

## New school merges music, theater and dance



BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

In May 2021, Diane Birr, professor of music performance at Ithaca College, heard for the first time that the college's administration planned to merge the Department of Theatre Arts and School of Music. Birr was shocked and frustrated. Shocked because it was the first time that she had heard that this would be happening. Frustrated because before making the decision to merge the schools, the administration had never asked her or her fellow faculty for their opinion.

"I was feeling a sadness and probably an anger that we were hearing this for the first time with no input from anyone beforehand or any consultation," Birr said.

On Jan. 25, 2022, nine months after the May 2021 meeting, the college's administration announced that by July 2022, the Department of Theatre Arts and School of Music would merge to create the Ithaca College School of Music, Theatre, and Dance. The merger is part of the second phase of the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process. The APP was approved in February 2021 by the college's then-President Shirley M. Collado and then-Provost La Jerne Cornish. In July 2021, Collado announced her resignation from her position and Cornish became the college's interim president for the 2021–22 academic year. A search for a new president for the college has begun.

Birr said that in Fall 2019, she had first heard of an idea

to move the Department of Theatre Arts out of the School of Humanities and Sciences to an undefined location. Birr said ideas like making the Department of Theatre Arts its own school or moving it into the music school were floated. Almost two years went by before she heard of the idea again, in the May 2021 meeting. Birr said that during and after the May 2021 meeting, the administration had proceeded with the merger process without allowing faculty to have meaningful input on whether the decision would be made or not.

Cornish said the process has shared governance and the merge will encourage learning across the college's disciplines.

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## COVID-19 and financial health discussed at college gathering

BY LORIEN TYNE

The Ithaca College Senior Leadership Team updated the college community on the state of the college's finances, enrollment, public health, student and academic affairs, human resources, and philanthropy at the All-College Gathering on Feb. 1.

About 50 people attended the gathering at Emerson Suites and more joined through a livestream. Interim President La Jerne Cornish began by thanking faculty, staff and students for making the return to campus possible.

"I hope the presentations demonstrate the incredible amount of work we have done as a community to move this institution forward and to advance our strategic plan," Cornish said.

### Marketing and Enrollment

Laurie Koehler, vice president of Marketing and Enrollment Strategy, said the goals the division will be focusing on over the next year are impacting enrollment through recruitment yield — which is the number of students who officially



Interim president La Jerne Cornish speaks at the All-College Gathering Feb. 1. Cornish praised the community's low COVID-19 positivity rate.

LEILA MARCILLO-GOMEZ/THE ITHACAN

enrolled after being accepted — and retention, strengthening institutional reputation and enhancing alumni engagement.

Koehler said the 2020–21 academic year yielded 11% of students, which is the percentage of students who enrolled after being accepted. Koehler said

she expects hundreds of more applications to come in after the February deadline like they did last year.

### Financial Health

Tim Downs, chief financial officer and vice president for Fi-

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## Protections in Title IX increase with new rule

BY LORIEN TYNE

A recent policy update to the U.S. Department of Education's (DOE) Title IX process will better support Ithaca College students with trauma-related needs during the legal process of a hearing.

The college's Title IX office notified the campus community of the update Dec. 10, 2021. The update allows for all evidence to be considered during a live hearing whether or not a party or witness is absent. In the past, the DOE stated that if either the complainant, respondent or a witness did not attend the hearing, the Title IX office would not be able to use any of the evidence the absent party submitted during the investigative process.

Linda Koenig, Title IX coordinator in the Department of Legal Affairs at the college, said she views this as a positive change to the procedure. Koenig said the goal of the Title IX office is to collect as much information as possible during the investigation so that there are very few questions during the hearing.

"If going to the hearing isn't

going to support your healing or going to the hearing isn't going to support your success as a student, you [now] have the ability to [not be at the hearing] and still have your case move forward," Koenig said. "Your voice still gets represented even though you can't be there."

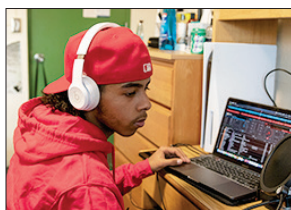
In May 2020, the administration of former President Donald Trump weakened parts of the Title IX law that protects students from sexual harassment. The rule was enacted by then-United States Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos. The rule — often called the DeVos rule — discouraged reporting, minimized the responsibility of schools to respond to reports and implemented possibly distressing procedures, according to the National Women's Law Center (NWLC).

The NWLC filed a lawsuit against the DOE and DeVos in June 2020 to amend the DeVos rule. The trial occurred in November 2020. However, DeVos was later substituted by the defendant Miguel Cardona, after President Joe Biden appointed him to replace DeVos as Secretary of the Education. On July 28, 2021, William

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### THREE ATHLETES HONORED AS ALL-AMERICANS



# Ithaca city mayor resigns from office

BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

After 10 years of service, Ithaca’s mayor Svante Myrick will resign Feb. 6. Myrick was elected to the office in 2011 at the age of 24 and became Ithaca’s youngest mayor and first mayor of color.

Myrick announced Jan. 5 that he would resign, saying that he had accepted a leading position at People for the American Way, a major progressive advocacy group in Washington, D.C. Myrick will be replaced by Ithaca Common Council representative Laura A. Lewis.

In a statement to *The Ithacan*, Ithaca College Interim President La Jerne Cornish praised Myrick’s time as mayor, including his involvement in the college’s new Physician Assistant Studies program located on The Commons.

“Just as the City of Ithaca has been graced with Svante’s leadership, Ithaca College has been graced

with his friendship, support and advocacy,” Cornish said. “Most recently, Svante was a key partner in establishing the college’s presence on the Ithaca Commons with the opening of our physician assistant program facility — a major moment for this institution.”

During the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, Myrick collaborated with Cornell University and Ithaca College to navigate pandemic fallout. Myrick also oversaw the passage of Ithaca’s Green New Deal, which will transform the city’s energy system to be 100% decarbonized by 2030.

Senior Leticia Guibunda is the vice president of Campus Affairs at the college’s Student Governance Council (SGC). Guibunda said as one of the leaders of SGC, she supports Myrick’s efforts.

“One thing that was really important to me was the issue of public safety,” Guibunda said. “It’s



Ithaca’s mayor Svante Myrick announced that he will step down from his position Feb. 6. During Myrick’s time as mayor, he worked closely with Ithaca College leaders like former president Shirley M. Collado.

BRENDAN IANUCCI/THE ITHACAN

one of the reasons why I got involved in student government to begin with. One of the things that I was always really impressed with and admired about the mayor is his commitment to public safety in Ithaca.”

Senior Jonah Robertson said when he was a child, he went to Sherburne-Earlville Central School District, which is the

same school district that Myrick attended when Myrick was growing up. When Robertson was a student, Myrick revisited his school district. Robertson said he felt connected to Myrick’s life story, as Myrick grew up in poverty.

“I remember him coming to our school and giving interviews throughout the hallways and introducing himself,” Robertson

said. “He was from the same ... kind of background as me, as in coming from nothing to going to something. I felt like ‘Oh, this person came from the same high school and came from the same roots as me.’ That was really good.”

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## MULTIMEDIA

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### IC Unbound is Limitless


In its first live performance since 2019, IC Unbound’s Dec. 5 show featured Contemporary Jazz, Hip Hop, and Tap and Heel styles.





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# Students win advertising award

BY JILLIAN BLEIER

Senior Neha Patnaik said she was not expecting to be admitted to the American Advertising Federation's (AAF) Most Promising Multicultural Students (MPMS) program because of the wide pool of applicants.

"It means a lot," Patnaik said. "I feel so grateful to have been chosen and just being able to have my name out there in the advertising industry."

Three Ithaca College seniors have been accepted into the AAF's MPMS program for the 2022 year, giving them an opportunity to gain experience and network with professionals in the advertising industry. Seniors Julia Batista, who is half Chinese and half Puerto Rican; Haley Anderson, who is Black and Jamaican American; and Patnaik, who is Indian American, will be attending the program virtually Feb. 7 to 10.

Batista said she thinks this program has given students like herself a unique opportunity to be part of exceptional and specifically multicultural students in the advertising industry.

"Advertising is going through a change where everyone's noticing how really un-diverse it is," Batista said.

Overall, the industry is 6.6% African American or Black, 11.7% Asian, 8.9% Hispanic or Latino and 69.2% white, according to the 2021 report.



From left, seniors Neha Patnaik, Haley Anderson and Julia Batista are Ithaca College students who won the American Advertising Federation's 2022 multicultural students award.

COURTESY OF NEHA PATNAIK, HALEY ANDERSON, JULIA BATISTA

Patnaik said something she felt was surprising in her past internships was the fact that she was the only Indian person on teams that she has worked with.

"I think this program is just a really great way to bring diversity to all these different accounts in advertising and have an opinion of someone of color so that they know what appeals to all audiences rather than just people who are white," Patnaik said.

Hamula said he discovered the MPMS program in 2003, started recommending students for it in 2004 and has been nominating two to eight students every year.

"I'm very fortunate to be part of an industry that really puts a lot of resources, you know, behind the words of diversity, equity and inclusion, and this is just one of those programs to attract and hopefully retain students of color to the advertising industry," Hamula said.

Anderson said she was a little hesitant to apply for the program because of the application fee until Hamula convinced her to apply.

"I've kind of always been against paying for programs that are meant to help people of color advance – it seems kind of off to me – but he just reminded me you're paying not

necessarily to apply to this program but just to be a member of AAF and have access to the opportunity," Anderson said.

She said she was a little disappointed that the program is virtual this year, which she said could make it harder to build relationships.

"I hope that I'll still be able to come out with really strong friendships and also just more professional relationships with some of my peers ... because I could learn a lot from them and be connected with them in the future," Anderson said.

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# Student launches ax throwing business

BY CAROLINE GRASS

After taking two leaves of absence, an Ithaca College student is coming back to Ithaca as the co-owner of Electric City Axe Throwing, a business that draws people of all ages to spend a few hours launching axes at targets in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Senior Sam Williams created his business plan in 2019 while attending the college and started working to turn his idea into a reality by taking time off school during the Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 semesters to work on opening his business in Scranton.

Electric City Axe Throwing opened its doors July 31, 2021 and is Scranton's first and only ax throwing range.

Williams, 27, served as a Marine Security Guard for four years at the American embassies in Moscow, Russia; Podgorica, Montenegro; and Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Williams is the co-founder and co-owner of his business with fellow Marine Jose Bataller. Williams said when he and Bataller were first thinking of locations for the business, Ithaca was the first place they had in mind. However, Ithaca's low population and high tax rate in comparison to Scranton made the Electric City a better location.

Ed Catto, instructor in the Department of Management, said he had first heard of Williams' business idea during IC Demo Day, an event held every semester where students pitch startup ideas and business plans. Catto said he loved the ax throwing business idea.

"It's such a cool business, right, it's funky," Catto said. "You know, he explained it



From left, Ithaca College senior Sam Williams and Marine Veteran Chris Ogozaly pose in front of their logo for their new business Electric City Axe Throwing.

COURTESY OF SAM WILLIAMS

really well and he had a lot of passion. And he really researched it."

Senior Kyle Rouleau said he met Williams three years ago in a transfer class at the college.

He said they became friends because of their shared background in the military.

"Being able to stay on top of your studies while managing a business is no easy feat, but if you're disciplined, it's doable," Rouleau said. "I think the more experience you get on your belt outside of school, the easier things are gonna be."

Williams said social media and word of mouth is one of the biggest ways Electric City Axe Throwing attracts new business.

"A lot of people are on social media every day, so it's a really easy way for us to put up a couple of cool pictures or videos that look enticing," Williams said.

Williams said he is coming back to Ithaca for the Spring 2022 semester and will earn his degree while having started a business during his time at Ithaca.

"I'm learning a lot and it was pretty cool to be able to see such a large project from start to finish and think that, you know, most of that work was done by myself and [Jose Bataller]," Williams said.

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# 2022 Model EU held virtually

BY OLIVIA STANZL

During the 2022 Model European Union (EU) simulation, Ithaca College students came together with students around the world to draft EU policy in response to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine crisis, among other things.

The Global Model European Union is a simulation of the EU and a collaboration among universities around the world. The virtual event, which took place Jan. 13–15, brought together 70 students from different countries like the United States, Germany, France, Bulgaria, Morocco and Romania.

Juan Arroyo, assistant professor in the Department of Politics, has been taking Ithaca College students to Model EU events since 2010. He recruits students and gives them background on their assigned roles so they are effectively able to play them. For about four years, Arroyo has been co-organizing the event.

One of the most urgent issues discussed during the Model EU simulation was the extremely high tensions of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. Since late 2021, Russia has amassed over 100,000 soldiers on its border with Ukraine and indicated intentions for a potential invasion.

Senior Ryan Ingerson represented Estonia's Prime Minister Kaja Kallas in the Model EU simulation. Estonia, which is a post-Soviet Union state, would be at the forefront of a potential conflict between Russia and Western powers should a war begin.

This was Ingerson's second Model EU event after he attended for the first time in April 2021. Ingerson said he was skeptical to take part in the event again because of the time he would have to spend on Zoom, but ultimately decided to join because of Arroyo.

"The reason I did it was to have another event with Professor Juan Arroyo," Ingerson said. "He organizes Model EU and his effort constantly shows. He is an amazing professor and someone I consider a personal friend at this point."

Arroyo's position is set to be cut at the end of the 2021–22 academic year because of the Academic Program Prioritization, which includes the ongoing elimination of 116 full-time equivalent faculty positions, three departments and 17 undergraduate majors. However, Arroyo plans to continue his work with Model EU after he leaves the college. Arroyo said the main purpose of the simulation is to open the eyes of students to what goes on in international organizations.

Senior Julien Sobel has been an active member of Model EU for three years. Sobel said that after taking part in the simulation, he has a cynical view of governing bodies.

"It's really fun to do the simulation, but what it allows me to see is that a lot of these bodies are really limited," Sobel said.

The first day of the simulation passed an extension of a travel ban on key Russian government officials and oligarchs for six months.

Senior Mark Gravina experienced Model EU for the first time and played the role of the foreign affairs minister of Estonia. He said the main discussion he was involved in was regarding Russia.

"Europe and the United States are divided and behaving ineffectually, especially with Germany's growing reliance on Russian fossil fuels," Gravina said.

Arroyo said it is important for simulations like Model EU and Model United Nations to continue.

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FROM MERGER, PAGE 1

“We have a renowned School of Music, and we have one of the top-rated theater arts programs in the country,” Cornish said. “Why wouldn’t we bring these two units together right in a new way that elevates the boat, but also does something for our students at the end of the day?”

On Dec. 14, a joint letter was sent from 15 tenured School of Music faculty — including Birr — to the Ithaca College Board of Trustees, Cornish and Interim Provost Melanie Stein. The letter raised concerns about the timing of the decision to merge the two schools as well as the college’s lack of permanent leadership — four of the five schools at the college are run by interim deans. The letter asked the administration to take more time to talk before moving forward.

Stein said concerns about the merger had been raised to her as well as Cornish prior to the Dec. 14 letter.

“These are concerns that we were quite familiar with,” Stein said. “Nobody expects that in a large organization everybody is going to agree.”

On Jan. 10, 15 days before the new school was announced, a second letter asking for a halt to the merger was sent to Cornish, Stein and the School of Music and Department of Theatre Arts Transition Committee. The letter was signed by 18 former faculty members.

“We are united in our belief that this proposed merger should

be halted,” the Jan. 10 letter said.

Ivy Walz, interim dean of the School of Music, said that through meetings throughout the Fall 2021 semester, faculty were made aware of the merger.

“It’s true that there is a small group that’s opposed, and these dedicated and loyal faculty care very deeply about the future of music at Ithaca College,” Walz said. “We’re absolutely confident that they’ll continue to work along with us and we’ll all continue to have conversations.”

Deborah Martin, professor of music performance and one of the co-signers of the Dec. 14 letter, said the concerns raised are not a minority opinion.

“We did not consult anyone untenured or part-time because the danger of saying anything that goes against the administration and the danger of just being out there in public,” Martin said. “We felt we are the safe ones, we are the ones who can say something without losing our jobs. And that’s why there aren’t more signatures on the letter.”

A Dec. 3 recommendation in favor of the merger was sent by the School of Music and Department of Theatre Arts Transition Committee to Stein. The recommendation was signed by 57 faculty and staff members.

Ryan Dickson ’18, an alum and instructor in the Department of Theatre Arts is a new faculty member at the college. Dickson signed the Jan. 3 letter in support



From left, Ithaca College Interim President La Jerne Cornish and Interim Provost Melanie Stein discuss the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance.

BRENDAN IANNUCCI/THE ITHACAN

of the merger. Dickson said that during meetings discussing the merger, the administration was open about the process.

“They were very transparent about letting us into some of the decision making and sharing what was going on as they got close to that final proposal,” Dickson said. “They shared what they were, and they allowed us to share what our opinions may be and how to shape what would become this new entity of Ithaca College.”

Charis Dimaras, professor of music performance and one of the signers of the Dec. 14 letter, said there have been surveys and multiple conversations between faculty and the administration throughout Fall 2021. However, Dimaras said the administration had already concluded that it will proceed with the merger, making the shared governance nonexistent.

“All we’re saying is ‘Please

listen to specific things we’re saying,’” Dimaras said. “The decision [to merge] is already made [by the administration]. So therefore there is no conversation to be had. There is zero shared governance. None.”

Dimaras and the faculty who signed the Dec. 14 letter also said long-term restructuring ideas for the college, like the merger of theatre and music, should not be made while so many positions are interim.

“We are seemingly forgetting the most important piece of this puzzle,” Dimaras said. “There could be a new president in here. How could anybody make these decisions ahead of a new president?”

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FROM GATHERING, PAGE 1

Administration, said the 2021 fiscal year audit was slightly better than projected by about \$4 million and he said the deficit was less than anticipated. Downs said that because students were not on campus, the room and board revenue was at the lowest it will likely ever be. He said the college lost over \$40 million in room and board revenue but that the financial loss for that period was just over \$6.4 million because of budget cuts, grants and donations.

“That is a testament to this community and what we were able to do to help kind of limit the impact of that significant COVID event that hit us,” Downs said.

From the 2013 fiscal year up until the 2020 fiscal year, Downs said each year the college averaged at about \$6,600 in student enrollment, revenue was just over \$240 million and expenses averaged at \$227 million. He said while enrollment remained consistent, the college’s expenses began to increase, which is when the process of implementing the strategic plan began. However, he said that because of COVID-19, the financial impact hit the college much harder and faster than expected.

“The classes that we had during COVID and the year after, which were below our normal enrollment numbers, are going to stay with us through those [four-year] periods,” Downs said. “So we know the next three years we are going to have a deficit as well.”

**Public Health**

Samm Swarts, assistant director of Emergency Preparedness and Response, said the check-in process for returning students was very successful. Swarts said that in December, the college predicted there would be a large number of positive COVID-19 cases when returning to campus for the spring semester but only 18 positive cases in the student body were reported.

“I’m very hopeful that with our low case numbers and all of the things that we have put into place for the spring semester, we will be able to get back to a green operating status,” Swarts said.

**Student Affairs and Campus Life**

Dean of Students Bonnie Prunty said there will be a tuition insurance option being offered starting Fall 2022. In the instance that a student needs to take a leave of absence or withdraw because of a covered medical reason, tuition insurance can help refund fees like tuition and room and board.

Starting Feb. 1, the college launched its partnership with Sanvello, which is a health and wellness app that has evidence-based tools and strategies to help manage depression and anxiety and build resilience. The premium version of this app is available to everyone who logs in with an Ithaca College email.

**Human Resources**

Hayley Harris, vice president in the Office of Human Resources (HR), updated the campus on some of the division’s major projects.

A rehire policy was rolled out which allows for the restoration of some benefits when someone is rehired at the college who used to work at the college in the past.

Harris said in the near future, the college will be implementing an intimate relationship policy which states that intimate relationships between employees and students are prohibited and other intimate relationships will need to be disclosed to the college.

FROM TITLE IX, PAGE 1

Young, a federal district judge, annulled part of the DeVos rule called the “the exclusionary rule,” which requires colleges to exclude all testimony made by any party or witness who did not participate during the live hearing. If a survivor was too afraid to go to the hearing or was unavailable, no evidence — including text messages, emails, rape kits and police reports — could be considered. Additionally, if the respondent confessed during investigation but refused to be cross-examined, that statement would be excluded from the evidence.

Senior Sarah Moon is the co-president of IC Strike, a student organization on campus that works to center education, activism and allyship for survivors of sexual assault and violence. Moon said the updates to the Title IX policy may help people feel more comfortable with bringing a case to court.

“When a survivor has to make a choice on whether or not they want to proceed with reporting, on whatever level, it can be a very traumatic process,” Moon said. “It forces them to relive the experience and oftentimes [they] are asked to explain what happened over and over again.”

Amy Whitney, mental health counselor in the Center for Counseling, Health & Wellness, is one of the Title IX liaisons at the Center for Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS). She said the Title IX office and CAPS often work together to share resources and refer students to each other.

“I’m really glad for the changes myself because I think they do bring things back into more alignment with trauma informed practices, where things like choice, collaboration and transparency are [involved in] the process,” Whitney said.



After the U.S. Department of Education strengthened its Title IX policy, the Ithaca College Title IX office will now consider evidence regardless of if any party is absent from a hearing.

MALIK CLEMENT/THE ITHACAN

However, Young did not remove all parts of the DeVos rule. According to the NWLC, the DOE has indicated that it plans to propose a new Title IX rule in May 2022.

The DOE held five days of virtual hearings in June 2021 to hear feedback from citizens on how the DOE should address the reassessment of Title IX, but so far it has not published any documents outlining the proposed regulations.

The process of implementing the DeVos rule took 21 months after its initial proposal, and activists and organizations are urging quick action to pass a new Title IX rule.

Moon said conversations about Title IX in IC Strike meetings include discussing campus, local and national resources. She said the group also talks about the reporting process which can be through the criminal justice system or through campus-based reporting — neither of which require that a court case

be made.

“I think the DeVos rule makes it more difficult for survivors to come forward and to report instances of assault, while also straining school administrations, which could lead to improper investigations,” Moon said.

Whitney said her understanding is that the Title IX update was made as a result of citizens who were either advocates or survivors themselves giving feedback on the DeVos rule.

“I think it really is important that within our community, we really think about the [Title IX] process and how we want to do that as a school and community and that that’s an ongoing dialogue,” Whitney said. “I really want to encourage people, if you know something that would work better for you. If you have some insight that your community needs, there are lots of ways to share that.”

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# Collado receives President Emerita

BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

After Shirley M. Collado, former president of Ithaca College, departed her position in July 2021, the college established a new scholarship that will aim to award tuition assistance to first-generation students in her name. Collado was a first-generation student.

In a December 2021 announcement, David H. Lissy '87, chair of the Ithaca College Board of Trustees, and Vice Chair Jim Nolan '77 revealed that the Dr. Shirley M. Collado and A. Van Jordan Endowed Scholarship had been established in honor of Collado and her husband.

The statement also announced that Collado will be receiving the Latin honor President Emerita — a Latin honors distinction awarded when one leaves an institution that allows them to retain the title of their position.

The college's previous presidents, Peggy Ryan Williams and Tom Rochon, were both awarded President Emerita.

The reasoning in the announcement was for Collado's leadership of the college during the pandemic and her implementation of Ithaca Forever, the strategic plan that aims to restructure the college to fit changing demographics.

"We have greatly appreciated her help and support during



In December 2021, Ithaca College announced that former President Shirley M. Collado would be receiving President Emerita, as well as a new scholarship in her and her husband's name.

IMANI TURNER WELLS/ THE ITHACAN

this period of transition, and we know that she will excel in continuing her life's work of supporting college access and success for deserving students," the email said.

Collado served as president of the college for just over four years, the shortest tenure of all nine of the college's presidents.

She announced July 8 that she would be resigning and stepped down Aug. 30.

Collado's resignation took place just months after she had

approved the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process that eliminated 116 of the college's full-time equivalent faculty positions and several programs.

Concerns raised by students and faculty regarding the lack of transparency from the administration surrounding the APP process led to on-campus protests throughout Spring 2021. The Open the Books Coalition asked for financial transparency.

After leaving the college, Collado went on to become the

president and chief executive officer of College Track, a college completion program that works to break down barriers for all first-generation students.

"As a first-generation student herself, she has championed efforts to recruit, retain and support these valued members of our campus community," the email said.

CONTACT ELIJAH DE CASTRO  
EDECASTRO@ITHACA.EDU

# SGC hosts first spring meeting

BY OLIVIA STANZL

At the first Ithaca College Student Governance Council (SGC) meeting of Spring 2022, a senator resigned from their position and the SGC discussed its goals for the upcoming semester.

At the Jan. 31 SGC meeting, freshman Paloma La Valley resigned from her position as Class of 2025 senator in order to focus on her mental health but said she hopes to return later on.

La Valley's resignation leaves an open seat for the Class of 2025 senate position. The SGC has 19 open senator positions. The SGC had 20 senators for 2020–21 academic year with five seats not filled.

The SGC has seen a decrease in student engagement over the years, as previously reported by *The Ithacan*. In the 2018–19 academic year, only about 1.1% of students voted in the SGC elections.

Freshman Noah Richardson, Class of 2025 senator, said he hopes to establish what is considered an excused or unexcused absence within courses at the college rather than professors having individual attendance policies.

Richardson said it is difficult for students, especially freshmen, to know when to decide to stay home from class. Students cannot be penalized by the college if they have a religious exemption, according to the college's academic catalog for the 2021–22 academic year.

"I think there needs to be a little bit of respect for if a student is taking the day off because they are sick," Richardson said.

CONTACT OLIVIA STANZL  
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# Hillel at IC director wins Hillel International award

Lauren Goldberg, executive director for Hillel at Ithaca College and interim director of Religious and Spiritual Life, was one recipient of Hillel International's Richard M. Joel Exemplars of Excellence Award in 2021.

Every year, Hillel International selects recipients for the award. This honor is given to individuals who exemplify an outstanding commitment to their campus community. Hillel aims to create a visible and positive Jewish presence on campus and participate in interfaith and multicultural activities.

Staff writer Jadyn Davis spoke with Goldberg about the Richard M. Joel Exemplar Award and the influence that her mentors and the Hillel community have had on her.

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

**Jadyn Davis:** How does it feel to receive this honor?

**Laura Goldberg:** To receive such a respected award from my peers — I felt so seen, not only in a professional realm but also in the work that transcends what a typical professional job is. It was overwhelming to feel so seen, especially in such a moment of feeling sometimes so siloed like we're in right now. I think although I'm situated in Hillel primarily, one of the great things about this job is that it transcends all faith communities, non-faith communities [and] individuals on campus.

**JD:** What has been the best part of being executive director of Hillel [at the college]?

**LG:** I've been a part of the Hillel movement

for over 10 years and five of those were spent being the director at the college. I think I take seriously the idea of the divine spark in each and every person. I think that the space that we call Hillel [at IC] is like a palette where we can co-create something together, and I think our students have taken up what it means to be part of the organization and made it their own.

**JD:** Who is someone that you consider a role model for your work?

**LG:** My teacher Rabbi Danielle Leshaw is one of my greatest role models. They were my boss for years and really taught me what it means to be a steward of a community. I would say my other greatest role model is Cantor Abbe Lyons, and I consider her one of my greatest teachers ... finally, Aviva, my Campus Support Director, has been such a blessing for me.

**JD:** Was there a community similar that you supported beforehand?

**LG:** When I was in high school, I was coming out of the reform movement and the reform movement had a few youth groups affiliated, and so I participated in a regional youth group movement. [However], when I went to a college, we didn't have on our campus, at that time, a fully operational Hillel. Unfortunately for me, my college years were really a gap in this kind of realm of identity development ... We didn't have it where I went [to college] and that was a huge loss in my life and this [Hillel at IC] can be a huge springboard [for students] into their Jewish identity post-college.



Lauren Goldberg, executive director for Hillel at Ithaca College, holds her plaque for the Richard M. Joel Exemplar of Excellence Award, which is given to Jewish leaders.

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**JD:** What are your hopes for Hillel in 2022?

**LG:** We're always looking both at the urgent things for now and where we can grow in the long term. This year, our main focus is wellness for students. We want to be at the intersection of student life so that they know this is a space that is completely committed to helping them be well ... That is coming from our Jewish values and is totally informed by them ... We see that growth is imperative.

**JD:** What qualities do you think a recipient of this award should have?

**LG:** I think that so many people feel unseen in their work and it can be self-perpetuated sometimes if you're not being mentored and cultivated by somebody ... Primarily women took note of me as a younger professional and helped me grow in the next steps of my professional career. I was essentially raised by multiple generations of women who invested time and resources in growing me as a professional.

CONTACT JADYN DAVIS  
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# COLLEGE BRIEFS

## Leadership retreat application due for freshman and sophomore class

The Student Leadership Institute is holding a Leadership Weekend Retreat for freshmen and sophomores Feb. 19. The program holds discussions on leadership, connects students with each other and can lead to further involvement within the college. Students will be able to build on their strengths and work to become a positive change agent on campus.

Students who attend can earn three leading self credits in one day. The retreat is free and applications are due Feb. 11.

## Facilities leader to retire in June after long career at Ithaca College

Tim Carey, associate vice president for the Office of Facilities, is retiring in June. Carey has worked for Ithaca College since March of 2014. He gave an advance notice of six months and will be able to assist in the process of finding someone to fill his position.

## Student leader nominations open for exemplary upperclassmen

The Peggy Ryan Williams Award for Academic and Community Leadership nominations are open until 5 p.m. Feb. 11. The award recognizes student leaders with a junior or senior standing who excel in academics, are involved in co-curricular activities, perform service and have an exemplary level of accomplishment. Contact Jess Shapiro, assistant director of Office for Student Engagement, at [jshapiro2@ithaca.edu](mailto:jshapiro2@ithaca.edu).

## IC HR to host retirement webinars to give employees assistance

The college had enhancements and changes made to the Ithaca College 403(b) Retirement plan in November 2021. The Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of American-College Retirement Equities Fund (TIAA) and National Financial Partners Corp. are partnering with the college's Office of Human Resources to host webinars regarding the change in the college's retirement plans Feb. 9 and 15.

For more information, faculty can visit [TIAA.org/ithaca](https://TIAA.org/ithaca) or call TIAA at 800-842-2252

from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays.

## IT Service Desk schedule for spring available for campus community

The Information Technology (IT) Service Desk will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays. IT is available for support via phone, chat, email or in person. Canvas support is available 24/7/365. Students can email IT at [servicedesk@ithaca.edu](mailto:servicedesk@ithaca.edu) or call at 607-274-1000.

## Academic writing seats to be filled in several spring course sections

Seats have been added for WRITG 10600: Academic Writing in HomerConnect in several sections. Students with questions should contact the course's instructor, Eleanor Henderson, associate professor and chair of the Department of Writing, at [ehenderson@ithaca.edu](mailto:ehenderson@ithaca.edu).

## ePortfolio requirement modified for students who are graduating

ICC has modified the ePortfolio graduation process to simplify the review process. In order for seniors to have their ePortfolio marked fulfilled this year, students only need two areas fully completed: the Complimentary Liberal Arts and Capstone. Students must submit the requirements to Taskstream and email them to [icceportfolio@ithaca.edu](mailto:icceportfolio@ithaca.edu).

## RA applications now available to submit in advance of Fall 2022

Fall 2022 resident assistant applications will no longer be accepted after Feb. 14. Applications must include a resume and at least one reference. An information session will be held Feb. 11 virtually through Zoom. Students in need of accommodations can call 607-274-3141 or can send an email to [raselection@ithaca.edu](mailto:raselection@ithaca.edu).

## HLTH 31200 fulfills ICC credits and discusses health disparities

An interdisciplinary Health Ed Course, Inequalities in U.S. Healthcare (HLTH 31200), is looking for students to join. The goals of the course are to explore the historical, political,



## Puppies pull paw-sitivity into Spring 2022

Guiding Eyes for the Blind at Ithaca College welcomed back the campus community with a puppy playtime Jan. 30. This Puppy Play did not count toward trainer certification because not all students were back on campus.

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economic, social and cultural factors that drive health disparities. Students will use developmental theory and intersectionality for analysis.

Yolanda Clarke, manager of Tutoring and Academic Enrichment Services, will be lecturing the course. The course meets from 5:25 to 8:05 p.m. on Thursdays. Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations can contact Clarke at [yclarke@ithaca.edu](mailto:yclarke@ithaca.edu).

**Al-Anon cancels meetings for the time being due to attendance**

The South Hill Higher Ground Al-Anon Family Group, a 12-step recovery program, will be canceling meetings until further notice. The group's purpose is to support people with

loved ones who are suffering from addiction. The team made this decision due to time conflicts and lack of attendance on Zoom and in person. Interests in future meetings or questions can be emailed to [southhillafg@gmail.com](mailto:southhillafg@gmail.com).

**IC professor contributes chapter in book about German filmmaker**

Patricia Zimmermann, Charles A. Dana Professor of Screen Studies and director of the Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival (FLEFF), co-authored essay "Ten Propositions" in "Labour in a Single Shot Critical Perspectives on Antje Ehmman and Harun Farocki's Global Video Project" (Amsterdam University Press, 2021).

# PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM JAN.16 TO JAN. 22

**JANUARY 16**

**ACCIDENTAL FIRE ALARM**  
LOCATION: 30 College Circle Drive  
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. An officer reported that the fire alarm activation was caused by a broken sprinkler pipe. Master Patrol Officer Waylon Degraw responded.

**ACCIDENTAL WATER DAMAGE TO PROPERTY**  
LOCATION: 150 Lyceum Drive  
SUMMARY: An officer reported that a broken sprinkler caused damage. Master Patrol Officer Waylon Degraw responded to the scene.

**ACCIDENTAL WATER DAMAGE TO PROPERTY**  
LOCATION: 145 Textor Circle  
SUMMARY: A caller reported that there was water flowing into the hallway that was possibly from a broken water pipe. Patrol Officer Sophia Dimkos responded.

**MEDICAL ASSIST/ INJURY RELATED**  
LOCATION: 150 Lyceum Drive  
SUMMARY: A caller reported that a person who was participating in a

NCAA tournament injured their ribs. An officer reported that the person was transported to the hospital by an ambulance. Master Patrol Officer Waylon Degraw responded to the incident.

**JANUARY 18**

**HARASSMENT 2ND DEGREE**  
LOCATION: General Area Grant Egbert Blvd.  
SUMMARY: A caller reported third-hand information about an instance of physical harassment that occurred during the fall semester. It is now a pending investigation. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded to the incident.

**JANUARY 19**

**MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT AND PROPERTY DAMAGE**  
LOCATION: South of 126 Grant Egbert Blvd.  
SUMMARY: A caller reported that their vehicle hit a parked vehicle and caused damage. A report was taken by responding Patrol Officer Mayra Colon.

**JANUARY 20**

**ACCIDENTAL WATER DAMAGE TO PROPERTY**  
LOCATION: 120 Alumni Circle  
SUMMARY: An officer reported that there was water damage caused to ceiling tiles because of a water spigot that was left on. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa reponded.

**FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL**  
LOCATION: 146 Conservatory Drive  
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. An officer reported that the fire alarm activation was accidental and was caused by drilling that was occurring because of maintenance work. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain responded to the incident.

**JANUARY 21**

**SCC DISRUPTIVE/ EXCESSIVE NOISE**  
LOCATION: 143 Tower Skyline Drive  
SUMMARY: A person reported that an individual was causing a disturbance because they were screaming in a room. The officer reported that the

individual left voluntarily. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain responded.

**JANUARY 22**

**SUSPICIOUS PERSON REPORT-ED**  
LOCATION: Roadway Alumni Circle  
SUMMARY: A person reported that a shirtless individual was running in the roadway. An officer reported that the individual was located and that they lost their jacket off campus. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded.

**ACCIDENTAL FIRE ALARM**  
LOCATION: 30 College Circle Drive  
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. An officer reported that the fire alarm activation was caused by a broken sprinkler pipe. Master Patrol Officer Waylon Degraw responded.

**USE OF UNDERAGE ALCOHOL**  
LOCATION: 151 Tower Skyline Drive  
SUMMARY: A caller reported a group of people were being loud and requested that they quiet down. A verbal warning was issued for the noise and two people were

referred for underage possession of alcohol. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded to the call.

**POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA**  
LOCATION: 151 Tower Skyline Drive  
SUMMARY: An officer reported the odor of marijuana. One person was referred for the unlawful possession of marijuana. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded to the incident.

**STUDENT WELFARE CHECK**  
LOCATION: 134 Grant Egbert Blvd. East  
SUMMARY: A caller reported they did not feel well but then disconnected the call. The responding officer determined the caller was not a threat.

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

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





MIKE ROSS/THE ITHACAN

## EDITORIALS

### New school overshadowed by lack of transparency

Ithaca College has announced that the School of Music and the Department of Theatre Arts will merge to create a new school: the Ithaca College School of Music, Theatre and Dance. These two are to become one, yet the response to this merging process remains divided, with good reason.

Faculty and staff responses are split into two camps: the vocal minority who oppose the merger and the majority who favor it. There are three things of note here: 1. most who are in the majority do not have the security of tenure, 2. those in the minority are not being afforded the time such a large decision should elicit and 3. this is a major decision being made by a primarily interim administration.

How can the interim members of the administration ensure a stable transition and security for students, staff and faculty when their roles are suggested to be temporary? This is a face-paced, authoritarian move with little regard to what is being

ignored — a decision that is the result of disaster capitalism.

The merger aligns with the strategic plan and is a part of the second phase of the Academic Program Prioritization (APP). The first phase of the APP dealt with the devastating ongoing elimination of 116 full-time equivalent faculty positions and a number of majors, departments and programs. The college must learn from its past mistakes with the APP. The new school merger should not be celebrated as readily as it was at the All-College Gathering.

If we have learned one thing from the pandemic, it is not that things need to move fast, but they need to slow down. There is nothing slow about this merger. Faculty members, who both oppose and support the merger, will not find a cooperative, fair process at such a rate.

While there are upsides to the merger, it is overshadowed by the lack of shared governance and the growing schism between faculty members.

### All-College Gathering's tone does not fit with reality at IC

On Feb. 1, Interim President La Jerne Cornish held the All-College Gathering for Spring 2022. Some people attended in person, but others joined via livestream only to watch the administration treat another All-College Gathering as a moment of unabashed celebration while exchanging fixed formalities and unironic niceties.

The college's small victories should be acknowledged, like this semester's check-in process going smoothly, yielding only 18 positive cases, but the college community is hardly at a place for celebration. The positive spin on every college update shared during the meeting was jarring to sit through amid a steady pandemic and the college's ever fragile financial state and interim presidential status.

Tim Downs, vice president of Finance and Administration, expanded on the update of the college's financial health he gave in October 2021, offering a look to where the college will be trending over the next

several years. While the presentation made sense and the class numbers will remain impacted due to COVID-19, it is hard to gauge if the goals shared by Laurie Koehler, vice president for Marketing and Enrollment, will be sufficient in impacting enrollment: strengthening yield and retention. "Last year, we yielded 11% of the students we admitted," Koehler said. What will change from last year to this year? How will students, staff and faculty be kept in the loop during this process?

Perhaps the most disappointing moment during the meeting was the celebration of the new School of Music, Theater and Dance with only a brief acknowledgement by Interim Provost Melanie Stein.

"I just wanted to acknowledge that this very unglamorous, somewhat painful but very necessary work is ongoing. Many people have been involved," Stein said. Words are empty if not met with action. How will the administration prove that this "unglamorous" process cannot be resolved with a glamorized celebration of hurried change?

## 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



OPEN LETTER

Recommendation calls for music-theater merger

The School of Music & Department of Theatre Arts Transition Committee would like to unanimously recommend that we move forward under the one school model with the name of School of Music, Theatre, and Dance (MTD) with a Division of Music and a Division of Theatre & Dance.

We also propose maintaining two independent planning units with their robust governance structures intact including leadership, tenure and promotion, curriculum, and assessments to name a few. Additionally, we recommend that this new model include two Associate Deans: one from Music and one from Theatre & Dance.

We also recommend that the institution seize on this moment as an opportunity to capitalize in the marketplace with intentional positive messaging around uniting these two strong programs.

The reasons for this recommendation are as follows:

This proposed model will align with the four other schools at Ithaca College with one dean and an associate dean(s) structure per school.

This proposal will create an adaptive academic unit to serve current and future students in the arts by allowing for more cross-disciplinary training and exposure, better preparing them for real world multi-disciplinary artistic careers in the 21st century.

This proposal honors the first two units at Ithaca College (Music and Theatre Arts) as foundational to the formation of Ithaca College. With this unification, there is great potential to be more prominently visible for prospective students and to attract an expanding donor base alike.

The proposed model of one school will elevate the uniting of two strong units, creating a moment to display to the outside world a position of strength, placing them in a more prominent institutional position from the outward facing perspective.

This proposal reaffirms the mutual commitment of both divisions in their work to be leaders in inclusive and anti-racist practice in the performing arts by creating space for both units to foster the work that has begun, as well as collaborate in the work moving forward.

This proposal benefits both units by allowing for more ease of future curricular collaboration, and provides opportunity for Music and Theatre Music colleagues to work intentionally across curriculum.

This proposal allows for a level of autonomy for each planning unit, as it recognizes the need for specialists, and that certain areas may experience less cross-collaboration. Yet, over time, as the needs of our students may evolve, this model provides an opportunity to collaborate more effectively, thereby leveraging the stature and strength of both units into a stronger identity.

This proposal further elevates the prominence of the dance area within theatre arts.

This proposal positions the search for a new dean to be how to innovate and transform in leveraging the strengths of each planning unit. We recognize that more collaborations are desired among the five schools, and it is our hope that through this work we will discover more clearly and share with our colleagues what we learn to help remove the existing barriers for cross disciplinary work.

**Context and Background**

The School of Music and Department of Theatre Arts Transition Team spent the better part of the Fall semester learning about one another's structures, collecting feedback and input from colleagues, benchmarking competitor, and comparator institutions, and engaging in robust conversations around many questions, concerns and ideas around coming together under one dean.

As we examined the structures, we learned about the Planning Unit. The main official organizational unit, as spelled out in section 4.9.7 of the Faculty Handbook is the Planning Unit.

Faculty with a variety of appointment types (tenured, tenure-eligible, non-tenure-eligible notice, part time, etc.) are appointed to a planning unit, and each planning unit maintains curricular and staffing plans. Formal reviews of faculty, for instance tenure reviews, begin with a review and recommendation by a planning unit review committee.

Procedures for changes in planning units, such as combining two planning units, dissolving a planning unit, or creating new planning units are specified in the handbook. The term "planning unit" is something new to many of us.

We are much more familiar with other organizational structures such as departments, schools, and divisions. Interim Provost Stein helped us in understanding that currently, our planning units are organized into five groupings, the five schools. Each school also has departments, but they are not necessarily the same as planning units (some departments are planning units, and some are not. Some planning units contain multiple departments, whereas other planning units contain exactly one department).

Thus, departmental functions vary across the College. Schools, divisions, and departments can be reorganized without following the process outlined in section 4.9.9 of the faculty manual.

As an example, suppose two departments (also planning units) on campus who are closely allied have been exploring how to reorganize to work more closely together.

*Editor's note: the full letter and list of signatures can be viewed online at [theithacan.org](http://theithacan.org).*

“We propose that the best way forward is simply to bring the two planning units under a single school’s umbrella.”

— School of Music & Department of Theatre Arts Transition Committee

GUEST COMMENTARY

Alum emphasizes necessity of open presidential search

BY LAUREN SUNA

Ithaca forever they say? I and many others say that our pride and love for Ithaca College has been dashed by poor leadership from the administration, a lack of transparency about the college’s financial situation, and the destruction of beloved programs that the college was known for. In the summer of 2016, I remember excitedly sitting down with the course catalog in one hand and a highlighter in the other looking over all of the classes I wanted to take and fields I could explore. Due to the Academic Program Prioritization (APP), many of those courses and professors are gone.

My first year at the college was the final year of the Tom Rochon presidency. I distinctly remember sitting in my chair in the Athletics & Events Center, nervous yet excited for the next four years of my life when the Student Governance Council President at the time spoke.

The voices of the students, faculty, staff and alumni won the first battle against the administration with the no-confidence vote against Tom Rochon.

It was our time to change the college community for the better. Our voices were heard again that year with the Contingent Faculty Strike, which created the Contingent Faculty Union. When the Ithaca College Board of Trustees announced that Shirley M. Collado would be the next president, morale was at an all-time high. However, the lack of transparency about our former president’s past jaded any pride and trust in the college. Now more than ever is a crucial time to question and critique the existing power structures at the college and demand for an open presidential search.

The lack of transparency was just the start of the storm of problems that came with the APP. When Ithaca Forever was first introduced in 2018, it was supposed to be a collaborative process between all the constituents of the college to improve the place we loved and cared about. Yet many faculty and staff could not have predicted the eventual outcome. Numerous casualties of the APP were faculty and staff who joined an implementation committee for the Ithaca Forever Strategic Plan. The losses continued with the ripple effects on the implementation of the Climate Action Justice Center and the Family Care Center.

Courses, programs and beloved professors were cut in ways that can only be described as devastating. The once diverse catalog filled with classes beloved by students that made the Ithaca College experience is now gone. Instead, current students are in a “Hunger Games”-like battle for the classes that are left. All of this destruction is in the wake of Collado taking an almost \$200,000 raise in her salary between 2017 and 2018 when resizing the college was first discussed. Then after what could be described as one of the worst years in regards to morale in the college’s history, it was announced she would be stepping down as president with her closest colleague taking over as interim president.



Lauren Suna '20 writes about the necessity for the search for the 10th president of Ithaca College to be open and voices her dissatisfaction with the college.

COURTESY OF LAUREN SUNA

We feel betrayed after all of the loss that has occurred during this administration's tenure instead of keeping the promise of promoting shared governance at the college after the tumultuous presidency of Tom Rochon.

The programs and professors that many of us loved and valued are gone, and we are left with Cortaca at Yankee Stadium and the new physician assistant building on The Commons that caused two beloved local businesses to move. In just two years after I graduated, the college has become an empty shell of the place we imagined it to be in 2016.

To the college administration and board of trustees, you have one last chance to regain our trust with the institution in which we once were proud to call our home, and that is through an open presidential search in which all constituents are involved. We want a president who does not think with a corporate mindset but instead listens to their constituents.

We want a president who does not have a sexual abuse record and is fully transparent with all of their constituents from day one about their background and mission. We want a president who truly cares about the longevity of the college and understands what makes the college special — our faculty and our staff. You have one last chance, Ithaca College, don't mess it up.

**LAUREN SUNA** is an Ithaca College alum. Contact her at [laurensuna@gmail.com](mailto:laurensuna@gmail.com).



OPEN LETTER

# Music faculty letter on music-theater merger

*Editor's note: the full letter and list of signatures can be viewed online at [theithacan.org](http://theithacan.org).*

The following letter is from 15 senior tenured faculty in the School of Music. In addition, a similarly worded letter was sent to the interim president, interim provost and the board of trustees chairs.

With no plan of action, goals or outcomes driving/supporting the interim leadership's proposal to combine the School of Music with the Department of Theatre Arts, the challenges that face the School are only increased, making recruitment and fundraising even more difficult. Thus, the genesis for the requests articulated in the letter below.

Through the publication of this letter, we, the signees, are committed to sharing a wider sampling of the opinions of the faculty within the School of Music regarding the proposed restructuring.

We, senior leaders and tenured faculty in the School of Music who have affixed our signatures to this short letter, urge you to reconsider the timeline for the proposed restructuring of the School of Music. We are convinced, now more than ever, that the announcement made in May 2021 to restructure the School of Music was mistimed, especially considering the subsequent resignation

of President Collado.

First and foremost, the college is experiencing an unprecedented lack of permanent leadership.

The interim positions directly affecting the restructuring plan are College President, College Provost, School of Music Dean, and School of Music Associate Dean. In addition, four of the five deans of the college are interim. A global pandemic, a call for curricular overhaul, declining enrollment, and a reduction of faculty lines due to retirement incentives have left us in a fragile position.

We agree that it is extremely important that the college moves ahead to fill the vacancies for the president and dean positions.

Rather than forge ahead with the restructuring plan to join the Department of Theatre Arts with the School of Music as presented by outgoing leaders, we propose a more calculated, informed, and strategic approach. We ask for this because we care about Ithaca College and the School of Music, the founding cornerstone of the college. We want to leave this college in a better place than when we arrived. We truly want to make decisions that will lead to an Ithaca Forever. To this end, we propose the following:

1. An opportunity to bring the new Ithaca College president into



Diane Birr, professor of music performance, is a signatory of a letter sent to college leadership that asked for reconsideration of the process of the merger between the School of Music and Department of Theatre Arts.

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the discussion on restructuring and benefit from their leadership.

2. Continuing a search for a dean of the School of Music who would be tasked with leading the new curriculum, resizing faculty, and researching the possibility of restructuring the School of Music and the Department of Theatre Arts.

3. A reinstatement of the School of Music associate dean

4. Time to confer with alumni, current students, and faculty from theatre arts

5. Time to evaluate the specific benefits of restructuring

Moving ahead to restructure the college in a climate of disagreement and unrest will not serve the college well. We wish to work together with a new president and a new dean to create a new, stronger future. Signatures, listed alphabetically, are on following page.

Les Black, associate professor; Chair, Graduate Studies;

Faculty Council

Diane Birr, professor; Vice Chair, Faculty Council

Radio Cremata, associate professor; Chair, Music Education

Craig Cummings, professor; Past Interim Dean; Past Chair, Theory,

History, Composition

Charis Dimaras, professor,

Faculty Council

Richard Faria, professor

Jorge Grossman, professor

Keith Kaiser, professor; Dana Professor; Past Interim Dean; Past Interim Associate Dean; Past Chair,

Music Education

Deborah Martin, professor; Chair, Performance Studies

Wendy Mehne, professor

Dmitri Novgorodsky, associate professor

Patrice Pastore, professor

Evis Sammoutis, associate professor

GUEST COMMENTARY

## IC fails to support students throughout Title IX process

BY SOPHIA TESTANI

While working as an orientation leader this fall, I was sexually harassed by two male student-athletes at Ithaca College. Having completed countless workplace harassment trainings, I knew what happened to me was wrong and needed to be reported, but I felt that if I reported this no one was going to believe me. Will it be my word against the team's? Will I be heard? A coworker of mine reassured me I should say something: I deserve to be heard. Putting my trust in the college, I assumed that the process would be fair and quick. This was not the case. I lost my Title IX hearing after being subjected to a semester-long process by the college. The Title IX office not only failed me as a student, but they reinforced the idea that female students should not speak up about the issues that an estimated 81% of all women face in their lifetime.

Title IX states that if you are harassed or assaulted by a student or employee of the college, you are legally protected from being denied any opportunities based on your experience. Our Title IX office failed to meet this goal. As an athletic training student, a majority of my education is centered around the clinical experiences I have with our athletic department. Each semester I am assigned a clinical hour and placed with one team to learn and grow my skills as a clinician. As a result of my harassment case, I will no longer

have the opportunity to work with the team my harassers play for and am forced to leave the clinic when they come in for treatment. Thus, I am denied participation and the benefits of a crucial part of my educational program as I continue living with the negative ramifications of my sexual harassment.

After submitting a formal complaint in early September, Title IX reassured me my report would be a top priority. It was nearly two months before I heard anything from Title IX. During those two months I struggled with anxiety and depression resulting from the harassment. I received no updates throughout the investigative process. I finally heard from Title IX during midterms, when it issued a 118-page case file containing every interview and document related to my incident that it gathered between August and September. The day I received the case file, it caused me to relive my harassment and experience such overwhelming anxiety that I failed a midterm. I received no notice that the file would be shared with me that day, leaving me unable to make accommodations with my instructors. A week after receiving the report, I was admitted to the hospital due to a mental health crisis. I believe both of these experiences are perfectly indicative of the level of support the college's students can expect from our Title IX office.

Again without warning, one month later, I received an email from the Student Conduct Board offering me just three dates



Sophomore Sophia Testani shares about her experience with the Title IX hearing process after experiencing sexual harassment. She writes about the lack of support she received.

KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

during finals week from which to pick to have my hearing, further compounding the standard stress every student feels at the end of the semester.

I saw the hearing as my only avenue for justice, yet there were no emails encouraging me to hold the hearing. In fact, my Title IX adviser and the conduct board emphasized that I didn't need to have one.

My hearing was held in December during which I was laughed at by the two students whom I made allegations against along with their lawyers. I was told I was lying and that the negative impacts of this were not real. Compounding the injustice characterizing my Title IX experience, the coordinator responsible for my case left Ithaca for a new job right after the new year. I feel as though he was less than fully engaged in my case and instead more focused on his own career.

Lastly, the correspondence with the official decision mitigated both the overall damage they believed could be caused by verbal sexual harassment and the likelihood of sexual harassment being perpetrated by individuals I did not know personally. These are both dangerous falsehoods that will continue to discourage future Ithaca College students, especially women, from coming forward with their experiences.

There is no reason the Title IX process should have taken three and a half months. There is no reason I should not be believed to be heard but not believed when I say I was sexually harassed. And there is no reason why I should I feel unsafe and uncomfortable on this campus just for being a young woman?

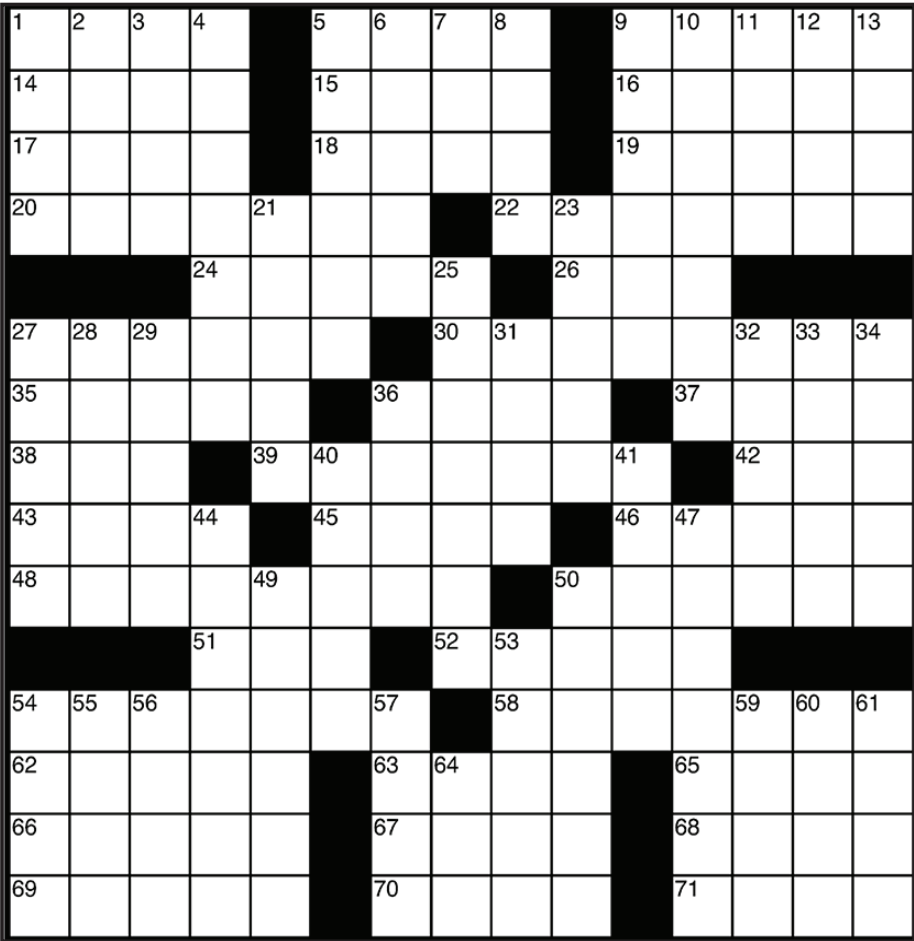
**SOPHIA TESTANI** is an athletic training major. Contact her at [stestani@ithaca.edu](mailto:stestani@ithaca.edu)



# DIVERSIONS

## crossword

By Quill Driver Books



- ACROSS**  
1 Perimeter  
5 Trim back  
9 Yawned  
14 Encumbrance  
15 Import vehicle  
16 Uniform color  
17 Bond servant  
18 Disadvantage  
19 Of durable wood  
20 Pungent cleaner  
22 Tarantulas  
24 Nostalgic fashion  
26 Embarrassed  
27 Latin dance (hyph.)  
30 Messengers  
35 Light-colored beer  
36 Oodles (2 wds.)  
37 Workbench item  
38 Ms. Hagan of films  
39 Never blinking an eye  
42 Water-power org.  
43 "Wool" on clay sheep  
45 Prod on  
46 Bread ingredient  
48 Wallaby or joey  
50 Oysters' yield
- 51 Switch positions  
52 Makes void  
54 Mooched  
58 Summer tops  
62 Iris center  
63 OPEC country  
65 Pentathlon event  
66 Stun  
67 Libertine  
68 Ms. Foch  
69 About half of us  
70 Plaid item  
71 Laird
- DOWN**  
1 Ms. Lanchester of films  
2 "Carpe —!"  
3 Flu bug  
4 Carry out the law  
5 Bungalow  
6 Some eclipses  
7 Mountain overlooking Troy  
8 Swine  
9 Sticker  
10 Genie's master  
11 Explorer Zebulon —  
12 Hardly —  
13 Studies  
21 Hindu statesman
- 23 Wrinkled fruit (hyph.)  
25 Stop sign  
27 Hen's sound  
28 Yoga type  
29 One more time  
31 Slime  
32 Fridge raider  
33 Contender  
34 Ribs, slangily  
36 Huge hairstyle  
40 TLC provider  
41 Reside  
44 Worry, plus  
47 Speeds up  
49 Sharp corners  
50 Morning star  
53 Mover's rental
- 54 Junk email  
55 Large tawny cat  
56 Whitish gem  
57 Bogarde of film  
59 Grand in scope  
60 Gambling scope  
61 Trouser part  
64 Kind, to Yvette

### last issue's crossword answers

MAGS	CHORD	FAVA
ABOUT	RIPER	ELIA
NOSE	AMEBA	LOCH
NUTMEG	REWRITE	
ATOMS	FALLEN	
	EARL	PESTO
LAI	YET	ISSUED
ELS	ADORN	FRI
SALOON	OUI	CINE
SWEAR	ETCH	
	KEELED	PIPED
HOLSTER	GAMELY	
COMA	HANOI	IDOL
BONN	EVENS	NAPA
SKID	RESET	GLEN

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## sudoku

easy

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

### medium

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

### answers to last issue's

#### medium

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

#### very hard

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

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From left, freshman Brian Martinez, Omari Matthis, D'Andre Walker, RJ Dixon and David Simmons are members of the group Kings By Nature. They produce hip-hop and rap music at Ithaca College. Starting as a joke, the group decided to pursue music seriously after receiving positive feedback.

KEVIN YU/THE ITHACAN

BY MIKE ROSS

Glaring into a crowd of high-energy spectators, junior Jordan Alexander remembers his humble beginnings. In just two years, he's made it from recording in his bedroom to performing his first show at a group of students' apartment. Though he's been working hard on his music for nearly two years, for Alexander, known on stage as J.R.A., this eccentric performance is only the beginning.

Hip-hop is the second most popular genre of music behind pop. While rap music was once difficult to produce and publish, the availability of the internet in the 2000s and the rise of social media gave smaller rappers and producers a platform to share their work.

MySpace's rap scene is credited for finding and popularizing artists like Drake and Soulja Boy, and Tumblr was a popular early destination for collectives like Odd Future and Brockhampton.

Since then, SoundCloud has been the go-to destination for artists looking for quick and easy publication, and the frequency and simplicity of making music and uploading it to SoundCloud has developed an entire subculture of "SoundCloud rap."

SoundCloud rap gained a name after smaller artists who published their music on the platform found household fame around 2015. The success of artists like Lil Pump and

XXXTentacion drove young listeners to make music exclusively on their laptops and phones, creating the underground scene which SoundCloud rap usually refers to. SoundCloud rap is a unique and revolutionary step in hip-hop history, as it transformed even the smallest of towns and schools around the world into talent goldmines. Ithaca is no different.

Alexander has been involved with the college's hip-hop community for nearly two years.

While rap is often a competitive field, Alexander says the music scene on campus is more positive and collaborative. Artists come together to network, which is their primary mode of growth. This helped Alexander get the opportunity to hold his first performance Dec. 3, 2021.

"The opportunity came up because I had a mutual friend who also made music and had friends who were in a band," Alexander said. "So he had an idea for an end-of-the-year get-together where people could hang out and perform their music."

Alexander credits the college's friendly music scene to the shared goals and aspirations of college students, meeting his friends who make music through his work as a television radio major. Students who make music take classes and work hard alongside their passions, putting performers on a similar level and giving them all

something in common.

"We're all trying to make the best film, or show, or article, or get the highest grades. I feel more competitiveness in the classroom than I do in music, because most musicians just want to uplift each other," Alexander said.

Despite his respect and dedication to the underground hip-hop community, Alexander doesn't identify as a SoundCloud rapper. Since the term's creation, artists labeled as SoundCloud rappers have gained a reputation of poor quality, mostly due to the high volume of content on SoundCloud making it difficult for listeners to filter out the music they prefer.

Without associating with the trope, Alexander does recognize the reasons most rappers get disregarded based on where their music is published and finds the blind criticism to be harsh given the circumstances.

"See, I don't really like that term [SoundCloud rapper]. I feel like when people hear the term [SoundCloud rapper], they're like 'Oh, this guy probably doesn't put a lot of time into his music,'" Alexander said. "But it could be a lack of good equipment, or they're just early in their career."

Kings by Nature (KBN) is a group consisting of freshmen Brian Martinez, RJ Dixon, Omari Matthis, David Simmons and D'Andre Walker. The group originally made music for its own entertainment in November 2021, rapping over a drill beat in Simmons' dorm.

"David had a mic, so we went on FL Studio and made a solo," Martinez said. "It was all just jokes."

After playing its music for a few other on-campus artists, the group received enough positive feedback to pursue music seriously. KBN takes a different stance on the idea of the SoundCloud rap scene.

"A lot of people are SoundCloud rappers, and you've gotta start somewhere," Martinez said. "When you start as a SoundCloud rapper, you just rock with it until you make it big."

The artists' come-up after positive feedback by other creators is another example of the supportive rap community that exists on campus.

"Everyone wants to see each other win," Simmons said. "I haven't seen anyone talking down on anyone's music

or being disrespectful."

Despite the positive experiences of Alexander and KBN, the college's rap scene remains underground.

Sophomore Nour Elshikh, also known by his stage name DJ Pharaoh, finds that despite the number of rappers and producers on campus, the subculture doesn't receive much attention.

"I know and have met so many people who produce and make music, though it's definitely not mainstream yet," Elshikh said. "I'd still say it's popular throughout the school, it seems like more incoming freshmen are interested in making music."

Part of the college's rap scene staying underground might stem from the lack of student-rappers enrolled at the School of Music. Vadim Serebryany, associate professor of music performance, said that hip-hop's influence in music curricula is not only present but gaining more attention.

"Hip-hop gets discussed in a variety of places in the curriculum," Serebryany said. "It comes up in rock styles, in Tim Johnson's seminar on 'Hamilton,' and in other courses I'm sure. I am not aware of any students for whom the creation of hip-hop is a central part of their academic work at this moment, but discussion about making 'laptop' an option for principal instrument for an IC music major are ongoing, and I wouldn't be surprised if a program along those lines gets added in the near future."

More students enrolled at the music school could mean more hip-hop-centered events on campus.

Elshikh was able to participate in a DJ set opening for rapper Sleepy Hallow at the Bureau of Concerts Fall 2021 event, though other official rap events at the college are hard to come across.

"I think the community should be more expressed through on-campus events, because there's a lot of students who are really passionate about their rapping," Elshikh said.

"I want to see more interaction between artists in the school's rap scene, I think it'll really bring a lot of creative people together."



Sophomore Nour Elshikh mixes music Feb. 1 in his dorm room. Elshikh opened for Brooklyn drill artist Sleepy Hallow at the Fall 2021 Bureau of Concerts event.

BRENDAN IANNUCCI/THE ITHACAN

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# IC seminar helps connect students with authors

BY M MINTON

After two years of holding Ithaca College’s New Voices Festival strictly online, the organizers are hoping to hold this year’s festival in person with a virtual element, for the 10th anniversary of the festival.

The festival was created in 2013 by Chris Holmes, chair and associate professor of the Department of Literatures in English at the college, and Eleanor Henderson, chair and associate professor of the Department of Writing at the college, with the purpose of connecting students with up-and-coming writers.

With the seminar being added during the sixth year of the New Voices Festival, student guides take a two-credit reading course that familiarizes them with the work of the authors along with a one-credit development course that helps them with planning and executing the festival. This year, the festival will take place from April 27 to 29.

The invited authors include Mona Awad, Alexandra Kleeman, Gina Nut, Lauren Oyler, Jenn Shapland, poet Maya Phillips and playwright Liza Birkenmeier.

The festival typically includes seven-minute readings by seven authors called the “Short Short” at Buffalo Street Books, and will feature a staged reading of a play by visiting playwright Birkenmeier at the Cherry Artspace.

Holmes said student guides in the New Voices Seminar read the works of one visiting author assigned to them.

Each student guide then writes an introduction to be read aloud when announcing their author at the festival.

“[The student guides] have read the works of that author, and are very invested in that author’s work,” Holmes said. “By the time that author shows up on campus, they know more about that author than 99.99% of people living on the planet.”

Holmes said the festival has had to make do with a cut budget over the last few years because of the college’s economic hardships.

“The festival has become a real fixture of the year that a lot of people look forward to every April,” Holmes said. “I really hope that we’ll be able to return to a fully-funded festival.”

Henderson explained how enrolled students are involved at every level of the festival from student directors to student guides.

“It’s a unique experience because students get to be involved in a rich literary discussion of texts,” Henderson said. “They also get to be behind the scenes planning what this significant literary event is going to look like.”

Junior and assistant student director Abby McGuire said that the New Voices Seminar is a very fun and exciting time where students can read new works and be able to discover many new authors together.

“I’ll be helping [the guides] get comfortable with the material and... with their position in the festival,” McGuire said. “So that once we



From left, professor Eleanor Henderson, student assistant director Abigail McGuire, student director Amulya Ravitej Bachala and professor Chris Holmes will hold the New Voices Seminar in April.

NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

get to that weekend in April, every student feels prepared.”

McGuire said that something she really loves about the festival is the collaboration between different majors on campus.

Students from the Departments of English and Writing in the seminar collaborate alongside students from the School of Music and the Department of Theatre Arts.

“The guides don’t have to all be writing majors or English majors, we have a lot of people from different schools who are genuinely curious to read new work,” McGuire said.

Junior Amulya Ravitej Bachala, student director of the New Voices Festival, said she loves the atmosphere of the festival because of all the different types of writing that students enjoy.

“If you want to go to the festival, you can read whichever [genre] you like,” Bachala said. “I feel it’s perfect for literature nerds.”

Bachala said the class that student guides take is like a regular literature class with the added aspect of festival planning.

Students read and analyze the work of the invited authors alongside working together to plan

and organize the festival.

“There’s ... underlying excitement because you know you’re going to meet the authors and that you’re going to talk to [the authors],” Bachala said. “That part of the class is really nice because you know that there’s something a lot different to look forward to.”

Bachala said she has always wanted to write, but after meeting the authors through the seminar and festival, has started to realize exactly what it takes.

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# Physics professor meets with a ‘Queer Eye’ star

Deborah King, professor and graduate program chair of the Department of Exercise Science and Athletic Training, recently had the opportunity to meet with famous hairdresser and TV personality Jonathan Van Ness, most commonly known from the Netflix series “Queer Eye: More Than a Makeover,” on their podcast, “Getting Curious with Jonathan Van Ness.” The podcast episode, titled “Can Figure Skaters Defy Gravity? with Dr. Deborah King” released Jan. 12.

King’s area of expertise is in biomechanics of human movement and sports performance. Staff writer Emma Kersting met with Dr. King to discuss her experience speaking on the podcast.

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

**Emma Kersting:** Could you give an explanation of what biomechanics is?

**Deborah King:** It’s studying the mechanics of a living system. I look at the mechanics like forces and movement of the human body. It could be sporting events like figure skating, but also mechanics would cover walking, balance and posture. You can think of strength and conditioning and lifting. It’s functional activities as well as athletes and sports skills.

**EK:** As the chair of exercise science and athletic training, how often are you practicing or teaching biomechanics?

**DK:** Not as often as I would like to be. Most of the research projects I’m doing now are

in the lab, so I haven’t been on the ice rink in several years. Before COVID, ... we were working on that figure skating boot [with a computer chip in it] ... I had been out to the ice rink in Lansing primarily with a skater from Cornell because the boot fit her, but we had been working with skaters from the Ithaca College skating club and the Cornell skating clubs.

**EK:** How did studying biomechanics bring you to figure skating?

**DK:** It was not necessarily an intentional route, but it worked out well. Around the end of my master’s degree, I hadn’t decided what I wanted to do, and I think my adviser knew that ... so they asked if I was interested in a research assistant position at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. They used to have positions where they would bring in master’s or PhD students into the sport science and technology program where they also had staff but also brought in the graduate students ... you provide sport science services to either the athletes who are in residence at the training center or teams that would come through for training camps. Our job ... was to provide video services for them... There was a coach there who wanted to do a research project on the triple axel because this was a time when, particularly for men’s single skating, the triple axel was like the element that was breaking out. ... to medal at the next Olympics, you really needed to have a good triple axel, and



Deborah King, Ithaca College professor in the Department of Exercise Science and Athletic, training talks about the physics of ice skating with Jonathan Van Ness.

ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN

there weren’t that many men who were doing them yet.

**EK:** How did you come about the opportunity to meet with Jonathan Van Ness and have this interview with them?

**DK:** I am going to say producer/executive director, his people, from the “Getting Curious with Jonathan Van Ness” series reached out to me. I guess he was familiar with the work I did with figure skating. One, because he likes figure skating and figure skates, so he has pretty much read everything there is to know about figure skating and so he was familiar with my name from some research I’ve done.

**EK:** How was your experience meeting with Van Ness?

**DK:** It was hilarious. Actually, they came to campus at one point, which was pretty cool. He’s just really enthusiastic and interesting and fun, we just had a wonderful time talking to each other.

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# Netflix rom-com is a lackluster wreck

**MOVIE REVIEW: “The Royal Treatment”** Calabrian Rhode



**BY SYDNEY BRUMFIELD**

Sometimes, horrible movies manage to find a level of appeal: being so terrible that they come across in a comedic manner. Unfortunately for Netflix’s new movie “The Royal Treatment,” this isn’t the case.

Laura Marano’s horrendous and inconsistent New York City accent combined with bland, one-dimensional performances and a plot that is painfully slow makes watching this film a gigantic waste of time.

The main character and quirky ingénue, Isabelle, or ‘Izzy’ (Laura Marano), is a hairdresser from New York who wants to travel the world but is tied down by her commitment to help her mother, Valentina (Amanda Billing). But Izzy’s dreams become a reality as soon as she is hired to work as the head hairdresser and makeup artist for the royal wedding of Prince Thomas of Lavana (Mena Massoud).

Things grow complicated in the weeks leading up to the wedding when Thomas and Izzy end up falling for one another.

Elements of this story are problematic at times. The film’s depiction of Izzy and her crew of friends comes across as performative poverty for dramatic effect. The film also continuously equates poverty with stupidity as Izzy, but more specifically her friends, are completely unable to understand the practices of the upper class.

When Izzy travels to Lavana for the wedding, at first the story focuses on the budding romance between her and Thomas, but her focus unexpectedly shifts to helping the impoverished portion of the community.

The love story’s central focus then shifts as Izzy spends less time actually prepping for the wedding and more time cooking spaghetti for a school of children and providing them with furniture she takes from the castle. The film continues to highlight a white woman that ventures to a foreign country in order to help the less fortunate for the majority of the second act.

The narrative of “The Royal Treatment” is extremely predictable, straightforward and hardly engages with viewers. The dialogue is clunky and inauthentic, which is even more prominent when the acting is heavy-handed and forced — especially with Marano’s performance, if you can even call it that. Marano’s acting career rose to moderate success on the Disney Channel show “Austin & Ally” (2011–2016), where she played Ally.

In “The Royal Treatment,” Marano acts as though she just looked over the material and acted in an exaggerated manner that is successful in Disney Channel sitcoms but quite obnoxious in feature length films.

“The Royal Treatment” has no visual strategy and the editing is boring to watch. The shots are stagnant and unvaried,



The Royal Treatment uses tired rom-com conventions to build a performative, awkward and boring narrative structure.

COURTESY OF CALABRIAN RHODE

offering nothing to stop viewers from reaching for their phones to better stimulate their brains. The audio components in “The Royal Treatment” completely take the viewer out of the world of the film. One example being when the camera pans to a memorial of Izzy’s father and it is accompanied by an angelic choir of voices, clearly not appropriate for the circumstances.

If viewers are looking for a cheeky romantic comedy

to help warm their hearts, it seems best to leave “The Royal Treatment” unwatched. There is absolutely zero chemistry between Izzy and Thomas. Thus, leaving viewers feeling intense second-hand embarrassment.

“The Royal Treatment” offers nothing new to viewers and is an absolute wreck of a film.

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# Iann Dior gets vulnerable with newest album release

**ALBUM REVIEW: “on to better things”** Virgin Music Label



**BY M MINTON**

After the release of Iann Dior’s “Industry Plant,” a title poking fun at the music fans who criticized his fast rise to fame on SoundCloud, the release of Dior’s sophomore effort “on to better things” proves his clear musical talent through vocals.

Although some of the tracks on the album end up blending together a bit in sound, there are enough catchy and clever lyrics as well as memorable instrumentation to make “on to better things” a very well-produced, solid rap album.

Considering the topics explored in “on to better things,” Dior doesn’t cover a lot of new ground — heartbreak, late-night anxiety and intrusive thoughts are themes he has touched on in previous pieces. However, the mood that Dior captures throughout the album brings these topics to life. The vulnerable lyrics make this album worth a listen.

For example, the song “dark angel” features an ominous yet strangely serene interlude before transitioning into a more catchy rap beat. This choice captures the feeling of being lost in life but trying to find one’s way in the darkness anyway.

Some of the best tracks on the album include “I might,” “obvious” and “fallin” because they truly encapsulate Dior’s growing confidence and true emotional vulnerability as an artist.

If there is any collaborative track that stands out as the best, “obvious” is the clear choice. With two sections that could be from completely different songs bound together by an exhilarating beat switch, “obvious” becomes so much fun to listen to because it genuinely surprises the listener.

Featuring drummer Travis Barker, “obvious” embraces a fun drum melody and some of the most memorable lyrics on the entire album. The lines “Can’t be told what to do, don’t even give it a try / I’m not the type to lose, what was it in your eye?” are catchy and wonderfully complement the mood switch of the track from confrontational to a more relaxed, chill vibe.

In addition to Barker’s appearance on “obvious” and “hopeless romantic,” Dior also collaborates with Lil Uzi Vert on “V12” and Machine Gun Kelly on “thought it was.” Kelly’s second verse in the track is powerful, emphasizing the emotional lyrics reflecting



In “on to better things,” Iann Dior opens up with personal lyrics on mental health.

COURTESY OF VIRGIN MUSIC LABEL

on the realities of being a musician. Dior working with these popular artists on really adds to the songs.

What keeps “on to better things” from being a truly great album is that many of the tracks end up not having much new to say. For instance, tracks like “heavy,” “options” and “let you” end up feeling particularly forgettable in the grand scheme of the album. In “heavy,” the lines “I got no love, in my veins, it’s cold / Diamonds in my chain, it’s froze” don’t quite match the emotional intimacy present in other tracks.

While “on to better things” isn’t always as strong as it could be due to redundancy, the mix of Dior’s strong rap melodies, impressive elements of pop-punk and alternative styles of music make it worth a listen.

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# The drawbacks of anime culture

**BY SYDNEY BRUMFIELD**

As I have begun watching more anime, I have noticed a whirlwind of controversy, opposition and obsession surrounding the genre. What some consider to be a community of fresh and enticing media, others associate with vulgarity — most notably the hypersexualization and fetishization of its female and underaged characters. But should the problematic tropes prevalent in anime prevent people from consuming it?

As a film lover and newly found admirer of anime, it is undeniable that there is much to be gained from viewing this genre. Anime’s narratives go against the majority of America’s mainstream media. Characters have thorough arcs lasting over multiple seasons, allowing for very thoughtful development. The stories are jam-packed with multi-tier conflicts that have these out-of-this-world adventures. When watching anime, viewers get to encounter phantasmagoria.

However, anime is not without critical flaws. With the biggest flaw being anime’s hypersexualization of its female characters. One example is the insanely unrealistic body proportions. These female characters are also commonly objectified and treated as subjects for both the male characters and audience to objectively gaze at.

Accompanying this are the common tropes of men finding ways — either by accident or on purpose — to grope these female characters. This has become so common in anime that it has produced a recurring role: the dirty old man. His harassment of women is often used as a sick form of comedic relief.

Another extremely harmful factor in anime is its fanbase, commonly referred to as weeaboos. These are fans who obsess over and appropriate Japanese culture from their consumption of anime. Weeaboos cling to the most damaging elements of the anime genre and cosume anime because of its fetishization, oversexualization and infantilization of Asian women.

Some of the biggest franchises in America also have their share of toxic fans. “Star Wars” fans are openly sexist, racist and close-minded toward the possible progression of the series away from its roots. There are fans who harass actors John Boyega and Kelly Marie Tran for their involvement in the new iterations of the movies for not being white men.

By isolating or disregarding anime, you are preventing it from receiving critiques that could help push the genre to abandon its seriously problematic tropes, much like we must continue to do in American media.

Americans’ discomfort with anime due to their preconceived notions to be associated with toxic fans is hypocritical given what we experience in our media. One of the largest ways that American media has been able to develop over the years is through critique. Viewers who dismiss anime are missing out on the opportunity to bring the genre to brand new heights.

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



# SPORTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2022

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## REACHING THE TOP OF THE SPORT



### THREE ALL-AMERICANS SELECTED FOR FALL 2021

Junior Nick Bahamonde became the second kicker in program history to be named an All-American. He converted 18 of 22 field goal attempts during the 2021 season.

ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN



From left, senior Jake Villanueva and junior Nick Bahamonde became the first pair of Ithaca College teammates to be named AFCA All-Americans in the same season.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

#### BY TOMMY MUMAU

At the end of each season, student-athletes across the country are rewarded for their excellence on the field with All-American honors. Three Ithaca College standouts received this distinction for the Fall 2021 season, gaining recognition for the college's football and field hockey programs.

On the gridiron, junior kicker Nick Bahamonde and senior offensive lineman Jake Villanueva etched their names into the record books by becoming the first pair of Bombers teammates to be presented with the award by the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) in the same season. The pair also earned spots on the Associated Press's (AP) All-America teams, and Bahamonde received the honor from D3football.com. Senior field hockey midfielder Jackie Mirabile also joined some exclusive company.

Mirabile was selected as a Third-Team All-American by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA), taking home the award just two years after her teammate, senior Morgan Mullen, did so in 2019. Mirabile said she is humbled by the award and attributes her success to the support she received from members of the program.

"I'm just thankful for my coaches and former teammates and teammates now that have gotten me to where I am," Mirabile said. "To go down in the history books as an All-American and join the names of everyone else who came before me, it's just an incredible honor."

Mirabile was an integral part of the team's success during the 2021 campaign, helping guide the squad to a 14–5 record and first place in the Liberty League. The midfielder was impactful on the offensive side of the ball, posting three goals and a total of eight points. She also recorded a defensive save in the Bombers' 1–0 overtime loss to Vassar College in the Liberty League final Nov. 6, 2021.

Mirabile is just the sixth Bombers player to be named an All-American by the NFHCA. Coaches nominate their own players for this honor and are ultimately chosen by NFHCA member coaches and committees.

Kaitlyn Wahila, field hockey head coach, said that while the award is based on performance on the field, Mirabile makes just as strong of an impact outside of competition.

"Jackie is just a really incredible person off the field and has been an amazing leader for our program," Wahila said. "And of course, clearly her skill on the field has really just proven itself over the last four years that she's been a part of our program."

Senior striker Samantha Horowitz echoed a similar sentiment, mentioning how Mirabile's style of play helps contribute to the team's success.

"She's such a selfless player," Horowitz said. "I think having that ability to put your teammates before yourself is just a huge characteristic."

Bahamonde and Villanueva also demonstrated leadership and ability on the field, aiding in the football team's 8–2 season. Former head football coach Dan Swanstrom

said both players demonstrate strong work ethics, which has a significant impact on their teammates. The coach announced he was leaving the program Jan. 24.

"Both positions are unique, it's a position where their leadership is truly by example," Swanstrom said. "What they do day in and day out, how they practice, how they handle the weight room, those things are how they lead."

While the contributions of Bahamonde and Villanueva extend far past the gridiron, the AFCA award is also based on individual performance. Recipients of the award are chosen by the AFCA selection committee, which is composed of head coaches across the nation.

Bahamonde was dominant in his junior season, going 18-for-22 on field goal attempts and converting 32 of his 34 extra-point tries. This precision led to Bahamonde being named a First-Team All-American by the AFCA and the AP. The kicker also was recognized as a Second-Team All-American player by D3football.com.

Alternatively, as an offensive lineman, Villanueva's personal contributions are difficult to quantify. However, the senior's impact was evident in the squad's offensive success, helping the Bombers post an average of 30.6 points per game.

Villanueva was selected as a Second-Team All-American by both the AFCA and the AP. He said that while his position doesn't often make headlines, he is grateful to be recognized for his efforts.

"It's just good to see all the hard work that you put into the sport pay off," Villanueva said. "Especially being an offensive lineman, you're not really always in the spotlight as much as some of the guys on the other team. But, [I] also definitely wouldn't have been able to be an All-American without my teammates and coaches, obviously pushing me every day to be my best self."

Bahamonde said sharing the honor with Villanueva and being the first duo to win the award in the same year has made the experience even more memorable.

"It's cool to think of stuff in a perspective like that because you just win [the award] this season and it's hard to think back on just how special it is," Bahamonde said. "When you hear stuff like that it makes you take a step back and be like, 'Wow, that's just crazy that I get to be a part of that with him.'"

A total of 155 Bombers have been named All-Americans in program history, including 10 selections from six players in Swanstrom's four seasons at the helm.

Bahamonde said he considers this recognition to be one of his greatest accomplishments as an athlete.

"There is something to being an All-American, that I can tell that to anybody now and they get it," Bahamonde said. "I can put that on a résumé and anyone will know what an All-American is. So, I'm really proud of this one, I think it's special."

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From left, freshman Kaitlyn Worobey and seniors Jackie Mirabile, Grace Ziehnert and Victoria Sestito. Mirabile was named an All-American for the 2021 season.

BRENDAN IANNUCCI/THE ITHACAN



Senior Jackie Mirabile became the sixth Bomber in program history to earn All-American honors when she was named to the third team in December.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN



# Ithaca College football coach departs program

BY TOMMY MUMAU  
AND AIDAN CHARDE

Ithaca College head coach Dan Swanstrom has departed the football program to become the new offensive coordinator for the University of Pennsylvania.

A Jan. 24 announcement by Ithaca College stated that Swanstrom's final day with the program was Jan. 31 and he began his new role Feb. 1. He is returning to the university he coached for prior to becoming the Bombers' 10th head coach in program history. Swanstrom was the quarterbacks' coach and recruiting coordinator for the Quakers from 2014 to 2016. The coach led the Bombers to a 32–11 record and a .744 winning percentage during his four seasons on South Hill.

"I can't put into words how special my time at Ithaca has been," Swanstrom said through the announcement. "I would like to thank the players, coaches and fans for the cherished experiences and the meaningful relationships."

Swanstrom did not respond to multiple interview requests from *The Ithacan*.

Susan Bassett, the associate vice president and director of the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics, said she was impressed with Swanstrom's abilities as a coach and is appreciative of the impact he had on the program.

"I commend him and thank him

for the professionalism he brought to his approach to coaching and being an educator," Bassett said. "I think the impact he's had on the program in terms of the quality athletes that he recruited and the exceptional coaches he attracted to come and work with him in the program go to the depths of character and substance that he brought to his work."

The statement said the college will hold an "immediate national search" for its next head football coach and that current assistant coach Mike Hatcher will be the interim head coach until the hire is made. Hatcher declined an interview request from *The Ithacan*.

Bassett said Swanstrom notified her that his former team had expressed interest in his return to the University of Pennsylvania in late December 2021. Bassett said she is currently putting together the search committee, which will include alumni, faculty and staff, and starting the search process.

"We already have a great number of candidates who have applied and others who have reached out," Bassett said. "So I know that we're going to have a very deep and talented applicant pool."

Despite losing their head coach, junior wide receiver Julien Deumaga said he has not heard talk of players looking to transfer.

"There are definitely not talks [of transferring] in direct relation to Coach [Swanstrom] leaving," Deumaga said.



Dan Swanstrom, former Ithaca College head football coach, has left to become the offensive coordinator for the University of Pennsylvania. He posted a 32–11 record during his seasons with the Bombers.

ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN

Bassett said the college is committed to hiring a head coach that it believes is best suited to help the program preserve its tradition of success.

"We're looking for a professional coach, an educator who espouses Bomber values of respect, integrity, sportsmanship and a commitment to academic and athletic achievements," Bassett said. "And we, of course, want someone with a proven track record of success in college coaching, excellent knowledge of the game, high energy, excellent work ethic."

Junior quarterback A.J. Wingfield said the team is sad to see Swanstrom go, but they understand that it was a business decision.

"As a team, there are no hard feelings. It's part of the business, and we understand that," Wingfield said. "He taught us everything that he could have taught us. And now that we have that, I mean, we're the ones on the field. We know that we're the culture."

Deumaga said the team is ready to look toward the future and prepare for next season, regardless of who the next coach is.

"I'm excited for what's in store for our program," Deumaga said. "It's going to be weird with a new coach at the head, but I think that we're talented enough that we're going to be pretty successful."

Bassett said she believes that whoever the college hires will be a great fit for the program. While she wants to hire someone soon, there will be a thorough process, she said.

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# List of top swim coaches includes two IC figures

BY AIDAN CHARDE

Two members of the Ithaca College athletics community were included in the College Swimming & Diving Coaches Association of America's (CSCAA) list of the 100 Greatest College Swimming & Diving Coaches of the past 100 years.

Susan Bassett '79, the current director of Intercollegiate Athletics at the college, and Paula Miller, recently-retired women's swimming and diving coach, were named on the list. Miller, who retired from the position following the 2019–20 season, spent 36 years as the head coach at the college. She coached 78 student-athletes to All-American honors and has nine former student-athletes in the Ithaca College Athletic Hall of Fame. But Miller said she had not originally planned to make a career out of coaching.

"[Swimming] was always something that was a passion, but I never thought that I could make a lifetime of it," Miller said. "I always thought I'd do it for 10 years or so, but I was hooked. It didn't ever feel like working."

Although the list included 100 names, 15 of those names were women, and only three of the women were from Division w, including Miller and Bassett.

"It's really hard to grasp because many on that list were my heroes, my mentors," Miller said. "To think that over 100 years and how many Division III institutions there are [that I was included] ... it was a wonderful surprise."

Bassett said that she feels honored to

be placed on such an exclusive list and that she was blown away to hear she would be included.

"I'm enormously grateful to be included among such an incredible list of coaches," Bassett said. "I hold the other 99 coaches in such high esteem and high regard that I'm just kind of beyond words."

For Bassett, it is even more special for her to be included next to Miller. Bassett was formerly the head coach of William Smith College for seven years as well as Union College, where she coached for eight years. At both colleges, Bassett and Miller coached against each other several times.

"[Miller] has been a mentor, a competitor, a colleague and a friend," Bassett said. "She encouraged me to get involved in the NCAA Swimming and Diving Committee ... and she nominated me for the Ithaca College Athletic Hall of Fame."

Kevin Markwardt, the current men's and women's swimming and diving head coach, said he considers both women to be deserving of a spot on the list. Markwardt has been the head coach of the men's team for 34 years and has taken up coaching the women's team since Miller's retirement.

Markwardt said he respects Bassett as a coach, having coached against her when she was at William Smith and Union.

"I had the pleasure of coaching against [Bassett] back in the 80s," Markwardt said. "Although I'm not sure if that's even the right term because she had some very strong programs back then ... She was someone who,



From left, Paula Miller and Susan Bassett were named to the College Swimming & Diving Association of America's list of top 100 coaches in the past 100 years.

LAUREN LUBENOW/THE ITHACAN

when she went up against you, you better be ready because you knew she was going to bring it 100%."

As for Miller, Markwardt said her biggest success is her consistency over her time with the college. In the 36 seasons under Miller, the women's team won 30 conference championships and had 11 undefeated seasons.

"[Miller] had the only program that was consistently at the top the whole time," Markwardt said. "Programs tend to rise and do well for a while, but inevitably, you have problems ... [Miller] had a very strong winning ethic."

Junior swimmer Erin Kiley was only a part of Miller's team for one season. However, Kiley said Miller still made an impact on her.

"She cares so genuinely about all of her athletes," Kiley said. "She helped me improve a lot as a swimmer."

Kiley said Miller still makes an effort to go to meets. Although the college is currently restricting outside spectators, Miller said she wants to make sure the current swimmers that she formerly coached get acknowledged.

To create a list of just 100 names is difficult, Markwardt said, but he believes the voters made the right choice by selecting Miller and Bassett.

"Both of them were very successful at a time when there weren't a lot of women coaches," Markwardt said.

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# THE ITHACAN

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