



## Construction work started on campus but delayed by supply chain problems

BY CAROLINE GRASS

Many campus construction and landscaping projects were started over the summer at Ithaca College, but with national supply chain issues leading to delays of materials like granite, stone, concrete and paint, some projects remain unfinished and will be completed in the fall semester.

In May, the Office of Facilities announced a list of initiatives that were meant to be completed over the

summer. Many projects were routine, including replacing the AC system in Muller Chapel and boiler maintenance in Terraces 4 and 10 and the Circle Apartments, while other projects were larger. For example, Rothschild Place, which was a temporary structure built in 2004 to accommodate department overflow and Student Accessibility Services (SAS), was demolished and offices were relocated across campus, and multiple aesthetic improvements were made to the campus.

Timothy Downs, chief financial officer and vice president for Finance and

Administration, said in a normal year, the college would spend about \$15 million on capital maintenance projects, which work to improve existing facilities by making sure all aspects of buildings work and are maintained.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the college reduced spending to between \$8 and \$9 million dollars since there was less revenue, less use of facilities on campus and less wear and tear on buildings, since students were not at the college for Fall 2020 and students returned for hybrid learning in Spring 2021.

However, for the 2023 fiscal year, the college is ramping back up toward the \$15 million average, and Downs said the college spent about \$13 million on routine maintenance this year.

### Routine Maintenance Projects

The college picks maintenance projects to address and complete each summer based on the overall portfolio of the college that includes a condition assessment of the entire campus.

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MALIK CLEMENT/THE ITHACAN

## Speaker presents on advocacy and anti-racism discussions

BY LORIEN TYNE

Ithaca College students and employees filled Emerson Suites on Aug. 21 to listen to Michael Benitez Jr., vice president for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at Metropolitan State University of Denver, speak about anti-racism and advocacy.

The Ithaca College Center for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Social Change (IDEAS) and the office of New Student and Transition Programs (NSTP) collaborated to bring Benitez to the college campus.

Benitez presented “Embracing Diversity and Fostering Inclusion Through Critical Conversations and Actions” as part of Fall 2022 Orientation, but the event was open for the campus community to attend either in person or through a live stream. About 200 campus members were at the event in person. For freshmen, the keynote added to the conversations that orientation leaders had facilitated in the week leading up to Benitez’s talk.

“Diversity, equity, inclusion,



Michael Benitez Jr., vice president for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at Metropolitan State University, spoke Aug. 21.

LEILA MARCILLO-GOMEZ/THE ITHACAN

belonging, all these words that can mean everything but absolutely nothing at all,” Benitez said. “It depends on the action behind it. It depends on how we’re willing to embrace the convergence of the conversations. You, as first-year students, have an opportunity to derive what this looks like. For the next four years, you have an

opportunity to transform or help shape this community.”

Benitez began his presentation by creating a foundational understanding of what advocacy work, racism and privilege are. He said white supremacy does not only exist in extreme cases like

ANTI-RACISM, PAGE 4

## IC orientation events see high engagement

BY CLARE SHANAHAN

Freshmen and transfer students flooded onto the Ithaca College campus throughout the week of Aug. 15 to attend pre-semester programming like Jumpstart and New Student Orientation, both of which had greater engagement than previous years.

Michele Lenhart, director of the Office of Student Engagement, said in an email that the number of programs offered this year allowed for many more Jumpstart participants than in previous years. Lenhart said that in 2021, there were nine Jumpstart programs offered, and in the years prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were only four programs offered. This year, 366 students were able to participate in Jumpstart.

Orientation for freshmen and transfer students was held from Aug. 16 to 21, with an option for students to arrive Aug. 14 and participate in Jumpstart programs. Orientation is organized by the Office of New Student and Transition Programs (NSTP), while Jumpstart is organized by the Office of Student Engagement.

There were 14 Jumpstart programs offered for Fall 2022, each focused on a different topic, including the outdoors, wellness and comedy. According to

the college’s website, the programs are designed to introduce students to each other and the Ithaca community prior to the arrival of other students.

“The programs that feature an outdoor element seem to be quite popular, with lots of students checking off Ithaca is Gorges, Rowing and Roasting, and Lead-In as top picks,” Lenhart said in an email.

Freshman Caitlyn Wagner said they participated in the Big Gay Scavenger Hunt Jumpstart program because they wanted to be immersed in a community of LGBTQ+ individuals like herself and wanted to get acclimated to campus while there were less people around.

“The first or second day — when people all brought out, like, pride merch, and then pride night during the beginning of orientation — it was the first time I ever saw anyone else besides me hold my pride flag,” Wagner said. “I’ve never seen anyone else hold it, which was such a cool experience.”

Wagner also said that being able to experience campus events that were not overcrowded was an important part of the Jumpstart program for them. Wagner said the required freshmen

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### NIGHT BAZAAR INCLUDES LOCAL ITHACA ARTISTS



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### STUDENT ATHLETE RIDES 112 MILES IN CHARITY RACE



# Comings and goings: Ithaca College staff members leave and arrive in offices throughout Summer 2022



David Prunty held multiple positions at the college before retiring in June.  
MAGGIE BRYAN/THE ITHACAN

BY NOA RAN-RESSLER

David Prunty retired from Ithaca College in June 2022 after working in multiple offices over 35 years. Prunty began his most recent role as executive director of Auxiliary Services in 2015.

He also held leadership positions in the Office of Student Affairs and Campus Life and the Office of Residential Life. He received the Ithaca College Presidential Medal at the college's 2022 commencement ceremonies.



Caryanne Keenan, director for the Office of New Student and Transition Programs.  
COURTESY OF PATRICIA WALL

Caryanne Keenan began as director for the Office of New Student and Transition Programs in August 2022. Keenan worked in Career Services at Ithaca College from 2009 to 2018. She has since served as a coordinator of Applied Learning Initiatives at Tompkins Cortland Community College and founded LifeWorkSource, a professional development training program. Prior to joining Ithaca College in 2009, Keenan was the director of Career Services at Keuka College in Keuka Park, New York.



Scott Doyle was appointed as director of Energy Management and Sustainability.  
NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

Scott Doyle was appointed as director of Energy Management and Sustainability in the Office of Facilities in June 2022. Since 2007, Doyle has worked in the Tompkins County Department of Planning and Sustainability.

He also worked as a planner and project coordinator at Cornell University and the University of Oregon. Doyle graduated from Ithaca College in 1998 and served as an environmental studies and sciences adjunct instructor from 2014 to 2019.



Lisa Searle, former associate director of admission, left the college in July 2022.  
COURTESY OF IC INTERCOM

Lisa Searle left Ithaca College in July 2022 after over 12 years in the Office of Admission. Searle began at the college in 2009 as an admissions counselor and has since become the associate director of admission.

Searle was awarded the National Association for College Admission Counseling Rising Star Award in 2014. She has started a new position in the Office of Admissions at Wells College in Aurora, New York.

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### Career Services Hosts Pizza Party

On Aug. 17, the Office of Career Services welcomed the new students of Ithaca College with pizza and guidance for future planning.



### A Visit to Ithaca Night Bazaar

On Aug. 18, local vendors and performers had the opportunity to show off their skills during Ithaca Night Bazaar for the community to enjoy and celebrate.

## THE ITHACAN

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# SUMMER BRIEFS

## Ithaca Festival returned in June after two year COVID-19 delay

The Ithaca Festival returned to the community after two years of cancellations because of the COVID-19 pandemic with its traditional parade the night of June 2.

Many people attended to watch or participate in the parade, which consisted of performers, musicians, sports teams and local schools, among other groups — all of whom traveled among or on top of floats that drove from Cayuga Street to Buffalo Street in celebration. The celebrations continued from June 3 through June 5 with vendors and live music on The Commons.

## Pilot program started by Sheriff's Office and Public Safety initiative

The Tompkins County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) began a pilot program July 5 that directly works with non-emergency calls. This program is one part of the Reimagining Public Safety initiative and is slated to run for three years. The program is composed of "sheriff clerks," who are unarmed citizens that do not hold any status or power that a police officer would have. The goal of the sheriff clerks is to better utilize emergency resources for actual emergencies while still helping and addressing non-emergency calls.

There are seven types of non-emergency calls that a sheriff clerk would respond to, including car vs. deer motor vehicle accidents, traffic complaints that are not actively occurring, property complaints, vacant property checks, telephone scams, fraud or larceny, and noise complaints. The sheriff clerks are within the road patrol unit and are supervised by road patrol sergeants.

## City of Ithaca named a sanctuary for reproductive rights and health

Following the initial leak of the Supreme Court's draft to overturn Roe v. Wade in early May, the Ithaca Common Council unanimously voted to make the city a sanctuary for abortions and reproductive healthcare July 6. This

vote came about after Alderperson Robert Cantelmo submitted an ordinance on behalf of protecting reproductive rights in the area. The ordinance prohibits city employees from working with outside jurisdictions or punishing those who travel to Ithaca for an abortion from another state where abortion is currently illegal. Ithaca implemented the ordinance immediately after the vote.

Jorge DeFendini, a Common Council member, said he thinks the efforts Ithaca has made to support reproductive healthcare should be a model for other cities to follow, according to the Ithaca Voice.

## Three cases of Monkeypox reported in Tompkins County in two months

The first case of Monkeypox in Tompkins County was reported by the Ithaca Voice on July 19, the second case July 28 and the third and most recent case Aug. 9. The county first released a warning with information about the viral infection July 1, when cases in New York state were on the rise at 86 total cases. As of Aug. 19, the New York State Department of Health reported 2,798 confirmed cases.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are calling the unexpected spread of Monkeypox an outbreak because the virus has spread into countries like the United States that have not had cases of Monkeypox before now. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declared Monkeypox a national health emergency Aug. 4.

## Crime rates decreased during 2021 throughout Tompkins County area

The Tompkins County Sheriff's Office released its annual report for 2021 on June 23, 2022. The document included the uniform crime report for 2021, which shows how many crimes were committed in Tompkins County broken down by category of incident.

According to the report, the total number of crimes in Tompkins County decreased from 1,948 in 2020 to 1,743 in 2021. However, the county saw increases in individual



Throughout the summer, the City of Ithaca and Tompkins County hosted many events, including the Special Olympic Summer Games and the annual Ithaca Festival.

NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

categories, including kidnapping, abduction, aggravated assault, burglary, breaking and entering, and other larceny. The greatest reported increase was in incidents of impersonation, with 25 incidents reported in 2020 and 87 incidents reported in 2021.

According to the Fast Law Firm, in New York, criminal impersonation refers to impersonating another person to benefit themselves or harm someone else, or giving false identifying information to a police officer.

The greatest reported decrease was in incidents of drug/narcotic violations, with 128 reported incidents in 2020 and 58 reported incidents in 2021.

## Starbucks location closed in June after unionization in spring 2022

Following the unionization of all Starbucks in the Ithaca area in spring 2022, as previously reported by *The Ithacan*, the corporation closed its Collegetown location June 10. According to the Ithaca Voice, many

interpreted this closure as a response to the unionization efforts and considered it union busting due to its proximity to the unionization.

At its July 6 meeting, Ithaca Common Council approved a resolution to reach out to both the Starbucks corporation and the National Labor Relations Board to reopen the store and investigate Starbucks for union busting.

## Special Olympics Summer Games held in Ithaca at the end of June

The Special Olympics of New York State Summer Games were held in Ithaca on June 24 and 25.

According to the Ithaca Times, Ithaca's Special Olympics Committee has been advocating for the city to host the event since 2015 and will host the event in 2023 and 2024 as well.

Many of the competitions were held at Ithaca College as well as other locations throughout the city. According to the Ithaca Times, nearly 1,200 athletes participated in the event.

# New School of Business dean values student advocacy

BY JADYN DAVIS

Ithaca College appointed Michael Johnson-Cramer as the new dean of the School of Business on May 26 and he began his position July 1.

Prior to beginning his position at Ithaca College, Johnson-Cramer was a professor of management at Bentley University in Waltham, Massachusetts.

He also served as the dean of business at the McCallum Graduate School of Business at Bentley University from 2019–20.

Staff writer Jadyn Davis spoke with Johnson-Cramer about what he hopes to accomplish in his new position.

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

**Jadyn Davis:** How does it feel to be appointed as the new dean?

**Michael Johnson-Cramer:** It's really exciting. I have admired Ithaca College for a long time, and I've particularly admired the faculty. ... You watch them from a distance and you see how engaged they are with students. I spent 14 years of my career at a very similar institution that was so student-centered, and so coming to Ithaca is like coming home to a place where students are the reason you get up in the morning.

**JD:** How do you think your experiences in multiple leadership roles will help you?

**MJC:** I've had a number of past experiences, even as a faculty member leading a curriculum review, up to being in the

dean's office at two different institutions. So I have a bit of a bifurcated experience that I think is going to serve me well because of the things that we deal with at the college level. I hope I can be a good voice in some of those conversations and support them with their vision for the college. ... It is important to be thinking about how a dean can be a part of the educational conversation and support individual faculty and mentor individual faculty and engage with students that will come from that smaller school experience.

**JD:** What do you think you'll bring to the School of Business as dean?

**MJC:** One of my central passions is for interdisciplinarity — for crossing what used to be silos in business. Those business problems that private, for-profit companies are wrestling with, could benefit from an understanding of wellness or healthcare policy could benefit from a little more creativity or an appreciation for how people are different.

**JD:** How will you be an advocate for students in the school?

**MJC:** Students seem to be pretty powerful advocates for themselves. Student leaders are finding their voice, ... but what I can do is work with students and faculty to co-create a great learning community. A key component will be hearing [from] and engaging [with] students. The best way I can advocate for students is to offer them formal and informal channels to advocate for themselves. I can't wait to see what we



Michael Johnson-Cramer began his position at Ithaca College on July 1 as the new dean of the School of Business after being officially hired by the college May 26.

COURTESY OF ALLISON USAVAGE

come up with together.

**JD:** You mentioned that you want to forge stronger ties between the school's faculty, IC's other schools and the business world. How will you accomplish this?

**MJC:** I think what's exciting, now having met the other deans, ... there is this wonderful opportunity that comes from having three of us on campus at the same time. We're kind of going through orientation like our students. I think the other way to forge stronger ties is to also get to know faculty and students across campus. The faculty and students of the other schools

will see the deans of schools that aren't theirs as a resource as well, and I think making that known [is a goal] and I think that'll be a big communication message over the next couple of weeks as we get to know and participate in all faculty things and new student orientations, to the degree that we can make ourselves accessible and available to folks in the other schools who might be interested in business or might see an opportunity for partnership that we can't even begin to imagine.



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Downs said that most years, the college is able to wrap up construction before students arrive for the fall semester, but because of supply chain issues, students will be seeing some residual construction on campus this fall.

One example is the steps up to the Textor Ball. Downs said the old steps were crumbling, so the college tore them down, created concrete steps and ordered granite from Canada to cover and finish them. Downs said the granite was meant to arrive mid-summer, but with continued delays, the granite still has not been shipped, so the steps are currently barricaded.

Junior Chris Bendig said he had only noticed the removal of Rothschild Place on campus and had not been to the Textor Ball but said he did not mind that construction was ongoing this semester.

“I totally understand it,” Bendig said. “Construction can get delayed even in the best of times and these are obviously not ideal circumstances.”

Downs said the suppliers are waiting until they have a full load of material to ship before they are able to deliver the granite. He said with higher gas prices, a shortage of drivers and higher costs to pay drivers, materials cost more and take longer to arrive.

Many key building materials are facing supply issues that emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic. Wait times have increased between 75% to 800%



During the summer, the grounds staff in the Ithaca College Office of Facilities cut down diseased trees in the S-Lot, around Alumni Circle and near the Circle Apartments.

NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

for materials like paint, drywall, roofing membranes, roofing insulation and HVAC equipment, according to a CBRE supply chain disruption report.

**Aesthetic Improvements**

In addition to the routine log of deferred maintenance that gets addressed and worked on every summer, the college had an additional \$6.7 million to spend on aesthetic projects this summer. Downs said this funding came from money the Board of Trustees reserved for capital initiatives from a surplus the college had in the 2018–19 academic year.

Aesthetic improvements included cleaning and adding color to the exterior of the Dillingham Center; cleaning the exteriors of many buildings, including

Smiddy Hall; repairing and repainting the Lower Quads tennis courts with the addition of lines for pickleball and two basketball courts; replacing the concrete wall around a section of the Dillingham Fountain with glass; and paving campus roads and paths.

Junior Alex Renzoni is a tour guide for the college and said he was on campus for much of the summer and saw the construction projects going on.

He said he thought the cleaning of buildings, especially Dillingham, was a welcome improvement but said he was a little disappointed that the construction of the Textor Hall steps was still ongoing, since it is a central avenue that students use to get around campus.

“As a tour guide, it isn’t our job to tell students that Ithaca College is the right place for them, but I do believe that it is our job to show students everything we have to offer, and I think the aesthetic of our campus is a very important part of that package,” Renzoni said.

Downs said that improving the area around the fountains by replacing steps, repairing walkways and taking out the concrete wall between the Dillingham Center and the fountain and switching it to glass would help make the area more welcoming and accessible for students and families.

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orientation activities were somewhat repetitive, but they felt that the Jumpstart program itself gave them a good introduction to the college.

This year’s freshmen orientation was five days long, but Doreen Hettich-Atkins, executive director of Student Affairs and Campus Life, said it has been different lengths in the past. She said that five days felt like a good length and orientation organizers worked hard to provide a variety of different activities throughout the week.

“Freshmen were super engaged in everything,” Hettich-Atkins said. “We closed events with people still at events. I was amazed at the turnout. I think the freshmen were really excited to be back in person and get engaged and get excited and get connected.”

The Jumpstart and orientation programs followed the college’s COVID-19 protocols for the 2022 academic year.

According to an email sent to the campus community July 27, Samm Swarts, assistant director of Emergency Preparedness and Response, said all new students were required to be fully vaccinated prior to returning to campus and take a COVID-19 test that showed negative results.

Swarts said face coverings are optional for campus community members, except for in healthcare settings around campus.

Wagner said that they were required to wear a mask on the bus during their Jumpstart program and felt that COVID-19 guidance did not take away from their Jumpstart or orientation activities.

“Everyone seemed super cooperative of it which is really nice,” Wagner said. “[It] helps definitely put not only me but a bunch of other people at ease to kind of know that people are actually going to take things like this seriously and are gonna respect people’s wishes.”



During the week of fall orientation, Ithaca College hosted a carnival celebration for freshmen and transfer students in the Athletics and Events Center on Aug. 19.

MAGGIE BRYAN/THE ITHACAN

Freshman Ana Bauroth said she feels that the current COVID-19 guidance is appropriate but hopes that the college is prepared to respond to any changes.

Lenhart said the new protocols improved Jumpstart by allowing for more events and trips to be incorporated into the programs and gave students better opportunities to engage with each other.

Hettich-Atkins said the relaxed COVID-19 protocols also created a better situation for freshmen orientation.

“We’re all relearning how to connect with human beings, so the orientation leaders, I think, were key in helping to remind people, how do you connect with strangers,” Hettich-Atkins said. “We just haven’t had opportunities to connect with new people, and that’s always hard when you’re a first-year student. I think it’s especially hard when you’re a first-year student who’s had [COVID-19] in your life for the last couple of years.”

Thompson said they found many parts of

orientation redundant, with a lot of information like diversity, inclusion and consent being covered in modules students completed before arriving at the college.

“I understand that those topics are very important and should be talked about,” Thompson said. “So I could understand the meetings and all that other stuff, but to constantly talk about it all throughout the week is a little tiring.”

Bauroth said that while she enjoyed orientation and particularly appreciated the small group activities because they were more interactive than other events, she was somewhat surprised by the number of activities.

“I thought it was really good, a little overwhelming to be honest,” Bauroth said. “I thought it’d be like one or two days of activities, but it’s like the whole time. It was a good time, but it was a long time.”

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FROM ANTI-RACISM, PAGE 1

neo-Nazis or the Ku Klux Klan, but can also present itself in more indirect discriminatory behaviors. Benitez said this is why it is so important to be self-aware and attentive toward one’s actions and one’s own identities and how they function in a society that places whiteness at the top.

According to the Office of Analytics and Institutional Research at the college, data from Fall 2021 recorded the race and ethnicity of all students, faculty, staff and administration at the college, which included 1,382 campus members of color, 143 international campus members, 317 people with an unrecorded race and ethnicity, and 4,830 white campus members.

The keynote is slated to be the first in a series of IC Day of Learning events taking place during the 2022–23 academic year. President La Jerne Cornish said there needs to be more opportunities — like Benitez’s keynote — to have conversations about diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.

“Too often we have one event, and that’s the signature event, and then we pat ourselves on the back because we did that one thing,” Cornish said. “This work never ends, ... so this is our way of continuing the conversation that began last spring.”

During Spring 2022, the first IC Day of Learning was held Feb. 28 by Hillel at Ithaca College and the Center for IDEAS in response to acts of antisemitism on campus. Two swastikas were found drawn on campus — one on a window Feb. 3 in Baker Walkway and another on a poster Feb. 8 in the James J. Whalen Center for Music. While the first IC Day of Learning was a direct response to hateful acts, Benitez’s keynote began to address more subtle issues that marginalized groups experience.

Mame Ndiaye, assistant director of NSTP, said during the question and answer portion of the keynote that she has grown used to code-switching while working in higher education, meaning she adjusts certain behaviors, like dialect, to fit into predominantly white spaces. Ndiaye asked Benitez how he maneuvers the politics of higher education when, like her, he has identities that fit outside the norm of whiteness.

“Navigating my identities and battling which identity I want to use at that moment — coming from a first-gen immigrant family, Senegalese Americans — and always having to navigate predominately white spaces — it’s not a challenge, but it’s something that I constantly have to deal with every day,” Ndiaye said.

Benitez said it is important to be one’s authentic self but it is also OK to present oneself differently depending on the environment. He also said that, for Ndiaye, there may be different reactions and repercussions of not code-switching that exist because she is also a woman.

“When I went into academia, ... I always took pride in carrying myself in a very particular aesthetic that was truly me unapologetically, but I was also willing to bear the consequences of that,” Benitez said. “It didn’t always work out all the time. ... I don’t feel like most women can show up unapologetically without the consequential difference of power.”

Some students in the audience brought up questions to Benitez about discussing anti-racism and privilege. Strategic questioning is the tool Benitez suggested when speaking with others about topics like anti-racism and equity. He said when he has different viewpoints from someone else, he asks critical questions to encourage them to reflect.

“At minimum, if your spirit is like ‘at least I made an effort to just gently address it and put my love behind it,’ well, that’s really what matters,” Benitez said.

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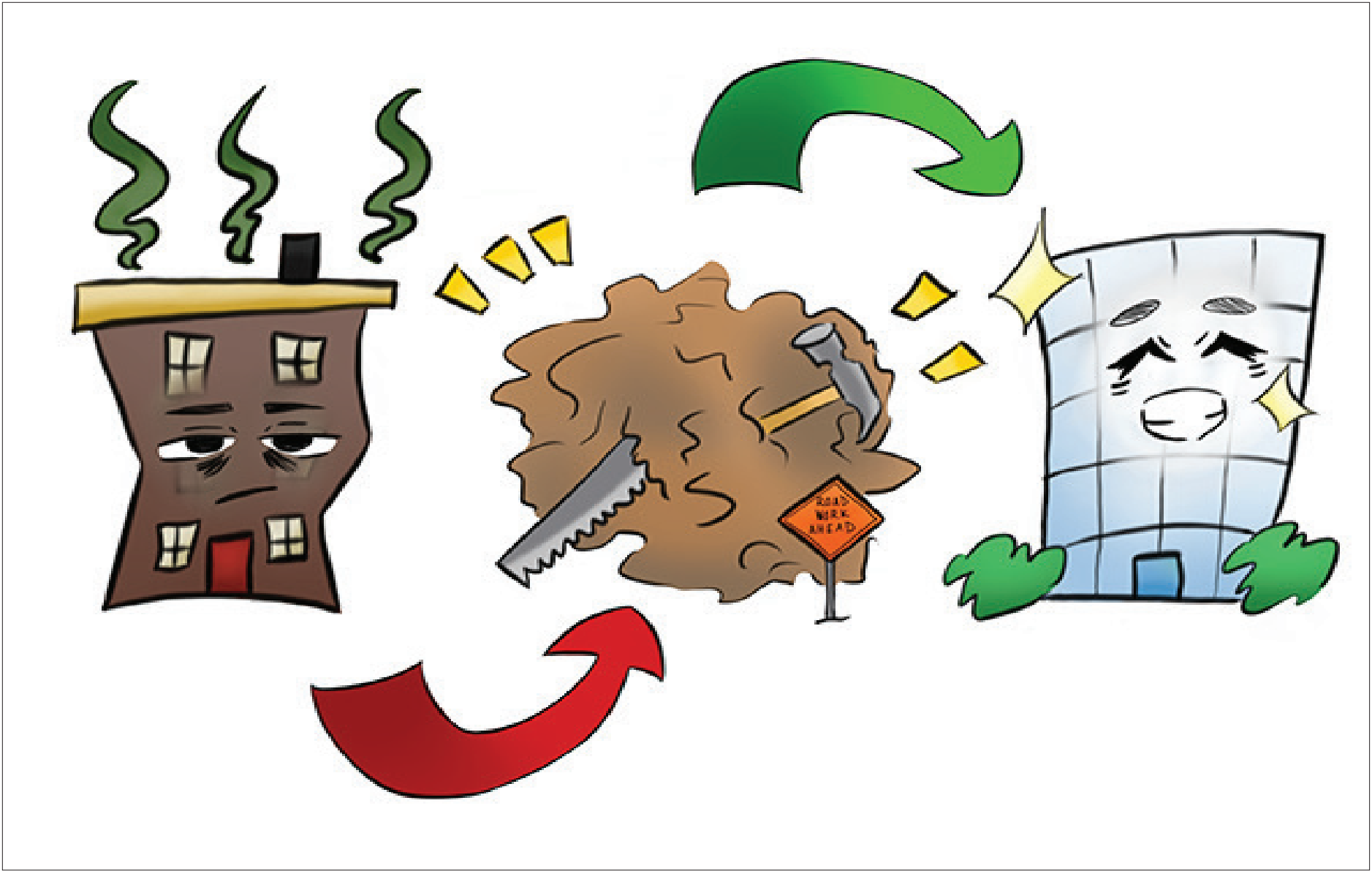


ILLUSTRATION BY MADOLYN DONAGHY-ROBINSON

EDITORIAL

Construction projects improve campus environment

For the past few years, Ithaca College has dealt with a handful of issues, including the COVID-19 pandemic, which has led to stagnation in campus preservation and restoration. Now that the chaos has settled, the campus community will find that there are many long-awaited, tangible changes across campus.

The college has undertaken multiple campus restoration projects at once, including power-washing the Dillingham Center and paving roads across campus. Additionally, the campus’ native ash trees and non-native Australian pines were removed because of an invasive beetle called the emerald ash borer that has killed off many of the trees.

For years, the outside of Dillingham has been covered in a grime that has led to the brutalist building — which can already be an eyesore — looking run-down. For a school with a high-ranking musical theater program that is housed within Dillingham, the upkeep of the building did not match the pedestal the theater arts are on.

However, the recent cleaning turns Dillingham into a worthy home for the

college’s many productions. The focus on student experience is laudable as Dillingham is a central building on campus and often one of the first buildings prospective students and their families see when they arrive. Incoming students will find a much cleaner, well-kept campus than they would have one year ago.

The new glass guardrails by the Dillingham Fountain provide a clean finish to the centerpiece of the campus, replacing the hole-ridden concrete that once stood in its place. Campus community members will also see the Lower Quad tennis courts with a fresh court, not ripped nets and crushed ground.

While the removal of trees around the campus was disappointing, the invasive species made the removal a necessity. The quick action to cut down and remove the trees by the college is a positive sign for the future of campus upkeep and swiftness from the college. Exponential growth of the invasive beetle species could have been catastrophic for the arboreal life on campus and in the surrounding area.

One of the Textor Hall staircases is receiving a full new granite finish, but

construction has bled over into the beginning of the fall semester.

While the Textor staircase is currently a minor inconvenience to students traversing campus, it will inevitably be safer than before. The crumbling stairs that the current construction will replace were beginning to pose a safety hazard to students walking across wet, icy ground. The new staircase will revitalize the rusted rails and dilapidated stairs to a much safer and convenient standard.

Timothy Downs, chief financial officer and vice president for Finance and Administration, said the college is returning to spending about \$15 million on construction across campus. This is up from about \$8 million to \$9 million during the pandemic.

Unfortunately, the dip in construction spending was because of a decrease in the college’s revenue because of COVID-19 campus closures. Seeing the ramp up in spending is a sure sign that the college is returning back to its normal post-pandemic standards.

While students will notice some of the upkeep that has occurred across

campus, they will also notice the construction that has not yet been completed. It can be easy to place blame on the college for not being able to complete projects, however, the issue runs deeper than campus maintenance and facilities.

Supply chain issues across the country have led to delays in shipments to the college.

In addition, rising gas prices over the past few months have also affected the shipment of products as companies will wait until they have a full load before shipping rather than shipping small loads across the country.

Patience with the state of construction on campus will be necessary now more than ever.

Once these projects are completed, they will breathe new life into the campus environment, making a far more attractive and far safer space for all that walk its paths.

While it is disappointing for students to arrive on campus and see it turned into a construction zone with empty spaces where trees previously stood, it is refreshing and welcoming to see large and small improvements being made across campus.

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 [sfiske@ithaca.edu](mailto:sfiske@ithaca.edu).

ALL COMMENTARIES MUST:

- Convey a clear message
- Be written by an individual or group who has an educated opinion or is an authority on a specific subject
- Be between 500–650 words. Whether more or less space is allotted is at the discretion of the editor



GUEST COMMENTARY

IT student leadership is hopeful for deserved respect

BY MIA LORETTO

At the end of the first floor of Friends Hall and the start of Job Hall lies a place of warm, friendly employees working hard to assist and tackle technology questions for all of Ithaca College. Composed of 11 student-staffed areas, Information Technology (IT), sometimes referred to as IT@IC, offers work experience to anyone, regardless of academic major or technical background. Although IT is mainly stationed in Job Hall, you can find IT employees working all across campus.

IT fosters a wonderful work environment. However, when the effects of departmental changes in leadership percolated down to the students, the IT Student Leadership Team (SLT) was compelled to expand their roles and responsibilities in order to maintain IT's organization.

While experiencing the push and pull of department heads, scrambling to figure out how to move forward with administrative gridlock, student employees' morale and interest in IT dwindled. The coalition of student managers, which has always been a part of the centralized employment model, became a tighter group

as they collaborated on ways to rebound from these changes as well as advocate for the rest of the student employees.

As one of the links between students and staff in IT, a position titled student coordinator assistant, I struggled with maintaining a cordial relationship with certain IT senior leadership members as tensions rose. From my point of view, shared by many others on my team, there was an apparent discordance between what the student team needed and what higher-ups thought was right. There were many attempts on my and my colleagues' part to try to illuminate these miscommunications. Email after email, meeting after meeting, it felt as though we were going in circles advocating for our needs and the needs of our peers. Our voices were silenced and our ideas rejected. By the end of the semester, I felt as though we had been treated with such apathy and disrespect by higher education professionals who were supposedly here to support and encourage student growth; it was a disheartening way to leave Spring 2022.

Perhaps the only benefit of this treatment was the close bond that was formed between my colleagues and I. There used to be a



Ithaca College senior Mia Loretto posing outside of the Information Technology front desk located in Job Hall. Loretto describes Ithaca College Information Technology as “a place of warm, friendly employees.”

MALIK CLEMENT/THE ITHACAN

sort of hierarchy where the student coordinator assistants were seen as “the leaders” and the rest of the student managers followed their lead. I had always found that to be counterproductive to the vision behind the IT SLT and was glad to see it dissolve as we shared frustrations, shed some tears, and took on each other's workload. Our SLT meetings became a space for each of us to express our needs and make sure

nobody felt left behind in their work. And although I have strong feelings about how my workload evolved, I consider myself lucky to have gotten to get to know and collaborate with these students.

On the bright side, IT recently completed its search in finding a new student employment program manager, which has been vacant since last semester, as a last-minute attempt to save the department.

There is a lot of work to catch up on and improve. Hopefully the new leadership position will compensate for the setbacks that this organization fell under. More importantly, I hope that we can start to restore the vibrance and enthusiasm that IT once illuminated.

Mia Loretto (she/her) is a senior sociology major. Contact her at mloretto@ithaca.edu.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Frustrations toward Ithaca College staff are misplaced

BY CLAIRE THOMPSON

During my time working at the Summer Housing Office at Ithaca College, I got more seething calls from angry students and their parents weekly than I can count on my fingers and toes.

The complaints themselves are often reasonable. The shouting, name calling and demands toward minimum wage workers, not so much. The rooms are too small, trash cans too full and refrigerators unclean are among the chief complaints.

While I can't say that I have never made a fuming call or sent a nasty email following a less than satisfactory experience on campus, I can say I have always made an effort to direct my frustration at the appropriate parties: people who make a salary.

For example, when the bathroom on the seventh floor of West Tower was out of both toilet paper and paper towels when the school had promised enhanced maintenance of communal spaces during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, I directed my frustration at the upper-level, salaried staff making decisions.

My main complaint about the college has always been that salaried staff at Residential Life, Student Affairs and even the Hammond Health Center, just to name a few, refuse to do their jobs and leave it up to those who make minimum wage to pick up their slack.

When salaried professionals, “pro staff,” are not in their offices, or simply refuse to take calls, the burden of customer service that they pride themselves on in staff training is passed to those who simply do not get paid enough to care.

Students answering the phone, custodial

staff who get treated as subhuman by privileged students and those who cook our food rarely get a mere “thank you” from students and staff alike.

I don't have to imagine what it must feel like to be on the other side of nasty messes or hours of hard work and not be



Do your part. Clean up after yourself, take the smallest amount of accountability for the messes you make.

- Claire Thompson



met with a thank you or a wave or to overhear demeaning comments through a thin dorm door.

While frustrations with the quality of service, especially considering the amount students pay, seems reasonable, this frustration must be directed appropriately. When it comes down to it, there is a simple, two-part resolution students can enact.

1.) Do your part. Clean up after yourself, take the smallest amount of accountability for the messes you make. Get in contact with those who can help you if you can't. Submit a maintenance request when you



Ithaca College senior Claire Thompson poses in front of her workplace the Summer Housing Office. She said she believes campus workers should receive fair compensation for their work.

KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

notice something is wrong. And if you're not willing to do that ...

2.) Students must advocate for higher pay, so those who do take care of these things make enough money to care.

Those cleaning up our messes and working hard to maintain our space are among the most important people on campus and they should be treated and compensated as such. This should not be a wild idea. When we cause a ruckus, though not foolproof, those who make decisions about who gets paid and how much might care if we show that we do.

While the exact wages of these essential and important staff are not posted online, only described as “generous,” something

tells me that it is not the six figures senior leadership positions were reported to have made.

As the need for work that minimum wage workers do on campus piles up, especially with an increased need for sanitation measures and an effort to reduce food insecurity on campus, it's vital that wages increase to match their worth. It's unreasonable for this work to not be compensated highly and rewarded for loyalty to the institution and increased skill.

Maybe if salaries were closer, our campus experience would be better.

Claire Thompson (she/her) is a senior politics major. Contact her at cthompson1@ithaca.edu.



## Ithaca Night Bazaar welcomes creatives



Ithaca local Jonathan Petronzio '04 performs Aug. 18 at the Ithaca Night Bazaar for the first time with his experimental funk and reggae music project, Road Man. The Ithaca Night Bazaar, which runs monthly from May to September, welcomes diverse local and regional artists and musicians to the Ithaca Farmers Market.

KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

BY ELIZABETH KHARABADZE

Beneath the warm glow of fairy lights, the sound of reggae and funk music filled the air as artists happily talked to guests about their art, and Ithaca creatives convened to dance the night away in a celebration of music, art and life.

The Ithaca Night Bazaar began for the first time in 2022 and runs monthly from May to September at the Ithaca Farmers Market with a mixture of visual artists, vendors and performers. The bazaar takes inspiration from Asian street markets and European music festivals, welcoming a diverse crowd to peruse through the booths while enjoying live music. The Aug. 18 market featured artists, including Subdub, Bella's Bartock and Ithaca local Road Man — as well as a special performance by Parlor City Burlesque.

Jack Clausen, who helped organize the event, said the bazaar was a joint effort between him and his wife, Sarah Clausen, to support local and regional artists. Jack Clausen said he was especially surprised that there were no events like the bazaar in Ithaca prior.

"We were just talking about how it'd be super cool to do one of these late night markets, introducing different ideas and different aspects," Clausen said. "Not just the food but apparel, vintage things ... and then mixing a live music element as well."

Jonathan Petronzio '04 performed on stage with his solo experimental music

project, Road Man, which mixes funk, blues and reggae through the lens of introspection and environmentalism. Petronzio previously performed with the funk band Revision — producing six albums and touring across the United States with bands including Sublime, Groundation and the Easy Star All-Stars. After turning away from the hustle and bustle of life on the road, Petronzio said he created Road Man, which documents the past seven years of his life.

"In all the traveling that I did, I never really found a place that was so special," Petronzio said. "It took years, but we did it. ... Everybody comes together and you get to see this beautiful local community of people who love live music. ... Even though it's a small town, [there is] a lot of rich music."

Russell Posegate, instructor in the Department of Music Theory, History, and Composition, said it was his first time at the bazaar and that, while he came to support Petronzio, he was also pleasantly surprised by how many people came out to support music and the arts. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Posegate said that it was especially important to support live music post-pandemic.

"I'm glad that there are so many people who are willing to come out for live music," Posegate said. "It's really encouraging to see."

The effects of COVID-19 had deep impacts on the concert industry, with many artists forced to close or postpone live shows in 2020 following the outbreak. In 2021, live music began its slow recovery as artists



Petronzio performs with his project Road Man on Aug. 18 at the Ithaca Night Bazaar. Road Man is the result of Petronzio's self-introspection after settling down in Ithaca.

KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

began to reconnect with fans and venue operators dealt with balancing COVID-19 restrictions with a desire to return to normalcy. With venues reopening, the next challenge lies in getting people to attend live concerts. Petronzio said he was glad to see there was still a need for it.

"The pandemic really shifted so much to the outdoor venue," Petronzio said. "So even though it kind of feels like the tail end of that chapter, it's kind of cool too that things shifted toward these kinds of venues that normally wouldn't have had that same kind of draw. And we don't play a whole lot. We're hoping to play a lot more in the coming year."

Olivia Gillespie, owner of Baked by Liv, said she was a first-time attendee at the bazaar. Gillespie said she initially heard about the bazaar while vending at the Freeville Farmers Market in Freeville, New York.

"There's a lot of variety, which is really cool," Gillespie said. "And in terms of the vendors that are here, I've heard great things about it just through social media and word of mouth. And so I'm just really excited."

Becoming disillusioned by online classes during the pandemic, Gillespie said she decided to take time off from Cornell University in 2021 to focus primarily on Baked by Liv.

"I think there's so much to be said about sharing with other people," Gillespie said. "And, just like, the connection you have when you do something like that. I love seeing how happy little kids' faces and

adults' faces light up when they see cookies and things like that."

Similarly, Bright May, a local witch and jewelry artist, said she took the pandemic as an opportunity to quit retail work and turn her attention toward figuring out what she wanted to do for herself career-wise.

"My main prerogative every day is just to have as much fun as I can," May said. "The more I [made jewelry], the more fun it was, you know, printing things out, getting more and more competent at the machine, seeing like, what can I do? You know, how can I take the things that I can have and branch them out? What do I make for myself that I can make for other people? What delights me and might delight other people?"

Huyen Tang, owner of Suede Moon, said she was also attending the bazaar for the first time. Tang said she was inspired by the celestial — turning her love of crystals and mushrooms into a business selling rings, necklaces and candles. The bazaar, Tang said, was a great opportunity for her to meet like-minded creative individuals.

"I think that's really cool because right now it's like a side gig for me," Tang said. "I'm seeing people who were like, oh, yeah, I worked on this for two years, and now I do this for a living. That's what I want [to do], so it's really inspiring."



A crowd of people gather Aug. 18 at the Ithaca Farmers Market to listen to a blend of live folk and reggae music performed by Road Man, Sundub and Bella's Bartok.

KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN





# “Nope”



BY SYDNEY BRUMFIELD

A gripping spectacle that keeps viewers hanging on to the edge of their seats, Jordan Peele’s third directorial film “Nope” holds nothing back. “Nope” tells the story of siblings OJ Haywood (Daniel Kaluuya) and Emerald Haywood (Keke Palmer) as they work to capture proof of a mysterious force that is wreaking havoc on their ranch in rural California.

“Nope” is a brilliant cinematic experience crafted especially for the big screen. By utilizing wide shots in the isolated environment of the ranch, Peele captures the intimacy, seclusion and fear that accompany the characters as they face unimaginable terror.

In addition to its astounding visuals,

“Nope” is a touching narrative about a family coming together, driven home by Kaluuya and Palmer’s spectacular acting. The narrative is only heightened by supporting character Ricky ‘Jupe’ Park (Stephen Yeun)’s equally incredible performance, adding immense depth.

Peele manages to keep the audience just enough in the dark on the world of the narrative and the looming threat that the horror of this film shines through.

“Nope” masterfully walks the line between comedy and horror, yet again solidifying Peele’s excellence as a filmmaker. The biggest takeaway is that “Nope” is truly out of this world.

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# “Top Gun: Maverick”



BY MATT MINTON

One film this summer burst into theaters to remind us why movies are truly magic. With its exhilarating and stunningly choreographed flight sequences, beautiful cinematography and strong writing, “Top Gun: Maverick” became an undeniable hit.

The original “Top Gun,” released in 1986, certainly had some fun action sequences and characters to boast in spite of a fairly standard script that hit all the expected story beats without pushing the envelope. However, “Top Gun: Maverick” improves on its predecessor in just about every way, with director Joseph Kosinski building the story to real emotional stakes that deeply invests the audience in the characters. Captain Pete “Maverick” Mitchell (Tom Cruise)

is someone who refuses to slow down or stop chasing his love for flying, leading to several exhilarating scenes that examine just how far humans will go to chase a high. However, Maverick finds himself struggling and digging into past memories upon having to train Lt. Bradley “Rooster” Bradshaw (Miles Teller), creating a deeply personal conflict that grounds the story.

While there were many other blockbusters that came out this summer, very few, if any, came close to the momentum and rush that watching “Top Gun: Maverick” provides for audience members. The film, which hit a billion dollars in June 2022, carries real merit to its title.

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# “Harry’s House”



BY ELEANOR KAY

The whimsically warm sounds of the summer emanated from Harry Styles’ newest album released May 20.

“Harry’s House,” Styles’ third solo album release since One Direction’s separation in 2016, brought a summer-pop sound to his discography.

Although “As It Was” was Styles’ only single off the album to be released before the full album release date, fans also had a chance to enjoy his newer tracks during his Coachella performances in April, where he performed “Late Night Talking” and “Boyfriends” for the first time.

“Late Night Talking” features an array of trumpets and trombones, which is a newer sound Styles is bringing into this album. In “Boyfriends,” he slows the

tempo down with an acoustic love song dedicated to boyfriends all over the world.

Styles has slowly begun gravitating more toward pop-sounding music since his first solo album was released in May 2017, which contained a focus on rock and alternative genres.

This shift to more pop-sounding music might deter fans of his previous albums because his sound is becoming more mainstream.

Despite much of the summer-pop feel of the album, “Harry’s House” still has diverse sounds among the 13 released songs. From acoustic to rock to pop, there is something for everyone on this album.

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# “Renaissance”



BY JADYN DAVIS

After nearly six years since “Lemonade,” Beyoncé’s latest album “Renaissance” gives longtime fans a fresh, new sound that will surely get them moving. The upbeat record blends disco and house music, proving that Beyoncé has no limits when it comes to creativity and innovation.

Beyoncé sought to celebrate and pay tribute to the Black, queer roots of house music. Additionally, Beyoncé said she created this album as a means to make others happy again after a difficult last three years. As evidenced by her influences, “Renaissance” isn’t just another one of Beyoncé’s works, but it has many themes tied to it, such as love, family and freedom.

The dance-pop anthem and lead single

“BREAK MY SOUL” features background vocals from the artist Big Freedia. The lyrics “I’m ‘bout to explode, take off this load/Spin it, bust it open, won’t ya make it go” showcase Beyoncé’s strength and resilience while also empowering listeners with a modern and up-tempo beat.

While “CUFF IT” doesn’t quite have the same energy as “BREAK MY SOUL,” it remains another highlight of the album. With this track, Beyoncé goes more toward her usual sound of R&B and pop.

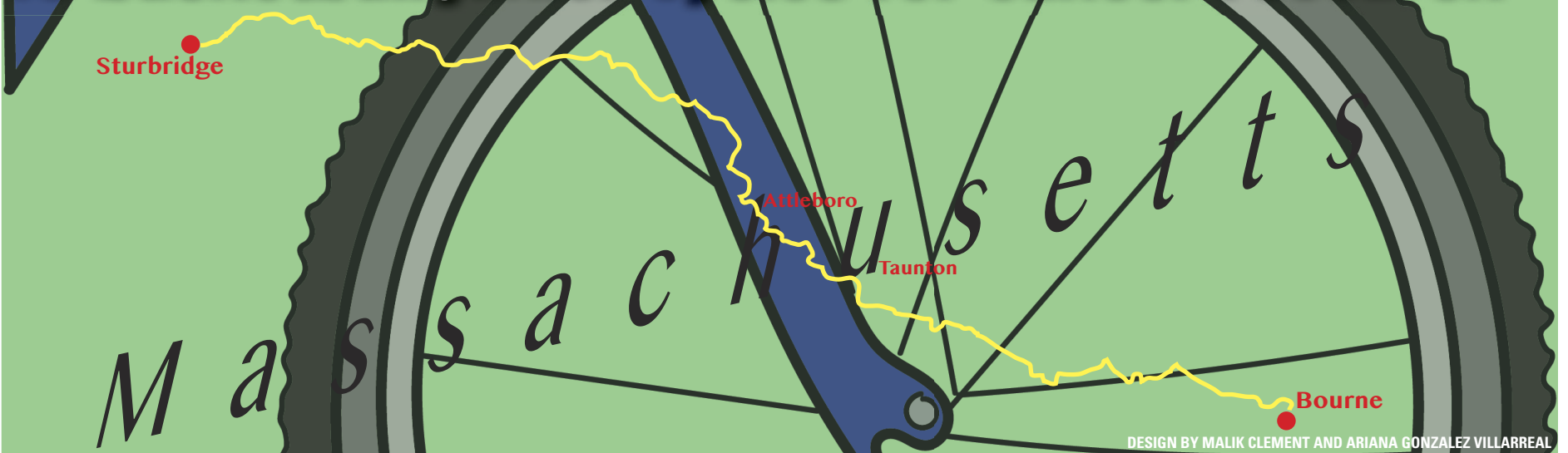
Overall, “Renaissance” is a unique experience that allows listeners to freely express themselves. Beyoncé took a risk with this album, experimenting with different sounds and ideas such as house and disco music. Her efforts clearly pay off.

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# Basketballs and bicycles

## IC basketball junior cycles for cancer research



BY DANIEL KING

On Aug. 6 and 7, more than 6,000 people strapped their feet to their bikes and rode in the 2022 Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) to benefit the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

According to its website, the bike-a-thon based in Massachusetts is one of the biggest athletic fundraising events in the country. Hosting its first event in 1980, it has raised over \$831 million for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute to date.

Founded by Sidney Farber in 1947, the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute started out as a cancer research center for children. In 1969, it expanded to patients of all ages and became known as the Sidney Farber Cancer Center. In 1983, the center acknowledged the support of Charles A. Dana and incorporated his name to create the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, which it remains named today.

One of the 6,000 riders in this year's challenge was Ithaca College junior Andrew Geschickter, who plays for the college's men's basketball team. Geschickter, along with his father, rode a 112-mile portion of the race. Riders have the choice of 16 routes to ride, spanning from 25 miles all the way to 211 miles. The route he rode started in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, and ended in Bourne, Massachusetts. Riders also have the option of riding for either one or both days of the race.

When graduate student George Sikoryak, Geschickter's teammate on the basketball team, heard he was taking part in this race, Sikoryak said he chuckled.

"I rode 30 miles once and was struggling," Sikoryak said. "When he told me he was riding 112 miles, I thought he was joking. That's just an insane number."

While it is his second year riding in the

race, Geschickter said he has been a part of this race for seven years as a volunteer. During his younger years, Geschickter and his brothers would hand out water to riders and clean up trash left along the route.

"At that age, I understood that they were doing something good and that they're raising money to fight cancer," Geschickter said. "But like, at that young of an age, you don't really understand what that means yet."

He also said that the event has been a staple for the state of Massachusetts for generations and that it requires a great deal of coordination to ensure its success.

"Riding with other people and sharing conversations on the road, I'm starting to realize now how many different people and groups have to come together to make this event work," Geschickter said. "Every town's police department has to be on board. It's just awesome watching people come together for this awesome cause."

Geschickter said that after the event is over and it is time to tear the setup down, prisoners from the local jail come and help with the cleanup. He said without their help, the process of cleaning everything up would take even longer.

Geschickter said he was born into cycling. When he was younger, he said that he would watch the Tour de France with his father and that is how his love for cycling developed.

"I still bring my bike to campus, I still like to go on rides, and it's just like, right now, it's a great way for me to just like do something active, but that's different than basketball," Geschickter said.

As he got older, Geschickter said he grew even closer to the organization. His mother started to work for the PMC and has worked her way up to be the current chief financial



Junior Andrew Geschickter, guard on the Ithaca College men's basketball team, rode 112 miles in the Pan-Mass Challenge in August, raising money for cancer research.

COURTESY OF 13 PHOTOGRAPHY

officer of the organization. Through this, he got an even more in-depth look at how this massive event is set up and gained even more appreciation for it.

"I was always close to the organization and would go then when she started working there," Geschickter said. "I'd be in the warehouse, like helping, you know, volunteer during the week leading up to it."

The charity in which the ride is for, Dana-Farber, has also played a big part in the Geschickter family. Andrew Geschickter's grandmother underwent a battle with cancer when his father was younger.

"They saved her life and [she] had 25 bonus years," Chet Geschickter, Andrew's father, said. "She was able to be a grandmother to Andrew and his brothers. It's not an understatement to say I owe my mother's life and that time with her to Dana-Farber, so it's a deep personal cause."

When Andrew Geschickter decided to ride this year, he rode in honor of his friend Mark Barrett's late mother, Susan Barrett, who passed away after a battle with cancer in 2020. Andrew Geschickter has played basketball with Barrett since they were in middle school, and while their playing careers have taken them in different directions, they have remained friends.

When he approached Barrett, Andrew Geschickter said he wanted to make sure Barrett was comfortable with him riding in honor of his late mother and for it to not lead to him reliving his mother's battle with cancer.

"It is a lot having your mom's battle with cancer brought up," Andrew Geschickter said. "I'll do social media posts about it to fundraise there. Then email and reach out and text a lot of people. So, you know, I think it's just important to make sure that,

you know, he's comfortable with it, which every year he's been."

Chet Geschickter described himself as a "proud papa" when his son said he wanted to ride in honor of his friend's late mother and raise money for Dana-Farber.

"Andrew took it by the handlebars and has really done some amazing things," Chet Geschickter said. "That's what the event is about. It's about coming together, setting high, lofty goals and making a dent in this terrible disease."

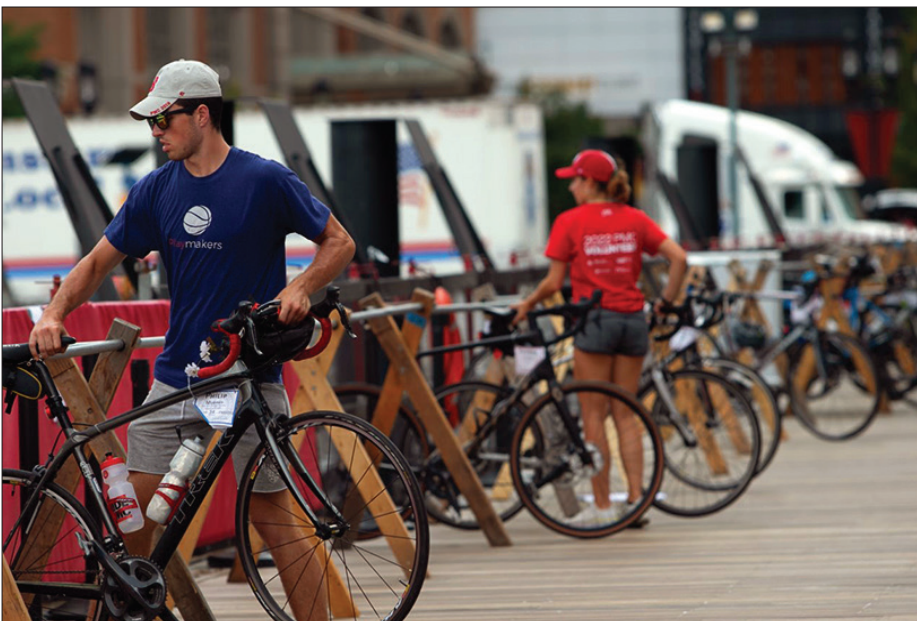
Each person has a \$4,000 fundraising minimum to hit for the challenge; Andrew Geschickter recently hit his minimum and still has until the end of October to raise even more. The October deadline allows time for individuals who have not hit their fundraising minimum to reach their set number.

Sikoryak said the team felt a sense of pride knowing the cause his teammate was riding for. Sikoryak said he went around and advertised the fundraising link to his friends and family to have more people chip in and raise money for Dana-Farber.

"It's awesome," Sikoryak said. "Not only did he ride in this challenge, but the cause he was riding for made it even better. We wanted to help out in any way possible."

As Geschickter now turns his attention to his second season on the court for the Bombers, he said he is proud of what he's done and the difference he has made.

"At the end of the day, I'm just trying to do my part in making a difference in this fight against cancer," he said. "I'm hoping I got a few more of these rides in me because it was a ton of fun."



Geschickter, left, said he has only rode in the Pan-Mass Challenge twice, but he has been involved with the event for seven years, along with his brothers.

COURTESY OF 13 PHOTOGRAPHY

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# IC rowing teams bond at summer cookouts

BY AIDAN CHARDE

Every Thursday night over the summer, former Ithaca College men’s crew coach Dan Robinson ’79 could be found standing at a small, handmade charcoal grill by the Cayuga Inlet.

This is the setting for the Ithaca College men’s and women’s crew team cookouts. Robinson, who announced his retirement from the team in March, and his wife, Becky Robinson ’88, head coach of the women’s crew and sculling teams, have been hosting the events for more than 30 years.

Senior Gregg Seiz described Dan Robinson as “The Grillmaster,” still helping run the event even though he is no longer the coach.

“It was good to see Dan,” Seiz said. “He loves the job a lot. It’s good to see him doing well. I think part of it is the retirement, part of it’s just, like, the atmosphere of the barbeque.”

Since starting his position July 12, Justin Stangel, the new men’s crew coach, has made it to some of the dinners. His first time there was Aug. 11, but he said he does not think it will be his last.

“I thought it was a great event,” Stangel said. “[To be able to have] that opportunity to connect with current students and alumni of the program, I think, is a really unique and special experience.”

While Seiz said the attendees are usually just members or alumni of the teams, Robinson said the event

is open to almost anyone, as long as they are a part of the campus or rowing community.

Not everyone on the men’s and women’s rowing teams knew just how long the Robinsons have been hosting the cookouts. Sixth-year Allison Arndt said she was surprised to hear that they have been going on for as long as they have.

Though she is entering her sixth year at the college, 2022 was the first time Arndt was able to make it to the dinners.

“I’d heard about them and people were always talking about them,” Arndt said. “But I was like, ‘I’m not here in the summer, I’m only here for the school year.’ ... But it’s a great time to see everyone who’s in town because when you’re in Ithaca for the summer, it’s very different than being here during the school year.”

Bobby MacInnis ’22, who was on the team for three years, said this summer is the first time he has been to one of the team cookouts because he has not been in the area in past summers. He said he was happy to be able to go and meet with his teammates, coaches, and whoever else shows up.

“You never know who’s gonna be at these things,” MacInnis said. “I love this weather, it’s relaxing. And it’s better than just eating in my house, in my kitchen.”

Zoe Foster ’22, a former coxswain for the men’s team, also had not been to any of the summer cookouts before this year, mostly



Members of the Ithaca College men’s and women’s rowing teams playing volleyball outside the Ward Romer Boathouse on the Cayuga Inlet on Aug. 18, where the members met weekly for cookouts.

NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

because it was hard for them to stay in Ithaca for the summer. They said older students and recent graduates tend to make up most of the crowd, but underclassmen know they are invited too.

“This is my first summer [in Ithaca], and I’ve been looking forward to this since I was a freshman,” Foster said. “We don’t really advertise it very much, but it’s just like, ‘if you’re in the area and you want to hang out and get free food on a Thursday, then just come down and hang.’ It’s super casual.”

Located right on Cayuga Lake, the Ward Romer Boathouse has a concrete patio outside with picnic tables just beside the water.

Robinson said the casual nature of it is what makes it so much fun. He said he spends around \$15 per week on burgers and sausages, and whoever else comes is invited to bring a side dish or drink, but there is no pressure to contribute — just to come and have fun.

“We always got stuff, and if we run out, we run out, so it goes,” Robinson said. “It’s totally informal. ... And if it’s raining, we got this big umbrella [for the grill] and we move the picnic tables [inside the boathouse doors]. We’ve done it rain and shine.”

Seiz noted, though, that there is an unwritten rule about replenishing. Robinson might be OK with running out of food, but Seiz said it should not happen.

“You’ve got to replenish,” Seiz said. “It shouldn’t be the case [that we run out of food] ... and if you bring food, you’re rowing royalty. It doesn’t matter how fast you are.”

*This story was originally published online June 27, 2022. This version has been updated.*

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# Basketball programs add new assistant coaches

BY INBAAAYINI ANBARASAN

Over the summer, the Ithaca College women’s and men’s basketball teams both recruited new assistant coaches. Mary Mazzella and Matthew Smith are set to join the college’s teams as assistant coaches for the upcoming season.

Dan Raymond, head coach of the women’s basketball team, announced the hiring of Mazzella on July 25. Mazzella joins the Bombers after spending the past two years at SUNY Brockport as an assistant coach for their women’s basketball team, where she is also in pursuit of her master’s degree in athletic administration.

Mazzella, who is no stranger to Division III basketball, had a four-year career for the SUNY Oswego Lakers, according to a statement from Ithaca College. Mazzella led the team as captain for two years and was also named the Lakers’ most valuable player during the 2015–16 year, before she graduated in 2017.

Mazzella also spent her time working as a leader and advocate for student athletes. Mazzella was a member of SUNY Oswego’s Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and was invited to many NCAA leadership training workshops, where Raymond said she refined her leadership skills and worked alongside coaches.

“Her basketball knowledge, IQ and leadership, those are all things that I’m very familiar with Mary that she’s going to bring,” Raymond said.

Raymond said he is excited about the opportunity of having a new coach with the team, especially one with the experience Mazzella has.

“I’m really excited about the places that

she’s been,” Raymond said. “The things that she’s done are going to be different than what I’ve done and what any of our players have ever done.”

Mazzella has previous experience with the Bombers’ as her sister, Meghan Mazzella ’19, played for the Bombers. Usually, Raymond would bring his former players back into assistant roles after they graduated, but he said he was looking forward to having Mary Mazzella on the team.

“This time I didn’t have [students] that were going to be available, so I did the next best thing. I chose the sister of one of our former players,” Raymond said.

Mazzella said she was excited to join the team, especially after having visited Ithaca on many occasions to support her sister.

“I know the area, and I know the program is very successful and has a great tradition, so it was something I couldn’t say no to,” Mazzella said. “I’m really looking forward to getting really involved with just the program, and learning how everything works, and getting to know all the players in the staff that make this program so successful, and the athletic department that supports them.”

Joining the men’s basketball team is Matthew Smith. Smith graduated from SUNY Brockport in 2017, spending three years on their team.

As a basketball student athlete in college, Smith did not have the same opportunity others would to study abroad, as the sport’s season spans between both fall and spring semesters. However, following his graduation, Smith was offered the position of a youth basketball coach in Guangzhou, China.

“It was a great experience being able to kind of travel and be able to coach basketball as well, and just a really phenomenal culture



From left, Matthew Smith and Mary Mazzella, the new assistant coaches for the Ithaca College men’s and women’s basketball teams, are ready for the season.

LEILA MARCILLO-GOMEZ/THE ITHACAN

to spend every day there,” Smith said.

Waleed Farid, head coach of the men’s basketball team, said Smith’s experience coaching in China set him apart and eventually led him to the position of assistant coach for the Bombers.

“One of the things I look forward to in our coaches is someone who has some different experiences, someone who has shown that they are willing to challenge themselves, and I think making a move like that is something that shows ... maturity,” Farid said.

As assistant coach, Smith said he is going to make sure to support the student athletes as much as possible by working as a team with the coaching staff and the players. Smith said he knows the team’s priorities lie both on and off the court by setting a high bar academically for their players.

“I think the best way to [support athletes] is by giving my time,” Smith said. “I want to make sure that I give as much of my time to the players and the student athletes, and to coach Farid, as possible, because I really feel like that’s the best way to show that you’re invested and to fairly care about everyone involved.”

With plenty of time before the basketball seasons start in November, both Smith and Mazzella are ready to get going. For Smith, the season can’t come soon enough.

“I’m just super excited to be here at Ithaca College,” Smith said. “I’m ready to work hard, and I’m really looking forward to this season.”

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