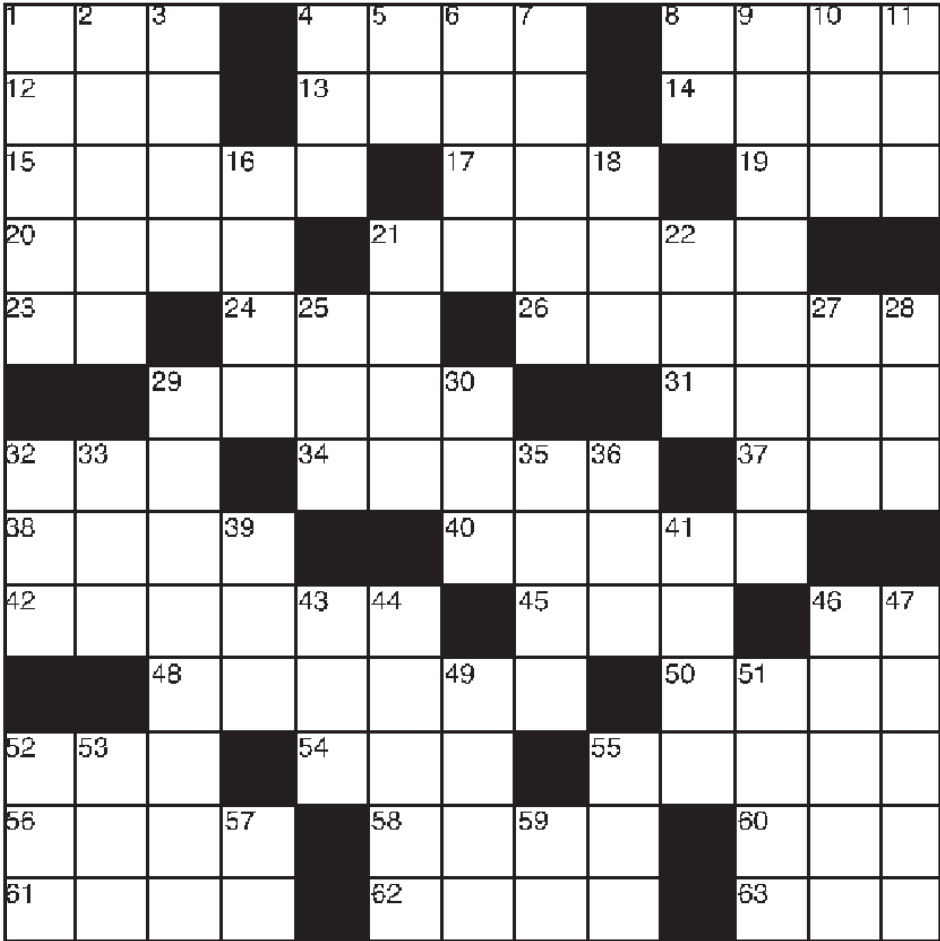
**THOMAS PFAFF** is a professor at Ithaca College. Contact him at [tpfaff@ithaca.edu](mailto:tpfaff@ithaca.edu).



# DIVERSIONS

## crossword

By United Media



### ACROSS

- 1 Cow's "second course"  
4 Relish  
8 Q-tip  
12 Before, to bards  
13 He directed Marlon  
14 Gov. division  
15 Humiliate  
17 Can  
19 Comedian — Costello  
20 Money repository  
21 Kind of soup  
23 Dash size  
24 Opposite of post-  
26 Straw roofing  
29 Conservative  
31 Roulette color  
32 Cargo unit  
34 Bored and tired  
37 Prosecutors, for short  
38 Complain bitterly  
40 Latin dance  
42 Less certain  
45 Funny Charlotte —  
46 Prom place  
48 Male vocalists

- 50 Mallard cousin  
52 Caustic solution  
54 Unpaid, as a bill  
55 Kind of turf  
56 Ireland  
58 Erstwhile Swedish auto  
60 Serpent  
61 Basilica area  
62 Large deer  
63 Any woman

- 28 Store info  
29 Brandy glasses  
30 Banned bug spray  
32 Cycle starter  
33 Big lug  
35 Teacup handles  
36 Double helix  
39 Speak falsely  
41 Pulls down  
43 Wrap up

- 44 Wake up  
46 Unduly severe  
47 Mountain feature  
49 True  
51 Depot info  
52 Open meadow  
53 Puppy plaint  
55 Stomach muscles  
57 Shoe width  
59 Nome's st.

### DOWN

- 1 Stop  
2 Built-up  
3 Unhearing  
4 Zuider —  
5 Subway opposite  
6 Location  
7 Pollute  
8 Pierre's st.  
9 Prosperous (hyph.)  
10 GI address  
11 Heat meas.  
16 Fall mo.  
18 — degree  
21 R2-D2's owner  
22 Oddjob's creator  
25 British rule in India  
27 KGB counterpart

### last issue's crossword answers

LONG	LIFT	BAG
OBEY	OSLO	IDA
GIBRALTAR	TAP	
AWL	THEME	
CHUTE	HOSE	
PURE	YEN	NECK
AGA	ELY	MOE
SOLE	LEX	SMOG
KILN	CHAPS	
ANGEL	JOY	
JAI	IMMUNIZED	
APR	ABOUT	NORA
RED	DAME	GOGH

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## sudoku

easy

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

very hard

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

### answers to last issue's sudoku:

easy

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

medium

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

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From left, senior Tyler Longmoore, junior Matthew Cavanaugh, senior Brigita Przybylski and senior Ryan Maloney operate the control room for "Sketch Me if You Can." ELEANOR KAY/THE ITHACAN

## ICTV crews return to in-person production

BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

Last March, the studios of one of Ithaca College's longest running programs, Ithaca College Television (ICTV), were silent and empty. However, after nearly a year of remote production, the cast and crew have finally returned to the studio. This time, students are working with a slew of new COVID-19 guidelines, including reduced numbers of crew members, staggered schedules and increased equipment sanitization.

Senior Steven Blenner, ICTV's station manager, has been involved with ICTV since his first year at Ithaca College. When the pandemic shut down ICTV indefinitely last March, Blenner was serving as both the master control supervisor and associate director of technical operations. He assumed the position of station manager last May, during the pandemic. Blenner said that this semester, ICTV has 22 shows in production, and all of the shows that needed studio time were able to get it. Two shows, "Good Day Ithaca" and "The Inside Scoop," are being produced entirely virtually, while the other 20 have varying proportions of in-person and virtual production.

Blenner said one of his challenges is finding a way to consolidate the responsibilities of what used to be a large number of crew members into just a few. Additionally, Blenner said he has had to redistribute these responsibilities without

overburdening the few members of the crew that remained. There is now a capacity limit of five to six crew members in the control rooms and studios. Blenner said he had merge roles, like reducing the number of camera operators from four to two — where there used to be one operator to a camera, there is now one person operating two cameras.

Blenner said he was also confronted with the dilemma of wanting the on-camera talent to wear masks while filming. However, this would alienate some viewers who are American Sign Language lip readers. So, Blenner allows the talent to take off their masks but only while filming.

Freshman Jacquelyn Chin is ICTV's director of on-air promotions this spring. Most freshmen who join ICTV are new to the elements of studio production. However, unlike her peers who are learning for the first time, Chin was fortunate enough to attend a high school with its own TV set. So, when Chin showed up to the studio in January, the studio environment was familiar to her. However, the reduced studio capacity that she was confronted with was unfamiliar.

"It is really different," Chin said. "Normally I would know who is in the control room and be able to talk to them and then see what's happening when I'm waiting and not in the studio in front of the cameras. It's really weird because I haven't set



Sophomore Riley Garand operates a camera during the March 17 filming of "ICTV Reports" in Studio B in the Roy H. Park School of Communications. ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN

foot into the control room whatsoever because there's already a lot of people in there for crew."

Sophomore Hannah De Chalais has worked on ICTV's satirical show "In Other Words" since her freshman year and is now an assistant producer. When the pandemic closed the college, "In Other Words" stopped production, De Chalais said. The show created a few episodes over Zoom by hosting writers rooms, sending out the scripts to the talent and having them record themselves delivering the lines. While ICTV was able to function in this way during the second half of Spring 2020 and in Fall 2020, De Chalais said part of the experience was being in the studio with friends, creating.

"I think people are just happy to be back in the studio," De Chalais said. "It gets stressful sometimes, but I think overall a lot of people are just happy to still be able to get the experience that they want and need. It's still a good time. The stress doesn't outweigh the experience. We're still learning to deal with these changes, and it's a good experience."

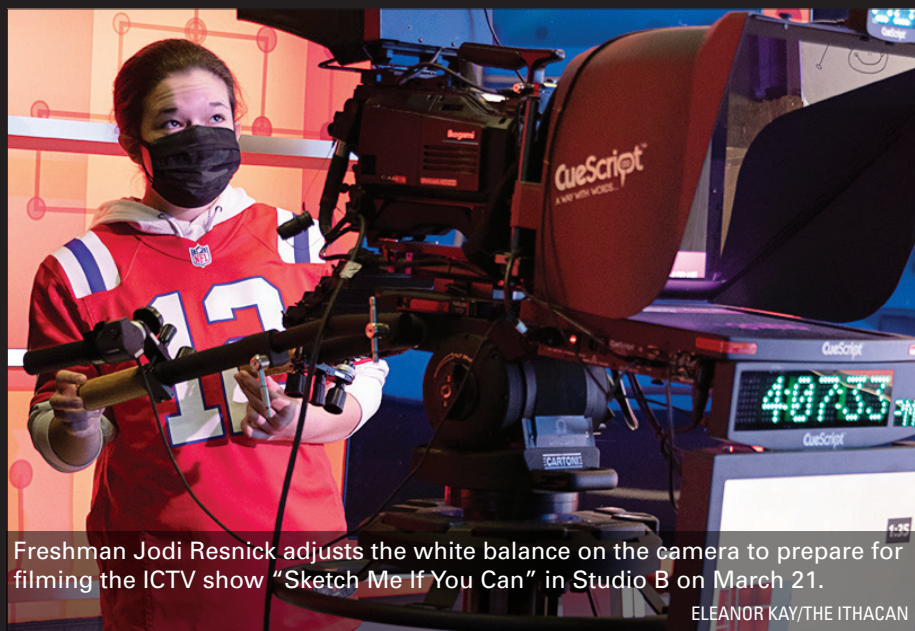
Although sophomore Khani Auerbach is learning in person this semester, she said most of her work can be done virtually. Despite being the assistant producer for the sports show "Ready Player Up" and an editor on the mockumentary show "A Piece of Art," Auerbach said she hasn't been on set yet this semester.

"I'm very torn about it," Auerbach said. "Part of me is like, it is nice because I don't really have to get up and move anywhere to do what I need to do. It's all in front of me, which means less walking for me. ... But I do kind of miss the energy of being in a studio or a set with people and being able to work with other people."

The on-air talent has had a different experience. While senior Madison Moore is back in the studio as the anchor for "ICTV Reports with Madison Moore," her time in the studio is limited. Due to concerns of COVID-19 transmission, Moore said the cast and crew try to get in and out of the studio as quickly as possible. Pre-production, like writing the script — which used to be done in person — has become virtual. The producers also create and print out shot lists for the cast and crew so that everyone in the studio can know and perform their role beforehand without congregating near one another. After filming, they discuss how the day went on Zoom.

"It's just a bit of extra planning on our end and making it work and kind of rolling with the punches," she said. "There were definitely a lot of things that when we got into the studio that we had to figure out how to do."

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Freshman Jodi Resnick adjusts the white balance on the camera to prepare for filming the ICTV show "Sketch Me If You Can" in Studio B on March 21. ELEANOR KAY/THE ITHACAN



# Students step back on stage for live concerts

BY GRACE AZAULA

Masked instrumentalists sit six feet apart, waiting anxiously to perform in person at the Ithaca College School of Music for the first time since the start of the pandemic. A small crowd files into the seats of Ford Hall, smiles underneath their masks as they get settled.

This semester, students at the School of Music have adjusted to a hybrid form of practice and performance. As of March 1, in-person concerts at the James J. Whalen Center for Music are accessible to students and faculty with limited seating. Concerts that require more space or have a larger number of performers are only open to those with an invitation.

In order to re-open Whalen safely, Interim Associate Dean Ivy Walz said she created a 36-page return plan featuring extensive research and safety precautions. Walz said this plan was then condensed into a webpage that shows the current safety status of the School of Music and what safety precautions accompany that status. Whalen can be at a green, yellow, orange or red level. As of March 23, Whalen is at a green level, the lowest level.

Instrumentalists must maintain 6-12 feet of distance and vocalists must maintain 12-20 feet of distance when performing. Groups and ensembles featuring aerosolized instruments, like wind instruments or vocalists, must perform in 30-minute increments with 25 minutes of space in between for the room to be aired out and purified. Appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE), like masks and bell covers, must be used when performing in groups.

At the yellow level, all of the same precautions are expected, but students must use PPE at all performances and it is encouraged to use accompaniment that is pre-recorded

or remote. At the orange level, solo practices are permitted, but students must use PPE at all times. Live performances for students in their final semester must be reviewed by the IC Health and Safety group and will only be livestreamed. All instruction must be virtual. At the red level, there is no performance, rehearsal nor instruction permitted in the building.

Freshman Alex Renzoni, a music education major, said returning to an in-person setting was nerve-racking at first.

“It’s definitely been a learning curve,” Renzoni said. “I definitely have had to reacquaint myself with being comfortable in large group settings and reassure myself that we’re all taking the precautions that we need to be safe. But overall, I do feel safe.”

Walz said the school involved committees that discussed safety measures for aerosol producing instruments and general classroom safety.

“It really was a huge school-wide collaboration in terms of working together to understand the different instruments and the science available,” Walz said. “The science was evolving as we were working.”

Senior Evan Schreiber, trumpet performance major, said he is excited to be performing in person.

“I don’t think any of us will take live music for granted,” Schreiber said. “While you could complain about the protective measures we need to take in order to play in person, it’s a breath of fresh air to be in the same room playing music at the same time, and getting back to what we’re used to.”

Renzoni said he is overjoyed to have live performances again, and that live music is something students need now more than ever.

“Live music right now is filling the void that so many of us



Junior Harris Andersen, a piano performance major, plays the piano March 20 in Hockett Family Recital Hall for his junior recital. In-person concerts have returned to the School of Music.  
CAROLINE BROPHY/THE ITHACAN

desperately need to be filled,” Renzoni said. “It’s brought light to a place that’s been very dark for us for many, many months and I think that that’s been really refreshing for all of us in the School of Music, something that we’ve needed. Not just wanted but it’s in our blood it’s in our souls, we need it.”

Senior Anthony Pilcher, vocal performance major, said that although it is nice to be performing in person again, it has been stressful adapting to the new COVID-19 guidelines.

“It’s honestly been extremely stressful,” Pilcher said. “Even just from an emotional standpoint, because I am giving a senior recital later in the semester, just knowing that my parents or any of my friends that aren’t students at the school can’t attend is kind of sad. But then even just from a logistical

standpoint, it’s been super hard to try and plan things.”

Kibelsbeck said there are approximately 100 live concerts booked for this semester as compared to approximately 210 live concerts performed in 2019. Kibelsbeck said the number is lower this semester because elective recitals were not scheduled in main halls, there are no guest artists and remote students are not performing live.

Luke Klingensmith, webcast services coordinator for the school of music, said that in addition to live performances, all performances will be livestreamed and approximately 30% of performances will be recorded, whereas only approximately 35 performances were livestreamed and recorded before the pandemic.

In order to keep up with the high demand, Klingensmith said he hired more student video operators

to operate controls, compile the videos from pan tilt cameras and mix audios for the livestream. Klingensmith said he had to get rid of the score readers who would look at the scores beforehand and decide what types of shots and production details could be added to enhance the performance.

Schreiber said that within the music field at large, he hopes musicians remain creative and continue making new music.

“I hope people don’t stop creating,” Schreiber said. “It’s scary, going into a field that doesn’t have a clear path. And with the world right now, everyone wants some stability. I just hope that people are brave enough to keep putting out content that they feel impacted by and that they think impacts others.”

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# Pop star and actor graces IC Zoom screens for Q&A

BY BRONTË COOK

For many 20-somethings, the name Jesse McCartney stirs an intense sense of nostalgia. The 33-year-old singer-songwriter came on the scene in 2003 and is known for songs like “Beautiful Soul” and “She’s No You.” He is the epitome of an early 2000s heartthrob. As a teenage singer, he even rocked a Justin Bieber-style haircut, which has now taken a back seat to a neat, short, slicked-back do.

On March 22, the Ithaca College Bureau of Concerts (BOC) hosted a virtual meet and greet with McCartney. The meet and greet was free and available to students who signed up beforehand.

At 8 p.m., the singer appeared in the closed Zoom session alongside 50 eager college student faces. As soon as he popped on screen, eyes lit up across the board — the childhood nostalgia had come to life.

Many of the participants came prepared with questions to ask the singer, including members of the BOC themselves.

Senior Gabriel Gomez, a BOC board member, opened up the Q&A period with a comment on McCartney’s cover of the T-Pain song “Buy You A Drank” that was originally released in 2008 but recently went viral on Tik Tok.

“I would really love to know how that came about,” Gomez said.

McCartney said he has always been a huge fan of T-Pain, and recounted a story of when the two artists first met at an award show soon

after McCartney covered the song.

“He was as ‘T-Pain’ as he could be,” McCartney said. “He had a huge grill, a top hat and a cane. It was kind of intimidating. But then he came up to me and said, ‘I loved your cover, we should work together.’ And we’re still buddies.”

Throughout the hour, McCartney answered other queries about songwriting, his role voicing Theodore in “Alvin and the Chipmunks” and if he liked guest-starring on “Hannah Montana” or “The Suite Life of Zack and Cody” better. He said he prefers “Hannah Montana,” mostly because he and the show’s star Miley Cyrus were close in age at the time of his guest appearance.

However, McCartney is no longer the teenage sweetheart millennials once knew. Like many child stars, he has grown up quite a bit. Currently based in Los Angeles, California, McCartney announced his engagement to girlfriend Katie Peterson in 2019. His relationship made its way into the conversation, and senior Emily Klaus unmuted herself to ask a burning question: “Do you plan to have kids?”

While it seemed likely McCartney would avoid the personal question, he instead leaned into it.

“It seems like kind of a crapshoot,” he said at the event. “It’s such a gamble. Ultimately, I’ll probably have kids. I just hope I have a good one.”

During the Q&A, McCartney announced he will be releasing a new album in the near future. He also spoke about his voice-over work



The Ithaca College Bureau of Concerts hosted a virtual meet and greet with Jesse McCartney, musical heartthrob of the 2000s, for students at the college March 22.  
COURTESY OF ITHACA COLLEGE BUREAU OF CONCERTS

and how he loves to binge-watch TV shows about cooking.

About 45 minutes into the call, the BOC moderators announced that it was time for McCartney to go and enjoy the rest of his night. But, before he did, the bureau would allow participants to unmute themselves and say a final goodbye. Within seconds, the Zoom room erupted in a chorus of squeals and “I love you’s” before the star of the call hit the bright red leave button.

Gomez said the BOC’s decision to center a meet and greet around McCartney was unanimous, and the event went better than the organization could have expected.

“I forget who threw the idea out there, but

we were literally all behind it,” Gomez said. “Like, let’s go get Jesse and make this event happen. Jesse engaged with the crowd really well, and I thank him, because a lot of people of his stature wouldn’t do the same thing.”

Senior Jill Ruthauser said she also felt that the event went well. She said it gave her a chance to connect not only with McCartney, but with her childhood self.

“‘Beautiful Soul’ was one of my favorite songs as a kid, so it was so cool to see him,” Ruthauser said. “It was a very nostalgic and heartwarming experience overall.”

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# Film’s new cut fulfills fans’ dreams

MOVIE REVIEW: “Zack Snyder’s Justice League” Warner Bros. ★★★★★

BY JACKSON NOEL

The art of the director’s cut is a long-standing and occasionally fruitful Hollywood tradition. Classics like Ridley Scott’s “Blade Runner” and Francis Ford Coppola’s “Apocalypse Now” have each received substantial changes that garnered positive reassessment. However, the extent and cost of the changes that form “Zack Snyder’s Justice League” place the film in a category of its own. The end product becomes an expensive, reassembled epic that does its best to fix everything it can, sometimes coming up short.

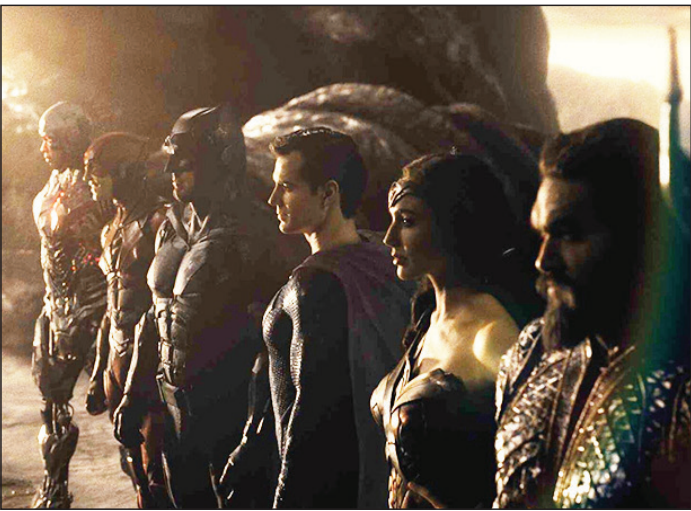
The original budget for 2017’s “Justice League” was \$300 million, a tremendous gamble for Warner Bros. in the early stages of joining the superhero movie trend. During the film’s production, these stakes grew after a family tragedy removed Zack Snyder from the director’s chair. Snyder was then replaced by Joss Whedon in an attempt to snag Marvel’s light-hearted gold. The final product was a mish-mash of studio interference and a hostile set environment. Audiences quickly became frustrated with Snyder’s removal and began a campaign to reinstate the original director’s full unwieldy vision in its grand scope. Beginning as a meme that fans called the “Snyder Cut,” their voices eventually reached Warner Bros executives. In May of 2020, the studio announced it would grant Snyder \$70 million to fulfill his vision. The announcement came with one more kicker: “Zack Snyder’s Justice League” would premiere exclusively on HBO Max.

Well, how much has changed? As it turns out, a lot. The most notable change comes in the form of runtime. In theaters, “Justice League” came out to around 120

minutes, while Snyder’s new version clocks in at a staggering 242 minutes. While many rejoiced that Snyder would finally see his vision followed through uninhibited, many more prepared themselves for sore backs. The reason for such a length quickly becomes apparent though. The film is packed to the brim with even more countless characters, interlocking plot threads, and added context ensure that, at the least, something interesting always fills the screen.

The general plot remains largely untouched — alien creature Steppenwolf (Ciarán Hinds) wants a handful of metallic cubes to summon his evil boss Darkseid (Ray Porter) so they can destroy Earth and rule the universe. In the wake of Superman’s demise in “Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice,” Batman (Ben Affleck) must assemble a new squad of heroes to defend Earth’s helpless citizens. However, this time around, everyone gets more room to breathe. Ben Affleck still provides one of the best cinematic Batmans, balancing his abilities at playing the brooding, haunted Bruce Wayne with his more violent take on the masked vigilante. Victor Stone aka Cyborg (Ray Fisher) and Barry Allen aka the Flash (Ezra Miller) get the most added screen time. This dutifully helps a lot of the staler story beats in the theatrical cut feel at place in new context. The laughable attempt at giving Barry a backstory in the form of a prison conversation with his father now feels almost sweet with the added work of his new scenes beforehand.

In “Zack Snyder’s Justice League,” more everything is the name of the game. Most of the CGI-heavy action sequences in the original are simply extended, which could be seen as exhausting in the hands of a director without



“Zack Snyder’s Justice League” is a new four-hour cut of 2017’s “Justice League” that follows the director’s vision.

COURTESY OF WARNER BROS.

Snyder’s eye for action. Snyder puts his enthralling skills as a director to great use, employing dynamic visual geography to how he shoots each set piece and then pumping it full of slow-motion hero shots. Soaked in hazy reds, blues and silvery grays across a global string of locations, the film is eye candy. With his largest canvas, Snyder paints deliberately and thickly with his vision of a DC universe, something that no one else could replicate in sheer ambition.

If the good gets amplified, then so does the bad. Jason Momoa and Miller linger as two risible casting choices. Momoa plays Aquaman with all the mustered charisma of a beached whale, while Miller poorly runs through quips reminiscent of Tom Holland’s Spider-Man. At best, they garner only eye rolls. Luckily, they are not the captains of this ship, getting outweighed by the rest of the crew. Perhaps the most apparent technical flaw is the new CGI footage. The CGI mostly gets buried within action scenes

and is partially tucked away under a thick layer of visual grain. Still, some of the new effects like the background scenery in the climactic battle look rushed and possibly rendered too quickly.

“Zack Snyder’s Justice League” is an overflowing monument of cinematic escapism. It appeals to the most childlike desire to see a band of superhumans and one rich man dressed as a bat duke it out with bad guys on the biggest green screen money can buy. A four hour runtime may seem like a daunting task, but the film affords more than enough spectacle to make it worth the investment. With “Avengers: Endgame” in the rearview and Marvel focusing on smaller scale projects like series “Wandavision” and “The Falcon and the Winter Soldier,” the pinnacle of gargantuan superhero films has been raised an inch. Whether that goal proves worth topping is another question entirely.

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# Artist shines in Spanish

ALBUM REVIEW: “Revelación” Interscope Records

★★★★★

BY CHARLIE BECHT

Selena Gomez’s latest release, “Revelación,” lives up to its name as a revelation of the singer’s musical capabilities.

Known for her catchy pop hooks, the Spanish-language EP is new territory for Gomez, both linguistically and stylistically. The seven-track project mixes reggaeton and Latin pop with influences of tropical house music and R&B. The distinctly constant drum rhythm, a staple of reggaeton, creates cohesion between songs.

Although a fresh deviation for Gomez’s discography, the EP lacks groundbreaking elements. The instrumentation’s structures are reminiscent of Latin pop songs that are popular among mainstream Western audiences. These songs, like J. Balvin and Willy William’s “Mi Gente” or Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee’s “Despacito,” ruled the airwaves in 2018 and 2019. However, unlike these predecessors, Gomez’s EP lacks the quality or enthusiasm necessary to fill a nightclub dance floor. Rather, the relaxed beats beg to be broadcasted over a more casual gathering or windows-down car ride. Though the content cannot escape its familiarity to previous songs from Gomez, her fresh presence on this

album contributes a tranquil flare unlike her past work.

The accompaniment plays to Gomez’s distinguishable soft vocal stylings like never before. Within ballads, like “Vicio,” the slow tempo allows her singing to adopt a soothing resonance. On songs like “Adiós,” upbeat rhythms create a sensual tone over the sultry pulse. The consistent steady pacing of the instrumental throughout the EP compliments Gomez’s timbre, allowing her subdued sound to find strength. While a listener’s fluency in Spanish does make for a more enriching experience, a language barrier does not downplay the music’s impact.

Standout “Baila Conmigo,” a collaboration with rapper Rauw Alejandro, is the EP’s most impressive track. Alejandro’s velvety vocals flirt impeccably well with Gomez’s in this seductive sway. After one listen, the catchy chorus “Baila, baila, baila conmigo,” is sure to be an earworm.

Thematically, the songs on “Revelación” encompass traditional motifs customary to Gomez’s works. “De Una Vez,” the debut single, reflects the recovery of one’s confidence following a heartbreak. “Buscando Amor” expresses the carefree feeling of partying. “Dámelo To” enlists rapper Myke Towers to share intimate passions of romance in a sultry duet.



“Revelación” is pop musician Selena Gomez’s first Spanish language release.

COURTESY OF INTERSCOPE RECORDS

“Selfish Love,” the EP’s closer, offers a bridge between Gomez’s past and present. A reunion with previous collaborator DJ Snake, the bilingual dance track resembles what is expected of Gomez. Its electronic-influenced instrumentation and inviting melody is a sound to which Gomez is accustomed. The finale creates a lighthearted fusion sure to satisfy first and longtime fans alike.

Comparatively, the EP is an impressive body of work for Gomez. While it may not introduce inventive rhythms or elaborate vocal runs, its strength comes with its subtleties. The softened stylings and structure of the EP are where many of the songs draw their power. Gomez accomplishes a work that not only highlights her abilities but honors her heritage.

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## POPPED CULTURE

### Politicians fail as podcast hosts

BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

If dystopia is career politicians talking directly into the ears of their constituents for hours on end, then we’re living it.

Recently, a slew of out-of-touch politicians has been using podcasts in a desperate attempt to connect with voters. The podcast industry, which has doubled in listeners since 2016 and was worth over \$11 billion in 2020, is expected to grow massively in the coming decade. Additionally, the success of political podcasts on both the left and right — like “The Majority Report with Sam Seder” and “The Dan Bongino Show” — is proving that a huge market for political commentary exists.

We are living through an era of postmodern politics and far-wing populism. When Donald Trump came along in 2015, he forever changed the aesthetics of politics. Even I must admit, watching him take to the debate stage and neuter the Republican Party was a great feeling. His vicious, predatory attacks on a broken political system gave him wide-reaching, emotional appeal. The anti-establishment bomb throwing that led him to eventual victory had riled up decades of hidden frustration in both parties. All of this left the political elites doing damage control on their approval ratings and personability. So, they took to podcasting.

On the Democratic side, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton runs “You and Me Both with Hillary Clinton,” probably because titling it “The Hillary Clinton Show” would be too on the nose. Former President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle Obama both host Spotify original podcasts called “Renegades: Born in the USA” and “The Michelle Obama Podcast,” respectively.

The Republicans also have their fair share of podcasters. Senator Ted Cruz, alongside conservative commentator Michael Knowles, hosts “Verdict with Ted Cruz.” Texas Representative Dan Crenshaw has “Hold These Truths with Dan Crenshaw.” Trump’s lackey Rudy Giuliani runs the ironically titled “Common Sense.” Former Vice President Mike Pence has recently announced that he will also be diving into the podcast frenzy in the coming months.

The fundamental problem with these podcasts is that politicians, with the exception of a very few, aren’t really all that interesting. They spend most of their days in Washington, leaving them little time to connect with real people. So, to prevent their show from being a lifeless hour of boring lies, their solution is to have “special guests” who are more engaging than themselves.

Take a recent episode of Clinton’s “You and Me Both,” titled “Hope.” Clinton, a retired 73-year-old establishment Democrat living comfortably, doesn’t have the lived experience or demonstrate enough sincerity to warrant an episode about hope. So, she brings in Amanda Gorman, the 23-year-old Harvard graduate who delivered the show-stopping poem “The Hill We Climb” at President Biden’s inauguration. When Clinton chimes in, her insights pale in comparison to Gorman’s.

Many other politicians’ podcasts follow a similar formula — bring in a guest or have a co-host more qualified for a podcast than themselves, interview them for 30 minutes and then wrap up. Despite podcasts being a creative medium, there is no artistry or originality to them.

The politicians defining this era, like Trump and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, don’t need a podcast to win. The popularity of their policy proposals does the work for them.

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



# HANDING DOWN A LEGACY

## SOFTBALL PLAYERS AND ALUMNI CONNECT THROUGH JERSEYS

BY CONNOR WOOD

When head coach Hannah Quintana '07 of the Ithaca College softball team was a player on South Hill, the softball program adopted a tradition that very few programs had. Every freshman who enters the program is given their jersey number based on the personality of both current and former players and what they bring to the team.

This year's four freshmen received their jerseys at practice just a couple of weeks before their first game March 24. This tradition has continued each year since Quintana's days as a Bomber. Quintana said the tradition came from former graduate assistant Mary Vande Hoef '06 who played at Central College in Pella, Iowa.

"It was a tradition that Central had," Quintana said. "Central is always a program we really admired, so when she was here as a graduate assistant and started talking to coach [Deb] Pallozzi [former head softball coach] about this tradition, we felt like it fit our culture really well."

As the freshmen settle into their roles on the team, their teammates and coaches evaluate which jersey is best for each new player. Quintana said that being a part of the program previously and knowing more stories makes the process even more special for her.

"Being a graduate of 2007, I have a connection with some of the older alumni and know more stories about the team from the '80s, '90s and 2000s," Quintana said. "I get to add some great history when we are trying to pick out numbers."

Along with the jersey they receive, the players receive a packet of letters from past recipients of the jersey telling them about the Bomber way.

"One of the most meaningful points in the tradition is the packet of letters that have been written by past number recipients," Quintana said. "Being able to give out those letters to our first-year players keeps the Bomber connection alive."

Freshman outfielder Hudson Hassler received the number nine jersey to wear for the next four years of her time as a Bomber.

"When I was given my number, I looked at all the previous nines' statistics and was amazed at how talented they all were," Hassler said. "One in specific [Jessica Fleck] had the number a few years ago, and in the letters, everyone talked so highly of her and her hardworking attitude. I hope to carry on that tradition of working as hard as I can and giving as much as I can to the program."

Quintana said the number nine for Hassler was such a clear fit for her due to her work ethic and talent. The decision was easy for her and the other players to make.

"Looking back at some of the nines I had the pleasure to play with, Sarah Coddington ['05] comes to mind," Quintana said. "She had a motor that wouldn't quit and played with laser-focus. Hudson embodies those two things, and she is just having a blast with everything we are doing and as hard as she is working."

Jessica Fleck '17 wrote her letter to future players right after she graduated. She said she hoped her letter would inspire players the same way she felt when she opened her letter as a freshman.

"It kind of felt like I was writing to a future version of myself in a way," Fleck said via email. "My goal with the letter was to help future niners resonate with the number by opening their eyes to the personalities and successes of the players that came before them."

Freshman pitcher Ainsley Rogers was given number 30. Rogers was the only player this season to receive a new number, as this was the first time it has been worn in program history.

"It is a pride factor to be able to wear any number for this program, and getting the chance to start a new number, I have the opportunity to set the pride for the players coming after me," Rogers said. "My experience is going to end up shaping that number,

so just keeping that in the back of my mind will keep me going. I need to set the goals and the personality of the number 30 for the future players."

Quintana said a large part of the number selection comes down to availability of numbers.

"In a different year in a different situation, perhaps there would have been a different number," Quintana said. "But I think given what was available, we just felt like her blazing her own path was the best journey."

As two of the five seniors Haley White, number 16, and Beth Fleming, number 23, prepare to put on their numbers for one more season, they hope the tradition can continue for years to come.

"We want everyone to come in and value the tradition just as much as we did when we came in," White said. "I want the program to be able to keep the family dynamic on the team and be the best teammates we can while also working hard and having fun."

Fleming said the tradition and the family connection with both current and past players has allowed them to grow as individuals over the last four years.

"Being able to come out of this program a better person, better teammate and better leader is not what I expected when I came in as a freshman," Fleming said. "We're good at keeping each other accountable, and I think that is what has kept us in the right mindset the past four years."

Quintana said she is happy to know that the alumni of the softball program are able to stay connected and continue to be a part of the Bomber family.

"They're just so excited and proud of the fact that ... [our] traditions have been able to hold up, so I think it's just exciting to be able to move that forward and see what the next chapter of Ithaca softball is going to be," Quintana said.

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Freshman Ainsley Rogers pitches for the Ithaca College softball team. She wears number 30.  
COURTESY OF ITHACA COLLEGE ATHLETICS



Freshman Belle De Oliveria represents number 15. She plays outfield for the Bombers.  
COURTESY OF ITHACA COLLEGE ATHLETICS



Freshman Hope Warren wears number 26 and plays first base and outfield for the Bombers.  
COURTESY OF ITHACA COLLEGE ATHLETICS



Freshman Hudson Hassler wears number nine. She plays outfield for the team.  
COURTESY OF ITHACA COLLEGE ATHLETICS



# Students create football docuseries

BY EMMA KERSTING

Over a year after the 2019 Ithaca College football season, a team of 12 Ithaca College Television (ICTV) students completed production of a three-part docuseries following the team through its season.

The docuseries, “Pride and Poise: Journey to the Meadowlands,” will release one episode from March 29–31 and can be viewed on local television and the ICTV YouTube page. The docuseries begins with the moment former quarterback Joe Germinero came to Ithaca College in 2019 and ends with the Cortaca Jug game at MetLife Stadium. Director Garrett Bamos ’20 said the original idea for the series started in March 2020.

The plan initially was to follow the spring sports teams at the college, but after that season was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Bamos and his team switched their plan to cover the Fall 2020 season. When sports, in-person classes, and other ICTV shows like “The Gridiron Report” were canceled in the fall, Bamos and other producers decided to make a docuseries about the 2019 football season.

“The idea was to find one of the sports that had the most possible footage that we could access, and that narrowed it down to either football or basketball, pretty much. ... Then we chose football because it was such an amazing season,” Bamos said.

Since the 2019 football season already happened, Bamos and his team had to find game footage



The Ithaca College football team plays in the 61st annual Cortaca Jug game Nov. 16 at MetLife Stadium. The game concludes the docuseries, “Pride and Poise: Journey to the Meadowlands.” FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

rather than record it themselves. Other members of the crew had not planned on working on the docuseries until production began in September 2020.

“We weren’t even planning on making this at the start of the semester,” senior Matt Clement, line producer on the film, said. “I was planning on producing two shows [for ICTV]. ... When that got canceled, we were kind of scrambling for what we were going to do.”

Aside from finding footage in archives, there were plenty of challenges in the production of the docuseries, like editing remotely and acquiring footage from multiple sources.

“Making a documentary is

challenging,” Bamos said, “But making a three-part docuseries completely remote is like walking through a minefield or an obstacle course — there’s just so many things that get thrown at you.”

Bamos and senior Lee Folger, assembly editor on the project, would sit on video calls with each other for hours at a time three or four times a week from October to February. If the team was on campus with no COVID-19 safety restrictions, editing would be the responsibility of a small team rather than one person. Remote production also extended how long editing would take.

Folger would also have to edit the interviews of members of the football team, media members

and head coach Dan Swanstrom.

“Interviews are such a big part of sports documentaries, the sound bites you’re getting, all these things,” Folger said.

The interviews were a crucial part of making the docuseries. Clement said the team interviewed approximately 12 people.

Bamos said the production was a learning experience, but since everyone was invested in the docuseries, the journey was rewarding.

“If I tried to do this myself, there’s no chance that I would have finished this in six months,” Bamos said. “This would have taken me two years.”

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## OUT OF BOUNDS

EMILY ADAMS

### Women’s sports deserve equity

When 64 Division I women’s basketball teams arrived in San Antonio for the NCAA national championship, they were expecting the royal treatment that men’s tournament players in Indianapolis had plastered across social media. However, instead of flexing their facilities, the players and coaches at the women’s tournament had to demand adequate training space and food on their social media accounts.

The now-infamous photos of the single dumbbell tower serving as a weight room and of the “mystery meat” served at the women’s tournament made for an easy dunk on the NCAA, but the situation is much more insidious than a few substandard amenities. The inequities between the men’s and women’s sports in the NCAA run deep, and the unique circumstances of the pandemic are only exacerbating the problems that have existed for many years. While subpar food and gym space are major issues for the women at this specific tournament, disparities in COVID-19 testing, media access and marketing are much longer-term problems.

It was revealed that the participants in the men’s tournament were receiving PCR COVID-19 tests, which are considered the most accurate test available. The NCAA’s choice to use rapid antigen tests, which are cheaper, for the women indicates a complete disregard for the health and safety of hundreds of individuals. Media members have also complained that there are no NCAA photographers at the women’s tournament until the Sweet 16 starting March 27. It was revealed that the organization does not allow the women’s tournament to operate under the “March Madness” branding that the men’s tournament uses. This dramatically limits the women’s tournament’s growth and profitability by excluding it from the name recognition and limiting media access. Even if outlets want to provide equal coverage of both tournaments, the NCAA has made that impossible.

The NCAA’s response to public backlash was arguably the most concerning part of the controversy. When posts about the weight room began to gain traction online, the organization stated that the women’s tournament venue lacked enough space for a full weight room. However, days later, the NCAA managed to miraculously procure a large space to fill with equipment comparable to the men’s.

NCAA President Mark Emmert also insisted that there was no different risk from using antigen versus PCR tests despite the FDA’s guidance. NCAA officials also initially told reporters that the women’s tournament chose not to use the March Madness branding, but it was later reported that they denied a request from women’s basketball officials on at least one occasion to use the name.

The NCAA’s inability to get its story straight is incredibly telling. The only explanation for its backtracking and inconsistencies is that it was not prepared for the outrage. The NCAA did not expect anyone to be upset by the obvious and observable differences between the men’s and women’s tournaments. This is the root of the problem. The NCAA knows that the inequity exists; it simply does not care.

OUT OF BOUNDS covers sports beyond the playing field. EMILY ADAMS is a senior journalism major. Contact her at [eadams3@ithaca.edu](mailto:eadams3@ithaca.edu).

# Teams travel to compete for first time

BY CONNOR GLUNT

Ithaca College spring athletes have waited nearly one year to compete after having their 2020 spring seasons canceled due to COVID-19. Once the Liberty League announced that there would be a spring sports season this year, teams were able to breathe a sigh of relief.

Spring athletics will look different this year compared to previous seasons, especially on the road. This year, spring sports teams will only compete in 68 away events, according to the schedule, compared to over 100 last year. With the exception of the women’s crew team going to Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, on May 8, all other regular season competition will be played within the state of New York. There are also rules and protocols in place like mandated mask-wearing outside the field of play and no overnight stays for away events.

On March 6, the men’s and women’s track and field teams competed in the Nazareth Invitational at Nazareth College in Rochester, New York. This meet marked the first event that any of the Bombers had traveled to since the resumption of competition.

Jennifer Potter, women’s track and field head coach, said the long-awaited return to official competition was an emotional experience for many of her athletes.

“Before we returned to campus and was coaching virtually I lost a little bit of myself,” Potter said via email. “It is amazing that we are back together after almost a year (social distancing of course) and I again get to do what I love to do and have so much passion for.”

Freshman runner Katarina Gomez said that while the invitational followed a traditional format in terms of the events themselves, there were notable differences in preparation for the meet. Athletes were only permitted inside the arena when they were warming up for their events or competing and had to



Freshman Matteo Ragusa pitches in a doubleheader against Elmira College on March 23 on Freeman Field. The Bombers won both games against the Eagles. ABBEY LONDON/THE ITHACAN

go to another location after.

Because the men’s and women’s track and field teams do not have a suitable outdoor facility on South Hill, all of their meets will be at opposing schools.

The baseball team also traveled out of Tompkins County on March 20 to face off against Elmira College. After the team returned from its 8–7 win, first-year graduate student Buzz Shirley said the new protocols give traveling a different feel.

“This is just another roadblock in the way of us coming to success, but we don’t let that get us down,” Shirley said via email. “After that win we were on the bus, obviously in our seats maintaining our distance, but hooting and hollering.”

Senior Garrett Callaghan said that on team buses, athletes are required to wear their masks and maintain social distancing rules. This means that there is no eating or drinking and that there is one person per row of seats. Callaghan said that while these changes are noticeable, they are worth it if it

means they can play this season.

“Baseball is a game that’s meant to be played with players spread out,” Callaghan said via email. “The protocols really aren’t affecting our performance at all because it is really easy to stay six feet apart on a baseball field. ... In the grand scheme of things, it is not a big deal at all.”

The baseball team’s schedule includes six four-game series, each with a home and away doubleheader. In past seasons, the team would typically not travel in the middle of a series. The current schedule is designed to cram in 29 games between March 20 and May 9 with as little travel as possible.

Callaghan said that the team came out rusty in the first game against Elmira but that its comeback fueled its success in the March 21 games.

Staff writer Tommy Mumau contributed reporting.

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From left, sophomore Isabella Reyes and junior Jessica Perro dance at an IC Unbound Dance Company practice March 21 in the Ithaca College Fitness Center. In order to hold in-person rehearsals, the company is requiring dancers to follow safety precautions, like wearing masks and dancing while distanced from each other.

LEXI DANIELSON/THE ITHACAN