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FIRST-YEAR MAKES UNIQUE DUAL SPORT EFFORT

JACQUELYN REAVES,
RYAN JOHNSON

NEWSLETTER EDITOR,
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Editor's note: Jacquelyn Reaves is an MLK Scholar.

At the beginning of Spring 2024, the Ithaca College First-Generation and MLK Scholar Center merged with the BIPOC Unity Center to recognize the overlap with students who use both centers' resources.

There was no formal announcement from the college about the merger but Cliff-Simon Vital, assistant director of the BIPOC Unity Center, said talks of the merger were initiated in Fall 2023. The merger was announced to MLK Scholars in a meeting Feb. 5.

"We have a lot of students that share similar identities," Vital said. "It made more sense to remove the wall that had been imaginarily placed here separating our suite and create a more open system for both of us to collaborate within budgets, programming, student and staff resources."

Bonnie Prunty, vice president of Student Affairs and Campus Life, said via email that information about the merger was shared in an open meeting with students who engage with the offices and there will be an official announcement to the campus community prior to spring break.

Approximately 21% of students at the college identify as BIPOC. The number of BIPOC students at the college has increased from about 13% in 2010. Approximately 15% of

MERGER, PAGE 4

Programs merge with BIPOC Unity Center to better meet student needs



From left, Shadayvia Wallace, program director of the MLK Scholars, First-Gen Center and BIPOC Unity Center assistant director, Marsha Dawson, dean of students and interim director of the center and Cliff-Simon Vital, assistant director of the center.

KAELEIGH BANDA/THE ITHACAN

Faculty council talks academic use of AI

VIVIAN ROSE

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Ithaca College's Faculty Council discussed low salaries for faculty members and how AI changed the college's plagiarism policy at its March 5 meeting.

The council also heard the provost's report from Melanie Stein, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, and heard updates about the Student Statement Committee from David Hajjar, associate professor in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

Provost's Report

Stein began by speaking about the faculty council's new ombuds team to help determine how to resolve conflicts and bring concerns about the council to the college's attention.

Stein said salaries have been low for all faculty members across the college. She said that in comparison to other colleges similar to the college in terms of geography and the type of institution, the college is estimated to be several million dollars off from the median.

According to the approved 2023-24 fiscal year budget, the college is expected to spend \$97,067,400 on employee expenses compared to \$93,359,556 on employee expenses in the 2020-21 fiscal year.

Stein said she has been working on a project in collaboration with other members of the President's Cabinet to mitigate the low salaries and said part of the budget proposed to the



The Faculty Council discussed academic disciplining and plagiarism policies that differentiate between the use of generative and non-generative AI in student work.

LUCIA IANDOLO/THE ITHACAN

board of trustees in May will include funding for the project.

Stein said half of the funding will be distributed to all faculty and the other half will be allocated to deans. The project will focus on addressing market pressures and equity issues.

"I did want to let you all know that we are actively working on the faculty salary letters because we hope to have those in a more timely manner and in a concise way that gives you all

the information about your salary," Stein said. "So we are building all of this, not the numbers yet, but this is the template into the faculty salary letters."

Stein concluded by saying the dollars and cents presentation will be held March 14, during spring break.

Update to Plagiarism/Misconduct Policy

The council moved to a discussion about

FACULTY COUNCIL, PAGE 4

IC reactions to Title IX lawsuit

BY KAI LINCKE

STAFF WRITER

As Ithaca College students returned to campus in January for the start of Spring 2024, many learned of a sexual abuse, harassment and Title IX lawsuit filed by a student against the college and Bryan Roberts, former associate dean of the Roy H. Park School of Communications.

The student, who is named as John Doe to protect his anonymity, alleges in the lawsuit that he was sexually abused and harassed by four then-employees of the college.

Senior Avery LaVergne, a cinema and photo major, said she felt jarred as she first learned about the allegations against Roberts. LaVergne said she met with Roberts for academic advising meetings when she was a sophomore in Fall 2021.

"It was ... uncomfortable to think that he was actively pursuing a student a year younger than I was romantically," LaVergne said.

Senior Alia Young, a writing for film, TV and emerging media major, said she first heard about the lawsuit from YikYak posts — an anonymous online discussion forum for students — about *The Ithacan* article, and she believes that the college should have been more transparent and addressed the lawsuit from the start.

"I don't think we should have found out through that article," Young said. "I don't think

LAWSUIT, PAGE 4

Nation & World News

Cease fire deal is on the table for Hamas as aid drops begin

Israel has essentially agreed to a six-week cease fire if Hamas agrees to release hostages categorized as vulnerable, U.S. officials said after American and Jordanian planes completed an airdrop of food into Gaza.

The path to a deal is up to Hamas, the officials said, briefing reporters on condition of anonymity. The deal could take effect as soon as March 2 if Hamas agrees to the release of certain vulnerable categories of hostages, including women, those who are ill or injured and the elderly, they said.

Israel has essentially signed on to elements of the agreement and the framework is in place, the officials said. The six-week pause would allow a rush of humanitarian aid and would launch phase-two negotiations to extend the cease fire, they said.

Seven killed in Russian drone strike on apartments in Odesa

At least seven deaths were reported following a Russian drone strike on an apartment building in Ukraine's Black Sea city of Odesa on March 2.

Separately, a UAV was suspected of hitting a residential building in St. Petersburg, Russia, hundreds of miles from the border, and Ukraine's Air Defense chief said Kyiv downed a Russian Su-34 fighter jet — the latest in a recent string of attacks on

Russian military aircrafts. Ukraine said it shot down 14 out of 17 "Shahed"-type drones launched from Russian territory and occupied Crimea.

The UAVs were concentrated in Kharkiv and the Sumy region in the northeast as well as Odesa.

At least 18 apartments were destroyed in the strike and the death toll has risen steadily over the day. Among the victims was a 3-month old infant, his mother and a 3-year-old boy.

Finland President Alexander Stubb inaugurated in Helsinki

Alexander Stubb, a 55-year-old conservative politician and former prime minister, took the oath of office as Finland's new president in a ceremony held in the Finnish capital, Helsinki, March 1. He succeeds his party colleague Sauli Niinistö, who served as Finland's head of state for 12 years.

In his inaugural speech, President Stubb emphasized the importance of collaboration and international cooperation. He argued that global challenges, like climate change and geopolitical conflicts, cannot be effectively addressed by like-minded countries alone.

China opens first simulated space research environment

China's first Space Environment



Netherlands signs pact for aid to Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy expressed gratitude to the Netherlands March 1 for a new aid package, the seventh package between Ukraine and a Western country. Zelenskyy put the value of the arms deliveries at 2.17 billion. COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Simulation and Research Infrastructure facility passed national-level acceptance review and officially began operations Feb. 27 in Harbin, Heilongjiang province.

Developed by the Harbin Institute of Technology and the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation, SESRI is China's first large-scale scientific facility in

the aerospace field, China Central Television reported Feb. 27.

SESRI will focus on addressing fundamental scientific and technological issues in a research base for comprehensive space environments, spacecraft and life forms.

SOURCE: TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MULTIMEDIA

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A little rain and a great deal of chili at the Downtown Ithaca Chili Cook-Off

First-year student Tim O'Dowd is on the scene at the 2024 Downtown Ithaca Chili Cook-Off to test this year's entries for Ithaca's best chili.



On the Same Page – Sports Preview

Host Emma Kersting chats with the editors for the sports and photography sections at *The Ithacan* to get a behind-the-scenes look at the 2024 Spring Sports Preview.

THE ITHACAN

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Multi-step process assesses hate crimes

BY RYAN JOHNSON

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

From 2022 to 2024, there were nine hate crimes reported on campus at Ithaca College. As of March 6, the only case where further action has been taken was regarding an incident report on Jan. 19.

Thomas Dunn, director and deputy chief for the Office of Public Safety, said the Office of Public Safety investigates a crime but cannot prosecute a student; that is up to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (OSCCS).

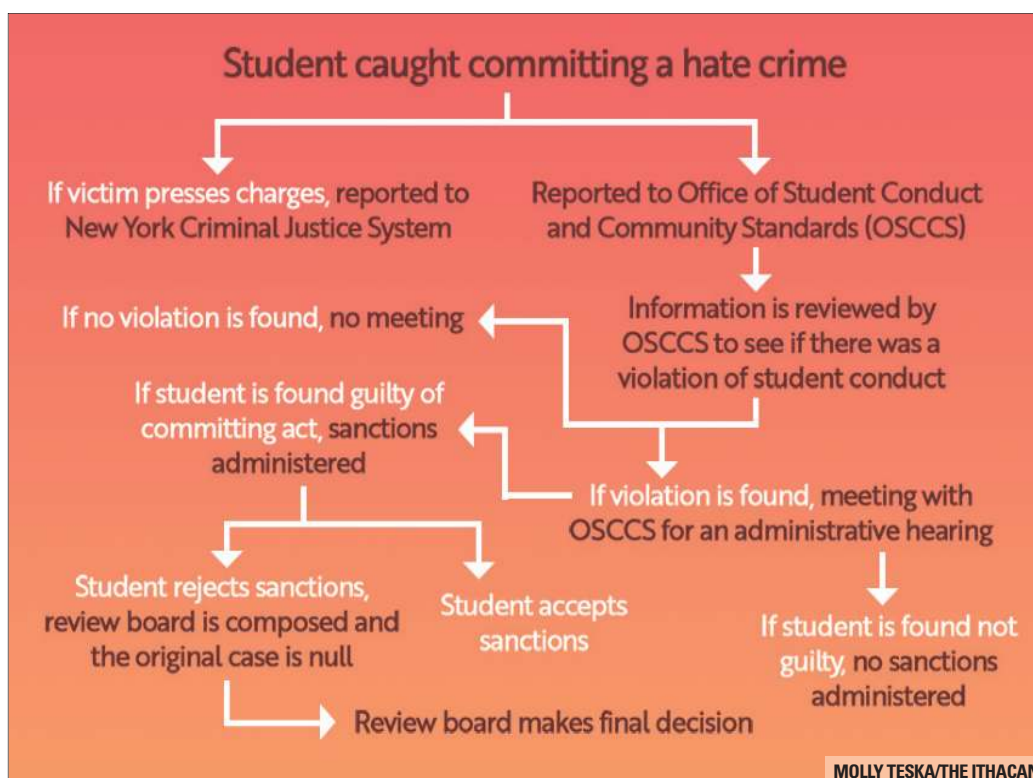
The OSCCS has no formal policy for investigations of hate crimes. Laura Davis, director of Residential Life and Judicial Affairs, said a hate crime would be investigated around bias and “personal respect and safety.”

OPS investigations and steps taken to prevent hate crimes

Dunn said there is a two-track system for students who are caught committing a hate crime at the college.

“One would be through [the OSCCS] and the other would be through the New York state criminal justice system,” Dunn said. “In New York state, there’s penal law violations — like punching someone and causing injuries is what we consider assault.”

Elyse Nepa, assistant director for the Clery Act and Prevention



MOLLY TESKA/THE ITHACAN

Education for the Office of Public Safety, said that after the increase in hate crimes on campus in 2022, OPS took a multifaceted approach to combat hate crimes on campus.

“We did a total overview of what [our processes] looked like because the frequency was so high in early 2022 and the location was relatively targeted,” Nepa said.

Student Conduct and Community Standards Process

Davis said the standard hearing process for a student who commits a hate crime would be the

standard process for referral to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

“Once a referral is made regarding an incident, that information is reviewed,” Davis said. “Based on the information in the [referral], there’s a determination as to if there were any alleged behavior that could potentially be a violation of the rules and regulations, which [refers] to residence halls, or the code of conduct.”

Davis said that once a student has been found responsible for

violating the code of conduct, OSCCS takes the seriousness of the act, the impact to the community and the student’s history of prior conduct into account.

“It is not uncommon that if a person is found responsible for a behavior that we would be seriously exploring the student’s status at the college, which could mean a bunch of things,” Davis said. “But it’s so varied based on the nature of the incident.”

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IC reflects on use of Chapel

BY RYAN JOHNSON, AUBREN VILLASEÑOR

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR SENIOR WRITER

With more active religious and spiritual Spring 2024 programming at Ithaca College — which is a nonsectarian institution — members of the campus community have been sharing their thoughts on Muller Chapel as a general-purpose space.

Across the college, there are eight different active religious and spiritual clubs and organizations for students to engage with.

Student opinions on Muller Chapel

Any student can submit an event proposal to use the chapel space. The chapel space provides worship services to Jewish, Protestant, Catholic and Muslim communities and is also used for organization meditation and events like weddings.

Some leaders of on-campus religious organizations, like the Muslim Student Association and Ithaca College Students for Palestine, believe there is bias in the college’s treatment of smaller religious and activist organizations.

Fabiha Khan, vice president of MSA, said the organization provides a community for her to feel safe on campus. Khan said there is a lack of support and understanding for what students of color and religious minorities experience on campus.

“Our school on multiple occasions has shown completely transparent support toward Jewish students and Muslim students are an afterthought,” Khan said.

Khan said the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life does help with programming and organizational needs but said she wishes there was more Muslim representation in the staff of the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life. Khan said that since Yasin Ahmed, former director of the office, left the college in October, there has been a lack of representation.

Quincey Fireside, president of Ithaca College Students For Palestine (ICSJP), said the organization requested their alternate “Side-by-Side” to be held in the chapel but were denied through a phone call with the Office of Student Engagement because the group was not a recognized organization at the college.

“We ended up having to book another room which [was] easier to book,” Fireside said. “The chapel is much more locked down as far as being able to book events there.”

Austin Reid, interim director of the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, said the office provides a Muslim chaplain, Ashraf Kanter, on Fridays. Reid said Kanter has group office hours from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the chapel.

Khan said she appreciates Kanter as a resource for Muslim students on campus but would like to see more Muslim representation in the staff of the Office for Religious and Spiritual Life or a permanent staff member who can provide more assistance to Muslim students on campus.

Spring 2024 programming

To help facilitate engagement, the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life held an open house in Muller Chapel Feb. 13. Reid said the goal of the open house was to engage with students who enrolled at the college this spring, including transfer students. The event brought students and religious leaders from the Ithaca community together.

Reid said he plans to continue making the space available for wellness events, like the noon-hour meditations held by the college. Reid said he would like to see more individuals on campus considering the chapel as a space for programming.

“Muller Chapel is an iconic building,” Reid said. “I think it’s especially conducive to meaningful conversations and group discussions.”

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College integrates new source for alerts

BY NOA RAN-RESSLER

INVESTIGATIVE EDITOR

The symphony of phone calls and text alerts that spread across Ithaca College’s campus before an emergency alarm system test will now have a new digital source. RAVE, the college’s software program for emergency alerts, will team up with ALERTUS to form a more comprehensive emergency notification system.

Samm Swarts, assistant director of emergency preparedness and response in the Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management, shared the new collaboration in a Feb. 8 Intercom announcement to the college community.

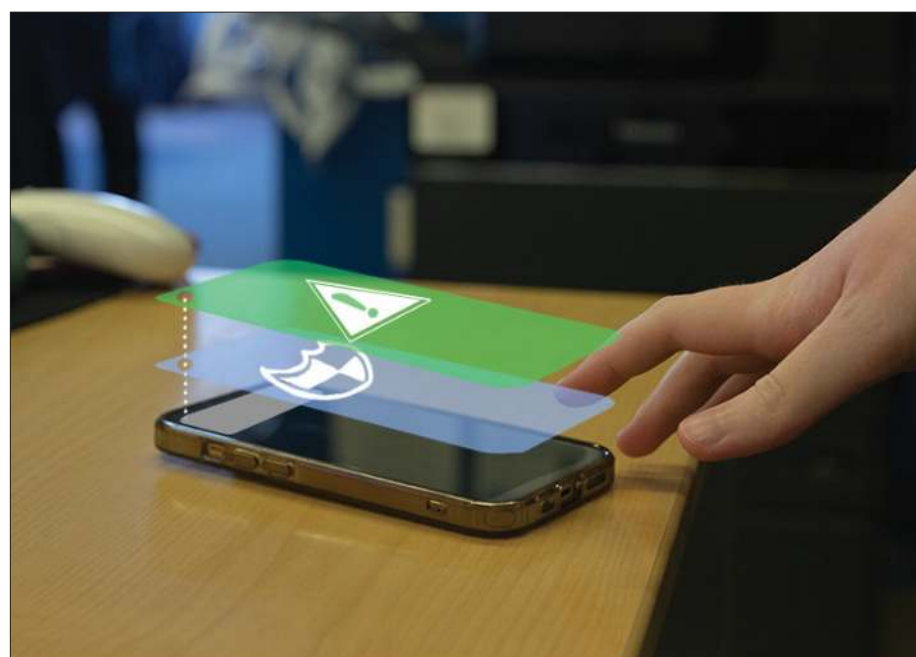
Swarts said ALERTUS will become part of the emergency notification system at the college, which also includes RAVE, an emergency alert software system, and the RAVE Guardian app, a personal safety app operated by RAVE. He said that through RAVE, the college sends emergency alerts through text, voice calls, emails and push notifications.

“[ALERTUS] is still integrated with the RAVE Guardian, so all these systems are basically going to talk to one another,” Swarts said. “It’ll all be integrated into one system. I think of ALERTUS as becoming our new mothership, if you will, to be able to control all these other [features] that we have, which is really awesome.”

With the addition of ALERTUS, the college will be able to send out emergency alerts to any networked computer, which includes any college-owned laptops or desktops in classrooms and throughout campus.

“The alert would actually take over [a professor’s] presentation screen, and everybody inside of that space would all be alerted at one specific time,” Swarts said. “Instead of having to kind of rely on [each personal device] individually, it allows us to do some mass alerting at the same time.”

Swarts said hate crimes could fall under the emergency alert category if the hate crime posed



ALERTUS, a comprehensive emergency notification system, was integrated with the RAVE Guardian app Feb. 8. The systems will send alerts through text, emails and calls.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MADDY TANZMAN, MOLLY TESKA/THE ITHACAN

an immediate threat to the campus community. Otherwise, notifications of hate crimes fall under public safety alerts, like the announcement of a swastika found in Baker Walkway on Jan. 19.

David Weil, vice president and chief information and analytics officer in the Office of Information Technology and Analytics, said RAVE and ALERTUS are designed to work together to form a more comprehensive emergency notification system.

“The RAVE system is fairly self-contained in terms of pushing messages out to people’s cell phones, and the sirens on the buildings and other email alerts,” Weil said. “Then the ALERTUS system extends the reach to the desktops and other things. So even if the interface between those failed, we would still have our self-contained [emergency notification] system, which is really important.”

Elyse Nepa, assistant director of the Clery Act and prevention education in the Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management, said the college encourages students at Cornell University to opt into RAVE notifications for South Hill.

She said local elementary schools and community groups also have access to emergency notifications relevant to campus in addition to the outdoor alarms.

“We currently have two outdoor warning systems and we are, in the not-so-far future, updating that as well,” Nepa said. “That’s what I love about actually working in this department and in this community is the innovative approach to safety and integrating it into our daily lives through prevention education programs or tools like ALERTUS and RAVE Guardian.”

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FROM MERGER, PAGE 1

each incoming class identifies as a first-generation student.

Shadayvia Wallace, program director of the MLK Scholars and First-Gen Center, said the merger was a collaborative effort among herself, Vital, Prunty, Marsha Dawson, dean of students and interim director for the BIPOC Unity Center; and Luca Maurer, executive director of Student Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging.

“[The purpose was] trying to address the needs of the BIPOC Unity Center at the time [and] my needs as a one-woman office,” Wallace said.

Vital said the funding for the centers is not merged and the centers have two separate accounts for funding, but there are plans in the works for how funding may work in the future.

Vital said that following the merger, the BIPOC Unity Center went from having an office of three to an office of four, a staff of seven to a staff of 10, and went from having 22 programming events a year to around 50.

Wallace said that running the First-Gen and MLK Scholar program along with being involved with the BIPOC Unity Center was challenging.

“It felt like two separate programs that needed my attention at once,” Wallace said. “It was challenging at times. I would try to find ways to incorporate both [first-gen programming with MLK Scholars]. But sometimes, both programs had competing expectations and demands that were separate.”

Vital said that when Angélica



After the merger, the BIPOC Unity Center went from having an office of three to an office of four, a staff of seven to a staff of 10, and went from having 22 events a year to around 50.

RAY MILBURN/THE ITHACAN

Carrington, former director of the BIPOC Unity Center, left in November, he and college leadership promised students that the resources provided in the center would not end.

“One of those key responsibilities is being a Title IX confidential resource and so when we were looking to see who else could create that support system, ultimately the decision came down that [Wallace] would be the person to support in that capacity,” Vital said.

Vital said the center has been blocking off time when available to discuss administrative procedures in the center. Vital said the administrative assistant position was posted Feb. 26 and the center is waiting to receive applicants be-

fore the hiring process begins.

“Anything [with the MLK Scholars] is under [Wallace],” Vital said. I am now in charge of supervising all the student staff here. [Wallace] is focusing on supporting the professional administrative coordinator that we will hire soon.”

Vital said one of the biggest changes to the centers was with the administrative student staff who he said are now called BIPOC Unity Center peer educators.

Junior Liguori Flanagan is a peer educator at the BIPOC Unity Center.

Flanagan said that while it would be nice to see an increase in how much peer educators are paid, minimum wage is the standard for the college.

“I do feel like we deserve an extra dollar just because we are taking on the other offices tasks ... because we are literally working to improve [the] community on campus,” Flanagan said. Flanagan said.

Flanagan said that following the merger, he has noticed an increase in productivity around the office.

“[There are] more hands to work on things,” Flanagan said. “It’s beneficial, being able to use the whole office space and being able to have more pro staff on board. ... The merge definitely helped [us be more efficient].”

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FROM FACULTY COUNCIL, PAGE 1

a change in the plagiarism and academic misconduct policy in regard to AI. Carly Jo Hosbach-Cannon, associate professor and graduate program chair in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, said the policy change would view generative AI — like ChatGPT — as the person whom a student is plagiarizing.

Hosbach-Cannon said the terms within the policy change are intentionally vague to give autonomy to faculty in how they handle disciplining and acting upon a student using AI on an assignment. She said that while ChatGPT is a generative AI, other forms of AI faculty members use like Turnitin, which compares information in a student’s work to determine if anything was taken directly from the internet, are non-generative.

“The policy focuses on generative AI, not all AI,” Hosbach-Cannon said. “There is a difference in Turnitin, in my understanding. So we’re focusing on AI that is generating information from a prompt as opposed to AI like Turnitin that is AI that checks for plagiarism.”

Mejda Bahlous-Boldi, associate professor and investment program director in the Department of Finance and International Business, said faculty members must learn how to use AI in their teaching. Bahlous-Boldi said instructors can give oral exams to limit students’ possible use of AI.

“It’s like a class I teach where students solve problems with a calculator and it’s basically telling them to solve all the problems without the calculator,” Bahlous-Boldi said. “We must not penalize them for acknowledging the future.”

Credit Hour Policy

During the meeting, David Gondek, chair of the faculty council and associate professor in the Department of Biology, said sections IV and V of the Credit Hour Policy have limitations about the rigor of asynchronous classes. Gondek also said there are inconsistencies of the language in IV and V. He said section IV discusses courses over the 200 and 300-level, while section V discusses all courses above the 100-level.

The faculty council voted on adding sections IV and V to the credit-hour policy with the amendments the council made during open-discussion about the topic.

Update to Faculty Handbook

After the vote, the council discussed an update to the procedures document in the faculty handbook regarding promotion from associate professor to full professor and tenure.

Stein said the document was updated to explain what can change in a file for a faculty member’s peer reviews after it has been submitted.

The provost said faculty members eligible for tenure will need to provide six reviews over the course of their time at the college.

Stein said faculty members should have two reviews by their second year review, two more reports for the peer review, and two more for the tenure review to have six in total by the time a faculty member can be tenured.

Student Statement Subcommittee

Hajjar concluded the meeting with a presentation about the Student Statement Committee. Hajjar spoke about standardizing the evaluations students are expected to fill out at the end of each semester.

Hajjar said he and the subcommittee looked at student statements from across 25 to 30 departments and what questions they asked, what the Likert scales asked and how many questions there were.

Hajjar said the subcommittee has been discussing pairing questions down from 20 to eight. Hajjar said the subcommittee also discussed alternative designs to the questions asked in student statements to be redirected to the learner and to take the focus off the instructor.

“Instead of, ‘Did the instructor explain concepts clearly?’ change it to, ‘Were concepts presented clearly?’” Hajjar said. “So that’s kind of an example of trying to take some of that focus off the instructor.”

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FROM LAWSUIT, PAGE 1

[the college was] covering it, they just weren’t really publicizing it that much. I think students have a right to know what was going on and not find out through outside sources.”

In a Jan. 22 email, President La Jerne Cornish; Melanie Stein, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs; Bonnie Prunty, vice president for Student Affairs and Campus Life; and Kirra Franzese, associate vice president and Chief Human Resources Officer, notified students that the college was named a defendant in the lawsuit and recognized that students may be affected by the allegations.

The email included information about reporting sexual misconduct through the Title IX office, the Office of Human Resources and the Office of Public Safety; prevention and continuing education about sexual violence through the college’s Sexual Harassment and Assault Response & Education website; and mental health services from the Center for Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) for students who feel impacted by the lawsuit.

Cornish also acknowledged the lawsuit during the All-College Gathering Jan. 24.

Amy Falkner, dean of the Roy H. Park School of Communications, said she understands that students want to hear from Park faculty and administration about the lawsuit, but college faculty and staff cannot comment on the college’s legal proceedings.

“I wouldn’t expect professors — for the same reason I can’t comment on the litigation — that they wouldn’t be able to do anything other than say, ‘Yeah, there was a story in *The Ithacan*,” Falkner said. “Nobody can actually say more than that.”

Falkner said she recognizes that the lawsuit may affect students across campus, so she and other college administrators decided that it would be best for central college administration to send an email to all students instead of sending a separate communication to Park students.



The Center for Counseling and Psychological Services has counselors who serve as Title IX liaisons and have experience working with sexual assault survivors.

RAY MILBURN/THE ITHACAN

A male student who uses Grindr and did not want to be identified because of safety concerns said he fears that because the alleged sexual harassment started over Grindr, the campus community will see an increase in homophobia and shaming people who use Grindr.

According to its website, Grindr said it is “the largest social networking app for gay, bi, trans, and queer people. We have millions of daily users who use our location-based technology in almost every country in every corner of the planet.”

The student said he wants to emphasize that the alleged sexual assault described in the lawsuit did not occur simply because Doe was using Grindr.

“I don’t think it’s as simple as, ‘Oh, well, it just happens [on Grindr],” the student said. “There is a certain degree of planning that has to be involved. I think, in some ways, they had to be actively seeking someone within the age range of people who they knew were students,

especially with things like location settings.”

At the college, the Center for LGBT Education, Outreach, and Services provides a place for LGBTQ+ students to learn and ask questions about sexual health and safety.

Crissi Dalfonzo, director of the center, and Lee Tyson, pride fellow at the center, are both confidential resources, which means students at the college can consult them about Title IX violations without having to make a report.

Brian Peterson, director of CAPS, said CAPS is a confidential resource for students to discuss their concerns or report sexual assault. Two counselors with experience in working with sexual assault survivors are Title IX liaisons.

“There’s no right or wrong reaction to things — you know, anger, sadness, confusion. ... People process things differently,” Peterson said. “So whatever a person’s feeling is certainly something that we can talk about.”

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IC Women in Math Day returns in-person after COVID

BY VIVIAN ROSE

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Ithaca College Women in Math Day was held March 2 for the first time in person since the COVID-19 pandemic. The event was organized by Megan Martinez and Ted Galanthay, associate professors in the Department of Mathematics.

Martinez said the event originally began in 2018 after the department received the Tensor Women and Mathematics grant from the Mathematical Association of America. The Tensor Foundation promotes pre-college and college-aged women and girls to learn and study math. Martinez said the grants the college received in 2018 and 2019 awarded the department \$6,000 each and are still funding the event.

The event was in the Business School atrium and hosted prospective students, their families and panelists from the local Ithaca community.

After the pandemic, the department's Women in Math Day was held virtually. During the event's sixth annual Women in Math Day in 2023, the event hosted participants from grades seven to 12 over Zoom, along with four virtual panelists.

The program ran similarly to how it was run virtually. There were two in-person participants and eight participants over Zoom. The event began with the two in-person student participants learning game theory, a branch of math that analyzes strategy



From left, panelists Alex Chernyakov, Cassandra Valenti, Deborah Hoover, Marguerite Davis '18, Tiffany Ho. Before the panel, participants had the opportunity to have lunch with current math majors at IC.

EMMI CHEN/THE ITHACAN

and decision-making.

Before the panelists spoke, participants had the opportunity to have lunch with current math majors at the college. Senior Lenley Aikin was one of the volunteers and said it was her third year volunteering at Women in Math Day, but the first time she was able to speak with participants in person.

"Honestly, it feels more exciting,"

Aikin said. "This event just feels more like, 'Oh my gosh, this event is in person and you can interact with other people,' rather than on Zoom, some people wouldn't turn on their cameras. And being in breakout rooms with us, the student panelists, the students [over Zoom] would be too shy to ask questions."

Aikin said the event is important to maintain, despite low attendance,

because of the gender gap within math. Female U.S. high school students made up 61% of AP biology students, 52% of AP statistics and 50% of AP chemistry students and represented 23% of AP computer science and 29% of AP physics students, according to a 2018 National Science Foundation article.

Alex Chernyakov, assistant professor of electrical engineering at

Tompkins Cortland Community College, was one of the panelists and spoke about current engineering methods, specifically about the way cars are engineered for men, not for women.

"Women see the importance of engineering for women," Chernyakov said. "Then [engineering] becomes more true to gender, truer to race and to women."

Martinez asked the panel what the most rewarding parts of the women's jobs are. Chernyakov said she had a small win when a student of hers tried engineering and has now decided to pursue it. Chernyakov said that teaching engineering to women is valuable to decrease the gender gap.

"20 years ago, engineering had less than 10% of female students," Chernyakov said. "Now, 20 years later, the numbers are 12–14%. I am super passionate about doing what I can to change it."

Amelia Grimshaw is a high school senior in the Syracuse City School District and said she is a prospective biology student at the college. Grimshaw said the Women in Math Day interested her because the sciences are so intertwined with math.

"I like the prospect of a women in math day and just being able to come and see what Ithaca [College] has to offer and seeing it being presented by women," Grimshaw said. "It felt really reassuring to see women in a math space or in STEM in general."

CONTACT: VROSE@ITHACA.EDU

SGC learns about safety programming from leadership

BY JACQUELYN REAVES

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The Ithaca College Student Governance Council met March 4 to have dinner with the Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management and discuss a bill presented by the Campus Affairs Committee about senator involvement on committees.

The faculty members of OPS introduced themselves to start the dinner. In attendance during the dinner were Scott Garin, executive director of OPS, and Tom Dunn, associate director and deputy chief of patrol & security services, among other staff members.

Elyse Nepa, assistant director of Clery Act compliance and prevention education, shared how the feedback SGC gave OPS in Spring 2023 helped shape and improve their community engagement efforts for 2024.

"One of the ideas that you all brought to the table was to do less programs [and have] more of a targeted population [for community engagement], and that actually worked," Nepa said. "Last semester, [OPS] connected with over 1,700 students [in] a matter of four months [through] our programs."

Nepa also mentioned the next steps for the app ALERTUS, where public safety will be able to send out push emergency notifications on all Ithaca College computers. Nepa said the alert would be able to be seen all across campus.

"If you are in a classroom and everyone's phones are away [or] on silence, [and] you're paying attention to your professor, in the event of an emergency, the emergency notification will go across the computer and all of our digital display boards across campus as well," Nepa said.

Nepa then gave more information for events that OPS hosted like the IC runs Purple for



Elyse Nepa, assistant director of Clery Act compliance and prevention education at the college, shared how SGC feedback helped shape 2024 community engagement.

MADDY TANZMAN/THE ITHACAN

Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Nepa said that with each year, the amount of money raised at the event grows, and she hopes that trend will continue in 2024.

"[OPS] was trying to figure out a way to connect with more students and provide our crime prevention and security awareness programs, sexual violence programs [and] community engagement," Nepa said. "We just wanted to be able to extend our reach."

Following Nepa's announcements about the contributions the council made and events the OPS hosts, the council was given a tour of the Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management.

After the tour, the council resumed their meeting and heard from the Campus Affairs Committee about a new bill the committee is attempting to pass, the Senator Involvement bill.

The proposed bill would require each senator on the council to join at least one committee.

The purpose of the bill was to arrange laws for senators and the committees that they are required to join. Right now, senators are not required to join a specific committee.

The presentation featured senator positions and the required committee that they would join if the bill was passed.

Positions like First-Generation Senate and

International Senate would be assigned to the Social Justice and Sustainability Committee, and the Senator-at-Large positions are assigned to the Appropriations Committee under the bill.

Some senators suggested that there are conflicts, like time and personal interest, with being assigned to a committee instead of choosing one.

Senior School of Business Senator Utkarsh Maini said the language in the bill should be changed from "required" to "strongly suggested" because of the pressure it puts on the senator.

"[Senators] might feel required to be a part of social justice, while they're more interested in appropriations," Maini said. "Strongly suggest' [is flexible compared to 'required']."

First-Generation Senator and first-year student LaRon Pigford said the senator's assignments to committees on the bill felt like they were based on what was available and not the relevance to the position of the senator.

In response, sophomore Rishabh Sen, vice president of campus affairs, said the purpose of the bill was to avoid overcrowding in specific committees and to guarantee that each committee has enough involvement from senators.

"The number one reason SGC committees die out, which is what happened to the Social Justice and Sustainability Committee years ago, is there's just no membership, right?" Sen said. "Nobody's taking charge, nobody's in the community. And the idea of codifying that [ensures that there is involvement with the committee]."

Class of 2026 Senator Asata Rothblatt made a motion to table the bill and to let the Campus Affairs Committee revise the bill based on amendments the council made.

The motion was passed with seven in favor, zero abstaining and six opposed.

CONTACT: JREAVES@ITHACA.EDU

COLLEGE BRIEFS

Nominations open for the annual college Faculty Excellence Awards

The Office of the Provost, the Center for Faculty Excellence and the Faculty Development Committee are inviting nominations for the annual Faculty Excellence Awards at Ithaca College. There will be eight awards across four different categories and all faculty can be nominated.

The deadline to submit a nomination is March 18. Both self-nominations and nominations of others are accepted. Eligibility of nominees includes faculty of any rank and any track.

The Faculty Development Committee will attempt to ensure balance among schools, disciplines, areas of excellence, rank and track. Each award recipient will receive \$1,125. Individuals can vote through the Faculty Excellence Award Nomination Form. Individuals with any questions can contact cfe@ithaca.edu.

Department of Biology seminar series offered for careers in Biology

The Department of Biology offers a seminar series each semester representing a broad range of topics in biology. The seminar is open to the entire community and will be taking place at 1 p.m. March 8 in CNS 112.

Students are invited to speak with the speaker in a small group following the talk to answer questions related to the topic presented or to answer questions regarding different careers in biology.

Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact Susan Witherup at switherup@ithaca.edu or 607-274-3511. Requests for accommodations be made as soon as possible.

Collegiate Travel Planners' portal is open for students to self-register

Collegiate Travel Planners (CTP) is active and travelers may begin using the new portal. Each traveler will need to self-register by following the directions on the travel services site.

All flights for travel, both domestic and international, must be booked through the new portal. There will be training for the portal from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. March 7. Individuals who have questions can contact travel@ithaca.edu.

Financial consulting appointments currently open with Stephen Smith

Students and the campus community can meet with Stephen Smith, TIAA representative at the college, for a one-on-one

financial consulting appointment. Appointments are available every Monday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 4 to April 29 in the Peggy Ryan Williams Building Garden Level Conference Room.

The campus community can get their questions answered about investing and retirement. Individuals can RSVP for sessions on the TIAA's website or by calling 800-732-8353 on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Spring break occupancy forms must be completed by March 7

All residents of Ithaca College dorms intending to stay in their room/apartment must complete the online spring break occupancy form by 5 p.m. March 7.

The form is located on IC Workflow and more information on the process can be found on the Residential Life break housing website.

Break housing begins at 12 p.m. March 9. Limited services are available during break housing periods and there will be a limited number of Residential Life staff present on campus to assist with lockouts and emergencies.

The Office of Public Safety will remain open. The office will resume regular services at 12 p.m. March 17.

Students leaving for spring break must turn off all electrical appliances and items except fish tanks and refrigerators, remove all garbage and trash in outside areas, remove recyclables to outside recycling areas, open curtains, close and lock windows, remove all secure valuables in rooms, turn off all the lights in rooms and lock room doors.

Residential life staff will check rooms for compliance with the closing procedures listed above and compliance with removal of previous health and safety violations.

Staff will document any health and safety violations, unauthorized furniture, illegal appliances, or other violations of Residential Life regulations found in any room including residents registered for break housing.

SAB screening of Barbie with ice cream and crafts March 7

The Student Activities Board will be holding a screening for Barbie at 7–9 p.m. March 7 in Emerson Suites.

There will be ice cream and crafts at the screening. Students can RSVP for the event on IC Engage to secure a spot at the event.



Student advisers give peers career advice

Junior Anya Watkins works at the Career Caravan desk in the Athletics and Events Center on March 4. Watkins, a career peer adviser for the Center for Career Exploration and Development, helps students navigate professional challenges.

RAYAHNA TRYKA/THE ITHACAN

Email awinegard@ithaca.edu with any questions or concerns. SAB provides quality entertainment and education opportunities to enlighten and engage the campus community.

SAB has comedy, shows films and music, speakers and special events throughout the academic year.

Students taught how to rent in NYC with real estate presentation

Cooper & Cooper Real Estate will be conducting an online presentation to provide information on how to rent in New York City after college.

The event will be virtually held from 12:10 p.m. to 1:05 p.m. March 7. Students can RSVP on the Cooper & Cooper website. Cooper & Cooper is a premier residential real estate brokerage firm based in Manhattan, transacting apartment rentals and sales.

Cooper & Cooper works with nearly every major landlord, building and apartment throughout NYC — Uptown, Downtown, East Side and West Side.

Topics of conversation include starting your search, neighborhoods and subways,

apartment shapes and sizes, the application process, paperwork requirements, income and credit guidelines and the real estate market. For students to receive Student Leadership Institute (SLI) credit for the workshop, students will need to RSVP at least 24 hours in advance.

Student Health Ambassadors promote Healthy Mind Survey

Student Health Ambassadors will have a table open from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. March 7 in Textor Hall to educate the college about the Healthy Minds Survey.

The survey will be open until March 11. Students who take the survey will have the chance to win a \$25 Visa gift card.

Students who participate will also be entered into the Center for Health Promotion's monthly raffle.

The survey was designed for Center of Health Promotion to learn more student mental wellness at the college.

The survey will determine how the Center of Health Promotion can further support students on campus.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM FEB. 19 TO 25

FEB. 19

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT / PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: O-Lot

SUMMARY: Caller reported a two car property damage motor vehicle accident. Patrol Officer Jordan Bartolis responded and completed the investigation.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE/ PSYCHOLOGICAL

LOCATION: Hammond Health Ctr.
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person was taken into custody under mental hygiene law and was transported to the hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Jordan Bartolis responded.

FEB. 20

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Williams Hall

SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire

alarm. EH&S reported alarm activation caused by dust in the detector. Protection Specialist Enoch Perkins responded. The alarm activation was determined to be accidental.

CRIMINAL TRESPASS 2ND DEGREE

LOCATION: Lyon Hall

SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person entered a room. Patrol Officer Ivan Cruz issued one person an appearance ticket for criminal trespass in the second degree for the Town of Ithaca court and was escorted off campus.

FEB. 21

PETIT LARCENY BETWEEN \$50-\$199

LOCATION: Park Communications Bldg.
SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person stole a hard drive. Patrol Officer Ivan Cruz responded. This is a pending investigation.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT / PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: F-Lot

SUMMARY: Caller reported a two car property damage motor vehicle accident. Master Patrol Officer Robert Jones investigated and the report was completed.

FEB. 22

PETIT LARCENY BETWEEN \$50-\$199

LOCATION: Fitness Center

SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person stole cash. Patrol Officer Ivan Cruz responded. This is a pending investigation.

CHANGE IN THE CASE STATUS

LOCATION: East Tower

SUMMARY: Caller reported locating the money that they had originally reported stolen from the fitness center this date. Patrol Officer Ivan Cruz responded. The larceny report is unfounded.

FEB. 23

ATTEMPTED / OFFENSE DESCRIBED IN NARRATIVE

LOCATION: Boothroyd Hall

SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person had attempted to gain access to the building Feb. 22. Patrol Officer Matthew Patire reported it as an attempted criminal trespass. This is a pending investigation.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT / PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: Unknown Location / Unknown

SUMMARY: Caller reported a large scratch was found on an all-terrain vehicle. It is unknown where and how the damage occurred. Patrol Officer Matthew Patire responded. This is a pending investigation.

FEB. 24

FIRE ALARM MALICIOUS FALSE ALARM

LOCATION: Landon Hall

SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The activation was caused by an unknown person maliciously discharging a fire extinguisher. Patrol Officer Dana Malcolm reported the fire alarm was accidental.

CRIMINAL TAMPERING 3RD DEGREE

LOCATION: Landon Hall

SUMMARY: Officer reported an unknown person maliciously discharged a fire extinguisher.

Full public safety log available online at www.theithacan.org.

KEY

SCC – Student Conduct Code
V&T – Vehicle & Transportation
EH&S – Environmental Health and Safety

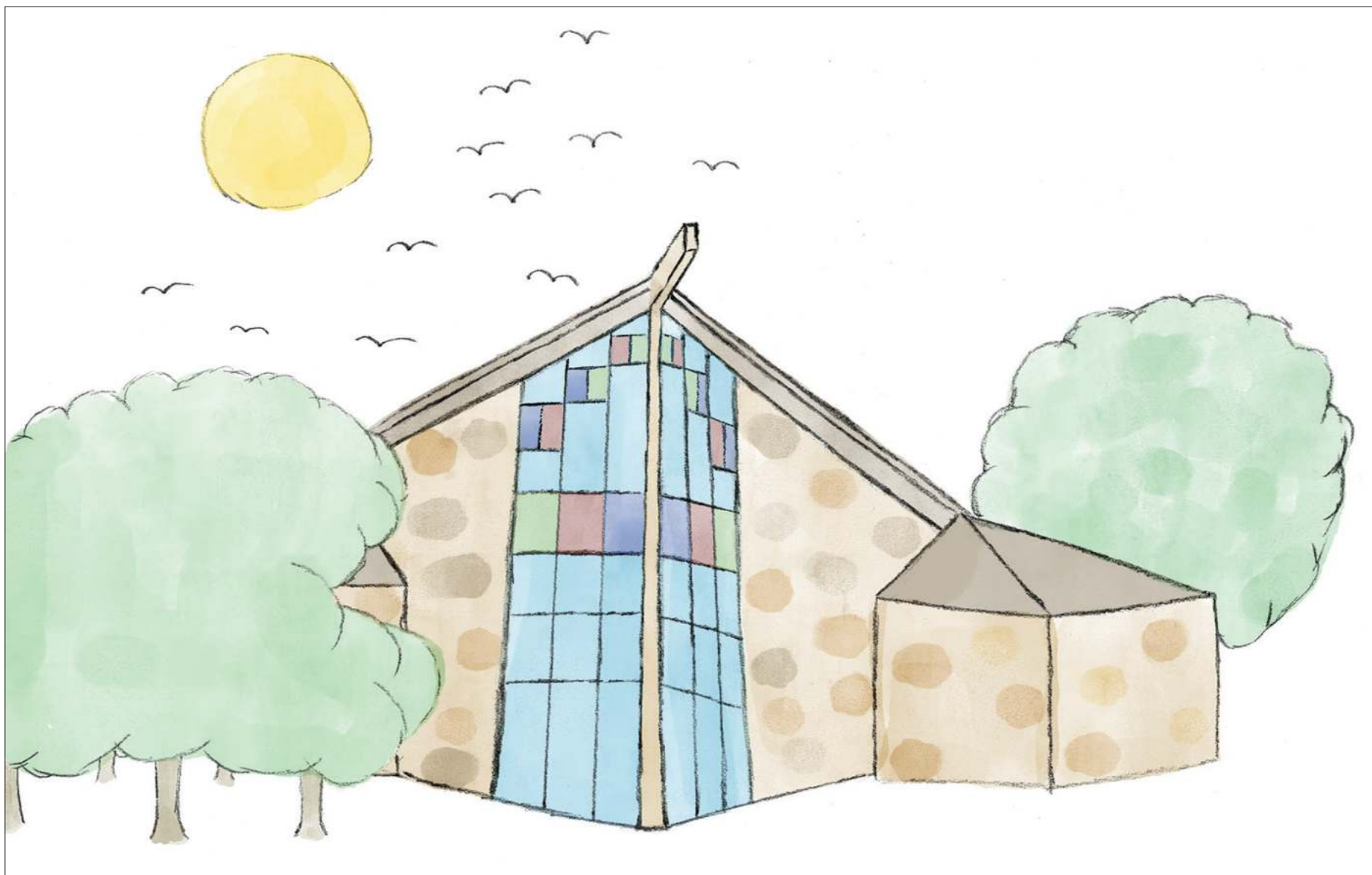


ILLUSTRATION BY GEORGE ESPOSITO/THE ITHACAN

EDITORIALS

Muller Chapel must be a space for all IC students

For many students across campus, faith is a central part of their daily life. Muller Chapel has the potential to act as a space for growing this faith. Furthermore, it should be a space for students to gain a sense of community and comfort, no matter what they believe.

The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life hosted an open house Feb. 13 for new students at Muller Chapel. The open house was open to people of all faiths, and acted as a way for local religious leaders to engage with the campus community. This event signifies a step toward religious inclusivity — something the college must continue to prioritize.

There are eight religious and spiritual life organizations across campus. Muller Chapel hosts events in association with these student organizations, including Ithaca College Paganism and Witchcraft Community's weekly meetings, Lighthouse Christian Fellowship's non-denominational services and Hillel's Kabbalat Shabbat Services.

Muller Chapel has also become a place to

find community during times of political turmoil. The Israel-Hamas war caused a severe spike in antisemitic and Islamophobic hate across college campuses. The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, the Center for Counseling and Psychological Services, Hillel and Chabad were all involved in hosting an event Oct. 9 at Muller Chapel for Jewish students grappling with the effects of the conflict.

While this support is commendable, there must also be support for Muslim students. The Muslim Student Association hosts weekly Jummah prayers at Muller Chapel, but there is a lack of campus-run events supporting students of this faith. This is an example of where the college must provide more adequate support for students of underrepresented faiths.

People of all religious backgrounds deserve to feel comfortable and supported, both by the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life and in the physical space of Muller Chapel. Increasing programming for a multitude of faiths would help the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life achieve this goal.

Thoughtfulness is key to BIPOC Unity Center merge

The First-Generation and MLK Scholar programs have recently merged with the BIPOC Unity Center given the overlapping identities and events between these programs. While this has the potential to be beneficial, the center must ensure that it also maintains a nuanced perspective when it comes to supporting students.

Before the merger, there were more limited resources allocated to the First-Generation and MLK Scholar Center. These programs were typically run by just one staff member. Now that this center has merged with the BIPOC Unity Center, all programs have more resources, with the BIPOC Unity Center now having a staff of 10 as compared to seven prior to the merger.

This increase in personnel has the potential to lend to a more collaborative staff that is less overworked. This also has the potential to minimize communication issues by housing staff members and programs in similar fields in one central place. Furthermore, this collaboration may lend itself to more intersectional approaches when it comes to understanding how race,

class, family and other backgrounds work together to contribute to a student's experience.

While this intersectionality is a benefit of the merger, it remains imperative that specific programs maintain individualized programming and attention as well. While there may be overlap between students who identify as first gen and students of color, looking at these experiences as the same creates a monolith of marginalization. It is important that students of color remain comfortable in a space that now may include white students. It is also important that first-gen students feel understood in a space that is not specifically designated for their unique experiences.

The BIPOC Unity Center is an invaluable part of campus that has been subject to constant changes — especially in recent months, with the loss of Director Angélica Carrington — to this new structural change. This merger has the potential to increase accessibility to programming and resources for students, but it is important that all programs and spaces are provided adequate attention.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send to ithacan@ithaca.edu.

ALL LETTERS MUST:

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

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send to ithacan@ithaca.edu 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.

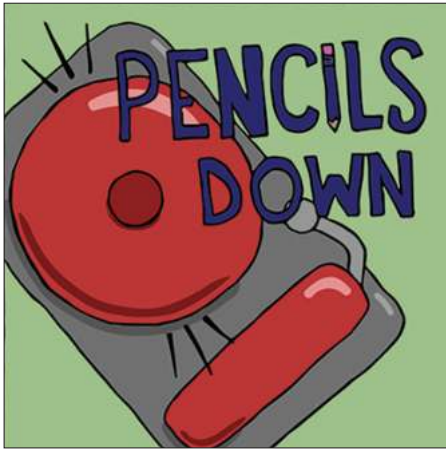


ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE VANDERVEER/THE ITHACAN

Generations dividing school

BY GABE HENDERSHOT
COLUMNIST

There are two ways of thinking about Generation Z. On one hand, this generation is more compassionate and knowledgeable than those that came before it. These changes can be partly attributed to the constant societal march toward tolerance. A general increase in knowledgeability is a direct result of the internet: the availability of vast amounts of information all the time. On the other hand, many members of older generations believe that the attention spans of Generation Z are being ruined by this constant access to knowledge and online content. This growing division between generations is harming the classroom environment.

In order to understand how this generational divide is affecting students and teachers alike, it is important to understand the different aspects of the classroom environment. The paragon of a healthy classroom is one featuring strong communication. Coupled with the fostering of physical and emotional safety, communication allows both students and educators to understand each other and work collaboratively. Basic respect, going both ways between students and teachers, is also crucial to this delicate balance.

With communication comes methodology. Most of Generation Z is accustomed to communicating primarily online. Especially following a year or two of remote learning, this is a method of education that we are used to. Younger generations should not be looked down on for having an intimate knowledge of these methods.

When students feel talked down to or disrespected, they are likely to disengage from the learning process. Students should, of course, respect their teachers by giving them the space to make mistakes and showing that they are invested in the learning process. The reciprocation of this respect matters even more.

In my own academic life, I have witnessed many teachers who seem compelled to constantly be reminding their students of the downsides associated with modern technology. Comments like this are always stated as if these changes are innate flaws within the younger generations.

When instructors mock modern technologies and generalize an entire generation, it alienates their students. Being raised with access to the internet, often unbridled, has changed the way Generation Z interacts and forms opinions. There are aspects of this change that are detrimental. Listening to older generations when they voice their misgivings with these advancements could lead to valuable change for Generation Z. The benefits of these warnings will not be reaped, however, if older generations cannot deliver them in a way that is respectful.

In all recorded history, there are examples of older and younger generations finding fault with one another. This can be a healthy process that allows both sides to see where they can improve. Within the context of a classroom, however, this back and forth is harmful. Learning is an exercise in collaboration and understanding; it must be done together.

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

GUEST COMMENTARY

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

Authentic service must be prioritized

BY KHYLE B. WOOTEN
PROFESSOR

Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman elected to U.S. Congress, once said, "Service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth." This quote was thrown at me quite a bit as a youth. I had a limited view of service as a spoiled, then only child in the heart of West Philadelphia. Because I was spoiled rotten while living in poverty, my view on service was nothing more than kind acts of service that reserved one's seat in heaven. I remember feeling such a way about this between ages 9 and 10. Being increasingly closer to 40, I would tell that version of Kyle to sit down and take 30 years worth of notes. I'll stick to two brief points here.

How can you BE of service? While serving obviously denotes action, Sis. Chisholm was onto something. We get to live on this earth for a limited time. Since we're here, we are well able to do wonderful things with our time. When we work our divinely given purpose toward humankind, it's to honor, restore and connect to the souls and spirits of others. "Paying the rent" is an action, but it eventually becomes who we are if we lovingly allow it. There are certainly boundaries to be employed with this embodiment, as one simply cannot give what they don't have. Pouring into one's self to overflowing is a practice that never goes out of style.

Worldview Matters. My heart is made glad when talking to my students about their work and dreams. I'm always overjoyed to connect with students as they transition from campus life to professional life, if only to share in all the energy and courage it takes to take full ownership of their degree program. Readers, I submit that the same energy and courage will be of use



Kyle Wooten, director of choral activities, writes about the importance of service and encourages others to dedicate themselves to serving their community.

ALEC SCHLESINGER/THE ITHACAN

to you as you engage the Ithaca College community. Furthermore, our view on service will only expand as our worldview expands. What do you love about yourself, your community, your tribe, your work, your world? How do you see yourself in the work by which you're inspired? How can you make room to receive help and build with those whose experiences are different from yours? When your worldview grows, you make room for service. When there's plenty of room, you'll need plenty of hands (see Langston Hughes' "Freedom's Plow"). "Paying the rent" takes work, but it takes all of us to do it.

Service is both rewarding and thankless. Service is sometimes inconvenient but life-giving. Service is always in the business of building a better world. I believe with all my heart that service is what makes our institution special. I wish for all of us a renewed zeal for reaching a big world with a big heart. New ideas, new plans and new strategies are headed our way! Get your dollars and cents in order. THE RENT IS ALWAYS DUE!

Kyle B. Wooten (he/they) is the director of choral activities. Contact them at kwooten@ithaca.edu.

GUEST COMMENTARY

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

Comprehensive music history is vital

BY KELLEN KO
SENIOR

A few years ago, the music history curriculum here at Ithaca College was updated to include more diverse topics and underrepresented voices, de-emphasizing the Western Classical canon.

However, in the curriculum's current case study format, it does not prepare students for success. An inclusive, empowering curriculum must effectively survey specific works and composers in the Western Classical canon more, alongside highlighting historically excluded voices and modern musical styles/genres.

The current curriculum features case studies where a short lecture is followed by a group presentation. Student groups are assigned topics relating to the primary focus of the week. In theory, this idea utilizes the educational framework of peer learning to emphasize student agency.

In my personal experiences with the current curriculum however, it negatively impacts students' learning in its attempt to avoid imposing existing perspectives from the professor on students. Some people have dedicated their entire careers to studying just one of these topics; undergraduates

cannot effectively teach other undergraduates about these topics in a five-minute group presentation prepared within one week.

This is troubling because it can deepen a learning gap that formed prior to college. Students, especially students who do not have access to a preparatory pre-college music education, may enter college without significant exposure to musical archetypes. Establishing musical archetypes can create starting points for students to further their musicianship, efficiently communicate in rehearsal and potentially explore historically underrepresented works/styles.

Studying musical archetypes is important for programming and administrative decisions as well. Recently, the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra has been auditioning new conductors at concerts, each featuring one of Beethoven's even-numbered symphonies. This was a deliberate administrative choice, as Beethoven's even-numbered symphonies were more conservatively composed compared to their fiery odd-numbered counterparts. This reduces implicit biases regarding a conductor's interpretation and allows fairer comparisons between candidates. Thoughtful study and application of the Western Classical canon can contribute to



Senior Kellen Ko writes about the need for a comprehensive music history curriculum that better prepares students.

MARI KODAMA/THE ITHACAN

diversifying classical music.

This does not mean the current curriculum completely fails to improve on a traditional, Eurocentric, lecture-based curriculum. I believe the new curriculum successfully arms students with research strategies to further their learning. While popular, folk and contemporary music does not need legitimizing by Western academics, the curriculum's inclusion of these topics broaden the creative and scholarly horizons of students.

Ultimately, the most empowering music history curriculum will contextualize the interconnected nature of music and

society through examining musical archetypes from a range of composers and musical style. It is possible to study the Western Classical canon in depth while emphasizing it is not the only history worth learning. When an undergraduate music history curriculum is unable to effectively accomplish this balance, it fails to prepare students and perpetuates a barrier to the deeply enriching study of music and music history.

Kellen Ko (they/them) is a senior flute performance and music education major. Contact them at kko1@ithaca.edu.

‘Spring Into Art’ celebrates upcoming relocation

BY TAYLOR BORASH

STAFF WRITER

Hair Color Art hosted their bi-monthly “Spring Into Art” gallery and pop-up shop March 1, with unique artwork, live music and delicious drinks.

A few dozen people attended the event, enjoying drinks from Open Spaces Cider, live music from DJ West Fox and diverse pieces from seven different artists, with work ranging all the way from clothing made with hand-spun yarn to on-site charcoal portraits.

Though the event was lively and brought together many artists from nearby communities, it was a bittersweet day as well, as this was the last event Hair Color Art hosted in their current location before the establishment moves to South Hill Business Campus later this month.

Owner Kristin Dutcher, who opened the business in 2019 and has been hosting galleries for five years, said the idea for the move came when her lease ended and she realized she needed more space for her growing team and ideas.

“I just thought, before I sign another lease here, let me look around and see what else is available just to see if I can realize more of my awesome dreams,” Dutcher said.

“Spring Into Art” was organized by two of the featured artists, Yen Ospina and Sarah Lopez, who approached Hair Color Art with the idea for a gallery and reached out to find a variety of emerging artists to participate in the showcase.

“It’s my first time putting together an event like this and being able to bring other artists from the community together,” Lopez said. “Not only to showcase their art, but to support one another and create



Fernanda Medina, a visual artist, paints during the “Spring Into Art” event held at Hair Color Art on March 1. The event was a bi-monthly opportunity to bring together artists of all mediums in one space, not just in celebration of collaboration, but also of their upcoming move.

SHELBY RILEY-CHERUBIN/THE ITHACAN

these beautiful spaces. I feel really proud of the work we’ve done here today.”

Ospina, who has curated events for emerging artists in the past, was responsible for inviting artists to participate, reaching out through Instagram and directly messaging artists whose work she admired.

“This community has a really big art scene, and with me being here since 2013, it’s been much easier to know a lot of artists that live in and around the Ithaca area,” Ospina said.

Ospina’s own display table contained various art forms like stickers, coloring books and zines.

She said her tropical and vibrant color choice stems from her own background and identity.

“I lost my job during the pandemic in 2020, and I had a lot of time to figure out my style, which arises from folklore, fairy tale fantasy art with a mix of my indigenous, South American background,” Ospina said.

One of the featured artists, Carrie Kathryn, set up a display full of clothing and accessories made from handspun and hand-dyed yarn.

“A lot of it is based on sustainability and trying to reduce textile waste, as well as keeping these ancient arts alive with hand spinning and dyeing and knitting and crochet,” Kathryn said.

Yamilka Portorreal, another featured artist, said they only moved to Ithaca from New York City about six months ago. Their display featured a variety of woodcut prints, and they spent much of their time creating on-site charcoal portraits for attendees who paid and sat down to be drawn.

“I didn’t study art in school,” Portorreal said. “This is just something I’m super passionate about. I

love drawing, and I love looking at different things from life, whether it’s people or landscapes, and trying to put that on paper.”

Mitchell White, who knew of some of the featured artists beforehand, attended the event with the intention of checking out what the local art scene has been up to lately.

“I always like seeing what’s going on in Ithaca,” White said. “These kinds of events are really fun, just getting to see what the local art scene is doing and what people are using spaces for.”

Hair Color Art’s new space will be used to host even more events, like art galleries and costume workshops, which Dutcher said will be easier to pull off with more room.

“Up at South Hill Business Campus, it’s four times the size of this space, so we’re expanding substantially,” Dutcher said. “I’ll have space for yoga workshops, for art workshops, I can still host gallery events like this and have music. I feel like it’s the final form of my business.”

This also includes a continuation of Hair Art Color’s Hair Grant Program, which accepts donations from community members and uses them to provide free haircuts for adolescents from marginalized communities and homeless youth. According to Dutcher, the program raised around \$4,500 in 2023, which they were able to use to cut and dye hair for 17 kids.

“The nice thing about collecting funds for a program like that is we’re

able to turn around and give it right back to the community,” Dutcher said. “We also get paid for our time, so it’s a pretty good system.”

With so much on the horizon, Dutcher said it’s hard not to look forward to what is in store for the business’ future, even as the team leaves their current space behind.

“May 4 is our big grand opening celebration,” Dutcher said. “We’re going to have a burlesque show happening that day and we’re talking about having a red carpet event, so everyone gets all dressed up and we have a photographer. That’ll be really fun, and that’s just the beginning.”

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In addition to artists showcasing their talents in live time, there was also plenty of art on display, as well as for sale, at “Spring Into Art.”

COLE JACKSON/THE ITHACAN



Pride Prom

On March 1, the LGBTQ Center, Open Pages and Prism hosted Pride Prom, where people of all identities could come and enjoy a fun and colorful evening. The event was held in Emerson Suites and included music from a DJ, art from the Beyond Art Collective, food and prizes. As promised, it was a night full of unicorns and rainbows.



Sophomore Lila Mohler dances the night away in a flowing red dress, jamming out to the songs played by the DJ that evening.

PRAKRITI PANWAR/THE ITHACAN



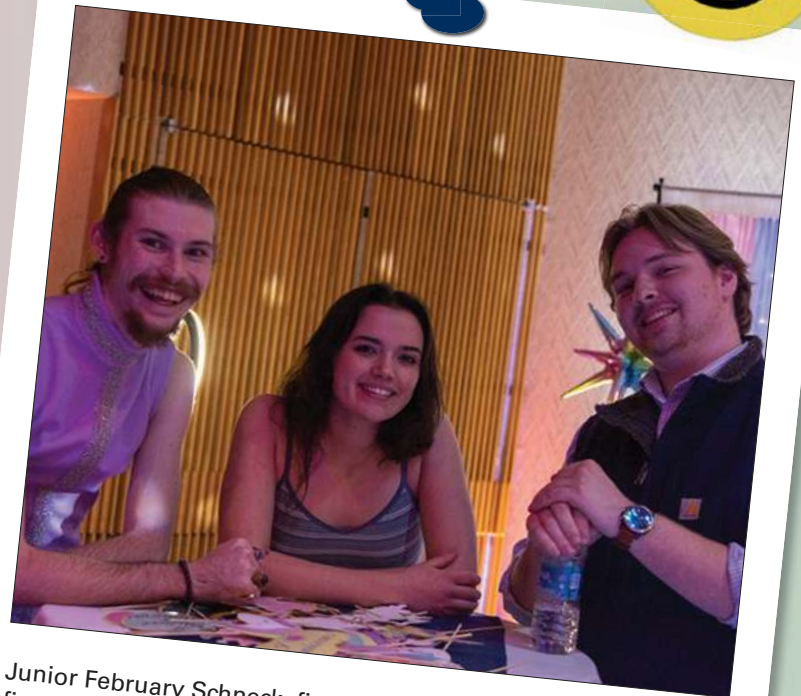
Junior Chandler Silva and sophomore Aleksander Burke celebrate Pride Prom together in Emerson Suites on March 1.

PRAKRITI PANWAR/THE ITHACAN



Seniors Gwyneth Cole and Clare Martin dance together, both able to hear the music being played through their headphones.

PRAKRITI PANWAR/THE ITHACAN



Junior February Schneck, first-year student Elouane Rogers and first-year student Owen Umiker gather near the side tables.

PRAKRITI PANWAR/THE ITHACAN



First-year student Zoe Lipman (left) and friends make a heart with their hands as they enjoy the colorful evening together.

SAM BURNS/THE ITHACAN

SHE/
HER





Sophomore Lila Mohler dances alongside other Ithaca College students at Pride Prom silent disco, DJed by Cassidy Quinn.
PRAKRITI PANWAR/THE ITHACAN



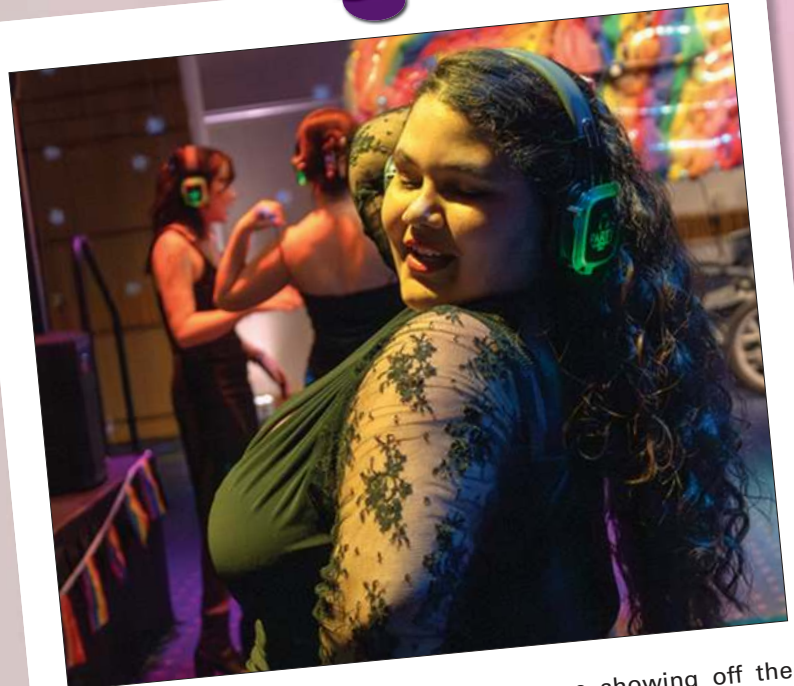
Ithaca College students pose with props provided by the event, adding a little extra sparkle to their photos with friends.
PRAKRITI PANWAR/THE ITHACAN



The Beyond Art Collective brought a rainbow unicorn to celebrate the evening, providing an even larger feel to the event.
SAM BURNS/THE ITHACAN



Unicorn and rainbow themed decorations were laid on tables across the event to allow the attendees to embrace the theme.
SAM BURNS/THE ITHACAN



Sophomore Asata Rothblatt strikes a pose showing off the detailing on the sleeves on her outfit for the evening.
SAM BURNS/THE ITHACAN



POPPED CULTURE

Celebrities' role in social media

BY MALIK CLEMENT
MANAGING EDITOR

The relationship between a parent and their children is widely seen as a complex, sacred connection. Understanding the ways in which social media can be harmful to someone, especially at a young age, can be important. The parasocial relationships between celebrities and social media has allowed many fans to be able to closely watch the lives of artists. In some cases, this can allow artists to build a stronger sense of community, and in others, it can become destructive and leave no room for privacy.

In 2018, Drake's song "Emotionless" was backed by controversy after fans learned that he had had a son, Adonis. In the song, he states, "I wasn't hidin' my kid from the world, I was hidin' the world from my kid." In October of 2023, Drake released the song "Daylight," which features his son Adonis. At the time of "Emotionless," Adonis was under 1 year old and now with the release of "Daylight," he is 6 years old.

Drake is no stranger to the dangers of social media, considering he is often finding himself in controversy, but to expose his son in a way that is very permanent both online and physically shows little care for his son's digital footprint.

Drake is not the only celebrity who has increasingly allowed their child to be in the media; more recently, Kanye West and Kim Kardashian have done the same with North West. North was featured on the song "TALKING" off Kanye's album "VULTURES 1" and shares a TikTok page with Kim that has 18.8 million followers. Many social media apps have struggled with creating a safe level of conversation to combat issues like cyberbullying and privacy concerns. To allow a 10-year-old to have a widely visible account on social media can lead to issues as they interact with people on social media who oftentimes do not consider content as a person, but rather a form of entertainment.

Jay-Z and Beyonce have shown a level of care and consideration for their daughter Blue Ivy as well as their 6-year-olds Rumi and Sir. Fans of Jay-Z and Beyonce know of their children but are not able to readily engage with them over social media. Notably, Blue Ivy has performed in events with Beyonce, and has writer credits on "Brown Skin Girl."

While there is a level of criticism to be held for the celebrities who allow this internet exposure, there is also the criticism to hold against those who feed into it. Media literacy has begun to hold a large amount of importance in how people interact on social media and the earlier that it's taught to any child, celebrity or not, could be beneficial in protecting their privacy as well as mental health. In social media, the example is often set by those who have larger followings, and to understand the platform one has is a good way to teach not only the children who look up to them, but also the people who follow them.

POPPED CULTURE is a column, written by Life & Culture staff writers, that analyzes pop culture events. Malik Clement is a senior film, photography & visual arts major. Contact them at mclement1@ithaca.edu.

New age of sci-fi in 'Dune: Part Two'

MOVIE REVIEW: "Dune: Part Two" Warner Bros.



BY NOLAN SHEEHAN
STAFF WRITER

Building on an already impressive resume of science fiction, director Denis Villeneuve continues his epic film adaptation of the first Dune novel with "Dune: Part Two." Releasing into IMAX screenings Feb. 25 and regular theaters March 1, this space opera picks up with the story of Paul Atreides (Timothée Chalamet) and his encounter with the people of the desert planet Arrakis.

From a technical standpoint, this film is the highest level that any movie can achieve in this day and age. The visual effects, combined with direction and cinematography of Villeneuve, gives the world of Dune a unique, powerful feel that allows it to pop on screen. Along with the main centerpiece of Arrakis, the Harkonnen homeworld of Giedi Prime is unlike anything put to the big screen — a science-fiction world bathed in monotone colors. It gives the planet a distinct alien look, on top of an ominous feel, that helps to establish why the Harkonnen are so villainous.

The performances of the main cast speak to an incredibly dynamic script, with each actor putting in phenomenal work with their material. The standout performance from the movie comes from Chalamet, who's lead performance takes complete control of the film around the midway point. Filled with religious fervor combined with a desire to do what's necessary to save the galaxy, Paul gives several speeches that accentuate those feelings to a point.

Despite the lengthy runtime of two hours and 46 minutes, the film earns every second with how much it accomplishes per minute.



Paul Atreides (Timothée Chalamet) and Chani (Zendaya) continue their story of love and loss in "Dune: Part Two," directed by Denis Villeneuve.

COURTESY OF WARNER BROS.

So much is built within the runtime to the point where the universe and its politics can be grasped by anyone, even those who have no prior knowledge of Dune and its source material. Information is conveyed clearly, despite the depth of the material, and the audience never feels lost among the multitude of character arcs, alien worlds and important terms.

Facilitated by a sweeping narrative, brilliant cinematography and visuals, and a

star-studded cast, this film fires on every capable cylinder, delivering quite possibly the sci-fi epic of the decade. Among Villeneuve's repertoire, this film stands as his best work. The return numbers on this sweeping epic could open the doors for a new age of science-fiction film, one that could breathe new life into cinema again.

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Faye Webster aces various genres

ALBUM REVIEW: "Underdressed at the Symphony" Secretly Canadian



BY MARIA-ANGELICA CHRISTAKIS

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After the immense success on her fourth studio album, "I Know I'm Funny haha," Faye Webster returned with "Underdressed at the Symphony" on March 1, continuing to defy genre norms. Webster is consistent in her unique sound. Her music is timeless as she explores handling fame and heartbreak with a rich use of new instruments and gentle melodies.

She varies from indie folk, alternative, modern R&B and even country. Her individual sound attracts attention from a wide demographic of listeners. Her versatility is apparent in "Underdressed at the Symphony," where she proves her capability in various genres.

Webster finds comfort in the atmosphere of the symphony; it's therapeutic to her. Webster portrays relatability to her audience in escaping from reality into an unfamiliar environment with no pressures.

The album opens with a light-hearted jazz beat in "Thinking About You." It's an appropriate track to start on, as Webster wrote and recorded the album recover-

ing from a breakup. The song conveys the lingering bittersweet thoughts while dealing with being newly single. Even though this is essentially a breakup album, Webster does a fantastic job in representing an array of feelings rather than just conveying a sorrowful, heartbroken tone. Another intimate song on the record, "But Not Kiss," shows immense emotion going from a softer to louder tempo, with a back and forth between lyrics.

Webster experiments with a vocoder over the album, slightly distorting her voice. On track five, "Feeling Good Today," the use of vocoder feels ironic; it makes her voice sound uncertain in what she is saying. The same distortion is also heard in "Lego Ring," the lead single from the album, featuring famous rapper and Webster's childhood friend Lil Yachty. After the start of their individual rise to fame, they found each other again later in life bringing them to this fresh collaboration. As their creative styles presume to contradict each other, their voices complement one another. Yachty's lively, let-loose vibe provides Webster a chance to escape the clutter of heartbroken thoughts, and open to her playful side. The



"Underdressed at the Symphony," Faye Webster's newest addition to her discography, was released March 1.

COURTESY OF SECRETLY CANADIAN

catchy song plays with various instruments, a stable drum beat with piano and guitar chords.

Her humanity is evident in "Wanna Quit All the Time," representing the overwhelming feelings that come with fame. After 10 years of being in the music industry, Webster is conscious of her limits. The last two minutes of the track finishes off with no lyrics, just the sounds

of the soothing electric guitar. A calming tropical beat clears the mind, phasing out the anxieties in life.

Faye Webster's "Underdressed at the Symphony" not only exemplifies her variety of talents, but furthermore offers her listeners' reliability in the agonizing complexities of life.

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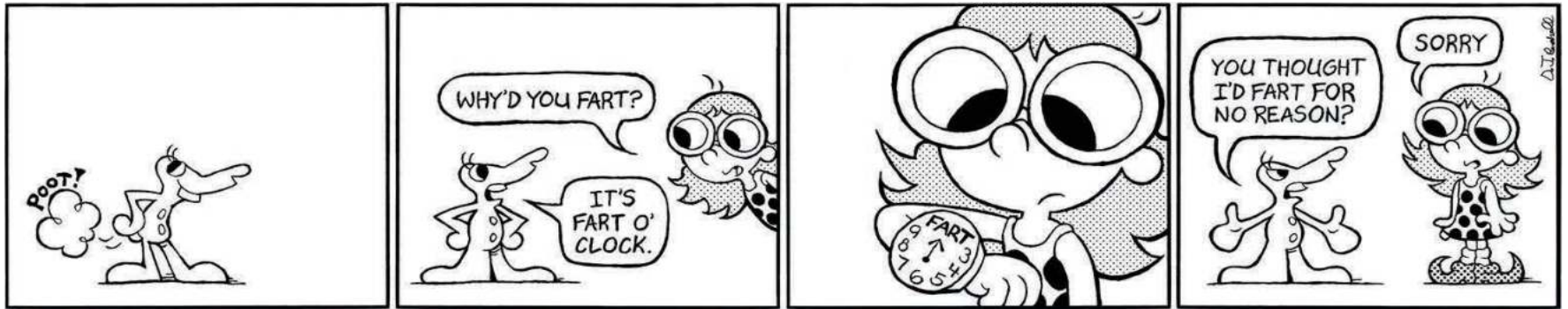
Polar Pardner

ILLUSTRATION BY JOSHUA PANTANO/THE ITHACAN



The Shoelace Carnival

ILLUSTRATION BY DJ BERCHOFF/THE ITHACAN



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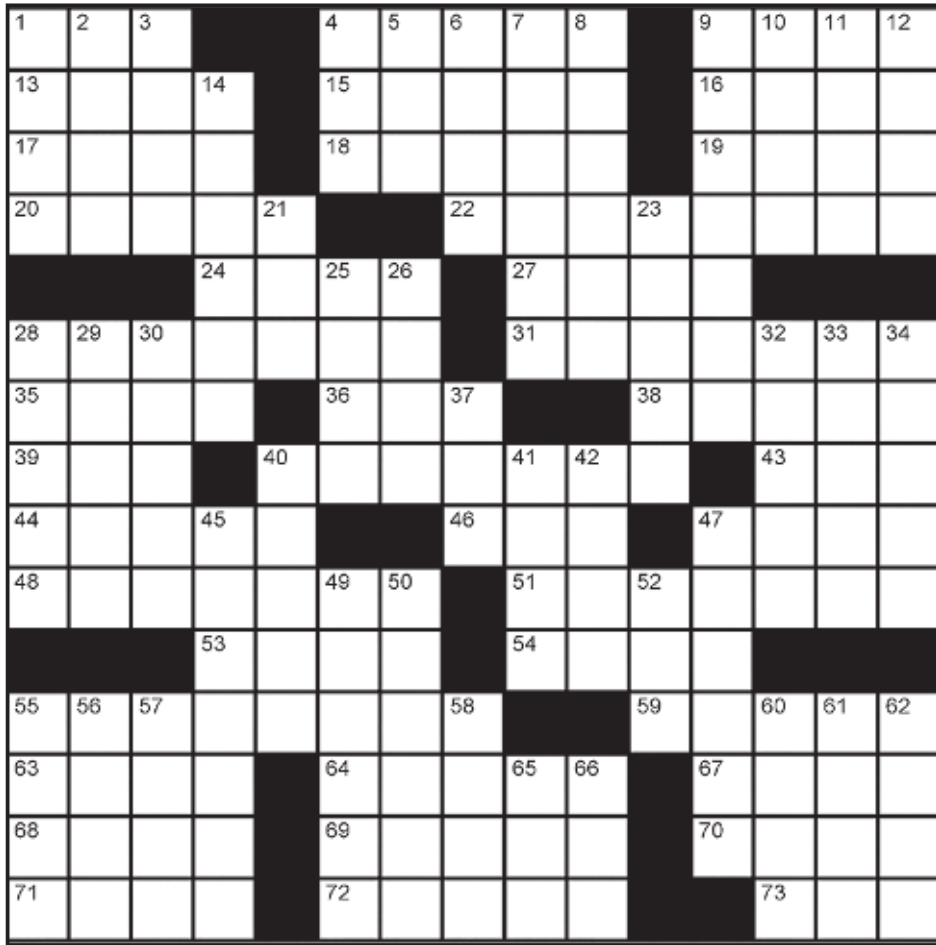
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DIVERSIONS

crossword

By Quill Driver Books



ACROSS

- 1 Ott or Tillis
- 4 Defrauds
- 9 License plates
- 13 Service branch, briefly
- 15 The Pentateuch
- 16 Exchange premium
- 17 Goad
- 18 Sports venue
- 19 Standard
- 20 Set up a fund
- 22 Try hard
- 24 Go out on a –
- 27 Solitary
- 28 Keep a eye on
- 31 Surround completely
- 35 Auditory
- 36 Flat fish that stings
- 38 Homegrown
- 39 Cereal plant
- 40 Moderately slow, in music
- 43 Director's cry
- 44 Top off a salad
- 46 Miss Piggy's perfume
- 47 Roman goddess
- 48 Hypodermic
- 51 Seasoned
- 53 Pinto or navy
- 54 Mine entrance
- 55 Get a legacy
- 59 Ask urgently
- 63 Decant
- 64 Family member
- 67 Large group
- 68 Partly (prefix)
- 69 "To -- human..."
- 70 Monopoly for one
- 71 Greek mountain
- 72 Crusoe's Creator
- 73 Turf

DOWN

- 1 Ponder
- 2 Cable channel
- 3 Praise
- 4 RR stop
- 5 "___ blimey!"
- 6 God of war
- 7 Cloaklike garment
- 8 Stone or Osbourne
- 9 Hybrid fruit
- 10 Excited
- 11 "The – from Ipanema"
- 12 A few

- 14 Play boisterously
- 21 Brainpower
- 23 "I give up!"
- 25 Poet's time of day
- 26 Headless nail
- 28 States of mind
- 29 Eared seal
- 30 Chile saltpeter
- 32 Happen
- 33 Steam bath
- 34 Rock's – John
- 37 Edible tuber
- 40 He was Lou Grant
- 41 – Scotia
- 42 Fastened
- 45 vast region in Russia
- 47 Traveler's problem (2 wds.)
- 49 Acquired
- 50 Undiminished
- 52 Pointed end
- 55 – facto
- 56 Negative votes
- 57 Drones
- 58 Medieval laborer
- 60 Cenozoic and Paleozoic
- 61 Gunner's need
- 62 – -in-the-wool
- 65 AFL's partner
- 66 Pt. on a compass

last issue's crossword answers



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sudoku

Medium

answers to last issue's sudoku:

easy

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

hard

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

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First-year rides tide into dual sports



BY BILLY WOOD
SPORTS EDITOR

Swimming and rowing could be seen as incompatible sports from the surface level. But when looked at closely, the connection may be deeper than just the water level.

Marshall Adams is a first-year freestyle/backstroke swimmer for the Ithaca College men's swim and dive team. Not only is Adams involved in the swim program, but Adams is also a first-year rower for the men's rowing team. The decision to pursue both sports came later in his career.

"Sophomore year of high school I kind of started to hit a plateau," Adams said. "I was getting really bored, I mean you're in a sport that long? By that time I was probably 15, so 13 years of just swimming, I became friends with a bunch of rowers and they're like, 'Just try it out for the summer,' so I did and then I fell in love with it. And I got decently good at it for being a novice. So I joined the rowing team my junior year of high school."

The decision also comes as something that separates him from the rest of athletes at the college. While there are a number of football players that make the transition over to track and field in the winter, as of now, Adams is the only officially rostered athlete to play multiple sports at the college that is not football and track.

Adams comes from a deep-rooted family of swimmers. His father and mother swam and both his brother and sister were also put into swimming from an early age. Adams' sister, Morgan, played an especially impactful role in Marshall's decision to pursue both swimming and rowing. Morgan said her transition to rowing helped influence Marshall's late turn to it.

"I was swimming forever, so rowing, I fell in love with rowing in a way I didn't with swimming and I just became obsessed with it," Morgan said. "Then to have my brother want to do that, and it was [the] assistant coach Sasha Bailey at Canisius [College] who saw my brother and was like, 'That kid's built like a rower, he should try out rowing' and I told him that."

Marshall was named Canisius High School's swimming captain and performed well enough in rowing to be mainly recruited as a rower coming out of high school. Adams said men's rowing head coach Justin Stangel made the offer to him that he would be able to do both sports at the college.

"I had to kind of choose between if I



First-year freestyle/backstroke Marshall Adams is a part of both the men's swimming team and the men's rowing team. Adams is the only student-athlete currently at Ithaca College that pursues a dual-sport combination that is not football and track and field.

MADDY TANZMAN/THE ITHACAN

wanted to do one or the other [at other schools] and I think it was Coach Stangel who actually gave me a call and he was like, 'Do you want to do both here?' and I was like, 'Yeah, that would be great,'" Marshall said. "I think I would have come here either way just because of my program — I'm an environmental science major. The program is really good here, but the fact I can do both is a good bonus."

Marshall finished the 2023–24 swimming season with impressive totals for a first-year athlete, finishing the swimming season with an eighth-place finish in the 400-yard IM at the Liberty League Championships on Feb. 22.

Ithaca College men's swimming and diving coach Mike Blakely-Armitage said that training in both swimming and rowing can help give an advantage in both sports.

"I think that between the two sports, there's that connection between endurance and people that generally like to work hard can find a place," Blakely-Armitage said. "The rowing coaches are excellent teachers specifically. There hasn't honestly been that many

[dual-sport athletes] mainly because when you go through a whole winter season of swimming, you kind of just want to be done."

Swimming and rowing are both connected through the muscle groups that are used. Rowing and swimming both share a leg dominant motion, which works the quads, glutes and core. Both are also endurance sports, which can build off of each other effectively.

Blakely-Armitage said he is not worried about Marshall's offseason training because he knows with rowing, he will always have the structure to stay ready to swim.

"Sometimes coaches are worried about their athletes, like, 'Oh, you're playing basketball instead of swimming during the summer time,' like they're not related other than like a cardio benefit, but with rowing, he's still working the main like muscle movers that we use in swimming," Blakely-Armitage said. "So I'm not worried about him because I know he's going to train whereas some of the other kids on our team it's like, 'Ok guys, during the offseason we get in the pool, we gotta train,' so I know that he's going to have a structured program."

Stangel and said he fully supports Marshall's endeavor into both programs.

"If you're good enough of an athlete to be able to do both, why not?" Stangel said. "I feel like at the Division III level, that's part of the ethos of it, to be able to perfect your craft in two different ways and then also be a ... good student as well — being able to do that I think is a pretty cool aspect. I think he is good enough of an athlete and I have a good relationship with [Blakely-Armitage] and working with him to make sure we're both able to achieve what we want."

Rowing teammate and first-year student Max Detzer said Marshall's work ethic is what drives him to pursue so much.

"I'd like to say he's hard working as you can see from the leadership role he plays as a freshman," Detzer said. "That's something that's not

very common in freshmen to always want to hop out of bed and get to lift 30 minutes early which is kind of crazy even to me."

Marshall's decision to participate in both so early on not only showed his drive but comes from a personal place of always having to be doing something. Marshall said he feels he needs to always have something going on.

"I hate getting bored, I really hate getting bored," Marshall said. "I feel like a lot of it is that I like being in shape and the one thing I really like about both teams is that I just have friends. I love having friends. That was kind of a fear of mine originally coming here and then I was like, 'I'm on two teams, I already have like 100 built-in friends.' That's so nice and I can just hang out with whoever and we can all complain about the practice, stuff like that."

Marshall said that a part of his decision to do both sports was the constant need to feel reinvigorated and that his love for both sports is what drove him to not drop either.

"It's like asking a parent who their favorite kid is, to be honest; they even each other out," Marshall said. "You get sick of one and then I go into the other and then I get sick of that one. It's just like a constant rotation. So it definitely evens out; like right now, I can't wait to row."

Morgan said that while she thought Marshall was crazy when he decided to do both sports at the collegiate level, she knew that his strong drive would lead him to success.

"It shows his dedication and his commitment to the team and I think you could argue that doing two sports is going to stretch yourself too thin, but I think because they are similar and you're training your body in similar ways for both sports, it's a benefit for both," Morgan said. "So it just shows that he's both dedicated to both sports and it's not a detriment to do one over the other. So it shows that he cares about both sports and he wants to continue working on it even in the offseason."



ILLUSTRATION BY MOLLY TESKA/THE ITHACAN

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Baseball and softball navigate extensive road stretch

BY NOA RAN-RESSLER
INVESTIGATIVE EDITOR

Members of Ithaca College's softball and baseball teams will have to wait a few weeks into the season to enjoy home-field advantage, but that will not stop players from making the most of the start of the season.

Kostrinsky Field will not see any action until March 23 when the softball team will play its first game at home against Nazareth University after 12 games on the road. Over the next week, the softball team will travel to Clermont, Florida. Softball head coach Kelly Robichaud said the team does not let being on the road impact the players' headspace.

"We're really lucky and fortunate that we get to go down to Florida and be in 70 to 80-degree weather," Robichaud said. "It's a good opportunity to go out and play in the sunshine and get our skills to where they need to be so when we come back and start our non-conference and conference play, we're in a really good spot."

Robichaud said the team prepares to play in dynamic weather conditions by practicing in all conditions, rain or shine. She said the team will play on turf, natural fields and indoor surfaces to prepare for opponents' fields.

Two states up the east coast from the softball team, Ithaca College's baseball team will tee up in Lexington, South Carolina.

Baseball head coach David Valesente said the team plays its first

weeks of the season on the road because Freeman Field has natural grass, which is not conducive to Ithaca's variable climate.

With the exception of Rochester Institute of Technology, Bard College, Union College and Vassar College, most other Liberty League baseball teams also schedule their first 7-24 games away from home.

The baseball team will be home for the first time this season March 22, playing Clarkson University. Junior baseball player Collin Feeney said that playing on the road can be challenging because other colleges' fields can be unpredictable.

"We took advantage of going on to Higgins field and working on how ground balls or fly balls would feel on turf," Feeney said.

Junior softball player Olivia Comolli said one of the hardest parts about being away is the bus rides. She said that to counteract the strain of travel, the players put their phones away before arriving at the opposing college and get hyped up together with music and cheering.

"It's harder to work through that, just in a mental toughness sort of way," Comolli said. "You can definitely get in a groove easier [at home]."

Senior softball player Belle de Oliveira said that staying focused is important in softball and knowing there is a group of people who have her back can help with the stress.

"Softball is a sport that you have to stay focused," de Oliveira said. "When I'm focused, in the box, I



The Ithaca College baseball and softball teams take long road trips each season. Neither team will return to its home field until baseball returns March 22 and softball returns March 23.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY EMMA KERSTING AND MAKAI YLLANES/THE ITHACAN

just block out everything else out there. And it helps when our team is cheering and rowdy."

Feeney said the baseball players also rely on each other while on the road, both on and off the field.

"A lot of the time when you're off the field, you've got to find ways to just bond with each other, entertain each other," Feeney said.

Valesente said the start of the season is inherently exciting and he builds off that to create a positive

environment going into away games.

"The guys are excited to get on the road and go play," Valesente said. "They ultimately want to be playing in games and starting to compete. Certainly being outside is exciting."

Robichaud said the excitement of the season and working towards a common goal can unite players in the face of a challenge.

"It's one of the cool things about sports is that you have a group of people working toward

a common vision and a common goal," Robichaud said.

Feeney said shared goals and teammates' support for each other can fill the gap when the stands are not filled with friendly faces.

"We just have a winning mentality and we ... just want to win the game," Feeney said. "So no matter where we go, we're gonna show up and play our brand of baseball and dominate."

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Sophomore gymnasts achieve national recognition

BY BILLY WOOD
SPORTS EDITOR

The Ithaca College gymnastics team has been heavily reliant on its underclassmen this year. Thankfully for the team, trust and confidence within the program have propelled two sophomores to national and historic success.

Sophomore beam/vault/floor Grace Murray has launched onto the scene, landing a third-place finish at nationals in her first season and also landing All-American honors. Murray said she was not aware of the magnitude of being named an All-American at the time.

"It was awesome after the fact," Murray said. "I actually had no idea what All-American meant before I got it. They told me I was All-American and I was like, 'Yep, I'm not really sure what that means,' but then I looked into it and I was like, 'Oh, wow, that's actually really cool.'"

To go along with Murray's dominance of the floor and vault has been fellow sophomore Emily Kobusky's precision and focus on the beam. Kobusky broke the school's beam record on Feb. 18 during the Harriet Marranca Memorial Invitational with a score of 9.875.

Kobusky led Division III with an average SAS of 9.8348 at the time of the record on Feb. 18. Kobusky now holds an average SAS of 9.7222 heading into the NCGA East Region Championships March 9. Kobusky said the achievement was an indescribable feeling.

"I was so close last year to tying [the record] and I guess it just showed that the hard work was going to pay off," Kobusky said.

Prior to coming to the college, both Murray

and Kobusky dealt with injuries that hindered their abilities to show off to college scouts. Murray was sidelined with a back injury during her senior year of high school while Kobusky dealt with shin splints. Kobusky said both of their decisions to come to the college came down to the wire.

"I had stress fractures in my shins senior year, so I didn't really compete," Kobusky said. "Senior year is kind of mostly on [Suddaby] trusting that I could do it. [Suddaby] offered me a spot right before Regionals, I was getting out of my air cast. Then actually, I talked to [Murray] at Regionals because she wasn't decided yet and she was like, 'I don't know,' and I was like, 'You should really do it, I think it's gonna be fun.' So it was kind of like senior year ... uncertain ... and then a leap of faith."

The team only consists of one senior, vault/floor Cassidy Gallivan, and 13 underclassmen to eight upperclassmen.

Suddaby said the sophomore class has taken many leadership responsibilities early.

"[The sophomores] set the standard," Suddaby said. "It's kind of interesting. We sat down and had a little panel discussion with the team, and what I did was pull out the top three kids that are most successful, Grace and Emily were two of them. [Sophomore beam/floor] Corey Foster was the third one that we picked because she's gone like 9.775 every time and so they shared with us how they meant to prepare."

Gallivan said Murray's resilience after a major back injury shows just how strong Murray is.

"I know she had a pretty bad back injury in high school, so she's very into mental training," Gallivan said. "So that's been really inspiring to see her like mentally trained so well that she can



From left, sophomore beam/vault/floor Grace Murray and beam Emily Kobusky have shown out in their careers. Both have picked up NCGA East specialists of the week.

KAELEIGH BANDA/THE ITHACAN

perform as well as she does."

Murray said Kobusky has her own unique way of getting in the zone.

"Emily's one of the most fun teammates I've actually ever had in my entire life," Murray said. "She's known for singing during her routine. It could be the most random song playing in the background and she's just so focused."

Kobusky said her singing is something that she lets take over during her routine.

"I say it almost every meet," Kobusky said. "My one thing is the Hannah Montana song. It's like, 'life is a party,' but it really is a party if you let it be. But it's never that deep. If you're not

going to have fun, there is no point in doing it because we stress over this sport."

Suddaby said that what Murray and Kobusky have done for the culture of the program will only lead the team to a brighter future.

"[Murray and Kobusky] are going to continue to be nurturing the new kids coming in and they set amazing examples that kids will follow because they're easy to identify with," Suddaby said. "Everybody loves them and they will continue our leadership, so the whole internal leadership thing is in a really good place."

CONTACT: WWOOD@ITHACA.EDU

THE BUZZER

The Ithacan's breakdown of Ithaca College's week in sports

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK ISAIAS TORRES/WRESTLING



Sophomore wrestler Isaias Torres takes down senior Michael Richardson in a meet against Wilkes University on Feb. 9. During the NCAA Regionals on March 1–2, Torres claimed first place in the 133 pound weight class to qualify for the NCAA Division III Championship. **JOHN HENRY DOWNES/THE ITHACAN**

COMPETITION OF THE WEEK SWIM AND DIVE VS LIBERTY LEAGUE



Graduate student Lauren Brady competes in the 2023 swimming and diving Liberty League Championships. In the 2024 Liberty League Championships from Feb. 21–24, the men's team placed second out of 10 teams and the women's team placed first out of nine teams. **KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN**

EVENT TO WATCH



VS.



ITHACA

NCGA EAST REGIONALS

1P.M. MARCH 9 AT BEN LIGHT GYMNASIUM

The Ithaca College gymnastics team will host the NCGA East Region Championship on March 9 after previously losing to the Springfield College Pride 189.250–187.775. The Bombers will face off against SUNY Brockport, SUNY Cortland, Rhode Island College, Springfield College, Ursinus College and Utica College in Ben Light Gymnasium. This marks the Bombers' first non-regular season meet, as they will try to bounce back from last weekend's defeat.

NOTABLE UPCOMING COMPETITIONS

MEN'S LACROSSE: 1 p.m. March 9 vs. the University of Scranton at Higgins Stadium.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE: 12 p.m. March 13 vs. No. 13 Trinity College (Conn.) in Sparks, Maryland.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS: Begin spring break trip 10 a.m. March 11 against Franklin and Marshall College in Orlando, Florida.

BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL: Begin spring break trip March 10 against Arcadia University. Baseball will play at 5 p.m. in Lexington, South Carolina, while Softball will play at 4 p.m. in Clermont, Florida.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



"It's like asking a parent who their favorite kid is, to be honest; they even each other out."

-MARSHALL ADAMS '27
When asked if he prefers either rowing or swimming over the other.



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- Exploring AI's Impact Across Our Institutions
- Microsoft Copilot, your OpenAI Powered Teaching/Learning Assistant
- Boston Dynamics' Spot for Academics and Research
- Generative AI in Education: Recommendations, Early Experiences and Next Steps
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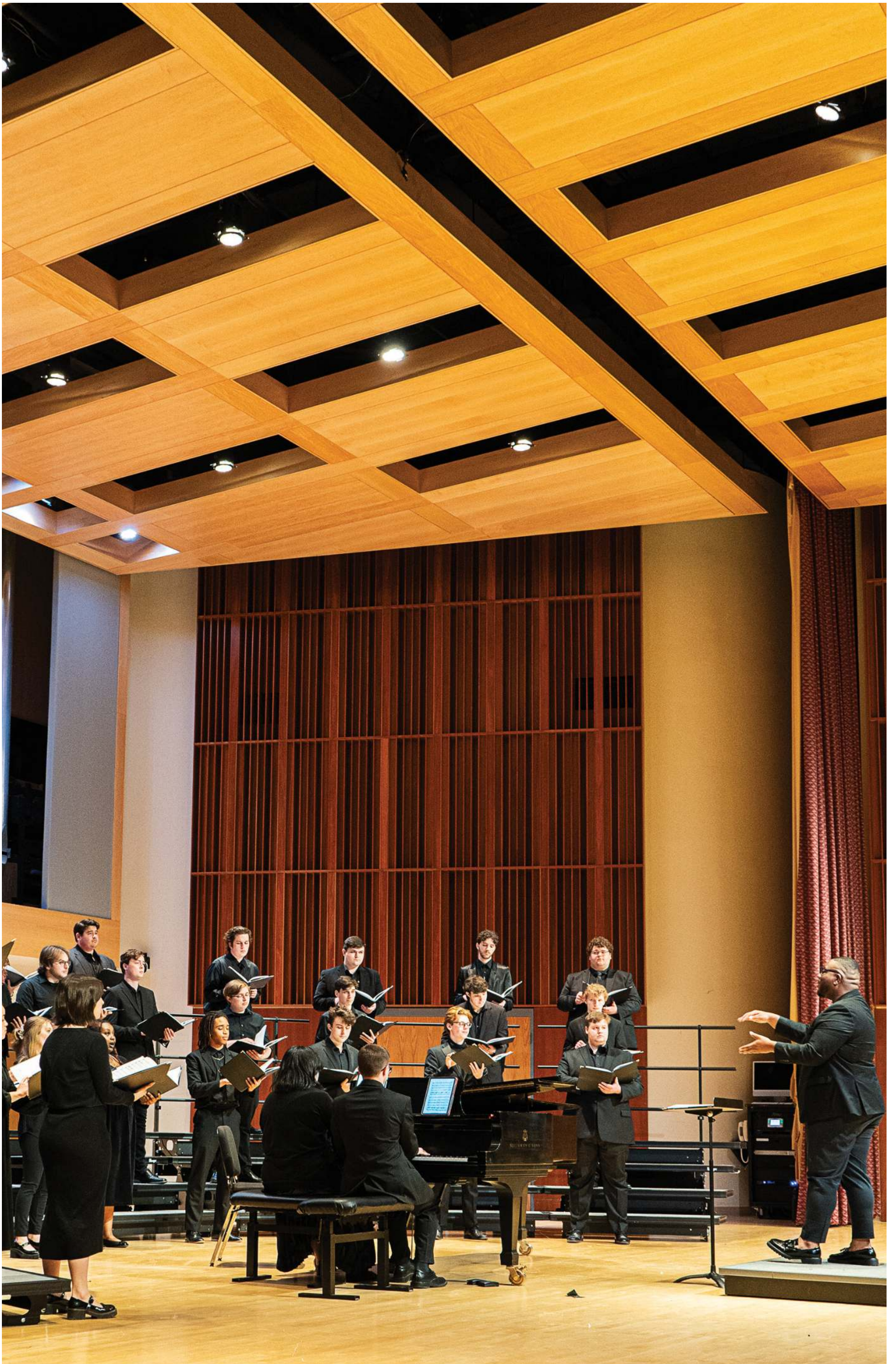
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The Ithaca College choral program performed a concert on March 3, titled "I Reach by a Song." The concert featured the Ithaca College Chorus, the Ithaca College Treble Chorale and the Ithaca College Choir. Depicted above is Dr. Kyle Wooten and the Ithaca College Choir singing "Dream Keeper" by William Averitt.

MAKAI YLLANES/THE ITHACAN