IC joins with Cayuga Health Systems for increased health care for students

BY OLIVIA STANZL

Ithaca College joined the Cayuga Health Systems’ (CHS) network Aug. 15, with the hope to create a more sustainable student health center. This enhancement comes within a time when students now need to provide an insurance card and may need to pay a copay in order to use the services within the health center.

“It’s what people are used to doing everywhere else, but it’s a big shift for our students on our campus who are not used to having to do that in the past,” Bonnie Prunty, vice president of Student Affairs and Campus Life, said. The college announced the merge to the campus community July 1 through an email. Prunty said the college has been discussing partnerships with off-campus entities since creating the strategic plan.

Prior to the merge, students were not charged a fee to visit the Hammond Health Center or for any labs that were done at the center and did not have to present their insurance card while at the center. Students were only charged through their insurance if they were referred off-campus for care or filled prescriptions off-campus.

The college requires each student to be insured, whether it is through the college or an alternate insurance. The cost of one year of insurance through University Health Plans, the college’s plan, is $2,713. Students have until Sept. 15 to waive the student health insurance that is otherwise automatically billed to them by the college.

“The challenge is that there may be students who waive out with their parents’ insurance, who over time, find out ‘You know what, my parents have a high-deductible plan, and so this is costing more than I expected it to cost,’” Prunty said. Prunty said the student health insurance provided by the college may become more cost-effective to some students.

“It’s going to be very individual insurance dependent,” Prunty said. “So the really challenging thing is for a student to understand how their insurance is going to work in the health center. They need to find out if

Non-male filmmakers come together on sets

BY OLIVIA STANZL

During Spring 2022, senior Suwarni Belk-Gupta, a cinema and photography major at Ithaca College, created a Google survey to connect non-male filmmakers at the college. After receiving positive responses, she dedicated a webpage to the cause in March.

According to the webpage — Connecting non-male IC filmmakers to sets — out of the roughly 5,000 undergraduate students enrolled at the college, over 58% of the student body is non-male. Yet students like Belk-Gupta observe that the majority of people on sets are male-identifying. Belk-Gupta said that during her time at the college, the lack of non-male students on film sets is a common conversation among her peers.

“We’re always complaining about it on Twitter, or to each other, but nothing was really happening,” Belk-Gupta said. “I also know a lot of people that considered transferring or were having so many issues in Park [School of Communications] because they felt so uncomfortable and unwelcome on sets because of how male-centric they were... I was just really sick of it.”

As of Aug. 31, the form has 62 submissions, with participants including information about their roles on sets, film experiences and portfolios, including related classes they have taken at the college.

Students can visit the website to submit themselves to the database or utilize the database to find crew members.

Senior Macaah Cadigan said she was a film, photo and visual arts major before switching to a double major in English and writing for film, tv, and emerging media.

“I was just kind of like, ‘Well, I feel like I need to shift gears here because I just don’t feel like I have the resources to work how I want to,’ Cadigan said. “Now there’s a sort of centralized resource for that sort of [community] and... people are reaching out to me.”

The Celluloid Ceiling is the longest-running and most comprehensive study on women’s employment in behind-the-scenes film roles on sets.
Students struggle to join new residential Wi-Fi

BY JADYN DAVIS

Since moving back on campus, junior Sophia Teska said she has had trouble connecting to the new Wireless Fidelity (Wi-Fi) system at Ithaca College, even after contacting Information Technology (IT). “When the [ResNet] ‘Start Here Wi-Fi’ didn’t show up again, I contacted IT and they were basically like ‘too bad so sad,’” Teska said. “My biggest worry is the fact that [the Wi-Fi] does not work and I am not able to do my work or communicate with my family.”

Wi-Fi coverage is provided to all residence halls, apartments, academic and administrative buildings. Students must set up an account with Apogee—a technology service provider—at Apogee, said via email that Apogee has been working to isolate and eliminate issues with the new Wi-Fi. She said the reason many students have had issues with the Wi-Fi is because of how the network is handling during heavy traffic periods.

“Apogee acknowledges and accepts full responsibility for the current Wi-Fi issues that Ithaca College students are experiencing,” de Onis said via email. “Our success is defined by our ability to go unnoticed, enabling every student to seamlessly connect to the new Wi-Fi. We apologize for not meeting this standard during this year’s move-in period. It is unacceptable to us.”

Senior David Teska said he transferred to Ithaca College from Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts in Spring 2022. When he transferred, Teska said he had trouble connecting to the new network at Ithaca College. He said it was easier to connect to just one network at Clark University as opposed to multiple networks at Ithaca College. Teska said he thinks that IT and Apogee can better explain the process of connecting to the Wi-Fi.

“I think if they put out an email that had a flowchart or some kind of chart that visually shows you everything, that would be way more helpful than trying to piece together the whole situation from these couple update emails,” Teska said.

We apologize for not meeting this standard during this year’s move-in period. It is unacceptable to the Ithaca College team and unacceptable to us.”

After Apogee ResNet upgraded the Wireless Fidelity system at Ithaca College this summer, students began to experience severe difficulties with connecting.

MULTIMEDIA

There’s more multimedia online. Visit theithacan.org/multimedia

Gambling for a Good Semester

On Aug. 26, IC After Dark hosted a casino night where students felt optimistic about socializing with less COVID-19 restrictions on campus.

IDEAS Welcomes Students Back

On Aug. 26, students got to promote their clubs, dance, feast and have fun at the Center for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Social Change Welcome Back event.
Rave Guardian app sees increased usage

By Clare Shanahan

As engagement with the Rave Guardian app at Ithaca College rises, the program is being expanded and implemented at new locations.

The Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management (OPS) is working to increase use of Rave Guardian, the college’s public safety app, among the campus community and at other Ithaca College campuses. While Rave Guardian was launched at the college’s campus in April 2021, Samm Swarts, associate director of Emergency Preparedness and Response, said the app was launched at the Ithaca College London Center (ICLC) on Aug. 23 and will be available at the Ithaca College Los Angeles campus starting in Spring 2023.

Currently, the app’s main features include allowing students to call OPS and share their location. The app can also be used by the college to deliver emergency alerts. Bill Kenny, executive director of Public Safety and Emergency Management, said in an email that currently they have about 1,000 registered Rave Guardian users at the college, a number that has increased from about 180 registered users in Fall 2021.

Swarts said that since the adoption of the app in 2021, its use has slowly increased, but was unable to provide an exact number. Swarts said the team was unable to introduce the app to first-year students at orientation events, decreasing its use on campus.

Senior Maya Scriven said she did not know about the Rave Guardian app before she was introduced to it at resident assistant (RA) training in Fall 2022. “I think the school feels it’s the responsibility of other leaders, not the campus itself, to actually tell the students and inform them about these resources because I never heard about it until [RA training],” Scriven said.

At 2022 New-Student Orientation, students participated in resource rotation sessions in which they met with various offices at the college. Elyse Nepa, assistant director of Clary Act and Prevention Education, said at one resource rotation session the Rave Guardian team, including Swarts and Nepa, introduced students to the app and encouraged them to download it.

“Any opportunity that we have to encourage our campus community to download and use the app and understand how easy it is to use, and how accessible resources can be and help can be, is really a high priority of ours,” Nepa said. Swarts said the Rave Guardian team at the college is constantly monitoring updates to the app. Swarts said a new feature in the app allows students to add additional phone numbers for themselves; this means that students can now add an international phone number for use when they are abroad and makes the app possible to be implemented at the ICLC.

Rachel Gould, senior director for study abroad in the Department of International Programs and Extended Studies, said that although ICLC has emergency contact systems in place, the app will make this process much easier. “I think it will be an advantage to us in London,” Gould said. “We have always had means of contacting our students in an emergency, via email and text and that sort of thing, but this sort of centralizes it and it does bring the IC emergency response folks sort of into the loop.”

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By Joshua Pantoja

The Ithaca College Student Government Council (SGC) had its first meeting of the 2022-23 academic year Aug. 29 where it introduced all new executive board and senate members, discussed the fall elections and talked about ongoing student concerns.

The Fall 2022 elections for first-year students interested in running for the SGC executive board and senate positions began Sept. 4. The election process has three open positions: the vice president of communications, the vice president of campus affairs and the student liaison to the Alumni Board — both positions are appointed ex-officio by the Alumni Associations Board.

The senate has multiple positions open, including both Class of 2023 senators, one Class of 2024 senator, both Class of 2026 senators, four senators from the cross college senator constituency for the School of Business, the School of Communications, the School of Music, Theatre and Dance and the School of Humanities and Science.

Sarah Boniche, associate director of Student Involvement for the Office of Student Engagement, introduced herself as the new SGC president for the council. She worked as a residence director in the Lower Quads from July 2018 until March 2020, according to her LinkedIn account, and returned to the college during Summer 2022 to begin her new roles at the college.

The election packet is due Sept. 7 and those running will be able to campaign from Sept. 9-16. Swarts said the council will host a platform presentation night Sept. 13, where candidates can pitch their campaign platforms.

Voting for the fall elections will occur during Sept. 14-16. Students will be able to vote for the open SGC positions on IC Engage.

Some senators use creative campaign strategies. Sophomore Noah Richardson, Class of 2025 senator, said he utilized Instagram during the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 elections.

“[During] my freshman year, [my class] had this [Instagram] confessional page where you could submit stories and things,” Richardson said. “Me and another senator [direct messaged] them and we asked them to put our campaign post up on their story.”

The SGC discussed issues that have impacted students so far this semester like internet problems, complaints about dining hall food, tuition increases and mail delivery delays. Buffino said the SGC does not directly solve issues, but interacts with the people who can.

“When writing bills, you do research, you connect with people, you submit it,” Buffino said. “We can’t tell the school, ‘You need to do this’ because it’s not within our control, but a lot of the conversations that we have while writing these bills leads to change.”

Junior Tessa Kurz, the vice president of academic affairs, said she has started to work on making satisfactory or unsatisfactory fail classes and adding or dropping classes easier.

“We ran on accessibility in academics as an e-board,” Kurtz said. “So one of the things that I mentioned in my platform is I wanted to extend the add-drop deadline and I am looking toward making that a reality.”

By Leila Marcillo-Gómez

Honors program phased out by college

Honors program phased out by college

By Leila Marcillo-Gómez

“My honors classes have framed my time here,” Ithaca College senior Lyndsey Honor said. “But I wish that more people had the opportunity to see inside the program and see what it’s like. … I wish more students would be interested in the program.”

In Fall 2019, then Provost and now President La Jerne Cornish announced the decision to phase out the honors program to the Honors Steering Committee for eight years, Swords said that ending a program faculty had put years of work into without a conversation is difficult. “One was that it was expensive,” Ablard said. “My honors classes have framed my time here,” Ithaca College senior Lyndsey Honor said. “But I wish that more people had the opportunity to see inside the program and see what it’s like. … I wish more students would be interested in the program.”

In Fall 2019, then Provost and now President La Jerne Cornish announced the decision to phase out the honors program to the Honors Steering Committee for eight years, Swords said that ending a program faculty had put years of work into without a conversation is difficult. “One was that it was expensive,” Ablard said. “One was that it was elitist. … That [the program’s] student body … did not represent the diversity of the college overall and that the courses we were offering did not reflect a kind of inclusion, diversity, equity themed or informed content,” Ablard said.

Jonathan Ablard, professor in the Department of Psychology and member of the Honors Steering Committee for eight years, Cornish cited four reasons for the program’s termination during a meeting with the Steering Committee in Fall 2019. “One was that it was expensive,” Ablard said. “One was that it was elitist. … That [the program’s] student body … did not represent the diversity of the college overall and that the courses we were offering did not reflect a kind of inclusion, diversity, equity themed or informed content,” Ablard said.

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Honors program phased out by college

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10 major film festivals and awards, like the Oscars, from 1990 to 2018. The Celluloid Ceiling also found that in 2019, women accounted for 40% of music supervisors and 25% of production designers out of the top 250 films of the year. "I'm very thankful to have that experience compared to other people. Having that experience shows how important it is to have those kinds of spaces for projects to have inclusion on the set," Stitely said. Stitely said that after signing up for the forum she received an offer. "Someone did reach out to me, like, I would say maybe two weeks after it happened, and I sadly couldn't do it," Stitely said. "But I was really, really excited." Amy Falkner, dean of the Park School of Communications, said gender equity issues on film sets, within college campuses or in the professional world, are not new issues. "Every institution has talked about it, but it’s in the doing," Falkner said. "This is just a little microcosm of that very big issue. How do you shine light on it? And then how do you follow through on it?" Falkner said that [Belk-Gupta] did this to get the ball rolling." Belk-Gupta said she hopes her initiative creates a different climate on campus film sets and that in following semesters "the entire production team was made up of non-male identifying students." She said these special creates a different climate on campus that is accessible to the college’s students. According to doctordot, a copay for a routine doctor’s visit typically costs $15–25; $30–50 for a specialty; and $75–100 for treatment in an emergency room. “COVID is still an active thing at the moment and college kids get sick all the time," Tamis said. “To have [an extensive health center] on campus is really important. And kids are going to have to worry less about finding a way to go to an urgent care or a doctor. "Penoyer said he is looking forward to working with the college. "Our goal is to do right by the student population, and we’re excited to do that," Penoyer said. "There’s efforts that absolutely connect to the community," Doyle said. "There’s a lot of meaningful pieces that students — while here just for a short time — have really meaningful impacts on those that come after them, but also the community." Doyle said that facilitating partnerships would be his responsibility, in collaboration with other campus leadership like Doyle, but the students are responsible for spearheading these efforts and maintaining them. With leadership restored, Warren said she plans on expanding current programs like composting and Take It Or Leave It (TIOLI) in the coming semesters to bring more attention to the Eco-Reps’ efforts on campus. This includes expanding the Circles Apartments composting program throughout campus and bringing more students into TIOLI, the on-campus thrift store in the Clarke Hall basement, according to Warren. "COVID is still an active thing at the moment and college kids get sick all the time," Tamis said. “To have [an extensive health center] on campus is really important. And kids are going to have to worry less about finding a way to go to an urgent care or a doctor. "Penoyer said he is looking forward to working with the college. "Our goal is to do right by the student population, and we’re excited to do that," Penoyer said. There are plans to get more students involved in Eco-Reps activities. Last year, Eco-Reps led a trash pickup event. This year, Warren said she plans on expanding similar projects for campus and community members. "We need more hands," Warren said. "We need more students, more skills." There are plans to increase awareness outside of events, even adding a social media coordinator role, according to Warren. Installments in bathrooms stalls around campus — highlighting everyday activities that harm and help our planet — have brought awareness to the club in the past, Warren said, but the project needs to be revisited. The biggest issue that Warren and Donwazy agreed on — after budget issues could be resolved — was a lack of volunteers. With new efforts planned on being a lot more hands-on, Warren said involvement and commission will increase. "The more people the better," Warren said. “Sustainability is a great thing and Eco-Reps is a great way to teach yourself."
Pride Fellowship makes its debut

BY LORIEN TYNE

Known for its LGBTQ+ resources by organizations like Campus Pride, Ithaca College continues to invest in that reputation by launching the IC Pride Fellowship in Fall 2022. The first fellow, Grace Dosdall, joined the community on July 5.

The two-year fellowship is available to recent college graduates looking to learn and work in the fields of LGBTQ+ campus resource professionals, higher education and student affairs. Dosdall worked alongside Luca Maurer, associate dean of Student Affairs, and recently begun directing the Center for LGBTQ Education, Outreach and Services, to educate the campus community on LGBTQ+ issues, events, and collaboration with other campus organizations and communicate with LGBTQ+ students, among other responsibilities.

Dosdall said one unique aspect of the fellowship is that the position will look different depending on the fellow and what they want it to be. “Honestly, it’s weird to be at an institution where the answer to my question of ‘what can we do this?’ is either ‘yes’ or ‘we already have it,’” Dosdall said. “So, not having to fight is a little weird for me, but trying to navigate a supportive institution has been really fun and exciting.”

Dosdall graduated from Buffalo State College in May as a Master of Science in higher education and student affairs administration shortly before applying for the fellowship. Maurer said that in September 2021, Rosanno Ferro, former vice president for student affairs and campus life, asked him to draft a vision for the fellowship—an idea that came from former President Shirley M. Collado during her tenure. Support for the fellowship continued through leadership changes. The search for applicants began in early 2022.

“This is an opportunity for the person in this role to learn and grow and explore their existing academic and professional interests,” Maurer said. “And it’s a way that Ithaca College can distinguish itself and say, ‘you know, in the past, we’ve been recognized as one of the most LGBTQ-friendly colleges in the nation, and we want to raise the bar higher.’”

The college made the 2022 Best of the Best LGBTQ-Friendly Colleges and Universities List by Campus Pride a reliable resource for LGBTQ+ inclusion and safety on campuses.

Senior Connor Watson said “[Ithaca] is how do people consume media. And how is pay attention part that is the challenge. ally going to pay attention? Because there’s no I can I tell my story in a way that they’re actu- son who works across the pros and cons of each different media type, of course it helps you to work, be a dean of a school as well known, and, frankly, having so many talented faculty and staff and ambitious students as a place you would like to lead. … So to be at a place where people at this college are very invested in the success of this college … was intriguing to me. I could see that passion when I thought about applying and also during the interview process. So, to me, it was a very attractive place to come to work.

SP: While you were at Newhouse, you were involved in their diversity, equity and accessibility strategic plan. Is that type of work something you’d like to continue at Ithaca College?

AF: Yes, actually, that work has already been started in pretty much every conversation, whatever meeting I’m in — and there’s been a lot — but where I see opportunities to bring it up or people have brought it to me because they know that I’ve done a lot of work in this space. That is such an important piece of what a college experience should be in here. … So, to me, everything we do should touch on this. And so there’ll be practical ways to do that. There’ll be institutional ways to do that. But it also takes a bit of a culture change. Right? Some people are already diversity advocates and understand the importance of it. Some people are afraid to talk about it.

SP: You talked a little bit about your newspaper industry background. Are there any specific skills or lessons that you have taken from that, that you’ve been able to use now in higher education and academia?

AF: As a person who interacted with media planners, was that also professionally what I did? That was helpful to me as I went from a department chair to associate dean to a senior associate dean, is there’s not a lot of people … who understand both editorial and advertising. It’s given me a really great perspective … So just having the manage- The media industry is constantly chang-...
IC Unbound to hold auditions for students interested in dance

The IC Unbound Dance Company will be holding auditions at 7 p.m. Sept. 4 in the college’s Fitness Center for Fall 2022. IC Unbound is a student-led dance company that typically focuses on jazz, contemporary, tap, and hip-hop dance styles.

Students participating in auditions are able to decide what dances they would like to audition for out of a selection created by the group’s choreographers as well as how many hours, between one and five hours per week, that they want to dance. The choreographers will choose who they want to participate in their own dances and participants will be notified the same night as auditions which dances they were selected to participate in. IC Unbound members will be asked to participate in weekly dance classes, three Sunday evening rehearsals and showcases, as well as optional bonding events and promotional photoshoots.

Individuals looking for updates or information should visit @icunbound on social media.

Those requiring accommodations should contact IC Unbound at icunbound@gmail.com or 852-671-6134.

Ukrainian journalist to give talk on Zoom about coverage of war

The Park Center for Independent Media and the Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival will be hosting a discussion on the media coverage of the war in Ukraine at 7 p.m. Sept. 7 via Zoom. The conversation will feature Natalie Gryvnyak, a Ukrainian journalist to give talk on Zoom about coverage of war. She is an assistant professor in the Department of History at Ithaca College. Raza Rumi, director for the Park Center for Independent Media and professor in the Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies at Ithaca College, will moderate the event. Speakers will discuss on-the-ground reporting of the war in both independent and mainstream media, Eastern-European history and film production. The event will also include an opportunity for attendees to ask questions. Individuals who would like to attend should register for the event; a link for registering can be found on Ithaca College Intercom.

IC Jazz Ensemble to host event for children to learn about jazz

The Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble will be hosting a free concert at 10 a.m. Sept. 10 for children to learn about jazz music. The event will take place in Ford Hall in the James J. Whalen Center for Music and will also be livestreamed and available on recording in the days following the event.

Title IX Office taking volunteers for the Conduct Review Board

The college is looking for volunteers interested in serving as college trained advisers or board members for cases of sexual misconduct. Advisors support Title IX complainants and respondents throughout the investigative and student conduct process for Title IX violations by providing information and support for students. Board members will serve on the Conduct Review Board, reviewing all information presented during investigations and hearings for Title IX violations and will be responsible for making a decision based on the evidence provided.

Volunteers will be asked to do training in person and online. This training will have an independent portion to be completed by Sept. 15 and a skill building workshop. The workshop will be held virtually from 1 to 2:30 p.m. and in person from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Sept. 14. Individuals who are interested, have questions or require accommodations should contact Leonardo Wise, Title IX investigator and prevention specialist, at lwise@ithaca.edu by Sept. 9 or as soon as possible for those requesting accommodations.

College seeks workgroup staff focused on health and wellness

The Center for Counseling, Health and Wellness is looking for students, faculty and staff to join workgroups and committees focused on health and wellness for the 2022–23 academic year. There are three committees available: the College Wellness Committee, the College Wellness Council and the College Wellness Team. For more information, visit the IC Unbound Dance Company’s website at www.icdanceteam.org.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM AUG. 15 TO AUG. 21

AUGUST 15

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE/ILLNESS RELATED
LOCATION: Lyon Hall, 412 Grant Eghert Blvd.
SUMMARY: A caller reported being exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19. An officer reported that the person was transferred to the Wrap-Around Care Office for medical assistance.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE/ILLNESS RELATED
LOCATION: 284 Lyceum Drive
SUMMARY: A caller reported another person was not feeling well. Master Patrol Officer Sophia Dimkos responded that the person declined any further medical assistance.

AUGUST 16

ACCIDENTAL FIRE ALARM
LOCATION: 10 College Circle Drive
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm indicating a Protection Specialist George Whitmore responded to the scene. Whitmore determined the alarm was activated by burnt food.

AUGUST 17

TRESPASS/NO DEGREE
LOCATION: Natural Lands near 100 Flera Brown Drive
SUMMARY: Officers reported loud music coming from the Natural Lands. Sergeant Jon Elmore reported that a group of people were given a verbal warning for trespassing in a restricted area after hours.

AUGUST 18

PETIT LARCENY UNDER $50
LOCATION: Alumni Circle Roadway
SUMMARY: Caller reported that an unknown person stole a table. Patrol Officer Maya Colon responded.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE/INJURY RELATED
LOCATION: Hilliard Hall
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person was struck in the head while playing basketball. Safety Officer Ronald Pereira reported that the person complained they had a headache and were dizziness. The person declined further medical assistance.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT
LOCATION: U-Lot, North of 113 Campus Center Way
SUMMARY: Caller reported a two-car property damage motor vehicle accident. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded to the incident and took a report.

AUGUST 19

TRESPASSING/NO DEGREE
LOCATION: Natural Lands near 100 Flera Brown Drive
SUMMARY: Officer reported two people in a restricted area after hours. One of the officers responded that the people were given a verbal warning for trespassing. Patrol Officer Jordan Barton responded to the scene.

August 20

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE/ILLNESS RELATED
LOCATION: Terraces
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person having an adverse reaction after ingesting edible cannabis. An officer responded to the person was transported to the hospital by ambulance. Sergeant Bryan Venezia responded.

OFF-CAMPUS INCIDENT
LOCATION: All other locations
SUMMARY: The IPD reported it had found a highly intoxicated student at an off-campus address. The IPD reported one person was taken into custody under New York state’s Mental Hygiene law and was transported to a hospital by ambulance. Sergeant Jon Elmore responded.

V&T LICENSE VIOLATIONS
LOCATION: 213 Campus Center Way
SUMMARY: An officer reported finding a fictitious license in a wallet that was turned into the Office of Public Safety as found property. The officer reported that one person would be referred for acts of dishonesty to the Office of Student Conduct. Patrol Officer Abdullah Haasan responded.

Jazz trio swings into IC for performance

Jazz musician Emmet Cohen, of the Emmet Cohen Trio, laughs after playing a piece during his performance in Ford Hall in the James J. Whalen Center for Music. Cohen was accompanied by Kyle Poole and Yusuke Nakamura.

NOLAN SAUNDERS/STAFF PHOTO

Krystina Borkowski

T H U R S D A Y, S E P T E M B E R 1 , 2 0 2 2

6 | NEWS

KEY
SIC – Student Conduct Code
V&T – Vehicle & Transportation
CSA – Assistant Director
IPD – Ithaca Police Department

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Health center upgrades improve standard of care

The Cayuga Health System (CHS) is a large-scale, sophisticated network of health professionals with a much higher bandwidth and scope than the Hammond Health Center ever experienced. This upgrade changes the campus health service experience from a lower grade health evaluator to a legitimate clinic.

Hammond Health Center, before it acquired services from CHS, was riddled with issues and faced countless complaints from students. Student reviews of the Hammond Health Center cite long wait times, often needing a day in advance to get a spot in the health center, a length of time unacceptable for a busy college schedule. Many Google reviews also noted the rudeness and dismissive nature of the staff. Bonnie Prunty, vice president of Student Affairs and Campus Life, noted that the Hammond Health Center faced staffing issues. The lack of staff led to many students being referred elsewhere in Ithaca, according to other reviews.

Taking part in the CHS solves these issues by providing in-house professional staff that will keep their doors open for as long as students need them.

The central point of contention for the shift to the CHS is the change in required student health insurance. Now, since health services are through a medical network, students will have to present their insurance during office visits. Ithaca College requires health insurance for attendance, so as long as students are actively aware of the type of health insurance they have, there should be no surprises when it comes to the cost of care. There is notably no copay or insurance charge of any kind for visits considered “sensitive,” including Sexually Transmitted Infection testing and behavioral health visits.

This new standard of care is what Ithaca students deserve. Of course, as everything else, it comes with a cost. We should always, over all else, prioritize the wellbeing of ourselves and our fellow students.

IC residence hall internet upgrade causes confusion

The Ithaca College Information Technology (IT) department’s recent attempt at a Wireless Fidelity (WiFi) upgrade caused a stir among on-campus students. Many campus residents found an email in their inbox with vague instructions to connect to the upgraded Apogee MyResNet WiFi system upon their arrival. These instructions led to much confusion across the student population.

The residence hall WiFi system was not nearly ready in time for move-in. The confusion that students faced was preventable, because according to Apogee, it was caused by “new methodology as well as some technical issues.” These should have been ironed out far before the students’ arrival to campus.

IT and the Office of Residential Life failed to communicate effectively, opting to use a seemingly unorganized series of emails communicating the problems and solutions that students were facing, ultimately deciding that stronger measures must be taken by stationing Apogee technicians around campus Aug. 22, and providing access to a technician in Job Hall on Aug. 22 and 23.

The lack of preparation from Apogee, IT and Residential Life was apparent in the necessity of this recovery. Thankfully, that recovery has proven to be effective in connecting students to the networks vital to their work and study. In addition, the Residential Life WiFi website fails to mention the Apogee App students can use to streamline their connection process.

Internet connectivity tests should be done several times in the weeks prior to student arrival. Apogee and IT could improve the coverage of the “Ithaca College” network. But most of all, clear and effective communication should be prepared far in advance of the first move-in dates. If the process is too complex to provide simple instruction, the process should be reworked to prioritize connectivity first.
Students should embrace exploration and rejection

BY MANDY MYERS

Ever wanted to try something completely new but were scared you wouldn’t like it? Maybe it will turn out badly? Maybe you’ll be rejected? Welcome to Mandy’s guide on how to not fear rejection and why trying new things is a vital part of a young adult’s life and growth. We do not emphasize enough the importance of exploring, from personal experience, trying things out of your comfort zone can be greatly impactful because it helps you learn more about who you are through change and new experiences.

A little bit about me: I am an explorer at heart. Not only a post-exploratory major here at Ithaca College, but that girl who is not afraid to try new foods, sports, activities or life hacks.

Many people think entering college with an undefined major is a negative thing, that all 18-year-old Americans must have a plan for their whole future, academic and social. This is a major stereotype that continues to exploring new options, just like people are afraid to do things without a plan, they fear trying new things. However, the majority of college students, including me, change their major at least once through their college experience, just as trying new things will make you grow as an individual.

Why try? Trying new things can be scary, but I promise it is so rewarding. Since exploring can inherently mean rejection, let me give you my resume for all the things I have tried out for on campus and did not make it into: club swim, club volleyball, IC V歌声 … The list goes on and on. Let’s also not forget I lived in a completely new country this year! Studying abroad in Barcelona, Spain, was the hardest thing I’ve done in my adult life, mostly because everything was so new. I discovered that the most difficult things in life are sometimes the most impactful. I even tried new foods like whale and escargot this year. Trying new things helps you learn more about who you are as an individual, it helps you discover your likes and dislikes, which is especially important in your young adult life.

So how do you actually become okay with receiving the answer no or trying new things? First, you have to be confident. Sadly, this is not something that can necessarily be taught, but can be facilitated by “taking it slow” and surrounding yourself with people who make you feel good inside and the outside. Secondly, your feelings are valid. It is OK to be sad about not making it into a club you had expected and or hoped you would get into. It is OK to be surprised that something you did not expect to see happen, especially in college when you are exploring new options. Not enough people explore, even sometimes you can even try again is totally okay. Doing something new takes guts, and you should be proud of yourself. Fourth, re-evaluation. You did that. Congrats! Telling myself those things after stepping out of my comfort zone has been so important and impactful to my young self.

Accepting reality is the third step. There isn’t a timeline or an exact science to doing so, but knowing that you tried and sometimes you can even try again is totally okay. Doing something new takes guts, and you should be proud of yourself. Fourth, re-evaluation. You did that. Congrats! Telling myself those things after stepping out of my comfort zone has been so important and impactful to my young self.

This all being said, I encourage you to try something new this semester. Not enough people explore, even when it is as easy as trying a new food or drink, or something bigger like trying out for a club on campus. Do not worry about not making it because whether you do or do not, I promise it will impact your life.

Any impact is growth, everyone’s individual and different life experiences are different and all valid. You’ve got this.

Senior Mandy Myers believes strongly in the power of exploration and facing rejection in order to grow as a student, and as a person. She said she thinks people should step out of their comfort zones more.

BY LINNIE CARCHEDI

As my senior year begins, I often find myself reflecting on my first year at Ithaca College.

My first undergraduate year had all the elements of the typical start of a college experience – my first time eating in a dining hall or using communal bathrooms, bouts of homesickness, exciting new classes and clubs, a growing sense of independence, and more. But my first year in college came with unexpected loneliness and a lack of help.

By my own naiveté or ignorance, I did not expect my decision to live a substance-free life in college to impact my experience as much as it had started to. And I especially did not expect to be turned away from every effort I made to find my sober community.

While I belong to a very small group of college students nationally who have decided to live a substance-free life at school, I believe I deserve to have a community with similar values while in college.

However, when Ithaca College students try to take advantage of the substance-free options that are promoted, we are either directed to the Student Health Services or told our options do not exist like they’re advertised.

In the fall of my first year, I went through the process of moving dorm rooms and I met with a residential assistant who lived in the Substance Free Residential Living Community in Rowland Hall.

I was cautiously optimistic about the potential of living with someone who may share the same values as me. However, this student told me they had been placed on that floor without applying for it and that their resident assistant did not actually plan any substance-free, community building programming. My optimism was replaced with disappointment.

Later, after a night in February led me to call my parents complaining that I felt as if I was the only person in the world who did not want to drink or smoke, I remembered that the Substance Free Residential Living Community website says that all community members can participate in their events. However, I couldn’t find information on those events anywhere. I contacted the resident director about this, but she just recommended I apply to live in the Substance Free RLC the following year or to seek out other forms of sober activities in clubs if I could find them.

I looked into this on the college’s website and IC Engage, but these suggested options did not exist.

When the pandemic began, I was almost relieved that I would not be subjected to hearing the campus come alive at night on the weekends while I stayed in. And as my first year of college bled into my second, I sought solace from continuing remote programming. Back on campus in my junior year, I lived on the Quiet Study RLC in Terrace 5, even though I had applied for the Substance Free RLC in the same building.

Upon meeting a few people who did live in the Substance Free RLC, they all said they did not apply to live in that community.

They also mentioned their RA did not hold any substance-free, community building programming.

It sounded all too familiar. The fact that every student I’ve interacted with that has lived in substance-free housing was placed there without applying and mentioned that their RA did nothing for the community is jarring.

While I have found friends along my college journey, now as a senior, I’m still navigating finding my substance-free community. My only positive, IC-related, substance-free experiences have come from befriending a member of IC After Dark, a student-run club dedicated to late night programming on the weekends.

It is unfair that the college’s website promotes these options when they are not actually offered, or students are turned away when trying to take advantage of them.

The Residential Life staff should not only be able to simply name what they realistically offer, but also be able to direct students to relevant resources outside of their office. If the college is going to promote that it has spaces for students who have chosen to live a substance-free life in college, it must be able to uphold that promotion with tangible and accessible options for all students.

Linnea Carchedi (she/her) is a senior integrated marketing communications major. Contact her at lcarchedi@ithaca.edu.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Ithaca College must deliver on substance-free options

BY LINNIE CARCHEDI

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Linnea Carchedi (she/her) is a senior integrated marketing communications major. Contact her at lcarchedi@ithaca.edu.
crossword
By Quill Driver Books

ACROSS
1 Prudential competitor
6 Banking conveniences
10 Linear measure
14 Common expression
15 A grand
16 Part of a pump
17 Tijuana parent
18 Whirl
19 Burn
20 Wandered
22 Wrist-to-elbow bone
23 Physicists'
24 Satie
26 Quit marching
29 Held tenderly
30 Held tenderly
31 Theater sound
33 Theater sound
34 SYStiSe me™
35 Colorado tribe
36 Orchidlike tower
37 Intense, as colors
39 Handle roughly
40 Byron work
41 Metallic sound
42 Mecca resident
43 Landlords' need
45 Vacation option
47 "Mister" in Bombay
48 Plod along
49 Bathe
52 Wagner opera
57 Mountain range
58 Inking
59 Anxious to start
61 Actress
62 Row of seats
63 Make a basket
64 Movie theater sign
65 Urges
66 Innbruck locale
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82 Inking
83 Anxious to start
84 Actress
85 Urges
86 Innbruck locale
87 Vacation option
88 Plod along
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93 Anxious to start
94 Actress
95 Urges
96 Innbruck locale
97 Vacation option
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147 Vacation option
148 Plod along
149 Bathe
150 Wagner opera
151 Mountain range
152 Inking
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DOWN
1 Rifle range command
2 Party cheese
3 Ocean phenomenon
4 Director - Ephron
5 Convenience
6 Put in an appearance
7 Wed. follower
8 Extra
9 Divided
10 Published
11 Eggnog time
12 Plaid wearers
13 Queen of Olympus
21 Forest grazer
25 Rear-end
27 Extraterrestrial
28 Grocery units
29 Greek letter
30 Pagliacci's
31 List opus
32 Salami seller
33 Designer label
34 Dow Jones fig.
37 Manly characteristic
38 Those in office
39 April follower
41 According to
42 Hint at
44 Casual wear
45 Proves innocent
46 Swaboda of baseball
48 Gloss
49 Stop sleeping
50 Writer — Haley
51 Delhi attire
53 Garfield's friend
54 Spicy

sudoku
medium

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

very hard

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

answers to last issue’s sudoku:

medium

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

hard

4 9 8 3 2 5 6 1 7
5 2 7 6 4 1 9 3 8
6 1 3 9 8 7 4 2 5
8 6 9 2 1 4 5 7 3
1 4 5 8 7 3 2 6 9
3 7 2 5 6 9 8 4 1
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7 3 6 4 5 8 1 9 2
9 8 4 1 3 2 7 5 6
Welcome events draw a full house


On Aug. 27, first-year student Maggie Schluth said she did not expect the college to put on a picnic because she said she has been focused on the first week of classes and did not know about all of the First Bomber Weekend events at first.

“I was kind of surprised by it because I was just, like, running on one of the treadmills at the gym and looking through the window,” Schluth said. “It was great seeing everyone come together with delicious food and perfect weather.”

The remaining First Bomber Weekend events are Mario Kart with OPS, where students will get to play against members of OPS at 4 p.m. Sept. 2 in the Clark Lounge and Klingenstein Lounge, followed by Grocery Bingo, where students can win grocery items in a game of bingo at 7 p.m. Sept. 3 in IC Square. Students can also take a trip to the Ithaca Farmers Market at 10 a.m. Sept. 4. The college will provide transportation and the first 250 students to sign up will receive a five dollar voucher to spend at the Farmers Market.

Finally, Fountain Fest, which will take place at the Dillingham Fountain on Sept. 4, is an annual celebration in which first-year students throw a cup of water into the Dillingham Center fountain so that they can jump into the fountain their senior-year. Fountain Fest includes performances from the college’s a capella groups along with a fireworks show.

On Aug. 27, Ithaca College students pack plates of food and ice cold drinks at the picnic on the Campus Center Quad, one of the events at First Bomber Weekend.

BY JADYN DAVIS

The sound of laughter and excitement filled Emerson Suites as students amusingly grabbed casino chips and tried their luck at Casino Night. The next day, students spent time outside with plates of food and iced cold drinks at the picnic on the Campus Center Lawn.

First Bomber Weekend started off with a bang as students played games at Casino Night in Emerson Suites on Aug. 26 and relaxed with a picnic on the Campus Center Quad on Aug. 27. Casino Night and the picnic are two of the events that are part of First Bomber Weekend, which is an annual program that features multiple events that take place over the course of the first two weekends of the Fall semester from Aug. 27–28 and from Sept. 2–4. According to the college’s website, the goal of these events is to further engage first-year students and to show students how to play.

“It’s a lot of fun, and people can play the games and learn the games and not lose any real money,” Barks said. “I’ve been enjoying working with the kids and showing them how to play, and they’re having fun and the dealers are having fun as well.”

Before entering Emerson Suites, students were given a casino chip worth 1,000 casino points, which students could turn in to play games. However, once a student lost all of their casino points, they were unable to play any more games. Students who were not interested in playing casino games played board games like Monopoly and Battleship.

Students were also given a raffle ticket, which they were then able to use to enter a raffle and win prizes, like a sewing kit, an art cart and a box of playing cards. Junior Camille Brock, president of IC After Dark, said she was surprised by the turnout because she thought people would be tired after the first week of classes and not come to the event. However, Brock said she had over 150 people show up.

“I didn’t think it was a lot of people,” Brock said. “I think it’s a really good event and it’s a good opportunity for people to do something new and have a good time.”

First Bomber Weekend events. Sophomore Rachel Brody was among the RAs that helped make the event a success. Before dealing was done for the evening, Brody said she enjoyed being a dealer for blackjack despite never dealing before at this event. She said Upstate Vegas showed her and the rest of the RAs how to facilitate the games beforehand.

Additionally, Brody said being a dealer was both interactive and a great way to get out of her dorm on a Friday night.

“Personally, I think college is more fun when there’s more stuff going on,” Brody said. “I think a lot of times it gets lost throughout the year, and so I think First Bomber Weekend is not only a great opportunity to, like, not only for first-years to meet people, but just to engage in your campus.”

Following Casino Night was a picnic on the Campus Center Quad on Aug. 27. Students were able to sit under the sun and eat lunch made by the Campus Center Dining Hall staff. Students were lined up with plates, ready to feast on grilled chicken, rice, sausage, salad and cupcakes. After eating their fill, some students tossed frisbees, while others sat on the picturesque grass with friends or under the large white tents protecting them from the sun. Throughout the picnic, students were coming and going. Bees were curiously buzzing in the air from person to person.

Sophomore Jacob Makofske said he enjoyed the picnic after a long week of classes. Additionally, he said he believes that the more events the college puts on, the more students will come out of their shells.

“I definitely think, especially with the warmer weather right now, given how cold it gets at Ithaca, it would be nice to have more days like this where we have opportunities to eat outside and spend more time outdoors,” Makofske said.

First-year student Maggie Schluth said events from First Bomber Weekend are a capella groups along with a fountain at the Dillingham Center fountain so that they can jump into the fountain their senior-year. Fountain Fest includes performances from the college’s a capella groups along with a fireworks show.

Leila Marcello-Gómez

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On Aug. 27, from left, sit sophomores James Thacher, Natalie Lewand and Stella Connelly enjoying a conversation at the picnic on the Campus Center Quad.

LEILA MARCELLO-GÓMEZ/THE ITHACAN

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**BY MATT MINTON**

The crowd anticipates what it is to come as the lights in the theater dim and one poet’s life begins to unfold on the screen in front of them. Whether or not they’ve heard of her before, audiences leave the theater with a sense of hope after learning about Elizabeth Bishop.

Cinemapolis, an independent movie theater located in Downtown Ithaca, screened “Elizabeth Bishop and the Art of Losing” from Aug. 19 to 25, directed and written by John D. Scott, associate professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies and Documentary Studies program director. “Elizabeth Bishop and the Art of Losing” chronicles Bishop’s life from a young age all the way to her death, intercutting readings of her poetry along with staged reenactments of key moments in her life. The film also features Susannah Berryman, emeritus professor of Theatre Arts at Ithaca College, as Elizabeth Bishop.

According to the Poetry Foundation, Elizabeth Bishop, born in 1911 in Worcester, Massachusetts, was respected in poetry circles but still remained relatively unknown to the general public during her lifetime. However, in the time since she died in 1979, her reputation has significantly grown among critics and poets alike, with a large number of multiple awards, including a Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1956. During her life, she suffered many losses, including her father dying when she was nine months old.

Despite having always loved poetry, Berryman said that portraying Bishop in Scott’s film was her first introduction to Bishop. “My suspicion is that, as a woman, she was not given the attention she deserved,” Berryman said. “I felt connected to her deep curiosity, love of observation, love of writing and images, and her need for a certain amount of solitude.”

Brett Bossard ’95, the executive director of Cinemapolis, said he was looking forward to watching her work with an audience. “It’s always interesting to see what an audience experiences because I know what’s coming up,” Rodriguez said. “Are they going to laugh at that part, be moved by that moment?”

Bossard said that one of the great things about Cinemapolis is that people come out of the theater talking and engaging in discourse. “We’re happy to have this space for people to continue the conversation after the film rolls,” Bossard said. “Bringing the community together around ideas and around people from other members of the community.”

**IC students engage in passions over summer break**

**BY JOSHUA PANTANO**

With a student body from 78 countries and almost every U.S. state, a large number of college students have engaged in a variety of creative, career-oriented and physical activities around the world during not only the school year, but this past summer as well.

During summer 2022, the college’s Instagram page highlighted the many internships, creative projects and other student projects students had been working on. Each displayed student had their own post, featuring a description of their activities, related pictures and a barrage of comments from fellow students shouting their support.

Junior Max Schweik was one of the highlighted students and hiked almost the entirety of the 2,650 mile Pacific Crest Trail, which spans from the border of Mexico to the border of Canada along the Pacific coast. Although he was unable to finish the trip due to health complications from COVID-19, he went from the Mexican border in California all the way to the Oregon-Washington border — more than 2,100 miles.

“It’s a rewarding experience to fall in love with a lifestyle where you push yourself to your limit every day,” Schweik said. “It’s a strong part of my identity.”

Andrea Rodriguez also worked with Disney Streaming as a title planning intern. She worked to organize the process of adding new series and directing in a diverse set of languages to titles on streaming platforms like Disney+ and Hulu. She not only improved subtitles and dubbing in dozens of different languages available on American streaming platforms, but international ones as well. As a title planning intern, she marked the specific dates when subtitles would arrive, or when dubbing would be complete.

“It was really fun, and I think, yeah, shoot your shot,” Chin said. “It’s hard to cold-applying to a lot of internships, but definitely talking to alumni would help a lot of people.”

Senior Liza Dhamneeth interned with a private law firm and did two research internships with the Cornell Law School: the Juvenile Justice Program and the Death Penalty Program. For the former internship, Dhamneeth worked with the senior partner of the firm on federal criminal defense cases that are looked at on the level of the Supreme Court. For the other two research internships, she did legal research on people dead on people death row in South Carolina. Originally felt intimidated by applying for internships, especially since they are oftentimes oriented to students who are already in law school.

“The most important thing I learned is always to shout your shot,” Dhamneeth said. “Now is the best time to make mistakes and to learn.”

Sophomore Devin Jezeck interned at WRFI, a community radio station in Ithaca. He posted newscasts every week during summer 2022 — highlighting major headlines, discussion, global issues and leading interviews. Jezeck said she worked extensively with professionals at WRFI, not only learning how to write for radio, but also how to manage some of the technical aspects of it all.

“I think that everyone should do an internship,” Jezeck said. “I had a blast and I learned a lot. I really enjoyed the whole thing.”

Dhamneeth, Jezeck and Chin all said working with alumni and professionals were key parts of their internships. The college offers many ways for alumni to remain connected to the school after they graduate, including attending reunions, joining the IC Career Network or serving as a volunteer on campus.

Sophomore Arjaye Johnson was another student featured who performed in “Catch Me If You Can” this summer with the REV Theatre Company, based in Auburn, New York. Johnson was part of the ensemble.

“I was so incredibly grateful and honored to have been chosen to be a part of the cast,” Johnson said. “When I first got it, I called my mom immediately. I was like, ‘Oh my God! I got an offer!’”

Taking the step to engage in these kinds of pursuits, Dhamneeth said, is crucial for all college students.

“Interning is something that’s important to help you figure out what you want to do in the future,” Dhamneeth said.
**Iconic series ends in masterful fashion**

**SERIES REVIEW: “Better Call Saul” AMC**

**BY JOSHUA PANTANO**

The season six finale of “Better Call Saul” aired Aug. 15, bringing an end to the series that created some of the most popular television characters of all time, as well as the well-renowned “Breaking Bad” and Netflix original movie “El Camino.”

While “Breaking Bad” mainly focused on the multiple exploits of former chemistry teacher turned meth-cook Walter White (Bryan Cranston), the prequel “Better Call Saul” takes a look into the life and mind of Jimmy McGill (Bob Odenkirk), a charismatic and emotional lawyer who finds himself entwined with the worlds of organized crime and illegal narcotics. Fans of “Breaking Bad” will know that he will eventually become the character Saul Goodman. However, the primary question of “Better Call Saul” is how will he become morally corrupt, but how and why, and if he can keep his life of crime separated from his honest work.

One of the primary themes that the show tackles is how the past affects who we are and how we act as individuals. Jimmy, after facing a series of career setbacks and a falling out with his brother Chuck McGill (Michael McKean), becomes a “friend of the cartel,” letting his moral standards slowly slip away. He morphs into the lawyer that we all know and love: Saul Goodman. The exploration of important reoccurring themes throughout the season finale, including cinematic parallels and dramatic beats, are some of the show’s strongest points.

During season six, when Jimmy tries to slander the stature of another character, he carefully orchestrates a series of scenes that make the character seem that way. The audience only figures out what Jimmy is trying to do as the whole scheme unfolds. This storytelling technique simultaneously captivates the viewer’s attention, creates a hilarious and exciting montage, and furthers the story. On the other hand, viewers watch as his choices continue to lead him down a “bad choice road,” a phrase coined by hitman Mike Ehrmantraut (Jonathan Banks). When the indirect causes make the deaths of innocent people, or helps cold-blooded killers like cartel member Lalo Salamanca (Daniel) avoid prison, he always seems to narrowly avoid total destruction. The build-up and payoff is impeccable and surprising, but never unequaled as his past creeps up on him when he least expects it.

Director Vince Gilligan poses interesting new questions while simultaneously cleaning up all the show’s loose ends. These questions are perfectly played out by the talented cast, all of whom add deep nuances to the motivations, desires and shortcomings of the characters.

The writing is another strong moment in the series. The motivations, desires and shortcomings of all the characters of all time, as well as the most popular television characters of all time, are simultaneously captured by the talented cast, all of whom add deep nuances to the motivations, desires and shortcomings of the characters.

The show tackles is how the past affects who we are and how we act as individuals. Jimmy, after facing a series of career setbacks and a falling out with his brother Chuck McGill (Michael McKean), becomes a “friend of the cartel,” letting his moral standards slowly slip away. He morphs into the lawyer that we all know and love: Saul Goodman. The exploration of important reoccurring themes throughout the season finale, including cinematic parallels and dramatic beats, are some of the show’s strongest points.

During season six, when Jimmy tries to slander the stature of another character, he carefully orchestrates a series of scenes that make the character seem that way. The audience only figures out what Jimmy is trying to do as the whole scheme unfolds. This storytelling technique simultaneously captivates the viewer’s attention, creates a hilarious and exciting montage, and furthers the story. On the other hand, viewers watch as his choices continue to lead him down a “bad choice road,” a phrase coined by hitman Mike Ehrmantraut (Jonathan Banks). When the indirect causes make the deaths of innocent people, or helps cold-blooded killers like cartel member Lalo Salamanca (Daniel) avoid prison, he always seems to narrowly avoid total destruction. The build-up and payoff is impeccable and surprising, but never unequaled as his past creeps up on him when he least expects it.

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“We built [the algorithm] by backtesting it against past seasons that it hasn’t seen before,” Factor, a former math major at the college, said. “But it was in the fall after Dylan and I graduated where we actually got to see how it did live in real games. … So that was the first season, and how accurate it was, to turn it into more of a real business and a brand.”

When Ithaca College professor Doug Turnbull, associate professor in the Department of Computer Science, was the professor for Factor and Shane’s machine learning class in Spring 2019. He said he has seen many students create impressive tools for the final in the class, but it is uncommon for them to turn it into a full company.

“A number of my students have gone off to work in data science jobs where they apply the skills [they learned in this project],” Turnbull said. “And we’ve had a number of people start web applications that they sort of work on as a side project after they graduate, but [WalterPicks] is, like, a full-time job with employees and stuff.”

Walter uses 20 million data points over 10 years of football to form its projections, according to the company’s website. Shane, who majored in computer science and now works on enhancing the software for the app, said finding the right data was the most important part of creating the tool.

“[The secret is] just our data,” Shane said. “Even when we started, Sam was meticulous about cleaning the data, making sure it was all good. We removed any egregious outliers and stuff like that, stuff that would throw off the projections a little bit.”

However, Shane said just having a good app with accurate predictions is not enough. With the volume of fantasy sports apps and tools available, Shane said they worked hard to build a social media presence to draw new users to WalterPicks, replying to every comment on TikTok at first.

Factor said once they hit around 50,000 followers on TikTok was when he realized that they might be able to work with the app full time. Now, as of Aug. 30, the main TikTok account has over 164,000 followers.

According to the Fantasy Sports & Gaming Association, the number of fantasy sports players in the United States and Canada has grown by over 40 million since 2003.

Predicting success

From left, Dylan Shane ’19 and Sam Factor ’19. Shane and Factor founded the company “WalterPicks,” which is an AI-powered fantasy football tool that analyzes millions of data points to predict the performances of NFL players week-to-week. They also have NBA and NCAA March Madness tools. (Courtesy of Sam Factor)

BY AIDAN CHARDE

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Fantasy football is a game ever-growing in popularity among the American public. Reports estimate that over 40 million people in the United States and Canada play fantasy football every year and Statista estimates that fantasy sports were worth around $8.88 billion in 2021.

There are two popular ways of playing fantasy football. Users can join a league, usually through apps like ESPN Fantasy, where they draft a lineup of players and compete weekly against the other members of the league, with one member winning the championship at the end of the season.

The other way is through daily fantasy sports (DFS), which is usually run through gambling companies like DraftKings or FanDuel. In DFS, users draft a lineup for one week only and compete against other users for a pool of money. In both versions, players earn points based on their in-game performances, and the users with the most total points are the winners.

With many big corporations, like ESPN and DraftKings, offering player projections, it can be hard for smaller startups to break into the scene. Not only has WalterPicks found an audience, but it has been 17% more accurate than ESPN and Yahoo, according to the app’s loading screen. Factor said he knew they had a good product, but he and Shane were surprised to see just how good it was.

“Seeing that [Walter] was more accurate than [ESPN and Yahoo] was definitely a big moment,” Factor said. “It’s sometimes tough to tell with sports, how accurate a model is. … The best way to see how accurate you are is to compare yourself to other people.”

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Women’s cross-country bonds at Greek Peak

BY TESS FERGUSON

Despite its seemingly individual nature, the foundation of cross-country running is built on the collective success of a given team. As the Ithaca College women’s cross-country team prepares for its 2022 season, the team is looking to ensure it has the chemistry it will take to propel the team through the ranks.

The team spent three days at Greek Peak Mountain Resort in Cortland, New York, from Aug. 26 to 28, for a weekend retreat packed with adventure and fun, an important part of team bonding.

Sophomore Hannah Fichter said she experienced the team at Greek Peak “unlike any other bonding event the team has had, even though they spend plenty of time together during the season.”

“[It was] really nice because we’ve always spent a lot of time together, but we’ve never done a team trip like this, in which we’ve all shared the same space and been on each other for that amount of time,” Fichter said.

Founded in 1958, Greek Peak is the largest four-season ski resort in central New York. Comprised of ski slopes, an indoor water park and an adventure center, the lodge provided all the amenities needed to get the team connected and moving into the season.

On top of the activities that Greek Peak had to offer, the team was also able to spend some quality time with each other outside of the scheduled events of the weekend.

Fichter said that though the team had fun doing various activities, like watching the “Barbie” movie together, she and her teammates learned some new things about each other and strengthened their team bond through the experiences they had.

“I personally struggled a little bit,” Fichter said. “I have a fear of ziplines, so that was a really big thing for me. The ropes course really helped me to get over that. It was really nice because I was leaning on one of my teammates who had a fear of heights. So we were just helping each other through it and were all really good at feeling that kind of support.”

In addition to strengthening the bonds between returning team members, the retreat worked to integrate incoming first-year students and new cross-country runners into the team’s culture. Sophomore Carolina Cedraschi is a member of the college’s women’s soccer team for their 2022 season and has since begun her transition into long-distance running.

Although a bit nervewracking, Cedraschi said she is excited to see the next chapter in her athletic career. Soccer and cross-country are very different sports, so switching between the two is something she needs to get used to.

“Transitioning from soccer to cross-country is definitely a huge risk and adjustment for me,” Cedraschi said. “This event, and different races to come, will definitely test my mental strength and see how far I can push myself.”

Unlike spring sports, fall sports like cross-country have a very brief pre-season window before official competition begins Sept. 3. With the Jannette Bonnouih-Zaikam Memorial cross-country season left time spent with the team’s new runners. The team’s first pre-season practice was Aug. 18, meaning it has only had two weeks to get ready for the competitive season.

In all competitive sports, the confidence needed to take risks is essential for success. Returning senior Ira Fowler said she was excited for how this could help the team chemistry heading into the season.

Fowler noted the unique nature of the retreat and how getting into her final cross-country season as a bomber will allow her to appreciate the event in its entirety.

“I think knowing this trip is a privilege will let us make the most out of it,” Fowler said. “It will definitely make us a stronger and closer team going into the season.”

On top of the team bond, the retreat worked to integrate new people this sport, and then hopefully also recruit new people to the team.

“Anyone who wants to join can join,” Fowler said. “We feel that kind of support.”

Men’s club ultimate reflects on top-20 finish

BY TOBIAH ZBORAY

After a strong showing during the spring semester, the Ithaca College men’s club ultimate frisbee team is looking to pick up where it left off this fall.

Last spring, the team finished 18th overall in the country within the USA Ultimate rankings for club frisbee and included a trip to the national finals in Fort Ann, New York. Their victory in this event qualified the team for the 2021 national championship, the appointment that robbed many of the team’s seniors of their place at Nationals in 2019, losing the following season was a great disappointment that robbed many young runners of crucial racing experience.

“Ultimately, we fell short of some goals [in 2021], and we are coming back in 2022 hungrier than ever,” Fowler said.

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Junior Giana Haubrich prepares for the ropes course with her teammates Aug. 28 at Greek Peak Mountain Resort. The women’s cross-country team spent time bonding before the season.

Junior Noah Kamens throws by a defender to his teammate during practice for Nawahus Ultimate. In May, the team advanced to the USA Ultimate Nationals.

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From left, first-year students Will Schlemmer, Cathy Plizga and Jason Gertzman hike up one of the trails at Buttermilk Falls State Park during the Hike and Swim event Aug. 28 as part of the 2022 First Bomber Weekend, hosted by the Office of Student Affairs and Campus Life. First Bomber Weekend runs from Aug. 25 to Sept. 4.