

IC community reacts to Collado's departure



Ithaca College President Shirley M. Collado at the Class of 2025 convocation Aug. 18. Collado is stepping down as president effective Aug. 30. She will be staying at the college until Dec. 31.

BY CAITLIN HOLTZMAN

Some members of the Ithaca College community have expressed disappointment in President Shirley M. Collado's last year as president following the announcement that she is leaving the college.

In a July 8 email to the campus community, the Board of Trustees announced Collado will be leaving the college Jan. 10, 2022 to become the president and chief executive officer for College Track. She will serve as the senior advisor to the interim president and the Board of Trustees effective Aug. 30, 2021, until Dec. 31. La Jerne Cornish, provost and executive vice president, will serve as the interim president for the 2021–22 academic year.

The Board of Trustees said in its announcement that it will be considering the next steps in planning for the next president of the college.

In a message to the campus community July 8, Collado reflected on her past four years — the shortest tenure of all nine Ithaca College presidents — at the college and spoke about the resiliency of the campus community.

“Many of you have become trusted

friends and colleagues,” she said in the message. “And to our students — you are the true promise of Ithaca College, and you will stay in my heart forever.”

Collado's Presidency

Collado was named the ninth president of the college in 2017 after former President Tom Rochon stepped down July 1, 2017. Rochon retired after protests led by the group POC at IC following multiple racist incidents that happened during Rochon's presidency, which spurred national attention. Rochon also received votes of no confidence from faculty and students.

Lauren Suna '20 said that when the board was conducting the search for a new president after Rochon, she and her friends were excited for Collado's presidency.

"Everybody was like, 'This is great, a change is coming and this change is going to be good and it seems like we have someone who's going to be great and listen and be transparent,'" she said.

Suna said that while she had been looking forward to Collado's presidency, when she learned about Collado's past, she had mixed feelings about Collado.

COLLADO, PAGE 4

Study abroad programs open for first time since Spring 2020

BY JILLIAN BLEIER

Ithaca College senior Marina Bryan was disappointed when she was sent home early from the Ithaca College London Center (ICLC) in March 2020 because of the rapid spread of the coronavirus around the world.

"It was just really upsetting to get the email saying that we were being sent home because it was my first study abroad semester," Bryan said.

Bryan is currently studying at the Ithaca College Los Angeles (ICLA) Program at the James B. Pendleton Center in Los Angeles for the fall semester. She said she was nervous to apply because the program had not been open since Spring 2020.

"I was really excited that it did still happen and that I'm out here," she said. "I'm really hoping that I am able to remain out here for the rest of the semester and it doesn't get shut down again."

Study abroad programs are back up and running for the first time after they were shut down in March 2020. Students once again



A group of Ithaca College students went on a hike while studying away at the Ithaca College Los Angeles Program.

COURTESY OF MARINA BRYAN

have the opportunity to go abroad or travel to the college's satellite campuses at the ICLC in England or at the James B. Pendleton Center in Los Angeles.

Study abroad programs were on hold for the entire 2020–21 academic year, said Rachel Gould, director of Study Abroad in the Office of International Programs

and Extended Studies. During this time, affiliated study abroad programs and exchange programs — which are not managed by the college — were not available for students to attend. Gould said she thinks approximately two-thirds of affiliated programs

ABROAD, PAGE 5

Majority of students vaccinated for COVID

BY SYD PIERRE

Ithaca College has required students to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 for Fall 2021, resulting in over 99% of the student population being fully vaccinated.

In April 2021, the college announced that all students must be vaccinated in order to return to campus for the fall semester. Students were required to submit their vaccination cards to the Hammond Health Center by July 19. Students can still be exempt from the vaccine mandate because of medical or disability reasons, but requests for religious exemptions were due July 19.

International students needed to have received any World Health Organization (WHO) approved vaccine in their home country and submitted their vaccination card by July 19. The WHO has approved seven vaccines: Moderna, Pfizer, Janssen, Oxford, Serum Institute of India, Sinopharm and Sinovac.

As of Aug. 23, 51.6% of the U.S. is fully vaccinated, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Samm Swarts, assistant director of Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Department of Public Safety and Emergency Management, said the vaccination cards students submit go through a two-step verification process when they are submitted to the health center.

"The students initially sent in their cards to Hammond Health and then a staff member from the health center has also confirmed the information to make sure that it matches other databases," Swarts said.

Katie Newcomb, assistant director of the Department of Student Conduct and Community Standards, said if it was discovered that a student had submitted a fake vaccine card, they would be referred to the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards and would participate in the administrative hearing process. She said the office would weigh a number of factors, including past violations, the student's level of cooperation, extent of harm caused and impact on the community.

VACCINE, PAGE 5

MULTIMEDIA

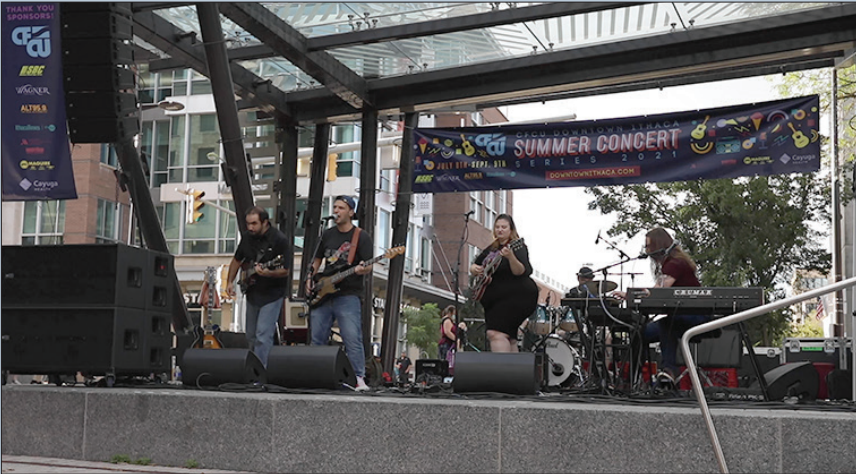
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A Conversation with Elizabeth Cady



Host Frankie Walls sits down with senior Elizabeth Cady to discuss the pressures and expectations of being a resident assistant.

Weekly Concert Series Features Musicians



"Noon Fifteen" perform at Downtown Ithaca's CFCU Summer Concert Series.

TikTok: How to get to Textor 101

Path from the Campus Center Dining Hall to Textor 101 for recruitment night.



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County sees rise in COVID-19 cases

BY CAITLIN HOLTZMAN

Despite a drastic rise in COVID-19 cases — specifically cases of the delta variant — in Tompkins County, Ithaca College is not currently changing any campus guidelines.

The Tompkins County Health Department (TCHD) announced that the county is now classified as a high-transmission area, which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention define as when there are more than 100 cases per 100,000 people over a seven-day period.

In the past seven days there were 132 positive cases in the county. Residents are advised to wear masks indoors, even if they are fully vaccinated.

There were also 35 new COVID-19 cases Aug. 18 in Tompkins County, a number that has not been seen since February 2021 when a high of 37 cases was reported Feb. 7 and 41 cases reported Feb. 4. The TCHD announced Aug. 20 that Tompkins County is now defined as a “high” transmission zone for COVID-19.

COVID-19 cases have been increasing in the county over the past three weeks. Before Aug. 18, the largest single-day increase within the past three weeks was Aug. 12 with 25 new cases. The increase in cases has been tied to the delta variant, which is a more contagious strain of COVID-19.



Ithaca College is not planning to change any of its COVID-19 guidelines despite the rise in cases in Tompkins County. The current rise in cases is attributed to the delta variant, which is known to be more contagious.

COURTESY OF TOMPKINS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The delta variant is currently the most prevalent variant in Tompkins County and across the United States.

Tompkins County also reported another death Aug. 19. The number of Tompkins County residents who have died of COVID-19 is 33.

Samm Swarts, assistant director of emergency preparedness and response, said via email that currently, the college is not planning on changing any guidelines and the college is working with the TCHD to understand what guidelines are necessary.

“We will continue to update the campus community if and

when changes may be needed,” he said via email.

Between June 4 and July 22, the county saw between zero and three new COVID-19 cases per day. The numbers began to increase after July 22. Ithaca College has also seen new COVID-19 cases over the past few weeks. The college’s COVID-19 dashboard began updating again July 30 and currently, there are three active student cases. The active cases are one residential student and two off-campus students. There have been eight students who have recovered since July 30.

Ithaca College students began moving in Aug. 10, with

freshmen moving in Aug. 16 and 17 and upperclassmen moving in Aug. 19 and 20. Cornell University students moved in between Aug. 19 and 21.

In a message to the campus community July 30, the college announced that face coverings are required indoors regardless of vaccination status because of the delta variant and a health advisory from the TCHD.

The college previously announced June 9 that masks would not be required for vaccinated individuals when indoors or outdoors.

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College archive closed for fall

BY SYD PIERRE

Bridget Bower, longtime archivist and librarian at Ithaca College, has retired following the elimination of her position. Consequently, the College Archives and Special Collections will be closed during the fall semester.

According to an Intercom post July 5, the College Archives and Special Collections, located in the Ithaca College Library, now has around 2,500 boxes and at least 200,000 digital objects, including the Rod Serling Archives. Bower was originally hired in 1988 and served as the archivist for 33 years, the post stated.

Bower said she was informed in December 2020 that her position would be reduced in January 2021, meaning she would be relegated to working part-time, only working three days a week. She said she did not enjoy working part-time because while her time was reduced, her work responsibilities did not decrease significantly.

She said that because she disliked working part-time, she targeted March 2022 as the time she would retire, which would give her eight months to organize the archives.

At the end of May 2021, she was told her position would be eliminated, which she said came as a surprise to her. Bower said she had no idea who made the decision.

Hayley Harris, vice president of the Office of Human Resources, said she was not able to provide more information on the situation.

“I’m not going to comment on confidential personnel matters, and that includes sharing information on the status of individual positions,” Harris said via email.

Bower said she thought a longer transition time would have been more beneficial for both the collections and the college.

“What fascinates me is the powers that be — whoever they are — expected that archive services would continue on uninterrupted after I was gone,” Bower said. “Because I worked alone. Who do you think is going to, by osmosis, learn how to find things in the collections and answer stuff? I fear they didn’t actually think through what they were doing.”

Interim librarian Karin Wikoff said the archives will be closed for the fall semester while library staff work to organize it. She said it may reopen with limited access during the spring semester. Wikoff said she submitted a project proposal to the Office of the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs that would provide more funds for current library faculty to take on extra work stabilizing and securing the collection.

“Every unit that you talk to on campus right now will tell you that they are short-staffed, and they will all be telling the truth because as a whole, the institution is eliminating a lot of positions, not just the archivist,” Wikoff said.

Senior Kellie Swensen said they thought that the timing of the decision was concerning, given the recent Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process. The process resulted in the elimination of 116 full-time equivalent (FTE) faculty positions and the Non-Academic Program Prioritization — which involved the examination of administrative, operational and staff functions at the college — has resulted in a number of administrative and staff eliminations.

“The history of this institution that is currently still in the making isn’t something that those in power at this institution have any interest in preserving, but I think it is in the best interest of the current and future campus community,” Swensen said via email.

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New adviser selected for two programs

BY OLIVIA STANZL

Shadayvia Wallace is the new program director for both the Martin Luther King Scholar Program (MLK) and First Generation Programs at Ithaca College.

In past years, the two programs were run separately, but Wallace officially took position as the director of both programs Aug. 16 following the departure of RahK Lash, previous director of Center for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Social Change (IDEAS) and former director of the MLK Scholar program in Spring 2020. Each year the college supports 60 total MLK Scholars and hundreds of first-generation students.

The Martin Luther King Scholar Program is a stand-alone program that includes a \$25,000 scholarship. The scholarship program allows students to study civil and human rights and develop case studies in global justice. The college has a number of resources for its first-generation students including a residential learning community, a pre-semester program and the First Generation Organization, which provides first-generation students with news, opportunities and events. During the 2020–21 academic year, over 600 first-generation students were enrolled at the college.

Wallace spent the previous four years at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, New York where she was the Program Coordinator for the Office of Inclusive Excellence and Global Education, after serving as Area Director. After earning a B.A. in Political Science and History and a minor in communication from



Shadayvia Wallace has been named the new director for both the First-Generation Programs and the Martin Luther King Scholar Program at Ithaca College. She took the position Aug. 16.

ASH BAILOTT/THE ITHACAN

Keuka College, Wallace received her M.S. from Syracuse University.

“All of my experiences shaped my desire to be in a career that was in service for others,” Wallace said via email. “Higher education just became that vessel for me.”

Hierald Osorto, executive director for Student Equity and Belonging and Religious and Spiritual Life, led the search process for the Program Director position. Osorto said the college believes first-generation students and Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) students will receive the increased attention that they deserve if the departments are run by the same director.

“First Gen and BIPOC students have important stories to tell, and her hard work and track record make me confident that she will honor her students’ experiences,” Osorto said via email.

Senior Olivia Carpenter, who has been a part of the MLK Scholar program since her freshman year at the college, said she hopes Wallace will bring positive change to the program.

“I would like to see the program itself become more active again,” Carpenter said.

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FROM COLLADO, PAGE 1

In 2018, Collado received backlash and support from the college community following news that she pleaded no contest to a sexual abuse charge in 2001.

Suna said she started questioning the Board of Trustees’ decision to appoint Collado and said she hopes the search for the next president is not closed. She stressed that students, faculty and staff need to be involved.

“If more people had the opportunity to hear about Collado’s story, I don’t think she would’ve been put in, I don’t think the faculty would’ve allowed that,” she said.

During her time at the college, Collado created and began implementing the five-year strategic plan, Ithaca Forever, which includes plans for building off-campus relations, increasing endowment while lowering the cost of attendance and investing in college employees.

Recently, Collado received backlash in response to the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process which included the elimination of 116 full-time equivalent (FTE) faculty positions and 26 departments, programs and majors.

As part of the final process of implementing the APP, Collado and Cornish approved the recommendation for the cuts.

Campus community members held multiple protests in response to the cuts, some where they specifically voiced their dissatisfaction with Collado.

The College Community Responds

Ithaca College Alumni Against Austerity (ICAAA) announced Aug. 25 that it is gathering complaints from students, faculty and staff against the Board of Trustees and Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

The group called on the college Aug. 24 to declare financial exigency — a financial crisis that threatens the survival of colleges or universities and allows colleges and universities to lay off tenured faculty members.

The ICAAA launched a complaint portal to allow campus community members to provide evidence regarding the college’s alleged fiscal mismanagement, general incompetence or excessive spending by Collado or other members of the SLT.

“Serious questions have arisen as to whether the Board of Trustees should have acted sooner to remove former President Collado from her position (or even hire her in the first place) given the fiscal state of the college, Collado’s compensation package, allegations of

intimidation and retaliation and her criminal history,” the statement said.

IC Alumni Against Austerity stated it would use the complaints to determine if there is sufficient evidence to file a complaint with the Charities Bureau of the New York State Office of the Attorney General.

The college announced Collado’s departure on Instagram on July 8. The post received over 200 comments from college community members expressing their thoughts on Collado leaving.

User @christinaespo commented “she really let go of 116 faculty as her last power move ... PEACE OUT hurricane Shirley.”

Another user @katiemarie.icdc commented, saying “Hurts to think that she used IC as a resume-builder and won’t have to stick around to deal with the fallout of cutting ¼ of our faculty and programs.”

The Open the Books (OTB) coalition began during the 2020–21 academic year in response to the APP process. OTB said in a statement to The Ithacan that the group has many different feelings about Collado’s departure.

“We are aware that the problems at Ithaca College did not come nor leave with President Collado,” the statement said. “However, many feel like our school and community have been treated as mere collateral damage on a quest for profit.”

During the 2020–21 academic year, Collado and other administrators said they took a salary reduction.

However, the amount was not publicly announced and Collado did not disclose her salary reduction despite multiple requests from *The Ithacan*.

Junior Anna Nicchitta said she has heard students say that Collado is not completely to blame for the faculty and program cuts, but that she still made unfavorable choices.

“When that’s the closest thing I’ve heard to a real positive review of her is that not everything’s entirely her fault, it doesn’t come off great for her,” Nicchitta said.

Junior Surina Belk-Gupta also commented on the college’s Instagram post expressing how the position of Ithaca College President seems to change leaders often.

“I just got the idea from the student body that she wasn’t particularly welcome or beloved here and so I wasn’t shocked that she was leaving,” she said. “I kind of feel a little bit of pity for the next person that has this job because they’re kind of coming into a school that’s in a state of chaos.”

The Board of Trustees said in its announcement that Collado was a strong leader during



La Jerne Cornish, provost and executive vice president, at Fall 2021 convocation. Cornish will be stepping up as interim president effective Aug. 30 while a search for the next president starts.

ALYSSA BEEBE/THE ITHACAN

the finalization of the APP.

“In accepting the Shape of the College plan and beginning the implementation of its recommendations, she has set the college on a path to a sustainable future that is both bold and realistic,” the message said.

The Student Governance Council (SGC) posted a statement on its Instagram after Collado’s announcement. In the statement, the SGC wished Collado luck and said it is looking forward to working with Cornish.

In a statement to *The Ithacan*, members of the Faculty Council Executive Committee (FCEC) said that while they do not speak for all faculty, they feel like Collado was able to bring more awareness to inclusion, diversity and equity matters on campus.

“We must, in good faith, take actions to heal our community from the exhaustion and isolation we have faced,” the statement said. “We must lift one another up and embrace our differences.”

The statement said the Faculty Council is looking forward to the upcoming presidential search.

Rick Seltzer, a former writer for Inside Higher Ed, wrote an article titled “Who Leads Colleges After COVID-19?” that stresses the importance of college presidents during the post-COVID operation of institutions.

Seltzer said via email that presidents need to work with other administrators to create ways to move their schools forward.

“Leadership is critical in times of change,

especially at colleges and universities, where the tradition of shared governance means that faculty members and boards of trustees have some input into decisions,” he said via email. “It’s especially hard because the three parties in shared governance — faculty members, administrators and board members — don’t always agree on how much input they should each have.”

Next Steps

After Rochon’s resignation, the college announced that the presidential search would be open and include public meetings with candidates.

However, the Ithaca College Presidential Search Committee later announced that final candidates would not be brought to campus for public meetings.

The Board of Trustees has not announced whether the search for the college’s tenth president will be open or closed like the search for Collado was.

Belk-Gupta said she thinks it would be beneficial to have students and faculty involved in the search.

“I also just hope that the next president is very aware of the situation that they’re coming into and brave enough and adept enough to take it on, because I don’t think that is an easy job and it’s going to just get harder and harder,” Belk-Gupta said.

OTB said in its statement that the search for a new president could be an opportunity for the college to embody inclusivity and transparency.

“We also see this as a potential opportunity for the administration and the Board of Trustees to truly begin considering the input of the entire Ithaca College community in their decisions, including students, alumni, faculty and staff,” the statement said.

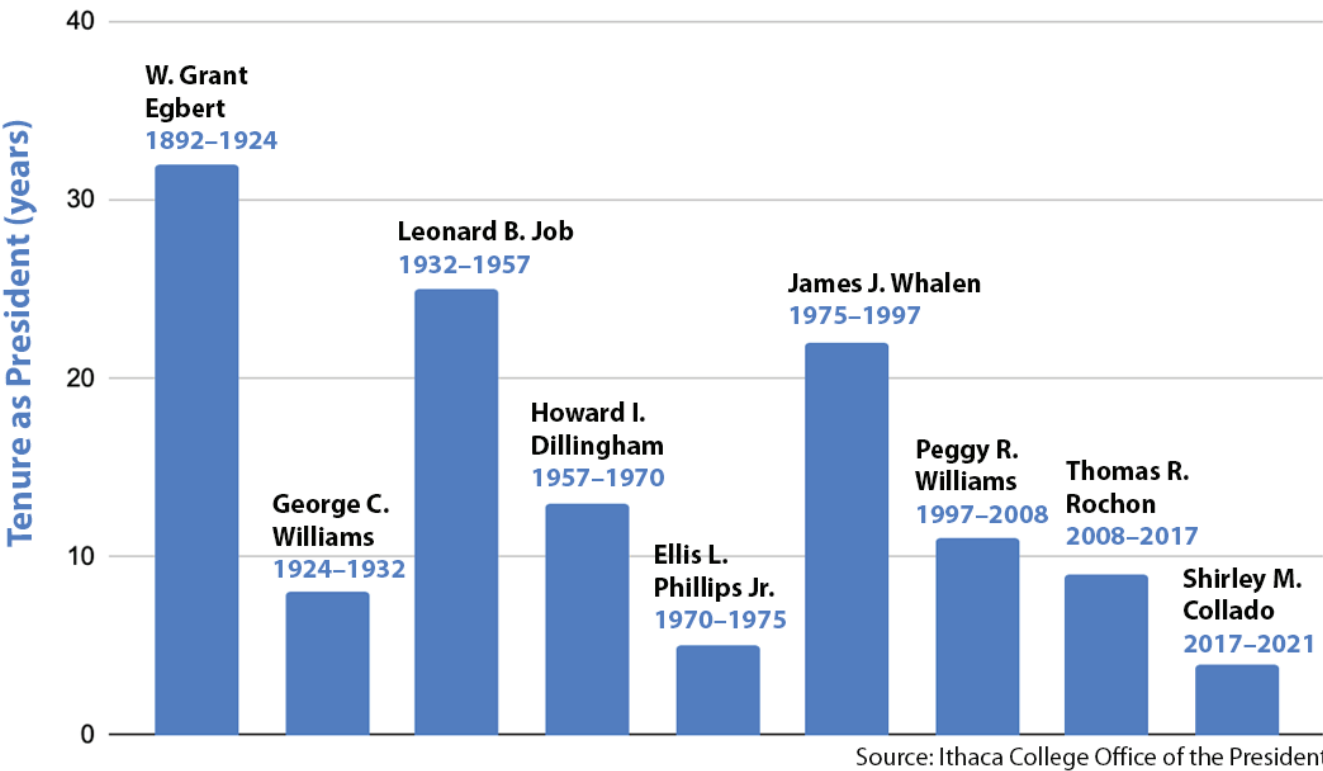
Tom Pfaff, professor and chair of the Department of Mathematics, said he hopes to see the college stabilize financially and enrollment-wise over the next few years. He said he would like to see a new president that thinks more collaboratively.

“It’s not just to me a matter of shared governance, that you follow the bylaws, but you actively seek out differing opinions that you engage people that disagree with you, you really try to find out what’s the best way to move forward,” Pfaff said.

He said presidential searches and changes in administration can take a while but he is hopeful that there will be positive change.

“Hopefully over that time we can kind of tread waters successfully and be in a better place,” he said.

Tenure of Ithaca College Presidents



Bus shelter to be built outside Park

BY SYD PIERRE AND
FRANKIE WALLS

Ithaca College is planning to install a bus shelter outside of Roy H. Park Hall this fall.

The college currently has a bus shelter near the Peggy Ryan Williams Center (PRW), but after receiving student feedback, decided to install another shelter outside of Park Hall. Tim Carey, associate vice president for the Office of Facilities, said he received a request for the bus shelter from junior Deontae Guy, president of the Student Governance Council (SGC).

Guy said he had attended an event hosted by the Tompkins County Area Transit (TCAT) that was focused on transportation for college students, including students at Cornell University and Ithaca College.

“Some academic buildings have the privilege of the first set of doors being open, and then the second doors being locked [on the weekends], but Park is just locked all the way around,” Guy said. “So it makes more sense that when it’s snowing, or when it’s raining and if a student doesn’t have an umbrella does have a jacket, whatever it is, for them to be under a bus shelter, right outside Park.”

The average lowest temperature in Ithaca is 37 degrees and the average annual snowfall is 65 inches, according to U.S. Climate Data. Inclement



Ithaca College plans to install a bus shelter outside of Roy. H Park Hall after receiving requests from students. The shelter is slated to be finished during the fall semester.

ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN

weather has forced buildings on campus to close and disrupted students’ transportation in past academic years.

Guy said Carey proposed keeping the current bus shelter near PRW and building an entirely new bus shelter outside of the Park School.

“Following a few conversations with Guy, it was determined that the project made great sense for our students, so I included it in the FY22 capital budget,” Carey said via email.

During its May meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the recommended \$198.4 million operating expense budget for the 2021–22 fiscal year. The board

also approved a \$8.86 million capital budget, which includes \$2.75 million for deferred maintenance projects, \$1.2 million for IT upgrades and \$1 million for residence hall upgrades.

Carey said he had expected the project to be complete prior to the beginning of the fall semester, but it was delayed due to a nation-wide backlog on construction materials, as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

“Once the building materials are received, the IC Maintenance team will construct the shelter,” Carey said via email. “Although I cannot provide a firm estimated date of completion, we are hoping to have the project

concluded sometime this fall.”

Junior Natalie Tribiano said she thought the bus shelter was a great idea because it would protect students against rain and snow.

“It kind of sucks to sit out and get soaked,” she said. “And then you have to wait. I think it would look really cute.”

She said that when she was a freshman, she would get confused about the different times and locations of the bus system, so she would like to see a larger sign on the new bus shelter as well.

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VACCINE, PAGE 1

Newcomb said expulsion could be a possible, but uncommon, outcome.

Students who are fully vaccinated and have submitted their vaccine card and continue to fill out the Daily Health Screening do not need to participate in surveillance testing, but are required to wear masks indoors. Students who are not fully vaccinated need to participate in weekly COVID-19 surveillance testing and are required to wear masks at all times indoors and outdoors when social distancing cannot be maintained.

Newcomb said students who fail to comply with testing requirements, wearing a face covering — whether vaccinated or not — or any other health and safety guidelines may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

“In addition, if students are concerned that a student who is not vaccinated is not following safety precautions, they can submit the Community Agreement Reporting Form,” she said via email.

Freshman Lauren Sieber said she is fully vaccinated and feels safer knowing that the majority of the campus population is vaccinated.

“As long as they’re wearing a mask and keeping a distance and they’re not having any symptoms, I don’t mind it,” Sieber said.

Stewart Auyash, associate professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Physical Education, said he is a proponent of the vaccine mandate for students, but noted that there are inequities surrounding the distribution of the vaccine.

“If some students do not have access to the vaccine for whatever reason, I think [the



Ithaca College students were required to be vaccinated for COVID-19 to return to campus for Fall 2021. Currently, 99% of all students are fully vaccinated.

ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN

college] should provide it free of charge,” Auyash said via email.

Faculty and staff at the college are not required to be vaccinated. The college’s website states that it strongly encourages faculty and staff to be fully vaccinated. Swarts said 78% of faculty and staff are fully vaccinated as of Aug. 24. He said the college has received feedback from families regarding the lack of a vaccine mandate for faculty and staff.

“We continue to monitor the situation and take under consideration potential vaccination requirements that may happen in the future,” Swarts said via email.

An Aug. 23 Intercom post stated that all college employees working on campus during the fall semester are required to

provide proof of vaccination or undergo mandatory surveillance testing once per week. The Pfizer vaccine was the first COVID-19 to be approved by the FDA on Aug. 23. Senior Sophie Denton said she thinks faculty and staff should be required to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

“A friend of mine recently had a class canceled today because the professor had COVID,” Denton said. “So I just think that if it’s required for us, it should be required for the professors as well.”

According to the college’s COVID-19 dashboard, as of Aug. 25, there is one off-campus student case and two total employee cases.

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ABROAD, PAGE 1

are currently running at some capacity, but the remaining third are still suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Junior Irena Rosenberg arrived in Seoul, South Korea on Aug. 14 as an exchange student and is in the middle of her required two-week quarantine. She said she originally wanted to study in Singapore, but the program is not offered this semester.

Rosenberg said social distancing and reduced class sizes are in effect and people are wearing masks. This is not surprising because mask-wearing is a social norm in East Asian countries, for health and safety — even just for the common cold, Rosenberg said.

“So far, I do think it is pretty strict of what we’ll be going into once we’re released from quarantine,” she said. “COVID-19 definitely hasn’t let up over here, but it’s still workable and I’m just glad to even be going abroad.”

Senior Laura Koch is also currently at the ICLA center. She studied in Spain this past summer but said her original plan was to go to Spain in summer 2020 so that both programs she wanted to do were not back-to-back.

“It was still worth going [to Spain] even with the setback of COVID-19,” she said. “If anything, looking at it on the positive side, it kind of added to the uniqueness in a way and it will almost be more memorable because it was during a pandemic.”

Koch said she was more nervous about traveling to LA rather than Spain because the Delta variant was starting to spread in Spain closer to the end of her stay, compared to the variant’s current hold on LA County, which reached over 25,000 fatalities as of Aug. 19, according to the Los Angeles Times.

“I’ve been hearing a lot of stories, even people I know who are vaccinated and still got COVID-19 — I’m assuming from delta — so that makes me a little more nervous,” she said.

There were 78 students who arrived in LA on Aug. 18 and were tested for COVID-19 upon arrival, Stephen Tropiano, professor and director of the JB Pendleton Center in LA, said. Out of the 78 students, 20 are recent graduates of the college who had planned to study at the center in summer 2020, but were delayed by the pandemic and are now doing one-credit internships, he said.

Tropiano said his main concern in reopening the program was that students would be able to stay safe and healthy. He said masks are required indoors, in alignment with the policy at the college’s Ithaca campus.

“I didn’t know how well it would work out, but it definitely was easier to do because a lot of time has gone by and students have been living with the pandemic for a while,” he said.

There are 36 students at the ICLC who will be tested twice a week until September when the need for testing will be reassessed by the British government, Gould said. She said traveling to different countries at this time is very complex due to quarantine regulations.

“We are limiting travel, both the travel that we organize, as well as independent travel that students do,” said Gould. “They are limited to keeping their travel to within England for right now — just England, not the whole of the U.K.”

Junior Cali Trainor said she is currently at the ICLC and said she is nervous but feels relatively safe because the program has similar COVID-19 protocols in place as the Ithaca campus did last semester, with plans for limited class sizes, social distancing, testing and quarantining.

“I actually got my third vaccine dose the day before coming here, it had just been approved, and I just wanted to have every protection possible,” Trainor said.

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COLLEGE BRIEFS

Ithaca College OT and PT clinic open to requests for semester

The Ithaca College Occupational Therapy (OT)/Physical Therapy (PT) Clinic is now taking requests for OT and PT services.

Those who are interested and would like to be put on the waitlist for scheduling, please contact the clinic at chs401@ithaca.edu for a screening form.

The clinic hours – which are subject to change – are: 10 a.m.–12 p.m. for physical therapy and 2:30–6 p.m. for pediatric occupational therapy on Mondays. The clinic is open 9:30–11 a.m. for occupational therapy, 10 a.m.–noon for physical therapy, 1–3 p.m. for physical therapy and 4–5 p.m. for occupational therapy on Tuesdays. It runs 9–10:30 a.m. for occupational therapy, 10 a.m.– noon, 1–3 p.m. and 5–7 p.m. for physical therapy on Wednesdays. The clinic is open 9–10:30 a.m. for occupational therapy, 10 a.m.–noon and 1–5 p.m. for physical therapy on Thursdays. Additionally, it is open 4–5:30 p.m. for pediatric physical therapy for only Block 2 and 4–5:30 p.m. for occupational therapy on Thursdays. The clinic runs 10 a.m.–noon for physical therapy on Fridays.

Tutoring services to be renamed and reconfigured immediately

Effective immediately, Tutoring Services will be renamed Tutoring and Academic Enrichment Services (TAES). TAES will continue to offer Learning Coach support for students who need tutoring in first and second year prerequisites to majors and select high needs courses.

The new office configuration will also include the Peer Success Coaching program, Tau Sigma Honor Society, and other academic and life skills resources to support persistence in college.

Food pantry seeks new helpers and donations for fall semester

The on-campus food pantry, located in the DeMotte room in the Campus Center, is available to faculty, staff and students. The pantry is open from 12:15 to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 4 to 6 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The on-campus food pantry is a permanent location on campus which stores food and grocery items, personal care products, household paper products, dairy products, frozen foods and some fresh produce.

All members of the campus community can utilize the pantry by stopping by during open hours. Shoppers need to bring their college ID with them. They will be asked to check in once they arrive and then will be able to shop.

Shoppers are limited to one bag of food per visit, but can visit as often as they need to in order to provide for their needs. Shoppers should bring their own reusable grocery bag because limited plastic bags are available.

The pantry will remain open as long as volunteers are able to help during the scheduled open times. Faculty, staff and students are invited to volunteer by signing up online.

Volunteers must be vaccinated against COVID-19 because of the small space and close proximity that they will have with those using the space.

The food pantry is also accepting donations of non-perishable items. Donations that are clean, unopened and unexpired can be left at the Information Desk.

Full-time faculty propose ideas for academic grants and funds

Proposals are due by noon Sept. 15 for the Instructional Development Fund. The fund encourages faculty members to respond to a variety of academic needs and grants are available to all continuing full-time faculty.

Funds can be put toward updating teaching skills, cultivating expertise, developing materials and resources and increasing diversity in curriculums.

Title IX office needs volunteers for advisers or board members

The Title IX office is seeking volunteers to serve as college trained advisers or board members for cases of sexual misconduct on campus.

College trained advisers are part of a pool of college employees made available, through the Title IX office, to complainants and respondents as they go through the investigative and student conduct processes.

Board members will be called upon for conduct review boards to review all evidence collected during an investigation and presented by complainants and respondents during the hearing and present a finding based on the evidence.

Comprehensive training will be offered virtually. The online training will be completed, independently, by Sept. 20 to be followed by a Skill Building Workshop Sept. 22 and Mock Conduct Review Board Sept. 23, with staff from Title IX, Student Conduct and Community Standards, the Office of the College Counsel and the Tompkins County Advocacy Center.

College employees to be tested or fully vaccinated for COVID-19

All Ithaca College employees working on campus during the upcoming semester are required



Students slide into start of fall semester

Freshman Holly Geyer slides down an obstacle course at Fall Fest on Aug. 21. As part of Fall Welcome and freshman orientation, which was hosted by the Office of New Student and Transition Programs, Fall Fest was held in the Athletics and Events Center.

ALYSSA BEEBE/THE ITHACAN

to either provide proof of vaccination or undergo mandatory surveillance testing once per week in order to access campus, regardless of frequency. Employees who are unvaccinated or have not submitted vaccine documentation to the Office of Human Resources must complete this testing at the Cayuga Health System test site located at the Shops at Ithaca Mall. Employees who want to request an exemption due to medical reasons or sincerely held religious beliefs should contact their HR Business Partner.

Study abroad office to provide advising sessions for students

The Department of International Programs and Extended Studies is offering study abroad information sessions and drop-in advising sessions for students.

The department will be holding in-person and online information sessions about the Ithaca College London Center, study abroad basics and study abroad drop-in advising sessions.

The sessions will discuss applying for programs, housing, academics, internships and planning study abroad semesters.

The information sessions about study abroad basics will provide a comprehensive overview of all of the study abroad possibilities available to students.

Intended for those who are just at the beginning stages of study abroad planning, they will discuss how to best plan for study abroad, explain key terminology and types of programs available, talk about what to consider when choosing a program and how to plan for the financial side of students' study abroad experience.

A study abroad adviser will hold open office hours Sept. 23 and 28 over Zoom for students to ask study-abroad related questions.

Sociology department to offer special topics course on policy

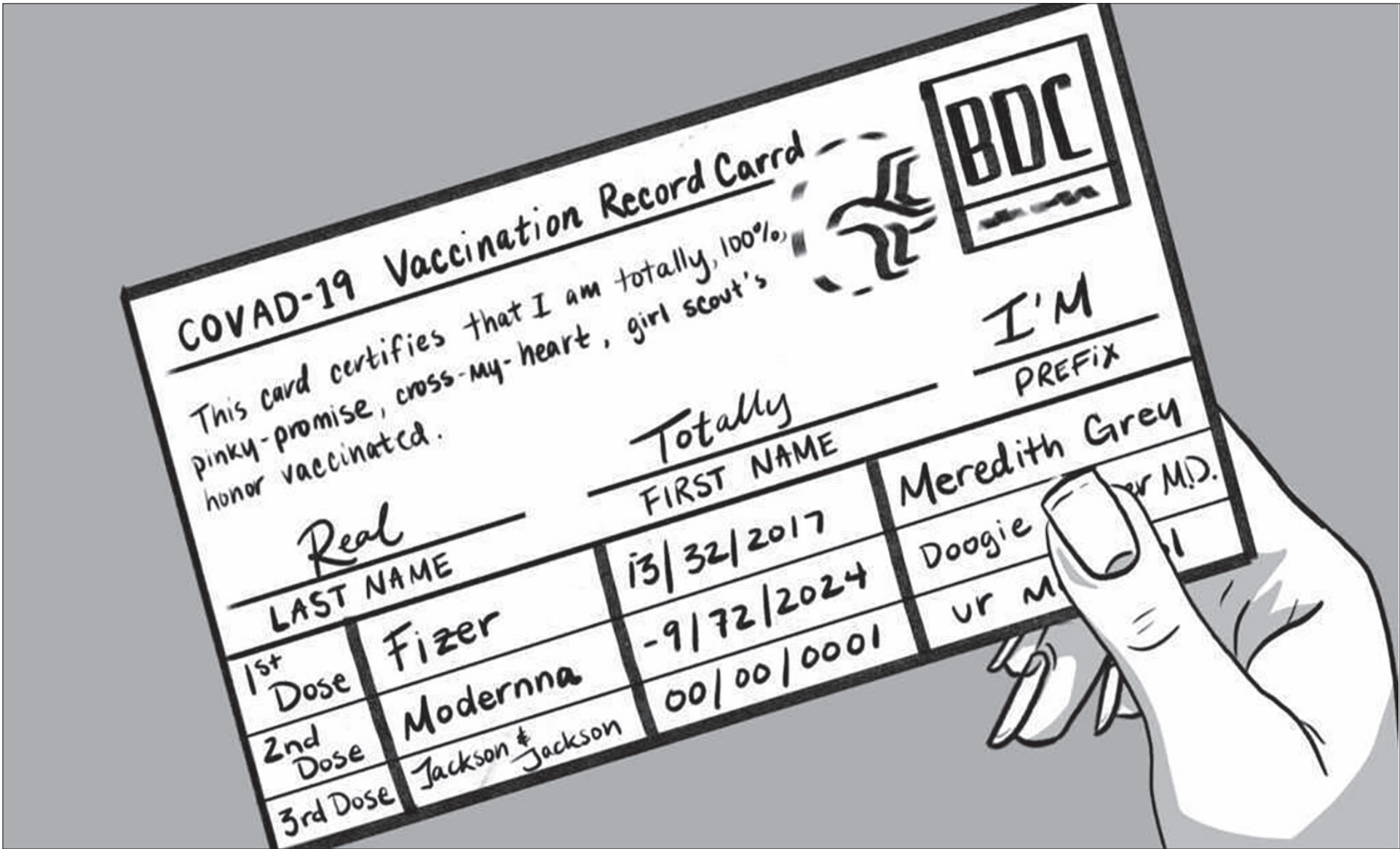
The sociology department will offer a special topics course focused on U.S policy, social policy and social justice.

The course is offered from 4:00 to 5:15 on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Friends Hall in Room 306.

College will resume partnership with Longview for fall semester

The partnership between Ithaca College and Longview promotes intergenerational living and learning. The partnership will resume for Fall 2021, after being put on hold due to COVID-19. Guidelines have been implemented to promote the safety and wellness for all. Longview visitors must be vaccinated.

SUMMER NEWS
ROUND UP
FIND IT ONLINE!



MOLLY STANTON/THE ITHACAN

EDITORIALS

Campus community should be fully vaccinated

For the fall semester, Ithaca College has chosen to not implement the majority of the COVID-19 regulations that were in place during the previous year. In closed spaces, unless alone or eating, masks are required. Even with this bit of normalcy, the delta variant remains a concern for the Ithaca community as positive cases continue to go up.

Each student, staff and faculty member at the college has a responsibility, not just to themselves but to the rest of the community, to get vaccinated. Although students are required to be vaccinated, it remains optional for faculty and staff. Unlike the students, faculty and staff are allowed on campus without the requirement of getting the vaccine, but must show proof of a negative COVID-19 test. This double standard is a risk for the entire campus.

For the sake of the entire community, it is unrealistic to trust that each unvaccinated student will adhere to wearing masks outside

when those around them will not be wearing one. The same expectation should be put on faculty and staff.

In the few instances where students have submitted false information about their vaccination cards, the risk this places on the whole community — on campus and in the surrounding area — is enraging. This puts the stability of the entire campus and the health of every individual on the line. It is selfish to refuse to get vaccinated or to attempt to falsify a vaccination card. This is not about one individual, this is about every member of the college.

Unless there are specific instances of medical and religious exceptions, every single person should be vaccinated. While most people are vaccinated and may experience minor symptoms, the increase and spread of cases may force the whole community to go back to hybrid mode and, in the worst-case scenario, go back to remote learning. As a community, we must assume responsibility for ourselves and each other and get vaccinated.

Open president search crucial for transparency

At the end of August, Ithaca College President Shirley M. Collado will be stepping down as president and assuming the role of advisor to the interim president and the Ithaca College Board of Trustees.

In its message to the campus community, the board of trustees said it would take the academic year to decide the best path for finding a new president. For the sake of the college community's strained relationship with the administration and the board of trustees, it is necessary that the search for the next president of the college be transparent.

An open search allows the faculty, students, staff and alumni to have an opinion on who their next president will be. The candidates are reviewed and evaluated publicly — they travel to campus and present their vision to the college community.

Allowing students and faculty to make their own educated decisions on the next president based on their previous endeavors and goals

for the college will heal the community.

History will continue to repeat itself if the board of trustees and the administration refuse to acknowledge the extent of the damage that needs repair.

Last academic year, tensions between the SLT and members of the campus community ran high. Holding an open and transparent search can serve as a start to repairing this fraught relationship.

Following former president Tom Rochon's resignation, the college announced the members for the search committee and began an open search for its new president.

Not long after, it went back on its promise and the search was closed. If the search for Collado had been open, the campus community would have been made aware of Collado's personal and professional history.

If the board chooses to keep the search closed it will only further alienate the entirety of the administration from the rest of the college community.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send to ithacan@ithaca.edu.

ALL LETTERS MUST:

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

GUEST COMMENTARY

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

Sophomore excited for first year on campus

BY OLIVIA CELENZA

Editor's Note: This is a guest commentary. The opinions expressed in this piece do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial board.

"When you get to college..." is a sentiment that has constantly bombarded my mind at every waking moment of my life. It eerily reared its ugly head until I found this once faraway fantasy I had always dreamed about, abruptly becoming my not-so-distant reality as every seemingly insignificant moment of my academic career reached its pinnacle. This is it — the moment I had continuously strived for, where all my blood, sweat and tears could finally amount to something greater than myself. Where I can begin to make a name for myself as I navigate the endless twists and turns of college life and take my first hesitant steps into the real world.

But, what happens when I can't? When the world came to a complete standstill, where we — as a global community — could not move past a seemingly unending, terrorizing unknown and could not see any light in the darkness that consumed our world with endless madness? Before my very eyes, I watched my freshman year fade into a long-forgotten memory as it became overshadowed by the plight of the pandemic. What

I had so tirelessly strived for was viciously taken from my grasp and I was forced to make do with the shattered remains.

Due to family circumstances, I found myself spending the entirety of my freshman year exploring the college from the comfort of my own home, surrounded by the same seven people I had already spent the previous year quarantining with ... I continually lost the ability to function in a classroom environment, I saw a drastic change in my ability to focus and I never had a proper way to engage with my peers. To make matters worse, as other current sophomores began arriving on campus for the first time during the spring semester, I felt as if I was being left behind. How would I ever catch up? What more would I have to do in order to achieve my goals? And what exactly did that mean for my future?

However, as an unwavering optimist who refuses to allow the insufferable weight of the world to deter her spirit, I made the best out of the unfortunate circumstances. I found myself connecting with everyone and anyone who happened to have "IC" in their Instagram bio and joining clubs and organizations that interested me



Sophomore Olivia Celenza reflects on her experience transitioning from remote classes to in-person class for the first time. She remained optimistic through remote learning and is estatic to be on campus.

ELEANOR KAY/THE ITHACAN

like IC show choir and IC Mixed, and it allowed me to continue pursuing my passions, even if it happened to be through a grainy Zoom screen. There, I was able to foster an Ithaca community of my own and excel in a way I never thought possible while being at home. Now that I'm actually here and am experiencing a college lifestyle for the very first time, everything feels surreal and overwhelming in the best way possible. I haphazardly stumble my way around campus ... and I'm always taken aback by the beautiful, friendly faces I've come to know and love over a computer screen. Yet, there is something beautiful about all the cluttered chaos. I see great potential for this year and cannot wait to properly experience that greatness in real life!

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GUEST COMMENTARY

SGC President welcomes back campus community

BY DEONTAE GUY

Editor's Note: This is a guest commentary. The opinions expressed in this piece do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial board.

Welcome Back, Ithaca College! The Student Governance Council (SGC) is thrilled to see our campus return to its vibrant nature, filled with smiling students, faculty and staff.

The SGC is filled with excitement looking at the academic year ahead of us — a time to re-write the "norm," enhance the student experience and foster a sense of community more true than ever. The SGC is the sole student-governing body for Ithaca College.

We are made up of eager students who want to make IC the best place it can possibly be.

We have an executive board — which many of you voted for last semester — and a handful of senators (who are also voted in) to represent different groups on campus.

We meet regularly from 7 to 9 p.m. on Monday nights in the Taughannock Falls room on the third floor of the Campus Center.

We also have an office in the Student Activities Center, which is also found on the third floor of the Campus Center.

The current SGC executive board, of which I serve as president, campaigned

to revive our campus as a community of wonderful individuals who long to belong again.

This, as we are all aware, will not be an easy task.

Luckily, our executive board is composed of some incredibly intelligent and tenacious individuals who have the best interests of IC in their hearts and I'm incredibly happy with the direction we're headed.

As a team, we've come into this academic year prepared to make the best decisions for our student body — and that means all our students. We want to hear from all of you regarding what you wish to change at Ithaca College.

While we can't promise everything will change, or that it will change quickly, we can at least promise a listening ear and a flame that won't die when we're standing up for our students and what would make IC a better place for them.

Our executive board has spent much of our summer crafting a strategy for achieving our goal of revival.

One of the ways we aim to accomplish this is through clear, concise and transparent communication with our student body and our Senior Leadership Team.

Communication is the foundation of every relationship in our lives and we felt it is even more necessary when discussing



Junior Deontae Guy, president of the Student Governance Council (SGC), writes about his goals to revive the campus community for the upcoming academic year.

COURTESY OF DEONTAE GUY

the relationships built at Ithaca College between students and those who govern our institution. Clear communication leads to a sense of trust built by all parties involved, which is another cornerstone we are aiming to achieve through this academic year.

We all know these past 18 months have been brutal for many of us as we try to navigate a sea of endless changes.

We know trust can be a challenging thing to foster when so much change is upon us, but SGC is ready and committed to bringing trust back to our campus.

Trust, communication and transparency are going to be key to reviving our campus.

In the meantime, we'd love to hear from you. Feel free to reach out to us at sgc@ithaca.edu or stop by our meetings, starting at 7 p.m. August 30 in the Taughannock Falls Room in the Campus Center.

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FACULTY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (FCEC) RESPONSE TO COLLADO’S DEPARTURE

Faculty Council responds to Collado resigning

We write to you as members of the Faculty Council Executive Committee and while we do not claim to speak for all faculty, our supervision over the general affairs of faculty affords us a privileged perspective on President Shirley Collado’s forthcoming departure from Ithaca College. As the first Dominican American to be named president of a four-year college in the U.S. and only the second female president at Ithaca College,

“We must, in good faith, take actions to heal our community from the exhaustion and isolation we have faced.”

—Faculty Council Executive Committee

President Collado leaves our institution having championed values of diversity, equity and inclusion. Our administration and our Board of Trustees is more representative of our society thanks to her leadership and our Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC)

students, faculty and staff have new opportunities to thrive at our primarily white institution.

At the start of her tenure, President Collado was transparent about the college’s finances — issues that she inherited upon her arrival — and she engaged faculty, students and staff in a dynamic process for developing a bold strategic plan so that Ithaca College would thrive “forever.” She brought the BOLD Women’s Leadership Network to Ithaca College and with it, a BOLD Scholar’s program that is now into its fifth cohort. She helped realize our institution’s new physician assistant program that has once again embedded our institution in Downtown Ithaca, better prepared for forging community partnerships and serving the public good.

She was an accessible and available leader who brought warmth and collegiality to campus. She will be missed. We wish her much success in her new position at College Track.

The 2020-2021 AY [academic year] was painful and devastating in unprecedented ways. We have been tested in ways we had not anticipated, at a time when it was difficult to come together as a community. We are, undeniably, at a critical juncture for Ithaca College, regardless of whether one supports or doesn’t support the administration.



The Faculty Council Executive Committee responds to President Shirley M. Collado’s resignation. The committee states that it trusts the Ithaca College Board of Trustees with the upcoming presidential search.

FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

It is no longer sufficient to criticize a course of action. We must, in good faith, take actions to heal our community from the exhaustion and isolation we have faced. We must lift one another up and embrace our differences. Faculty, in particular, are in a position to lead by example by fostering generosity and collegiality and, perhaps most critically, increasing our awareness of and responsibility for the reputation of our college.

We are grateful that Provost and Executive Vice President La Jerne Terry Cornish will be stepping into the role of interim president. The Faculty Council has worked closely with Provost Cornish for the past few years and we are excited at the prospect of our continued collaboration. We are confident in the Board of Trustees to advance candidates for a future presidential search. The Faculty Council looks forward to participating in the presidential search and to the opportunity, in reflection, that such a process will engender.

OPEN THE BOOKS COALITION STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT SHIRLEY DEPARTURE

Open the Books response to Collado stepping down

We at Open The Books have many complicated feelings about President Collado stepping down. We are aware that the problems at Ithaca College did not come nor leave with President Collado, however, many feel like our school and community have been treated as mere collateral damage on a quest for profit.

Now we are left to suffer the consequences while she gets to further her career and avert any kind of responsibility for the harm done.

Evidently, our coalition and its supporters use and understand the word “community” in a vastly different way than those in power at this institution do.

Community is not a buzzword or platitude to us — a commitment to the community must be demonstrated through action. However, we also see this as a potential opportunity for the administration and the Board of Trustees to truly begin considering the input of the entire Ithaca College community in their decisions including students, alumni, faculty and staff.

We hope that the college will seize this opportunity to embody a few of the principles that are constantly touted as central to this institution: shared governance, transparency, inclusivity and collaboration.

The people of Ithaca College deserve a role in selecting our leaders and to be



The Open the Books coalition is made up of students, faculty, staff and alumni who are calling for financial transparency from the administration and Board of Trustees.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

part of an academic environment that truly serves everyone, not just the higher-ups. Therefore, we are demanding that the search for our next presidential candidate be an open one. No more closed doors and no more smoke screens.

CORRECTIONS

The annual Downtown Summer Concert Series returns to Ithaca

Community celebrates the return of live music on The Commons.

Tompkins County-based band Plastic Nebraska plays for a crowd of approximately 250 people Aug. 12 at the Bernie Milton Pavilion on The Commons. The Downtown Summer Concert Series, which began July 8 and will conclude Sept. 9, will feature a total of 10 different local artists. The downtown concert series performances take place weekly on Thursdays.

ELEANOR KAY/THE ITHACAN

BY EVA SALZMAN

Underneath a pink and orange stained sky, the sound of laughter echoes through The Commons, all the way up to the Bernie Milton Pavilion. Elderly couples recount their youth while children joyfully run and play, all to the soundtrack of live outdoor music.

Every Thursday night from July 8 to Sept. 9, the old bohemian souls, the hip, teenage youth and carefree children of Ithaca come together to share a night of music, dancing and fun. The CFCU Downtown Summer Concert series has returned to the Bernie Milton Pavilion for weekly performances, in person. While Fall Creek Brass Band had a performance on The Commons for “Make Music Day” on June 21, the concert series set the tone for other live performances this summer. The series has featured several local artists like Noon Fifteen, Fall Creek Brass Band, Plastic Nebraska, Empire Kings and Gunpoets, which play a range of different music genres, from alternative reggae to funk-blues to rock.

Darlene Wilber, the Downtown Ithaca’s communications and grants development director, said the performances usually feature artists from all over the country. This year, Wilber said the organizers of the series wanted

to highlight local artists.

“We understood that they also took a hit,” Wilber said. “No one was able to perform the previous year and they lost a lot of paid gigs, so we wanted to help support them.”

The Downtown Summer Concert Series marked the first in-person community reunion, but performances at other venues, like the Sugar Hollow Music Festival at Hopshire Farm & Brewery and Firelight Live at Firelight Camps are scheduled to take place in August and September.

The band Gunpoets has performed at the concert series many times before and will be returning to perform Sept. 9. Frontman Daniel Lisbe said that the series provides support for the local music scene.

“We’ve been playing for over a decade and it has never once disappointed,” Lisbe said. “The support that the music scene gets from both local businesses and the community as a whole means so much to artists like us. It really makes all the difference.”

Before the majority of Ithaca was vaccinated, the COVID-19 pandemic sucked the life out of the community. The vital events that tied its people together were now a health hazard. One of Ithaca’s most popular fall events — Apple Harvest Festival, or Apple Fest — was

shrunk down to a smaller event called Apple Festive. Although this fall, Apple Fest may return, the occurrence of Ithaca’s annual fall events is up in the air because of Tompkins County’s increasing rate of delta variant transmission. Most recently, a community favorite event, Porchfest, the annual music festival on the porches of the Fall Creek & Northside neighborhoods of Ithaca was canceled Aug. 19.

Wilber said the planning process for this summer’s concert series was much more complicated than in previous years. Her team had to adapt the concert format as the state guidelines changed. Wilber said that her team was not sure if it would

be able to put together an in-person concert series or if it would have to hold it virtually like in 2020. However, as restrictions were lifted, they found a solution.

“When we are trying to figure out whether to go live or virtual or a combination of the two, we decided to go with a combination,” Wilber said. “We do have the live shows at the Bernie Milton every Thursday, but we also record them through Park Productions. So people can catch the show if they can’t attend on the Thursday shows.”

Junior Michael Brindisi is working for Park Productions to record the concert series. Brindisi and the rest of the production team that record the performances attend each Thursday night show to record the bands live. He said that the concert series organizers are great to work with.

“Everybody’s taking it very seriously, but at the same time, it’s a really fun atmosphere,” Brindisi said. “It’s been a great experience, [they’re] very passionate about the locals and the music scene, which is always great.”

Brindisi also said that filming live performances gives the students in Park Productions the freedom to get creative with their shots and that the performing artists often use the footage that the production crew captures for promotional material.

“A lot of the bands are just super psyched to be performing again,” Brindisi said. “But also ... getting footage, as [high] quality as Park Production supplies ... is hard to come by. So a lot of them are just super psyched ... all parties involved, really allow us to let our

creative juices flow and try different camera angles. So that makes it a lot more fun as well.”

Wilber said the concert series has something for everyone, offering an array of different activities along with watching the performances. There is a beer garden for adults over the age of 21, cornhole games and a balloon animal artist for children who attend the performances.

“It’s like a nice community party,” Wilber said. “We were separated, and in isolation for so long, to be able to bring the community back together, and to celebrate local music ... it’s definitely a really great year for this.”

Tompkins County-based band Plastic Nebraska performed at the concert series Aug. 12. Though the band has been performing in Ithaca for a while now, drummer Brian Dulda said that this was the band’s first live performance since July 2019.

“We’ve performed in Ithaca for years, at every venue and festival in the area,” Dulda said via email. “But this was our first [live performance] since July of 2019! It was wonderful to perform for a crowd again.”

Dulda said the band was unsure what its first performance back would be like, but was pleased with the turnout the set received.

“We didn’t know what to expect, especially with the forecast, but we were pleasantly surprised with the turnout,” Dulda said via email. “And it was a HOT day. I feel like we fed off the energy of the crowd, and that is always nice.”

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Phil Shay, drummer and vocalist for the band Noon Fifteen, plays Aug. 19 for a crowd of approximately 200 on The Commons.

ELEANOR KAY/THE ITHACAN



Harry Nichols, bassist and vocalist for local band Noon Fifteen performs Aug. 19 at the Bernie Milton Pavilion on The Commons as a part of the Downtown Summer Concert Series.

ELEANOR KAY/THE ITHACAN



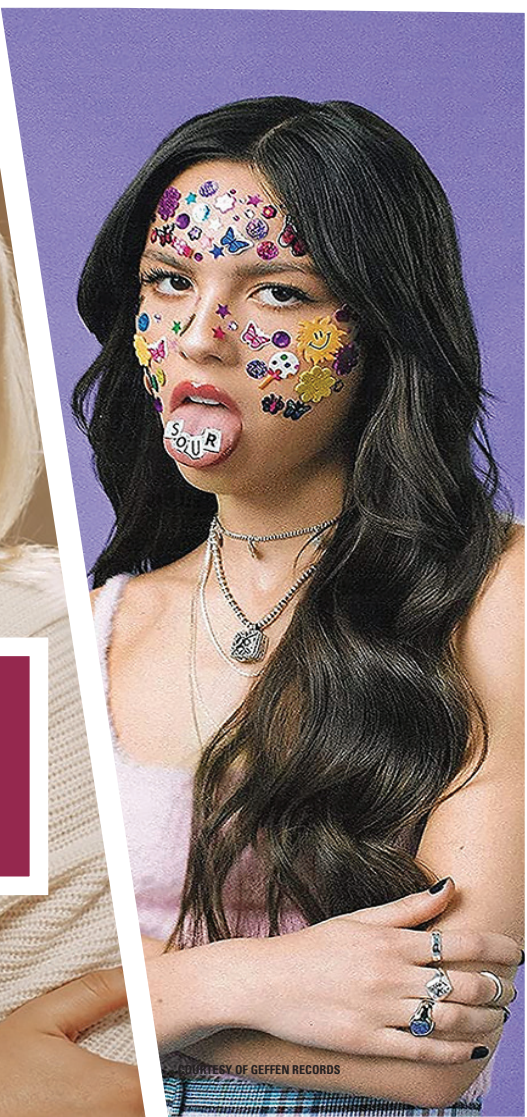
COURTESY OF MARVEL STUDIOS



COURTESY OF PIXAR



COURTESY OF DARKROOM INTERSCOPE



COURTESY OF GEFEN RECORDS

SUMMER RELEASES
REVIEWED

“Black Widow”



BY SYDNEY BRUMFIELD

With witty dialogue, captivating visuals and intense action sequences, “Black Widow” is the closest thing to an origin story the hero has received. After years of Natasha being an oversexualized, one-dimensional character throughout the Marvel Cinematic Universe film series, director Cate Shortland transforms her into the fully-formed, badass woman that fans know and love from the comics.

While on the run from the U.S. government, Natasha Romanoff, or Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson), is forced to confront her past in order to take down The Red Room, a heinous organization that abducts young girls and trains them to become assassins. “Black Widow” is

fast-paced, keeping viewers entranced in Natasha’s fight for vengeance.

Yelena Belova (Florence Pugh) and Alexei, or the Red Guardian (David Harbour), steal the show as two iconic anti-heroes. Both actors find moments to express their characters’ tenderness, while later being able to deliver electrifying one-liners in fight sequences.

Both actors are the backbone of the film’s self-aware humor because they are walking contradictions that put viewers in stitches. They share an outward disdain for superheroes, but both maintain a childlike glee when offered the chance to do elaborate stunts in battle.

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“Luca”



BY AVERY ALEXANDER

Pixar films like “Toy Story,” “Finding Nemo” and “Monsters Inc.” have a special place in the hearts of millions. This reputation left Pixar’s latest heartwarmer, “Luca,” with some big shoes to fill.

“Luca” provides all of the tear-jerking whimsy that is synonymous with Pixar while also maintaining a refreshing sense of individuality. Much of the movie’s distinctiveness comes from its animation style — “Luca” is visually unlike any other Pixar film. This is all thanks to director Enrico Casarosa who first dipped his toes into Disney with his critically acclaimed Pixar short “La Luna.”

The plot has notable similarities to the classic “The Little Mermaid” — a fish

person longs to live with humans and goes on a journey of self-discovery. However, the characters are so engaging and the setting so enchanting that those similarities are charming, rather than repetitive. The tritagonists Giulia, Alberto and Luca bring a lovely dynamic to the film. They fight for each other and stand together in a way that will make anyone smile.

The Italian culture that is presented throughout the film practically leaps off the screen. It’s enough to make audiences nostalgic for the postwar Italian seaside, even if they have never been to Italy.

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“Happier Than Ever”



BY KHAM AUERBACH

Billie Eilish’s long-awaited album, “Happier Than Ever,” is a step up from what listeners have heard from the young artist before. As Eilish moves away from the dark, gritty sound that her preceding album, “WHEN WE ALL FALL ASLEEP, WHERE DO WE GO?,” was known for, she re-introduces her audience to a stripped, softer style — more similar to her debut EP, “dont smile at me” — but with a mature twist.

The sophomore album features vulnerable, ballad-like songs that reflect the ups and downs of early womanhood in which Eilish shares her feelings about her growth both as an artist and as a woman. She leads into the album with the pulsating first track, “Getting Older” and further builds on this

theme with the track, “my future.”

Listeners also hear Eilish criticize the male gaze that has heavily impacted her entrance into adulthood on tracks like, “Not My Responsibility” and “OverHeated.” She continues to express her bewilderment about misogynistic remarks that she has received in the tear-jerking, “Male Fantasy” and the chorus-filled “GOLDWING.”

While most of the tracks on the album sound lighthearted, they carry a much heavier, sophisticated context when listened to more closely. Displaying immense growth in both ability and emotional intelligence, it is clear this album is only the beginning of the young musician’s career and legacy.

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“SOUR”



BY EMMA KERSTING

Released May 21, Olivia Rodrigo’s debut studio album, “SOUR,” has taken the nation by storm.

Her immensely popular breakout singles are all about heartbreak — “driver’s license” is a tragic break up ballad set to the sounds of car beeps and soft piano, “good 4 u” is a pop-punk inspired call-out to Rodrigo’s ex and “deja vu” is a breathy, stripped indie-pop track detailing memories from her past relationship.

Although many of the songs do focus on relationships, other tracks like “brutal” and “jealousy, jealousy” capture the ever-changing emotions that accompany teen angst and lacking a sense of belonging. The album’s promotional singles found their target audience while growing

to tremendous popularity on the infamous social media app TikTok.

Several TikTok trends emerged when the single, “drivers license,” debuted in January, followed by another wave of trends proceeding the album’s release in May.

“SOUR” is an album that wonderfully encapsulates the highs and lows of teenage life; breakups, toxic relationships and feeling like an outsider.

Rodrigo uses elements of alternative rock and pop-punk in her more upbeat songs, while her more sorrowful, balladry songs follow a slower, soft pop style, using acoustic instruments like guitars and piano.

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IC student works on the set of “A Quiet Place II”

Ithaca College Park School senior Olivia D’Amato spent summer 2019 working as a production assistant on the set of “A Quiet Place Part II.” The movie was set to premiere in March 2020, but because of the COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on the film industry, D’Amato had to keep her work a secret for two years.

Managing Editor Frankie Walls spoke to D’Amato about her experience on set following the new movie’s release.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Frankie Walls: So you had the opportunity to work on “A Quiet Place Part II.” Do you want to talk about how you got that opportunity and where it came from?

Olivia D’Amato: On my tour at Ithaca, my first tour ever ... I ran into this guy I used to know ... and he said, “Hey, what are you doing here? Are you interested in film at all?” I said, “Yeah, that’s actually going to be my major.” So he was like, “Well, if you get to the point you ever would like an internship, just let me know.” He worked at Channel Seven News. So that next summer, I took him up on the opportunity to go work for them. I got this internship and I was working there for a couple of weeks ... There was one day that I couldn’t make it at the time that I was supposed to and ... later that day, I ran into this guy who was going to interview the

people from “A Quiet Place Part II,” at the set of Akron [New York] in my hometown. ... I went with him ... and we walked up to the first assistant director ... I said, “Hi, I’m Olivia D’Amato ... I do film for my major. This is just such an honor to be able to meet you.” He said, “What are you doing with this guy?” I said, “Well, I have an internship with him.” He said, “Well, would you rather have a job?” I said, “Absolutely.” He said they needed production assistants to help out onset for “A Quiet Place [II]” ... I think I blacked out for a second. He was like ... “Here’s my phone number. Shoot me a text ... I got on the set next week.

FW: While you were working on set, what was your favorite part about being a PA?

OD: Probably just the ability to be able to climb the ladder of everything. When I first started, I began at the furthest end of the set way, way down doing a lock-up where I couldn’t even see any of the action, but I worked as hard as possible to be available when a hand was needed. Whether it was running food, or assisting with characters ... by the ... last week I was on set I was actually working as a stand-in. ... There’s a scene where there are these two teenagers under a table and they’re calling their mom in the bar. I ended up standing in for them ... because they forgot to hire a stand-in. I ended up right on set with John Krasinski.

FW: How hard has it been for you



In summer 2019 ,senior Olivia D’Amato worked as a production assistant on the set of “A Quiet Place Part II.” After being delayed for over a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the film was released in May 2021.

COURTESY OF OLIVIA D’AMATO

to keep it hush hush? When you were on set filming, no one really knew what was happening, and all the way up until now ... it’s been like two years in the making.

OD: It was pretty difficult... I felt like if I even said anything,they would ask, “Oh, can you tell us a little bit about it? What was happening? Is John [Krasinski] alive? Or is he not?” ... Even my family was asking me all these questions ... I wasn’t even allowed to say if [Krasinski] was on set at all. So that was pretty

difficult, having met him and not being able to tell my family that I met him.

FW: Do you have a favorite part of being on set?

OD: I think my favorite day was probably like the third or fourth day when I was on set ... one of the producers — his name’s Andrew Sitter — he was ... in charge of all the PAs. He was the one moving me up from different positions, closer and closer to set once he found out what I was

capable of ... My favorite moment was when he said, “Hey, I have a lock-up for you.” ... So he puts me behind this building. ... It turns out, John’s [Krasinski] trailer was right behind this sheet that was there. And that’s where John walked in and out of every time he went through for the scene. ... I was standing back there, and ... somebody said, “Hey, how’s it going?” I turned around, and it was John [Krasinski.]

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Former IC students host showcase for musicians

BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

On July 16, at the State Theatre of Ithaca, eight musicians performed to a nearly empty theater meant to hold 1,600. Ithaca College’s production company South Hill Entertainment put on “The Showcase at the State” with help from Park Productions.

“The Showcase at the State” was a broadcasted recording of three musical acts — Syracuse, New York based band Nonewfriends and solo artists Feyde and Chloe Bee. Although they performed to a limited audience of 25, Park Productions broadcasted the showcase live at the State Theatre by Park Productions and posted on YouTube for others to see.

South Hill Entertainment, a production company run by Ithaca College’s two-year-old MBA in Entertainment & Media Management program, signed the artists. In the first semester of the program, South Hill Entertainment develops TV and entertainment ideas, while the second semester is based around music production. In January 2021, South Hill Entertainment signed the artists and by July, put on its first showcase.

Jake Smith ’20, came into play with his marketing and events background. Smith said that most of the leadup to the event was spent trying to figure out a schedule for the artists to perform.

“They all kind of had a similar vibe with the music, so that worked out really well,” Smith said. “We were hoping to have more, but a lot of the people we reached out to just weren’t

in the area.”

After South Hill Entertainment signed the artists for the performance, Park Productions brought its setup to the State Theater.

“We had a bunch of cameras set up,” Smith said. “We had a bunch of lighting and in the State Theater ticket booths, we had the whole thing set up with these awesome backdrops with posters in there...They were awesome, they knew all this stuff like the back of their hand.”

John Kearny ’20, an organizer of the showcase, said that while Tompkins County has a COVID-19 vaccination rate of nearly 70%, there are still local and state guidelines that South Hill Entertainment had to follow because of the rise of the Delta variant. In the State Theatre, Kearny had to work with an audience cap of 25 people.

“We had pretty strict COVID regulations to follow based on Ithaca and where they wanted the numbers to be at,” Kearny said. “The State was really really helpful in terms of kind of laying that out for us and telling us where we could do stuff.”

Rob Natoli, production manager of the State Theatre, said that while the theater is not yet officially open, the showcase was a way to transition back to live events, which will begin Sept. 17. Throughout the pandemic, the State Theatre has held other events, like the CFCU Summer Concert Series, which occurred virtually in September 2020.

Natoli said that he has collaborated with



On July 16, Ithaca College alumni Jake Smith ’20 and John Kearny ’20 hosted “The Showcase at the State,” at the State Theatre, which featured performances from up-and-coming musicians.

COURTESY OF ITHACA COLLEGE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Park Productions before, and sees the Park Productions staffs’ knowledge around their camera, lighting and stage equipment as a valuable asset to the State Theatre.

“I love working with Park Productions,” Natoli said. “We worked with Park Productions for the downtown concert series last year, we are working with them in the outdoor live concert series this summer just to broadcast to people who aren’t necessarily comfortable to come out to shows yet ... I’m very familiar with the crew, they are very on top of things and they know their gear. ”

Natoli said that he would like to have the State Theatre collaborate again with South Hill Entertainment and Park Productions.

“I’ve worked with Park Productions a lot,” Natoli said. “I still work with them every week ... we’ve got a really great relationship with the Park School and I have no reason to not work with South Hill Entertainment — they really held things together and we had a really nice day.”

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QUICKIES



COURTESY OF RCA RECORDS

“SIERRA NIGHTS (FEAT RYANBEATTY)”
Kevin Abstract/Ryan Beatty, RCA Records

“SIERRA NIGHTS” features the artist’s intentionally autotuned vocals fading in and out in between rewinding sound effects, all over a calming beat. While consistent, Abstract’s style feels stagnant.



COURTESY OF ISLAND RECORDS

“QUIET ON SET”
Remi Wolf, Island Records

“Quiet On Set” is more than a command of attention. It’s a bright, unapologetically loud slew of Gen-Z references all set to a techno synth line and an incredibly danceable beat.



COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL MUSIC

“VISITING HOURS”
Ed Sheeran, Universal Music

With the internet’s hatred for Sheeran, this sappy track won’t win him forgiveness. It’s a classic Sheeran song — cringe-worthy and boring.



COURTESY OF MR. 305 RECORDS

“I FEEL GOOD”
Pitbull/Anthony Watts/DJWS, Mr. 305 Records

The Miami rapper’s lyrics are set to a building dance beat that intensifies before its drop. Collaborating artist Anthony Watts’ passionate vocals enhance the excitement of the verses.

Review: Band drops tragic album

ALBUM REVIEW: “PRESSURE MACHINE”



BY LAURA ILIOAEI

Known for their high-energy, pop-rock sound on songs like “Mr. Brightside” and “Somebody Told Me,” the band The Killers take a darker turn on their latest release, “Pressure Machine.” A semi-autobiographical concept album, lead vocalist Brandon Flowers based the album off of his small childhood hometown of Nephi, Utah.

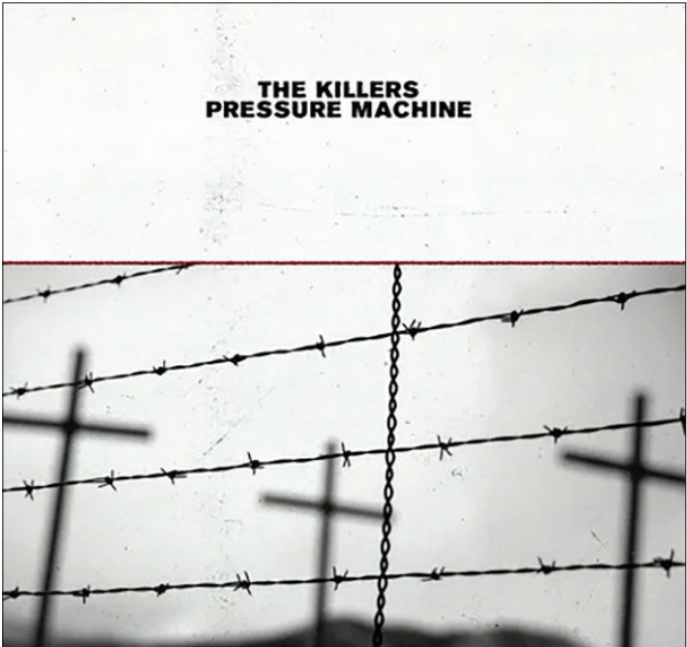
“Pressure Machine” is a mournful series of accounts of a dead-end, broken America through the lens of a corrupted small town and its happenings. Don’t be fooled by the faux idealisms of community closeness and preaching of contorted Christian values that the town tries to encapsulate. The people in it are imploding and can’t even save themselves from their own anguish. It’s an album that people who have grown up in a small town and left when they grew up can relate to.

The somber ballads in “Pressure Machine” are expositions of its themes, utilizing reverberation to aurally illustrate the pain of loneliness. Even the implied sheltered nature of a place like Nephi could not prevent the tragedy of the ongoing opioid crisis from diffusing into the town. The tracks, “West Hills” and “Terrible Thing” detail their protagonists’

lives in isolation — honing in on themes of Nephi’s opioid crisis, homophobia and suicide. The “West Hills” character sings of freedom “in the west hills,” but there will never be freedom for her — neither in a jail cell, nor in her own home nor at the bottom of a bottle of “hillbilly heroin pills.” “Terrible Thing” reveals the suffocation of suffering inescapably in silence. The lyrical imagery in this song is one of the most potent in the entire album. It shows how a young, closeted gay man must battle the suicidal ideation that swirls in his mind as he repeats, “I’m in my bedroom on the verge of a terrible thing.”

Both tracks ache with despair while their lyrics reverberate constantly with a slow drum beat. Coupled with the heavy lyrics and shocking realization of their dark, tragic themes, they are enough to leave a listener swimming in a sea of chills.

The track “Quiet Town” focuses on multiple characters, rather than just one or two tragic protagonists. Piano notes beat like raindrops in a backdrop of the small town’s depressing downpour. The vocals too, are achingly mournful, though the dramatic sadness of the musical accompaniment is only an enhancing backdrop for



The Killers’ latest release is a reminder that not everyone can shine, but that they can still be a symbol of artistry.

COURTESY OF ISLAND RECORDS

the lyrical content of the track. “Quiet Town” details the story of teen parents and their child getting hit by a train as they lug their homes and grander dreams on their backs, while the younger members of the town battle its opioid crisis. The track’s crushing lyrics describe their graduation caps being replaced by gravestones and eulogies. There is hope by the end of the song, but it is a conditional band-aid solution: running away from the town.

Thematically, the album is well-executed. However, the

album overall felt like less of an album and more of a way for Flowers himself to get a cathartic fix that had been decades overdue. This is one instance where knowing too much context may detract from the enjoyment of the work.

The album is consoling in that there is beauty that exists in tragedy. “Pressure Machine” is an outlier relative to The Killers’s other work, but “unusual” is not synonymous with “bad,” especially not here.

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Review: New action film features superb writing

MOVIE REVIEW: “Free Guy”



BY SYDNEY BRUMFIELD

Adding layered plotlines and a dash of intellect to the action genre, “Free Guy” breaks away from typical action movie staples and may foreshadow a new era of action films to come.

Directed by Shawn Levy, “Free Guy” follows Guy, (Ryan Reynolds), who is struggling with succumbing to the tiresome day-to-day of life. Everything changes when he meets Millie (Jodie Comer) — a woman he believes is his dream girl — who reveals to Guy he is a non-playable character (NPC) in the video game Free City. Free City is an online game where players wreak havoc on NPCs in the city to earn points and level up, very similar to games like Grand Theft Auto. Being an extra in the background of the missions of real players is all that Guy knows until he breaks the algorithm. Guy defies his programming by choosing to be the main character of his story, leading to hectic out-of-this-world hijinks and possibly the end of Free City as he knows it.

Guy’s fight against the coders and creators of Free City leads to exhilarating pursuits. In the virtual world, his pursuers build pathways and structures leading to stunts and special effects that suck the

audience into Free City. With tight writing and stars of comedy like Taika Waititi and Lil Rel Howery, there exists a constant thread of humorous relief — both slapstick and character-driven — that keeps the heavier moments from being overpowering.

While being extremely entertaining as a summer action flick, “Free Guy” also explores complex and relevant themes. Most prominently the villain Antwan (Taika Waititi), the arrogant CEO of the company that owns the game Free City, fuels the struggle between creativity and capitalism. Antwan cares little about the quality or innovation of a product, but rather how it can make him money. Though he is a fictional character, Antwan serves as frightening symbolism for the possible dark fate that faces those obsessed with wealth.

“Free Guy” has larger-than-life acting, which is to be expected with the A-list cast of talent. However, Joe Keery did the most with his screen time in the role of Keys. Even though Keys stays in the sphere of a supporting role, Keery manages to give a mature and empathetic performance which shows that the length of a performance doesn’t determine the quality.

The character of Millie is not hypersexualized, which is refreshing for the action



“Free Guy” depicts the connected nature of video gaming culture.

COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY STUDIOS

genre. Mille is a programmer whose sole reason for playing the game of Free City is to find proof that Antwan stole her code to create the game. Her goal and relationships with the other characters lead to her feeling fully formed. Female characters can quickly fall to the objectification of the male gaze — especially when the action genre is so heavily male-dominated — but Mille is depicted in the same light as her male counterparts.

Most importantly, “Free Guy” is one of the first films to demonstrate how gaming can bring people together. Viewers are taken into the gaming community through the excellent editing and directorial choices Levy uses. Cuts to professional gamers playing Free City highlight the nature of gaming to older viewers, who may not be familiar with the world of video games.

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STUDENT ATHLETES CASH IN NEW LAWS PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROFIT

Junior midfielder Amberly Christiansen prepares for the Ithaca College field hockey season during the team's training camp this August. Christiansen is a Barstool Athlete, and she was told by Barstool that she was one of the first Division III athletes to apply for the program and to be accepted. Christiansen said plans to encourage other athletes to join and become Barstool Athlete.

ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN

BY CONNOR GLUNT

When junior defensive back Daniel Hutchinson first heard about the passing of new name, image and likeness (NIL) laws in July of this year, his reaction was short and simple.

"Finally," Hutchinson said. "It was finally time we could make some money and make something happen off of our own names."

Until July 1, 2021, when the first round of new NCAA regulations and state laws went into effect, student athletes were prohibited from profiting off their NIL. If they did, they would be subject to losing their athletic eligibility. That meant no endorsement deals, selling memorabilia, local business partnerships or anything similar. The legal battle has been occurring since late 2019 when California State Senator Nancy Skinner had her legislation passed that would bar schools from reprimanding student athletes who benefited from their NIL starting in 2023.

The NCAA Board of Governors approved an interim NIL policy June 30, 2021, which allowed student athletes to profit off their NIL. The policy also included rules regarding communication that must occur between student athletes and their institutions, and restrictions on schools promoting an athlete's business deals from their NIL.

Once the clock struck midnight in early July, student athletes began to strike endorsement deals and cash-in on the opportunities that were waiting on the sidelines for them. For some student athletes, like Hutchinson, their social media accounts made them a quick target for endorsement deals and business opportunities.

Hutchinson went viral in 2019 after posting a video of his personalized handshake with his mother. Hutchinson's Instagram account reached approximately 33,000 followers after the video, which attracted companies to reach out to him. In the past, he had to turn down deals offered to him. However, with the recent rule change, he is able to take advantage of his own NIL.

"Now with these new rules that have been passed, I'm reaching out to all of these companies saying 'Hey look, I can make some money, I can promote a product, or I can give you guys a shoutout,'" Hutchinson said. "[Social media]

definitely opened up so many doors, especially having the fan base and following that I have."

So far, Hutchinson said he has multiple deals in the works, but has agreements with four companies Hutchinson has received products to use and promote and profits off other people purchasing products using his referral code.

Another partnership Hutchinson agreed to shortly after the new NIL rules were announced was to become a Barstool Athlete with Barstool Sports. There are no direct monetary benefits of becoming a Barstool Athlete, but Barstool founder Dave Portnoy called Barstool Athletes a "marketing agency" and the perks of becoming a Barstool Athlete are exposure on social media and company merchandise.

Barstool is a company that mainly produces digital content like podcasts, blogs and livestreams about sports and current events. The company has received a lot of publicity, both positive and negative. On Dec. 17, 2020, Portnoy and Barstool created the Barstool Fund, which supported 443 local businesses with the financial hardships that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Portnoy and other Barstool employees have faced controversies in the past surrounding accusations of homophobia, racism and misogyny.

As collegiate sports begin to wade into the uncharted waters of athletes profiting from NIL, one concern is the lack of information student athletes have regarding their new situation. Educating them about all facets of NIL agreements has been something Erienne Roberts, Associate Director of Athletics and Senior Woman Administrator, made a priority once the new NIL rules were put in place.

"I think the whole purpose of NIL was to ensure that student athletes, in any capacity, wouldn't be exploited for their athletic abilities, and would be able to tap into their whole self, market who they are as athletes and other aspects in ventures that they might have," Roberts said. "My hope is that corporations, and these organizations that student athletes partner with, really understand that exploitation can happen even if they're getting paid."

Another Bomber who has begun to benefit off her NIL is junior field hockey player Amberly

Christiansen. Christiansen, like Hutchinson, is a Barstool Athlete. Christiansen said she reached out in early July and was told she was one of the first Division III athletes to apply and be accepted. She added that her love for the company and Portnoy helped make her decision easy.

"I think they do great work with athletes and really take care of us," Christiansen said. "I read into [what Barstool does with athletes] and asked a few of my friends that play at University of North Carolina who are Barstool Athletes, and they were actually in touch with Portnoy. I got my information from them."

The common theme in both of Christiansen's and Hutchinson's NIL agreements is that they have reached out to companies and sought out opportunities. Hutchinson said the best thing that others interested in NIL deals can do is find companies and introduce themselves.

The current interim NIL policy applies to athletes in all three divisions of competition, but since New York does not have NIL laws, Roberts said the college will follow the lead of the NCAA, Division I and Division II institutions that are further ahead in writing their NIL policies. Although the college would be working off state NIL laws if there were laws already in place, Roberts said she and other members of the athletic department have been working on a policy that would benefit all students and is awaiting legal approval.

"I think initially, for a liberal arts school like ourselves, we would be able to collaborate and work with academic departments for our students that do creative content, that are entrepreneurs and small business owners," Roberts said. "We have those types of aspirations for our students that are musically and artistically inclined, being able to tap into their whole selves as athletes and artists. Being able to sell

their music and artwork."

Roberts emphasized that her priorities are ensuring that students have all the information they need in the new era of NIL. Hutchinson reiterated Roberts's comments and said if a student wants to profit off their NIL, they must be careful about how they market themselves.

"With getting yourself out in the media a lot more, you have to pay attention to what you are doing," Hutchinson said. "So, I feel that



Junior defensive back Daniel Hutchinson has used his social media following to gain name, image and likeness deals.

ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN

as a student athlete, you need to be aware of the things that you're posting, saying, typing in order to make your likeness positive and you don't make any negative correlation with the college or university that you are at."

Men’s basketball guard plays for Team USA

BY TOMMY MUMAU

This summer, Ithaca College senior Skylar Sinon, a captain of the men’s basketball team, took his talents to Brazil with the USA Division III men’s basketball team. During his time in Brazil, he had the opportunity to represent his country while competing against national talent.

Sinon was asked to play for the squad after his former coach, Sean Burton, recommended him. The guard competed with the team in a three-game tournament from July 12 to 21. Sinon said he was grateful for the chance to travel to Brazil and experience its culture while developing his basketball skills.

“It was really honoring to be able to play with that group of guys because all of them are really, really talented, great basketball players,” Sinon said. “It was a cool experience being able to play with them and then play overseas and [in] different cities that [I had] never been to.”

Head coach David Golembiowski said he believes that Sinon and the other members of the team will benefit from the experiences they gained, both on and off the court.

“I think it was a great experience overall, not just on the basketball side [but] also on the cultural side,” Golembiowski said. “It was a great experience on the court for the players because they kind of got to see basketball in a different light.”

While Team USA was composed

of just Division III men’s basketball players, Sinon said that the teams they faced from Brazil were made up of players ranging from high school-age to those who were in their mid-30s. Sinon said he took notice of an increased level of physicality that is present in the game in Brazil, but he said he tried to maintain his approach to competition.

“They don’t really call as many fouls, they kind of let you play a little more,” Sinon said. “There are some of the guys who are clearly older, but you just go out and play, regardless of how big they look or how strong they look.”

While these variations in the game presented new challenges for the team, Golembiowski said he was impressed with how Sinon adapted to this new style of play.

“I thought he held his own guarding bigger and really fast players,” Golembiowski said.

Sinon was not phased by these differences, making noise in Team USA’s arrival to the tournament, in a 81-46 victory over Sorocaba. The guard played an integral role in the victory, leading the team by dropping 18 points. Golembiowski said the team relied on Sinon to be a key contributor and that he made an impact on both sides of the ball.

“It was very obvious that he was a very important part of what we were doing down there,” Golembiowski said. “Not only on the offensive end, but on the defensive end as well.”

Due to the cancellation of



Senior men’s basketball player Skylar Sinon drives past a defender in a game with Team USA in Brazil. The team captain has averaged 12.75 points per game over 50 career starts during his time at Ithaca College.

COURTESY OF SKYLAR SINON

the Liberty League’s cancellation of the 2020–21 winter season for the college, the contest was Sinon’s first game action since the Bombers’ loss to Swarthmore College in the second round of the NCAA tournament in 2020. Sinon said he was simply happy to get back on the court and be in a competitive environment.

“I think that it was a great way to keep me playing during the summer and keeping stuff competitive,” Sinon said. “That was the first organized game I played in about a year and a half because of the whole COVID shutdown, so that was good for me to get on the court again.”

The guard will look to carry over the skills he learned during the tournament to this season on South Hill. Senior Bombers teammate George Sikoryak III said he believes the experience will help elevate Sinon’s game when the squad returns to action this winter.

“Playing against a high level of competition is always good because you really get to see where you stand against some great guys,” Sikoryak III said. “It’s nice to see different faces and just prepare, it’s always good to play. Especially when you’re playing at that high level, it will definitely help out and translate to the season.”

Sinon said he believes he will benefit from his time with Team USA and that it will allow him to maintain his confidence on the court moving forward.

“Just being able to stay composed in a place like that against a team I’ve never seen before,” Sinon said. “Especially with older guys, being able to carry myself well was a great experience for me, as well as trying to adapt to a game.”

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Women’s pole vaulter captures national title

BY AIDAN CHARDE

When Ithaca College senior Meghan Matheny started pole vaulting in eighth grade, she never would have believed that she would win a Division III national title during her collegiate career. Just a few years later, that is exactly what she did.

Matheny has been pole vaulting since middle school, but she said she did not consider herself to be good until her senior year in high school. There were times where she thought she would get to this point.

“Between the end of my junior year [in high school] and the end of my senior year, I improved my [personal record] by a foot and a half,” Matheny said. “And I won outdoor states my senior year. That was when I realized I actually figured this out and I started to get a lot more confident in myself. Until then, it was just something I was doing for fun.”

But even with her success in her first two years at the college by being named to back-to-back All-Liberty League teams for pole vault, Matheny said her junior season proved to be a difficult one. After qualifying as the second seed for indoor nationals in 2020, the meet was canceled. Matheny says she did not practice for almost four months, and even when she did, she lacked confidence.

“I struggled a lot from July [2020] to January [2021]. I didn’t even run from a full run like I would in competition, I was not very confident, and I was just really struggling,” Matheny said. “I also dealt with a back injury this past year, and there wasn’t really any treatment other than taking

time off, so that was really hard after not being able to compete for so long, and then having to deal with that.”

Sophomore Sara Altonen said that even with Matheny’s injury, she never stopped supporting the team.

“When she was injured at meets and practices, she was still always so encouraging,” Altonen said. “She’d give us helpful tips, like how to stay out of our heads and how to get back on track and ready for our next run.”

At the 2021 NCAA Outdoor Championships, Matheny excelled. She won the pole vault event with a jump of 3.85 meters but missed three jumps at four meters. Even though she won, she said she will strive to join the “four-meter club” this season.

“It’s something that I want to do and something I attempted twice last year,” Matheny said. “I’d love to win [regionals and nationals] again, but I definitely want to jump four meters this year.”

The four-meter mark is notable in women’s pole vault, Altonen said. It is a major milestone, but Altonen is confident that Matheny can make it there.

“Four meters is huge,” Altonen said. “There are jokes about the four-meter club, because when you can clear that it’s kind of like ‘Oh my gosh, this girl’s really good’. But I 100 percent think she can do it. There’s no doubt in my mind.”

The competitive spirit that Matheny has is evident to her coaches as well as her teammates,



Senior women’s pole vaulter Meghan Matheny took home the Division III pole vaulting title in the 2021 Outdoor Track and Field Championships on May 27, 2021.

COURTESY OF D3 PHOTOGRAPHY

head coach Jennifer Potter said. Potter praised Matheny’s work ethic and motivation to always get better.

“[Matheny is] intense, determined, motivated and structured, and that’s why she’s a national champion,” Potter said. “She leaves nothing to chance and takes care of every detail.”

Matheny agreed that she is detail-oriented. She said keeping track of little things, like her body mechanics and pole placement, is part of her routine before jumps, even during meets. She said it helps her to stay focused in high-pressure moments.

“After every jump, I go over and talk to [pole vaulting coach Matt] Scheffler about what to change or what to fix in the next jump, and I have a little notebook that I write them in,” Matheny said. “And once I start running, I count down my steps from seven, but then once I take off, I don’t really think about anything. It just becomes muscle memory.”

Potter also said that Matheny is great at keeping

calm under pressure, and her performance in the National Championship was no different.

“Some people get very weirded out as the bar goes up, but I knew she would be fine with that,” Potter said. “Because we’re usually one of the top teams in Division III, we have conversations about performing at a high level at Nationals . . . I knew [Matheny] would be good mentally when the height went up.”

Having already passed a major milestone by winning a national title, Matheny said her goal for the season is to help her teammates improve and send even more athletes to the National Championships.

“I’d love to have all the vaulters qualify for Regionals and send as many as possible to Nationals,” Matheny said.

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THE ITHACAN RECRUITMENT NIGHT

MAYBE THE ITHACAN WILL BE OUR ALWAYS?

7 P.M.
THURS. AUG. 26
TEXTOR 101

NEWS
OPINION
MULTIMEDIA
LIFE & CULTURE
SPORTS
SOCIAL MEDIA

PROOFREADING
ADVERTISING
COPY EDITING
DESIGN
PHOTOGRAPHY
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