

ACCURACY • INDEPENDENCE • INTEGRITY

# As tuition costs continue to climb, IC students fall further into debt

NET COST OF PRIVATE NEW YORK COLLEGES AFTER FINANCIAL AID:

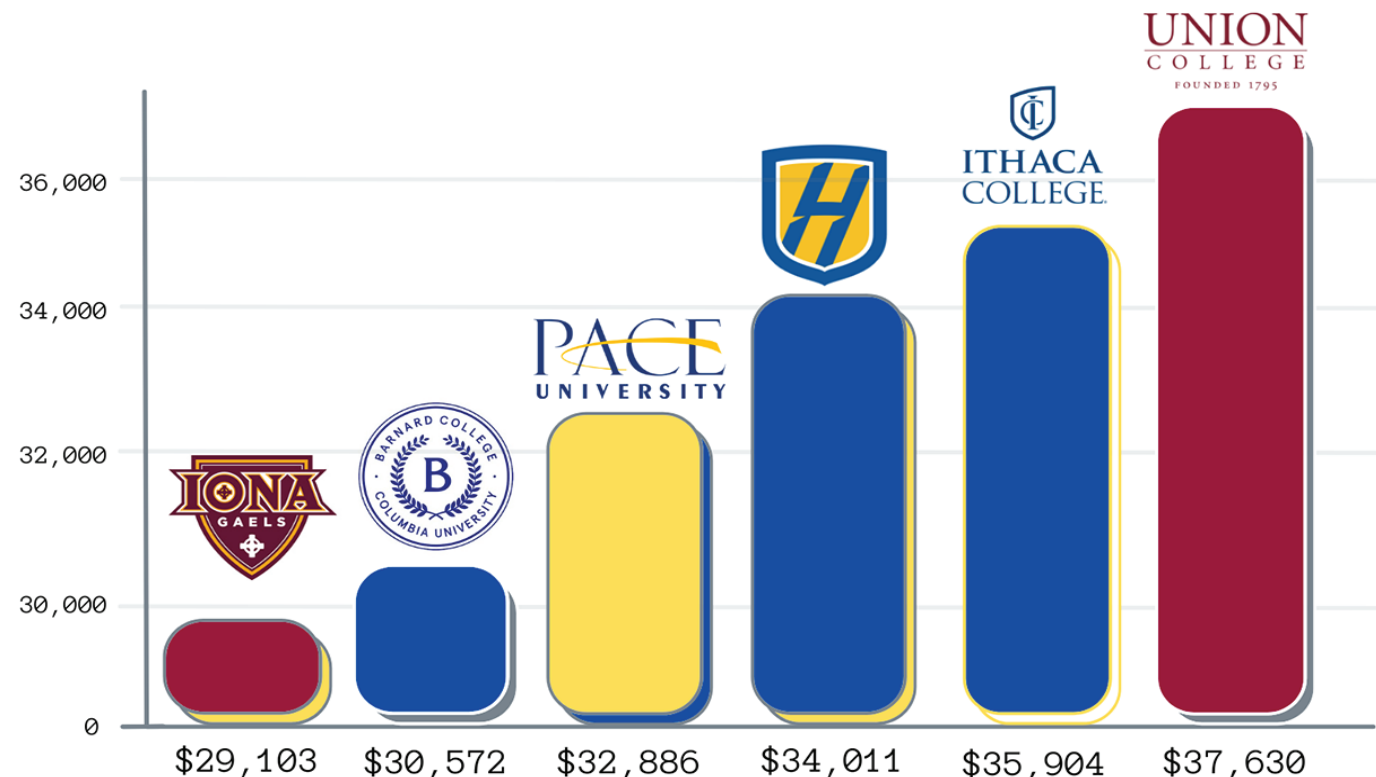


ILLUSTRATION BY BRIANNA TOVAR

Source: CollegeSimply.com

BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

After the Ithaca College Board of Trustees raised the price of tuition by 3.25% for the 2022–23 school year, sophomore Bianca Sessegolo called it quits and decided to transfer to Rutgers University in Fall 2022, where she will be paying cheaper, in-state tuition.

“I’m paying pretty much entirely in loans in my name or in my parents’ name,” Sessegolo said. “Especially since I’m a first-gen student going into college, we didn’t know how to do any of it or how it works, especially in this country ... I don’t know anybody who’s not at least a little bit concerned about their financial future.”

Out of the college’s \$65,527 annual cost of attendance, \$46,610 is for tuition. While the college’s tuition is \$8,425 higher than the average \$38,185 price tag for American private colleges, the issue is not unique to the college. America is now the most expensive place to go to college on the planet, with Americans now carrying a collective \$1.86 trillion in student debt.

During the 2020 presidential election cycle, candidates Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren popularized a policy idea of canceling federal student loan debt. Then-candidate Joe Biden joined Sanders and Warren and pledged to wipe out \$50,000 in debt for students from families making less than \$125,000 and \$10,000 for all students.

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## Personalized COVID-19 tests have low student accessibility

BY WREN PERCHLIK  
AND ELIJAH DE CASTRO

In late January, shortly after the United States government began a new program that would deliver four COVID-19 tests to each household across the U.S., Ithaca College senior Victoria Lipper ordered tests to her address at Circle Apartments. Over a month later, Lipper’s order has still not arrived.

As the pandemic enters an endemic phase, different leaders around the world have taken steps to personalize rapid testing for COVID-19. By mid-December in 2021, Germany, the United Kingdom, South Korea and Canada had created some form of a free rapid test program for all citizens. The U.S.’s program began Jan. 18, around the time of the middle of the Omicron variant surge. On that day, 1,178,403 new COVID-19 cases were reported across in the U.S. As of now, the surge has ended, and as of Feb. 21, 55,659 cases were reported in the U.S. This made the once urgently needed delivery of rapid tests too little too late for those



From left, Rich Recchia and Teresa Vadakin distributed free COVID-19 rapid tests to the Ithaca community Feb. 18.

MAGGIE BRYAN/THE ITHACAN

who got COVID-19 during the Omicron surge.

In addition to the program beginning too late, the tests were distributed by the United States Postal Service (USPS), which is in a crisis caused by losses in revenue, increased delivery times and understaffing. As a result, COVID-19 tests have

shown up far later than the expected time frame of 7–12 days, or like in Lipper’s situation, not at all. On top of this, the USPS program has a limit of one order per residential address. For people who live in large apartment buildings, complexes

COVID-19, PAGE 4

## Beloved used-clothing store to close its doors

BY CLARE SHANAHAN

A used-clothing store on The Commons, Trader K’s, has curated a sense of community for its customers and employees alike over the past 26 years and has become an Ithaca staple. When owners Karen and Jay Sciarabba announced the store’s closing Feb. 15, the news shocked and saddened residents local to Ithaca.

A lack of support in different areas forced the store owners to close. Currently, the store is downsizing and has no set closing date, Karen Sciarabba said. It will likely close within two or three months.

Karen Sciarabba said the decision to close resulted from complications like construction of surrounding buildings, inadequate policing and particularly of shoplifting and life changes for the store owners.

Karen and Jay Sciarabba opened the store 26 years ago and have been running it since. The owners are well-known to frequent customers, Ithaca College senior Brianna Lowe, a Trader K’s employee, said. They haven’t taken a significant break from running the store in its entire operation.

“There hasn’t been a lot of support from downtown,” Karen Sciarabba said.

“All the construction that’s going on has really put a damper, even since they redid the whole Commons.”

The City of Ithaca renovated and reconstructed The Commons between 2009 and 2015, as previously reported by The Ithacan, and construction in the area has continued since.

Karen Sciarabba said in recent years, construction of two neighboring buildings have limited Trader K’s ability to take in clothing and supplies as its primary back parking lot collecting space is unusable.

“Our clothing inventory isn’t as large and good as it used to be, and it’s just been really stressful, not just with that parking lot but dealing with construction workers,” Karen Sciarabba said. “Everybody comes and goes as they feel because they’re building a new building.”

The used-clothing store occupies over 4,000 square feet on The Commons and had been putting out 500 to 1,000 pieces of clothing daily, according to its website. Karen Sciarabba said the store’s size drew customers from surrounding towns and communities. She said there was immediate feedback

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ITHACA COLLEGE FOOTBALL TEAM HIRES NEW COACH

# New archive team preserves history

BY LORIEN TYNE

After an abrupt closure and months of uncertainty, the Ithaca College Library will once again be taking requests to view the college’s archives — a collection of thousands of digital and physical records that preserve the ongoing history of the college.

Interim College Librarian Karin Wikoff announced Jan.18 that the Ithaca College Archives and Special Collections would be open to limited services for Spring 2022. For the entirety of Fall 2021 the archives were shut down after the elimination of the archivist position. Wikoff said the archives team will not be taking on any long-term research projects and they are limiting the service to two or three archive requests a week.

For 33 years, Bridget Bower served as the college’s first and only college archivist. In June 2021, the college eliminated the

archivist position. Now, there is a three-person archivist team: Rachel Gay, cataloging and receiving specialist; Kate Payne, electronic resources and serials coordinator; and Terri Ann Coronel, electronic resources librarian.

Gay currently works on the archives two days a week trying to organize the boxes of backlogged physical copies.

“At this point, we’re creating a plan of if we don’t get an archivist, but the hope is that sooner than later we’ll have somebody who’s employed for this position,” Gay said.

Gay said she is handling all the work for the physical archives while Payne is focusing on the digital archives. Coronel has taken on the job of running the Digital Commons, which is an online platform that features work like pre-prints, working papers, peer-reviewed journal articles, student honors papers, conference proceedings,



From left, Rachel Gay, cataloging and receiving specialist; Terri Ann Coronel, electronic resources librarian; and Interim College Librarian Karin Wikoff offer limited archival services for Spring 2022.

KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

data sets, presentations, film productions and images.

Bower did everything for the archives by herself— work Wikoff said accounted for more than a full-time job — until the college eliminated Bower’s position and she retired. As of July 5, 2021, the college Archives and Special Collections reported to have around 2,300 boxes and at least 200,000 digital objects

— all different kinds of records related to the college like recorded sports games, photos, event flyers and protest signs.

“We’ve just been sort of winging it ever since [Bower left], you know, whatever we can do to continue to preserve and make things work,” Wikoff said.

Cathy Michael, communications librarian at the college, said it will

take time to get the archives processes running as smoothly.

“It’s really a way to keep track of the history of the college itself,” Michael said. “So, remembering the faculty, remembering the programs, collecting some of the documents and ephemera.”

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## MULTIMEDIA

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### Students Showcase Black Contributions to STEM

On Feb. 15, the Ithaca College Center for Natural Sciences hosted an event to explore and celebrate Black contributions to STEM.



### Deja View - “Saving Face” (2004)

Host Sydney Brumfield kicks off her new comedy mini series by talking with senior Queline Meadows about the romantic comedy “Saving Face.”

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# Mayor brings new era to Ithaca

BY LORIENTYNE  
AND OLIVIA STANZL

Local government officials in the City of Ithaca are confident that the community initiatives started by former mayor Svante Myrick will continue following his Feb. 6 resignation.

Myrick resigned after 10 years as mayor and assigned Common Council Representative Laura Lewis as acting mayor. Lewis will be retaining her vote and seat on the Common Council as the Fifth Ward alderperson. Lewis has confirmed she will be running in the November 2022 general election and has repeatedly expressed her support for affordable housing, the Ithaca Green New Deal and the Reimagining Public Safety initiative.

While Myrick initiated a number of local efforts like Reimagining Public Safety and the Ithaca Green New Deal, Lewis said the Common Council had to approve and endorse them.

“There’s been budgetary support behind initiatives that may have stemmed initially from Mayor Myrick, but these are initiatives that have my full support and that most certainly are continuing with city staff and Common Council effort,” Lewis said.

The Ithaca Green New Deal was adopted by the Common Council in June 2019 and has two goals: to achieve complete carbon-neutrality by 2030 and share the benefits equally.



Acting Mayor Laura Lewis said she supports all of former mayor Svante Myrick’s initiatives, however, some members of the community are uncertain of the impact of Myrick’s resignation.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

Siobhan Hull is the Ithaca hub coordinator for the Sunrise Movement, an organization that advocates for political action on climate change. Hull said the Ithaca Green New Deal needs someone to be an advocate for the program like Myrick was.

“I am concerned that the acting mayor currently does not have a history of being a large climate proponent,” Hull said. “I do worry about the Common Council’s general reluctance to implement the Ithaca Green New Deal. As the Ithaca Green New Deal currently stands, it is more of a promise than actual policy measures.”

Sophomore Nick Viggiani, Class of 2024 senator for the Ithaca College Student Governance Council, said there may be a lull in progress on projects while Lewis gets settled but that no drastic change in policies will result from Myrick’s resignation. Viggiani said he hopes Lewis will prioritize affordable housing.

“As a college student, I consider living off campus and I feel like getting affordable housing is really key,” Viggiani said. “It would be really beneficial for a large demographic.”

Lewis will only serve until the November 2022 general election. The winning candidate

will then finish the last year of Myrick’s four-year term and at the end of 2023, there will be an election for the next full term.

Alderperson Cynthia Brock said how initiatives proceed is dependent on council members and that is always changing.

“Every time a council changes, of course that council has a new voice in how programs that were started previously will continue,” Brock said. “It’s hard to tell what the future may bring.”

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# IC student shot by pellet gun

BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

At around 10:30 p.m. the night of Feb. 21, an Ithaca College student was struck twice by airsoft pellets that were fired at them by four teenage males, who have now been identified by the Ithaca College Police Department.

In an alert to the campus community, The Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management announced that it was investigating the incident and anyone with information should come forward. The suspects are not students at the college or Cornell University and had no connection to the victim.

The incident occurred in the S-Lot near Emerson Hall and the student had no relation to the suspects. Later that night, the suspects, who were wearing dark hoodies with face coverings, were stopped at 3:10 a.m. in a silver sedan by the Cornell University Police. As of now, criminal charges have not been filed.

Thomas Dunn, associate director of the Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management at the college, said that after the Cornell University Police pulled over the sedan, Public Safety questioned the subjects.

“At 3:10 in the morning, we received a phone call from Cornell police that they had stopped the vehicle matching our description,” Dunn said. “They had found the suspects and pellet guns. Our officers drove over there to interview them. After we concluded our interviews, we determined that they were responsible for the incident.”

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# Professor starts therapy program for stroke survivors

BY JAY BRADLEY AND  
ELIZABETH KHARABADZE

Shannon L. Scott, assistant professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy, envisioned a program that would give her graduate students an opportunity for hands-on work and offer valuable therapy to community members. As a result, the “Upper Extremity Motor Recovery Boot Camp” pilot was born.

The program — offered from Dec. 11 to 12, 2021 — was a first attempt at what could be a recurring event for the Ithaca community. The program was led by Scott, Mindy Cozzolino, associate professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy, and 20 Ithaca College Occupational Therapy graduate students. The program, held at the Center for Life Skills at Longview in Ithaca, helped six stroke victims from the community by providing therapy methods.

A full constraint-induced movement therapy (CIMT) program is an intensive two-week, six hours per day program; something that is difficult to do in traditional rehabilitation settings due to its intensity.

Scott said that even long after a person has suffered a stroke, which occurs when blood flow to the brain is blocked, they can still build new motor pathways in the

central nervous system through using stroke-affected limbs in functional activities — something the CIMT hopes to tackle.

“You’re basically quieting down that side of the brain ... and shutting that off, and forcing them to use the side that is involved,” Scott said. “I really wanted to provide some kind of an opportunity where students could actually engage in the intervention itself. [Then they can] use the intervention to develop knowledge, develop skills, enhance their confidence [and] in being able to implement that ... be more apt to use it in practice.”

The students used modified CIMT, in which the participant’s unaffected arm and hand were restrained. The students then had them do activities that focused on intensive use of the affected area. Other activities focused more on everyday skills, like making meals, painting and cleaning.

Mitchell Raymond, who participated in the bootcamp, suffered a hemorrhagic stroke at age six that disabled him from opening his hand. A physical therapist himself, he was able to benefit from the treatment and help the students.

“I personally, as a stroke survivor, would hop on board every time they provide [the bootcamp],” Raymond said. “Both for my teaching of the students involved as well



Shannon L. Scott, assistant professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy, opened a bootcamp at a senior living community that teaches students as well as helps stroke survivors.

LAUREN LUBENOW/THE ITHACAN

as my own benefit from use of my right upper extremity.”

Rachel Valentino is one of the graduate students that participated in the program. She said it was really valuable because of how real it felt, making her and the other OT students think on the spot.

“Specifically for my client, after the first day, his wife or girlfriend came back and was like, ‘oh my god, you guys worked him so well, he feels like he’s actually getting progress and reaching his goals and everything,’” Valentino said.

“Obviously, we wish we had a longer time with them, but I think everyone enjoyed it.”

Having gone into the field to help those who had suffered strokes, she said that she hopes the program evolves as time goes on.

“I hope in the future, it becomes a bigger thing,” Valentino said. “People deserve it.”

This is what Scott is hoping to see too. She said the weekend and the data gathered from its surveys, feedback and observations will help the department with how

it decides to facilitate programming in the future.

For individuals like Raymond, the benefits of the program are undeniable; they offer invaluable support to a community in need.

“Don’t give up,” Raymond said. “Find support. You need to have a support network. The more people are alone post-stroke, the less likely they are to improve.”

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FROM TUITION, PAGE 1

In six figures of debt and three months away from his graduation, senior Will Hugonnet remembers when Biden — his preferred presidential candidate — made this pledge while on the campaign trail. Over one year into his presidency, Biden has still not fulfilled this pledge and has publicly refused to cancel the amount promised.

“If they [the Biden administration] can just shell out so much money to other things like the military, why can’t they take a little bit of that and put it back into educational funding?” Hugonnet said.

Under the Higher Education Act, Biden has the ability to cancel student debt through an executive order, which would not require action by Congress. Biden has already used his executive powers to extend the pause on student loan repayments that began under former President Donald Trump as a response to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It [student debt] is a big stressor,” Hugonnet said. “I don’t know how else to put it. ... Some days you’ll wake up and think about it, but there’s nothing you can do because if you don’t get that money, you can’t go here.”

While 92% of students at the college receive financial aid, its endowment — which brings in revenue for the college’s financial aid — is declining. A 2021 endowment audit by the National Association of College and Uni-

versity Business Officers found that between the fiscal years 2019 and 2020, Ithaca College’s endowment went from \$347 million to \$337 million, a 2.91% loss.

Junior Adam Coe said he was only able to attend the college because of scholarships and financial aid. In the past three years he has had to take out loans each year.

“I am in debt like most students, thankfully I’m not into too much debt,” Coe said. “I would not be able to afford the school if it was not for my scholarships and the financial aid I received.”

William Kolberg, associate professor in the Department of Economics, said potential solutions for the student debt crisis besides canceling debt could be putting a cap on interest rates on federal student loans, which can be done through executive order.

However, some students like Hugonnet have taken out private loans, which have variable rates. This means the interest rate of the loan can change. Loans with high risk of repayment failure are called subprime loans, which are commonly distributed by private lenders. This can put students with low credit scores at risk of predatory lending, as subprime loans are difficult to repay.

“You have to watch out for predatory businesses that are going to try to take advantage of this situation,” Kolberg said. “Some sort of cap on interest rates needs to be done to protect students in [what is] a pretty scary market.”



Senior Will Hugonnet has had to take out loans from both private and public lenders to pay tuition at Ithaca College.

THOMAS KERRIGAN/THE ITHACAN

Buried deep in the college’s Student Financial Services website, three private student loan companies are recommended for students — Citizens Bank, Discover and Sallie Mae. All three of these corporations have reached settlements with the U.S. government after using illegal banking practices. Sallie Mae’s loan servicing operation is carried out by Navient, one of the most profitable private student loan companies in America. In a January 2022 settlement, Navient canceled \$1.9 billion in student loans after it was alleged that the corporation intentionally lent subprime loans it knew would fail to American college students.

Despite being prey for private student loan companies, most of the college’s students who

take out loans do so through the Department of Education’s loan department. While Biden has chipped away and canceled some outstanding student loans, students like Hugonnet will be buried in both public and private debt after graduation.

“It’s really stressful,” Hugonnet said. “I don’t like thinking about it. ... I know you can defer them until you’re working, so I think I have one more year before I have to get started [paying]. But it’s daunting because you get out of school and you get a very basic, entry-level job, which doesn’t pay that much as is.”

Staff writer Jadyn Davis contributed reporting.

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FROM COVID-19, PAGE 1

or college dormitories with multiple rooms under one address, the USPS’s program has only allowed one shipment of four tests for the entire address.

Lipper said that when she came back from winter break, she brought rapid tests that she had bought at home with her for her own use. Having lent those tests to her friends, Lipper wanted to use the USPS program to get more tests for herself. However, she encountered this issue with her address.

“When I first put in our address at Circle Apartments, they said that it couldn’t be delivered,” Lipper said. “It said that a household had already claimed a set.”

It was only when Lipper changed her address to the college’s official address — 953 Danby Road — that she was able to place the order. However, despite being able to pass that hurdle, Lipper has still not received her tests. Lipper’s friend, junior Cailin Zdravec, also had this issue when ordering some tests from USPS. Like Lipper, Zdravec’s order has also still not been delivered.

Samm Swarts, assistant director for Emergency Preparedness and Response, said that while testing is critical to the college’s COVID-19 response, the fact that the USPS program has these issues makes it not a useful or reliable method of testing for students both on and off campus.

“I think it’s a great idea in theory,” Swarts said. “It’s a great program to offer testing to citizens, the American people, but at the end of the day, it makes it challenging and difficult on college campuses with the general delay it takes to be able to receive them.”

Swarts said the USPS program is not enough to fulfill the testing needs of students on college campuses, where the large population of residential students can cause the spread of COVID-19. On campus, the college offers free testing seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Emerson Hall.

Emerson Hall remains the primary way for students on and off campus to get tested for COVID-19 regardless of if they are symptomatic or asymptomatic. However, having rapid tests allows for students to get quicker results and to get tested outside the scheduled hours of Emerson Hall. Zdravec said it would be a quicker and more convenient way for her to get tested because the Circles Apartments are a mile away from Emerson Hall.

“I just wanted to get some more tests,” Zdravec said. “I have heard Emerson is getting more lax lately and not as helpful. I would rather have tests on hand. It’s just a usefulness thing. I can do one [a test] quickly and get a result back quicker than if I were to go to Emerson.”

On Feb. 18, Tompkins County distributed free rapid COVID-19 tests at the Tompkins County Public Library from 1 to 5 p.m. with a maximum of six tests per household. A worker said hundreds of tests were distributed, funded by the state of New York. Additionally, Tompkins County purchased 250,000 KN95 masks that are now being distributed for free.

Swarts said it is a possibility that the college could distribute rapid tests to students. However, the way the college currently receives tests makes it unable to distribute them on an individual basis.

“We get a box of test kits that has 40 test kits in it and one bottle of reagent,” Swarts said. “So there’s no way to break up that bottle to have it administered individually.”

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FROM TRADER K’S, PAGE 1

from the community when the store announced its closing.

The secondhand industry has become very popular in recent years, increasing its annual profits by \$11 billion between 2020 and 2021, according to the ThreadUp and Global Data’s 2021 Resale report.

Shopping from thrift stores like Trader K’s is likely rising in popularity as an alternative to fast fashion, according to Good On You, an organization that advocates for ethical shopping. By buying secondhand, consumers bypass the use of new resources in the production process. The fashion industry is responsible for 8–10% of global carbon emissions, according to a 2019 United Nations press release.

Paula Turkon, assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences, said the decision of one person to reduce consumption by buying clothes secondhand has a small impact on the environment, but it is important to raise public consciousness.

Turkon said in Ithaca, thrift stores seem es-



Senior Brianna Lowe first started working at Trader K’s during her sophomore year at the college. Lowe said she is sad to see the used-clothing store close after 26 years.

ARIANA GONZALEZ/THE ITHACAN

donation. Thrift stores like Plato’s Closet, the Salvation Army and the Ithaca ReUse Center will remain, but Turkon said the loss of Trader K’s really shows the changes taking place on The Commons.

“Trader K’s was the first [secondhand store in Ithaca], maybe Salvation Army has always done this, but Trader K’s made it more fashionable,” Turkon said. “Trader K’s was such an icon and I think it’s a trendsetter.”

Junior Kathryn Ksiazek is a journalism major who has written pieces on sustainable fashion and incorporates sustainable fashion into her own life. She said she was surprised to hear of the store’s closing because people in Ithaca are generally supportive of sustainability efforts.

There are many local groups and organizations in Ithaca that promote environmental sustainability, including Sunrise Ithaca, the Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative, Ecovillage Ithaca and many others.

“I think that it’s kind of going to be a bit of a

culture shock to not have so many thrift stores, especially for college students,” Ksiazek said. “I feel like one of the first things that I heard coming in here as a freshman was that you’ve got to go to Trader K’s.”

Lowe said she has been working at the store since her sophomore year and currently works there along with three other students that go to the college as well.

“I wanted to start working here sophomore year because I just loved the store, and I loved that it was women-owned and run,” Lowe said. “I feel so lucky to have been part of the Trader K’s legacy and to see it through. I’ve seen a lot of people come and go from Trader K’s, just in the past year I’ve seen at least a dozen people come and go. But the people that I’ve worked with have been some of the nicest people... it’s not even just like a thrift store. It’s a place where bonds are made.”

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“I feel so lucky to have been part of the Trader K’s legacy ... It’s a place where bonds are made.”

— Senior Brianna Lowe

“... pecially successful because people that live here are constantly moving into and out of a college town, generating clothes and other items for

# SGC discusses Title IX protocols

BY LORIEN TYNE

At its Feb. 21 meeting the Student Governance Council (SGC) spoke with representatives from Ithaca College's Title IX Office about resources and the process cases go through.

At the SGC's meeting it talked with Linda Koenig, Title IX coordinator, and Leonardo Wise, Title IX investigator and prevention specialist, about some of the nuances of the legal process.

Koenig explained some of the basic processes following a report to the office. She said all students that go through the intake process are introduced to campus resources like the Center for Counseling and Psychiatric Services and the LGBT Center. After a report, common accommodations for the parties involved often include seating, housing and safety arrangements.

In response to a question proposed by junior SGC senate chair Austin Ruffino, Koenig explained that the office does not follow up with survivors after the legal case is concluded.

"When you're trauma informed, we try not to engage the parties," Koenig said. "In an effort to not remind or retrigger."

The concern of academic flexibility in accommodations that are available to students during the legal process of Title IX was brought up by senior Leticia Guibunda, vice president of campus affairs.



The Ithaca College Student Governance Council discussed the process of Title IX cases with representatives and the accommodations available to students at the Feb. 21 meeting.

ALYSSA BEEBE/ THE ITHACAN

"I was wondering how flexible is the school in providing those accommodations in a way that doesn't harm the student's progress?" Guibunda said.

Koenig said the flexibility of accommodations rely heavily on what is available.

"What we do is we work with a faculty member and we come up with a plan based on some direction of the person who's requesting the interim measure," Koenig said. "What I have experienced in this position is that

faculty are really interested in being supportive."

Guibunda brought the council's attention to the college's outdated websites and reported she had begun reaching out to different offices.

"If you guys run across any resources that are outdated or like wrong, people, please feel free to either reach out to them [the offices] or let me know," Guibunda said.

In an email to *The Ithacan*, sophomore James Zampetti, vice

president of communications, said SGC is the sole representative body for the Ithaca College student community.

"SGC works with the student community to implement change on campus and improve student life," Zampetti said. "SGC is always looking for student feedback, please don't hesitate to contact us at [sgc@ithaca.edu](mailto:sgc@ithaca.edu)."

CONTACT LORIEN TYNE  
[LTYNE@ITHACA.EDU](mailto:LTYNE@ITHACA.EDU)

# IC professors get promotions

BY OLIVIA STANZL

The Ithaca College Board of Trustees promoted numerous faculty at its February 2022 meeting.

Promoted to Dana professor:

Jennifer Jolly, Dana professor in the Department of Art History; Cyndy Scheibe, Dana professor in the Department of Psychology.

Promoted from assistant professor to associate professor:

Margaret Shackell, associate professor in the Department of Accounting and Business Law; Tim Mirabito, associate professor in the Department of Journalism; Rhonda Vanover, associate professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies; Yvette Sterbenk, associate professor in the Department of Strategic Communication; Jenna Heffron, associate chair and associate professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy; Mike Costello, associate professor in the Department of Physical Therapy; Karen Lomond, associate professor in the Department of Physical Therapy; Tamara Fitzwater, associate professor in the Department of Psychology; Walter Byongsok Chon, associate professor in the Department of Theatre Arts; Courtney Young, associate professor in the Department of Theatre Arts; Daniel Zimmerman, associate professor in the Department of Theatre Arts; Matthew Clauhs, associate professor in the Department of Music Education; Elizabeth Medina-Gray, associate professor in the Department of Music Theory and History Composition; Christopher Zemliauskas, associate professor in the Department of Music Performance.

Received emerita or emeritus title:

Abraham Mulugetta, retired Dana professor in the Department of Finance and International Business; Carole Dennis, retired professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy; Linda Heyne, retired professor in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies; Janice Elich Monroe, retired professor in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies; Laurie Arliss, retired professor in the Department of Communication Studies; Susannah Berryman, retired associate professor in the Department of Theatre Arts; Nancy Brack, retired professor in the Department of Art History; Vivian Conger, retired professor in the Department of History; Michael Malpass, retired Dana professor in the Department of Anthropology; Kevin Murphy, retired professor in the Department of Literatures in English; Nancy Rader, retired professor in the Department of Psychology; Greg Robbins, retired associate professor in the Department of Theatre Arts; James Rothenberg, retired associate professor in the Department of Sociology; Stan Seltzer, retired associate professor in the Department of Mathematics; Thomas Shevory, retired professor in the Department of Politics; Janet Galvan, retired professor in the Department of Music Performance; Michael Galvan, retired professor in the Department of Music Performance; Carol McAmis, retired professor in the Department of Music Performance; Deborah Montgomery, retired professor in the Department of Music Performance; Timothy Nord, retired associate professor in the Department of Music Theory and History Composition.

For full list of professors who were promoted, go to [theithacan.org](http://theithacan.org).

CONTACT OLIVIA STANZL  
[OSTANZL@ITHACA.EDU](mailto:OSTANZL@ITHACA.EDU)

# Remote instruction replaces snow days

BY JOSHUA PANTANO

On Feb. 3, a snowstorm brought over 10 inches of snow to Tompkins County, forcing many schools to briefly shut down. On Feb. 3 and 4, Ithaca College chose to hold remote instruction and students did not receive a typical snow day.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, instruction over Zoom has become a common alternative to in-person instruction. But students have shared their concerns over this.

While some students and professors could operate normally online, the sudden transition proved to be difficult for many. Freshman Ryan Harmon, a television-radio major said the remote day presented challenges with hands-on engagement.

"I'm currently in Introduction to Audio, so a lot of that is in the classroom," Harmon said. "It helps when you can have everything that you need. Last semester, I had Introduction to TV Studio. Same thing. We were in the classroom filming stuff every day. So when you can't be in a room, it's kind of difficult."

Communications students were not most adversely affected by the remote instruction. Students of the School of Music had difficulties with remote instruction. Junior Bea Tria, a voice major, said having remote classes lowers the quality of her education.

"No one likes being in a choir online," Tria said. "Singing into a mic doesn't sound like singing into a full space, like a choir hall or something, and that's what choir is all about."

Although Tria is primarily a vocalist, many of her classes still require physical



The college held remote instruction Feb. 3-4 after Tompkins County received over 10 inches of snow. The sudden transition created difficulty for in-person classes.

ASH BAILOT/ THE ITHACAN

instruments, like percussion kits and keyboards, most of which are located in her locker in the music school. This is the case for many music students.

Russell Posegate, instructor of Music Theory and History Composition, said vocal classes presented difficulties over Zoom.

"So much of the class is, 'All right, everybody, let's sing this together,' and there's no way to do that on Zoom," Posegate said. "I'm trusting that they're singing along with me. If something goes wrong in class, I can listen to 20 people singing and I can be like, 'Oh, okay. Someone is singing this note wrong.

Let's just practice this together.' But on Zoom, that's really hard."

Tria said the remote instruction during the snow days was reminiscent of remote instruction in Fall 2020, which she was not fond of.

"Snow days are things you look forward to," Tria said. "When they happen, you're happy, but that's not a thing anymore. And if anything, now when a snow day happens, you're just dreading going to class."

CONTACT JOSHUA PANTANO  
[JPANTANO@ITHACA.EDU](mailto:JPANTANO@ITHACA.EDU)

COLLEGE BRIEFS

College says farewell to director of student health with an event

The campus community is invited to say their goodbyes to Ellyn Sellers-Selin, director of student health in the Center for Counseling, Health and Wellness, who announced in November 2021 that she planned to leave the college in February 2022. The farewell event for Sellers-Selin will be held from 3:30–5 p.m. March 1 at the Athletics and Events Center VIP Room. The event will supply card-making materials for individuals who would like to leave Sellers-Selin a personal note. Those who are unable to attend the event can send notes to the Division of Student Affairs and Campus life, which is hosting the event. Community members interested in contributing to a farewell gift can drop off a donation to Karen Walls, executive assistant of Student Affairs and Campus Life, in the Student Affairs office or can send it through Venmo to @Karyn-Walls.

Campus award applications due for upcoming graduating seniors

Applications for The Campus Life Awards are due before 11:59 p.m. March 21. The Campus Life Awards are given to a select group of graduating seniors at the college as a way to recognize their outstanding contributions to the college community. Applicants must have two references submit a statement of support which are due March 23. Seniors graduating in December 2021, May 2022 or August 2022 are eligible to submit an application.

Mini-grants available for requests to support any full-time faculty

Full-time faculty can request up to \$2,000 per academic year to support scholarship, teaching and advising. The mini-grants are offered by the Office of the Provost. Interested faculty can direct their questions to Brad Hougham, associate provost of faculty affairs, at bhougham@ithaca.edu.

Clinic to provide free treatment to anyone in the performing arts

The Occupational and Physical Therapy Clinic at Ithaca College is currently offering a

performing arts walk-in clinic from 10–11:50 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. The last walk-in for each day will be accepted at 11:30 a.m. The clinic is located in the Center for Health Sciences building in Room 401. Any musician or dancer who is experiencing pain or a disability is able to get assessed by a therapist. This service is completely free for performing arts students. The therapist will also discuss with patients if further treatment is necessary. Musicians must bring their instrument to their evaluations. All walk-in clients will be asked to show their green COVID-19 screening badge.

Invitations to be sent to seniors for commencement ceremony

Invitations for the May 2022 commencement ceremony will be sent to students through their college emails if they have an anticipated graduation date between Fall 2021 through Fall 2022. The graduation dates of students who are invited to participate in the commencement are: Oct. 15, 2021; Dec. 31, 2021; May 22, 2022; July 5, 2022; Aug. 15, 2022; Oct. 9, 2022; and Dec. 31, 2022. Students can check their graduation dates in the header of the Degreeworks degree audit. Students who need to change their official graduation date to the term that they are completing their degree requirements in, can do so by submitting a change of expected graduation date form in ICWorkflow. Individuals with questions or concerns can reach out to mydegree@ithaca.edu.

IC women leaders award open for faculty and staff nominations

Nominations for current faculty or staff for the 2022 Ithaca College Women of Distinction awards are now open. The Women Leaders series recognizes up to three women who exhibit leadership, serve as role models and are committed to advancing women. The recipients must have given back to the college’s campus community through their time, talent and resources. Recipients of the award will be recognized March 31. Nominations are due March 1. This event is part of the 10th annual Women Leaders Series, a full month of programs for Ithaca College’s women leaders.



Comedy gig gets IC students giggling

Bryan Morris, up-and-coming New York comedian, performs on stage at IC Square for an audience of students Feb. 22. The Student Activities Board hosted the performance and all students were welcome to attend the event.

LEILA MARCILLO-GOMEZ/THE ITHACAN

For more information contact the Office of Student Engagement by calling 607-274-3222 or by emailing ose@ithaca.edu.

studyabroad@ithaca.edu. Students are asked to meet with their academic adviser before speaking with a study-abroad adviser to discuss courses and needed credits.

Study-abroad applications due for students going to London

The application deadline to study abroad in London during Summer 2022 and Fall 2022 is March 1. Spring 2023 applications are due no later than Sept. 15, 2022. Students are recommended to submit early applications if they plan to apply to go abroad during spring semesters because of the high demand to go abroad in the spring time slot. Students looking for more information can schedule an appointment with a study abroad adviser or contact the Office of International Programs and Extended Studies at the email

IC searches for alumni volunteers for class reunions and Cortaca ’22

The college is searching for alumni to volunteer for IC in the City: Reunion and Cortaca ’22. Any alumni who are celebrating their 10th, 25th or 50th graduation reunion from Ithaca College this year are encouraged to be a volunteer. Faculty and staff are encouraged to ask alumni to volunteer for their reunion. Alumni who are interested in volunteering can reach out to Bree Peltier-Amborn, associate director of Reunions and Homecoming, at bpeltieramborn@ithaca.education.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM FEB. 7 TO FEB. 13

FEBRUARY 7

SCHEME TO DEFRAUD/ SECOND DEGREE

LOCATION: 104 Flora Brown Drive SUMMARY: Caller reported unknown person demanded payment from the caller in return for not revealing compromising information about them on social media. Master Patrol Officer Joseph Oppen responded.

HARASSMENT OF THE SECOND DEGREE

LOCATION: 351 College Circle Lane SUMMARY: Caller reported a person was banging on the door and verbally harassing them because of a parking dispute. Patrol Officer Bruce Hall responded to the call.

FEBRUARY 8

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

LOCATION: Unknown location SUMMARY: Caller reported that one person feels uncomfortable around another person. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon responded and the Title IX Office offered support and resources.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF/ FOURTH DEGREE

LOCATION: 288 Lyceum Drive SUMMARY: The Office of Environmental Health and Safety reported that an unknown person damaged an exit sign. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain responded to the scene.

AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT/ FIRST DEGREE

LOCATION: 146 Conservatory Drive SUMMARY: Caller reported that an unknown person had scratched a swastika on a poster. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded.

FEBRUARY 9

PETIT LARCENY BETWEEN \$50–\$199

LOCATION: 43 Tower Skyline Drive SUMMARY: Caller reported unknown person signed and took delivery for groceries that belonged to the caller. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded to the scene.

ITHACA POLICE ASSIST

LOCATION: All Other SUMMARY: The Ithaca Police Department requested contact information

for owners of vehicles involved in an off-campus incident. Master Security Officer Wendy Lewis responded.

FEBRUARY 10

COLLEGE STUDENT CONDUCT CODE REGULATIONS

LOCATION: 131 Textor Circle SUMMARY: Caller reported knowing third-hand information that a person drew an offensive image in class. The responding officer reported that the person was referred for violation of the college’s Student Conduct Code. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon responded to the call.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE FIRE SAFETY OFFENSES

LOCATION: 122 Flora Brown Drive SUMMARY: The Office of Environmental Health and Safety reported a smoke detector was found during a fire alarm drill that was covered. Multiple residents were referred for tampering with fire alarm equipment. Charlie Sherman, fire and building safety coordinator, responded to the report of the covered detector.

FEBRUARY 11

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

LOCATION: Conservatory Drive SUMMARY: Caller reported person made threats to harm themselves. Officer located the person and the person was taken into custody under New York state’s Mental Hygiene Law and transported to hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Bruce Hall responded to the scene.

FEBRUARY 12

ACCIDENTAL FIRE ALARM

LOCATION: 134 Conservatory Drive SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. Officer concluded burnt food caused the alarm activation. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded.

FEBRUARY 13

IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL/DRUGS

LOCATION: 334 Grant Egbert Blvd. SUMMARY: A caller reported an unresponsive person. Officer reported

the person was intoxicated and had declined medical assistance. Master Patrol Officer Waylon Degraw referred the person to student conduct.

CRIMINAL TAMPERING/ THIRD DEGREE

LOCATION: 122 Farm Pond Road SUMMARY: Caller reported that an unknown person threw eggs at a residence. Master Patrol Officer Waylon Degraw responded.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT

LOCATION: South of 143-151 Tower Skyline Drive SUMMARY: Caller reported knowing third-hand information of a motor vehicle accident. Sergeant Don Lyke responded to the accident report.

Full public safety log available online at www.theithacan.org.

KEY

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



ILLUSTRATION BY ANANYA GAMBHIRAOPET

EDITORIALS

Student debt conversations continue to stunt progress

One thing U.S. citizens continue to be bonded by is the concern for our individual financial future. We seek stability, crave comfort and experience anxiety when confronted with uncertainty. We are ruled by the economic marketplace, beholden to capital and material goods, and the market makes sure to discipline those who step out of line. In this world, money is a means to life, and if you do not have it, social or biological death (or both) is the result. We have invented scholarships, financial aid, loans, etc. as a result of tuition increases, crippling student debt and the absurdity which is the U.S. — the most expensive place to go to college in the world.

Students at Ithaca College are well aware of increasing tuition, student debt and financial instability as the college's tuition rate is now \$8,425 higher than the average \$38,185 price tag for American private colleges. Conversations around these stressors

have been occurring for quite some time now. They occasionally occur in classrooms, in the privacy of your home, over coffee at a cafe, on the phone with some institution, but mostly they reside in our subconscious — always and at all times. The conversation remains stagnant while the anxiety builds until it has bubbled up to a place where we can no longer afford to be so redundant. Enter: the movement to cancel student debt.

The idea of canceling federal student loan debt felt like a tangible possibility during the 2020 presidential election cycle. Now, as we impatiently wait for President Biden to enact the executive order to cancel all student debt, we are left feeling like this once tangible idea is nothing but an afterthought. So, the conversation restarts, and we continue to ask the same questions: if we can fund the military billions of dollars, why can't they invest some in educational funding? Will we ever stop worrying about our financial futures? Will tuition increases and student debts ever be a thing of the past?

Snow days allow students mental breaks they need

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about many changes. For students, the most obvious one being the use of Zoom: classes, meetings and virtually anything can happen from anywhere via Zoom (especially fatigue). Online instruction has become the common, and now obvious, alternative if in-person instruction cannot occur. However, this accessible reality renders itself problematic, a reality students at Ithaca College, and everywhere, are growing concerned about.

Recent changes have allowed us to connect and continue to learn from the comfort of our homes. Modernity is wonderful for this reason — we are smarter and globally connected humans. But what is the line we must draw when this exponential growth and never-ending connectivity starts to impede on what once was? When does our gratitude for modern technology start to wear thin? These questions came into consideration Feb. 3 and 4, when a snowstorm

brought over 10 inches of snow to Tompkins County, and the college chose to hold remote instruction and students did not receive a typical snow day. Some things need to remain unchanged, like canceling classes during snow days. Snow days give students a break, and we students certainly need a break.

By attending college during a global pandemic, students' well-being is greatly at risk. The college administration should be doing everything to mitigate such inner turmoil for students, staff and faculty while celebrating moments of normalcy, and letting snow days remain snow days is something we can do. As the college is back to hosting classes fully in person, the sudden transition and shifts from online to in-person instruction feels like whiplash. If the college is upholding in-person instruction, we should continue to uphold all that comes with what was once typical and safe of such instruction: snow days need to stay.

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 [zsandhu@ithaca.edu](mailto:zsandhu@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

# Cost of higher education heavily burdens students

BY JADE GREER

Honestly, it was very unlikely that I would go to college after high school. Sure, I excelled in all of my classes, did a million extra-curricular activities, did well on the ACT, worked during the weekends, and did community service; but the chances that I would attend college were still small.

For as long as I can remember, my family lived paycheck to paycheck, sometimes not even being able to spend more than \$20 for a week's worth of groceries. I knew what was within my family's reach and college was simply not in range without the help of both financial aid and scholarships.

I applied to several scholarships in my community and online, ultimately, the fate of whether or not I would attend college rested in the institutions' hands.

In my senior year of high school, I applied to nine public and private colleges, hoping that my local state school would provide me with a lower cost of tuition. I got one deferral, five waitlists and three acceptances. Of those three, only two offered any aid. The first acceptance I received awarded me \$26,000 over the course of four years, leaving my family to pay about \$25,000 a year. To some, this

doesn't seem that bad. But I knew my family's circumstances and I knew that there was no way we could afford it. So for the months of the college application process, I was convinced that I wouldn't go to college.

Though I was still waiting for other decisions to be released, there was little to no hope that I'd hear otherwise. Until I received my letter from Ithaca College.

With an offer that covered the cost of tuition, the college provided me with a sliver of hope. It's true, my financial aid award is generous, but it still left my family to cover the cost of room and board — \$15,000 per year we definitely did not have.

Even though I had worked every weekend and every school break since I was 14, I wasn't able to even make a dent in that. I was barely covering the cost of my own life, let alone the cost of a dorm.

The answer became simple: fill every semester with as many credits as I can to graduate early while simultaneously working a part-time job.

Since then, nearly every semester has been filled with 18 credits on top of my afternoons and weekends being spent working at least one minimum-wage job.

If I'm not in class, I'm working.



Senior Jade Greer opens up about the hardships she has faced paying for higher education. She works both off and on campus and expresses the many sacrifices she has made to be where she is today.

MICHAEL SERGIO/THE ITHACAN

If I'm not working, I'm sleeping. Everything I do, every aspect of my life is with money in mind.

Does this class fill a requirement? Can I graduate early? If I take off work during finals week, how much money will I lose? My life is about money.

And here's the kicker — I'm not even poor! I never qualified for reduced-price school lunches, for Medicaid, for subsidized housing, etc. It didn't matter

how many times we could barely afford groceries or how many times we paid our rent late; to the world around me, I was middle-class.

Although awareness about the cost of higher education is certainly growing, we often forget about the struggles that middle-class families go through to simply make ends meet.

I may not pay in tuition, but I do pay in stress, in nights feeling overwhelmed by my coursework, in lost

time with friends, in missing half of my college experience.

I am immensely grateful to the college for providing me with my only chance to pursue higher education, and although it may have offered to cover the cost of my tuition, the personal cost I have paid for it remains the same.

**JADE GREER** is a senior politics major at Ithaca College. Contact her at [jgreer@ithaca.edu](mailto:jgreer@ithaca.edu).

GUEST COMMENTARY

# The binge-watching model disrupts viewing pleasure

BY VEDANT AKHAURI

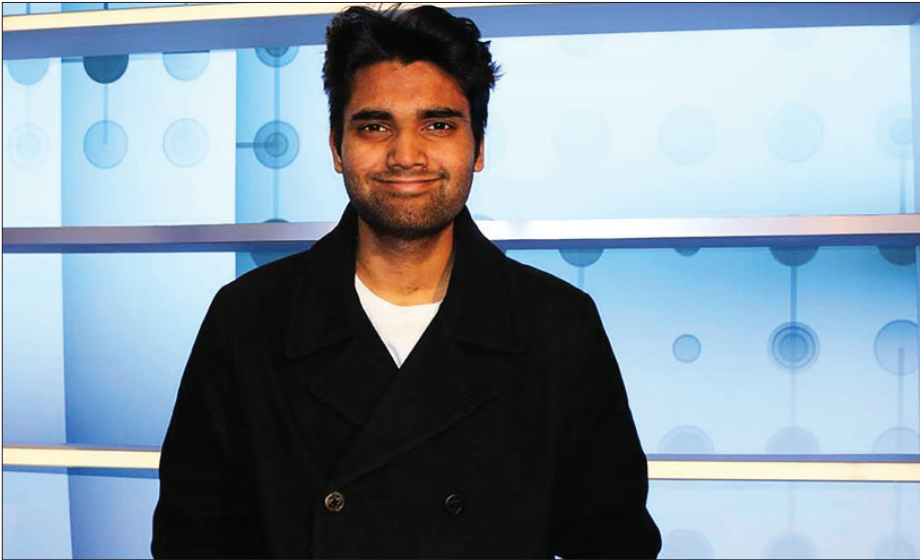
After Netflix's 2013 release of "House of Cards," binge-watching became the norm for streaming platforms, but as the years moved forward, viewing habits have slipped backward. Hulu's "A Teacher" mostly aired on a weekly schedule; so did Paramount's "iCarly," Marvel's "WandaVision," and season 4 of "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," breaking from its tradition of full-season releases. As for Netflix, its stock plummeted 21%, despite "Squid Game" dropping a full season and ranking as its most-viewed show ever (1.65 billion hours in debut month). Netflix is experimenting with half-season releases, like "Arrested Development," "Bojack Horseman," "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt" and the upcoming "Stranger Things 4." This follows a general trend as, according to the

“An episodic release schedule can make it easier to be healthier ... and process these increasingly complex narratives.”  
— Vedant Akhauri

When the pandemic hit, I was a TV-radio production major and hosted a podcast called Let's Talk Media with Vedant Akhauri. For Episode 25, I interviewed Tara Lynch '21 about binge-watching in May 2020. "During a global pandemic, people are not as busy," Lynch explained, "So, it's easier to creep up on four, five, six [episodes]. If you're watching half-hour shows, I mean 10 [episodes]!" Netflix earned 16 million subscribers in 2020 and "Tiger King" amassed 30 million views in its first 10 days. In fact, the term "Netflix and chill" was coined during the COVID-19 pandemic as millions sought escapism from boredom, loneliness, and grief.

However, a few weeks after my episode with Lynch, I noticed a growing conversation about self-care online; this definitely hurt binge-watching. Prior to the pandemic, pulling all-nighters to binge-watch an old show or the latest season was a bragging right. However, in a more health-conscious world, I've heard an increasing number of professionals and students in the Roy H. Park School of Communications reject binge-watching, calling it unhealthy. This can explain why the percentage of streamers who binged over five hours of content was nearly cut in half from 2020 to 2021.

Disney+ is expected to surpass Netflix by 2026. An obvious reason is Disney's stronger brand recognition, but another reason is that Disney focuses on weekly releases (Marvel content, "The Mandalorian"). Meanwhile, Netflix focuses on binge-releases — full or half seasons. A consistent release schedule allowed for more online theories about the next episode of Marvel shows and "The Mandalorian," which presumably indoctrinated new fans and subscribers after running



Vedant Akhauri '21 writes about the problems of streaming services releasing entire series worth of episodes at once because binge-watching can detract from the show.

COURTESY OF VEDANT AKHAURI

into these online discussions on a regular basis. This seems true for several episodic medias, like "Life is Strange" season 1, "Gravity Falls" and "Euphoria."

Unfortunately, I compare binge shows to a flash in the pan. In that same podcast episode on binge-watching, Lynch explained that "We, as Americans, have this consumer culture where we always want the next best. When we watch television, it's the same thing." This seems true with "Squid Game." It became Netflix's most viewed show, but people seem to have moved onto the next big show, leaving it behind in the dust. It's also getting a season 2, which could suffer from the long release gap. I was an avid viewer of "Orange Is The Next Black," but I quit the show because the storylines became

progressively harder to remember during the seasonal gaps, lasting around a year. As streaming narratives become increasingly complex, the inconsistent fan discussions and episodic distribution will be a major disadvantage against the binge-watching model.

If Netflix doesn't experiment more with weekly releases, it could spend millions on these binge-shows that will immediately evaporate from the consumer's mind. An episodic release schedule can make it easier to be healthier, consistently develop a fanbase, and process these increasingly complex narratives.

**VEDANT AKHAURI** is a 2021 Ithaca College graduate of the TV-radio production major. Contact him at [vedantakhauri18@gmail.com](mailto:vedantakhauri18@gmail.com).

U.S. Media Consumption Report, the percentage of streamers who binged over five hours of content decreased from 25.9% in 2020 to 12.4% in 2021.

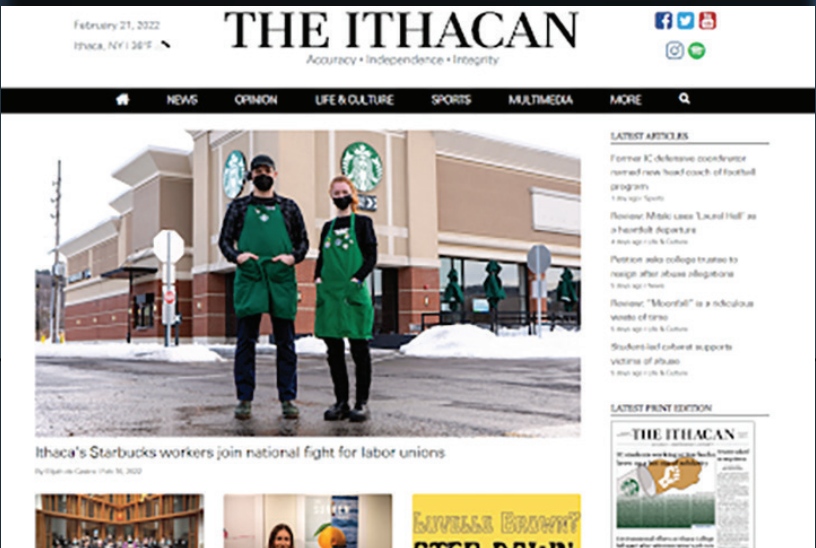
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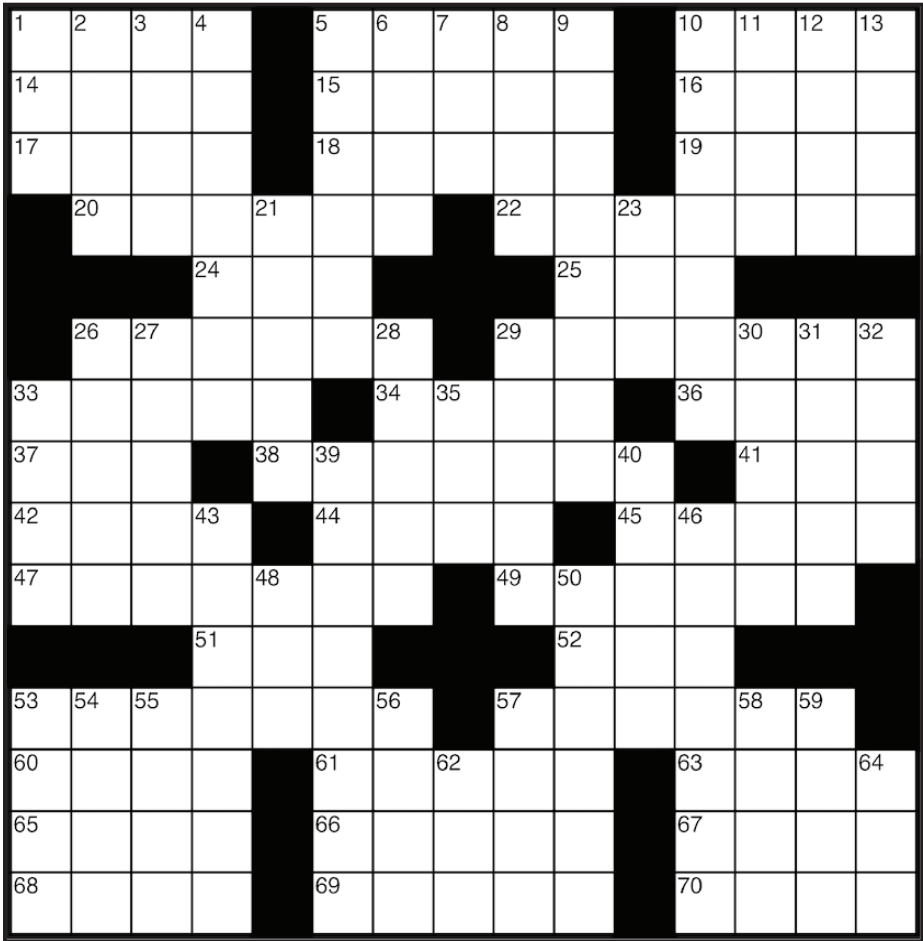
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- SCHOOL OF BUSINESS • SMIDDY HALL • LIBRARY • TERRACES

crossword

By Quill Driver Books



- ACROSS

1 Broad valley

5 Weakness

10 Proof word

14 French state

15 Item in a quiver

16 Tide type

17 Pay dirt

18 Wiggly dessert (hyph.)

19 Demolish

20 Xerxes ruled here

22 Belly

24 Filbert

25 "Futureworld" name

26 Camel kin

29 Olympics contestant

33 Eric Clapton tune

34 Boat front

36 Cutting tools

37 Showery mo.

38 Vat

41 Nurse a drink

42 Mother of Horus

44 Show of anger

45 Nail-groomer

47 Map out again

49 Dismay

51 Yalie
- 52 Careless

53 Goblet

57 Like tears

60 Cargo space

61 Radio-tune gas

63 Wine press residue

65 Pointed arch

66 Brother's daughter

67 Salt Lake state

68 Pesky plant

69 Tries to find

70 Tiny particle

DOWN

1 Computer key

2 On the summit

3 Put cargo abroad

4 Without end

5 Tex-Mex wrap

6 Locale

7 Web addr.

8 Montez or Falana

9 Pairwise (hyph.)

10 Matriculates

11 Look a long time

13 Candid

21 Tannin source

23 "That's obvious!"

26 Memory glitch
- 27 Melody's words

28 Undergo fission

29 Ventricle neighbor

30 Three-legged frame

31 Gyrate

32 Spot

33 Den

35 Hwys.

39 Libyans or Kenyans

40 India neighbor

43 Prepared shrimp

46 Upper limit

48 Frazier foe

50 Carpentry tools

53 Chuck wagon meal

54 Gigantic

55 Nautical position

56 Old barge canal

57 Slug

58 Defense gp.

59 Was, to Ovid

62 "Golly!"

64 Ernesto Guevara

last issue's crossword answers

E	L	M		T	R	A	C	E		P	A	R	S	E	
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sudoku

medium

		5		4		7		
			2	9				1
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hard

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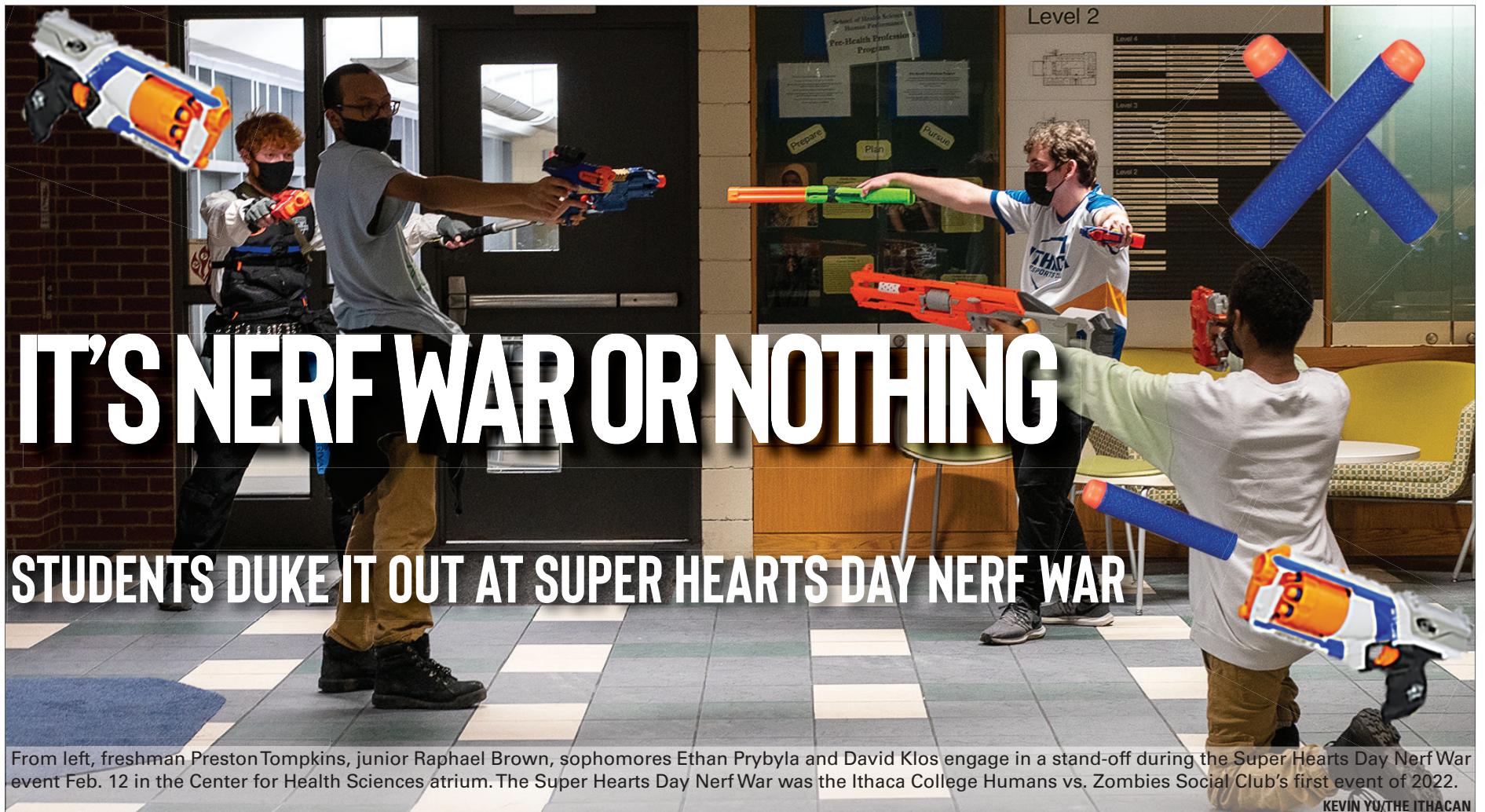
answers to last issue's sudoku:

medium

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

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



From left, freshman Preston Tompkins, junior Raphael Brown, sophomores Ethan Prybyla and David Klos engage in a stand-off during the Super Hearts Day Nerf War event Feb. 12 in the Center for Health Sciences atrium. The Super Hearts Day Nerf War was the Ithaca College Humans vs. Zombies Social Club's first event of 2022. KEVIN YU/THE ITHACAN

BY MADDY MARTIN

Last Saturday night, the Center for Health Sciences (CHS) turned into a battlefield.

"Are you all ready?" sophomore Ian Volk, the vice president of the Ithaca College Humans vs. Zombies Social Club, yells to two opposing teams with their backs to the wall, armed with Nerf blasters and foam shields and swords.

A countdown starts, fast-paced music plays from a glowing rainbow speaker on the ground floor, and the teams are off running up staircases and darting behind pillars to avoid being struck down.

The Super Hearts Day Nerf War took place from 7 to 10 p.m. Feb. 12 and was the Human vs. Zombies Social Club's first event of the semester. The event was Valentine's Day and Super Bowl themed because it took place the Saturday before both.

The event was held for seasoned Humans vs. Zombies members and newcomers. Three different play modes were played over the course of the event including team vs. team, mafia, and cupid, a new elimination game recently created by junior Brittany Hope, the club president.

In cupid, players are paired up based on who they hit first. Human vs. zombies, the game the club is named for, is reserved for outdoor events when the weather is warm in spring and fall. While the weather is cold the team plays other games inside.

Due to its wide, open space and exposed floors the CHS atrium makes for the ideal indoor battleground, allowing players to hit one another from

different levels and hide in staircases. Even the elevator has a tactical purpose as members of one team use it to quietly ambush the other. While the upper floors are all part of the battlefield, the center of the bottom functions as a base where all games start from.

"[I like] the silliness of the whole club and just being able to be yourself and act the way you want to is a really big reason why these events are so much fun," Volk said "It's also my biweekly exercise. I get to run around like a madman doing whatever the heck I want."

Although Nerf blasters are a staple of the club's games, they are not required to participate. Players have the choice to use Nerf swords, shields and bows as well as unworn rolled-up socks — called bombs — provided to them by the club.

Being tapped by a sword or hit by a sock bomb counts the same as being hit with a Nerf dart, meaning the player is out of the game or has lost one of their three lives.

"[I like] that I get to be an absolute child and no one makes fun of me," Hope said. "We're kids in college and they're foam darts. We can't be taken seriously at all and it's so much fun."

Sophomore Gabrielle Moran joined Humans vs. Zombies last semester and Super Hearts Nerf War was her second event with the club. She said the Nerf wars felt like a real-life video game.

"It's a real adrenaline rush but in a safe environment," Moran said. "What I really like is being able to be a little nerdy with this."

The first game of the night was team vs. team, in which the players are split into two teams, one marked with bandanas, the other not. Each player got

three chances to get hit with a dart, and the last team left standing won.

After a short break where all the players wandered all three floors picking up Nerf darts, the first ever game of cupid began.



From left, freshman Preston Tompkins and sophomore David Klos peek around a corner with blasters in hand as they fight in The Super Hearts Day Nerf War. KEVIN YU/THE ITHACAN

In cupid, the first person a player hits becomes their partner, and they work together as a team until there's only one couple standing. Hope made the game in honor of the event taking place the weekend before Valentine's Day. The game was a success and Hope said the game will continue to be played at other events.

The Super Hearts Day Nerf War was the first Humans vs. Zombies event for junior Caroline Peyron and sophomore David Klos.

"It's pretty fun and a little chaotic," Peyron said. "I saw a custodian walk by during the last game and I felt a little bad for him because he's probably like 'what's going on these floors?' I like it."

Klos joined the Humans vs. Zombies club last semester, but didn't get a chance to participate due to a busy schedule.

"Nerf was a big part of childhood," Klos said. "A lot of my friends and I would have Nerf wars like this in middle school and high school but we teetered off because we all got busy."

The last game of the night was mafia. At the start of the game all the players circle up and draw cards from a deck. Red numbers are mafia members and a red king is a drunk mafia who doesn't know who the other mafia players are.

The ace of spades is the detective who can ask eliminated players what role they were, the king of spades is a doctor who

can heal eliminated players and black numbers are civilians.

The two jokers are civilian friends who know each other are not in the mafia. The game ends when the mafia has eliminated all the civilians or the civilians have eliminated all the mafia.

Once all the roles are assigned, the players head their separate directions. But while other games often have explosive starts, mafia starts much quieter with the players being careful about who they eliminate and who watches them do it.

When a player is hit playing mafia, they must sit down in the location where they were taken out until the game ends or they are healed by the doctor.

During a game of mafia last semester, Moran said, a group of players were all hit in the elevator while trying to ambush another group. They ended up being stuck in it, and were forced to ride it up and down until the end of the game.

Humans vs. Zombies plans on holding other events like Super Hearts Day later in the semester that will be open for anyone to join.

"It's a good way to get energy out if you're stressed," Hope said. "Maybe bring a friend, take your anger out on them. Just have fun."

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# IC student nominated for iHeartRadio award

**BY NATALIE TRIBIANO**

One of the last things junior Alexa Chalnack expected while sitting in her car waiting for her allergy appointment was to be an iHeartRadio award nominee. What started as simply posting singing videos to TikTok has led to an opportunity to be a part of a nationally recognized award show.

A couple weeks prior to the nomination, iHeartRadio, a radio station that is part of the largest radio broadcaster in the U.S., messaged Chalnack on Instagram asking her to email a photo of herself to use in an announcement. Having not the slightest idea what it was for, Chalnack sent iHeartRadio a headshot. Then Jan. 27, she learned about her nomination for Best TikTok songwriter through an Instagram post.

“I was absolutely shocked,” Chalnack said. “Past Alexa worked really hard during the quarantine and she was pushing so much content out.”

Pursuing a Bachelor of Music with a focus on voice in the Ithaca College School of Music, Chalnack has garnered a TikTok following of over 990,000 through her unique songwriting challenges, skits and singing videos.

Her mother and music teacher, Sheri Chalnack, was beaming with pride after finding out about her daughter’s nomination. Chalnack was mid-instruction when she received a call from Alexa Chalnack and placed her on speakerphone to announce her iHeart Radio award nomination. This led to the whole

class exploding in cheers.

“I was so over-the-top excited for her because she had worked so hard all during COVID-19 trying to make something to help other people,” Sheri Chalnack said.

Being an online persona wasn’t always the goal for Alexa Chalnack. She was fearful of being her own worst critic and previously opted out of uploading anything online. That was until near the end of her senior year of high school when she lost her voice. Suffering a severe respiratory infection leaving one of her vocal chords slightly weak, Chalnack found herself feeling extremely discouraged.

“My voice was my everything,” Chalnack said. “And here was this idea that [my voice] wasn’t perfect anymore. That hurt.”

This mental shift of accepting her voice proved to be an opportunity for Chalnack. She uploaded her first TikTok video during her freshman year of college. Initially, she just wanted to showcase her passion online in an informal setting and was relieved of the daily pressure she put on herself.

Chalnack’s voice began to recover and is now at the same, if not higher, level than it was. Her page’s growth came in waves, but there were certain videos that would go viral, causing her channel to skyrocket in followers.

Junior Jaden Levine, music major, has been close friends with Chalnack since their freshman year. Being by Chalnack’s side since she began her TikTok page, Levine said he feels proud of how much Chalnack has grown.



Junior Alexa Chalnack has amassed a 990,000+ following on TikTok through her hard work and singing talents. She was nominated for an iHeartRadio award for Best TikTok Songwriter.

LEILA MARCILLO-GOMEZ/THE ITHACAN

“I remember her saying how she was comfortable [singing] classic and golden age musical theater... but during the pandemic she really was a lot more comfortable belting,” Levine said. “I think the coolest thing is seeing her create music to a whole different level.”

While scrolling through TikTok, Chalnack saw a video of someone singing a musical but would leave certain words out for someone to duet and fill in the blanks. This inspired Chalnack to make a singing duet challenge, but instead of it being a musical song, it would be an original piece she wrote.

Chalnack created “Sing for Alexa Saturday” during quarantine, which was a response to Broadway community members being unemployed and relying on holding lessons through Zoom. She would have people audition via TikTok by duetting her videos of them singing. Chosen individuals were able to perform on a Zoom call each Saturday in front of Chalnack and a Broadway performer or someone in the music industry. This allowed her to work with big names in the industry like Dan Povenmire, creator of “Phineas and Ferb.” Being a fan of Chalnack’s work,

Povenmire asked her to co-write a song with him for a new Disney channel show. They met on a Zoom call and within an hour, the duo had produced a song.

Chalnack has written upward of 50 unreleased songs and says her next goal is to share her music with the world.

“I have some plans up my sleeves to how I’m going to release all of the songs,” Chalnack said. “So I guess you can say: Look out for Alexa!”

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# Hand-painted pets spark new business for student

**BY M MINTON**

Junior Kirsten Hamberg, an integrated marketing communications student at Ithaca College, has always been an artistic person. Hamberg picked up a hobby of painting during the pandemic, starting with her dog. Before long, she started painting portraits of other people’s animals because of her love of animals.

Hamberg’s Instagram account has amassed over 370 followers with over 100 posts of featured artwork. On her website, customers can purchase ornaments, coasters and keychains as well as other handmade goods from Hamberg’s business, Paw Print Paintings. Her artwork depicts realistic paintings of all different types of pets with a clear focus on the emotions of each animal. Hamberg uses acrylic paint against wood surfaces and canvases.

Hamberg said she got her start by posting a painting of her dog in a Facebook group and asked if anybody would be interested in having their pet painted. People in the group noticed her talent, and her business has been expanding ever since.

“From there, I started with low prices, and I just kind of built up a bit of a network and then moved off that platform onto Instagram,” Hamberg said. “And then I was like, I should probably make a website and things progressively evolved.”

Hamberg sells her custom pieces from \$20 to \$100, depending on the product.

Hamberg said one of her inspirations for

the business was her own love of pets and her own dog, Sadie. This led her to a market of pet lovers to whom she could sell her products.

“I knew that that’s something that I personally love,” Hamberg said. “And I know that other people love their animals too. You need people to want what you’re making. I was like, I can’t just make random paintings. I need to have a specific market to go to.”

Sophomore Lauren Sieber said she is familiar with Hamberg’s business through the classes they took together. Sieber said that if she had a pet, she would definitely buy Hamberg’s artwork.

“I know she is a very talented individual who crafts beautiful pieces,” Sieber said. “She captures every little detail that the pet has and makes the piece personal and memorable.”

As a local to the Ithaca area, Hamberg said that living in the area gives her opportunities to showcase her work. Hamberg displayed during Ithaca Festival in May 2019, a yearly music and arts festival allowing members from the community to showcase their talents.

After Hamberg transferred to Ithaca College in Fall 2021 from Tompkins Cortland Community College, she said she took classes in Strategic Communication and Graphic Design for her major. Hamberg said they have helped her business by teaching her the actual basis and rules of marketing that she can use in promoting her artwork.

“I’ve actually implemented a lot of things



Junior Kristen Hamberg used her painting skills to start a business catering to many pet lovers. She learned how to market her business through her college courses.

COURTESY OF KRISTEN HAMBERG

I’ve learned,” Hamberg said. “When I did a whole revamp of my website, after [my graphic design class], I actually went in and [originally] had my logo in the middle. Like we learned, I put it in the top left because that’s where you’re going to grab attention.”

One of Hamberg’s customers is Lindsey Allen, a Tompkins Cortland Community College student. Allen praised Hamberg for her ability to accurately portray her chocolate lab’s unique features, rather than painting any dog of the same breed.

“It’s a wooden canvas with a lavender background and a beautiful replication of my

dog,” Allen said. “I love how I can look at my painting and not only see a chocolate lab, but I can tell that it’s a painting of my lab.”

Hamberg said that through her business, she has been able to emotionally connect with people through the artwork she creates as she too has a strong connection to pets.

“It’s cool to be able to take someone’s pet that they obviously adore and put it into a painting because there’s just so much personality in every pet,” Hamberg said.

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# Game-turned-film has some potential

MOVIE REVIEW: “Uncharted” Columbia Pictures



**BY EVAN MILLER**

After spending over a decade in development, “Uncharted,” a film based on the critically-acclaimed PlayStation franchise, has finally hit the big screen. Unfortunately, the movie never reaches greatness. But as the first entry in what Sony hopes will become a lasting franchise, it certainly does its job of showing its potential.

In “Uncharted,” Nathan “Nate” Drake, played by Tom Holland, is a curious treasure hunter with a vast knowledge of history. Nate teams up with experienced thief Victor “Sully” Sullivan (Mark Wahlberg) and a cunning thief-for-hire Chloe Frazer (Sophia Taylor Ali) to search for the gold of explorer Ferdinand Magellan.

For those entering “Uncharted” as fans of the games, the film is not a straightforward adaptation in the least. One of the largest creative liberties is the casting of Holland, who plays a much younger and inexperienced Nate than the adult version fans know.

Luckily, Tom Holland does a more than suitable job in the role, staying faithful to the original character’s charm and personality while also finding ways to make Nate his own. Holland truly threw himself into this role and proves — quite possibly even more than in the “Spider-Man” films — that he is a capable action star.

Ali provides a similarly

engaging performance in the film. She keeps in close touch with many of the beloved qualities that made her character so likeable in the games, like her wit and intelligence.

While Holland and Ali do as much as they can to preserve the best qualities of their original characters, Wahlberg made the choice to do the opposite. Where in the games Sully is a mustache-sporting, cigar-chomping no-good scoundrel, in the film he’s Mark Wahlberg. Although Wahlberg clearly puts his own trademark spin on the role, his Sully does admittedly have an enjoyable dynamic with Holland’s Drake, which was arguably the most important element that the film needed to get right.

Directed by Ruben Fleischer (“Venom”), the film doesn’t do anything to try to reinvent the wheel of the action genre. While it does include a few iconic set pieces lifted straight from the games, they don’t quite live up to their potential.

Though they are entertaining, Fleischer is unable to imbue these sequences with the same sense of jaw-dropping spectacle that so many have experienced in the games. One can only imagine that if these sequences were helmed by a more inspired director, they could have given some of the best sequences from a franchise like “Mission Impossible” a run for its money.

Aside from the film’s shoddy



While “Uncharted” doesn’t fulfill the expectations of longtime fans, its a step in the right direction for video game films.  
COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES

directing, another particular element that is mostly lacking is its writing. All three of the film’s villains are uninteresting and poorly written.

When it comes to video game to movie adaptations, “Uncharted” is another entry on the long list of those that don’t quite get it right.

Nonetheless, it doesn’t completely miss the mark, which provides fans with just enough to keep them invested in this new take on the franchise but gives those who have had no prior experience with the “Uncharted” games an entertaining introduction to the property.

Despite the relatively lackluster beginning, “Uncharted” has potential. It depends on where Sony decides to take this franchise, but there is still hope for improvement.

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## Climate movies address issues

BY MADDY MARTIN

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.” - Dr. Seuss, “The Lorax”

As an environmentally-conscious child, these words offered me comfort and hope. But a big part of growing up for me was realizing that these words were not necessarily true. Climate change is a systematic problem that can not be solved by a single person making personal sacrifices. It can not be solved by 500 people making personal sacrifices and our media needs to reflect that.

“The Lorax” is useful for introducing children to climate change, but the issue is much more complex than what can be expressed in a picture book. It can not be the primary piece of media we look at to discuss climate change. To understand climate change and its wide range of consequences, we need a wide range of media taking on different perspectives.

“Don’t Look Up” is a climate change allegory film about two scientists trying to warn the world about a comet that will inevitably destroy the Earth. The film stands out for many reasons: it does not sugar-coat the terror of climate change, it does not make its audience feel hopeful, it does not present climate change as something an individual person can solve and it’s not for children.

Admittedly, climate change is a difficult topic to discuss in fiction. There are so many moving parts and it’s hard for one piece of media to capture it all. James Patterson tried his hand at discussing climate change in his novel series “Maximum Ride.” While most of the series focuses on genetically-engineered kids with bird wings running away from the evil scientists that created them, in the fourth book, “The Final Warning,” the kids find themselves working with some good scientists researching climate change.

The book is a strange installment in the story as the rest of the series has nothing to do with climate change and is full of instances of the main character, Max, giving climate change facts directly to the reader.

Simply dropping climate change themes and facts into a story doesn’t work. The themes need to be built into the world to be successfully explored. Hayao Miyazaki’s “Princess Mononoke” is a beautiful and brutal film that explores humanity’s relationship with nature. The film does a fantastic job of showing the dual edges of industry. The town’s extraction of resources is harmful, but it has also greatly improved the lives of the people who live there. This is why the cycle of humanity taking from the environment is so hard to break.

Due to its slow and ever-present threat, climate change all too easily falls into the background of our lives, and while we don’t need to hyperfocus on it at all times, we need to keep the discussion going. Exploring media that bring these topics to the forefront will make sure we keep talking.

# Sequel to Netflix’s ‘Tall Girl’ still can’t reach standards

MOVIE REVIEW: “Tall Girl 2” NETFLIX



**BY SYDNEY BRUMFIELD**

Looking for a film that evokes the feelings of polite indifference? Look no further than the most unnecessary sequel of the year, “Tall Girl 2.” Directed by Emily Ting, “Tall Girl 2” relies heavily on the character arcs and relationships from the first film, aptly named “Tall Girl” (2019), leaving viewers to have to remember back to the first film if they’d like to try and elicit anything meaningful from this film.

“Tall Girl 2” follows Jodi Kreyman (Ava Michelle) who, after years of being insecure about her height, feels confident enough after the events of the first film to audition for the lead in her school’s musical. Unsurprisingly, Jodi gets the lead and has to learn to balance musical practice, school and her tumultuous love life.

Shockingly, the movie starts out pretty strong. It walks the fine line between corny and cringy with the interactions between Jodi and her boyfriend Jack Dunkleman (Griffin Gluck). The pair also genuinely found ways for their on-screen chemistry to shine through. The first half of “Tall Girl 2” is full of genuine moments of comedy

between Jodi and her friends or situational humor that inevitably occurs when a 6-foot-1-inch girl is dating a 5-foot-7-inch boy.

Like most teen rom-coms, the dialogue is clunky at times and the acting tends to be a little bit too dramatic for the situations that occur — like when Jack is outraged that Jodi isn’t taking their three-month anniversary seriously because she would rather go practice her lines for the musical. But ultimately the majority of the performances given by the actors in this project were compelling and believable, even if the situations were a little unpragmatic.

Unfortunately, the nuggets of comedy fall by the wayside and “Tall Girl 2” grows pretty boring to watch. By the second act, when Jodi is in the full swing of musical practice and all of her friendships and relationships are being put to the test, she begins to suffer from anxiety attacks. The inclusion of the conversation surrounding anxiety and self-doubt is an important one, especially in media targeted towards teenagers. But the constant recurrence of Jodi’s self-doubt becomes annoying and overdone very quickly.



“Tall Girl 2” is obnoxious: it makes better background noise than it does a movie.  
COURTESY OF NETFLIX

The substance of “Tall Girl 2” is extremely shallow the majority of the time. Jodi’s primary conflict is her underlying struggle with self acceptance. While this is an important message for many viewers, the problem with it is that no tangible solutions are offered to viewers on how to resolve their own self-doubt or insecurities. Jodi just does it with no explanation aside from ignoring the little voice in her head.

Truthfully, “Tall Girl 2” is a comfortable film to watch and the film leaves nothing to the imagination.

“Tall Girl 2” isn’t great, but it’s not the worst Netflix Original of the lot. This movie isn’t trying to be anything it’s not and can definitely serve as some much needed background noise.

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BY TOMMY MUMAU  
AND AIDAN CHARDE

After the 2019 season ended, many Ithaca College football players were saddened to learn that Michael Toerper, the coach who recruited them, was departing for a new position. However, these same players erupted with excitement when they learned Toerper was returning to South Hill as the head coach of the program.

A Feb. 18 announcement from the college stated that Toerper is returning to South Hill as the 11th head coach in the history of the program. He will officially start this role March 1. Toerper previously served as the defensive coordinator for the college from 2017 to 2019, under former head coach Dan Swanstrom, who announced his departure from the program Jan. 24. As the defensive coordinator for the Bombers, Toerper helped lead the team to a 24–9 record in three years.

“It means everything to me and my family,” Toerper said. “I feel honored and very grateful to be the next head coach here at Ithaca [College].”

Toerper has spent the past two years as the safeties coach at the College of the Holy Cross. Before he was first hired on South Hill, he spent seven seasons at Johns Hopkins University, where he worked with Swanstrom as a wide receivers coach and special teams coordinator. He also spent his collegiate playing career at the University of Pittsburgh, graduating in 2008.

Susan Bassett, associate vice president and director of the Office of Intercollegiate

Athletics at Ithaca College, said she and the other members of the selection process were impressed by Toerper’s plans for the future of the team and believe that he is the best choice to guide the program.

“We ran an intensive, comprehensive interview process and he proved to be an effective communicator of his vision and leadership for Ithaca College football,” Bassett said. “Together with his demonstrated success as a coach at each of his coaching opportunities, but most importantly while with us at Ithaca [College], there was unanimous support from the alumni search committee, the on-campus search committee and everyone who interviewed him when he was a finalist on campus.”

Bassett said the college received more than 85 applications for the position. The search committee was composed of athletics administrators, coaches, faculty and eight former Bombers football players.

There were also four players that were involved in interviewing the finalists when they visited campus — junior A.J. Wingfield and seniors Antwan Robinson, Michael Roumes and Donte Garcia.

Garcia said he was thankful that Bassett allowed the team leaders to meet the coaching candidates before anyone was hired.

“What was most impactful was Susan Bassett allowing the team leaders to be a part of the process,” Garcia said. “I really respect Susan for that.”

Bassett said she is excited about what Toerper brings to the table and believes that he will continue the team’s success by impacting



From left, Michael Toerper, recently hired Ithaca College head football coach and Khiry Brown ’21 celebrate at the 61st annual Cortaca Jug game Nov. 16, 2019.

ABBEY LONDON/THE ITHACAN

the program both on and off the gridiron.

“[He has] enormous passion and energy,” Bassett said. “Coach Toerper is someone who exudes a love for the game, a passion for teaching and coaching and knowledge of strategies, training techniques, recruiting effectiveness and the ability to motivate his staff and the players in the program.”

Assistant coach Sean Reeder, who played under Toerper at Johns Hopkins University, said he thinks Toerper is a great fit for the job because of how well the players will rally around him.

The Bombers were one of the top defenses in the Liberty League during Toerper’s three seasons on the sidelines, allowing the fewest points in the conference during the 2017 and 2018 seasons. The coach said he is looking forward to the opportunity to reunite with players he coached during his first stint on South Hill.

“I think I built a strong bond with these players, especially the ones that I coached and the people that are here, and I believe that the future is so bright for this program,” Toerper said. “Obviously my time here before really just fueled my excitement for the opportunity. And that’s really because of the people here at Ithaca [College].”

As the Bombers’ defensive coordinator, Toerper recruited many members of the current squad to South Hill. Roumes, a senior defensive back, said he is thrilled to have another chance to work with Toerper.

“When he left here, it was very hard for me just because he recruited me and he was my position coach,” Roumes said. “He’s one

of my favorite coaches and one of the best coaches I’ve ever had. So to have him come back, it’s just really exciting.”

Toerper also recruited Robinson and said the announcement was a full-circle moment for him. He said he believes Toerper’s effectiveness as a coach can be attributed to his ability to communicate with his team.

“His greatest skill is being personable,” Robinson said. “He’s able to form relationships that not only carried through football, but outside of football, and I think that matters most.”

Toerper said his primary focus on the field will be to help the team reach its full potential and enjoy the process of competing.

“I don’t like to use the word ‘goals,’ I like to use the word ‘pursuits,’” Toerper said. “We’re going to pursue being the best we possibly can be and enjoying the journey together one day at a time.”

In 2022, the team’s sights will be set on making its first appearance in the NCAA Championships since 2014. Wingfield, the starting quarterback, said he and the team believe Toerper will be able to lead the team and help it make a run in the postseason.

“There couldn’t be a more perfect candidate in [the team’s] opinion,” Wingfield said. “I truly trust in [Toerper] to take us to that next level and get us in the playoffs ... I really think he’s the guy for it.”



Michael Toerper returned to the college after spending two seasons at the College of the Holy Cross as the safeties coach. The Crusaders intercepted 18 passes in 2021.

PHOTO COURTESY OF COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS ATHLETICS

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# IC Wrestling named third-best team

BY ROCCO DI MAIOLO

As the Ithaca College wrestling team gets set for the NCAA Regional Tournament in 2022, it has been recognized for being the third-best Division III program nationwide by Rofkin Wrestling, a subscription-based website that publishes wrestling content.

With three NCAA Division III team championships, 12 individual national championships, 83 All-Americans, and 12 top-five team finishes at the national tournament, the Bombers' wrestling program has had quite a decorated run in the past decade. The college came behind Wartburg College and Augsburg University on the list.

Some of the latest and greatest Bombers to be named by Rofkin Wrestling include Sam Schneider '21, Seth Ecker '12, Nicholas Sanko '11 and current assistant coach Ricardo Gomez '14. The college has had 28 wrestlers recognized nationally since the 2011–12 season, including four NCAA champions.

This year marks the 26th year in charge for head wrestling coach Marty Nichols '90. As Bombers' wrestling alum and three-time Division III All-American from 1987 to 1990, he has been the intellect behind the program's success from his wrestling days back then to his coaching days today.

Nichols said the program is deserving of the honor due to

the guidance the program has had, not only from coaches, but from the wrestlers on the team as well. Nichols said he is grateful to people connected to the program who have contributed to the team's success.

"The athletes we get here recruit other athletes from their hometowns or home areas and spread the word," Nichols said. "We have a lot of alumni out there as well and they give us phone calls and send us messages as well [saying] 'Hey, take a look at this guy' and 'Take a look at that guy.'"

Nichols also reflected on the expectations he has for the team of winning the conference titles and winning nationally.

Assistant coach Marc Israel '05 is currently in his 14th season with the Bombers, helping the Bombers earn this honor by adding his expertise over the past decade. As a former wrestler for the Bombers, he too knows what it takes to win because he was a two-time All-American and placed third at 165 pounds as a senior.

Israel said he is grateful for the ability of the wrestlers to do things using their own sense of knowledge and accountability.

"We just have had amazing student-athletes who really hold each other accountable for their work ethic both in the classroom and in the wrestling room," Israel said. "We're there to close any gaps and any loopholes and help them have a successful career on



Senior Eze Chukwuezi competes against SUNY Cortland's Brian Torres during the fifth annual Rumble and Tumble event Feb. 16. NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

the mat and in the classroom."

The alumni presence does not stop there because Gomez, a Bombers wrestling alum, has served as an assistant coach for the program since the 2013–14 season. He won the NCAA Division III national championship at 125 pounds in 2013.

Gomez said he feels the team has been led by former wrestlers who have served as leaders, as well as the current coaching staff and their abilities that have helped develop the tradition of leadership and success.

Gomez said he feels the team looks for "well-rounded" athletes in the recruitment process, including their ability to listen to the coach's expertise.

"It's having [the wrestlers] peak at the right time and be mentally prepared for nationals," Gomez said. "Ithaca [College] is not only competitive on the wrestling mat but also academically. A big component is how are their grades, who they are as a person, how disciplined they are. ... It's trying to get to know the athlete and I'd prefer to have a kid that is coachable rather than have a state champion that's not coachable."

The Bombers will be getting set to compete for the NCAA Regionals on Feb. 26 and 27 before heading to the national championships March 11.

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# Guard reaches 1,000 points

BY TOMMY MUMAU

Senior Skylar Sinon, guard for the Ithaca College men's basketball team, has made history by becoming the 29th player in program history to score 1,000 career points.

The guard reached the mark in the Bombers' 106–95 victory against the Rochester Institute of Technology Feb. 15 in Clarkson Gymnasium. Sinon secured the milestone by knocking down a jump shot, giving the South Hill squad a 93–82 lead with 6:29 remaining in the contest. Senior Sebastian Alderete, current student assistant coach, was the last player in the program to join this exclusive club Jan. 24, 2020.

"It's obviously an amazing honor to be mentioned with those other 28 members of the 1,000-point club," Sinon said. "Luckily I've played with amazing guys throughout my three years here, so they let me do what I can do. They let me score, they trust me with the ball. So, it all starts with them."

Sinon also attributed his success to the trust his three collegiate coaches have given him, playing for Jim Mullins, Sean Burton and Waleed Farid during his time on South Hill. Farid said he was glad to see Sinon's dedication to the sport pay off by reaching the career mark.

"I'm happy for him," Farid said. "He's obviously one of our leaders, one of our best players and it's always exciting to see a player hit some of those career milestones that validate the amount of work they put in and the commitment to getting better every day and every year."

This is the second time Sinon has reached the 1,000 point mark, as he also achieved the milestone during his junior year at Byram Hills High School. During his collegiate career, Sinon reached the milestone in just three collegiate seasons because his junior campaign was canceled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sinon said he has enjoyed the process of achieving this mark and takes pride in joining the exclusive group.

"I think [reaching 1,000 points has] dubbed me as a scorer here at Ithaca [College], which is pretty cool," Sinon said. "It's a great honor and I had fun doing it, I promise you that."

He is also the second student from the college to score their 1,000th point this season, reaching the milestone a month after Grace Cannon, women's basketball graduate student, achieved the feat in the team's 67–44 win against Clarkson University Jan. 15.

Sinon's career point total currently sits at 1,019 as the team enters postseason play with its first game of the Liberty League Championships set for Feb. 26. The guard was a key contributor to the Bombers' success during the winter, helping lead the squad to a 17–8 record and a second-place finish in the regular season.

Farid said Sinon's ability to make an impact on both sides of the ball adds to how special the milestone is, especially because he achieved the mark in only three college seasons.

"Skylar has a really unique game, he attacks the game in so many ways, not just scoring," Farid said. "But being able to do it in three years is definitely a huge accomplishment. It's a testament to how good of a player he's been [and] it's a testament to how important to the program he's been since the day he stepped foot on campus."

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# Creative media named a co-curricular

BY AIDAN CHARDE

In a small room in Roy H. Park Hall, currently marked by a piece of notebook paper written on in Sharpie, sits the office of the Creative Media Team, Ithaca College's newest co-curricular activity.

The temporary sign does a good job of showing just how new the team is. It was recognized as a co-curricular at the beginning of the semester and moved into the office Jan. 27. While students had been employed by the Athletic Communications Office to create content for the sports teams previously, junior Peter Raider, manager of the Creative Media Team, said the official creation of the team gives it a better opportunity to recruit new members and communicate with each other.

"We were a team that created content for team [social media] accounts and the [Ithaca College athletics social media] account to help build their brands," Raider said. "What's changed now that we're in Park is that we have an office, we're getting gear and we have a new system of trainees."

Raider said he is grateful to have a space for the team which does videography, photography, runs social media and creates graphics for athletic teams at the college.

Raider also said the team now has access to camera gear, which means people will not need to use their own devices.

The equipment was provided to the team by an outside donation, according to Jack Powers, interim dean of the Roy H. Park School of Communications. The plan was originally to have the team be able to book equipment through the Park Portable Equipment Center (PPECS), but the college was able to obtain \$15,000 from the Callahan Fund for Student



The Ithaca College Creative Media Team was recently named a new co-curricular activity and it moved into a new office in the Roy H. Park Hall on Jan. 27. ARIANA GONZALEZ/THE ITHACAN

Success to purchase gear for the team.

"Anyone who works in any of our [co-curriculars] that require access to PPECS knows that equipment can be hard to come by ... [now] they'll always have access," Powers said.

Justin Lutes, associate director of Athletics Communications at the college and adviser to the Creative Media Team, said he thinks this will help the athletes at the college gain more exposure in addition to being a great opportunity for students to create content.

"I believe the students who are heavily involved have a great vision and will continue to build creative media into a recognizable group," Lutes said via email.

Junior Mel Kardos said she is looking forward to the opportunity to bring in additional creators to the team. The team had its first-ever

recruitment night Feb. 8.

"[When we were just with athletics], you already had to know what you were doing to some extent," Kardos said. "Whereas now we have a lot of people that are interested but don't have the experience."

Raider said he believes the co-curricular provides an option for a different type of sports photography than what was previously available for students.

"[Photojournalists'] purpose is to tell stories," Raider said. "For [the Creative Media Team], it's really providing photos to athletes to help them build their own brands [or] to send to families. And also to serve purposes on the team accounts."

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Senior Sara Boschwitz works on a friendship bracelet at the Calming Crafting event Feb. 21 in Williams Hall 222. The event was hosted by the Health and Happiness club, where students can relax and create crafts like rock paintings and friendship bracelets. Attendees also received Health and Happiness pins as well as stickers.

ABBY BRADY/THE ITHACAN