

ACCURACY • INDEPENDENCE • INTEGRITY

## Ithaca College experiences understaffing issues

BY SYD PIERRE

Ithaca College is not immune to the effects of the national labor shortage, which has impacted staff and students across campus.

Businesses across the U.S. have been impacted by the labor shortage, which has been heavily influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic. As of Sept. 3, 8.4 million people were unemployed in the U.S., and on the last business day of July, there were 10.9 million job openings, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The U.S. Department of Labor reported that the unemployment rate in August was 5.2%. While labor demand is increasing across the country, the quit rate — number of jobs quit out of the total employment — has also increased. This has led to what some are calling “The Great Resignation,” where many individuals are leaving their jobs in search of more money, better working conditions and flexibility. According to the BLS, the quit rate during July was 2.7%.

Hayley Harris, vice president of Human Resources, said the number of staff at the college needed to align with the number of students enrolled. As part of the Ithaca Forever strategic plan, the college cut 116



Alex Rader, Ithaca College Campus Center Dining Hall employee, swipes students into the dining hall Sept. 13. The college is experiencing understaffing issues because of the labor shortage crisis that is impacting the United States, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

THOMAS KERRIGAN/THE ITHACAN

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## Community members reflect on anniversary of 9/11 attacks

BY CAITLIN HOLTZMAN

Some members of the Ithaca College community are reflecting on the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the passing of its 20-year anniversary.

Along with the rest of the country, many members of the Ithaca College community spent time reflecting on the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the passing of its 20-year anniversary.

Nearly 3,000 people were killed during the attacks, including six members of the college community. On Sept. 11, 2001, two planes flew into the World Trade Center in New York City and a third plane into the Pentagon in Washington. A fourth plane crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, after its passengers overtook the hijackers, leading to the crash in a field. Interim president La Jerne Cornish sent a message Sept. 10 asking members of the campus community to remember and honor the people who died in the attacks.

“The events of [Sept.] 11, 2001, changed this country forever — and changed the lives of many within our IC family in direct and



The Dillingham Fountains were lowered Sept. 11 to honor those who died 20 years ago during the terrorist attacks across the country.

ELEANOR KAY/THE ITHACAN

substantive ways,” Cornish said in the message.

Cornish also asked members of the campus community to visit the Peace Pole located at the Muller Chapel Pond on the anniversary. The pole was dedicated to the college in 2002, on the one-year anniversary of the attacks and has the phrase “May Peace Prevail on Earth” written in eight languages.

Additionally, there is a plaque with the names of the six members of the campus community who died in the attacks. Their names are Vincent Abate ’83, Thomas Collins ’87, Ronald Ruben ’87, Steven Rusin ’91, Derek Statkevics ’93 and then-senior Johanna Sigmund,

REMEMBRANCE, PAGE 4

## IC presidential search discussed by council

BY ALYSHIA KORBA

The Ithaca College Faculty Council discussed the search for the next president of the college, the college’s response to COVID-19 as well as the format of Faculty Council meetings during the Sept. 14 meeting.

The Faculty Council discussed creating a statement to present to the Ithaca College Board of Trustees regarding shared governance during the search for a new college president. Shirley M. Collado, former president and senior advisor to the interim president and the board of trustees, announced July 8 that she will be stepping down from her position effective Aug. 30. Some Faculty Council members expressed concerns that there would not be an open search for the next president or that the decision has already been made.

Following former President Tom Rochon’s resignation, the search for the ninth president of the college — a position that was filled by Collado — began as an open search that involved public meetings, but the search was later closed.

Charis Dimaras, professor in the

Department of Music Performance, said he is concerned that faculty have not received much information from the board of trustees, and thinks that writing a statement would help ensure that faculty are included in the search process.

“Nobody’s doubting that the board is working as diligently as they can to find a solution, maybe they’re just going into details,” Dimaras said. “It’s just that I think a statement from us would help to simply accelerate that potential.”

Some faculty members like Belisa Gonzalez, professor in the Department of Sociology, said she would understand if the college decided to not have an open search, saying that some candidates may not want it to be public information that they applied for the position.

Fatima Hajjat, assistant professor in the Department of Marketing, said she would prefer an open search.

“If you are applying for a president position, and you’re not willing to take on that risk, you’re not necessarily serious about the position,”

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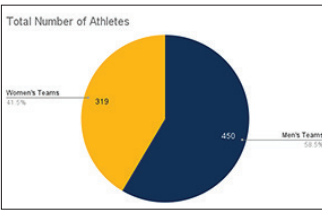
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### IC ATHLETICS HAS GENDER EQUITY ISSUES



# Faculty experience increase in work

BY JENEVA LONG

The Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process has led to a decrease of contingent faculty members at Ithaca College, leaving some remaining faculty members with heavier workloads this semester.

The APP involves cutting 116 full-time equivalent (FTE) faculty positions and 26 majors, departments and programs.

The APP process has resulted in contingent faculty members — faculty members who are not on a tenure track but are eligible for benefits — losing their jobs because the process was conducted in line with Section 4.9.8 of the Ithaca College Policy Manual. The policy states that terminations resulting from the discontinuation of a program will be done in the order of part-time, per-course faculty, adjunct faculty, faculty employed by term appointments, non-tenure eligible-notice

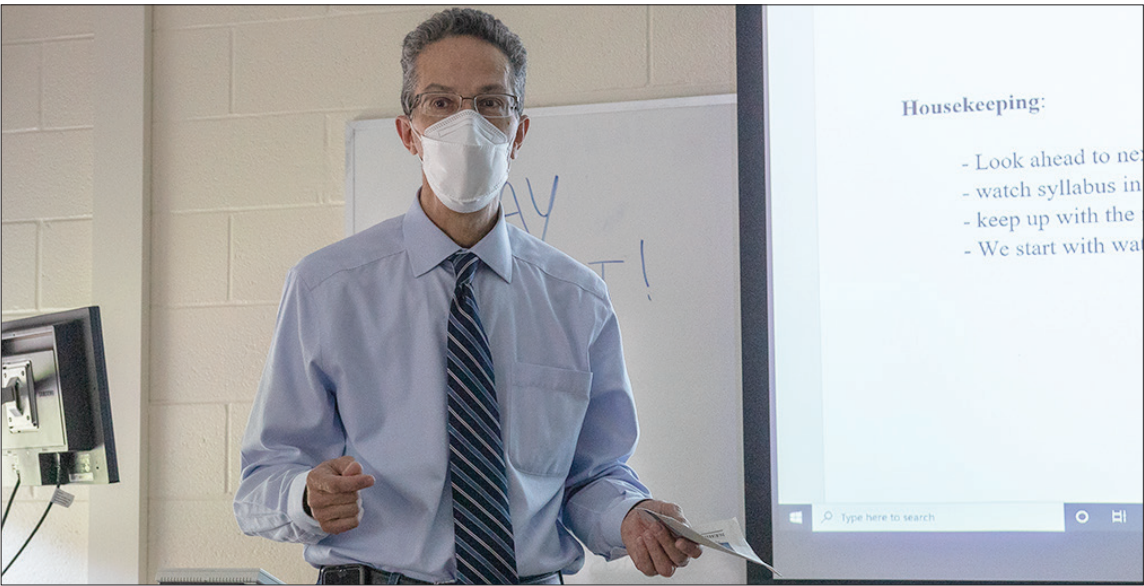
(NTEN) faculty, tenure-eligible faculty and tenured faculty.

Contingent faculty members whose contracts were not renewed for the upcoming academic year have left the college, which meant that there were some classes in need of faculty to teach them.

Matt Vosler, assistant professor in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies, said he has experienced an increase in the amount of work he has this semester because of fewer faculty members, despite the reduction in courses offered.

“I think our mental health is suffering across the board,” Vosler said. “Because we get stretched thin it’s hard to be as focused as one would want to be for teaching. And I still give lots of my teaching. It just ends up being a lot of really late nights and early mornings.”

Juan Arroyo, assistant professor in the Department of Politics, said there are many students who



Juan Arroyo, assistant professor in the Department of Politics, said he is taking on more work this semester. Some faculty members said they have increased amounts of work because of there being fewer faculty members at the college.

MIKAYLA ELWELL/THE ITHACAN

want to take classes and having to teach extra classes is difficult and adds stress.

“Our tools are our colleagues ... not everyone who is left has the same specialty, or the same history or the same experience,” Arroyo said.

Arroyo also said there are some classes that will be cut and students will not be able to take them again. He said he is worried that many

classes will disappear from the college forever.

Don Beachler, associate professor in the Department of Politics, said he is having a different experience with the fall semester than usual. Alex Moon, former assistant professor in the Department of Politics, was cut in Spring 2021.

Beachler said because Moon left after Spring 2021, the department was going to remove

Constitutional Law. Beachler said he decided to teach the class this year.

“So I’ve taken on a whole new area of study that I hadn’t done for many, many years. ... It hasn’t necessarily harmed me or anything, I mean it’s been kind of interesting to learn that stuff, but it’s a lot more work,” Beachler said.

CONTACT JENEVA LONG  
JLONG5@ITHACA.EDU

## MULTIMEDIA

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### One on One with Nick Bahamonde

Junior kicker Nick Bahamonde was interviewed on his process, returning from a leave of absence and his experiences with the team.



### Women in Film: “Mean Girls” (2004)

Host Sydney Brumfield begins her Women in Film series with guest Tatum Dowd as they discuss the 2004 film “Mean Girls.”

## THE ITHACAN

220 ROY H. PARK HALL,  
ITHACA COLLEGE, ITHACA, NY 14850  
(607) 274-1376 • ITHACAN@ITHACA.EDU  
WWW.THEITHACAN.ORG

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
MANAGING EDITOR  
COMMUNITY OUTREACH MANAGER  
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Chloe Eberhard, Maggie Haefner, Ilana Krebs, Leah McLean, Evan Miller, Lucretius Rutkowski

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ithacannews@gmail.com or 274-3208

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The Ithacan



# SGC passes employee vaccine bill

BY MEL ANDIA

The Ithaca College Student Governance Council (SGC) passed its first bill of the semester — the Employee Vaccination Bill — and met with Luca Maurer, director of the Center for LGBT Education, Outreach and Services, who went over the resources on campus for LGBTQ students at its Sept. 13 meeting.

The SGC passed the Employee Vaccination Bill with a vote of 5–1 with no abstentions.

While all students are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 for the fall semester, employees are currently not required to be, instead having to turn in proof of a negative COVID-19 test.

The bill recommends that the college make it a requirement that employees be vaccinated.

The bill also suggests that the college should continue to use paid-time-off for vaccination recovery and similar tools to incentivize vaccinations.

It also states that the college should continue to require masking, regular testing and social distancing for members of the community who have medical and religious exemptions for the vaccine.

The bill was sponsored by juniors Lila Weiser, senator-at-large; Grace Madeya, Class of 2023 senator; junior Sara Ostermeier and senior Becca Emery.



The Ithaca College Student Governance Council passed one bill at its first Fall 2021 meeting, titled the Employee Vaccination Bill. The bill recommends that all faculty and staff be vaccinated against COVID-19.

NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

Weiser gave a brief overview of the bill, explaining how the lack of vaccinated employees poses a safety risk to the campus community.

“Basically, our resolution is that we want to require employee vaccinations,” she said.

Weiser said much of the support for the bill comes from students who feel uncomfortable with so many employees not being vaccinated.

Sophomore Nick Viggiani, Class of 2024 senator, said he acknowledges that this is a student issue, but he also said the bill qualifies as an employee issue.

“I have no issue with recommending a mandate, I just think we should talk to faculty,” Viggiani said.

Madeya said she has had students reach out to her with similar concerns.

“I just see a lot of urgency with this bill from the standpoint that I have many classmates tell me that they are uncomfortable in the classroom because of this,” Madeya said. “And especially because we don’t have a hybrid option, it adds an extra [discomfort] to this.”

The SGC also met with Maurer to go over the resources on campus for LGBTQ students.

Maurer highlighted, student-run LGBTQ clubs, the two largest being Spectrum and Prism. He also told the SGC about an upcoming third club for queer students of faith to discuss issues that intersect with their various identities.

“My goal, personally and professionally, for the LGBTQ Center ... is that this institution has everything in place so that LGBTQ students can do what they want and need to do, and never have to think about processes or practices or policies,” Maurer said.

CONTACT MEL ANDIA  
MANDIA@ITHACA.EDU

# 3 vaccinated individuals die

BY CAITLIN HOLTZMAN

Three fully vaccinated Tompkins County residents have died of COVID-19.

The Tompkins County Health Department (TCHD) announced Sept. 13 that the first resident was 93 years old and died at Cayuga Medical Center on Sept. 11. Frank Kruppa, Tompkins County public health director, said in the announcement that the resident also had pre-existing health conditions that contributed to their death. The TCHD then reported two more COVID-19 related deaths of Tompkins County residents Sept. 15. Both residents were elderly and fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Kruppa said in a statement Sept. 15 that the TCHD is sharing information on the deaths to inform members of the community who are most likely to be negatively impacted by COVID-19.

Kruppa said that much of the continued spread is because of the delta variant and the community members gathering more frequently.

“We know that the delta variant continues to spread even among those who are fully vaccinated,” Kruppa said in the Sept. 15 statement. “Despite this, the vaccine is protecting a vast majority of people against severe illness.”

The statement also said a majority of deaths and hospitalizations related to COVID-19 are in older unvaccinated adults.

Tompkins County reported 44 new positive cases Sept. 15 and a total of 218 active cases. There are currently nine hospitalizations and 37 total resident deaths. The county recently saw a drastic rise in COVID-19 cases because of the delta variant and the arrival of college students for the fall semester. The county hit a peak of 488 active cases — the most since the pandemic began in March 2020 — Sept. 5 and recorded the most positives in one day Aug. 31 with 130 cases.

Ithaca College currently has 17 total active student cases with 12 being residential students and five being off-campus students. There are three staff cases and one faculty case. The college also reimplemented random surveillance testing for vaccinated students, which began Sept. 13. Cornell University also experienced a spike in COVID-19 cases and moved its alert level to yellow, meaning infection rates are increasing, Aug. 27. Cornell reported two new positive cases Sept. 12 and a total of 68 cases for the seven-day period between Sept. 6 and 12.

Kruppa said Tompkins County will continue to monitor the severity of COVID-19 in the county.

Dominick Recckio, communications director for Tompkins County, said vaccines continue to be effective in preventing severe disease among individuals infected with COVID-19. He also said vaccines have helped to keep hospital rates low.

“We have high vaccination rates here in Tompkins County, and thank all of our community members, including student populations, for getting vaccinated,” he said via email.

Samm Swarts, assistant director for emergency preparedness and response in the Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management, said via email that he feels fortunate that there are no severe cases of COVID-19 and no hospitalizations among the campus community.

“Vaccination continues to be the strongest recommendation against our fight against COVID-19,” he said via email.

CONTACT CAITLIN HOLTZMAN  
CHOLTZMAN@ITHACA.EDU

# Longview partnership begining again

BY CECILIA MEZA

After a long and turbulent year of virtual programming, the Longview-Ithaca College Partnership is being reinstated in person for the 2021–22 academic year with new guidelines in order to ensure everyone’s safety.

Longview, a senior living community located across the street from campus on Bella Vista Dr., has maintained a relationship with the college for over 20 years. The partnership has students host activities for residents and allows Longview residents to become a part of the campus community by auditing courses. When COVID-19 became a prominent danger in the U.S. in March 2020, the college was forced to continue the semester virtually, including the Longview program, which has remained virtual until Fall 2021.

The program will be running with certain guidelines in place in order to ensure the safety of all communities, since the residents are in a vulnerable age group and the college is nearly back to normal concerning student interaction, said Jessica Valdez Taves, IC Partnership Coordinator and assistant professor in the Department of Gerontology. Any visitor going to Longview from the college must be fully vaccinated, complete daily health screenings, take a temperature check, wear a face mask and a face shield or goggles in addition to a mask if visiting the Assisted Living Residence or the Enhanced Living Residence.

Taves said the college is taking everything day-by-day in order to keep everyone safe and to follow the necessary guidelines.



From left, Bree Nash, Longview’s Ithaca College liason, and Jessica Valdez Taves, IC Partnership Coordinator. The college’s Longview partnership is starting in person for the academic year.

ALYSSA BEEBE/THE ITHACAN

“Trying to figure out where the safety is, how can we make sure the folks at Longview feel safe with Ithaca College students coming down and vice versa,” she said.

The entire Longview staff will have to have the first dose of the vaccine by Oct. 7 because it is required for senior living facilities under New York State Health Department regulations, Paul Phillips, CEO of Longview, said.

Phillips said the relationship between Longview residents and students at the college is special in comparison to other similar programs.

“IC and Longview have the real deal,” he said. “This is really collaborative

learning, it’s intergenerational education. It’s a wonderful free-flow of ideas, perspectives, across generations.”

Bree Nash, Longview’s Ithaca College liaison and member of the Department of Recreation, said all precautions are being taken to ensure that everyone stays safe.

“The sign-in process takes a little bit longer and the front lobby gets a little busy, but it kind of adds to the excitement of the students being back,” she said.

CONTACT CECILIA MEZA  
CMEZA@ITHACA.EDU



FROM STAFF, PAGE 1

full-time equivalent (FTE) positions and 26 departments, programs and majors, which had to be accelerated because of the COVID-19 pandemic's impacts on the college's finances. The Non-Academic Program Prioritization — which focused on administrative, operational and staff functions at the college — has resulted in a number of administrative and staff eliminations.

According to the Office of Analytics and Institutional Research, in Fall 2019, the college had a total of 1,096 staff — 819 full-time and 277 part-time. The college had a total of 827 staff in Fall 2020 — 637 full-time and 190 part-time. Harris said the number of staff for the fall semester will not be released until December 2021. According to a statement released by the Ithaca College Staff Council on March 15, 2021, the council said that over the past year, staff members have been primarily impacted by cuts at the college. At least 264 staff members have been furloughed or laid off since March 2020, the statement said.

Karen Armstrong, assistant to the dean in the Roy. H Park School of Communications, said the school has lost several staff positions over the last few years, and she now has to take on certain tasks for the entire school, as opposed to working for just one department.



From left, juniors Sophia Roy and Ellen Chapman sit at the circulation desk at the Ithaca College Library. The library had to change its hours this semester because of staffing issues, which has impacted students.

ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN

“So I’ve managed over the last few years, but now I feel like ... I think things just aren’t getting better on this campus,” Armstrong said. “They obviously are getting worse with all the cutbacks. And people just keep getting work piled on them that they can barely keep up with. So people are exhausted, people are frustrated.”

Some other administrative assistants at the college declined to comment on the nature of their workloads.

Junior Sophia Roy said she works at the Fitness Center and has one shift where she is occasionally the only staff member working. She said she feels like

she cannot ask for a shift off.

“I feel like I cannot plan anything during those times because I feel like I need to be there,” Roy said. “They don’t have anyone else to cover the shifts, and I would hate to not show up when no one can work.”

Senior Simeon Alvarez said he works at the Ithaca College Library. He said the library has had to change its hours because it cannot stay open as long as it used to because it no longer has the budget to fund more student employee and staff positions. According to its website, the library is open 7:30 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. on Wednesdays, noon to 5 p.m. on

Saturdays and noon to 11:59 p.m. on Sundays. In the spring semester, the library was open from 7 a.m. to 2 a.m. Mondays through Thursdays, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and 10 to 2 a.m. on Sundays.

“In the past semesters, the library’s advertised it’s always open for students,” Alvarez said. “I feel bad for those students because I wish I could do something to be open longer. I wish I could, you know, be offered hours to work longer, but I can’t, just due to the situation.”

CONTACT SYD PIERRE  
SPIERRE@ITHACA.EDU

FROM COUNCIL, PAGE 1

Hajjat said. “To me, that’s not necessarily a very strong argument as to why we should not have an open search.”

Samm Swarts, assistant director of emergency preparedness and response in the Department of Public Safety and Emergency Management, spoke about the rates of COVID-19 cases within the college community as well as the vaccination rates. Swarts described the campus as being “healthy,” citing the college’s COVID-19 dashboard which shows that there are 21 active cases among students, faculty and staff as of Sept. 14. This includes 17 student cases, three staff cases and one faculty case.

In Tompkins County, there are 221 active COVID-19 cases as of Sept. 14, according to the Tompkins County Health Department. Cornell University had 69 new cases during the week of Sept. 7–13 and is currently at a moderate risk level. The university reported five times more cases in the first week of Fall 2021 than in Fall 2020, despite 95% of the campus community being vaccinated.

Swarts said the college is not holding surveillance testing of all students like it did in Spring 2021 because the CDC and the New York State Department of Health have not recommended surveillance testing for vaccinated populations. Approximately 99% of students are vaccinated along with around 80% of faculty and staff, Swarts said. Faculty and staff are not currently required to be vaccinated to be on campus. He said more faculty are vaccinated than staff, with faculty vaccination percentages in the high 80s and low 90s and staff vaccination percentages in the 70s.

Junior Deontae Guy, president of the Student Governance Council (SGC), addressed the Faculty Council about an SGC bill that



The Ithaca College Faculty Council held its first meeting of the fall semester Sept. 14. The Faculty Council discussed the search for the next president, COVID-19 and the format of meetings.

FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

would require faculty and staff to be vaccinated. Students were required to be fully vaccinated before returning to campus for Fall 2021 unless they had a religious or medical exemption. Swarts said there are fewer than 100 students that received exemptions from the vaccine requirement. The Faculty Council decided to discuss the SGC bill at the October Faculty Council meeting so that more time could be devoted to the discussion.

The Faculty Council then discussed meeting formats for future meetings. David Gondek, associate professor in the Department of Biology, discussed adding a closed session to Faculty Council meetings in which only Faculty Council members and invited guests would be present, and the council would report out from the meeting what was discussed. Gondek suggested that this could be used as needed, or it could become a regular part of Faculty Council meetings. He said the purpose of this meeting format would

be to allow for more candid conversation among participants.

Gonzalez said she supported this idea, saying people would be able to speak more freely and allow for greater transparency. Ari Kissiloff, assistant professor in the Department of Strategic Communications, said he thinks a closed session is unnecessary.

“Being open and transparent is where we should be going, and we already have a mechanism to have discussions that are not recorded out, and it’s called executive session,” Kissiloff said. “So I can’t even understand why this is being suggested, to be honest.”

The Faculty Council went into executive session at 9:07 p.m. for approximately 40 minutes at the request of the Roy H. Park School of Communications faculty members.

CONTACT ALYSHIA KORBA  
AKORBA@ITHACA.EDU

FROM REMEMBRANCE, PAGE 1

sister of John Sigmund '02.

Rebecca Lesses, associate professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion and Jewish Studies coordinator, said she began teaching at the college in Fall 2001. She said the day of the attacks she was teaching classes in the afternoon and did not arrive on campus until later in the day. Lesses said that once she got to her class, she knew she would not be following her lesson plans.

“The thing I remember is it seemed really strange to just launch into the topic of the day in the classroom,” she said.

Lesses said she remembered students asking her questions about the attacks in the following days.

“I think people were just really shocked and didn’t know what to think,” she said. “That week, I just offered time for students to have conversations about it in the class.”

Lesses said as the years have gone by, she has begun to realize that fewer students have any recollection of the attacks or were even born before the attacks.

“I have to remember which historical events happened that they will remember, and which historical events happened before they were born,” she said.

Junior Alexandra Barbaro was born in November 2002. She said she grew up in Staten Island, one of the five boroughs of New York City, which she said had an effect on how much she knew and was taught about the attacks. She also said her uncle, Paul Barbaro, was killed in one of the Twin Towers during the attacks and it was difficult for her to be in Ithaca and away from home on the anniversary.

“When I was younger I never went to school on the day ... and my whole entire family would all go to a service, either in the city or at home,” she said. “So to be here, four hours away, and to have them all go to the service was a little hard. It was even harder not having a service to go to here.”

Barbaro said the 20-year anniversary makes her feel old. She said she was expecting the college to have some sort of event on the anniversary, but she took time herself to reflect on the attacks and her loss. She also said she hates when professors and teachers growing up would compare students’ ages to what anniversary of 9/11 it was that year.

“It makes your life and the time that you were born very sad,” she said.

Junior Henry Page said he was born in February 2001 and grew up in Virginia, near Washington. He said he remembers his mother telling him about hearing planes flying over their house on 9/11 and not knowing if they were part of the U.S. military.

Page said that for all 20 years of his life, he has not known a time when the U.S. was not in Afghanistan.

The United States military invaded Afghanistan in 2001 after the Sept. 11 attacks and were in Afghanistan for 20 years. The military was fully out of Afghanistan by Aug. 30, 2021, which left the Taliban back in charge of the country. Page said he remembered thinking in 2020 that the 20-year anniversary was coming up in 2021. He said it felt odd to him to realize that it had been 20 years since the attacks.

“It’s been 20 years of always remembering that moment and that time in my life that I don’t remember personally, but have just heard so much about through other people,” he said.

CONTACT CAITLIN HOLTZMAN  
CHOLTZMAN@ITHACA.EDU



# Alum selected to study in Germany

McKinleigh Lair '19 is one of 75 Americans selected to study and work in Germany as part of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) for Young Professionals program.

CBYX is a joint program of the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag. Participants in the program study at German universities and complete internships in the career field of film festival or documentary production. Participants are placed with host families during their time in Germany.

Contributing writer Jady Davis spoke with Lair via email about her time in Germany with CBYX and how obstacles like the COVID-19 pandemic allowed her to grow closer with her community.

*This interview has been edited for length and clarity.*

**Jady Davis:** How has COVID affected your fellowship with the program and what have you learned as a result?

**McKinleigh Lair:** I think COVID has forced a lot of us to slow down and reevaluate our priorities. I've always known how much I valued travel, but I've also come to fully appreciate the community more. ... I want to focus my energy on seeing the most I can of this beautiful country while also forming meaningful friendships with my host family and other locals. I see



McKinleigh Lair '19 has been working in Germany since the beginning of August. She was selected as part of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) for Young Professionals program.

COURTESY OF MCKINLEIGH LAIR

this as equally important to any career development.

**JD:** What inspired you to become a part of the program?

**ML:** I've always been in awe of the diversity of experiences both in the U.S. and around the world. This curiosity is one of the factors that led me to pursue documentary storytelling as a career. ... While at IC, I made a film for Park Productions in Guatemala, took a documentary class one summer in Seoul, spent a semester at the IC London Center and also studied a semester in Jönköping, Sweden ... At first, I

felt torn about whether I should accept this fellowship because within the past couple of years I had been gaining a lot of career momentum as a freelance documentary cinematographer. But this fellowship offered me a mix of opportunities I found hard to pass up — the chance to work toward a bucket list language-learning goal, see more of the world and form new friendships — all while working on my craft.

**JD:** What has been your experience living in Germany?

**ML:** I've been living in Köln since

the beginning of August, taking an intensive language class and living with a host mother who makes a living as a tennis instructor. She's introduced me to some local journalists and documentary filmmakers from her club. In my free time, I've gotten to hit some tennis balls with them while learning about Germany's documentary industry. Tennis has been a big part of my life for a while, and it's been rewarding to use it as a little window into my industry and this community.

CONTACT JADYN DAVIS  
JDAVIS16@ITHACA.EDU

# College hires career director

BY SYD PIERRE

Ithaca College has appointed Dave Curry as the new director of career services within the Division of Student Affairs and Campus Life on Sept. 14.

In an Intercom post, the college announced that Curry's hiring concluded a nationwide search that began in June 2021. Curry will assume the role Oct. 19.

According to the announcement, Laurie Koehler, vice president for Marketing and Enrollment Strategy, chaired the search and worked with committee members Stacia Zabusky, senior associate dean for Curriculum and Undergraduate Programs in the School of Humanities and Sciences; Heraldo Osorto, executive director for Student Equity and Belonging & Religious & Spiritual Life; Ed Catto, instructor in the department of Management; Gretchen Van Valen, director of Alumni and Family Engagement and Jordan Stecker '21 to identify finalists from a pool of candidates.

Curry graduated with a bachelor's in Administration of Justice from the University of Pittsburgh in 2004 and completed a Master of Education in Middle and Secondary Instruction from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania in 2010, the announcement said.

"The opportunity to serve as the director of Career Services for Ithaca College is a tremendous honor," Curry said in the announcement. "I have always been very passionate about helping students identify their strengths and interests and working with them to see what career and lifestyle would be the best fit."

CONTACT SYD PIERRE  
SPIERRE@ITHACA.EDU

# College holds anti-oppression workshop for students

BY CAITLIN HOLTZMAN

Ithaca College students had the opportunity to learn more about power dynamics among groups of people and injustice at an anti-oppression event Sept. 13.

About 20 people attended the event, "Knowing Your Stuff: Anti-Oppression Workshop (Leading in a Diverse World)," that was led by Marsha Dawson, director of the Office of Residential Life and the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards. The event allowed students the opportunity to work with each other and learn more about oppression. Dawson said a second presentation focused on microaggressions will happen in the coming weeks.

Dawson said the point of the event was to bring more awareness to understanding oppression and how different systems of oppression work in society and on campus.

"Really getting real and honest about what are the shortcomings of where we reside, where we work and figuring out ways to make that better," she said.

Dawson said the college is a business and it reflects injustice and power dynamics seen in society.

One student said they think learning is a lifelong process.

"Your journey in learning is never over," the student said. "It's important in my role as a student to continue to always educate myself so when I walk into a space I'm coming in and putting my best foot forward but knowing that's not where it ends."

Dawson said she wants students to

understand power and oppression and asked students to write down their own definitions for the words power, privilege, intersectionality, equality and equity.

Dawson defined oppression as "the combination of discrimination and power creates a system that discriminates against some groups and benefits other groups."

She said oppression also manifests on institutional, intercultural and interpersonal levels. Dawson also listed different types of ways people can be oppressed like race and ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation and religion.

"The work that we're trying to do is understanding these different forms of oppression and uprooting oppressive behavior," she said.

Dawson then asked students to talk about some of the forms of institutional oppression they have seen, specifically ableism. Some of the students brought up ideas surrounding students in wheelchairs and how people may ask them if they can walk or not. One student brought up how the campus is located on a hill, making some buildings difficult to access for people who have difficulty walking. Another student said elevators on campus are located in areas that are sometimes difficult to access.

She said while money is always a consideration when looking for solutions to oppressive problems — like the campus' inaccessibility — it should not stand in the way of making sure that change is enacted. One student said the campus being difficult to navigate for disabled students should not be the reason someone decides not to attend the college.



Marsha Dawson, director of the Office of Residential Life and the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards, led an anti-oppression event Sept. 13. for students.

CAITLIN HOLTZMAN/THE ITHACAN

Some students said the elevators in the James J. Whalen Center for Music and the Campus Center are difficult to find, while others said they did not know the elevators existed.

Freshman Libi Warmund said they liked that some of the conversation centered on ableism, because ableism is not often discussed.

"It gave me more insight into how other people experience living on campus and how it's different than I experience it," Warmund said.

Junior Holden Shatouhy said he thought it was interesting to hear more about

accessibility issues on campus.

"All the elevators are really well hidden and if you're in a wheelchair, there's no way you're making it up these hills," Shatouhy said.

Shatouhy said he attended the event because he had a genuine interest in learning more about power and oppression.

"This school always takes a moment to highlight how diverse they are, and then you walk on campus and you don't see any of that anywhere," he said.

CONTACT CAITLIN HOLTZMAN  
CHOLTZMAN@ITHACA.EDU



# COLLEGE BRIEFS

## College seeks student feedback through success team surveys

The Ithaca College Student Success Team is collecting student feedback through a series of short surveys to gain a better understanding of students' experiences throughout their time at the college. Each survey will have between three and six questions for students to answer. The first mini-surveys have been sent to new students, freshman and transfer students this week. All new students who are currently in their first semester at the college are encouraged to fill out the survey.

Students may choose whether or not they would like a member of the student success team to contact them about their responses to the survey. The student success team will share data patterns, not individual responses, with the appropriate office or program that addresses those specific student needs.

## Certification program to educate campus on bystander intervention

The new Ithaca College Responsibility: Bystander Intervention Certification Program is part of a campus-wide prevention education collaboration. The program is intended to educate, improve skill development and teach intervention strategies.

Participants will receive a certificate of completion demonstrating their knowledge of pro-social intervention and marketable skills to help them bring positive contributions to both work and educational environments.

## Women's network advisory board creates new vision and mission

The Ithaca College Women's Mentoring Network Advisory Board is hosting a welcoming event from 4 to 6 p.m. Sept. 23 in Clark Lounge. Individuals may attend the event virtually through Zoom if they are not on campus or cannot attend in person.

The board has developed a new vision and mission statement after attending a visioning retreat in June. The board is looking to conduct a series of events, mentoring circles and one-on-one mentoring partnerships.

The vision for the board is to uplift

women to empower their success. Its mission is to connect women to create a sense of community, create an inclusive structure and programming to support women in higher education, emphasize the connection between professional and personal development, respect one another and collaborate with others on campus who support women.

Individuals may fill out an online survey to express interest in the network.

## New graduate program to host series of information sessions

The Ithaca College Physician Assistant Program is hosting three virtual information sessions in September. The sessions will be held from 8 to 9:30 p.m. Sept. 16, 9 to 10:30 a.m. Sept. 20 and noon to 1:30 p.m. Sept. 22.

The sessions will be held through Zoom and will cover general information about the program, the 2021–22 admission cycle and financial aid planning.

Additional information sessions will be held in October and November.

## IC names new program director for Center of Health Promotion

Ithaca College's Division of Student Affairs and Campus Life has filled a position in the Center for Counseling, Health and Wellness.

Michelle Goode has been named the new program director for the Center of Health Promotion after Nancy Reynolds, former program director for the Center of Health Promotion, retired after the end of the 2020–21 academic year. Dean of Students Bonnie Prunty led the search process.

Prior to accepting the role at the college, Goode had worked at Syracuse University as a Health Promotion Specialist since March 2016. She also spent one year as the Prevention Specialist at the County of Oswego Council on Alcoholism and Addictions Inc.

Goode graduated from the College at Brockport in 2012 with a degree in health science and exercise physiology and earned her Master of Public Health with a concentration in social and behavioral sciences from



## Student film sets begin to see more action

Senior Lili Geho, director of photography for the student film "Elwood," sets up a shot Sept. 12 in the Ithaca College Natural Lands on the first day of shooting the film. The film is directed by senior Liam Wurtz and produced by senior Anthony Boccia.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

Boston University in 2015.

## Student engagment office to give funding for events in IC Square

The Office of Student Engagement is looking for student organizations that want to host their events in IC Square in the Campus Center. Student organizations may receive up to \$1,000 in funding to be used toward prizes, refreshments, etc.

Student organizations will also receive personalized support from the Campus Center Programming team. The application deadline is Sept. 20.

## Bike Walk Tompkins to celebrate annual festival on Cayuga Street

The Streets Alive! Ithaca festival is from 1 to 5 p.m. Sept. 19 on Cayuga Street, from Ithaca High School to Court Street. The open streets festival will include a bike rodeo, circus culture acrobatics, strolling musicians and more.

Bike Walk Tompkins is looking for at least 50 volunteers from the community to help close the street to cars, take photos of the action, work as roving bike mechanics and encourage people to have fun. Volunteers must be 16 or older.

# PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM AUGUST 30 TO SEPTEMBER 5

### AUGUST 30

#### MEDICAL ASSIST/ PSYCHOLOGICAL

LOCATION: Hammond Health Center  
SUMMARY: A caller reported attempting to harm themselves by a prescribed medication overdose. The officer reported that the person was taken into custody under the New York state mental hygiene law and transported to the hospital. Patrol Officer Mark Jones responded.

#### SCC DRUG VIOLATIONS

LOCATION: Circle Apartments Building  
SUMMARY: A caller reported finding drug paraphernalia during health and safety inspections. The officer reported that one person was referred for conduct code violation. Master Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

### AUGUST 31

#### MEDICAL ASSIST/ PSYCHOLOGICAL

LOCATION: Rowland Hall  
SUMMARY: Tompkins County Dispatch reported that a person had intentionally cut themselves with a sharp object. The officer reported that the person was transported to the hospital by ambulance under the New York state mental hygiene law. Patrol Officer Sophia Dimkos responded.

### CHECK ON THE WELFARE

LOCATION: Garden Apartment  
SUMMARY: A caller reported an intoxicated person made a threat to kill themselves. The officer reported that the person is not a threat to themselves or others. Patrol Officer Sophia Dimkos responded.

### PETIT LARCENY BETWEEN \$50–\$199

LOCATION: Circle Community Building  
SUMMARY: A caller reported an unknown person stole towels from a dryer in the laundry room. Master Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

### SEPTEMBER 1

#### OFF CAMPUS INCIDENT

LOCATION: State Route 96B  
SUMMARY: A caller reported a two-car property damage motor vehicle accident where one vehicle left the scene. The officer maintained the scene for park police. Patrol Officer John Norman responded.

#### SCC ACTS OF DISHONESTY

LOCATION: Tower Concourse  
SUMMARY: A caller reported finding a wallet that they turned over to an officer. The officer reported locating a fraudulent license in the wallet and that one person was referred for possession of fraudulent identification. Master Patrol Officer John Elmore responded.

### SEPTEMBER 2

#### MEDICAL ASSIST/ PSYCHOLOGICAL

LOCATION: Tower Concourse  
SUMMARY: A caller reported a person with suicidal ideation intentionally cut themselves several times. The officer reported that the person was taken into custody under the New York state mental hygiene law and transported to the hospital. Master Patrol Officer Waylon Degraw responded.

#### ACCIDENTAL PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: Hilliard Hall  
SUMMARY: A caller reported an unknown person broke a glass window of a door. Master Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

#### MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT/ PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: S-Lot  
SUMMARY: A caller reported a two-car property damage motor vehicle accident. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon responded.

### SEPTEMBER 3

#### SAFETY HAZARD

LOCATION: West Tower  
SUMMARY: A caller reported a tire in a residential hall. The officer reported that the tire would need to be removed as a result of it being a

fire egress hazard. Patrol Officer John Norman responded.

#### V&T LEAVING SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT

LOCATION: Circle Lot 6  
SUMMARY: A caller reported a two-car property damage motor vehicle accident. The officer reported that one vehicle fled the scene of the accident. Patrol Officer John Norman responded.

### SEPTEMBER 4

#### SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

LOCATION: Friends Hall  
SUMMARY: The officer reported suspicious lights coming from the area after hours. The officer reported that the lights were from a projector screen saver. Patrol Officer Mark Jones responded.

#### MAKING GRAFFITI NO DEGREE, SUB 1-2

LOCATION: Circle Apartment  
SUMMARY: A caller reported an unknown person wrote offensive comments in chalk on a wall around the entranceway. Sergeant Don Lyke responded.

#### SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

LOCATION: Campus Center  
SUMMARY: The officer reported observing person(s) on top of the roof. The officer reported that they were

unable to locate person(s). Patrol Officer John Norman responded.

### SEPTEMBER 5

#### MEDICAL ASSIST/ INJURY RELATED

LOCATION: Fitness Center  
SUMMARY: A caller reported a person injured an ankle. The officer reported that the person declined medical attention. Master Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

#### OFF CAMPUS INCIDENT

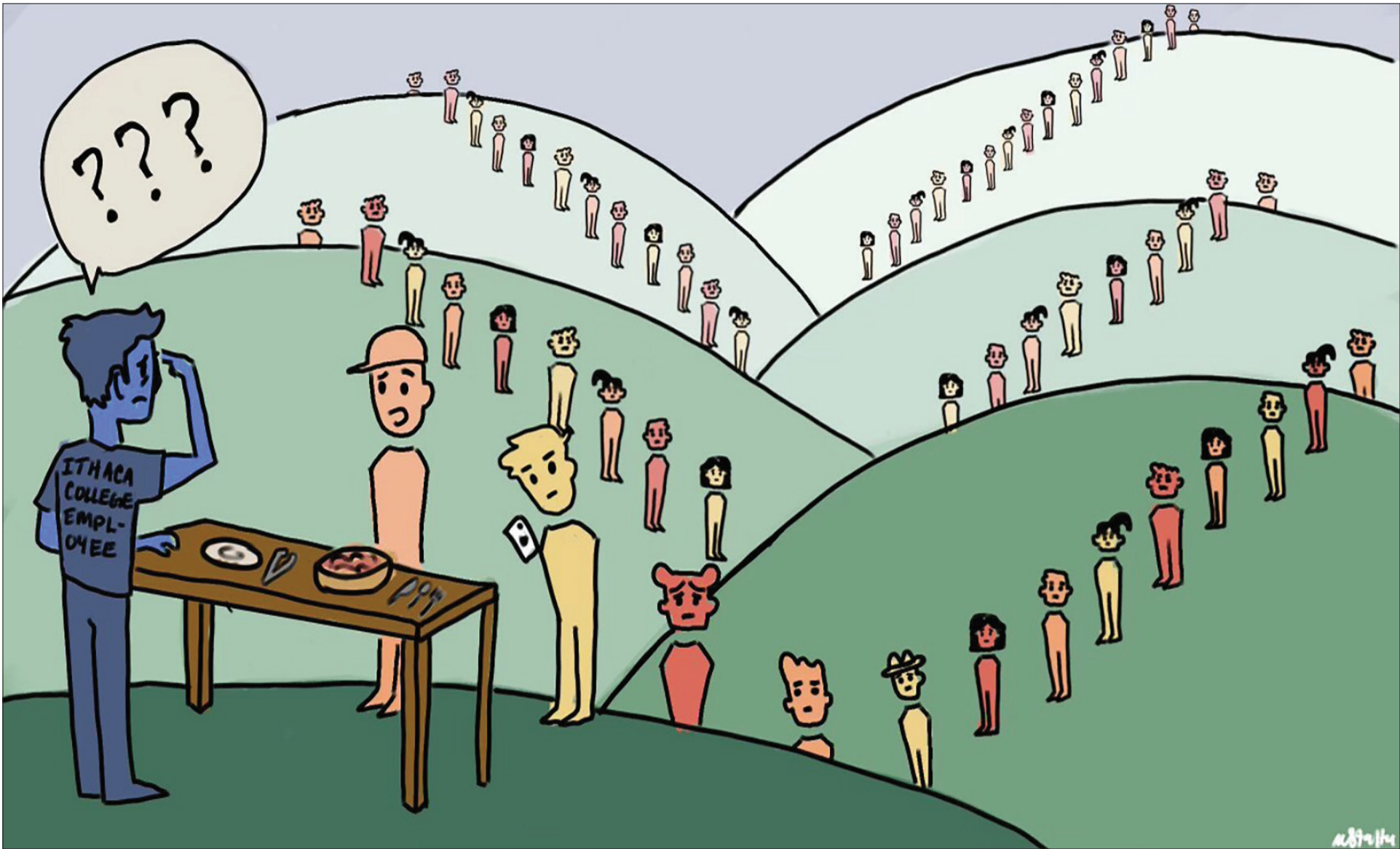
LOCATION: Eastman Hall  
SUMMARY: Tompkins County Dispatch reported a person with suicidal ideation took sleeping pills. The officer reported that the person was located and taken into custody under the New York state mental hygiene law and was transported to the hospital by ambulance. Master Patrol Officer John Elmore responded.

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

### KEY

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





MOLLY STANTON/THE ITHACAN

## EDITORIALS

### Labor shortage produces issues throughout campus

As Ithaca College attempts to recover as a community and build a new standard of normal, it is evident we cannot make a complete return to how things were before the pandemic and before the faculty and staff cuts. The college is understaffed — a predicament seen across the entirety of Ithaca and even the United States.

Despite its efforts, the college has not been able to hire a sufficient number of workers in many departments and offices, much to the detriment of current employees and the overall efficiency of day-to-day activities. The dining halls are a prime example of staffing issues — they have multiple openings available for student employees and for professionals that they have not been able to fill. The college is at full capacity and the lines during lunch alone extend outside the Campus Center building. This must be overwhelming for all the staff members currently employed. If hiring more

staff members across the board means staff members will not be overstretched, then it's something that needs to be done. After the college furloughed or laid off at least 264 staff members since March 2020, the college is now facing the consequences of being left shorthanded and unable to fill numerous positions.

The campus library has cut its hours for the Fall 2021 semester in comparison to the previous semester. This change is partially due to the lack of funds the library has, and therefore cannot afford to hire more staff members to keep the library open longer. How is it that the library, which every student needs access to at one point, does not have adequate funds to remain open for its students? There needs to be some way funds can be allocated to such an important part of students' academic lives. Our staff members need to be supported and provided with the resources they need as the college attempts to return to pre-pandemic standards.

### IC athletics department falls short with Title IX

Ithaca College cannot remain complacent with its level of adherence with Title IX within the Department of Athletics. There is still work to be done for complete equity. The college should not be comfortable with the lack of equal annual wages for coaches of women's sports teams in comparison with coaches in the men's sports teams. This is not the standard the college community should be willing to settle for.

The college has been able to provide female-identifying and non-binary students more opportunities through club sports, like women's rugby, but this club has yet to be promoted to the varsity level, despite being around since 1995. While there are other factors to take into consideration before adding sports teams, the college should take into consideration the level of interest and work female club sports have put in when it considers what new sports teams to add.

In addition to annual wages, there is an

imbalance in the funding that goes into recruitment for sports teams. How can women's sports teams increase their rosters and bridge the gap between the number of athletes on women's teams compared with men's teams if they are not given enough money to do so?

According to Title IX, the college does only need to be compliant with at least one of its three components of the legislation. But for the college to claim it values both women's and men's sports teams equally, there has to be action to support it. By only really committing to adhere to two of the three prongs of Title IX, the athletics department disrespects the entire college community and disregards the effort and commitment female-identifying and non-binary students put in. The college needs to step up and set an example for the community by assuring that there is gender equity across the board and show that it plans to continue to maintain its commitment to ensuring equity for all its students, faculty and staff members now and in the future.

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send to [ithacan@ithaca.edu](mailto:ithacan@ithaca.edu).

ALL LETTERS MUST:

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

#### GUEST COMMENTARY

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

# President of IC AAUP discusses COVID-19 policies

BY DAN BREEN

As president of the Ithaca College chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), I have been involved in recent conversations about the concerns faculty are facing, both here and at other area colleges and universities, as so many institutions return to on-campus instruction.

Not surprisingly, one significant concern in the face of the ongoing pandemic is safety: the safety of both the campus community and of vulnerable friends and family members. Almost invariably, from the perspective of AAUP chapters in our area, the health and safety of our communities are best protected by simple and clear COVID-19 policies that err on the side of caution. Here in Ithaca, Cornell University went too far in a different direction this August when, as reported by Risa Lieberwitz, professor of labor and employment law in the School of Industrial and Labor Relations and Cornell AAUP chapter president, in the Cornell Daily Sun, the university refused to allow faculty to request that their classes be taught in a remote instruction format even if that request

was “premised on the need for a disability accommodation.” While certainly very clear, this policy is at best incautious and at worst, as Lieberwitz suggests in her piece, a possible violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Following widespread faculty criticism, the university shifted its stance in practice, but as of the publication date of Lieberwitz’s article, Cornell had not formally rescinded the policy.

Ithaca College has avoided many of these difficulties by being, on the whole, both active and clear in most of the areas that matter the most.

The college was very early with its student vaccine mandate in the spring, and equally early with its very simple and effective statement on indoor mask usage, after the astonishing transmissibility of the delta variant became plainly known.

My own perspective, as both a faculty member for over 16 years and as the parent of a child who is too young to be vaccinated for COVID-19, however, is that there are some aspects of the college’s COVID-19 policy that could stand to be revised further or clarified.

For example, while vaccines are



Dan Breen, associate professor in the Department of Literatures in English and president of the Ithaca College chapter of the American Association of University Professors, speaks on Ithaca College’s COVID-19 policies.

ALYSSA BEEBE/THE ITHACAN

encouraged for faculty and staff, they are not absolutely required. The absence of such a requirement here remains puzzling.

The college’s contact tracing policy, additionally, does not provide for the notification of all classmates and instructors of a

student who tests positive for the virus, even if that student was present in class immediately prior to the positive test.

Finally, it would be helpful to explicitly allow faculty a significant degree of latitude in adjusting instructional modalities in response

to the changing health profiles of individual classes, provided that this can be done in a way that does not compromise students’ privacy.

**DAN BREEN** is an associate professor in the Department of Literatures in English. Contact him at [dbreen@ithaca.edu](mailto:dbreen@ithaca.edu)

GUEST COMMENTARY

# Student calls for patience with dining hall workers

BY TIRO SEROBE

It feels like Ithaca College’s dining services have just had an extra dose of bad luck. From the Sodexo debacle and the iconic photos of thermometers in packaged sandwiches, to the Towers fiasco of underselling food. There seems to always be something not quite right with the dining services, and this year is proving to be no different.

The dining halls are struggling! There has always been a shortage of staff, both students and professionals. However, there seems to be a noticeable difference this semester — if the queue outside of the Campus Center is anything to judge by. Unfortunately, the queue is a daily occurrence with one person helming the swiping. The minute you think now is a safe time to go, turn your back for a couple of minutes, you will find yourself joining the hodge-podge of people squeezed shoulder to shoulder in front of the recreation room and blocking most of the access to the doorways.

Additionally, other than the unrelenting queue, another clue that the dining halls are struggling is that recently the Terrace Dining Hall has opened for breakfast on Sundays (YAY!), but so late into the semester, it really doesn’t bode well for how things are going. If anything, it feels like the college is struggling to meet the demands of having everyone back on campus, and who knows what strain the budget kerfuffle has had on the whole situation.

It would be easy for me to write a complaint about how the dining halls are struggling, but I think it would also be remiss of me to not mention how incredible the employees who work in these spaces are. Every single person had such an outpouring of kindness and affection that I will forever be so grateful for. So yes, the dining halls are struggling, and I can only imagine what that is doing to the morale and kindness of the people who work there. But I hope that they know how grateful I am for all their hard work and all the times they



Senior Tiro Serobe explains her views on understaffing in the dining halls, as a former student employee of Terrace Dining Hall. She encourages all to show kindness to staff members.

ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN

have gone above and beyond, not just for me, but many students on campus.

I encourage and urge anyone who reads this to choose to show kindness to the people you come into contact with every day. Those

short conversations and shy smiles made each shift feel a whole lot better.

**TIRO SEROBE** is a senior cinema and photography major. Contact her at [tserobe@ithaca.edu](mailto:tserobe@ithaca.edu).

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I wanted to provide the campus community with some information and reassurances following the Sept. 2 commentary by Matan Berman. The issues that he identified are not of the kind that pose structural challenges to the integrity of the building, but are, rather, cosmetic in nature. Nonetheless, these are indeed important and require amelioration. I have reached out to Mr. Berman directly, to explain and to express appreciation that he took the time to contact the Facilities office. In this case, we were already aware of the damage to the exterior stucco and had been planning to repair a few such areas on campus buildings. I apologized that due to the high volume of early semester tasks being addressed, the work on Terrace 10 was delayed. To reiterate, the needed repairs do not involve any structural safety issues. The Maintenance Requests

page website has information on how students can report both emergency and routine maintenance issues, and we encourage them to become familiar with this resource. Finally, I want to address the editor’s note at the end of the commentary, stating that, “The Office of Facilities has not responded to a request for comment at the time of publication.” *The Ithacan* sent an email to our office at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, asking “if you would like the opportunity to write a response or provide a comment on the subject.” If that invitation had been addressed directly to me and had it not been delivered mere hours before publication of the commentary, I would have in fact been able to provide all of the above information prior to publication.

Timothy Carey, Associate Vice President, Office of Facilities



# What I Wish I Knew...

This week, our seniors responded to the prompt, “What opportunities did IC give you?”



At the end of my first year at Ithaca College, I applied to become a resident assistant (RA). To be honest, I entered the position with rose-colored glasses, unprepared for how difficult it would be. This opportunity completely redirected my whole college experience. I had to learn not only how to support myself through the stresses of college, but also how to guide others through it as well. I was no longer responsible for just myself, rather I had to think about the needs of my residents, other RAs and the community. I had to sacrifice nights out with my friends for duty shifts and department meetings. Now, as seniors, many of my peers are beginning to learn the skills needed for the “adult world,” like signing leases, paying rent and figuring out how the trash system works in Ithaca. At first, I felt like I was missing out, still relying on all my meals from the dining hall and having no idea how a lease works. After a while, I began to see how many valuable skills I learned in the past three years and how they translate into my future career as an occupational therapist. When my class began practicing active and reflective listening to prepare us for interviewing our clients, I noticed I have been utilizing these skills for years in my one-on-one meetings with residents. I might not be cooking meals for myself, but I am finally learning how to support others while also taking care of myself. I still might have a pretty big learning curve as I enter the “adult world,” but I feel as though being an RA has given me the tools I need to face the real world head-on.

When I think about my perception of college before my arrival to Ithaca, I honestly thought it was going to be something like “Zoey 101,” with bigger lecture halls and a multitude of mopeds. I really hadn’t considered how beneficial it would be to go to a smaller school until I was sitting in Quantitative Chemistry. I never felt alone in my confusion because I was always in an environment where I could ask my professors anything without fear of judgment from my peers. Chemistry can be a very intensive and rigorous major at times, but the style of Ithaca College and the professors and staff it attracts made it impactful and enjoyable. One of my longest-lasting gifts from the college has been working in the Chemistry Prep Lab as a lab assistant. I have worked there since I was a freshman and never want to leave because of how much I adore my professors, advisers and work buddies. Outside of my academic life, I spend my time dancing and choreographing for a dance company on campus called IC Unbound Dance Company. I generally dance hip-hop, but the intriguing aspect about Unbound is that there are dances of every style, so students can explore varying forms of dance and step outside of their comfort zones. I am very appreciative of the college for offering such an inclusive and multifaceted dance organization with creative and innovative students that make it one of my favorite activities that college has to offer.



STEPHANIE  
FINE

ELEANOR KAY/THE ITHACAN



NYA  
EVANS

ELEANOR KAY/THE ITHACAN

Being a student at the college gave me the chance to meet a professor who broke my heart and gave me life during class — a professor who became like my mom while I was in college. She introduced me to life outside of college and brought me to spaces to build relationships with people from Ithaca. In my first year, I had the opportunity to be president of the college’s only Hispanic/Latinx club, PODER. In my first year, I also had the opportunity to be a part of what we called Honoring Blackness at IC alongside so many of my favorite people, such as Nia Nunn, associate professor in the Department of Education’s Black Feminist Thought Seminar. We even discussed and brought to light conversations about sexual assault that same first year, but we called it OUR STORY IS NOT HISTORY — shining a light on conversations across communities of color and even inviting other schools to participate in these conversations as well. I have had the opportunity to be a Student Ambassador for the Education Department’s Spring Lecture Events back in 2019 for Bettina Love, athletic association endowed professor at the University of Georgia, and discuss how her work impacted me and others. The biggest opportunity I had was given to me by the Office of Access, Opportunity and Achievement here at the college — the possibility to even attend college as a first-generation, low-income, Black woman. So shout out to Ithaca College, even though I hate it here.

To read the rest of the blog entries and an additional blog from senior Frankie Walls head to [TheIthacan.org](http://TheIthacan.org).



GISELA  
ROSA

ELEANOR KAY/THE ITHACAN

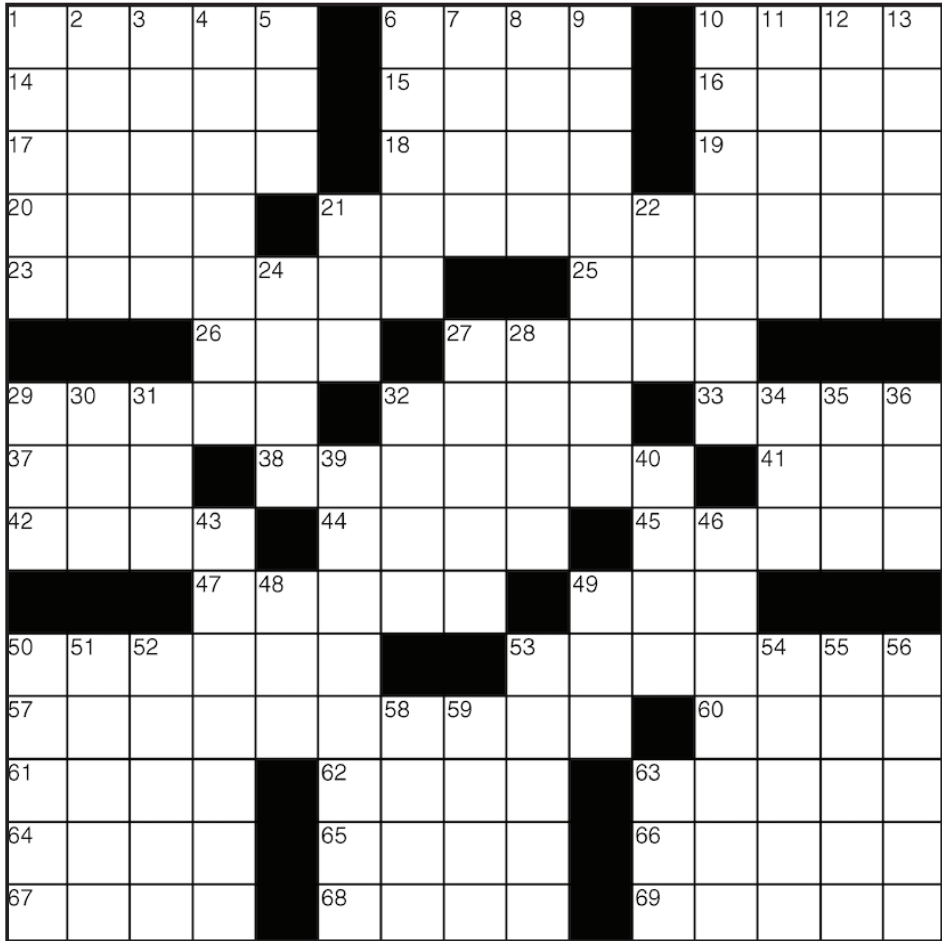




# DIVERSIONS

## crossword

By Quill Driver Books



ACROSS

- 1 Exhausted
- 6 Vinland explorer
- 10 Deep tracks
- 14 Desensitize
- 15 Pakistani language
- 16 Poet's black
- 17 Serious offender
- 18 Tiny stream
- 19 Wound a matador
- 20 Dancer ---- Astaire
- 21 Slow down
- 23 Long steps
- 25 Seesaw
- 26 Ballpoint point
- 27 Carnivals
- 29 Cosmetic buy
- 32 Salon treatment
- 33 Email option
- 37 Not just mine
- 38 More jolly
- 41 Listener's need
- 42 Finishes first
- 44 Warrior princess
- 45 Pound sounds
- 47 Prolific diarist
- 49 Not skinny
- 50 On the go
- 53 Charity ball

DOWN

- 1 Spats
- 2 Immobile
- 3 Autocrat
- 4 Blowing away
- 5 Hideaway
- 6 Tempts
- 7 Musician --- Clapton
- 8 Out of action
- 9 Not temporary (hyph.)
- 10 Go backward
- 11 Wolf pack member (hyph.)
- 12 Viennese dessert
- 13 Scoff at
- 21 Chaperoned girl

DOWN

- 22 Poetic contraction
- 24 "Carpe ----!"
- 27 Spore producers
- 28 La Scala highlight
- 29 Garden planting
- 30 Monsieur's affirmative
- 31 40-cup brewer
- 32 Zebras, to lions
- 34 Japanese delicacy

DOWN

- 35 Doze
- 36 AMA members
- 39 Used up
- 40 "Saving Private ----"
- 43 Faucets
- 46 Without end
- 48 Magda's sister
- 49 Marshy area
- 50 Greek marketplace
- 51 Felt for

last issue's crossword answers



WE'VE GOT MULTIMEDIA

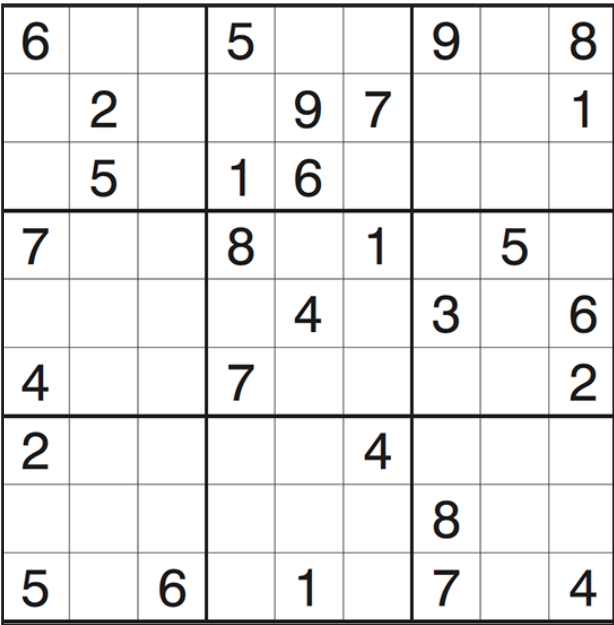
YOUTUBE.COM/ITHACANONLINE

Create and solve your Sudoku puzzles for FREE.

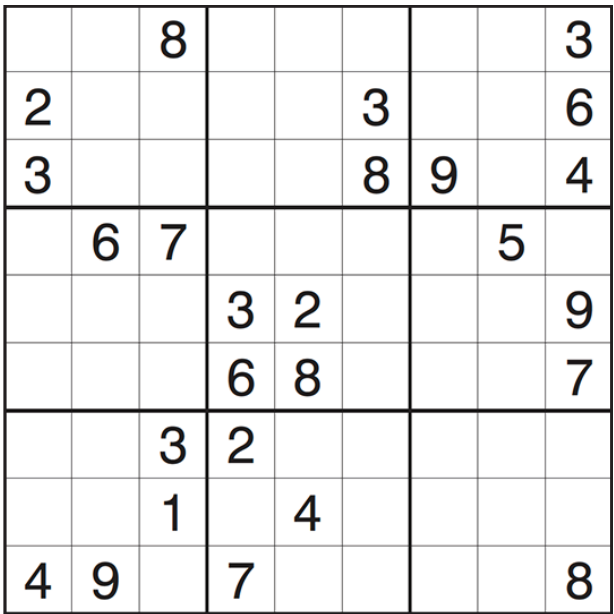
Play Sudoku and win prizes at: PRIZESUDOKU.COM

The Sudoku Source of "The Ithacan".

## sudoku easy

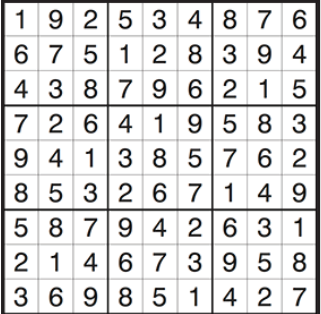


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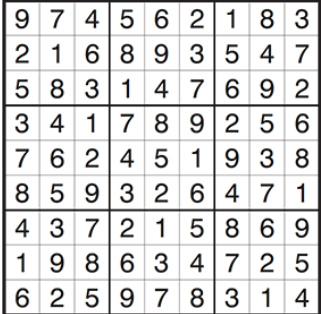


answers to last issue's

medium



very hard



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## THE STARS ALIGN AT IC

Astrology rises in popularity among the campus community

BY GRACE AZAULA

For most people, the beginning of September marks the end of summer and the beginning of fall. For those who are interested in astrology, this time marks the end of Leo season and the beginning of the Virgo season.

Astrology, which has grown increasingly popular over the past year, has shifted the way some students at Ithaca College view the world, and has become a more prevalent topic on campus.

Astrology is a theory that looks at patterns, positions and connections between planets and stars impact the world and human beings. The practice uses this information to analyze characteristics like personality and compatibility.

Sophomore Claire Henderson said she was always fascinated by astrology as a child and began to research it more in middle school and high school. She said for her, astrology is a way to understand herself and others on a deeper level.

"I have a lot of anxiety around people, I think that's where my anxiety really manifests through my relationships with others," Henderson said. "And this is a way that I can really know where a person is coming from. ... And I look at their chart, all of a sudden, I have so much ... understanding from where this person is coming from."

Sophomore Rachel Williams said she became more interested in astrology at college because of the supportive community on campus.

"It is nice to be able to talk to people about it, even if it's not serious," Williams said. "It's just kind of a fun topic, so I really like it here, and I've definitely seen it integrated into Ithaca."

Astrology dates back to 3000 BC, when the Babylonians discovered that the positions of constellations between the sun and the planets can be translated into segments of time. They

identified 12 time segments which are the 12 zodiac signs used in modern astrology. This ancient tradition is the basis of modern astrology.

Today, the field of astrology has become more complex, featuring different forms of astrology. Astrologer Jonathon Hall is a certified evolutionary astrologer who founded Soul Power Astrology in 2013 in Ithaca. As the only evolutionary astrology counseling practice in Ithaca, Soul Power Astrology offers a variety of astrological readings. Hall said evolutionary astrology is based on the ideas of astrologer Steven Forrest and is a branch of astrology that centers around free will.

"It's declining, but there still is an issue within ... mainstream astrological circles, that this is a fated thing that's going to happen to you, or the planets are making you do this, or you are kind of like a puppet on a string, and you don't really have any choice, like 'Oh here comes Pluto, I'm screwed,'" Hall said. "And so basically evolutionary astrology ... puts you in the driver's seat."

Sophomore Sofia Nolfo said she thinks the internet provides more opportunities to learn about astrology.

"Because of the internet it's a lot easier to learn about astrology, which I think is cool," Nolfo said. "I've learned a lot about it beyond birth charts and stuff, like what it means when Mercury's in retrograde ... so I think a lot of the information is really accessible which is cool for anyone who wants to get into it."

However, Henderson said the increasing popularity of astrology can also be a danger to the field.

"I think that the modernization and the virality of astrology has changed the way that it's spoken about, which I think increases people not taking it seriously," Henderson said. "There's a lot of talk about sun sign astrology and just a very basic level ... I do think that that's problematic just because it doesn't really make sense when you talk about it like that."

Henderson also said the mainstream form of astrology can be exclusionary and

negligent of certain communities because it has been adopted by predominantly white, cis people.

"When things go viral ... like that, it takes on a white ... cis-domination and that's with anything that goes mainstream in this society," Henderson said.

Astrology is rooted in ancient traditions from Mesopotamia, China, the Middle East, Central Asia and India. People of color who have carried down the tradition of astrology have often been isolated or dismissed because of their beliefs. It was not until white communities, like the college — a predominantly white institution — embraced the practice that it was accepted as a valid belief.

Junior Margaret Harper said they believe one of the reasons people continue to disregard astrology is because it is a tradition dominated by women.

"The astrology community is heavily made up of women, so it's viewed with a lot of sexism," Harper said. "There are stereotypes about girls that are less intelligent because they believe in astrology."

Hall said he hopes people embrace astrology in a mindful way, working to gain a deeper understanding of astrology so that they can better understand themselves and others.

"Everyone has a unique journey to take in their lives and I believe astrology can help make peoples' paths more clear," Hall said via email. "There is plenty of noise that can drown out one's true nature ... Astrology helps you gain not only self-understanding, but self-acceptance. Self-acceptance and compassion for yourself leads to acceptance and compassion for others."

CONTACT GRACE AZAULA  
GAZAULA@ITHACA.EDU



Sophomore Sofia Nolfo learns about astrology through her tarot cards and tarot card guide book. Some of the cards in her deck represent the 12 astrological zodiac signs.

LAUREN LEONE/THE ITHACAN



Jonathan Hall, certified evolutionary astrologer and the founder of Ithaca-based Soul Power Astrology, displays crystals to encourage clients to practice mindfulness.

LAUREN LEONE/THE ITHACAN



# CULTURED

The Life & Culture editor’s recap of current mainstream and alt culture

Compiled by Eva Salzman



## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

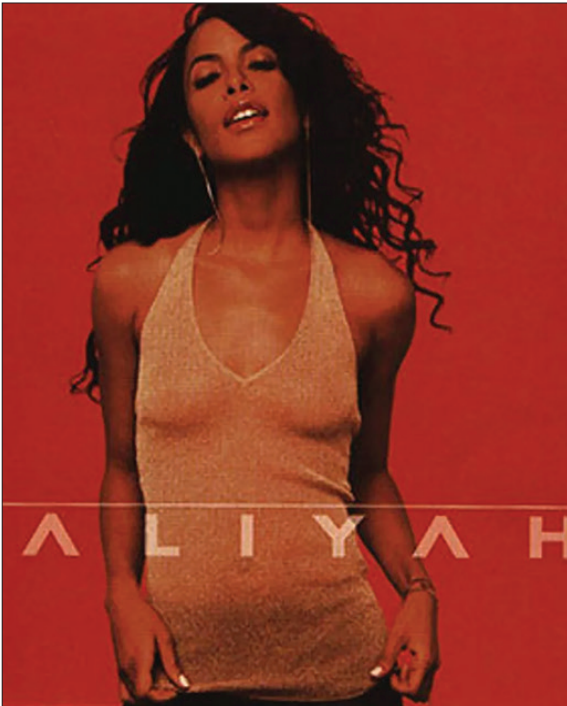
“It is incredible for a pop star to be openly gay, and to perform in the same time where everything is hypersexualized, to have permission to be hypersexualized himself. I think it’s the most empowering thing ever.”

Lizzo, when interviewed by SiriusXM, talking about Lil Nas X’s public persona

## SPOTLIGHT

Aaliyah’s self-titled LP hits streaming services

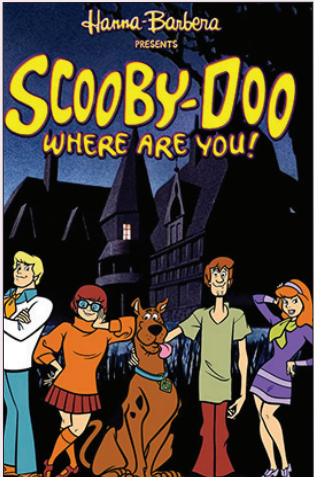
Aaliyah’s final and self-titled studio LP, “Aaliyah,” released in July 2001 hit streaming services for the first time ever Sept. 9, 2021. After Aaliyah’s death a month after the original release of the LP, the album topped the charts, and her singles received several Grammy nominations — including Best R&B Album and Best Female R&B Vocal Performance for “Rock the Boat” and “More Than a Woman.” Aaliyah’s arrival on streaming platforms comes after the re-release of her track, “One In A Million” and the streaming platform release of the soundtrack to the film in which she made her acting debut, “Romeo Must Die.” Two compilations, “I Care 4 U” and “Ultimate Aaliyah” will be released Oct. 8.



## THIS WEEK IN POP CULTURE HISTORY

Sept. 13, 1969

The classic cartoon series, “Scooby-Doo, Where Are You!” first premiered on Saturday morning TV in 1969. Hanna-Barbera production company



originally put a completely different show together as a companion piece for CBS’s “The Archie Show.” The first concept of the show, titled “Mysterious Five,” detailed the lives of a teen rock band and its dog that would solve mysteries in between rehearsals. With several changes to the plot — including renaming the show’s characters — the network came up with “Josie and the Pussycats.” But after hearing Frank Sinatra’s “Strangers in the Night,” where he sings “do-be-doo,” “Scooby-Doo” was born.

Sept. 17, 1983

Vanessa Williams was the first Black woman to win the Miss America pageant, but her fame was quickly torn down. Soon after her win, a scandal arose



when “Penthouse” magazine purchased nude pictures of Williams that were taken while she worked as a photography assistant years before the pageant. Williams received hate mail and death threats as a result — which were likely racially motivated — and stepped down from the title. On Sept. 13, 2015 during the live telecast of the 88th pageant, Miss America CEO Sam Haskell apologized to Williams “for anything that was said or done that made you feel any less than the Miss America you are and the Miss America you always will be.”



# Chess Club looks to expand its membership

BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

Using the trackpad on his laptop to move his knight to C3, senior Don Therkildsen completes the Sicilian Defense. Sophomore Thomas Zieger exchanges a few words with Therkildsen over Zoom before making his move in return. On this Tuesday night, sometime in post-March 2020, a pandemic is raging on outside, leaving the Ithaca College Chess Club to continue the game by using the modern chess player’s pandemic clutch: Chess.com.

The college’s Chess Club was formed in early 2020, right before the COVID-19 pandemic confined it to a virtual setting. Now that the college is fully open, the club is looking to transform itself into an established organization for everyone, from the finest of the college’s chess players to total newcomers. The club will meet every Tuesday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Williams Hall, room 222. Therkildsen, the Chess Club president, said the first meeting was held Sept. 7 and over 20 people attended, many of whom were newcomers. He said he was surprised by the turnout and is happy to be leading this transformational effort.

“My main ambition, which I’ve already talked to my officers about, is to make this chess club Ithaca’s official, bona fide Chess Club,” Therkildsen said. “We are going to try and increase membership permanently and make us more competitive. We also have a relaxed environment — if you just want to

show up on Tuesday and play a game of chess and learn a few lessons, you’re more than welcome to do so.”

Therkildsen said that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chess Club had trouble expanding because many students either did not know that the Chess Club was meeting virtually or were not interested in playing chess online. Junior Connor Watson, Chess Club secretary, said that being in a physical space will increase attraction to the club.

“It will be a lot different this year now that we’re in person,” Watson said via email. “We’re excited to be together in the same space and hope it will allow the club to blossom.”

Zieger, the Chess Club treasurer, said that while chess is competitive by nature, attending tournaments and facing off against other clubs, like Cornell University’s Chess Club, is not the immediate priority of the Ithaca College Chess Club. Zieger said that building a friendly and conversational space for all players is what will come first.

“Cornell has a chess club and we’re considering maybe talking to them about doing events with them sometime,” Zieger said. “It would be nice to reach out to the greater Ithaca community ... but competition has some serious air to it so it’s not something that’s like an immediate goal.”

Junior Wren Perchlik is a new member of Chess Club but is a long time fan of the game. Perchlik said he thinks chess is a great time both



ONLINE  
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THEITHACAN.  
ORG/CHESS

The Ithaca College Chess Club is looking to become established as a bona fide club for all players regardless of their experience or knowledge of the game. It will meet 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays in Williams Hall 222.  
NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

for those who are avid chess players and novices.

“My pitch to play chess would probably be it’s really relaxing and a good way to just kind of sit and hang out with someone for a decent amount of time,” Perchlik said. “There’s a lot of thinking involved, and you have to use your reasoning capacities. But you can also just talk to the person and other people who might be watching. So it’s social but it’s also competitive ... so it’s a pretty fun time.”

Zieger said part of the fun in a

game of chess is getting to know an opponent through conversation.

“My chess philosophy is not to win or to have the best strategy,” Zieger said. “I don’t memorize all these sorts of codes and rules, but I do like to split the brain between this game that I’m working on winning and also the conversation with the person across the board.”

Freshman Daveigh Robbins said she is one of the only women in the Chess Club, but she said the club does not feel like it is exclusive.

“I kind of wish there were more

girls there,” Robbins said. “I think I only saw one girl, but it was fun ... and it didn’t feel like a toxic, male [dominated] environment.”

Therkildsen said he is committed to having the Chess Club be a welcoming environment for all. While Therkildsen and the other officers of the club have lifetime ties to the game, the Chess Club is hoping to emphasize bringing in new players, no matter their level of experience.

CONTACT ELIJAH DE CASTRO  
EDECASTRO@ITHACA.EDU

# IC Open Mic Night returns after year in virtual setting

BY STEPHANIE MONTEIRO

On Sept. 2, over 40 students gathered in IC Square in the Campus Center. They spoke among themselves as two men set up a keyboard, a microphone and a bevy of other sound equipment in preparation. As more students joined the crowd, junior Ben Macarell and senior Cam Narimanian — the Masters of Ceremonies — came to the microphone to rally the audience into an applause to celebrate the return of Open Mic Night.

A college tradition is the weekly Open Mic Night, which occurs from 8 to 10 p.m. every Thursday. For those two hours, students can perform comedy, music, poetry, acting and more in front of an audience of fellow students. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Open Mic Night followed suit with other clubs and switched to a virtual setting. However, when the college returned to a hybrid setting this spring, Open Mic Night was hosted in places that were more equipped to follow social distancing guidelines, like Presser Hall in the James J. Whalen Center for Music and outdoors at places like the Academic Quad.

Junior Stephanie Hawkins is a long-time supporter and participant in Open Mic Night.

“I remembered when I toured Ithaca, actually,” Hawkins said. “I saw the stage and they said ‘Yeah, this is where we do Open Mic,’ and I could totally see myself just doing stand-up ... weirdly enough, one of the incentives that made me want to come here was the appeal of

just performing every week on a stage.”

Hawkins said that she had new material for Open Mic Night every week during her freshman year and that her weeks were often centered around preparing a two-minute set for Open Mic Night.

In addition to organizing Open Mic, Macarell and Narimanian said Open Mic means a lot to them as performers. Macarell and Narimanian both performed original music at the show.

During the 2020–21 academic year, they had to jump through multiple hoops to be able to hold Open Mic before the COVID-19 vaccine became available.

“In the fall, we tried having Open Mic Nights over Zoom but it was usually just me and [Narimanian],” Macarell said. “That’s how [Narimanian] and I know each other because we sat through those Zoom calls without anybody else just trying to pass the time.”

When Spring 2021 rolled around, the duo took the initiative to bring back Open Mic Night. Narimanian and Macarell said they waited until March so they could hold Open Mic Nights outdoors in warmer weather. However, a few weeks later, Open Mic was moved to Presser Hall in the James J. Whalen Center for Music. While it was a change, Macarell said about 12 people showed up to each performance.

“They weren’t bad,” Narimanian said. “I mean with how much we kept changing plans and where the location was and all the



Junior Stephanie Hawkins performs at Open Mic Night on Sept. 2. Open Mic Night made its return to IC Square after a year of holding performances on Zoom, outdoors or while social distancing.  
ELEANOR KAY/THE ITHACAN

stuff we had to abide by, I think it went by pretty well.”

Even though the spring semester was a success for Open Mic, Macarell, Narimanian and Hawkins all said they could not wait to return to IC Square.

“It really just is not the same on Zoom,” Hawkins said. “It just made me really appreciative of Open Mic ... [I’m] probably not going to be skipping Open Mic ever again.”

Junior Jared Soto said one of the best things about Open Mic Night is that it brings together the campus community.

“It provides a sense of community and

entertainment,” Soto said. “It’s entertainment from the community so it’s just like a, sort of, self-fulfilling thing for us ... here at Ithaca.”

Macarell said there is no other organization on campus that allows students to do just about anything they want on stage.

“No other organization [on campus] can say ‘No matter what you are doing ... you are wanted here.’” Macarell said. “Whatever you want to do to spice up the world, this is the place to do it.”

CONTACT STEPHANIE MONTEIRO  
SMONTEIRO@ITHACA.EDU





# Cinema flooded by influencers

BY SYDNEY BRUMFIELD

With the release of “He’s All That,” starring social media influencer Addison Rae, and her subsequent multi-film deal with Netflix, I can’t help but wonder if TikTok is unofficially serving as the No. 1 casting agency for producers.

Casting media personalities is not new for the film industry. Initially, when it came to actors running the risk of losing their jobs to those who were inexperienced, it was models snatching up roles. We all remember the iconic performances of Paris Hilton in “Zoolander” and Heidi Klum in “Ella Enchanted,” in which both of them truly proved their talents at playing shallow and unbelievable characters.

Now, we have the influencer, coming from Instagram and TikTok and traveling through a pipeline to Hollywood by filling mainstream roles. Rae, for instance, is an influencer with 84.2 million followers on TikTok.

In earlier renditions of media personalities being cast in films, their appearance did not minimize the quality of the film, even if the performance was subpar.

However, now it makes sense for producers to hire an influencer. They are a “talent” with a built-in following in the millions, regardless of how abysmal their actual talent is. However fiscally reasonable casting influencers is, it results in fewer well-deserving actors from being discovered.

The casting of untrained pseudo-celebrities is leading to an increase in projects that are commercially successful, yet trashy. “He’s All That” held a slot on Netflix’s category of Top 10 in the U.S. Today for a week — though who really knows how accurate Netflix’s self-made promotional feature is.

It is undeniable that despite their poor quality, there is an audience for these projects. Producers know that viewers tune in either to watch the social media star that they love or to see the star they love to hate. This has led to low amounts of energy being put into these films because the executives on the project know people will watch regardless of quality — if you disagree please watch “He’s All That” and then get back to me.

In cinema, there is an unspoken rule that viewers will have different expectations of films of different genres. You wouldn’t go into watching romantic comedies with the same expectations as if you were going to see science fiction. Because it is clear these influencer projects are not going away anytime soon, should we start changing our expectations for them?

Viewers accept the current low quality of these trashy influencer films. But because of this, Netflix has no incentive to improve the quality of influencer movies, as a result of these million-dollar, built-in audiences.

I’m not sure what can be done about the influencer-to-actor-pipeline. Maybe we should ask whether giving social media stars a like or a follow just to see what controversy will happen next is worth it.

**POPPED CULTURE** is a weekly column, written by Life & Culture staff writers, that analyzes pop culture events. Sydney Brumfield is a junior writing for film, tv and emerging media major. Contact her at sbrumfield@ithaca.edu.

# “Shang-Chi” offers visual thrills

MOVIE REVIEW: “Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings” Marvel Studios



BY SYDNEY BRUMFIELD

Prepare to be blown away by “Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings,” director Destin Daniel Cretton’s Marvel movie with top-tier action scenes and brilliant characters. Filled with dialogue that perfectly walks the line between impactful and humorous, “Shang-Chi” is a sturdy stand-alone film that is delightful no matter the viewer’s knowledge of the Marvel franchise.

Shang-Chi, (Simu Liu) an ex-assassin hiding away in San Francisco under the alternate name Shaun, is working as a valet with his best friend Katy (Awkwafina). Their life is thrown into mayhem when Shang-Chi’s father Xu Wenwu (Tony Leung Chie-Wai) — the founder of the international crime syndicate the “Ten Rings” — sends his soldiers after Shang-Chi. This opens the door to Shang-Chi’s horrendous past of being trained as an assassin since the age of seven. Now, he must attempt to protect his family as well as uncover and foil the true motives of his father. To save the world, Shang-Chi is forced to confront his past or become defined by it.

“Shang-Chi” has some of the most gripping action sequences created by Marvel in years. The choreography, the visual effects and the cinematography of the fight scenes are newfangled, launching the audience into physical conflicts unlike

anything ever seen. The smaller level fights between Shang-Chi and other characters have a large emphasis on the environment. They explore the impact of the location on a fight scene and exceed expectations by having captivating sequences. The large ensemble fight sequences feel like a beautiful dance as the camera delicately jumps between the main cast of characters.

Cretton creates a full cast of characters that manages to be both nuanced and complex. Shang-Chi is a unique hero character who the audience gets to watch grow and fulfill his destiny. Being able to watch his struggle both in gaining physical endurance and tackling the ghosts of his past make him an enthralling character. Just as impactful, Shang-Chi is not cocky or arrogant like a majority of other hero characters in this franchise. He is allowed to be timid and emotionally vulnerable, which is refreshing to see in a strong male lead. Most exciting is that even the antagonist, Xu Wenwu, is complex with a gray history and a heart-wrenching desire to be reunited with the love of his life.

The story of “Shang-Chi” is fresh, tight and nothing like the typical Marvel film. The viewer is not expected to know the extended backstory of the characters much like they are in most other Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) films. Instead, the story is structured through juxtaposition



“Shang-Chi” has intense action sequences and a tight script that makes it one of the highest quality Marvel movies in years.

COURTESY OF MARVEL STUDIOS

of the characters’ pasts as they become relevant to the present-day plotline. This allows the viewers to learn a lot about the characters in a meaningful and direct way. The only downside to this structuring is that when switching between the past and present, it makes moments in the second act feel slower. These scenes feel expositional because they provide the audience with the necessary background

information that is typically delivered in the beginning of the film.

Cretton creates an excellent full-circle plot that whisks viewers off on an epic journey and then places them right back into the real world by the end of the film. “Shang-Chi” is a great addition to the MCU and an outstanding visual experience.

CONTACT SYDNEY BRUMFIELD  
SBRUMFIELD@ITHACA.EDU

# Latest Cinderella remake royally drops the ball

MOVIE REVIEW: “Cinderella” Amazon Studios



BY AVERY ALEXANDER

Cinderella is one of those timeless tales that many people will never get tired of. Unfortunately, the 2021 adaptation directed by Kay Cannon is far from the beloved fairy tale that audiences have grown to love.

The film opens with one of the cheesiest voiceover jobs in history performed by fan-favorite Billy Porter (Fabulous Godmother) which makes it that much more disappointing. The opening number is set to a rendition of Janet Jackson’s “Rhythm Nation,” and with its enjoyable vocals and dynamic dance number, it could have been strong. Unfortunately, Porter’s narration pushes the scene past charming and makes it cringy.

“Cinderella” is a prime example of how a star-studded cast does not necessarily make a movie worth watching. Besides Porter’s voice acting at the beginning of the film, other actors struggle throughout the movie. Camila Cabello, who plays the titular Cinderella, is a beautiful singer but her lack of acting experience is painfully obvious, making her casting

a questionable choice at best.

Another lackluster performance comes, shockingly, from Broadway veteran Idina Menzel (The Stepmother/Vivian). Clunky dialogue and awkward scene direction makes it nearly impossible for Menzel to shine. To make it worse, the film attempts to redeem the Stepmother about three quarters of the way through and it simply doesn’t work. The Stepmother could have been the most compelling character in the entire film, if only the writing gave her enough room to grow.

Despite her acting performance, Menzel boasts the strongest musical number in the entire film. Her solo “Dream Girl” is a powerful rock ballad about women being forced to settle into their roles in society, set to a rousing guitar solo and dynamic camera work. While most of the music is made up of covers of popular songs like Madonna’s “Material Girl,” the strongest songs are the original ones like “Dream Girl” and Cabello’s “Million to One.” Ultimately, “Cinderella” would have been so much better without the slapped-together soundtrack.



The classic princess story of “Cinderella” is not presented well in the 2021 remake.

COURTESY OF AMAZON STUDIOS

This film isn’t the first, nor the best, modern Cinderella adaptation. In fact, “Cinderella” (2021) is one of the worst modern Cinderella adaptations to date.

With that being said, the film uses the mixed modern and classic elements to create a seriously stunning wardrobe. The costumes alone are a visual marvel, and they are magnificent enough to focus on while ignoring some disappointing elements of the film.

For a movie with so much raw potential, “Cinderella” (2021) is destined to fade into obscurity. In a few years no one will remember this unfortunate adaptation, especially when it’s inevitable that more, much better, versions are never going to stop getting released.

CONTACT AVERY ALEXANDER  
AALEXANDER@ITHACA.EDU



# Drake album is a certified bummer

ALBUM REVIEW: “Certified Lover Boy”



BY MIKE ROSS

Hip-hop and R&B superstar Drake released his sixth studio album, “Certified Lover Boy,” on Sept. 3. The project was originally teased to be released in January 2021, so anticipation for the project had plenty of time to accumulate. In the meantime, fans were gifted three singles from the artist in March, all of which became smash hits among Drake fans and casual listeners alike.

It seems like Drake was preparing the world for a project that would shake the game, using billboards to tell major cities to expect their hometown rappers to make appearances on the record. The album art was revealed via Drake’s Instagram on Aug. 30, receiving aggressively mixed reviews. The three-by-four grid of pregnant women emojis was met with a stampede of parodies posted on social media within minutes of its reveal.

This, unfortunately, would turn out to be an incorrect assumption. “Certified Lover Boy” does not make many improvements following the rapper’s forgettable previous project “Scorpion.” In fact, it is arguable that “Scorpion” had even more to give. The first four tracks on “Certified Lover Boy” give

the illusion of cohesiveness, a massive step in the right direction that Drake hasn’t taken in years, but this hope is lost as the tracklist goes on with an abundance of filler.

Songs on the record hold memorability for the wrong reasons; painfully corny narratives and lyrics. The track “Way 2 Sexy” devotes itself to garnering artificial attention. The chorus is derived from Right Said Fred’s 1991 single “I’m Too Sexy,” with traces of vocal samples from the track playing throughout featured artist Future’s chorus. This song was obviously engineered to create nostalgia, something that often helps tracks gain relevance online. As well as being the only song that was given a music video, “Way 2 Sexy” has been clearly devoted to functioning as the album’s catchy radio hit.

“Girls Want Girls” with Lil Baby tells of Drake going for a girl who communicates that she’s only interested in women. His solution is the chorus “Say that you a lesbian, girl, me too.” This chorus is dropped without any elaboration on what exactly he means by telling this girl he is also a lesbian. Not only is this fetishization of women-loving-women relationships distasteful and offensive, but it doesn’t hold any context



Drake’s latest album does not create anything new. Despite featuring many artists, Drake recycles his old beats.

COURTESY OF OVO SOUND/REPUBLIC RECORDS

outside of that one lyric.

The height of controversy on “Certified Lover Boy” lies in the track “TSU.” Drake raps about giving financial support to a struggling sex worker in exchange for sexual favors. On top of the lyrics’ manipulative nature, a vocal sample in the beginning of the song features background music by R. Kelly, the R&B singer notorious for multiple alleged sex crimes, giving him a writing credit.

The combination of these two aspects leads to a tone deaf and out-of-touch track.

While “Certified Lover Boy” is boring, there are highlights. However, making tracks easy to enjoy because they are reminiscent of an artist’s older work is a double-edged sword, and it isn’t hard to admit that the negative edge is just a tad sharper.

CONTACT MIKE ROSS  
MROSS3@ITHACA.EDU

# Book exposes corruption behind Afghanistan War

BOOK REVIEW: “The Afghanistan Papers: A Secret History of the War”



BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

The release of “The Afghanistan Papers: A Secret History of the War” could not be more timely and bittersweet. In overwhelmingly tragic detail, “The Afghanistan Papers” tells the long-sought truth behind one of America’s most grueling, expensive and misled wars in pristine detail.

“The Afghanistan Papers” comes at the end of President Joe Biden’s withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan, as well as the 20th anniversary of 9/11, making its release impeccably well-timed. The book is a result of investigative journalist Craig Whitlock sifting through piles of publicly available intelligence about the War on Terror.

Walking readers through the four presidents that presided over the Afghanistan War — George W. Bush, Barack Obama, Donald Trump and Biden — Whitlock tells the full truth from the horse’s mouth. Whitlock respects his audience with a dry and straightforward delivery that gives readers the space to cope with their emotions.

Whitlock begins his odyssey through 20 years of war by giving readers details on the foundational flaw with the Afghanistan War — the rationale. Whitlock’s reporting lays

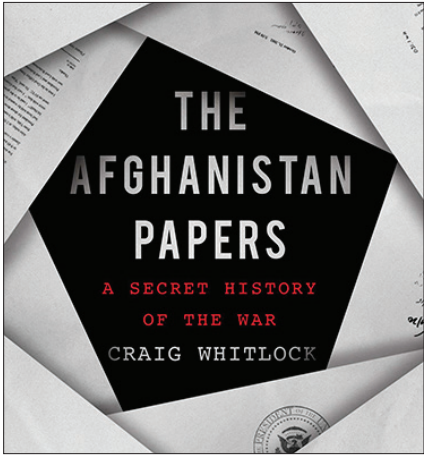
out how the original rationale of destroying al-Qaida got watered down year after year. The incompetence and poor planning on the part of the Bush administration resulted in wasted resources as well as the construction of a complex of lies that the following presidents preserved.

“The high mindedness and lack of clarity baffled the four-star general,” Whitlock writes. “I tried to get someone to define to me what winning meant even before I went over and nobody could,” [general Dan] McNeil said. ‘Lower ranking soldiers in the field also sensed that no strategy existed.’”

Because Whitlock is a first-time author dealing with disturbing material, the clear-cut delivery allows him to avoid milking the bleakness of the war for emotion. Whitlock takes a laissez-faire approach to the emotional core of “The Afghanistan Papers,” simply leaving the truth on the page and the rest up to the reader.

While Whitlock reminds readers of the massive sacrifice that American troops put on the line, he doesn’t turn a blind eye on war crimes that the American military committed on the people of Afghanistan.

“A lone US soldier — staff sergeant Robert Bayles strode into two Afghan



The tragedy of the Afghanistan War is shown in “The Afghanistan Papers.”

COURTESY OF SIMON & SCHUSTER

villages in Kandahar province in the middle of the night and inexplicably massacred 16 sleeping villagers, most of them women and children,” Whitlock writes. “The mass murder enflamed Afghans and the Taliban exploited it as propaganda fodder.”

It is a frustrating, somber read, especially in later chapters, where Whitlock recounts the systematic lies that the Obama administration told to change public opinion.

“Obama’s staffers in the White House, the Pentagon and the State Department took it to a new level, hyping figures that were misleading, spurious, or downright false,” Whitlock said.

The heart of the book is a candid exposé of a war that only enriched the profits of private defense contractors, making “The Afghanistan Papers” an essential read for the average American.

CONTACT ELIJAH DE CASTRO  
EDECASTRO@ITHACA.EDU

## QUICKIES



COURTESY OF COLUMBIA RECORDS

“RIGHT TRACK”  
Syd, Smino

On “Right Track,” Syd continues making a name for herself with dainty vocals that accompany Smino’s scatter-brained flow. The duo’s styles complement each other over the instrumentals of quickly-plucked strings and snappy snares.



COURTESY OF COLUMBIA RECORDS

“HAVE MERCY”  
Chlöe

Listeners may have heard “Have Mercy” on TikTok but it could never have prepared them for the full song. Chlöe’s ethereal vocals and creative lyricism over the track’s catchy beat make “Have Mercy” an instant hit.



COURTESY OF POLYDOR RECORDS

“ARCADIA”  
Lana Del Rey

Oh no ... it looks like Lana Del Rey used Picsart to create her cover art again! Though Del Rey’s mystique is about sounding too-cool-to-care, the single just sounds low-effort.



COURTESY OF DEAD OCEANS

“SILK CHIFFON”  
MUNA, Phoebe Bridgers

The energetic style of MUNA meets the dainty yet deep sound of Phoebe Bridgers in “Silk Chiffon.” While fans of Bridgers may expect the track to be a somber, emotional callout to a former lover, it is actually a bright, sweet indie-pop track about the fun of a new relationship.



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Campus community reacts to Collado's departure

By Caitlin Hottelmann / Aug 26, 2021

THE ITHACAN

16 community reacts to Collado's departure

Study abroad program opens Majority of students

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## A LACK OF PROPORTIONALITY

Gender equity issues persist within Ithaca College’s athletics department



BY CONNOR GLUNT

Ithaca College Athletics is compliant with two out of three parts of Title IX. However, there are still questions about gender equity issues within the athletics department.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is legislation that protects people from being discriminated against based on their sex in activities that receive federal assistance. It ranges from protections at colleges — including Ithaca College — within athletics, as well as education programs. In order for an institution to be compliant with Title IX, it only needs to satisfy one of the three parts of the legislation.

Title IX is broken up into three prongs of compliance: proportionality, expansion and accommodating interests. Proportionality refers to whether a school’s athletics programs have a proportional number of male and female students compared to the overall student body. Expansion is if a school can show that it has or is working to expand its athletics programs of the underrepresented sex. Lastly, accommodating interests is whether a school can show they are compliant with Title IX by meeting the interests of the underrepresented sex.

For Susan Bassett, associate vice president

and director of intercollegiate athletics and recreational sports, her focus for the future is working toward meeting the proportionality prong of Title IX.

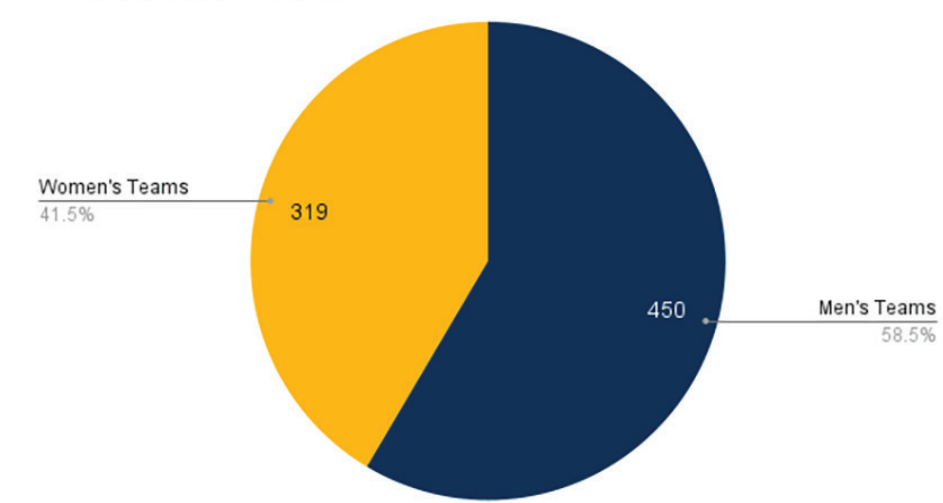
“We’re probably at a point now, because undergraduate enrollment is changing, where it’s more female than male,” Bassett said. “We’re implementing roster management this year, on both the male and female side, to come into compliance with proportionality.”

Each year, the college fills out an Equity in Athletics Data Analysis (EADA) report, which includes information regarding athletic participation, staffing, revenues and expenses by men’s and women’s teams. In the 2019–20 EADA report, the college reported that it had 450 athletes on men’s teams and 319 athletes on women’s teams.

According to the college’s Office of Analytics and Institutional Research, the proportion of the student body is nearly the exact opposite, being 59% female and 41% male. Additionally, undergraduate proportionality has largely stayed the same since Fall 2003, as the percentage of female undergraduate students has stayed between the range of 54.8% and 58.2% of the college’s student body. Furthermore, from 2003 to the most recent EADA report the college filled out, the number of unduplicated men’s team participants has been greater than the number of unduplicated women’s team participants each year.

One way Bassett said she is considering to help resolve the issue of proportionality is by adding varsity sports like women’s rugby and cheerleading, which are currently club sports. Senior Alyssa Denger, president of Ithaca College’s women’s club rugby team, said she thinks its promotion would be beneficial to the college to match its

Total Number of Athletes



Ithaca College’s proportion of student athletes is nearly the opposite of its undergraduate enrollment, as the proportion of its student body in 2021 is 59% female and 41% male.

ABBEY LONDON/THE ITHACAN

athlete proportionality to the undergraduate student ratio.

“Rugby is unique because it allows people who identify as female to play a sport that is most commonly related to football, which is mostly male-dominated,” Denger said. “So, I think it’s a safe space for females to try the sport. For promoting rugby, for me, it’s wonderful. But, also for allowing people who are non-binary or female-identifying know they have this outlet and can play sports for [the college].”

In 2020, Bassett wrote a memo that also stated that the college met all 11 program components that were established by the Office of Civil Rights equitably. Included in the list of components are equitable coaching and recruitment of student-athletes. But, in the 2019–20 EADA report, there are sizable differences in the average annual salaries for coaching positions between men’s and women’s teams, as well as the recruiting expenses for men’s and women’s teams.

Bassett said the college satisfies the second prong of Title IX by having a history of

expanding athletic opportunities for the underrepresented sex by adding women’s golf in 2009 and women’s sculling in 2012.

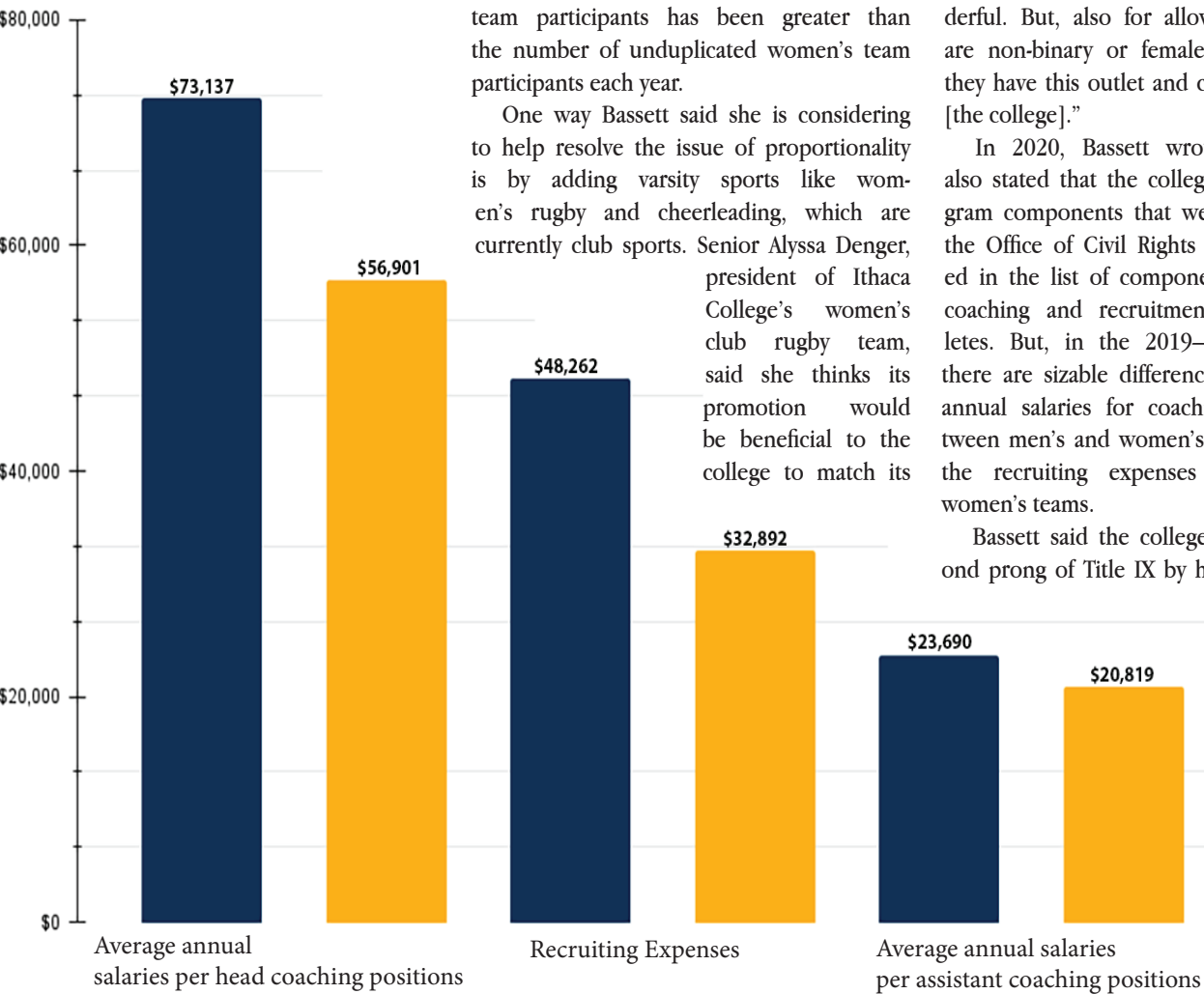
However, Lance Houston, a Title IX and labor law expert, said he believes the college still has impartiality between men’s and women’s sports.

“I think that Ithaca [College] has made strides to comply with Title IX, just one of my concerns would be the athletic opportunities for women,” Houston said. “The structure of the EADA report, the head coaches salaries and the assistant coaches salaries, that tells a story and the college has a burden to meet. ... Certainly, just reviewing the EADA report, I have some concern over the college’s efforts to comply with Title IX based upon the numbers in the report.”

Bassett said the college has made improvements in coaching in women’s sports and facility improvements and enhancements, but will look to improve on its Title IX compliance in the future.

“I think what we have to do is both add participation opportunities for women and implement some roster management, and I have a plan that gets us there within the next two to four years,” Bassett said. “There’s two things. We can’t just keep adding women’s sports because at some point, the quality is going to be hard to maintain, and there’s just a limit. We have 27 sports right now. ... I would argue that some of the larger sports sponsorships have a diminished level of quality, and we want to maintain a high standard within all of our programs.”

Information from graphs taken from 2019–20 EADA report.



According to the most recent EADA report for Ithaca College in 2019–20, the average annual salary for each of the 14 head coaches of women’s teams was \$56,901, while the 10 head coaches of its men’s teams earned an average salary of \$73,137.

ABBEY LONDON/THE ITHACAN

CONTACT CONNOR GLUNT  
CGLUNT@ITHACA.EDU





# THE BOMBERS ROUNDUP

The Ithacan provides statistical updates on all the Bombers' varsity squads during the season

The Ithaca College men's soccer team is 2-3-1 on the season after dropping two of its last three matches. The Bombers' next game is Sept. 14 against SUNY Oswego in Oswego, New York.

XIAOYI ZHANG/THE ITHACAN

## Volleyball



2-3



ITHACA

SEPT. 8

SCRANTON



3-0



ITHACA

SEPT. 10

NAZARETH



3-0



ITHACA

SEPT. 11

ROCHESTER



2-3



ITHACA

SEPT. 11

BROCKPORT

## MEN'S SOCCER



0-1



ITHACA

SEPT. 8

SCRANTON



2-2



ITHACA

SEPT. 11

ST. JOHN FISHER



0-1



ITHACA

SEPT. 12

LYCOMING

## MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

NAME	PLACE	TIME
Ben Tiber	2nd	15:30.9
Danny Jagoe	7th	15:40.2
Patrick Bierach	18th	16:11.1
James Hughes	20th	16:14.4
Conrad West	21st	16:17.9

Hamilton College Short Course XC Invitational

**NEXT RACE: 11 a.m. Sept. 18 U of R Yellow Jacket Invite in Rochester, New York**

## WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

NAME	PLACE	TIME
Lindsay Scott	2nd	14:55.0
Rachel Rose	3rd	15:10.8
Jillian Shea	5th	15:15.3
Lauren Lobdell	6th	15:18.2
Julia Tomanovich	13th	15:32.7

Hamilton College Short Course XC Invitational

**NEXT RACE: 11 a.m. Sept. 18 U of R Yellow Jacket Invite in Rochester, New York**

## MEN'S TENNIS

NAME	OPPONENT	RESULT
Nicolas Luis	St. Lawrence	W 8-3
Eric Dubilirer	Rochester	W 8-3
Minos Stavrakas	St. Lawrence	W 8-6
Tyler Del Zoppo	Rochester	W 8-2
Max Sobel	Hamilton	W 8-7 (14-12)

St. Lawrence University Tournament

**NEXT MATCH: 9 a.m. Oct. 1 ITA Northeast Regional Championships in Geneva, New York**

\*Updated as of Sept. 12

## GOLF

NAME	PLACE	SCORE
Mary Gersec	T34	+24
Caitlin McGrinder	T42	+27
Cristea Park	47	+32
Rheanna DeCrow	T48	+33
Katherine Chan	T55	+38

Hamilton College Fall Invitational

**NEXT MATCH: 11 a.m. Sept. 25 Cortaca Northeast Invitational at Country Club of Ithaca in Ithaca**

## FOOTBALL



23-8



ITHACA

SEPT. 11

BROCKPORT

**NEXT GAME:  
1 p.m. Sept 18 against  
Alfred University in  
Alfred, New York**

## FIELD HOCKEY



3-1



ITHACA

SEPT. 8

MISERICORDIA



3-1



ITHACA

SEPT. 10

HARTWICK

## WOMEN'S SOCCER



2-0



ITHACA

SEPT. 8

CORTLAND



4-0



ITHACA

SEPT. 12

MOUNT ST. MARY



# Mental health advocate speaks with IC athletes

BY TOMMY MUMAU

Each of Ithaca College’s sports teams and their staffs had the opportunity to discuss the importance of mental health with Victoria Garrick, former University of Southern California volleyball player. She met with Bombers athletes Sept. 13, in a virtual event that was organized by the college’s Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC).

Garrick met with a group of about 400 people in a virtual event to share her personal struggles with mental health as a student-athlete, said senior Victoria Sestito, field hockey player and SAAC chair. The audience included Bombers athletes, administrators, coaches and staff.

The former volleyball player has shared her experiences through her social media platforms and public speaking engagements in an effort to inspire athletes and create awareness for this critical issue. Garrick also founded The Hidden Opponent, “an advocacy group that raises awareness for student-athlete mental health and addresses the stigma within sports culture,” according to the organization’s website.

Sestito said she first thought about having Garrick address the college’s athletes last spring, when the SAAC was planning its Mental Health Awareness week. Sestito said she received a positive response from those who attended the event because many of Garrick’s messages

resonated with the group.

“It was a really great turnout,” Sestito said. “She really brought up some great points and topics that a lot of the student athletes can relate to. ... Today I’ve heard from my teammates that they just loved the event and were really grateful that they were able to listen in and hear from her.”

Sestito also helped facilitate this process by reaching out to Garrick’s team to begin organizing the event. She also said Will Rothermel, Associate Director of Athletics, and Kaitlyn Wahila, field hockey head coach, helped play a key role in the planning.

Senior Dania Bogdanovic, who is member a of both the sculling team and women’s crew and SAAC Bombers Leads Co-Chair, said she is particularly grateful for the efforts that Roberts and Wahila put into organizing the event.

“I know that they both know that mental health is really important to not just students but also athletes at Ithaca,” Bogdanovic said. “So, I really appreciate their commitment to helping make this event happen and to finding the funding and the time. ... and we’re really grateful for the two of them to help us have something like this happen.”

Garrick recognized the impact that these conversations can have, prompting her to begin sharing her experiences by giving a TED Talk. Garrick said since then, she



Victoria Garrick graduated from the University of Southern California in 2019 and played four seasons for the women’s volleyball team. Garrick gave her first TED Talk in 2017 and has become a popular mental health advocate.  
COURTESY OF VICTORIA GARRICK

has tried to use her platform to help other student-athletes manage pressures of both academics and athletics.

“I really wanted to share my story, in hopes that other athletes wouldn’t feel as alone, confused, or really ashamed as I did,” Garrick said. “So, coincidentally that semester, TEDx came to school and I applied and I had to go through this long process and ended up getting chosen, and the rest has really been a whirlwind.”

Senior Logan Ninos, wrestler and

SAAC Operations Chair, said he believes that holding this event made athletes further aware of the support system that they have around them at the college.

“This event can help [Ithaca College] student-athletes just by understanding that it’s OK to have these issues,” Ninos said. “Everyone goes through these things at some point or another. So for us, I think it really just helps us by giving us another resource to reach out to, [and] again, knowing that you’re not alone.”

Sestito said she believes this event has helped bring the college’s student-athlete community together, by engaging in these critical conversations.

“I think that just hearing her messaging and having her speak to us is just a step in the right direction,” Sestito said. “And [it] can foster so many more relationships and talks about mental health, and I think it’ll be a really good space for our student-athletes.”

CONTACT TOMMY MUMAU  
TMUMAU@ITHACA.EDU

## Women’s soccer team wins first four games of season

The Ithaca College women’s soccer team has started its season by winning all four of its games, while allowing just a single goal from their opponents. Senior midfielder Megan O’Reilly has played an integral role in this impressive start, scoring a goal and an assist in the team’s most recent victory over Mount Saint Mary College on Sept. 12.

O’Reilly has appeared in the NCAA Tournament, playing in both of the squad’s games during its 2018 championship pursuit. The following season, she started every game she appeared in and scored four goals. After losing the 2020 season to the COVID-19 pandemic, O’Reilly and the Bombers have their eyes set on the NCAA Tournament again.

Staff writer Mark Puskey sat down with O’Reilly to discuss the season thus far and what to expect moving forward.

*This interview has been edited for length and clarity.*

**Mark Puskey:** Do you see any similarities between this team and the team that made the NCAA Tournament in 2018?

**Megan O’Reilly:** Yeah, 100%. I mean, our just motivation, to want to be good and like motivated to make it to the NCAA Tournament really has pushed us. ... We’re really pushing to be just as good as we were when we went to the NCAA Tournament. Right now we’re starting on a good streak, which is good. ... We have really good training sessions, and we’re really effective when we are in game, and very good, very exciting. We’re happy about it.

**MP:** The [women’s] soccer team has started 4-0 this season. What is clicking for the team right now?

**MO:** So right now, it’s really just we’re focusing on every play, every day. So we’re finding little things in practice, like finishing our shots and making sure our first touches are where we want them to be, and kind of focusing on certain things in different drills. And that’s making us just get better every single day.

**MP:** What is there still to improve on?

**MO:** We felt we learned a ton from our games and every training session that we [did]. And so we really just try to build off everything and learn from different plays. Right now we’re trying to figure out our connecting passes up top with linking the ball, finding through balls, and stuff like that. ... Then that’s our focus in our next training session is like figuring out what we were missing.

**MP:** What school is the biggest threat to you guys this season?

**MO:** To be honest with you, all of them. We kind of just take it literally every game is a new day to improve and get better. Obviously, the Liberty League is the biggest portion of our season just because ... that’s our league.

**MP:** Is there anyone on the team that has gone above and beyond so far this season?

**MO:** I would really say that everybody



Senior Megan O’Reilly has tallied a goal and an assist through the Ithaca College women’s soccer team’s first four games. The Bombers are 4-0 and play Nazareth College on Sept. 18.  
THOMAS KERRIGAN/THE ITHACAN

stepped up. I think, obviously being a first-year and even the sophomores not having a true season last year, they’ve really stepped up just because they are technically sophomores on the team. But it’s their first year kind of being a first-year at the same time, but also stepping into the role of the sophomore. I really think our upperclassmen have done a good job of making sure that everybody on the team feels welcome and ready to go. And we’re really pushing each other in practice. So it doesn’t matter what year you are, whether you’re a [graduate] student or you’re [a] first year, you’re working hard and practicing. And whoever’s working hard and getting the job done is on the field. So it’s really just kind of like everybody stepping up and getting

better every day, which is everything we need for it.

**MP:** What’s the team’s goal for this season?

**MO:** I’ve overemphasized this in this interview, every play, every day, it’s really just trying to improve one percent and making each other better. Whatever the focus is and the drill is, what we should be focusing on in that drill, whether it’s making the keepers better with a lot of overhead crossings, or it’s making the midfielders better with high pressure kind of thing. So it’s just really focusing on every play every day, getting one percent better, and kind of keep chugging along with what we’re doing.

CONTACT MARK PUSKEY  
MPUSKEY@ITHACA.EDU





Senior Keegan Webber, president of Ithaca College Drone Squadron, flies a Mavic Air 2 at Drone Squad’s first fly day of the semester Sept. 12 at the practice fields behind the Peggy Ryan Williams Center.

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