Alliance centralizes local LGBTQ+ community

Students’ sit-in to boycott a speaker for Hillel event

Hillel facilitates reflection on Israel-Palestine history
A Christian festival, Fastnacht — which takes place during festival celebrating Lent — is closely tied to the time or night just before the start of the Lent fasting period. It means the Lent fasting period — is closely tied to tradition and was first officially documented in the Middle Ages.

Scientists push for new tier for hurricanes as storms intensify

A new study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences makes the argument that weather experts need a new category to properly classify the strongest-than-ever hurricanes of the future. The treatise advocates for the creation of a Category 6 hurricane tier in response to increasingly intense tropical cyclone activity around the world from climate change.

President Zelensky visits front lines of the Russia-Ukraine War

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky visited soldiers Feb. 4 fighting in the Donipro and Zaporizhzhya sections of the war’s front line where he was briefed on the situation. The Russian military has set its sights on the industrial city of Donipro in the southeast of the country as one of the war’s “main targets,” Zelensky said. Zelensky also visited Zaporizhzhya, where Zelensky said air defense and electronic warfare capabilities also need to be strengthened.

Six people hurt, one injured during festival celebrating Lent

Six people were hurt, one of them seriously, when a large carnival float caught fire at a parade on Sunday in Kehl in southwestern Germany, police said. One person suffered such severe burn injuries that he had to be taken to hospital.

Rice production increased to a record high in the Philippines

In his speech during the ceremonial palay harvesting and distribution of various assistance in Candaba, Pampanga, he said the rice production in 2023 registered a 1.5% or 300,000-MT increase from the 19.76 million MT of palay produced in 2022.

THE ITHACAN

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Online graduate degree expands access

BY KAI LINCKE
STAFF WRITER

Ithaca College is preparing to expand access to its speech-language pathology graduate program by offering an online, part-time master's degree program starting in fall 2024. The college offers an undergraduate degree in speech-language pathology and a master's degree — with the option for teacher certification — in speech-language pathology.

Lynne Hewitt, professor and chair of the Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, said early intervention providers in Tompkins County have told her that there is a long waiting list for speech services and a great need for more speech-language pathologists. Hewitt said the department wanted to help fill the need and provide an online path for non-traditional learners to become speech-language pathologists.

The online master’s degree is part-time and takes eight semesters to complete. Students will need to take the necessary core prerequisites. Hewitt said students who have not met the prerequisites can take the courses at the college, which will add three semesters of coursework for a total of 11 semesters or 3.7 years.

“They say, ‘Well, you have to get the prerequisites somewhere else,’” Hewitt said. “A lot of people don’t stay in their home state, so we’re offering them their prerequisites.” Hewitt added that the students will need to complete the prerequisites by the end of each semester, and students who are accepted will only be able to take the courses online.

Graduate student Cameryn Nichols said she thinks the externship experiences for the online speech-language pathology program will be very similar to the in-person program because students can choose where they complete their externships. “A lot of people don’t stay in Ithaca,” Nichols said. “They either go home or go to different places that they might want to settle down in the future, so the online program is not super different in that sense.”

Senior Molly Hankinson is in the speech-language pathology undergraduate program, and she said she plans to return to the college’s in-person program for her graduate degree. “We do have a really small campus, and it can be inaccessible for people who live at home and can’t leave home due to various reasons,” Hankinson said. “So for the professors to still be able to share their knowledge and get their word out there, but people also still having the accessibility of it without having to come all the way up to Ithaca, pretty cool.”

CONTACT KLINCKE@ITHACA.EDU

Reaccreditation calls for policy clarity

BY VIVIAN ROSE
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Ithaca College Faculty Council heard from Stacia Zabusky, associate provost for Academic Programs, about the college’s credit hour policy and Emily Beckett, vice president, general counsel and secretary to the board of trustees, about nominations for a faculty trustee in its Feb. 6 meeting.

Zabusky said she and her team discovered a gap in the college’s compliance with the Mid-States Commission on Higher Education’s standards for re-accreditation. This gap was re-recognized as a gap in the college’s compliance with the Mid-States Commission on Higher Education’s standards for re-accreditation. This gap was recognized during the college’s reaccreditation process in the fall of 2023. The college’s next reaccreditation process is scheduled for the fall of 2027.

Zabusky said the college must clearly define the policy and content of the credit hour policy. She said the college is working to clarify the policy and is looking for feedback from faculty and students on the policy.

“The ‘hour policy’ is not the same thing for everyone,” Zabusky said. “There’s also an 80/20 rule. Exceptions can be documented. Zabusky said that creating new policies and procedures for students on campus.

“Reaccreditation calls for policy clarity,” Beckett said. “We want to dispel any major myths that attach to the college counseling center every year, which is that we have a waiting list. We don’t have a waiting list,” Peterson said. “Where the college counseling center is that, if students are coming in for immediate services, it may actually take seven to 10 days for them to get that first appointment, but that’s a [legitimate] schedule.”

Kearns gave a presentation of all the activities that NSTP covers, including fall and spring orientation, first-year and transfer student events and the Tau Sigma National Honor Society, an honor society for transfer students.

“Students do orientation [and] it’s big. It’s huge, it’s fun,” Kearns said. “It’s all of these activities. But then it’s like, ‘Okay, okay, what? We want students to come out and still be engaged.’

Kearns said that one day she hopes to have the orientation leaders working with their small groups through the year.

Sophomore Lily Challeng, Park School of Communications Senator, said it is important for first-year and transfer students to develop a consistency in their routine when first coming to the college.

“Lots of students are dealing with inconsistency,” Challeng said. “Being in a new environment, new friends. A lot of newness. Having something consistent that isn’t their classes, a support system, [that would be] because a lot of students feel isolated.”

The SGC then held confirmations for senior Quinn Tutino, vice president of academic affairs, to the executive board for a position on the elections committee and sophomore Daniele Conde, for the Class of 2026 Senator, and first-year student Lauren Bidwell, who is a transfer student, for the first-gen senator position.

After the executive session, the SGC had its regular business meeting and commented on the potential new clubs on campus and the need for more student-organized clubs. The SGC then held confirmations for new members, and it is important to promote the council.

The SGC then held confirmations for the student senate. We have 15 open senate positions right now,” McConnell said. “And there are people that have no idea what this organization is, which is really sad.”

CONTACT VRose@ITHACA.EDU

SGC talks vital college services

BY JACQUELYN REAVES
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The Ithaca College Student Government Council met Feb. 5 to hear from Brian Peterson, director of Counseling and Psychological Services, and Emily Beckett, vice president of Academic Programs, about the college’s credit hour policy and see how important these concepts are.

“Do what you have been doing,” Zabusky said. “There is not a lot of feedback that we have been getting from students on campus.

“Reaccreditation calls for policy clarity,” Beckett said. “We want to dispel any major myths that attach to the college counseling center every year, which is that we have a waiting list. We don’t have a waiting list,” Peterson said. “Where the college counseling center is that, if students are coming in for immediate services, it may actually take seven to 10 days for them to get that first appointment, but that’s a [legitimate] schedule.”

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CONTACT JReaves@ITHACA.EDU
Establishment of the Ithaca Pride Alliance was announced in a vigil held for the Transgender Day of Remembrance in November 2023. The clothing swap was IPA's first opening event.

Andrew Sheldon is the chair of the IPA and a drag queen who performs under the name Tilla Conta. Sheldon said they have been active in the LGBTQ+ community for almost six years and said currently there have been very grassroots, but the IPA serves to connect different areas of programming in Ithaca to a centralized organization.

"I kind of acted as somewhat of the de facto leader of organizations that existed before the IPA that were ... unofficial, or not centrally organized," Sheldon said. "We didn’t really always touch base with each other or check school-sanctioned calling together or a loose group of folks four years ago to try to avoid ... to planning events on top of each other and (to) ... to try to put together a schedule of events."

The IPA is a project within the Tompkins County Foundation (TCF), a non-profit 501(c)(3) that works to support the Ithaca community through initiatives that support the quality of life for residents.

Dalfonzo said the IPA partnered with the TCF for a fiscal sponsorship, which means the TCF assists with tax and legal paperwork and setting up a bank account for the organization.

Dalfonzo also said that the IPA relies on donations, sponsorships and grants for fundraising.

"We are supported through the TCF doing the legal nonprofit setup work so that we can reach out to sponsors in town," Dalfonzo said.

Sheldon said the IPA partnered with local businesses like Mimi’s Attic and Buffalo Street Books to provide locations for clothing donations. There were also donation sites at the Ithaca College LGBT Center and the Cornell LGBT Center.

"It is incredibly empowering for people to be able to come to a place like this where it is very affirming," Coyne said. "For children or for young adults or even folks that are later in adult hood ... I do think having access to something like this can be really life changing.""Lauren Goldberg, director of Hillel at Ithaca College, said the program is not trying to convince anyone, but is built on mutual respect and honest conversations.

"I think this is the way you become more active," Fireside said. "I think this is the way you become an activist."

"Honestly, it felt like crumbs being thrown to something like this can be barely enough to support a cause, it is that one was closer to the actual war, it is that one was closer to the actual war," Kreshtool said. "I think this is the way you become more active.

"I think this is the way you become more active.""Fireside said she felt the Side-By-Side program was more able to mold her activism, although she believes the intentions of the sit-in were good.

"It wasn't just destroying that myth that you do not need to talk to the Palestinians and you can just ignore them," Fireside said. "It was so offensive to see that Americans, the Europeans, really getting outraged at the massacre of Israelis, but then, completely absolutely zero empathy to what had happened to Palestinians [before that].""Fireside acknowledged that the constant vio- lence has resulted in a cycle of victimization, of which no one benefits from, something Abulof resonated with.

"These acts of terror, [like those] that took place on Oct. 17, we will have no deterrent effect," Abulof said. "It is only perpetuating the cycle of violence.

On the subject of potential solutions to the conflict, Abulof said the biggest impediment to a two-state solution is political will.

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Lee Tyson began their role as Pride Fel-
low for The Center for LGBT Education, Out-
reach, and Services at Ithaca College on
Jan. 16, 2024. Prior to this role, Tyson completed
a postdoctoral fellowship at Case Western
Reserve University in Cleveland. Tyson also
received a Ph.D. in musicology and LGBT stud-
ies from Case Western Reserve University, where Tyson taught as
a visiting lecturer.

The Pride Fellowship started in Fall 2022 as
a new paid fellowship and is designed to
aid the fellow in their research and practice
of diversity, equity and inclusion programming.

Lee’s role is in support of this objective and
involves learning and facilitating learning about the LGBTQ+ community, inviting and connecting partici-
pants to events and learning opportunities, and
facilitating meetings with students to discuss social issues.

Staff writer Grace Condon spoke with Ty-
son about their perspectives on leadership, the transition from being a student to a mentor and plans for student connection.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Grace Condon: How have your prior expe-
riences shaped your perspective on leadership and leading community building initiatives in the LGBTQ+ and queer communities?

Lee Tyson: My most recent position was as a postdoctoral fellow at Case Western Reserve University in GCRC, the Center for Humanities in Leadership Learning Program series. I gained a lot of in-
sights in general into how institutions work, what kind of strategic thinking happens at up-
per levels of administration and how these might bridge the gap between … working with stu-
dents and the larger strategic thinking around diversity efforts. A lot of that has informed my shift from an academic path into student services. I [also] did [a] postdoc at Case West-
ern Reserve University. … The postdoc gave
me the opportunity to think more broadly about how higher education institutions can serve their students best.

Grace: What made you want to come back to Ithaca and take the fellowship?

Lee: I was here in Ithaca for nine years, as a PhD student … and then teaching. I’m really excited to return. … The Fellowship is a unique opportunity to get some really tailored experience in LGBT+ student services [and that]’s rooted in Ithaca College’s reputation of being the forefront of serving and supporting LGBT+ students. … Also, I’m really excited to work with the Office of LGBTQ+ and Student Life, which is especially excited about Ithaca’s new LGBTQ+ Pride Alliance, which is a new organization supporting LGBT+ community building in and around Ithaca, which our director Crissi Daniels is one of the founders of. 

Grace: What do you bring to the Fellowship as an advocate for those within your community and as someone who was once a student?

Lee: [Having been a student is] one of the main experiences that I’m drawing on. I was the president of our Gay Straight Alliance [at high school]. In college, I was on the board of our Queer Student Organization, in gradu-
ate school, I was a peer educator on topics of sexuality, gender, and [I held] different roles as co-chair of an organization supporting LGBT+ academicians. Through all those positi-
ons, I’ve learned that relationship building and communication are key and understanding that individuals know themselves best and commu-
nities know what they need.

Grace: Are there any events in the works that you’re looking forward to?

Lee: I’m excited for our Pride Prom in March. That is going to be a fun way to connect with a larger student body and give everyone a chanceto chat with … almost everybody who comes through our doors [and] I’m spend-
ing more time with our student staff here in the center.

Grace: How does intersectionality play a role in student experiences of academic programs?

Lee: I think [of intersectionality] as students' multiple and intersecting identities and how they feel most comfortable to bring their full selves to any given space on campus. How can we be sure that our campus community is inclusi-

ive, but attentive to possibilities for solidarity across marginalized experiences, working to-
gather toward collective liberation? Part of my goal is to be sure to connect with students and groups across campus who want to share their positionalities and … ask, how can we as a center make our spaces and programming accessible to you?
Staff council encouraged to send nominations for new staff trustee
Casey Kendall, the current staff trustee, will conclude her term June 30. The staff council is asked to recommend three staff members at Ithaca College for consideration to serve as Staff Trustee for a two-year term that begins July 1. The Staff Council will send three names to the Governance & Compensation Committee of the Board of Trustees by March 1.

Staff members can nominate themselves for Staff Trustee by Feb. 23 at 5 p.m. using the Staff Trustee Nominations Form. Additional information about this process can be found here. Staff members can contact staffcouncil@ithaca.edu for questions. Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact Marilyn Denepo, at staffcouncil@ithaca.edu.

Accommodations should be made as soon as possible.

Student organizations needed for Feb. 19 Student Experience Fair
The Office of Admission is looking for student organizations to table during the Student Experience Fair Feb. 19. Student organizations will be able to showcase and recruit new members.

The organization fair will take place in the Athletics and Events Center (A&E) from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Student organizations should plan to have at least one representative available to attend and interact with prospective and admitted students during the fair.

RSVP is required to attend. Student organizations should email ICSpring2023Fairs@gmail.com to reserve a spot by Wednesday, Feb. 7. Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact the admission events planning committee at the same email or (607) 274-3124. Requests for accommodations should be made as soon as possible.

Muller Chapel to hold Ash Wednesday observance Feb. 14
On Feb. 14, Muller Chapel will be observing Ash Wednesday. The Catholic community mass will be held at 12:15 p.m. and all are welcome to participate. The ash distribution will be led by Pastor Debbie Reynolds of First Baptist Church starting at 2 p.m. Muller Chapel will be used throughout Lent as a space for introspection and spiritual connection.

Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact Austin Reid at areid1@ithaca.edu or (607) 274-3011 and requests for accommodations should contact Austin Reid at areid1@ithaca.edu or (607) 274-3124 and requests for accommodations should contact Austin Reid at areid1@ithaca.edu or (607) 274-3124. Requests for accommodations should be made as soon as possible.

2024 Campus Life Awards are open to nominations until Feb. 12
The 2024 Campus Life Awards committee is asking for nominations from faculty, staff and students to recognize seniors who should be considered for the award. The Campus Life Awards are given each year to a select group of graduating seniors to recognize achievement and contributions to the Ithaca College community through involvement in campus life.

In order to be nominated for the award, students should have been involved in a number of areas of campus life and demonstrated significant leadership abilities and accomplishments.

Nominations can be turned in using the nomination form. Nominations must graduate in December 2023, May 2024 or August 2024. The deadline for nominations is 5 p.m. Feb. 12.

Nominated students will receive the invitation to apply when the application opens Feb. 19. Any questions about the Campus Life Award nominations should be directed to clae@ithaca.edu.

BIPOC Unity center is open to nominations for new search committee
The BIPOC Unity Center is open to nominations for a new student search committee.

The BIPOC Unity Center is open to nominations for a new student search committee. The center’s mission is to offer advice on what faculty can do to ensure appointments are effective. The Writing Center will also share updated policies on the use of Generative AI. There will be four info sessions.

The first two will be Feb. 8 from 11:10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 12:10 p.m. to 1 p.m. The last two will be Feb. 9 from 10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. and from 12 p.m. to 12:50 p.m.

The Writing Center is located at Smith Hall in room 107 and the event is open to faculty and staff only. Any further questions can be directed to psiroi@ithaca.edu.

PETIT LARCENY OVER $200
LOCATION: Terrace 5 SUMMARY: A caller reported that an unknown person stole clothing Nov. 2021. Patrol Officer Steven Hutchison responded. The driver was released due to insufficient evidence.

Pill bottle painting event held by Active Minds
First-year student Blanca Cunningham paints a pill bottle at an event hosted by Active Minds IC on Jan. 30. The group shared mental health advice with participants and sought to educate about the stigma around mental health medication.

AMINATTA IMRANA JALLOW/THE ITHACAN
LGBTQ+ resources are a necessity for all in Ithaca

Ithaca is often painted as a progressive town, particularly when it comes to the LGBTQ+ community. While this acceptance can be seen in the attitudes and beliefs of the local community, there is still a need for more accessible resources and spaces for the queer community.

The Ithaca Pride Alliance (IPA) was founded in 1969, the Student Homophile League was founded in 1972, and the first formal statement about a second publicly gay student organization in the nation was founded at Cornell University, marking the beginning of a shift toward a more supported community. The founding of this organization marks a significant step in providing education and generally offering a broader net of support for the LGBTQ+ community. Since opening under the Tompkins Chamber Foundation, the organization has hosted events, provided education and generally offers a broad net of support for the LGBTQ+ community. The founding of this organization marks a shift toward a more supported community.

In 1989, the Student Homophile League was founded at Cornell University, marking the second publicly gay student organization in the U.S. In 1992, the first formal statement about bisexuality happened at Ithaca College. In 2004, 25 same-sex couples sued the City of Ithaca for denying their marriage applications in the case of Seymor v. Holkomb. This rich queer history reiterates the importance of community-driven LGBTQ+ organizations like the IPA.

At the college, students are fortunate to have a host of resources for LGBTQ+ students. The Center for LGBT Education, Outreach, & Services acts as a safe space. Student organizations like PRISM provide a platform for young queer students. These resources are essential — and yet, it is important to remember that these resources are only accessible to those pursuing higher education. While these resources are a necessity, they are not sufficient in addressing the needs of Ithaca as a whole.

The amount of acceptance and joy for queer people in Ithaca is certainly something to be proud of. However, attitudes must translate to action. While the college provides a multitude of support options for LGBTQ+ students, there should never be a barrier between students and community members when it comes to accessible resources. Organizations like the Ithaca Pride Alliance are essential to creating a welcoming, safe environment for all LGBTQ+ students. These resources are essential — and yet, it is important to remember that these resources are only accessible to those pursuing higher education. While these resources are a necessity, they are not sufficient in addressing the needs of Ithaca as a whole.

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Al must be more clearly regulated at the college

It is impossible to ignore the new, evolving presence of AI in the classroom. Programs like ChatGPT are being used by students in all aspects of academia, from generating ideas to refining writing to finding sources. While AI can be a helpful tool in higher education, there must be more standardized regulations for the purpose and boundaries of using AI at Ithaca College. According to a study conducted by Grand View Research, AI usage rate is expected to grow 37.7% between 2023 and 2030. This number expresses a stark reality: AI is here and it is here to stay. This rapidly growing technology is something that is set to revolutionize nearly all industries. It is the responsibility of professors and administration to prepare students appropriately for the expectations of their fields of study. Now, that preparation must include understanding the responsibilities, risks and restrictions on using AI at Ithaca College.

Additionally, they have published a Cornell Generative AI in Administration Task Force Report outlining the potential risks and opportunities that come with implementing AI. Cornell’s extensive research and clear restrictions on using AI are examples of what Ithaca College should implement. Not only would these regulations allow students and faculty to use AI more comfortably, but they would limit potential risks or privacy concerns.

AI has the potential to be a helpful classroom tool throughout the college if more thought is put into its implementation. There must be clear guidelines on ethics and usage in order to make use of innovative technology while still maintaining academic integrity and safety.

Send to ithacan@ithaca.edu.

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• Be 250 words or fewer.
• Be emailed or dropped off by 5 p.m. Monday in Park 220.

Send to ithacan@ithaca.edu or to the opinion editor opinion@theithacan.org

ALL COMMENTARIES MUST:
• Convey a clear message.
• Be written by an individual or group who has an educated opinion or is an authority on a specific subject.

• Be between 650–750 words.
• Whether more or less space is allotted is at the discretion of the editor.
Excessive debt harms students

By Gabe Hendershot

The biggest lie perpetuated by our society about higher education is that student debt is avoidable. It is just not true. By the time you have received a bachelor’s degree, 70% of students have accumulated educational debt. These ideas grow anxiety in students who can drive them to overload their schedules with more work and time commitments than they can handle, all in order to reduce their debt. Attempting to do everything at once leads to overworked and unsupported students with poor mental and physical health.

There are many students, including myself, who are unable to pay their debts without a second job. It is because of constant pressure to acquire debt to achieve an undergraduate degree that is because of constantly rising tuition costs. Reducing the amount of debt that a student is saddled with postgraduation is of the utmost importance. Many students who apply for federal or private loans do not have an adequate understanding of what they are agreeing to and this debt can deplete students, preventing them from adequately providing for themselves once they enter the workforce. It is important that students have the financial ability to meet their basic needs both during and after college, so they can continue to grow and enjoy their lives.

However, frequently circulated ideas about cutting costs and eliminating debt encourages students to participate in unhealthy behaviors. These students will begin to neglect their own wellbeing because they have been taught that their career matters more. Things like eating well, exercise and socializing are all important parts of a student’s life that are often put on the back burner. All these choices can lead to excessive stress, physical burnout that prevents students from participating fully in their education, reducing the overall value of their time in college.

If students are going into thousands of dollars of debt to receive a degree, they should be given all the necessary resources to get the most out of that program. This includes being able to utilize community available to them while in postsecondary education. Of course, classes and campus jobs can help enrich a student’s experience, but a student who focuses only on these things is missing out. College life is full of opportunities, but it is not realistic for students to expect themselves to seize every single one. Lackadaisical attitudes at any level, there is room for students to adjust their schedules, allowing for a process of learning. Leaving this time for them to change and learn is paramount to building a strong foundation for all life skills.

Perpetuating this idea that there is an accessible, low-pressure way to get a degree is dangerous. It promotes a number of unhealthy habits. Learning how to budget your time and energy is a crucial skill. Students cannot go through this learning process or make healthy decisions if they are constantly worried about accruing debt.

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Perpetuating this idea that there is an accessible, low-pressure way to get a degree is dangerous. It promotes a number of unhealthy habits. Learning how to budget your time and energy is a crucial skill. Students cannot go through this learning process or make healthy decisions if they are constantly worried about accruing debt. Putting too much pressure on students to do everything in the most cost-efficient way possible is stressful and inhibits their growth as people.

Gabe Hendershot (he/him) is a first-year film and animation major and visual art major. Contact him at ghendershot@ithaca.edu.

Gun violence is exacerbated by Trump

By Chris Holmes

There are many reasons for Americans of every political stripe to fear a second Donald Trump presidency. His first term was a disaster, notable for its miasma of untruth and a second Donald Trump presidency, must one look with clarity at his policy record?

Trump will dispute the outcome of the 2020 election. Knowing full well he had lost, he used his immense power to call thousands of supporters to the Capitol to dis

Chris Holmes (he/him) is a professor in the Department of Literature and English, writes about Trump’s impact on gun violence.

Emma Kate Johansen ’23 writes about her experiences as a paraprofessional and shares the importance of prioritizing support staff by providing fair wages.

COURTESY OF EMMA KATE JOHANSEN

School support staff must be prioritized

By Emma Kate Johansen

I graduated from Ithaca College in May 2023 with a screenwriting degree, but just about a month before graduation, the Writer’s Guild of America went on strike. Without writing jobs to apply for, I floundered. My mom, a lifelong teacher, suggested I apply for school support staff positions for a district near my Connecticut hometown. I learned I was on the faculty needing as much help as the students.

In August, I was offered a position as a fourth-grade classroom paraprofessional (teacher’s aide). My goal with this position is to provide support for students in the classroom with accommodations for ADHD, autism and other learning differences. However, from the first day I stepped foot in the classroom, it was clear that the six students I was explicitly assigned to work with were not the only ones in need of assistance. Almost immediately, I observed teachers drowning in responsibility, undercompensated, hounded to meet unreasonable deadlines and solving issues that were not their job to fix.

Our country’s teachers are overworked. I believe one of the main reasons for this is a lack of support in their classrooms and from administration. I work with a fourth grade ELA (reading and writing) teacher in what is considered a “support staff” position. Mainly, I take on whatever tasks are needed to lighten the workload for the classroom teacher. Even with me in the classroom to help, students are behind. There is another ELA teacher in the same grade without classroom support and many students need help. There are simply not enough paraprofessionals to go around.

One of the reasons that public schools lack adequate support staff is that the salary is very low. Support staff are hourly employees, not salaried. This means that even though I am considered a full-time employee, I only work and get paid for 32 hours per week. In the interest of transparency and to emphasize the issues within this profession, I am paid $16.01 per hour because this is my first year working in a school.

Pay scales for support staff have recently made local and national news in the neighboring state of Massachusetts, where the Newton Public School District is on strike. One of the issues they are striking for is a living wage for support staff. In Newton, paraprofessional contracts begin at $27,000 per year. It amazed me that support staff in a wealthy Boston suburb made only marginally more than me in Connecticut. Regardless of location, these wages are not sustainable and contribute to the lack of support staff in schools.

If school districts pay a living wage to support staff, teachers and students benefit. I believe that if school districts pay support staff a living wage, teacher burnout will decrease and student performance would increase. If you are entering an education field, be aware that this issue is pervasive and nationwide.

GUEST COMMENTARY

BY GABE HENDERSHOT

GUEST COMMENTARY

BY CHRIST HOLMES

GUEST COMMENTARY

BY EMMA KATE JOHANSEN

Editor’s Note: The opinions in this commentary do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial board.

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Debates around Artificial Intelligence continue

BY MATT MINTON
SENIOR WRITER

With the official launch of ChatGPT in November 2022, students and faculty across the country are being presented with major questions about how artificial intelligence (AI) should be used in the classroom, what constitutes as "cheating" and what this new technology means for the future of higher education.

Many colleges across the country, including Ithaca College, do not currently have official state-wide policies for the entire school to follow. This leaves faculty members having to make their own decisions about how — and if — students should be allowed to use AI.

According to a survey by Forbes in October 2023, out of 500 current educators across the United States from all school levels, 60% are using AI in the classroom and 55% believe that AI has improved educational outcomes.

Jenna Linskens, director of the Center for Instructional Design and Educational Technology, pulled together open conversations with the campus community, partnering with the Center for Faculty Excellence, starting in January 2023.

"Some of the things that we heard is that faculty really needed some guidance around a syllabus statement," Linskens said. "We pulled together and curated a list of syllabus statements from colleges all around the world and shared them with faculty so they can put those statements in."

Linskens said she knows of professors teaching anthropology, biology and screenwriting who ban AI use in the classroom. However, some professors, like Diane Gayeski, professor in the Department of Strategic Communication, are carefully implementing it into their curriculum.

Gayeski said she started requiring AI in the classroom during the Spring 2023 semester with platforms such as ChatGPT and scite.AI. scite.AI is a tool designed to make research easier and more efficient.

"My students are going to be expected to use AI in future jobs," Gayeski said. "It’s similar to using any other tools like [Google] Spreadsheets or Powerpoint. … It’s also an emerging technology, which is an area I teach. AI is very much on the horizon."

Sophomore Jaimie-Kae Smith has noticed an uptick in the number of professors outlining AI policies in their syllabus this semester. In Smith’s Power of Injustice class she took during the Fall 2023 semester, she said her professor encouraged students to use AI to compare and contrast their own essays to work that AI put out about the same topic.

"We had to go through and nitpick the little discrepancies," Smith said. "The AI version started mentioning characters that didn’t exist in the book. There were parts that were consistent, but others didn’t line up."

Senior Isabella Lambert is currently taking a sports analytics class where they are talking about how AI technology can increase injury prediction and data analytics in sports.

"A study by Acceleration Economy discusses how data-based prediction analysis is currently used by the National Football League, reportedly lowering injuries in lower extremities by 26%." Lambert said. "If you knew how to properly cite [AI], you should be able to use it like any other source."

"Smith said that she sometimes uses AI to help find sources of information and create a starting point that alleviates stress. "But that’s where I try to draw the line with it," Smith said. "I pride myself in having things in my work that are unique to myself and my writing style. ... The AI is not going to be able to put my personal spin on how I would do something."

Some of the major concerns about AI use in the classroom stem from the fear of students generating papers without putting any effort into writing it themselves. Smith said academic integrity comes into question with other students who may see it as “the easy way out.”

"I think we’re all here with the intention of getting an education," Smith said. "Using AI to bypass that … then what’s the point? Just to get a grade, but what can you say that you learned at the end of the day?"

Gayeski said students have been finding different ways to cheat over the past hundred years, one example being paying somebody else to write their paper.

"Bottom line, if people want to cheat, they will cheat," Gayeski said. "There are lots of ways around that, specifically that I require students in exams or papers to reflect very specifically on the readings or on lectures and discussions in the classroom."

While many of the concerns seem to be posed toward how students will use AI, Gayeski said students can turn that same question back on their professors.

"I think it’s going to be used on both sides of the teaching experience,” Gayeski said. "I think students wouldn’t like it if they thought professors just used AI to create all of the content and grade the papers. Professors wouldn’t expect that students use AI to perform all their work. I think it’s going to be a matter of negotiation."

In the current Academic Integrity Policy, the section of possible academic misconduct does not specifically mention AI use.

Luke Keller, professor of physics and astronomy and chair of the policy subcommittee of the IC Academic Policies Committee, said there are ongoing discussions about how to include AI in the existing list of examples.

“Our committee members agree that the ultimate decisions and definitions for use of AI in student academic work should be up to the instructor,” Keller said via email. “It’s important to note that the APC, revision to the Standards of Academic Conduct simply includes the use of generative AI in an existing list. … We need a group of faculty, students and staff to work out the details of how to implement this policy and give guidance."

Keller said it could take a few meetings for the faculty council to figure out the policy, with the possibility of sending it back to the APC for further discussion.

Moving forward, Linskens and her department are working on two new developments: an AI literacy course for students in Canvas and a faculty resource course that will help guide professors in modifying their assignments or assessments with emerging technology in mind.

“That’s really a big piece of what the AI disruption is,” Linskens said. “We are seeing that faculty are beginning to think about changing the way they’re creating assignments for students or assessing student learning in order to get a more authentic assessment.”

Following her discussions with people all across campus, Linskens said it’s important for faculty and students to have one-on-one open conversations about how they are each using AI.

“Ultimately, it is a tool that helps anyone be more productive, more effective in their writing, more cohesive in their work when used properly,” Linskens said. “So I encourage the conversation to remain open.”
Ithaca College's BIPOC Unity Center hosted a Kickback event Feb. 2 as a part of their monthly events for the campus community First Fridays.

The goal of the event was to showcase the multiple multicultural affinity organizations on campus. The Kickback was filled with 25 student organizations like “PODER: Latinx Student Association,” “Brothers for Brothers” and the “Asian American Alliance,” among many others.

Cliff-Simon Vital, assistant director of the BIPOC Unity Center, said the Kickback this semester was wanted to highlight the different multicultural-affinity organizations on campus, for any BIPOC students who could not engage with any organizations during the fall semester.

“[BIPOC students] might not be ready to commit to everything, and we see that involvement might not be as strong in the fall compared to the spring,” Vital said. “We do this to support that process.”

Senior Nathalie Molina, president of Sister 2 Sister, said she felt isolated as a BIPOC student at a predominantly white institution (PWI), but was able to find community within her organization.

“As a BIPOC student here on campus, my sophomore year, I felt very alienated on campus coming from a very BIPOC background and I thought, ‘I’m from D.C. … it’s really nice to be able to find a community here’,” Vital said.

Junior Kathleen Gang, secretary of IC Mixed, an organization dedicated toward mixed students on campus, said that being a part of the organization helped her understand more about her identity and was able to find community with people she shared her identity.

“Coming to a space where people understand what I’ve experienced until I would talk about it,” Gang said. “That’s why we do it. It’s in our mission of the BIPOC Unity Center to create space that’s validating and safe while also dismantling stereotypes of traditions that are high risk situations.

Through fast, witty and quirky banter, the series travels through the different stages of John and Jane’s relationship from their first attempt to establish a practical cohabitation, to their blooming romance, to the inevitable damage caused by the unlikely circumstances that they are forced to navigate this flame.

The missions tend to lend themselves more to a comedic undertone more than “Bond-like” espionage, which feels fitting with the unfamiliar nature the show has for John and Jane. Vital feels as if the creators are too scared to fully embrace the humor in them, still trying to provide proper homage to their precursors and stick to the high stakes of the job.

Glover and Erskine give the audience a relationship that doesn’t feel unreachable; they portray neighborhood citizens who act and look like neighborhood citizens. The foundation for their relationship feels natural and required, and their chemistry works for this, but as they move deeper into their relationship and we start to see a semblance to a true “Mr. and Mrs.” married pair, it is clear that they lack that passionate bond. In the show, Mr. and Mrs. Smith are not fervid lovers who have fallen apart because of rivalries and secrets, instead they are millennials living in Brooklyn navigating the hard ships of finding ‘the one’ in a unique way.

New story spun in ‘Mr. & Mrs. Smith’

BY MARIANA CONTRERAS

ASST. LIFE & CULTURE EDITOR

It is no secret that remakes and sequels of old pop culture classics don’t always have the best reputation. There is always a risk when it comes to taking something already beloved by many and trying to recreate it for a new generation. This is why Francesca Capaldi and Donald Glover’s “Mr. & Mrs. Smith” strips the idea for the iconic 2005 Braffington film and spins it in a whole new direction.

Like all its predecessors, “Mr. & Mrs. Smith” follows the story of a ‘married’ couple who share the Smith surname. Here, John (Donald Glover) is an agent, ex-marine who is paired up by a mysterious chatbot with Jane (Maya Erskine), a type A woman who was rejected by the CIA for their ‘anti-social’ tendencies.

All eight episodes of the first season were released on Amazon Prime on Feb. 2.

One of the biggest differences, and probably why this series so attractive is that unlike other spy-centered storylines, John and Jane are two common everyday folk who renounce their previous lives to build a shared, alternative-filled life.

This makes for a series that, rather than focus on action-heavy drama, allows the audience to connect with the development of these two awkward individuals in high risk situations.

While this show should in no way be expected to mimic previous adaptations that share a title, Glover and Sloane do include multiple easter eggs for fans to enjoy without trying to read the story in itself to previous movies. Ultimately, the series is most enjoyable as its own stand-alone concept. It promises a thought provoking stream that leaves viewers with an appetite for more.
‘Zone of Interest’: Atrocities through a new lens

BY MATT MINTON

A woman tries on a fur coat to see if it suits her. A group of friends sit around with coffee, talking about the weather being too hot. Siblings play together in a pool, splashing water while laughing. An officer discusses in detail taking a plane that got him to his destination. A family picks flowers together in the forest by the lake. Meanwhile, the sounds of distant screams and gunshots are heard over a wall — the only thing separating its creator from the atrocities committed.

We soon discover the names of the Höss family who we amusingly follow in Jonathan Glazer’s Holocaust drama, “The Zone of Interest,” which has been slowly expanding nationwide since Dec. 15. Rudolf Höss (Christian Friedel), the commander of the Auschwitz concentration camp, goes about his day-to-day life with his wife, Hedwig Höss (Sandra Hüller), and their children. As they entirely ignore the death and torture happening right next door, Glazer explores the different forms that human evil takes.

Based on the 2014 novel, “The Zone of Interest” is unlike any Holocaust movie — or any historical WWII drama for that matter. Glazer’s experimental, slow-burn and plotless approach starkly contrasts the cinema’s reputation for delivering any history lesson. “The Zone of Interest” is unlike any Holocaust movie — or any historical WWII drama for that matter. Glazer’s experimental, slow-burn and plotless approach starkly contrasts the cinema’s reputation for delivering any history lesson.

Glazer ends on a note that makes us question what it means to tell stories of genocide and the questions that must be considered when reconstructing history. There’s no easy way out through Glazer’s unique artistic choices. For example, a red screen flashes in the middle of the film that we’re to think about for a few moments — and it swiftly returns to the situation at hand: a reminder that history must always be remembered. And by the end, even as the credits roll, Glazer’s music lingers there, until the very last second. These few experimental details never fully allow the audience to catch their breath or stop thinking about what they just watched.

What Glazer achieves in this project is un-believably important to talk about. Few other movies are able to say so much about the injustices of humankind with so little actually shown. “The Zone of Interest” serves as a stark, sadly necessary reminder of human-kind’s tendency to turn a blind eye to horror.

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MOVIE REVIEW: “The Zone of Interest” A24

STAFF WRITER

Based on a recently published novel of the same title, the film “Argylle,” released Feb. 2, follows the journey of fictional author Elly Conway (Bryce Dallas Howard) as she discovers that her spy novels seemingly possess a fortune telling power for actual spy missions.

Elly — an introverted, quirky homebody and quintessential cat lady — faces a case of a dad joke-loving spy named Aiden, who has been pursuing efforts to destroy an international espionage organization called the Division. In order to dismantle the Division, Elly must write the next chapter of her latest book and determine an endgame that serves as a background script, serving as a backdrop to the story. When the Division attacks with Aiden — her character’s identities in the real world or Elly’s discovery of her own true identity and using that knowledge to her advantage. For a reader with the tagline, “Once you know the secret, don’t let the cat out of the bag,” it becomes unclear what the punchline secret is supposed to be.

Despite “Argylle” ultimately twisting a web of lies that gets tangled into confusion, there are moments of suspense and shock that serve as gems of hope to make viewers want it give it a chance.

There are also many thoughtful transitions to connect Elly’s storytelling with the film’s reality, such as the words of Elly’s manuscript, serving as a background for a scene, falling off the page and of screen as she rewrites, or when Agent Argyll’s dialogue is interesting by Elly’s voice feeding the script into his mouth, as the layered audio demonstrates the inner subconscous that Agent Argyll acts as for Elly. With an all-star cast of Dua Lipa, Samuel Jackson and John Cena to name a few, a high-profile collaboration between Apple TV+ and Universal; and a significant and unprecedented production budget of $200 million, the unknown origins of the literary predecessor of ‘Argylle’ intrigued entertainment news outlets. At first glance, ” Argylle” presents itself as a refreshing wave of original, playful content in an industry plagued by exhaustive remakes and sequels for built-in audiences. Sadly, it has no consistent purpose and fails to balance between tributing old Hollywood, Bond-like films and setting up Vaughn’s own place in the canon of spy-thriller classics.
crossword

By Quill Driver Books

ACROSS
1. Hems and –
5. Giant number
9. Facile
13. Got down off a horse
14. Separately
16. "Exodus" author Leon –
17. Actor's character
18. Rapunzel's prison
19. Blanch
20. Petty Scholar
22. Block party attendee
24. Soften
26. One way to fly
27. Special ops seaman (2 wds.)
31. Pressed
35. Homer Simpson's dad
36. – and true
38. Jeweled headdress
39. Quantity of firewood
41. Place
42. Cottage cheese bit
43. Starts the day
46. Spread out
48. Biblical Land of–
49. Chosen
50. Wall hanging
52. Interpret
55. Brief mima
56. Misdeeds
60. Woody growth
64. – in the face
65. Disney dog
67. Improvable story
68. Luxury car
69. Undercover operation
70. Stew pot
71. What remains
72. Court fig.
73. Kind of admiral

DOWN
1. Symbol of Ireland
2. Medicinal plant
3. Untamed
4. Hot and humid
5. Venomous snake
6. Part of an overseas address
7. Young deer
8. Concern of arborists
9. Elated
10. Bedouin
11. Missile housing
12. River in Belgium, e.g.
15. The Supremes, e.g.
21. Aerie
23. Oversupply
25. Coin toss result
27. Pearly substance
28. Seething
29. Poetic works
30. Jumped
32. Thin and slyly
33. Proofreader's find
34. Papa
35. Polar Pardner
36. – and true
37. Actor – Mc Dermott
38. Jeweled headdress
39. Quantity of firewood
40. Broken-down
41. Place
42. Cottage cheese bit
43. Starts the day
44. Kind of British gun
46. Expression of regret
47. Abominable snowman
51. Zone
53. Small vipers
54. Major airline
56. Glacial ridge
57. Chimney part
58. Caves
59. be appropriate for
61. Patriot Nathan –
62. She, in Barcelona
63. Come close to
64. – in the face
66. Blasting material

sudoku

very easy

medium

hard

answers to last issue's crossword answers:

sudoku

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The Sudoku Source of "The Ithacan"
Ithaca College prides itself on alumni relations years after a student graduates. The college hosts annual alumni weekends, invites alumni to speak to students about their field and successes, and provides a safe space where they are always welcome regardless of how long it has been since they have been students. Following in this spirit, the men’s and women’s track and field teams have gone to impressive lengths to harbor a strong tie between their current and previous athletes. When the Glazer Arena was built in 2011, women’s track and field coach Jennifer Potter ’92 and men’s track and field coach Jim Nichols realized they had an opportunity to host their own alumni event within the walls of the new indoor track. Utilizing their current athletes as mock-officials, the event is run annually as a real meet, complete with check-ins, numbers and officially clocked times.

Junior runner Christopher Licitra said that alumni events were key to keeping the connection within the program and that the events are a great way to catch up with former teammates. Having an annual alumni meet each year to kick off our indoor season is a pretty cool way to connect and share experiences between the different people the track and field program has had through its history,” Licitra said. “It’s a really cool opportunity to catch up and reconnect with teammates who graduated ahead of us, as well as speak with alumni who are ears out of college and hear about how the team was when they competed.”

After graduating, the opportunity to compete on the track is greatly reduced and a majority of alumni might think they would have to say goodbye forever to competition. It’s clear that these mini-meets reignite the fire of competing in these alumni and remind them of the power they still hold within them. Roosevelt Lee ’18 said via email that this aspect of the annual meet-ups is his favorite. “I get to experience the thrill of being able to compete again, especially with those I may have once competed with before,” Lee said via email. “I’m full of energy and excitement and having a good time. After the competition is done, I feel pretty beat up from doing so many events, but I end with a smile on my face as I take my cool down laps around the track.”

These events go beyond friendly competition, however, as both coaches donate their time, home and hands to create an environ-ment that fosters the nostalgia of an alumni’s time on the track. They make shirts, provide refreshments and have even offered up their homes for barbecues after alumni got-togethers or the cross country alumni event that occurs in the fall. They even dedicate a portion of their events to “Willie’s Races,” relating to the Wilbee-Bombers, the children of the alumni and potential future track stars.

As special as these events are for alumni and athletes, it also fills the coffers with a sense of pride and family. Potter said she had countless close relationships and memories with athletes that she still holds today. On Feb. 9 and 10, qualifying athletes will compete at the Boston University Valentine Invitational, the team’s only meet of the regular season outside of New York. An extra layer of excitement is added when the athletes know that some of their alumni will be there before, after and during to cheer them on.

Sophomore runner Jessica Goode said it will be especially encouraging to have alumni in Boston there for the team. “It’s a special meet since it’s all the way in Boston, Massachusetts, which is a state that we never traveled to for competitions,” Goode said. “Some of the top schools in the country from all divisions compete there. It’s definite-ly a full circle moment too when you see the bond that these alumni still have to the sport of track and field.”

Potter stayed connected with alum Christine MacKinnon ’16. MacKinnon eventually became one of the directors of the brand new New Bal-ance Indoor Track Facility in Boston. Having this connection opens the door to bring alumni events to a whole new level yet again, allowing alumni and athletes to get a private tour of the facility before race day on Feb. 10. “This is one of the most premier facilities in the country right now, so I thought why not have an alumni event there?” Potter said. “We’d start in the restaurant attached to the facility, Broken Records, and Christine would give tours because it’s just being opened and is the talk of the town.”

It’s evident that once athletes join the track and field team, they are a part of a lifelong family that wishes to support all the following generations of Bombers. Alumni can give advice to current athletes outside of their sport as well. Potter said that because of the impact alumni can have on current athletes, she encourages both sides to stay in touch with one another.

“If I know an alumni was in the same major as an athlete, I’ll connect them because they may be a sort of resource later on,” Potter said. “This networking and connection with alumni is what makes Ithaca College so special.”

In fact, Lee said he made such good con-nections with the current athletes that he decided to return to the team as a coach. “I think these events do improve the overall climate of Ithaca track and field on both sides because it allows current stu-dent-athletes to interact with past athletes and hopefully gives current athletes something to look forward to when they graduate,” Lee said. “It also shows that even though you may not be in the game anymore, you can boot out some old gear, dust off those spikes and have a good ole competition.”

Many alumni had been so deeply affected by their time on the track that they chose to incorporate track and field in their own careers. Ian Golden ’00 is the founder of Trails Collective and Red Newt Racing, two organizations that promote a cross between running, nature and community. Golden said that when he was an athlete at the college, it was always fun to see alumni come back and interact.

Both Nichols and Potter have put in the work to forge long-lasting bonds with their ath-letes, as Potter said both current and previous runners have raved at the love and care they have continued to receive from them. Goode said some former athletes have even expressed their desires to race with their coaches, invite them to their weddings and set dates for lunch with their coaches after the team leave.

“I’m sure that after graduating, my relation-ship with coach Nichols will stay the same as he always tries to stay in contact with alumni of past track teams,” Licitra said. “He sends out pamphlets or news about the successes of the team to alumni every so often and if any ath-lete returns to the cross country or track alumni meet, he makes sure to say hello and catch up with everyone who came to town.”

Both Goode and Licitra credited aspects of their track knowledge and confidence to the alumni that they have kept relationships with. There are many recently graduated alumni still in the area to finish their five or seven-year master’s programs that keep close ties to the athletes. One such relationship is one that Goode formed with recent graduate Paloma De Monte ’22.

“Paloma is overall a fun person to be around and she is a shoulder that all of us can lean on when we are struggling with something or if we have any sort of question,” Goode said. “She has personally helped me before and af-ter races and she is knowledgeable when it comes to mental health.”

Both the men’s and women’s teams have been training hard for months as they prepare for the big competitions at the end of the sea-son. With Liberty Leagues in less than a month, the alumni event and the inspiration they spark are coming at a perfect time for these athletes. “We’re working like a well-oiled machine – the climate is awesome,” Potter said. “We’re a postseason team, I’m really excited to see what we can do. It’s coming together as it should.”

From left, Jesse Cappelaro ’17 and men’s track and field assistant coach Roosevelt Lee ’18 run at the 2023 Janette Bonrouhi-Zakaim Memorial Alumni Run on Sep. 2, 2023.

Illustration by Grace Wenderowski/ITHACA.EDU

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SPORTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024

ALUMNI OUTREACH RUNS DEEP

BY JULIA WALLACE

STAFF WRITER
Ivy League players embrace game in Japan

BY BILLY WOOD
SPORTS EDITOR

A cultural experience and a culmination of collegiate football careers occurred in Tokyo, Japan, on Jan. 21, 6,792 miles away from Schoellkopf Field in Ithaca. This was not an average Ivy League football game — this was the Dream Japan Bowl.

The Dream Japan Bowl is an annual American football game played between the Ivy League All-Stars and Japanese All-Stars in Tokyo. The game was brought back in 2023 with the Ivy league working with the Japan National Football Association.

The Ivy League spent a little over a week in Japan. During the team’s time in the country, they visited the U.S. Embassy, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Meiji shrine and ran youth football clinics to connect the youth of Japan with American football.

Despite a 10-5 defeat, Alec Blakely, a former Harvard and current Stanford offensive lineman, said he was shocked he was going up against players who had been playing the game professionally.

“The guy who I went against graduated from Wake Forest, and he was on the East coast practice squad for a year before going over to Japan,” Blakely said. “He’s 28 years old now. It was definitely a challenge.”

Cornell senior kicker Jackson Kennedy said he was shocked to see passion that paralleled the love for the game shown in the United States.

“It was absolutely surprising to see so many Japanese people in the stands on their feet, screaming and going crazy for football,” Laboy said.

Robin Harris, the Ivy League’s executive director, said the trip was as much focused on exposing the players to culture and education as it was about football.

“The game was important too, and they get to play the game they love in Japan, which is fabulous, but I really want to expose them to a very different culture and the education that came with that,” Harris said. During the trip, the team visited and ran football clinics. Cornell senior kicker Jackson Kennedy said these clinics left an impact on him.

“I had probably nine or 10 special- ties with me, and I was thinking, ‘I’m just going to go do simple drills, we’ll kick a ball around or whatever,’” Kennedy said. “Then you come to find out, these people are kicking 50-yard field goals and 50-yard field goals. That was beyond me. I didn’t even know that was possible.”

Both Kennedy and Laboy are entered into the NCAA transfer portal as Graduate Transfers. While Laboy said the game probably did not have a vital impact on his future prospects, Kennedy said that having professional kicks on his resume is something that could help him.

“Being able to have a meaningful kick in a meaningful situation sort of just that has that power to say, ‘Hey, I’m still playing a game, I’m still ready to go,’” Kennedy said.

Division III does not provide nearly the same opportunities for scouting and recognition that a Division I conference like the Ivy League can. Ithaca College junior defensive lineman Josh Miles said opportunities are there for Division III football to help players get their name out.

“Those opportunities are everywhere, especially with the game growing so fast and so many different countries wanting to join in on it,” Miles said. “I think especially with Division III, with how competitive football is getting in the recruiting process, you’re seeing a lot of top-tier athletes. I think there is the exciting opportunity to connect them with international organizations … I think connecting Division III athletes with those institutions and those organizations would be a perfect match.”

Kennedy said the experience brought together a group whose bond will last.

“This is something that we have the honor to do, it’s not something that we just went given,” Kennedy said. “We were here because we were able to be an impact on the team, impact games and I want to say we weren’t the closest people on our team, but we definitely have this experience; I mean we’re testing each other or sending contacts and, you know, got side jokes going now. It just shows that you never know who’s going to be your friend, and I’m sure I’ll be able to text those guys in 10-15 years jokes that we’ve made on this trip.”

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Diver returns home to reconnect with sport

BY FLYNN HYNES
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

This season, junior diver Kailee Payne has been dominating on the diving board, breaking the pool record at the Henry Kumpf Invitational on Jan. 20 with a score of 366.55 points in the 1-meter dive.

Payne spent the past two years at Division I Marshall University before coming to Ithaca College. During her time at Marshall, Payne achieved an average score of 224.70 in the 1-meter (six dives) event, compared to an improved average of 280.75 with the Bombers. Additionally, in the 3-meter (six dives) event, Payne currently holds an average score of 275.8 at the college, high-lighting an improvement from her average of 236.25 at Marshall.

Head swimming and diving coach Mike Blakely-Armitage ’00 emphasized the importance of the diving program at the college. He’s one of the top Division III programs for women diving in the country, currently ranked No. 30.

“I know that there was a positive coach to athlete relationship, and I thought she was a good fit for our dynamics, and I knew that she was a quality diver who could hopefully help us out on the boards,” Blakely-Armitage said.

Unlike Marshall, Payne highlighted the warm-hearted coaching staff that is at Ithaca College. Payne said that as a diver, she works with Griffin more and that he always lightens the mood and makes sure to check in.

“He will always say that I respect you as a person more than an athlete, sometimes not those exact words, but that’s my interpretation,” Payne said. “Because if you’re not doing well as a person, how can you do well as an athlete?”

During her time here, Griffin said his main goal is to help the athlete enjoy the sport as much as she possibly can.

“This year was really about falling back in love with the sport, learning how to enjoy the sport, learning how to love it,” Griffin said.

Just like a coaching staff, team culture is extremely important. Payne gave high appraisal to a few of her teammates as people who have influenced her while at the college.

“I love diving because it’s a very kind community,” Payne said. “The people are just friendly and very incredibly do you find anybody that’s rude or anything. So I will say quite a few of my teammates, like Abby Marraccino, Eliza Salas and Audrey Scott, they have left big imprints on me because of how they have approached the sport. They want to enjoy it, they are motivated, they are pushing themselves even if that means being afraid.”

Payne described a new dive that she learned while at Marshall which is a front 2 ½ pike with one twist on a 3-meter diving board. Payne described the opportunities that the college opened up for her to practice her skills.

“I was able to do that dive at Ithaca College! Because at Marshall, I just did not feel supported,” Payne said. “It was kind of this sub-conscious feeling that I couldn’t do a dive. But coming to the school and being able to do that dive opened up so many gates that I never got.”

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Ithacappella, an all-male-identifying a cappella group, recently took first place in the International Championships of Collegiate A Cappella Quarter Finals. They are now rehearsing for the semi-finals in March in Buffalo, NY. Pictured from left to right: senior Joey Albano and first-year students Ryan Martin and Sam Young.