College leadership establishes Center for Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging

BY LORIEN TYNE
NEWS EDITOR

Ithaca College introduced the new Center for Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging in an email announcement March 23, which will officially open July 1.

In the announcement, President La Jerne Cornish said the center is another step toward being a model institution promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.

The two people hired to head the center are Luca Maurer, executive director for Student Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging and the outgoing director of LGBTQ Education, Outreach and Services, and Belisa González, dean of Faculty Equity, Inclusion and Belonging and professor and outgoing director for the Center for the Study of Culture, Race and Ethnicity and the Women’s and Gender Studies program as an affiliated faculty member.

“I am especially grateful that Luca and Belisa have agreed to be a part of this new leadership team, as they possess significant expertise and have been passionately engaged in advancing our work for many years,” Cornish said in the announcement.

Prunty said the college plans to fill their positions by the start of Fall 2023 but that in the meantime, Maurer and González will continue in their current roles while the transition occurs.

“What [the center] does, from our perspective, is gain a lot in terms of two really talented, passionate individuals who have done incredible work in this area for our campus already, but they’ve done it as an add on to things that they’re already doing, and now they’ll be able to do it as the primary focus,” Prunty said.

2023 residency cohort selected

BY JADYN DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Almost a year after hosting its first cohort in summer 2022, the Sunlit Residency in Ithaca is preparing to welcome its summer 2023 cohort of artists, writers, scholars and activists.

Sunlit Residency hosts short-term residencies for accepted applicants to pursue passion projects centered around themes like race, social justice and human rights. The program resides in the former home of Sue-Je Lee Gage who died in May 2020. During her time at the college, Gage was an associate professor in the Department of Anthropology and worked closely with the Center for the Study of Culture, Race and Ethnicity and the Women’s and Gender Studies program as an affiliated faculty member.

Annette Levine, professor in the Department of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures and Jewish studies coordinator, has been working on the inception of the residency since Fall 2020 to honor Gage and continue her work. Levine said she knew she wanted to create a space that would represent Gage’s intellectual interests, her creativity and her supportive energy, especially in the first home she ever bought herself.

“The only way I could ever reconcile with losing her was by finding a way to keep her...
At least four people are dead in PA after factory explosion

A massive explosion at the RM Palmer chocolate factory in West Reading on March 24 has resulted in multiple deaths and injuries, with others still unaccounted for. The cause of the blast is under investigation, according to Wayne Holben, West Reading police chief.

Four people have died and another three people believed to be inside the plant at the time of the blast remain unaccounted for, as of Sunday morning. A third body has not been found since March 24.

Honduras ends relations with Taiwan after turning to China

Honduras has decided to sever relations with Taiwan after turning to China. President Xiomara Castro said in a statement.

“Honduras is deciding to establish diplomatic relations with China,” Castro said in a statement. "The world is changing, and we want to be part of this change."

Putin warns of global military arms race

President Vladimir Putin said Russia is preparing to station tactical nuclear weapons to Belarus in the following days, according to media reports.

“Moscow is not handing control of the weapons to Minsk and won’t be in breach of its non-proliferation obligations under an agreement with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko,” Putin said.

Initial reports put the death toll at least 23. Dozens were injured, while at least one person died in neighboring Alabama, according to media reports. The weather service warned of further violent storms.

Death toll in Mississippi tornado rises as more storms forecast

The death toll after the devastating tornado on Friday in the Southern U.S. has risen to at least 26, with 25 in the nation’s poorest state of Mississippi alone, civil protection authorities said March 26.

About 1.09 million protesters took part in demonstrations in France on March 23 against President Emmanuel Macron’s pension reform, the interior ministry said, with 119,000 marching in Paris alone.

Cuba holds National Parliament election amid population exodus

Cuba held elections March 26 to pick lawmakers at a time when the ruling communist party is struggling to keep a lid on public anger caused by rampant inflation, hunger and blackouts.

The vote, decried as a sham by human rights groups, picked 470 candidates who were pre-selected by the government to the powerful National Parliament for a five-year term. The system has allowed the Communist Party to control the parliament since its inception in 1976.

THE ITHACAN

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Ticket platform breach breaks the bank

BY PRAKRITI PANWAR
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Almost a month after attending a concert at Cornell University featuring Beach Bunny—a popular alternative rock band—on Jan. 28, several Ithaca College students’ credit and debit card information was breached and varying amounts of money were stolen.

On Feb. 24, Information Technology at Cornell University released a security alert informing students that Cornell’s ticketing software partner and vendor, AudienceView, experienced a platform breach that affected ticket buyers beginning in February.

Cornell University senior Jennifer Munes, executive director of the Cornell Concert Commission, said via email that the Cornell Concert Commission often goes over its budget and uses the funds it collects from ticket sales to make up for going over.

Munes said this requires them to cross-check their returns and AudienceView works with Cornell staff through a process that ensures that funds collected via ticket sales are deposited in the Cornell Concert Commission’s financial account, which Munes does not have access to because she is a student.

Munes said she hopes to find an alternative ticketing vendor platform that will not impact her experience with AudienceView to prevent similar situations in the future.

“I haven’t gotten [communication or personal assistance from AudienceView],” Munes said. “I have an administrative account on that platform and I didn’t still get any kind of confirmation beyond the higher-ups at Cornell telling me that it’s OK now.”

At least eight Ithaca College students have reported having money stolen, as well as anecdotal reports.

Casey Thomas ‘13, public relations specialist at AudienceView, said via email that efforts are being made by the company to ensure that stakeholders’ privacy is not compromised in the future.

“We had a breach,” Thomas said. “We’re working really hard to ensure that all of that information is safe and secure.”

In response [to the breach], we moved quickly to remove the identified malware from our campus product, Thomas said. “All potentially impacted parties have been contacted and offered credit monitoring and identity protection services.”

Thomas said AudienceView is working with Mandiant, a company that specializes in preventing future breaches.

David Weil, chief information officer at the Ithaca College Department of Information Technology, said that to avoid having credit or debit card information stolen, individuals should put fraud alerts on cards, check bank statements regularly, contact banks if something does not seem right and ensure that they input sensitive financial information online only in a secure and encrypted website.

“Colleges … need to rely on partners to provide some of the services,” Weil said. “We’re relying on this other company to have secure policies and processes … as individuals, we’re going to utilize these services. And so the way we protect ourselves is through our due diligence.”

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Physics students awarded at convention

BY JADYN DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Ithaca College junior Matthew Weil and senior Ted Mburu were awarded the Ithaca Undergraduate Research Award after presenting their research in physics education and environmental physics at the American Physical Society March Meeting.

The American Physical Society is an organization that promotes innovations in physics. APS hosted a conference in Las Vegas from March 5 to 10, inviting students, physicists and anyone in the scientific field from across the world.

Mburu and Weil presented their findings from research in environmental physics and physics education. Weil started his research in summer 2022, while Mburu had been researching his topic since 2019.

Weil’s project, “Developing an Interactive Simulation for Non-Inertial Reference Frames,” is about making the concept of non-inertial reference frames easier for students to understand through a simulation.

The simulation demonstrates that even though the paths in the simulation look different, they are actually the same.

“Trying to make classes more equitable and accessible, which is important because different students have different devices available to them,” Weil said.

“Converting to a Greener NY: Analysis of Methane Emissions in NYS,” discusses the research he and Eric Leibensperger, assistant professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, conducted on identifying the sources of methane emissions in upstate New York so that the sources can be reduced.

“Matt really took ownership of the project,” Leibensperger said. “Even as I was away on paternity leave, Matt has also been my go-to person for flying and modifying drones for our research.”

Weil said he was able to use a drone in his research by attaching a methane detector, which gathered information from an aerial perspective.

Colleen Countryman, assistant professor for the Department of Physics and Astronomy, is Mburu’s adviser and said Mburu and Weil were chosen to represent the department because of the large amount of progress they made toward their research.

“It’s a huge honor to go and represent Ithaca College and specifically our department at one of these national conferences,” Countryman said.

Mburu said he hopes that his and Weil’s accomplishments inspire more students to join the department in the future.

“I just feel like if [students] had better resources they would have enjoyed [the department] more, then some [students] might still be here,” Mburu said.
On-campus child care could help accessibility

From Childcare, Page 1

Heather Mount, executive director of CRCC, said CRCC is in the process of expanding its buildings to be able to be more of a community center and not just child care, like it is now. Mount said she mentioned in conversations with Tim Downs, vice president for finances and operations and interim chief financial officer, that there was a temporary building on the center’s property that would be in the way of construction, and they talked about the college having space available.

President Jamie Cornish said in the announcement that this temporary child care facility could be used for future permanent on-campus child care. Child care is also of the Ithaca Forever Strategic Plan that was first drafted in September 2018.

Jenny Pickett, assistant director in the Office of Residential Life and Student Conduct and Community Standards, said she was on the working group with Mount. Pickett said the working group formed in 2019 after the Ithaca Forever Strategic Plan, she said she was on the working group as a parent who had been asking for on-campus daycare for a few years.

Pickett said that when the working group first formed, members reached out to Mount about potential child care. She said conversations stalled when Mount reached out in summer 2022 about using the community center as an annex.

According to a toolkit published by the Institute for Women’s Policy Research, over 1,500 colleges, universities and technical schools offer on-campus child care.

David Harker, director of the Center for Civic Engagement, said his relationship to CRCC is both professional and personal. On a professional level, the center has partnered with CRCC in the past to provide opportunities for students to work with the classes at CRCC.

On a personal level, Harker has two young children, ages 1.5 and 5, who attend CRCC’s infant and preschool programs. He said he understands the struggles of parents trying to find child care for their infants and toddlers. He said waitlists are long and locations can be inconvenient relative to where the parents live and work.

“[It] takes a real struggle to find that care sometimes. . . . It would be great having it on campus and then directly accessible, having it in a space that is, at the very least, not far from your work,” Harker said.

According to the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources, on-campus child care can be expensive, and those costs can fall on the college if there is not adequate funding. Prunty said the college has not yet explored funding for permanent on-campus child care. He said one of the main sources of funding would likely be the costs of tuition from parents.

Harker said one opportunity to facilitate the partnerships between the child care center at the college and students would be to host field trips for the childcare children. Students could tour offices, labs and facilities to learn about how all the different spaces on campus function. Pickett said the working group had started conversations about academic partnerships if on-campus child care became a permanent option.

“On Intercom, we frequently see requests from [students in the PT or OT programs to work] with kids of certain age groups,” Pickett said. “[The working group] thought that there might be some potential for some partnerships . . . [with student programs where they need to work with kids . . . if we had a daycare on campus.]

Mount said the college now has a chance to try out on-campus child care before committing to a long-term project.

“The opportunity to collaborate with Ithaca College and have our programs temporarily move into those spaces is a new and exciting opportunity,” Mount said. “Being able to see what our classrooms look like on campus and how we interact with the different programs . . . will give a lot of real-time information on how that type of programming could progress.”

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New IC center supports equity

From Equity, Page 1

equitable practices, it’s really important for me to track the teaching,” González said.

Cornish said the new center provides an organized structure to promote values of equity, inclusion and belonging. Holds the campus with competency and infrastructure accountable, and builds systems of support that will last.

There will be a third position in the center that, once hired, will work with staff equity and inclusion and report to Kirra Franzees, associate vice president and chief human resources officer.

Prunty also said the logistics of administrative support for the center is still being figured out as well as a physical location for the center.

Prunty said the intention is to sunset the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging subgroup of the Strategic Plan Committee at the end of the 2022–23 academic year and convene the President’s Advisory Committee to support the new center’s initiatives.

“Everyone will ultimately provide guidance and advice to both the president and to the center in terms of opportunities, that we can now work forward to meet our strategic goals,” Prunty said.

“But we still need to develop the exact membership; the charge, and who are the individual centers that will be on that group.”

The new center will take the lead on implementing a Fall 2023 campus climate survey in partnership with Rankin & Associates for Diversity and Inclusion, which the college brought in on the last climate survey. The last survey was done in Fall 2019 and the results were presented in April 2022.

One of the center’s initiatives is looking into another potential medium for the virtual diversity, equity and inclusion training module that new students take at the beginning of their time at the college.

“My goal [for the training] is how can we support every student in getting what they need on campus and in acting in solidarity with anyone who is not and knowing what that feels like,” Prunty said.

A third goal that Maurer and González are working on, in addition to land acknowledgments, is rebuilding relationships with the Gaya’go’no Nation.

“Are we merely acknowledging that we are on unceded land or are we acting in ways to address historical, long-standing inequities?” Maurer said. “It has to be mutually beneficial.”

Both Maurer and González said the major benefit of transitioning to the center is that they can commit time and energy to doing intentional, thoughtful work.

“Historically, there have been some faculty and staff who have had relationships with the leadership of the Gaya’go’no Nation,” said González. “But we need to revisit and reignite those relationships and create a land acknowledgment that they will be a part of.”

González said in general, the center will focus on longer-term change by taking time to understand complex issues and potential solutions.

“At least at this stage, imagining what can be is very exciting, because I think the work has been structured, right now, that we’re stuck in what is very often reactive,” González said. “A lot of equity is reactive. It’s about having the opportunity and the wherewithal to slow down and think through scenarios and the effects that decisions [and policies], what have you, is going to have on marginalized individuals and groups of people.”

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Residency program honors life of professor

From Center, Page 1

Residency programs live of professor

The Sunnfoe Residency resides in the former home of Sue-Je Lee Gage, previously an associate professor in the Department of Anthropology, who died in May 2020.

COURTESY OF KIMBERLY KENDALL-BEER

presence very active and alive,” Levine said.

Levine said there are a total of seven resi-
dents who will participate in the summer 2023 cohort, including Suchi Brahman, Nathan Finch, Hannah Bae, Elizabeth Rubio, Gloria Poveda, Rose Bermudez and Elaine Kim.

Levine also said the residency is going to collaborate with the Park Center for In-
dependent Media to provide an internship opportu-
nity for students who apply to the resi-
dency in the future.

Barack, a journalist and nonfiction writer from Brooklyn, New York, was selected as one of the residents to participate in the 2023 cohort.

Barack said she heard about the residency through a Facebook group called Korean American Winters and was intrigued by the work Gage did; she even attended the first open house in 2022 via live-stream.

Barack said she is looking forward to her residency so she can work on her memoir manuscript that details her experience growing up as a Korean American in the United States as well as how she was able to navigate through abuse, mental illness and trauma from immigrating to the U.S.

“We all have daily struggles like such a great opportunity,” Barack said. “And that it was kind of talk-made for someone like me who is Korean American, who is really interested in digging into my history and understanding how that informs the way that I see the world.”

Rubio is a postdoctoral research associate with the Asian American Studies Program at Princeton University. As a multicultural Korean American, Rubio said she was drawn to Gage focused on Asian Americans that are of mixed race in her work and publications.

During her residency, Rubio hopes to work on a chapter of her nonfiction book that is centered around undocumented Asian American activism and will detail the pain and struggle that an undocumented Thai American activist and artist has experienced.

“I’m just looking forward to . . . being able to be in silence and to have the mental space to be able to do the kind of deep work I need to do to write this book,” Rubio said.

There will be an open house event in July — in person and live-streamed — to introduce the new cohort of residents to each other and to anyone interested in attending.

“We are looking forward to creating an on-going network of community connections on a local and global level whereby our residents are active in advancing their projects while also developing relationships . . . with other scholars, writers, activists and artists affiliated with the residency,” Levine said.

Contact: jmvandres@ithaca.edu
Michelle Goode, program director of Center for Health Promotion and co-chair of the JED Campus Initiative, is working on setting new mental health goals for the college.

“JED is a four-year program, so do you anticipate continuing some of these changes or additions to the campus after the program has been completed?”

“JED is kind of a four-year relationship. What’s great is once you’re a JED campus, themes in food, incorporate healthier menus and may, in the far future, have delivery systems.”

“We have had conversations with staff but it’s certainly an unconventional situation to have. There were so many situations on the way where multiple staff members could have got in under control but chose that path.”

“First-year student Rachel Sen, vice president of campus affairs, added, if any changes to the campus and smaller eateries in the future. Briggs said the cafes will have large menus, explore different themes in food, incorporate healthier menus and may, in the far future, have delivery systems.”

“Some people can use in the moment if they’re feeling stressed out. There is that work that’s happening there.”

“Most employees here on campus. And we have so many resources. … If they’re not sure of where to turn.”

“If they’re not sure of where they’re going they can use it. … We have a lot of employees here on campus. And we have a lot of students on campus that care about one another and want to be able to support one another.”

“The dining hall is a nice place and awesome people work there, but the room is simply too small.”

“Other plans allow students to use more swipes in more places.”

“Briggs mentioned that staff has discussed this but it’s very difficult to confront directly, saying it may be a structural issue.”

“… We’re discussing [expansion] as a possibility.”

“Senior Grace Madyea, president of the student body, talked about how students are wondering if any changes have been made in Dining Services regarding the physical alteration that occurred in Terrace Dining Hall on Feb. 19.”

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“The dollar cost is once we receive that feedback back from the board.”

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“Senior Grace Madyea, president of the student body, talked about how students are wondering if any changes have been made in Dining Services regarding the physical alteration that occurred in Terrace Dining Hall on Feb. 19.”

“This interview has been edited for length and clarity.”

“SGC discusses meal plan changes with Dining Services

Q&A: JED co-chair implements new mental health tools

Through working with faculty, staff and students, Michelle Goode, program director of the Center for Health Promotion at Ithaca College and co-chair of the JED Campus Initiative, has implemented new resources and training for mental health awareness.

The college is currently in the third year of the four-year JED campus program, which helps colleges learn how to provide mental health resources to students. Goode said the initiative has five subcommittees composed of students, faculty and staff, who work to implement JED’s resources on campus.

The JED team is currently training students and faculty to help students who are struggling with their mental health through the Train the Trainer and Dining Services programs. Goode said the JED Campus Initiative hopes to train as many individuals as possible and make mental health training a key part of the campus environment. The JED Campus Initiative also plans events that provide mental health resources for students.

Staff Witter Kai Lincke spoke with Goode about how the JED Campus Initiative is working to make caring for mental health part of campus culture.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Kai Lincke: Is there any work that you’d like to highlight that the subcommittees have been trying to accomplish?

Michelle Goode: Our communications subcommittee was able to partner with a student organization called 180 Contacts, and the group helped to put together a mental health campaign. And then in the fall semester, what that communication group worked on was, we didn’t just want to have a campaign out there. We wanted to make sure that if someone saw a poster, and it resonated with them, that there was a call to action. So, each of those posters has a special QR code that links to the JED Campus website with a specific skill or resource that someone could use, depending on what poster they are interested in. We have our student connections subcommittee, and that group has been working on right now putting together kind of a flowchart. Sometimes there are so many resources, it’s hard to narrow down what one you might need for the purpose that you need it. They’re working on that material and those tools that we’re hoping to have posted online and then available starting in the fall semester as posters that could be displayed in different spaces and places.

KL: JED is a four-year program, so do you anticipate continuing some of these changes or additions to the campus after the program has been completed?

MG: It is a kind of a four-year relationship. What’s great is once you’re a JED campus, there’s always a JED campus. So we’re able to continue to utilize JED resources and reach out for support if needed. For us, when you go through the JED process, you do some assessments at the end and then you go to a second round of assessments toward the end. … We’re coming up with what we’ll do the Healthy Mind Survey on campus again. So our intent is once we get feedback from the JED campus, that we’ll come forward to continue with writing new goals for ourselves and setting new goals.

KL: Is there anything you think that students should know about JED Campus Initiative?

MG: I want students to know they’re not alone, and there are resources. … If they’re not sure how to navigate that, I hope that they feel any support, and then we’re here to help.”

“For example, if there’s a really great opportunity that people can use in the moment if they’re feeling overwhelmed, if they’re feeling stressed out? There’s been some great initiatives. ... Human Resources has been trying to lead to really support the wellness of staff and faculty and employees. You know, they just recently sent out a survey to all employees to ask for what is that people will need to feel supported. So, I’m excited to see what Human Resources decides to do as a result of that survey.

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FROM LEFT, SOPHOMORE TATYANA RUBIO, REGINALD BRIGGS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF DINING SERVICES, AND SOPHOMORE NOAH RICHARDSON DISCUSS MEAL PLAN CHANGES AND INCREASE IN DINING SERVICES EMPLOYMENT.

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Dearing IC to share class tools for accessibility on PowerPoint

Disability Education, Advocacy, and Resources at Ithaca College — a student-run club that works with students with disabilities and allies — will host a student-led workshop about making presentations. The workshop will take place from 9 to 9:45 a.m. April 7 in the Center for Faculty Excellence. It will especially focus on making PowerPoint presentations more accessible for students to view and interact with.

Equity and Social Change will be acting as a resource for students who need help or want to start a conversation. The Center for Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity will be bringing llamas back to the college campus. Volunteers from Cornell Companions will bring llamas back to the college campus to show students about their experiences at the college. The next two sessions will be in April and then in May, but the exact dates have not been announced yet. For accommodations, contact Michael kaplan at mskaplan@ithaca.edu or through the phone at 607-274-7098.

Ithacappella sends off seniors in showcase

Senior Christian Castro was gifted a bottle of cider by Ithacappella singers at the Ithacappella Block 4 Concert on March 25 in Emerson Suites. Senior Massimo Giacosa was also celebrated as one of the two members graduating this spring.

Provost to host faculty talks on shared governance documents

A conversation on shared governance at Ithaca College will be hosted by Melanie Stein, provost and senior vice president of academic affairs. Chrysa Dail, associate professor in the Department of Theater Studies; Dave Gondek, associate professor in the Department of Biology; Lauren Steele, associate professor in the Department of Me- dia, Arts, Sciences and Studies; Emily Rockett, general counsel; and Claire Gleitman, dean of the School of Humanities and Sciences, faculty are invited to discuss two draft documents that describe the college’s shared governance model.

The draft documents are a vision statement for shared governance, which highlights the specific role of shared governance at the college, and a table of who is part of decision making based on the situation. There are three sessions and faculty are asked to RSVP ahead of time, but there is no capacity limitation. The first session is from 10 to 11 a.m. April 7 in Clark Lounge. The second session is 5 to 6 p.m. April 11 in the Taughannock Falls Room. The third session is from 12:10 to 1:05 p.m. April 15 in Clark Lounge.

Cornell Companions volunteers return to the college for support

Volunteers from Cornell Companions are bringing llamas back to the college campus from noon to 1 p.m. March 30 in the second-floor of Campus Center. The event is part of the Animal-Assisted Therapy, and Dance. The recipients will be announced 76 juniors and seniors who are bringing llamas back to the college campus. The next two sessions will be in April and then in May, but the exact dates have not been announced yet. For accommodations, contact Michael kaplan at mskaplan@ithaca.edu or through the phone at 607-274-7098.

College announces changes to leadership in the School of HSPH

Christine McNamara, associate professor in the Department of Physical Therapy and director of the Occupational Therapy and PT Education Program, will serve as provost of graduate and professional stud- ents, starting July 1, 2023. As associate provost, McNamara will be responsible for the Office of Extended Stud- ies, the Center for Civic Engagement, the Office of International Programs, Interna- tional Student and Scholar Support Services and the Honors Program.

Students of Color Coalition to host end of semester meeting

The Students of Color Coalition is organizing a meeting from 5 to 6 p.m. March 30 in the AIDS room in West Tower. The meeting is meant for students to interact with each other and for student clubs and organiza- tions to publicize and talk about their future events. The meeting is open for inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Social Change will be acting as a resource for students who need help or want to start a conversation. The Center for Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity will be bringing llamas back to the college campus. Volunteers from Cornell Companions will bring llamas back to the college campus to show students about their experiences at the college. The next two sessions will be in April and then in May, but the exact dates have not been announced yet. For accommodations, contact Michael kaplan at mskaplan@ithaca.edu or through the phone at 607-274-7098.

College announces recipients of Peggy Ryan Williams Award

The Office of Student Engagement announced 76 juniors and seniors who received the Peggy Ryan Williams award for Academic and Community Leadership for the 2023–23 academic year. This includes December 2022 graduates as well. Of the 76 students selected, 27 were in the Roy H. Park School of Commu- nications, seven were in the School of Business, 19 were in the School of Health Science and Human Performance, 15 were in the School of Humanities and Sciences and eight were in the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance. The recipients will be honored at the Co-Curricular Symposium from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. April 20 in Clark Lounge and Klingerstein Lounge. All members of the campus community can attend the event.

Ithacappella sends off seniors in showcase

Senior Christian Castro was gifted a bottle of cider by Ithacappella singers at the Ithacappella Block 4 Concert on March 25 in Emerson Suites. Senior Massimo Giacosa was also celebrated as one of the two members graduating this spring.

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We welcome all students to join our staff, build your resume and get experience!
Permanent child care at IC could promote inclusion

Ithaca College is partnering with the Coddington Road Community Center—a child care center in Ithaca—to help with its expansion program and to serve as a temporary new opportunity for students and faculty. Even though this collaboration is temporary and the main concentration relies on helping the CRCC, it still offers a great start to something bigger, like a permanent on-campus child care center.

A trustful child care center is good for all busy-scheduled parents, but child care that is not even a mile away from work and school is better. Having the ability to check up on their children whenever needed without worries of skipping a class could help to reduce large amounts of stress on parents’ shoulders. Not only will it allow parents to have a low-stress work environment, but it will also help with their time management. An on-campus child care center would also allow student parents to have a better chance at graduating on time or graduating at all. On-campus child care would be beneficial not only for parents but for student employment. It would create more on-campus jobs and allow students, especially the ones concentrating on social work, education and child care, to learn necessary child care skills. Having a child care center would also boost the college’s reputation among faculty and student parents. Above all, on-campus child care would be a great deal specifically for children. Attending daycare and being away from family can be scary for children, especially at early ages. However, knowing that their parents are next door would allow children to find a sense of home in the center.

Ithaca College’s collaboration with CRCC should become an opportunity to have a permanent child care center, like Cornell University and Tompkins Cortland Community College. While it is understandable that this new center would require great input and possible construction, it should not hold the college back from creating a more inclusive environment for student and faculty parents.

EIB Center is not a ticket out of systematic racism

In March 2023, President La Jerne Cornish announced the upcoming Center for Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging. According to the announcement, the new center will help the Ithaca Forever strategic plan reach one of its goals, which is to become a national model through the college’s diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging values. The center will fulfill this goal by providing a strategic direction for the institution, building campus-wide accountability measures and learning from, honoring and creating sustainable processes.

The announcement about the new center came a couple of weeks after the first IC Rise Up walk-out, though there was no mention in the announcement if the voices of BIPOC students encouraged the Center for Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging to form. However, Cornish did mention that the center has a structure that will more effectively address the existing issues at the college.

While creating a new center is a start, what matters is if it will be a strong enough resource to achieve its goals. Throughout the years, the college has had resources, like the Center for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Social Change, and yet, as of today, the members of the campus community still face microaggressions, racism and discrimination. It is not about how many centers the college can create, but about a resource that will actually advance the improvement of these problems. As BIPOC students raised concerns during the walk-out, it should not be a performative center but rather one that solves problems.

The core of the problem relies on changing the normalization of privileged communities’ mindsets. The new center needs to address this and work on building a kinder and belonging community. The main goal of the Center for Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging and the community as a whole needs to be making sure that there is no need for another walk-out five years from now.
Gratefulness is a power prayer

One sentence told by a wise man named Mister Eckhart is enough to encapsulate the importance of gratitude: “If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough.”

I did not really appreciate the power of gratitude. I feared the universe would take back what I was grateful for to balance the good and bad — the ups and downs. So I began if I was always grateful, bad things would happen to me. As if establishing this belief of mine, whenever I expressed my gratitude, whether in silence or out loud, the opposite would happen. For instance, if I said, “I am thankful for today’s warm weather,” it would be all snowy and cold a day later. When I say, “I am grateful for my laptop that connects me with the creative world,” as biased as I could be, the laptop would start lagging.

When facing multiple “incidents” like these, I made myself fall into a life without gratitude. This experiment of living was, in simple words, harsh. Every day went like I was the least favorite child of nature. I would find things that troubled me, like thinking about how I was dissatisfied with my productivity before going to bed. As a result, I would wake up fearing that the day would not go as I had planned. Essentially, I tried to take full control of my life to dodge the universe reclaiming what made me happy. However, in doing so, there was nothing left for me to feel grateful about, or I thought so. I stood against the flow of nature. I forgot the universe is much greater than me. I did not know the seemingly ‘wrong’ things like failures and rejections bring something I could be grateful for — because that is how the universe guides us to our lessons.

Gratitude means giving full power and your trust to the universe instead of trying to force it to make something happen. To be grateful is to recognize that we are just a part of a much more complex and interconnected universe. By trusting the universe to work for us, we are giving up the need to control everything.

But this trust does not come for free. I think the universe tests us to see how we react if receive and lose all we want. When you receive the good energy of the world, will you help the universe expand and share it with others? Or do you fear that the universe would take back? When you lose it, will you embrace gratitude and look forward to the lesson it holds so that you can avoid missing out on even more important opportunities?

Appreciating something symbols that you are affirming your love for the universe and yourself. Because you are also part of the universe and contain it inside yourself, too. When love and trust bloom from the same root of gratefulness, your actions follow, and you flow with the universe without holding yourself from happiness through fears and worries. The same energy attracts itself. When you focus on what brings you joy and positivity, the universe will multiply your energy and bring more of that. In other words, your life flows where and how your energy goes.

Figure of Soul is a column written by first-year psychology major Ninjin Tumurbat (she/her) that analyzes metaphors. Contact her at ntumurbat@ithaca.edu.

Healthcare system in the US is a scam

BY CARA PRESSMAN

I studied abroad in Costa Rica over summer 2022, which was an experience like no other. The time of the year it is usually sunny in New York, it is rainy in San José. I was not used to the daily rain, which caused me to get a skin infection within the first two weeks.Dealing with this infection was medically difficult, so I was taken to Clínica Bíblica Hospital. I received decent care, was given different medications and was seen almost immediately upon arrival. After being examined, I was told the bill was around $84, which completely left me in shock because I could pay out of pocket. Later on, I needed to go back to the hospital three more times. I ended up spending about $40. Yet, not even a few weeks after I came back to the U.S. I was mailed a bill from my insurance company of almost $15,000 for the healthcare I received in Costa Rica. Apparently, any of the change which was not being retracted, we had to prove that the medical care I received was in another country. It took a few weeks, but thankfully we were able to prove our case.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time my family and I have struggled with our health insurance. At the age of 15, my doctors discovered a scarring in my brain that was causing seizures. My insurance refused coverage and my family could not afford to pay out of pocket. Instead, we ended up reaching a CNN reporter who published the story and got attention from thousands. It was not until over a year later that I was finally able to force the insurance company to cover the costs of surgery for not only me but anyone who needs it. I never thought I would have to fight my insurance company again, however, what I did not realize was that the fight never ended, and the rejections continue every single day to people all around the country. The U.S. healthcare system is flawed and nobody should be forced to pay millions just to stay alive and safe. Healthcare should not be considered a privilege — it is a fundamental right. But, sadly, there are no laws that define this, and millions suffer as a result.

Cara Pressman (she/her) is a junior English major. Contact her at cpressman@ithaca.edu.

Efforts must be put into helping athletes

BY HANNAH POLICE

Playing a sport is a dangerous game, not just for the physical strain it puts on one’s body but also for the mental effects it has, too. There are athletic trainers at hand, at every practice, every game and every moment while you are playing a sport. At Ithaca College, there are options, but rarely any that are emphasized as resources as often as we would hope. A new study has shown that 92% of colleges fail to deliver mental health support for student-athletes. It is important that athletes at the college feel supported and there are just not enough specified positions at the college that can provide that feeling for us.

At the college, the mental health option is the Center for Counseling and Psychological Services, which offers a hybrid of virtual and in-person services. CAPS offers individual therapy, group therapy and support groups. There is also a Crisis and After-Hours On-Call number. That being said, there are not many opportunities for athletes specifically. As an athlete myself, when I have struggled, I have been urged to reach out to Greg Shelley, retired associate professor in the Department of Exercise Science and Athletic Training with a specialty in sports psychology, who is also the professor for the Leadership Academy that I am a part of. He has been a phenomenal resource, but he is the only resource in charge of the 27 varsity teams the college has. Although he is phenomenal, it feels important that there be more than just one sports psychologist that athletes can go to.

In 2022, the athletic department had Victoria Garrick, a TED Talk speaker, mental health advocate, podcast host and a former Division 1 athlete, come to speak to the athletes. This was a huge step in the right direction to get the ball rolling on having hard conversations. Since then, the common feeling at the college has been, “When can someone like that come to speak to us again?” At Ithaca College, we also have a program called the Hidden Opponent, a national non-profit and advocacy group that raises awareness for student-athlete mental health and addresses the stigma within the sports culture. This program is great but goes unnoticed and some form of awareness of what our chapter of this program does could be very beneficial.

Within the U.S., 80% of the students report feeling stressed, while 34% feel depressed. Then add on the workload that being an athlete holds. In this day and age, with mental health being such a big topic, we need to address these problems and tackle them head-on. Dr. Liz Jodoin, a clinical solutions consultant at Mantra Health said: “We’ve also seen that student-athletes are less likely to seek help than non-athletes since many have been conditioned to push through physical, emotional, and psychological pain. As a result, this has contributed in part to higher rates of stress, anxiety, depression and, in many cases, has exacerbated pre-existing mental health conditions.” Ithaca College athletes are just looking for a little more support from a professional standpoint. What we do on a day-to-day basis is taxing, and there should be options and resources at hand to help the students help put their best foot forward on and off the court.

Hannah Police (she/her) is a junior Integrative Marketing Communications major. Contact her at hpolice@ithaca.edu.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Editor’s Note: This is a guest commentary. The opinions do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial board.

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BY MARIANA CONTRERAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Students dusted off their dancing shoes and broke out their most fabulous outfits for the first post-COVID-19 pandemic Pride Prom, hosted by the Center for LGBT Educa-
tion, Outreach and Services on March 23 in the Emerson Suites.

An initiative started in 2007, motivated by students' desires of having an excuse to dress up and redo one high school's most awaited nights was brought back in Spring 2023 by Open Pages, the Transgender and Non-Binary Residential Learning Com-

On March 23, a memorable night was brought back. Students dusted off their dancing shoes and broke out their most fabulous outfits for the first post-COVID-19 pandemic Pride Prom, hosted by the Center for LGBT Education, Outreach and Services on March 23 in the Emerson Suites.

An initiative started in 2007, motivated by students' desires of having an excuse to dress up and redo one of high school's most awaited nights was brought back in Spring 2023 by Open Pages, the Transgender and Non-Binary Residential Learning Community.

PRISM, a student organization focused on topics relating to the LGBTQ+ community; and other students that wanted to be involved. Luca Maurer, executive director of Student Equity, Inclusion and Belonging and director of LGBTQ+ Education, Outreach and Services, and Grace Dosdall, pride fellow at the LGBT Center, started meeting with the interested students from those organizations once a week since the beginning of the semester to organize the event.

“Because I was a student, a lot of students didn’t come out until college,” Dosdall said. "So I think in addition to it being a really amazing opportunity for all students to hang out together, it’s also an opportunity to get to redo something as yourself and for a lot of students because of COVID, they never went to prom at all. So this is a first time..."
Dorm culture creates perspectives of student life

BY KATIE KROM
STAFF WRITER

When Googling, “What is the best dorm at Ithaca College?,” a list of all 27 residential halls comes up. Choosing housing for the four years at college is one of the hardest decisions that a student has to make. It is hard to know how big the room will be, what the communal bathrooms will be like or what the resident assistant is like.

Ithaca College has a variety of housing options, including Upper Quads, Lower Quads, Towers, Terraces and Emerson Hall, as well as the Circle and Garden Apartments. In a TikTok posted in 2020, a first-year student came up with different sounds to describe each dorm. The Garden Apartments had a glitzy sound and the Circles had bubbles, implying that they are a good choice to live in, with Lower Quads and Terraces on the other side of the spectrum, having a child screaming and monster noises. The Towers were a trumpet and Upper Quads were a little ‘ding’ noise, also implying they are a good location to live. Students in the comments tended to agree with the sound choices.

First-year student Julia Sarcone lives in Wood Hall, which is a part of Upper Quads. She said she chose Upper Quads because it gave her the opportunity to live among other students who also chose to live in Upper Quads. While Sarcone said it was scary when she first moved in, because she did not know anyone and was living with someone new for the first time, she said she now has many friends.

“That’s what kind of happens when you live so close to people,” Sarcone said. “I enjoyed living with other athletes because they were all in the same boat as me.”

Sarcone said she is very happy with her choice of living in Upper Quads because it allowed her to enjoy her first year in college.

“There’s a stereotype that Upper Quads are better than Lower Quads,” Sarcone said. “A lot of my friends joke about wanting to live in Bogart. … But you can’t really go wrong with any of the housing options on campus.”

Similarly, senior Robert Pucci said he agrees that Upper Quads are better than Lower Quads because they are considered cleaner by the student body. Pucci currently lives in Terraces, which are located above Towers.

Before Terraces, Pucci lived in West Tower and then the Circles. While he enjoyed most of his dorm experiences, Pucci said he was not fully ready for the communal bathrooms in Terraces.

Pucci said he said he enjoys the independence that comes with living in Terraces.

“I was amazed because living in Terraces is like being in your own bubble. Pucci said. “You are on campus, but it doesn’t really feel like you are on campus. But you also get the typical dorm life.”

Pucci said that although everyone is nice, the residents mostly do their own thing and stick to themselves. This was a different from his other dorms — Pucci said that when he lived in Towers, he was much closer with his neighbors.

“I don’t know many people on my floor, but I kind of love that,” Pucci said. “Everyone kind of minds their own business and does their own thing and is okay with it. Everyone is very friendly, but you don’t feel pressured to go the extra mile.”

First-year student Sierra Harrison lives in Rowland Hall, located in Upper Quads. She said she chose her dorm by doing research beforehand and watching videos on the dorms on YouTube.

“The rooms are very small and seem to not have a consistent size throughout the dorm,” Harrison said. “It’s mostly quiet, and a lot of people don’t go out on the weekends. But the downside to this is people are always complaining when you are loud after 11 p.m."

Harrison said she really enjoys being in Upper Quads because of the peace. She said Lower Quads tend to be less peaceful and a less attractive place to live than the Upper Quads.

“Lower Quads seem to have a more party stereotype and seem to be wild,” Harrison said. "The dorms at the college are another aspect of dorm life. The RAs are responsible for fostering a sense of community among those living on campus, primarily by organizing events and serving as a point of reference of all aspects of campus life for residents.”

“I love my RA,” Sarcone said. "She is really sweet and made living here and the transition into college so much easier. She is so open to helping everyone.”

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Student anchors himself on set for short film about grief

BY MATT MINTON
CO-LIFE AND CULTURE EDITOR

As a group of 50 crew and cast members work together to get ready for the 12-hour shoot, they find themselves on familiar ground: John Marshall High School, where the carnival finale of the 1978 musical “Grease” was filmed. The historic cinematic landmark now becomes the setting for an intense sports story about overcoming grief.

“Anchor” is a short film directed by Dhananjay Saraswat for his New York Film Academy thesis project, filmed over the course of three days in February 2023. The film follows the bond between a track team throughout the course of three days in February 2023. The film follows the bond between a track team after the death of their captain.

Saraswat, a prequel film titled “Summer Lovin'” is in development and a television series titled “Grease: Rise of the Pink Ladies” is set to release April 2023.

Fogler said he is a fan of the musical “Grease” and “has always wanted to be cast in a theater production of it before getting too old for the parts. While not in a production of the material itself, he was still able to perform in a place important to its history.

“We can all relate to being in high school, going through some of the things the characters went through,” Fogler said. “It’s one of those films that’s just timeless and can constantly reach the younger generation as each decade passes. And my mom loves ‘Grease,’ so she was very excited.”

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New ‘Shazam!’ film is a complete sham


BY ANDREW TELL
STAFF WRITER

This one-of-a-kind album that blends hyperpop and irony, “10,000 gecs” gets its hits and misses, but it seems that the hype surrounding these big releases is not as strong as it once was. “Anti-Man” and “The Wasp Quantamania” (2023) saw one of Marvel’s biggest declines in box office sales, a 69.8% dropoff from its opening weekend. It is collective fatigue that has grown over the years, or are these studios simply running out of new and exciting ideas that will get the general public to return to the theaters?

Shazam (Zachary Levi) returns to the big screen in a sadly underwhelming sequel with no real reason to exist.

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Hyperpop is taken to 11, blending elements of PC Music, bubblegum pop and noise in order to create a sound that is distinct with 100 gecs.

BY ANDREW TELL
STAFF WRITER

100 gecs is back and continues to pave their own path in the music world, much to everyone’s enjoyment.

Laura Les and Dylan Brady started their career in 2015 by sending each other Logic files back and forth. They would each work their magic, curating bizarre collections of noises and hooks. This partnership was on and off throughout the 2010s until they were finally stabilized in 2019. At the Fire Fest and decided to make their first album together afterward. What emerged was “1000 gecs,” the magneto opus of the hyperpop genre.

Hyperpop is music taken to 11, blending elements of PC Music, bubblegum pop and noise in order to create a sound that is distinct with 100 gecs. “10,000 gecs” is their third album, a remix album, headlining tunes on this album of the gecs’ chronicle.

In their new album, 100 gecs blend the hyperpop genre and technique. This is hard to shake the feeling of being a one-time hit that was made by two friends having fun together. “10,000 gecs” is now two years old, and it has continued to evolve, showing that the duo is not fully understood them. “10,000 gecs” is now two years old, and it has continued to evolve, showing that the duo is on a roll.

Fury of the Gods” is more generic than its predecessor, yet it still holds on to at least some of the charm to get a pass overall. However, the film is not likely to justify its existence with most audience members, especially in such an oversaturated market for superhero movies. It has some interesting qualities, but it is hard to shake the feeling of being another uninspired sequel.

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ALBUM REVIEW: “10,000 gecs” Dog Snow/Atlantic Records

BY ANDREW TELL
STAFF WRITER

100 gecs is back and continues to pave their own path in the music world, much to everyone’s enjoyment.

Laura Les and Dylan Brady started their collaboration in 2015 by sending each other Logic files back and forth. They would each work their magic, curating bizarre collections of noises and hooks. This partnership was on and off throughout the 2010s until the duo played a set at the 2019 Minecraft World Championships.

Dr. Seuss wrote a Smashing Pumpkins song back in 2009 and has a continued history of abuse against women. In the future of women in this country.

Is the #MeToo movement over?

BY LILY LIPKA
STAFF WRITER

For decades, Hollywood has been known to protect abusers and allow powerful men to get away with heinous crimes involving sexual harassment and violence. In October 2017, an online movement and cultural phenomenon began that sought to change that: #MeToo.

#MeToo was on a rise until 2016 when actress Amber Heard filed for divorce against ex-husband, Johnny Depp. After their divorce was finalized, Heard wrote an op-ed for The Washington Post titled “Amber Heard: I spoke up against sexual violence and sued our culture’s wrath. That has to change.” In the piece, Heard wrote about #MeToo and what it has exposed in our culture about men being able to get away with heinous crimes involved sexual and domestic abuse to the future of women in this country.

What is most frightening about all of this is the precedent the Depp v. Heard trial has set for other cases. Recently, developments in Bill Cosby’s lawsuit against ex-wife Angelina Jolie over their winery have come to light, and the revelations are shocking, so shocking that dias are urging him to take the same steps that Depp did.

When in Hollywood can still thrive, not only just after allegations but after there is legitimate proof of their abuse. Pitt, in a rather ironic turn of events, has been subpoenaed for divorce against her then-husband, Johnny Depp. After their divorce was finalized, Heard wrote an op-ed for The Washington Post titled “Amber Heard: I spoke up against sexual violence and sued our culture’s wrath. That has to change.” In the piece, Heard wrote about #MeToo and what it has exposed in our culture about men being able to get away with heinous crimes involved sexual and domestic abuse to the future of women in this country.

Is the #MeToo movement over?

CONTACT: GMS@SUHACA.EDU

POLLED CULTURE

BY LILY LIPKA
STAFF WRITER

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crossword
By Quill Driver Books

ACROSS
1 Defeats a wrestler
5 Kimono closers
9 Ski lifts
13 Three oceans
15 Memishahdo's servant
16 Savoir-faire
17 Heath left over
18 Toy with a tail
21 Flocks of geese
22 Wonder
23 Swindle
25 Keep — on
27 Four-baggers (2 wds.)
31 Breaking news
35 Wide sts.
36 Lowest high tide
38 Period of time
39 Provided a meal
40 — Lama
42 Recent (pref.)
43 Kind of balloon
46 First light of day
47 Combust
48 Keep — on
50 Composting
52 Dissolute fellow
54 Wheel and —
55 Norway's capital
56 Barn neighbor
58 2,100, to Caesar
60 Fastened shut
64 “Instead of” word
65 Ski equipment
67 Memorandum
68 Paton or Thicke
69 Piano exercise
70 Poet's black
71 Crazy about
72 Cotillion
73 Electronics giant
76 This crossword answers
77 Infra A.M.P.S. Odels
78 Raker Soup Hale
79 Apace Peso Aria
80 Stings Hoarse
81 Part Hulks
82 Acme Atop Rural
83 Boo Hide Yamaha
84 Attains Matador
85 Stomp's Hip LOC
86 Earth Heart Kith
87 Beefed Adorns
88 Oak's Acan
89 Prep Self Rider
90 Tidy Tsp's Stews

DOWN
1 Gentle touches
2 — Dinesen
3 Congenial
4 Jonathan Swift works
5 Unit of resistance
6 Overall fronts
7 Motionless
8 Soap opera
9 Likes instantly (2 wds.)
10 Ignore
11 Power unit
12 Onetime Queens
14 Bullpark
15 Writers' credits
16 Echo
18 Eur. nation
20 Overact
24 Work day
25 Overact
26 Thud
27 Sword handles
28 Not hidden
29 Kind of coverage
30 Kind of bar
32 Total indifference
33 Grim
34 Candle type
35 Piano exercise
36 Norwegian
37 Merchandised
38 Fragrant stick
39 — Lama
41 Stuck on a sandbar
42 Recent (pref.)
43 Kind of balloon
46 First light of day
47 Combust
48 Keep — on
50 Composting
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71 Crazy about
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73 Electronics giant

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answers to last issue’s sudokus:

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Create and solve your Sudoku puzzles for FREE. Play Sudoku and win prizes at: PRIZESUDOKU.COM"
Controlling the leaderboards
Junior shatters program record for draw controls

BY CHRIS SOHL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Breaking records has become more and more common in sports, but breaking records in a fraction of the time it took the previous holder to accomplish is quite rare. Despite only being a junior, midfielder Caroline Wise recently broke the Ithaca College women’s lacrosse team’s career draw control record.

In women’s lacrosse, a draw occurs at the beginning of each quarter and again after every goal. At the center of the field, one player from each team lines up with the back of their sticks together in the air and the ball placed between them. From there, the referee blows the whistle and each player makes the attempt to pitch the ball to open space in hopes of scooping it up and getting their team possession.

Alongside the draw taker are two midfielders from each team positioned around the center circle. If the draw taker can pitch the ball to her teammates, that provides a huge advantage in the possession game.

The previous record was held by Reid Simontone, who was a member of the program from 2016–19 and amassed an impressive 250 draw controls over 76 games. However, in only 28 games, Wise has notched an unbelievable 292 draw controls, surpassing Simontone’s record in just under a third of the time. In her 23rd career game at the college against the University of Scranton on March 8, Wise earned 13 draw controls on the contest to end the game with a career total of 256, beating the record in just over a season and a half, which means that’s really unique.

Junior midfielder Sydney Phillips, another member of the draw control circle squad, said the program truly has something special in Wise.

“Every year, winning draws is important, but this year we have such a strong, prominent draw taker like Caroline who has made winning draws such a big part of our game,” Phillips said. “Caroline just has an ability to analyze the draw situation and create a plan that’s really unique.”

Phillips ranks third on the team in draw controls this season with 15 draws won over nine games and the other team doesn’t, it’s huge,” Phillips said. “It really just elevates everyone’s play on the field along with [Wise’s], which I think is incredible.”

Head coach Karrie Moore said it is outstanding that not only has Wise broken the program record, but the speed at which it was broken is jaw-dropping.

“I think for her, breaking this record was a really cool thing,” Moore said. “I think the thing that’s really impressive about it is that she did it in not even a season and a half, which means the draws won per game is absolutely off the charts.”

Moore, who has now coached all three of the nine players on the program’s career draw control leaderboard, said the accolade is a great way to see Wise being recognized for her undeniable impact on the field.

“I typically do scout work outside of practice to try and prepare myself for games,” Wise said. “Me and the girls spend lots of time communicating to try and formulate the best strategy during games. We are always on the same page.”

With great success comes a positive and motivated attitude, which Wise said she always brings to practice.

“At the end of the day, there are no athletic scholarships tied to us playing, which means we all come every day because we want to be here,” Wise said. “I think that’s really cool.”

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Q&A: Interim coach hopes to be a hit for softball team

As the Ithaca College softball team heads into its new season, it is doing so under the guidance of a new interim head coach, former Bomber standout Kelly Robichaud ’16.

Robichaud, who earned her degree in sports psychology, was offered an opportunity in 2019 to return to her alma mater and take on the assistant coaching position alongside former head coach Hannah Quintana ’07, who stepped down following the 2022 season.

A four-year starter, Robichaud led the Bombers to the NCAA tournament in 2016 and was named Empire 8 Player of the Year in 2016. She went on to earn a master’s degree in mental health counseling from the University of Vermont.

“Before returning to the college as coach, Robichaud was an assistant coach at Immaculata College for the 2019 season. Being a seasoned veteran of South Hill, Robichaud said she is excited to build her career around the values and tradition of the program she loved so much as a player. So far this season, she has led the Bombers to a regular season record of 8-3-3.

“Contributing writer Noelle Cook spoke with Robichaud about her experience as interim head coach at the college. The interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Noelle Cook: You played under Dee Palozzi and coached alongside Hannah Quintana. What did you learn from them during your time as a player and assistant and head coach?

Kelly Robichaud: A competitive edge is something that I learned from both of the coaches. The program is always hoping to win a conference title and get hosting rights (in the postseason). So I think that the competitive edge is something that they have been instilled in me. And then the tradition and the values that this program has is what really sets it apart.

NC: What are those core strengths and values that you’re looking to impart to your players as their coach?

KR: Leadership is so important. I want all of my athletes to become strong, independent, empowered people that enter the workforce, and softball is a great vehicle to get them there. I want them knowing they’re more than just a star line.

NC: How do you have your first few games as head coach gone?

KR: They’ve been very exciting. This group in particular has a ton of energy and they really want to play for each other. Even at practice, the energy is high and they’re having fun, but they have a really good balance of serious fun and knowing how to find that line. If you look at our dugout in the middle of the game, they’re crowded around the opening cheering each other on. Just with these 12 games we’ve had so far, that’s something that makes the game so different and so amazing.

NC: What do you think that you bring to this team as a former Bomber and the new head coach?

KR: Well, I think of some that energy starts with how I come to practice. I’m one of those people who doesn’t need a lot of caffeine. I just kind of wake up energized and excited to find that balance between valuing what my players are as people and becoming their coach on the field. They know that I will push them outside of their comfort zone and try to challenge them, but that there is a safe place with me. I try to be transparent so they know what to expect. They get a very similar person on and off the field.

NC: How have your two years as an assistant for the program helped your transition into the new role?

KR: When I accepted the position I had only been a part-time assistant at a previous college. So these past two years have been very helpful. Not only to get to know the behind-the-scenes game, day and office duties but also that consistency of knowing who the team is. I’ve had the opportunity to work with four of our now-current seniors, and I’ve been with them through their entire careers. Some of them are senior class captains, so to see them develop into those roles has been really cool.

NC: What are your goals for this season as a team?

KR: First and foremost, I want us to go out and compete for Liberty League, as well as a regular season title, but primarily have the ability to host the League [Championship] here on campus. And then almost be a competitive edge, and then the culture and fun. It’s important that we’re having fun, but having fun, but there’s that balance of serious fun and knowing how to find that balance.

Transcript of video from left, Ithaca College sophomore midfielder Chase Gullik passes to first-year student midfielder Jace Dockx as Clarkson University junior defender Matt Szwagulinski attempts to intercept.

Contact: acharde@ithaca.edu

Loxton and Quintana talk about being head coach at the college.

As an interim coach, Quintana has overseen a successful season for the Bombers, with a record of 17-10 and a first-place finish in the Liberty League.

Contact: aminatallimranlallow@ithaca.edu

Relentless Szuwagulski tries to win a face-off as he searches for the ball.
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
GRACE MURRAY/GYMNASTICS

First-year student gymnast Grace Murray earned third place on the floor with a score of 9.800 at the NCGA Championship on March 25 in Winona, Minnesota. Murray was one of three Bombers who earned All-American honors this season.

COMPETITION OF THE WEEK
WOMEN’S LACROSSE VS. ST. LAWRENCE

First-year student defender Phoebe Hosford works to clear the ball up the field in the No. 13 Ithaca College women's lacrosse team’s 14–12 win over No. 22 St. Lawrence University. The win preserves the Bombers' undefeated record in the Liberty League.

THE BUZZER
The Ithacan’s breakdown of Ithaca College’s week in sports

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THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2023

NOTABLE UPCOMING COMPETITIONS
ROWING: Cayuga Duels at 9 a.m. April 1 at the Cayuga Inlet.

BASEBALL: 1 and 4 p.m. April 1 and 1 p.m. April 2 vs. St. Lawrence University, 3:30 p.m. April 5 vs. Alfred State on Valesente Diamond at Freeman Field.

SOFTBALL: 1 and 3 p.m. April 2 vs. St. John Fisher University at Kostrinsky Field.

WOMEN’S TENNIS: 6 p.m. April 5 vs. Hartwick College at Wheeler Outdoor Courts.

EVENT TO WATCH
1 P.M. AND 3 P.M. APRIL 1 AT KOSTRINSKY FIELD

The Ithaca College softball team will return to Kostrinsky Field to welcome the SUNY Geneseo Knights for a home-opening doubleheader April 1. The Bombers most recently went 1–0–1 in a doubleheader against SUNY Oneonta on March 24, winning the first game and tying the second 11–11 after the game was called because of darkness, and sit at 8–3–1 overall. In the all-time series, the Bombers are 7–4 against the Knights but lost both in a doubleheader last season, 2–0 and 1–0. It will also be the first time the Knights visit Kostrinsky Field since 2007, when the Bombers won 8–0.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK
“They’re a good team and they gave us a good fight, but our defense is the best we can have this season and, you know, we just found our groove.”

- KYLE PROCTOR
Sophomore attackman about the men’s lacrosse team’s win over Clarkson
From left, junior Dayanara Reyes-Rodriguez and sophomore Kristen Johnson perform a tap dance routine choreographed by IC Tap co-president senior Amanda Kielty to the song “No Sweat” during the IC Tap In showcase March 24 in Emerson Suites. This is the first time in five years that the group has hosted a showcase.