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SUCCESS DRIVEN
BY TEAM DEPTH**

ITHACA



NATION



IC graduate enrollment increases despite national decline

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MEI DENNISON, KAELEIGH BANDA/THE ITHACAN

**BY SEBASTIAN PICKFORD,
BRADY DUMAS**

STAFF WRITER,
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Ithaca College and many colleges and universities across the U.S. are amid a higher education enrollment cliff. However, while undergraduate enrollment is down at the college — outpacing the national dip — graduate enrollment is growing despite a national decline.

According to a report by the Chronicle of Higher Education, the consensus view about the enrollment cliff was that the nation would

peak at approximately 3.5 million high school graduates around 2025. This would cause the college-age population to shrink by as much as 15% over the following five to 10 years.

Enrollment patterns by levels

Excluding the School of Health Sciences and Human Performance, graduate programs at the college have low enrollment.

Graduate programs in the School of Humanities and Sciences and the School of Business have 22 students each and the continued education program has three students, according to the Office of Analytics and Institutional Research.

Suzanne Ortega, president of the Council of Graduate Schools, oversees the only U.S. organization that exclusively focuses on the development and research of advanced degrees. Ortega said the national decline in graduate students can be attributed to the job market.

“Traditionally, graduate enrollment has been counter-cyclical to the economy,” Ortega said. “If there are good jobs, then enrollments are lower. If there aren’t jobs, people return to school, either trying to anticipate an upturn or because getting additional education positions them for whatever comes after the current lull in employment.”

The National Center for Education Statistics is the primary federal entity for collection and analysis of education data.

According to its 2023 findings, higher education enrollment has decreased nationally at a rate of 1.5% each year since 2011, with enrollment reaching its lowest point since 2006 in 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic, with 15.4 million students enrolled in undergraduate programs in the U.S.

Recruitment strategy

Graduate students make up 11.69% of the

ENROLLMENT, PAGE 3

IC and local community members talk censorship amid rising rates of book bans

BY KAI LINCKE

COMMUNITY OUTREACH
MANAGER

As the U.S. experiences a wave of increasing book challenges and bans, members of Ithaca College and greater Ithaca communities gathered Sept. 24 in the Clark Lounge to listen to a panel discussion on censorship and intellectual freedom for National Banned Books Week.

Mickey Huff, distinguished director of the Park Center for Independent Media and professor in the Department of Journalism, hosted panelists from the college and national organizations that advocate for intellectual freedom.

Judith Krug, former director of the American Library Association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom, founded Banned Books Week in 1982 in response to an uptick in book bans. Banned Books Week

2024 runs from Sept. 22–28 and focuses on the theme “Freed Between the Lines.”

Huff started the panel by noting that Banned Books Week increases public awareness of censorship and encourages people to protect access to books.

“Banned Books Week celebrates the right to read,” Huff said. “It particularly celebrates your right as a student ... to have access to different perspectives and different reading materials without outside interference of censors.”

Joyce McIntosh, assistant program director of the Freedom to Read Foundation at the American Library Association, said the U.S. has seen an alarming increase in book challenges since 2020.

Book challenges are attempts to remove books from classrooms and libraries. Book bans occur when books are actually removed.

McIntosh cited a report from



From left, Jennifer Spitzer, Cathy Michael and Mickey Huff discuss censorship for National Banned Books Week.

MEI DENNISON/THE ITHACAN

the ALA’s Office of Intellectual Freedom, which showed that the office recorded an average of 343 challenges per year from 2010–19. The OIF recorded 729 challenges spanning 1,597 book titles in 2021; 1,269 challenges spanning

2,571 titles in 2022; and 1,247 challenges spanning 4,240 books in 2023.

McIntosh said local, county, state and federal governments

BANNED BOOKS, PAGE 3

IC admits some lawsuit claims

BY PRAKRITI PANWAR

NEWS EDITOR

Ithaca College admitted through its attorneys Sept. 24 to have found reasonable grounds to believe that Bryan Roberts, former associate dean of the Roy. H Park School of Communications, had violated the college’s intimate relationship and sexual harassment policy. The college admitted this in an answer to a complaint filed against it by a former student.

Roberts also filed an answer Sept. 23. A complaint is a pleading — typically a document — that starts a case. The answers come after a decision filed Sept. 10 ruled that the Title IX violation claim of the former student — who is identified by the court as John Doe for anonymity — against the college would survive. Doe’s claim about Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress against Roberts was also ruled to survive. The court dismissed Doe’s remaining claims.

Summary of answers

In his answer, Roberts responded by denying claims or denying “possessing knowledge

TITLE IX, PAGE 3

Nation & World News

French left wing slams new government, calls for protest

Leaders of France's left-wing parties voiced their outrage Sept. 20 as Michel Barnier, the new prime minister, prepared to announce the formation of a center-right government more than two months after a leftist alliance won early parliamentary elections. Manuel Bompard, the coordinator of the left-wing France Unbowed party, told the broadcaster France Bleu Provence that the new administration represented an act of "democracy denial that is completely unacceptable and intolerable."

Washington says war between Israel, Hezbollah 'not inevitable'

The U.S. government said a war can be averted between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah militia despite recent mutual attacks, John Kirby, National Security Council communications adviser, said Sept. 20.

"We're going to continue to do everything we can to try to prevent it," Kirby said.

Saudi Foreign Minister arrives in New York City with delegation

Faisal bin Farhan, Saudi foreign minister prince, arrived in New York City on Sept. 20 with the kingdom's delegation to attend the 79 session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The kingdom's delegation will engage

in several official meetings aiming to enhance multilateral international work and discuss developments on regional and international fronts.

Floods leave one dead, many missing in northern Japan

At least six people were killed and several others are missing after torrential rains caused flooding in a northern Japan coastal region still recovering from a deadly earthquake that struck at the start of 2024.

Japan's weather agency issued its highest-level warning Sept. 22 for heavy rains in Ishikawa prefecture, about 300 kilometers — 186 miles — northwest of Tokyo.

The amount of daily rainfall reached 330 mm — 13 inches — in the City of Wajima and 249 mm in Suzu, the highest tally for the area since the agency began recording data.

Zelensky wants to present plan to Biden before election season

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that outgoing U.S. President Joe Biden can still make decisions that would strengthen Ukraine before leaving office in January.

Zelensky told reporters Sept. 22 before leaving Kyiv for meetings in the U.S. that he wants to present what he calls his "victory plan" first to Biden, and then



Sri Lankan leftist candidate takes early lead

A Sri Lankan leftist politician took a convincing early lead as votes were counted in the presidential election. The results of postal ballots in 18 of 22 districts were released Sept. 21 — Anura Kumara Dissanayake had 55.9% of the vote.

COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

to the rest of the world.

Hurricane makes landfall in Mexico and kills two people

After Hurricane John swept through southern Mexico, authorities said two people were killed in their home on Sept. 24.

Power outages, fallen trees and damaged roofs were also reported in the affected

coastal areas of the southern states of Guerrero and Oaxaca.

The hurricane made landfall near the municipality of Marquelia in the state of Guerrero, with wind speeds of up to 195 km — 121 m — per hour .

SOURCE: TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

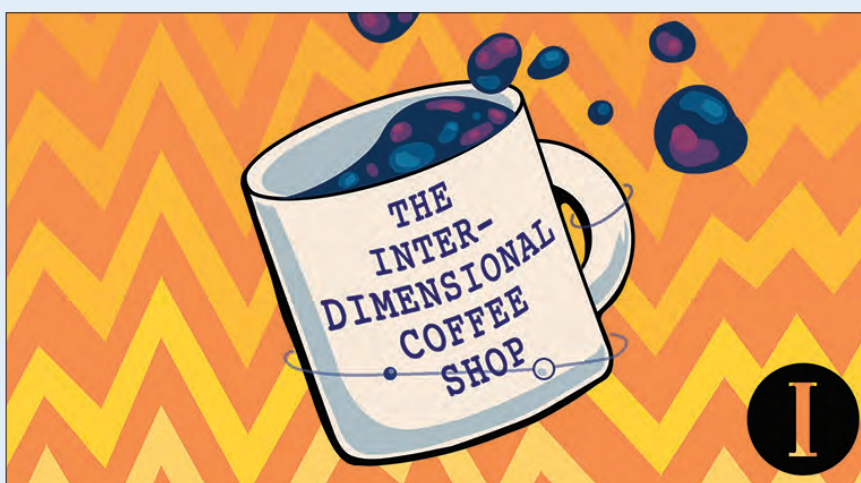
MULTIMEDIA

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Downtown Ithaca rocks out at Porchfest

Porchfest returned to Ithaca on Sunday, Sept. 22. Over 160 performers played music from porches for people to dance to.



The Interdimensional Coffee Shop

A brand-new podcast series examining creative media through philosophical discussion. Hosted by Sully Fogel and Luke Horchler.

Corrections:

An error in College Briefs in the Sept. 12 print edition of *The Ithacan* stated "Susan DiPace '74 will be hosting an alumni panel from 5 – 7 p.m. Sept. 14 in Emerson Suites." Susan DiPace passed away in 2006 and endowed the alumni panel with a donation. The Speaker Series Panel was named in her honor.

An error in the article, "Professor creates slug based adhesive" incorrectly claimed Dermabond is toxic; it is not, but other commonly used medical adhesives are.

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FROM ENROLLMENT, PAGE 1

school's student population, but excluding the School of HS&HP students, graduate students make up only approximately 1%.

To address low enrollment in both graduate and undergraduate programs, the college has modernized its marketing strategies by focusing on social media and online advertisements.

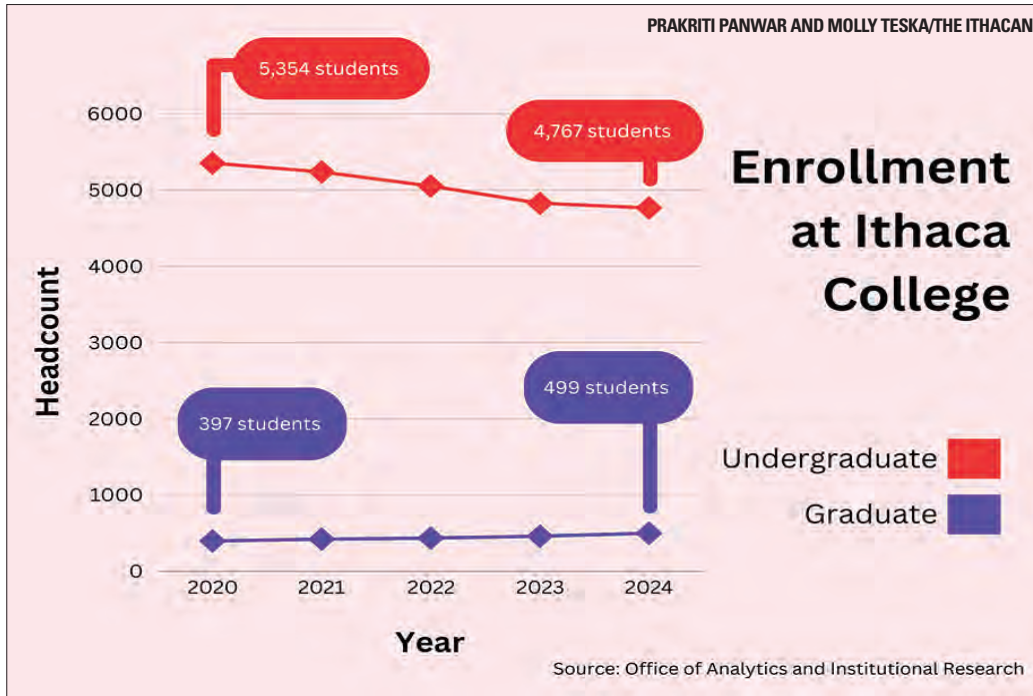
Lisa Searle, associate director of visit coordination and operations in the Office of Admissions, has been working to boost engagement with the school from prospective students and families through visits to campus, as well as virtual programming.

Searle said this engagement dives deeper than using mainstream social media platforms by using programs like Naviance and Sage Scholars, which are specifically tailored to prospective college students.

"We are trying to be in the spaces that students are in," Searle said. "That's not just Instagram and Tiktok. We're also trying to be in the spaces where a college student may be utilizing a platform to search and learn more about colleges."

In November 2023, the college partnered with ZeeMee, a social networking app designed for students applying to colleges and universities. The app enables prospective college students to connect with each other and gives the college another platform to push information to them.

Graduate enrollment at the college increased by 3.3% between Fall 2021 and Fall 2022 despite a



4.7% decline in graduate enrollment in 2022 nationally. Total enrollment at the college has decreased by 27% since Fall 2018 according to the Office of AIR.

The Class of 2024 enrolled in 2021 and had approximately 700 graduates in May, according to an October 2023 report.

The school's target enrollment for Fall 2024 was 1,380 to 1,420, roughly twice the size of the 2024 graduating class.

Plans to increase enrollment

Eyerly said that each year, the school purchases the names and demographic data of approximately 200,000 high school students, primarily from the College Board's Student Search Service, which gathers this data through administering the PSAT, SAT and AP exams. Ithaca College also purchases student information from Naviance

and Sage Scholars.

The College Board's Student Search Service is voluntary for students. Students can choose to opt in and agree to receive communications from colleges when they take exams administered by the College Board.

Rakin "Rock" Hall, vice president of enrollment management, said the college's graduate program is underutilized. To attract more graduate students, the college needs to make its programs more flexible and more known.

"We know that we can't ask someone to stop their life and come back to Ithaca," Hall said. "With the hybrid option, [we could] create some online platforms where students could work asynchronously three-fourths of the time, and they come in person for a week-long, or two week-long

intensive in-person."

Nicole Eversley Bradwell, executive director of admission, said the school hopes to stabilize enrollment by bringing in and graduating approximately 1,200 students each year. The school brought in 1,140 students this year, falling short of its enrollment target by approximately 240 students.

It will take time to see the results of these new strategies, but the team is confident they can begin reversing the steady decline of enrollment.

"It'll be about a three year process, but this next year I want to see some gains," Hall said. "I think we have to make a little bit of noise to remind people that we're here."

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FROM BANNED BOOKS, PAGE 1

have attempted to restrict students and community members' legal right to seek information from school and public library books.

"Our government sets aside our public libraries for one purpose, and that is for each American citizen to be able to access information from birth until death," McIntosh said. "Students have that First Amendment protection to access information as well. Their rights are not removed when they walk in the classroom door."

Panelist Jennifer Spitzer, associate professor in the Department of English, said book bans often target topics that individuals or groups consider to be dangerous, including LGBTQ+ identities, BIPOC individuals' experiences with racism and discrimination and women's sexuality. The ALA reports that 47% of the books targeted for censorship in 2023 centered on BIPOC and LGBTQ+ experiences.

Spitzer said many individuals and groups who push for book bans say they are trying to protect children and ensure books are age-appropriate.

However, she said she believes most book bans are actually motivated by desires to control what topics can be discussed in the U.S.

"Books that have been banned are banned because they have meant something to people," Spitzer said. "They start conversations. They reflect on difficult and unflattering parts of our history... and they make us think and feel."

Spitzer said students in her banned books course often can identify with challenged texts or can learn about things they did not explore in school, like sexual health.

"Students deserve to see their own experiences affirmed and represented, as much as they need to be exposed to people with different points of view and different ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds," Spitzer said. "Banned books help us approach difficult subject matter while destigmatizing the experiences we are told to be silent about."

Communications librarian Cathy Michael said the college's library has held Banned Books Week events since 2013, and the events have become increasingly important as book challenges increase.

The library is hosting Blind Date with a Banned Book to allow students to discover titles that have been banned or challenged.

Michael said censorship impacts everyone including different types of media like blogs, articles, photos and music have been challenged.

"What I am doing is speaking out for public librarians and school librarians, who have more at stake. A lot of them are undergoing a lot of name calling and having books removed and their jobs are at stake," Michael said

Gianmarco Antosca, Youth Free Expression Program coordinator at the National Coalition Against Censorship, said as book challenges have increased, there are too many for the NCAC to offer direct support or advocacy for each instance of book challenges or bans.

"The soft censorship [is] a lot harder to address it head on," Gianmarco said. "It's become so important to identify advocates, people in their communities to support them. Those are the people that are actually really changing the culture."

Julia Garnett, a first-year student at Smith College and the youth honorary chair of Banned Books Week, said there are several barriers to activism for young people and it is critical that leaders include them in discussions and decisions about book review and banning.

"[By] enabling students to go out to school boards, to use their voices on social media platforms, [write] letters to your state legislature, things like that, we need to make sure that high school students feel heard," Garnett said.

Huff closed the panel by encouraging attendees to read and share banned and challenged books.

"Reading is literally an exercise in liberation and censorship has no place in that vital process," Huff said.

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TITLE IX, PAGE 1

or information sufficient" regarding a majority of Doe's claims from the complaint, as is typical for an answer. Roberts did not respond to a request for comment by the time of publication.

In his complaint, Doe claimed that he experienced "harmful, unwanted, unwelcome, nonconsensual and/or hostile sexual advances" by Marc Greene, former director of senior student teacher placements in the Department of Music Education, in Fall 2022; Casey Stebbins, an employee in Dining Services, in Fall 2022; and Ron Trunzo, former associate director for residential life and student conduct and community standards in Spring 2023. Trunzo, Greene and Stebbins did not respond to a request for comment by the time of publication.

Emily Rockett — vice president, general counsel and secretary to the board of trustees at the college — said Stebbins still works at the college, to the best of her knowledge.

Rockett said she could not share what the outcome of the college's investigation was, but the outcome could be made public if one party wishes to make a motion for summary judgment based on all admissible evidence and as a matter of law. Typically, if a motion for summary judgment is granted, a decision can be made on the claims involved without holding a trial.

In its answer, the college admitted through its attorneys to have determined reasonable grounds to believe that Stebbins violated the college's intimate relationship and sexual harassment policies, but did not terminate his employment. The college also admitted to having terminated Greene and finding Greene in violation of the college's intimate relationship policy. It admitted to having found that Trunzo violated the college's relationship policy, and Trunzo's resignation from the college was announced in November 2023.

Summary of defense

A defense is typically used by defendants to prevent or limit liability. The college asserted



Bryan Roberts and Ithaca College, defendants in an ongoing lawsuit, filed answers Sept. 23 and Sept. 24. to a complaint filed against them by a former student.

FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

nine defenses through its attorneys. It was asserted in the second defense that the college's "response to the circumstances as reported was reasonable, appropriate and not deliberately indifferent."

In its seventh defense, the college asserted through its attorneys that Doe was a "knowing and voluntary participant" and that he "instigated and encouraged the conduct alleged to be actionable" in the case. The defense also outlined that Doe's claims are limited or barred by "his own volitional conduct, and by his independent, informed choices."

Roberts asserted 27 affirmative defenses through his attorneys in his answer. In his seventh affirmative defense, Roberts asserts through his attorneys that while he denies Doe's allegations "as to any hazardous condition, injuries, and damages" alleged in his complaint, if they were caused, it was because of "intervening acts and or superseding

negligence of persons or parties over whom Defendant Roberts had no control." In his 27th affirmative defense, Roberts asserted that if Doe could "prove facts alleged in the complaint, then upon information and belief" Doe consented to the alleged relationship.

A spokesperson of Erin Peake, Doe's lawyer, sent a statement via email to *The Ithacan*. Peake said she is confident about Doe's claims despite the defendants' responses.

"The college's response does not diminish the serious nature of the allegations involving multiple employees in positions of authority taking advantage of a young, vulnerable student," the statement said.

The initial conference was initially set for Oct. 17, but was rescheduled for noon Oct. 10 via Microsoft Teams.

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Q&A: SGC president prompts advocacy

Junior Rishabh Sen was elected May 3 as president of the student body for the Ithaca College Student Governance Council for the 2024–25 academic year. Sen served as the vice president of campus affairs for SGC during his first and sophomore years.

Staff Writer Eamon Corbo sat down with Sen to discuss his role as SGC president and his plans for the school year.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Eamon Corbo: Even with the recent election, there are still a good amount of empty senator positions at SGC. How do empty positions affect SGC and the work you do as president of the student body?

Rishabh Sen: If we're on a scale of one to 10, where like zero is there's no one in SGC, and 10 is every position is filled, we're at a good seven. I think that with elections with such a large campus population ... we still don't have the reach to reach all 4,000 people. ... So, I'm actually encouraged by the fact that we have those open spots because as students hear about these positions and get excited about it, we can actually confirm them to the Senate, and they don't have to wait for the next year. We really want to keep our doors open.

EC: At SGC you — especially as the president — are responsible



Junior Rishabh Sen, president of the student body, said he plans to revitalize town hall meetings to increase student engagement. The Student Governance Council meets every Tuesday.

KAELEIGH BANDA/THE ITHACAN

for communicating with administration and representing the student body. I was curious about how you plan to communicate concerns of the student body with administration?

RS: President Cornish ... [has] really turned the [students'] perspective of the administration. ... Students feel much more connected to the administration, in my opinion at least. ... The general consensus I get from the student body is that they worry

that their problems are too small or ... too isolated to [go] through the administration. ... I want to revitalize a form of communication that we do in SGC, which is the town hall meetings. I want to bring back the style of low-stakes advocacy, where students can come in and speak to other students who might be less intimidating

EC: What are you hoping to achieve by the end of the year?

RS: By the end of the year, my main goals are that ... every one

of my executive board members who has a vision today ... [makes] significant progress by the end of the year, and if I have helped them get to that stage, that's kind of the tick mark for myself. ... Lastly, I want SGC to be more visible to the student body. I think that students sometimes don't even know that ... they have this governing body. So, I want SGC to become a household name.

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Senators voted in for Fall 2024

BY TAYLOR BORASH

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

All candidates for the 10 open senate positions in the Fall 2024 Student Governance Council elections were elected. Candidates campaigned from Sept. 16 to Sept. 20, with voting on IC Engage opening Sept. 19 and closing Sept. 20.

First-year students Amelia Grimshaw and Manan Maini were elected as Class of 2028 senators, with Grimshaw receiving 50 votes and Maini receiving 37. Junior Noeline Luyindula was elected as the first-generation senator with 17 votes. First-year student Giulia Genari received 24 votes and was elected School of Health Sciences and Human Performance senator. Sophomore Anabel Pimenta Velloso was elected varsity athlete senator with three votes. Junior Dante Conde was elected as Class of 2026 senator with 37 votes. Sophomore Juno Brooks was elected as Class of 2027 senator with 41 votes. Junior Login Abudalla was elected as transfer senator with 10 votes. First-year students Claude Hayes and Abe Marron were both elected to senator-at-large positions. Hayes received 120 votes and Marron received 125 votes.

There are eight senate positions that remain unfilled: both Class of 2025 senators, one Class of 2026 senator, one Class of 2027 senator, one senator-at-large, one Students of Color Coalition senator, one graduate senator and one off-campus senator. The vice president of academic affairs position is also open because Sophomore Yusef Scott-Wetherbee resigned.

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Research team helps with romantic preference study

BY SARAH PAYNE

STAFF WRITER

In Fall 2023, 12 Ithaca College students embarked on a team research project under Leigh Ann Vaughn, professor in the Department of Psychology. The international project in which students played a small part researched preferences of romantic partners, crushes or people an individual might be interested in. They also investigated differences between what people want in a partner versus what they say they want.

The study, "The reality of romantic preferences: Large-scale study reveals surprising truths," was officially approved July 3 by reviewers at the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* and will be published in their journal of the same name. The study results were built by a culmination of research in 43 different countries and 10,000 participants.

After analyzing many traits, characteristics like warmth, loyalty and honesty were found to be prioritized and generally liked the most — a general trend throughout the multiple research teams. Especially in gender contexts, the idea of women valuing status and men valuing attraction was overstated.

While much of the work was done in Fall 2023, the approval for the study's publication was officially announced in August.

Senior Grace Lill, a psychology major, acted as a mentor for other student co-researchers. As a mentor, she strived to help first-time researchers succeed by giving them prompts and answering questions. She said she was proud that the work she contributed was approved for publication.

"You get to look at and be like, my name's there," Lill said. "I actually did this. I can put this on my [curriculum vitae] and be like, 'I really did this,' which is really cool for something like grad school."

The study's principal investigator, Paul

W. Eastwick, professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of California, started this research with an interest in the differences in romantic preferences, related to gender, as he mentioned in an interview on the *Modern Wisdom* podcast. Eastwick said he wanted to investigate the accuracy of the claim that women tend to be more attracted to economic status whereas men focus more on physical attractiveness.

Eastwick explained the understanding and analysis of a trait, focusing on the trait of attractiveness; he compared the study to a person going speed dating and liking some of the people they meet intensely and some not at all.

"Liking [someone or something] can be measured in a million different ways," Eastwick said on the podcast. "But it's some sort of association, some sort of predictive relationship between the attribute and some sort of evaluative experience that you have for a set of potential partners."

Professor Vaughn heard about this study through the Psychological Science Accelerator, an organization that allows researchers to connect worldwide to assist with big team science projects that cannot be successfully completed in a single research team.

"If we want to take a look at, for example, romantic partner preferences around the world, no one person can do that," Vaughn said. "But if a bunch of people get together, then we can."

The opportunity to be on these research teams is often what attracts these students to the college. Participating on the research team for two semesters is required for the psychology major. Vaughn said that finding students willing to help with this study was easy.

"[Romantic attraction] has always been one of my favorite topics in social psychology," Vaughn said. "And it is one of my students' favorite topics, so I thought my research team would love it."

One of the students who helped with the



From left, senior Grace Lill, professor Leigh Ann Vaughn, senior Rachel Brody and senior Allie Richter helped conduct an international study focused on romance.

AIDAN AZAROWICZ/THE ITHACAN

study was senior Allie Richter, a psychology major, who said this was her first large-group research project.

"So many people are in romantic relationships, including myself," Richter said via email. "I think it is really interesting to see and learn about what types of traits people care about the most when looking for a romantic partner and if it is similar versus different to what I looked for in my partner."

Vaughn and her students' role was to collect data by conducting surveys. Her students recruited other students at the college to participate, assisted in data collection and worked on troubleshooting any mishaps that might come up.

Vaughn led the students and helped create Institutional Review Board proposals, which involves submitting the intended research methods to the board and handing in consent forms from participants.

Before diving into research, Senior Camden Kelley and other students in the group made predictions about what they would discover.

"I just assumed that whatever findings we would find would kind of feel like we knew them, like it would feel like common sense," Kelley said. "Like we like people that match our ideals."

While the study has already been approved for publication, the work for the team is not done. Vaughn and some of her students will be attending the 2024 New England Psychological Association in October to present their findings to other study groups.

"I am really excited to present our findings at NEPA," Richter said via email. "I definitely am a bit anxious but I think the anxiety is more of an excitement for being able to be part of something so cool."

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COLLEGE BRIEFS

Community service pop-up offers chance to clean Natural Lands

The campus community is invited to help beautify the trails in the Natural Lands during a community service pop-up from 2-4 p.m. Sept. 27.

Participants can help with a variety of tasks like trail clean-up, pulling invasive plants, organizing construction material and re-routing part of a trail. Participants are also encouraged to dress for the weather and bring water. Gloves and other necessary tools will be provided.

The BIPOC Unity Center hosts an off-campus retreat for students

The BIPOC Unity Center will be hosting the Protect Your Crown retreat from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sept. 28. Students will begin the day in the Taughannock Falls Room, where they will learn how to protect their natural hair through care and styling. The day will end with an off-campus trip to a beauty supply store in Syracuse, where attendees can purchase items and walk away with a free goodie bag full of samples of various hair products. The event is open to the first 35 students who RSVP.

Study Abroad Fair wraps up with three informational meetings

Students who are interested in studying abroad are invited to attend the last day of the Study Abroad Fair on Sept. 26. There will be three meetings held in the Cayuga Lake Meeting Room in Campus Center: Study in Japan with CIS Abroad from 12:10-1:05 p.m., Study in Spain with SSA Education Abroad from 5-5:45 p.m., and an information session about the University of Sydney, Australia from 6-6:45 p.m.

Library offers blind book dates for Banned Books Week 2024

Students are invited to participate in a blind date with a banned book until Sept. 28. The library is celebrating Banned Books Week 2024 with a Banned Book Display, which holds various books that are wrapped in paper and decorated, along with a label to explain why each book was banned. Students can check these books out at the Circulation Desk in the library.

Biketober Ithaca to kick off with various prizes for IC students

Biketober Ithaca is inviting the campus community to participate in a month-long celebration of biking to enhance health, help the planet and possibly win prizes.

For this year's celebration, Love to Ride will be giving away two \$500 cash prizes to Ithaca College participants who log the most rides. Participants are also eligible to win national rewards, including a \$2,000 bike of the winner's choice if they sign up before Oct. 1 and a \$2,500 cash prize for encouraging others to join.

West Tower hosts Cookies for Candles before state fire checks

Ahead of state fire marshal checks, students are invited to trade their prohibited fire hazards for prizes from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 3 in the West Tower Lobby.

Terraces 1-6 Resident Director Carly Dudek will be swapping these items for free cookies, flameless candles and other prizes. Employees of the Office of Environmental Health and Safety and the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards will be present to answer any questions about prohibited items.

Tompkins County prepares new Code Blue program shelter

Tompkins County legislators have made the decision to use the vacant Key Bank building at 300 North Tioga Street in Ithaca as a temporary homeless shelter for the 2024-25 Code Blue season.

The purpose of the Code Blue program is to reduce the number of fatalities among those experiencing homelessness during the winter season when temperatures drop below freezing.

The Ithaca Times reports that the shelter plan's inclusion of an outdoor trailer with toilet and shower facilities has sparked concern among community members, but Tompkins County Administrator Lisa Holmes said there are already preparations underway to make sure the shelter is up and running by the beginning of Code Blue season, which starts Nov. 1.



Sculling soars above the competition

Ithaca College sculling hosted Cayuga Sprints on Sept. 22 at the Cayuga Inlet. The Bombers won three of the six events. The Bombers compete again at 9 a.m. Sept. 29 at the Green Mountain Head Regatta in Putney, Vermont.

MARISSA MOSCHELLA/THE ITHACAN

Ithacans for Israel to hold vigil in remembrance of Oct. 7 attack

Ithacans for Israel is hosting a vigil at 8 p.m. Oct. 6 at the Free Speech Rock in remembrance of Oct. 7, 2023, the day of Hamas' attack on Israel.

The event is open to the campus community, and attendees will have the opportunity to light a candle and share stories. Individuals seeking accommodations can email bepstein@ithaca.edu.

Transfer student honor society hosts cookie decorating event

Ithaca College's Office of New Student and Transition Programs will be hosting a pizza and pumpkins-shaped cookies decorating night from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Oct. 1 in the Klingenstein Lounge. The event will be held for Tau Sigma students to help transfer

students get to know each other as the fall semester continues. The evening event will also have a cookie decorating contest and prizes will be awarded to the winners. Participants can contact rstrazisar@ithaca.edu with any questions or concerns.

Women @ Work event will lead talks about women's issues

The Women's Mentoring Network will be having a conversation over coffee about published writing through Women @ Work. The event will be from 12-1 p.m. Sept. 27 in the Klingenstein Lounge and will serve free cookies and chips.

The material discussed was published from Deloitte's A Global Outlook report. Deloitte is a company that works to provide services in consulting, finances, risk advisory, taxes and audits.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM SEPT. 9 TO 15

SEPT. 9

SCC BULLYING OR CYBER BULLYING

LOCATION: Other
SUMMARY: Caller reported that a person texted offensive messages. Patrol Officer Connor McCoy filed a report that said the incident is still a pending investigation.

ACCIDENTAL FIRE ALARM

LOCATION: 185 College Circle
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The activation was caused by burnt food. Patrol Officer Thaddeus May responded.

a pending investigation.

SCC GUESTS RESPONSIBILITY

LOCATION: Bogart Hall
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person was yelling. One person was referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards by Patrol Officer Thaddeus May.

SCC FALSE ALARMS, FAILURE TO RESPOND

LOCATION: Terrace 7
SUMMARY: Caller reported people hung items on a sprinkler head. Residential life staff are referring the people responsible to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

person was taken into custody under New York State's Mental Hygiene Law and was transported to the hospital by an ambulance.

UNLAWFUL SURVEILLANCE

LOCATION: Terrace 3
SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person pointed a cell phone at them in the shower. This is a pending investigation.

SEPT. 12

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE/ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: Tallcott Hall
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person feeling light headed and vomiting. The person was transported to Hammond Health Center.

PETIT LARCENY OVER \$200

LOCATION: Campus Center
SUMMARY: Caller reported unknown person stole headphones. This is a pending investigation.

SEPT. 13

ACCIDENTAL PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: O-Lot
SUMMARY: Caller reported damage to a vehicle. Patrol Officer Connor McCoy

was not able to determine where or how the damage occurred.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE/INJURY RELATED

LOCATION: Fitness Center
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person injured their knee while playing basketball. The person declined medical assistance and will seek medical assistance on their own.

SEPT. 14

SCC OPEN CONTAINER OF ALCOHOL IN PUBLIC AREA

LOCATION: Lyceum Drive
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person with an open container of alcohol. Lieutenant Michael Nelson determined the container was not open.

CHECK ON THE WELFARE

LOCATION: Other
SUMMARY: Caller reported unknown person posted alarming comments on social media. Patrol Officer Ivan Cruz is investigating.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT / PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: L-Lot
SUMMARY: Corporal Jordan Bartolis reported vehicle/sign property damage

motor vehicle accident.

SEPT. 15

ACCIDENTAL FIRE ALARM

LOCATION: Circle Apartments 175
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The activation was caused by cooking.

ACCIDENTAL FIRE ALARM

LOCATION: Eastman Hall
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The activation was caused by cooking.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE/INJURY RELATED

LOCATION: Emerson Hall
SUMMARY: Caller reported a possibly intoxicated person. Lieutenant Michael Nelson determined the person was coherent and alert.

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

SEPT. 10

PETIT LARCENY OVER \$200

LOCATION: U-Lot
SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person stole a cell phone. Corporal Kevin McClain responded and reported the incident as a pending investigation.

PETIT LARCENY OVER \$200

LOCATION: Athletic and Events Center
SUMMARY: Caller reported unknown person stole a cell phone. Patrol Officer Ivan Cruz reported the incident as

SEPT. 11

SCC UNDERAGE POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL

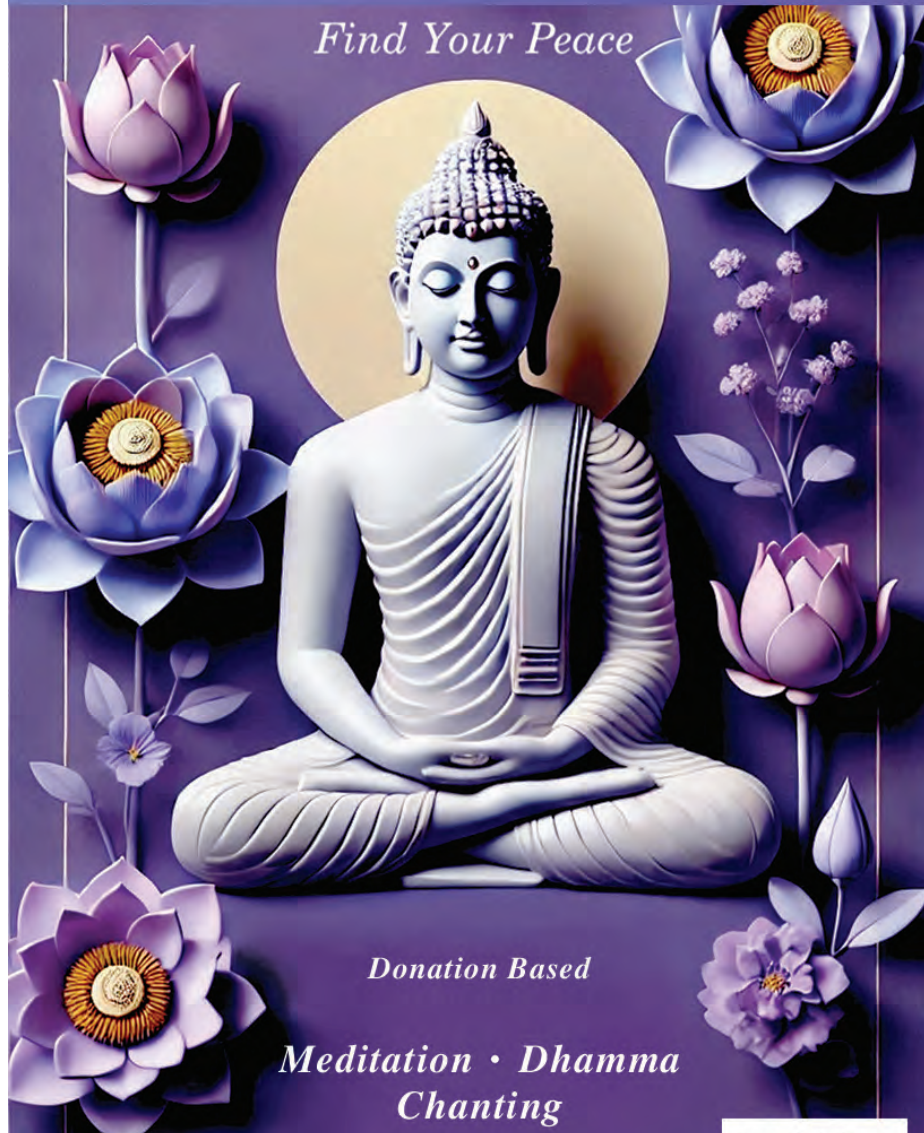
LOCATION: Emerson Hall
SUMMARY: Master Security Officer Amy Noble referred two people to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards for underage possession of alcohol.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE/PSYCHOLOGICAL

LOCATION: Hilliard Hall
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person sent an alarming text message. The

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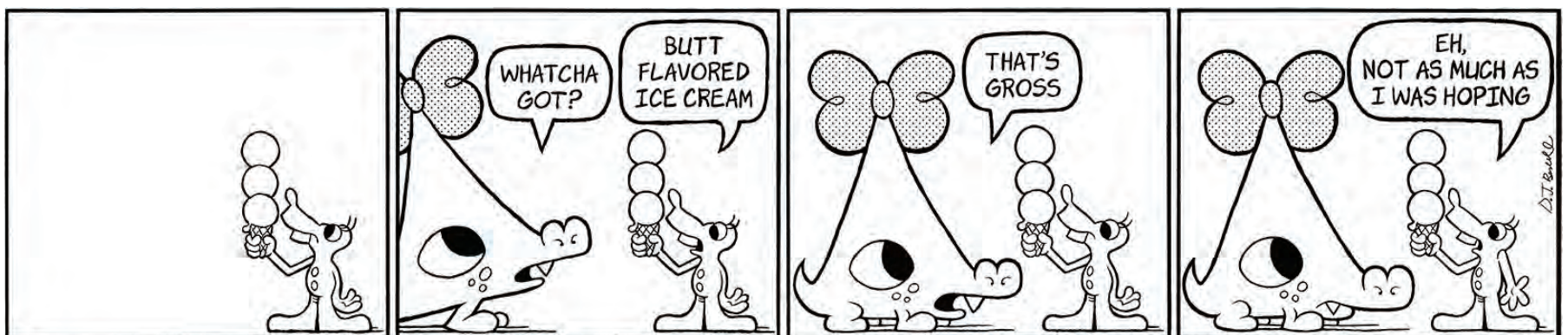
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OPINION

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

7



ILLUSTRATION BY ATTICUS JACKSON/THE ITHACAN

EDITORIALS

LGBT Center initiative is a needed new resource

Gender-affirming clothing and care can be a lifesaving measure. The pilot Binders and More (BAM!) program at Ithaca College, which allows students to order one free gender-affirming garment, is one of the first of its kind and shows the college's continued commitment to its transgender and gender-nonconforming student body.

The college recently announced its first place position on Best College's list for LGBTQ programming. It is programs like BAM! that allow for the college to continue on this track.

This program is still in its infancy, but it points to a dedication by staff to create opportunities for transgender and gender non-conforming students who may not have the funds to invest in these materials. It is exciting to see the college's commitment to uplifting and supporting students who identify as part of that community. This program is an extension of other programs, like the gender-affirming clothing closet.

Research from the International Journal of

Transgender Health shows that practices such as chest binding have led to improved mental health for transgender individuals. The use of gender-affirming clothing is also a more accessible way to experiment with gender presentation and identity, as it does not require a prescription, unlike other measures such as hormone replacement therapy.

The educational aspect of the program also increases safety. Chest wrapping practices, when done improperly, can be harmful — increasing the access to safe binding practices is important.

The efforts of the college to lower monetary barriers surrounding this service are admirable. These garments can often be expensive — the items listed can cost anywhere from \$30 to \$50 — and difficult purchases for many students on a college budget. While the program operates based on demand, it is open to students regardless of demonstrated need. This is a commendable program that increases accessibility for transgender and gender-nonconforming students.

Reproductive rights need to be central in student life

The creation of art has always had a place in the political canon: films, writing and art pieces, such as murals, often serve to send a message of support to social movements. Reproductive rights are one such issue that has been under attack in the United States after the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* in 2022, with many states instituting anti-abortion legislation.

The continued civil discourse that is promoted by events such as the Reproductive Rights Film Festival must continue in Ithaca to maintain a flourishing democratic tradition. The city of Ithaca also holds the title of an abortion sanctuary city, which was instituted in July of 2022.

Research from Best Colleges reporter Jessica Bryant shows that 39% of prospective undergraduate students take their access to reproductive health services into account when deciding on a college.

Among students who are pro-abortion, 85% believed that universities should help all students to conveniently access reproductive

health care, and 70% of the anti-abortion students who were polled believed the same.

Access to reproductive health care in the city of Ithaca is especially important considering its transient student population, who may not have access to the same services in their home states or countries.

Ithaca College recently created barriers to accessing sexual health and wellness services at Hammond Health Center by instituting a copay that had previously been waived. This provoked alarm on social media amongst students who were concerned about the availability of services. However, the college is now offering expanded services in sexual health and wellness. In the past, the college would refer students to off-campus providers.

It is also important to expose students to a forum of artistic expression that is intertwined with political activism because this allows for the expansion of ideas across campus. There is a rich history between art and reproductive rights, and the social awareness of the student body must be prioritized.

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.

GUEST COMMENTARY

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

College must prioritize educational decolonization

BY EMMA MILLER

JUNIOR

There are no classes offered at Ithaca College within Native American and Indigenous studies other than the introduction course. Only one-fifth of the necessary credits for the Indigenous studies minor is an Indigenous studies course. For most students, hearing there is only one class dedicated to a minor that shares the same name would be shocking.

Unfortunately, many believe that Indigenous people are not people of the present. This is still perpetuated by colonialist ideals, which includes the idea that Indigenous people are one homogeneous culture. These ideas mean that Indigenous studies and people are often relegated to the background of educational curriculum rather than the forefront.

Students at the college could take the 11 Indigenous studies classes that Cornell University offers. The problem with that is registering for classes at Cornell can be a hassle. If accepted, transportation logistics and scheduling can create further issues.

Many may argue that students should be grateful that there is an Intro to Indigenous Studies class in the first place. This idea that Native peoples should be grateful for any ounce of recognition by educational institutions encourages people to continue ignoring the reality of Indigenous rights issues in our country.

The introductory class is taught by competent and dedicated professors, who do their best with the resources and opportunities given to them and attempt to give a

well-rounded education about the people whose land we live on. The class focuses on the Haudenosaunee Confederacy as a separate nation, which helps deconstruct the idea that Native American people are part of a single homogenous culture.

Many people perpetuate this harmful colonialist ideology. This idea system was created in order to destroy culture, language and the relationships Native peoples had with each other and to the land. This was done so colonizers could justify stealing Native land and livelihoods without worrying if there would be a strong opposition.

Ithaca College has brought awareness to the student body by holding events like the "Gayogohó:nq' Who We Are" talk in Spring 2024, inviting three key speakers to explore their identity in relationship to the land. In Fall 2023, Delta Kappa Alpha showed *Smoke Signals*, an iconic film in Indigenous cinema. But these actions could be bolstered by additions to the curriculum.

Native peoples deserve better. Having one talk, one screening and then stating a land acknowledgement as a way to pretend that responsibility was taken is not adequate. Members of the campus community must call out the inadequacies of programs and activism that both ignore and downplay Native and Indigenous issues. We are on this land, and we choose to stay on it every day, only draining the life from it quicker and quicker.

It is easy to look at these programs that many colleges and universities have to offer and say they are doing a good job. Institutions like the University of Minnesota have created multiple different programs, such as a major in both the Dakhóta and Ojibwe languages,



Junior writing major Emma Miller discusses why the number of Native American and Indigenous studies course offerings should expand at Ithaca College.

GRACE VANDERVEER/THE ITHACAN

while also having both a major and minor in Native American and Indigenous studies. This serves as a good reference for how to decolonize our education system.

A good start for students would be to change our language. We should refer to Indigenous groups by their preferred names, rather than colonialist titles that were forced upon them. For example, calling the Lakhóta, Dakhóta and Nakoda by those names rather than "The Sioux," using Diné instead of "Navajo" and using Haudnesaunee instead of "Iroquois."

The student body could also create more pressure for adding more classes. It has been proven in the past that people are

curious about Indigenous cultures and issues. However, those classes are often overshadowed and overlooked by students.

We should make the effort to honor the Haudenosaunee and specifically the Gayogohó:nq' people, as we live and educate ourselves on their land. While it is not anyone's place to force others to study culture or history, we should all strive to listen and use the power we have to change the violence, hatred and cruelty Indigenous people have experienced and continue to experience in the present day.

Emma Miller (they/them) is a junior writing major. Contact them at emiller12@ithaca.edu.

GUEST COMMENTARY

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

What can be learned from Ithaca's linguistic landscape

BY SHUZHAN LI

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

In my undergraduate class, Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in K-12 Schools, we conducted a linguistic landscape project this fall. The goal of this project was to enable students to, in the ethos of Brazilian educator Paulo Freire, read the word and read the world.

Research tells us that people rarely pay attention to the linguistic landscape around them. Therefore, one aspect of the project encourages students to imagine themselves as fish trying to visualize the water around them.

Students explored both the Ithaca College campus and around town, taking pictures of artifacts of multilingualism. Once they reconvened, students discussed their findings in collaborative groups and presented them to the class.

Students followed these guiding questions as they explored, analyzed and presented: What languages are present on campus and in the community? What are some artifacts of multilingualism I can see? Who are the businesses and community groups that display multilingual signs? Who are the audiences of these displays? What languages are missing? Whose voices are missing? Students also reflected on what this project

meant to them as future educators or professionals in another field, such as speech-language pathology, occupational therapy or film studies. This commentary reflects the collective knowledge gained from our linguistic landscape project.

We acknowledge that our survey of the campus's linguistic landscape was not thorough. Using the resources available, we were able to come to the following conclusions: we agreed that there was a disconnect between the college's monolingual landscape and its population of international students, bilingual students and the general student body who would benefit from exposure to multilingualism and diversity.

Around town, we found rich multilingual artifacts. Community organizations such as Open Doors English and Ithaca Welcomes Refugees display multilingual signs in their service and advocacy work. Local restaurants and grocery stores show multilingual menus, aisle signs and bulletin boards.

On the bulletin boards at Ren's Mart, a local Asian supermarket, we saw some multilingual information about hair salons, hiring opportunities, ads for English as a second language (ESL) classes, driving school, furniture sales, money transfer services and more, representing needs, goods

and services in and for Ithaca's diverse communities.

Multilingual signs at Wegmans and Walmart pharmacies feature at least 24 languages, including Farsi, Arabic, Burmese, Bengali, Haitian Creole and Romanian. People in need can simply point to a language to request language access services. The Namgyal Monastery on South Hill, just up the road from the college, shows sacred texts of Tibetan Buddhism.

We also noticed the Chinese and English bilingual signage at Ithaca Tompkins International Airport and the Gayogohó:nq' street signs downtown.

These artifacts signify Ithaca's diverse international, immigrant and refugee populations, as well as the profound histories of Indigenous peoples who inhabit this land. The amount of artifacts on campus tells a contrasting story. Multilingual artifacts are scarce and scattered.

We found a Spanish and English bilingual schedule of the Cine Con Cultura 2024 Latin@ American Film Festival. The Whalen Center for Music had a poster for the 2024 International Chinese Vocal Competition.

While these posters tended to rotate in and out, there was a more permanent Japanese and English warning sign in the chemistry department in



Shuzhan Li, assistant professor in the college's Department of Education, researched linguistic artifacts with education students.

AMINATTA JALLOW/THE ITHACAN

the Center for Natural Sciences.

Chun Li, laboratory instrument coordinator, told us that the sign was in Japanese because the superconducting magnet equipment in the lab was made in Japan.

While there were some exceptions, much of the signage on campus is in English. We found that the college's diverse population of multilingualism was not reflected in its methods of communication.

Chicana queer poet, writer and scholar Gloria Anzaldúa said, "I am my language. Until I can take pride in my language, I cannot

take pride in myself." Advocating for multilingualism at the college is essential for creating a more inclusive campus. Our class invites students to join us and become sociolinguists with a keen eye for multilingualism. So, next time you see a bilingual poster or flyer on campus, or a lack thereof, pause and think: In what ways can you advocate for the college to become a more linguistically inclusive space?

Shuzhan Li (he/him) is an assistant professor in the Dept. of Education. Contact him at sli3@ithaca.edu.

Film Festival projects stories on reproductive rights and justice

Cinemapolis hosted the second annual Reproductive Rights Film Festival from Sept. 19 to 22, which featured five films across the three days and held two virtual panels earlier in the week. All the events were free to attend and concluded with a panel discussion to further explore the topics touched on during the films.

ELIE GUENGO/THE ITHACAN

BY GIANNA IZZO

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The second annual Reproductive Rights Film Festival opened to an enthusiastic crowd, uniting students, activists and community members eager to delve into issues surrounding reproductive justice.

The festival lineup included five films that were shown from Sept. 19–22 at Cinemapolis. Each addressed different aspects of reproductive rights. “Power Alley,” “Preconceived,” “Plan C,” “Belly of the Beast” and “Never Rarely Sometimes Always,” explored topics ranging from access to safe abortions to forced sterilizations in women’s prisons.

End Abortion Stigma, Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights and Cinemapolis played pivotal roles in the organization of the Reproductive Rights Film Festival by leveraging their unique missions to combat stigma and promote access to reproductive health care.

Elayne Richard, education coordinator for GRR, said she expected the films to provoke new insights in the audience. Her activism dates back to the 1970s, including attending the National Women’s Conference in Houston and working at an abortion clinic.

“People are going to have their eyes wide open after watching all these films because they reveal things we don’t normally talk about,” Richard said. “Reproductive justice is [also] the right to have children and to raise those children in safe and sustainable communities.”

Cait Vaughan, interim executive director for GRR and a community-rooted doula, said the films speak to the realities of people of reproductive age in the U.S. Vaughan moderated two talkbacks following the documentaries “Preconceived” and “Belly of the Beast.”

“All of these films convey things about the realities of people capable of pregnancy,” Vaughan said. “Whether they’re seeking abortion

or whether their right to get pregnant in the future is being taken from them by the state through forced sterilization.”

Kate Donohue, executive director of Cinemapolis, played a key role in organizing the festival. Donohue addressed the importance of opening dialogues on reproductive justice.

“I think that very often we think we talk about everything, that there are no silences or taboos that still affect life as it is lived now,” Donohue said. “But in reality, there is still so much limited knowledge and discussion around the realities of pregnancy, childbirth and the decision to have an abortion.”

With both documentaries and narrative films shown throughout the festival, audiences were exposed to a variety of perspectives. Donohue said personal stories can shift viewpoints by revealing the realities behind statistics and policies related to reproductive rights.

“The intersection of the personal and political in [cinema] is an important way we come to a deeper understanding,” Donohue said. “It’s a very material, very emotional reality. Film can demonstrate that and help an audience feel that.”

Caroline Cox, festival co-founder and member of EAS, said that hosting a film festival aligned with EAS’s mission.

“Film is a complement to our own videos, public talks, rallies, plays and legislative advocacy,” Cox said. “Because society increasingly learns through visual media, we thought a film festival would be

an effective way to continue our mission to end abortion stigma.”

Each showing featured discussions by experts and activists, offering opportunities for deeper engagement. Richard emphasized the transformative power of these conversations, highlighting how the films helped participants confront and break down the stigma surrounding abortion.

“You watch them, and some of that really agitates you,” Richard said. “Part of our goal is to agitate people to action.”

Sue Perlmut, one of the festival’s founders and a member of EAS, was one of many whose personal abortion stories were shared prior to each screening.

“There wasn’t even a question to me that if I was going to have a life,” Perlmut said. “If I was going to be the person I wanted to be, I had to have an abortion.”

Abortion was prohibited nationally until 1973, forcing Perlmut to have the procedure performed illegally when she was 21.

“I was in my first job,” Perlmut said “I was on my own. I was very lucky that I found a medical doctor, and I had a pretty safe abortion, as I found out later, listening to people talk about their terrible stories.”

In recent years, efforts to limit reproductive rights have made it increasingly difficult for individuals to access necessary health care. These efforts often disproportionately affect marginalized identities.

“[A total abortion ban] could happen again,” Perlmut said. “It’s part of this whole movement to limit and stop reproductive rights.”

As the November General Election approaches, Mickey Belosi, executive committee member of the Central New York Chapter of the National Organization for Women, said voters need to remember

to flip over their ballots. Proposal 1, formerly known as the New York Equal Rights Amendment, would ensure the protection of fundamental rights and reproductive freedoms within the state. Belosi said that Prop 1 and access to reproductive care apply to more than just women.

“Reproductive health care is a necessity with every person with reproductive organs,” Belosi said. “You never know when you’re going to need emergency medical interception and what that means to your life. ... People have actually died. It’s something for everyone to be concerned about.”

Advocates are mobilizing across the country to defend these rights amid evolving political landscapes. Local efforts, like GRR, often complement broader national movements, emphasizing the need for access to reproductive health care and ongoing advocacy to address emerging barriers.

Vaughan said personal stories are important to understanding the impact of reproductive experiences, especially in the current socio-political climate.

“One of the most important things is to hear from people who are having these experiences,” Vaughan said. “Particularly in the post-Dobbs landscape we’re living in, and also to leave with ideas about what they can do locally.”

The festival is only in its second year and has already fostered conversations about reproductive justice and marked a new beginning for advocacy. Richard connected this sentiment to the misconceptions surrounding abortions.

“Abortions are not endings. They’re beginnings,” Richard said.



From left, Caroline Cox and Sue Perlmut are co-founders of the Reproductive Rights Film Festival. Perlmut is also a member of End Abortion Stigma.

CARTER DAVIS/THE ITHACAN

CONTACT: GIZZO@ITHACA.EDU

LGBT Center opens specialized clothing program

BY VIRGINIA BENTLEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In Fall 2024, the Ithaca College Center for LGBT Education, Outreach, and Services opened a new program to help students: the Binders and More program, also called BAM! Using internal funding and donations, the BAM! program offers a special-ordering system where students can order one gender-affirming undergarment per academic year for free.

BAM! offers different types of gender-affirming undergarments, including chest binders, chest flattening tape and tucking/gaff underwear. The chest binders are offered in sizes XS-5XL and in many different shades: white, black, gray and eight different skin tones. In order to access the program, students fill out an interest form to set up a meeting for questions and to sample undergarments to start the special order process. This form can be found on the LGBT Center website or Instagram, as well as QR codes posted in the Gender Affirming Closet.

Lee Tyson, LGBT Center pride fellow, said BAM! also aims to provide students with correct information on how to safely wear the clothing, and make the LGBT Center a place where anyone can visit to discuss safe use.

“Now that these types of garments are more widely accessible, there is more information going around,” Tyson said. “So we’re excited to provide safety information handouts and

be able to share what we know with students.”

One of the LGBT Center services is the Gender Affirming Closet: a place for students to receive gender-affirming clothing at no cost. The closet is filled with masculine, feminine and gender-neutral clothing to help students feel more comfortable in their own skin. Crissi Dalfonzo, the director of the LGBT Center, said that since its opening in winter 2023, the closet has been so successful that the amount of donations accepted is sometimes limited.

Tyson said the BAM! program was launched to help students who cannot safely or financially obtain gender-affirming undergarments.

“This need really came out of students who were coming to the closet and wondering if we had any binders in stock,” Tyson said. “Gender-affirming undergarments tend to be expensive and available in limited places.”

Junior Pierre Field is the president of Prism, a social gathering club for LGBTQ+ students. Field said the program allows for experimentation without it being a financial burden.

“I think it’s just a really good resource that we are able to have,” Field said. “An open environment where you don’t have to feel like you must purchase this. You can try it out and get a feel for it.”

Unlike the Gender Affirming Closet, which is donation-based, BAM! is order-based. The orders are delivered directly to the students.



The Ithaca College LGBT Center, located in the Towers Concourse, launched its Binders and More program to offer students an order-based shop for gender-affirming undergarments.

EILE GUENEGO/THE ITHACAN

While the LGBT Center does take donations of gender-affirming undergarments, the new program is looking to give students more consistent access to particular pieces of clothing.

Dalfonzo said the program is still in the pilot stages and is focusing on getting specific funding based on need. Dalfonzo said the current funding for this program comes internally along with some outside donations.

“We’re really really excited to be able to use that funding for direct service and support to queer and

trans students,” Dalfonzo said.

According to a national survey by the Trevor Project, transgender and nonbinary individuals who had access to gender-affirming undergarments reported lower rates of attempting suicide than those who did not.

Junior Payton Romance said the program can be students’ first queer experience.

“For many queer and trans folks, it can be a huge joy in receiving your first binder,” Romance said. “I’m really grateful the LGBT Center can be part of the process in

soliciting trans joy here.”

Both Dalfonzo and Tyson said BAM! is also intended for students who are not sure about needing gender-affirming undergarments. Tyson said the center welcomes any student who is interested in what this program could do for them.

“If there are any students who are curious about what these garments even are, or if they are right for them, come in and have a chat,” Tyson said. “We’re happy to share as much information as we can.”

CONTACT: VBENTLEY@ITHACA.EDU

Q&A: IC professor gets call to write Playbill essay

Chris Holmes, associate professor and Chair of Literatures in the Department of English, has been a superfan of Nobel Prize-winning author Kazuo Ishiguro for nearly 15 years. Holmes recently met his literary hero, as he was selected by the Rose Theatre in London to author a Playbill essay for the stage adaptation of Ishiguro’s novel “Never Let Me Go.” Holmes hopped across the pond to attend the premiere and feature in the play’s press junket Sept. 25 alongside Ishiguro and other contributors.

“Never Let Me Go” was first adapted for the screen in 2010. The film stars Andrew Garfield, Carey Mulligan and Keira Knightley, directed by Mark Romanek ’81. The novel was adapted for the stage by British playwright and actor Suzzane Heathcote.

Life and Culture editor Georgie Gassaro spoke with Holmes to discuss the honor of being selected for this project and learn how his studies of Ishiguro’s work have influenced his teaching philosophy as an educator at Ithaca College.

This article has been edited for length and clarity.

Georgie Gassaro: “Never Let Me Go” seems like such an intriguing, science-fiction story about human cloning. How would you describe the plotline to someone who has not heard of it before? What would be your elevator-pitch for audiences to read it?

Chris Holmes: My pitch for it is that it comes across as kind of a boarding school novel, but it’s a surprise that it ends up being, at least in part, about clones. It begins as a story of three friends who are in a very unusual boarding school. . . . But, slowly, there’s a simmering unease underneath everything happening, so you feel like something is

coming apart at the seams, and then it is revealed that their purpose is to donate their organs so that the rest of the non-cloned population can live extraordinarily longer and healthier lives. It’s truly the story of trying to come to terms with what it means to die for someone that you’ll never meet. “Never Let Me Go” is one of the best high school or college-aged experience books I’ve ever read. You could throw out the clone stuff, and it gets to the feelings of vulnerability and security and being so full of love for your friends.

GG: You have a published essay titled “On Rereading Kazuo Ishiguro.” In what ways has your process writing this essay fit into the ideas discussed in that essay?

CH: It was really interesting to try and go from a very micro form — when you’re writing an academic book and you’re talking about a particular novel, you’re really focusing on wording and phrasing and form and things like that — to go very macro. There was a big change in how I had to reread the book and rethink how I encountered it when I first read it for pleasure. It was a very nice thing to re-encounter it.

GG: How does Ishiguro compare to other authors and screenwriters you encounter in your work as a literature professor?

CH: His style is very different from almost everybody else that I study or teach or write about. There’s an infamous line from a review from The Guardian that’s something like, “Reading ‘Never Let Me Go’ makes you want to drink, run a marathon, do drugs and have sex just to feel more alive than the characters in it.” I don’t agree with it, but there is an understatedness to the way that emotion happens in Ishiguro, which for me, is more tense and kind of eerie. It never feels boring or slow



Associate professor Chris Holmes was selected to be a contributing writer of the Playbill for “Never Let Me Go,” a play that premiered in London on Sept. 25.

KAELEIGH BANDA/THE ITHACAN

or anything like that. But it’s definitely a very distinct style, almost kind of affectless, even when terrible things are going on. There is a distinct and specific outburst of pain and sorrow in “Never Let Me Go,” but it’s so unusual that it’s twice as impactful because it’s not the norm within his style.

GG: How has your own education and experiences like this contributed to your work as a professor at Ithaca College?

CH: I had a lot of imposter syndrome, even as I was getting my graduate degrees. I really felt like I was pulling one over on everybody and that somebody would find out that I didn’t belong there, and sort of usher me out. One of the things I try and do with Ithaca students is really make it clear to them the talents

that they have and the things that I can see brewing, even if they’re not fully formed yet. I try and make it so that if I can tell someone has a writing inclination — even if they’re not necessarily a good writer yet, but they want to play with language and build something about an argument or thinking and writing — I really try and encourage them to not feel like they’re faking it. It’s a process in which you grow through that process, and in that growth you can achieve great things. College is not a time for you to already be fully formed. You’re supposed to learn and grow and have experiences of letdowns and failures, but also have people who really prop you up.

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Stan masters Trump portrayal in 'The Apprentice'

MOVIE REVIEW: "The Apprentice" Multiple Studios



BY RUA FAY

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This year's Cannes Film Festival in southern France saw the premiere of many highly anticipated films like "Kinds of Kindness" and "Megalopolis." Surprisingly, audiences were found lining up around the block for a small film directed by Iranian filmmaker, Ali Abbasi. This film was none other than "The Apprentice," a candid and shocking look at the career of one of the most controversial political figures of the century: former President Donald Trump. Sebastian Stan completely morphs into Trump for what Variety called "2024's Most Controversial Movie."

A biopic about someone as divisive as Trump seems like a surefire way to repulse certain audience demographics. "The Apprentice" runs the risk of never being a universally loved film, but it did capture the attention of the Cannes Film Festival.

The film follows a young Trump (Stan) as he climbs the social ladder of New York City in the '70s, trying everything possible to fulfill his potential as a businessman. The film also explores his friendship with notorious shady lawyer Roy Cohn, played by Jeremy Strong from "Succession." Maria Bakalova's performance as Ivana Trump, Trump's first wife, is also

incredibly dynamic and believable.

One of the film's biggest strengths is its cast, who all gave stellar performances. Strong specifically should definitely be in the running for some big awards. Strong plays the late lawyer with a staggering mix of apathy and hostility, truly blurring the line between himself and his character. He gives a bleak, chilling performance. For a while, the public wondered how Marvel actor Stan could possibly play a historical figure like Trump, but by the ending scene, the resemblance is downright uncanny. The way he dresses, speaks, moves his hands, repeats certain words — it's like looking at real footage of Trump.

The film stands out amongst other biopics because it is less of a love letter to the subject and more of an exposé or hit piece. He is not introduced as the controversial, arrogant tyrant many audiences see him as today. He starts out as a young, ambitious and, at times, very charismatic young man with big dreams. It is almost jarring to see him portrayed this way, knowing the person he would eventually become.

For the majority of the film, it is hard not to root for young Trump until one very shocking sexual assault scene in the third act reminds audiences whose origin story this is. In this scene, Trump



"The Apprentice," starring Sebastian Stan as a young Donald Trump, premiered at the 77th Cannes Film Festival on May 20, and is scheduled to be released in U.S. theaters on Oct. 11.

COURTESY OF TAILORED FILMS

assaults his then-wife, Ivana, in their NYC penthouse. This expository scene is the most likely reason why Trump is now pursuing legal action against the film.

Soon after its premiere, the fate of "The Apprentice" was put in jeopardy. The day after its first screening, Trump announced that he would be pursuing legal action against the film and its

producers. Audiences at Cannes rushed to see the film as soon as they could out of fear that it would never receive a release date and fade into obscurity. Luckily, those fears were put to rest when it was recently announced that "The Apprentice" would premiere nationwide on Oct. 11, including at Ithaca's own Cinemapolis.

"The Apprentice" is not just a

great piece of topical commentary, but also a great film that is sure to entertain even the most apolitical of audience members through its brilliant casting, suspenseful script and fast-paced story. Considering the film's at-times graphic nature, it is sure to be in conversations with the election this coming November.

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'143' explores female power through collaborations

ALBUM REVIEW: "143" Capitol Records



BY LIAM MCDERMOTT

STAFF WRITER

On Sept. 20, Katy Perry released her seventh studio album titled "143," her first album since "Smile" in 2020. While she is known for creating catchy pop songs that can be described as feel-good, "143" gives off more of a club vibe with a synthetic sound, featuring collaborations with artists like Kim Petras.

"143" explores two very important things in Perry's life: motherhood and female empowerment. Throughout the album, Perry unveils her experience of being a mother while also sending a message about female empowerment, especially in the midst of a tense election season. Perry explains the title as her "angel numbers," a belief that certain numbers grouped together are a message from angels. Perry describes the numbers as meaning "I love you" and "We got you," two statements of affirmation that fit into the theme of the album.

Perry released the first single on "143," titled "WOMAN'S WORLD," on July 11. The song received criticism from the general public before the release when Perry first teased the song on TikTok. People specifically disliked the song's choppy lyricism. However, people expressed further disapproval with the song when it was revealed that Dr. Luke — who was sued by Kesha for sexual assault in 2014 — produced the music video, which was supposedly advocating for female empowerment.

The video also featured Trisha Paytas, a controversial social media star highly criticized by the public. While the message the song sends is important — especially given the important upcoming election — it seems as though Perry is trying to send a more complex message through symbolism and satirical casting.

The album's third track titled "GORGEOUS" features Kim Petras, an artist who has a similar feel-good vibe to her music. The choice of collabing with Petras, who identifies as a transgender woman, strengthens the message of not just women's empowerment, but LGBTQ+ empowerment as well, something that has always been important to Perry.

The second single off of "143" titled "LIFETIMES" was released Aug. 8. Perry said the song is dedicated to her 4-year-old daughter Daisy Dove Bloom because Perry tells Bloom that she "will love her for lifetimes" every night. The song has a very upbeat tempo similar to hits on Perry's first two albums, "One of the Boys" and "Teenage Dream."

Perry could not have closed out the album better than she did with the song "WONDER," where Perry tells Bloom to be strong and chase her dreams. Although Perry has never confirmed it, the song opens and closes with what sounds like a child's voice, which is assumed to be Bloom saying, "One day when we're older / will we still look up in wonder?" The track comes full circle with the opening track, "WOMAN'S WORLD," where Perry brings listeners through her own



Katy Perry released her seventh studio album "143" on Sept. 20, which touches on themes of empowerment and self-love inspired by her journey of motherhood.

COURTESY OF CAPITOL RECORDS

childhood, womanhood and motherhood as she guides her daughter on the same path.

Although it is not one of Perry's best albums, "143" still shows the same Perry that fans know and love. The criticism surrounding the lead single, "WOMAN'S WORLD," and Perry's choice of collaborators misrepresents the otherwise solid album.

Other than "WOMAN'S WORLD," "143" is

a fun-feeling album that deserves more credit than it is receiving. If Perry had used a song such as "LIFETIMES" or the third single of the album, "I'M HIS, HE'S MINE," as the lead single, the reactions from the general public might not have been so harsh. "143" might be worth a listen for the emotional allusions.

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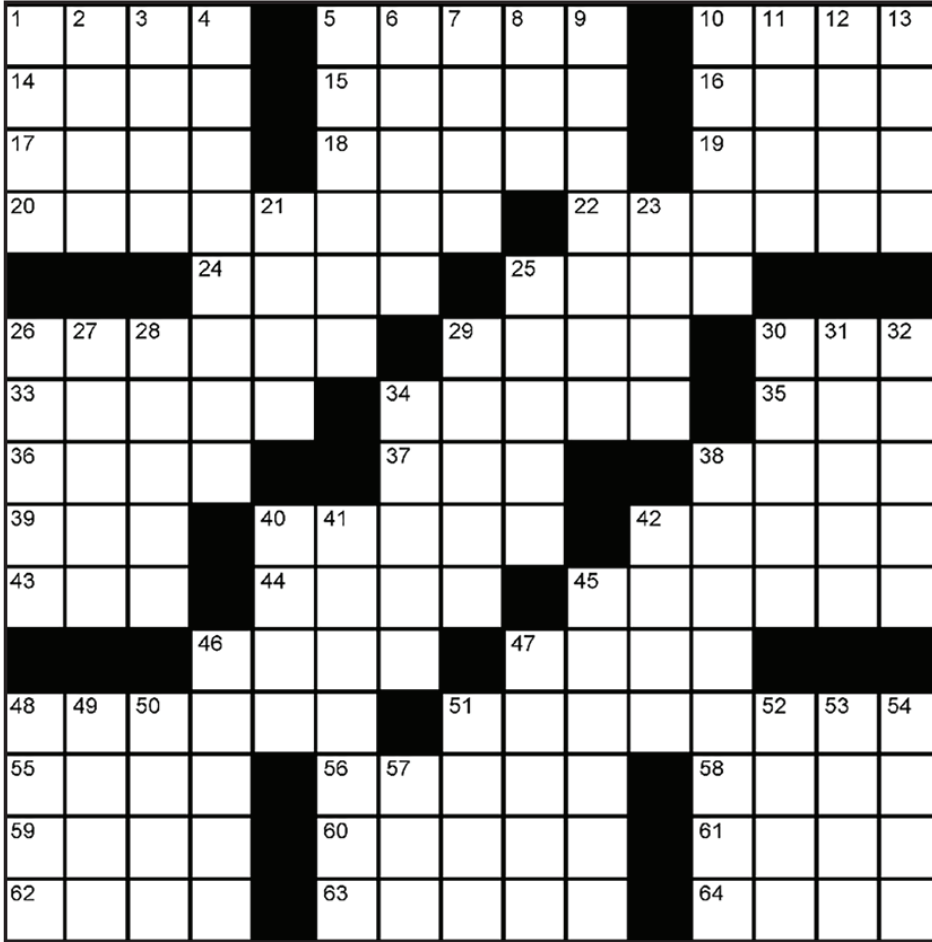
DIVERSIONS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

12

crossword

By Quill Driver Books



ACROSS

- 1 Actuality
- 5 Accumulate
- 10 Quite some time
- 14 Tape delay effect
- 15 Rhinal
- 16 Folk wisdom
- 17 "You said it!"
- 18 Put away (2 wds.)
- 19 Forfeit
- 20 Corrects
- 22 Worn down or away
- 24 Dimple
- 25 Quarrel
- 26 Drifting
- 29 Sharpen
- 30 Newspaper sections
- 33 Jester
- 34 Use with others
- 35 Fetch
- 36 Weather word
- 37 Galoot
- 38 Of sound mind
- 39 "To — is human..."
- 40 Word in a commandment
- 42 Semblance
- 43 Catch sight of
- 44 Cod or Canaveral
- 45 Mended
- 46 Sluggish
- 47 Criminal group
- 48 Island in French Polynesia
- 51 With care
- 55 River in England
- 56 Marry in haste
- 58 Buckeye State
- 59 Tiny opening
- 60 Sword
- 61 Approach
- 62 Graceful bird
- 63 Two of a kind
- 64 One and the —

DOWN

- 1 Trepidation
- 2 High point
- 3 Science subj.
- 4 Moderate (2 wds.)
- 5 Oil ceremonially
- 6 French artist
- 7 Condition of sale (2 wds.)
- 8 Cul-de—
- 9 Surprise hit

- 10 Apportion
- 11 Well-behaved
- 12 Gaelic language
- 13 Pip
- 21 James or Dizzy
- 23 Put a value on
- 25 Axle
- 26 Measures of farmland
- 27 Fiery signal
- 28 River in France
- 29 — of a time
- 30 Anew
- 31 Not very bright
- 32 War horse
- 34 Like dishwater
- 38 Hospital workers
- 40 "Go now!"
- 41 Most indistinct
- 42 Group of friends
- 45 Eateries
- 46 Flaxen fabric
- 47 Mature
- 48 Bugle call
- 49 Swear
- 50 Round dance
- 51 Desert in Asia
- 52 Ratite bird
- 53 Actor — Neeson
- 54 Yesteryear
- 57 Regulation

last issue's crossword answers

P	O	T	S	T	W	I	S	T	M	A	K	E
A	T	O	P	E	E	R	I	E	E	N	O	L
P	I	N	E	S	T	I	N	T	A	N	N	S
A	S	S	E	N	T	S	A	R	A	T	O	G
				D	O	T	S	I	A	M	B	
C	O	C	O	N	U	T	S		P	A	L	M
A	I	R		O	B	I	T		S	L	O	O
B	L	U	R		E	R	E	C	T		L	U
S	E	D	E	R		E	U	R	O		S	O
		R	E	D	O		P	R	E	M	I	E
				H	A	L	T		L	A	I	R
L	A	K	E	M	E	A	D		S	T	O	R
A	S	I	A		A	S	Y	O		N	O	A
M	E	N	D		S	T	A	R		R	E	L
P	A	D	S		H	E	D	G	E		D	E

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The Sudoku Source of "The Ithacan".

answers to last issue's sudoku:

easy

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

hard

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

sudoku

medium

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

hard

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



Team depth drives Field Hockey success

From left, first-year student striker Mia Woodard, sophomore striker Brady Sullivan, head coach Kaitlyn Wahila, sophomore midfielder/defender Abby Hennessy and sophomore midfielder Brooke Snider pose in front of the goal. All four players, in addition to sophomore striker Ainsley Grant, scored their first collegiate goals this season.

ROBERT DANIELS/THE ITHACAN

BY TESS FERGUSON

SENIOR WRITER

When first-year student striker Mia Woodard found the back of the cage, she brought the crowd to its feet.

“I saw the ball across the cage and I just dove and slapped it as far as I could,” Woodard said. “When I looked up and saw it, I immediately just hugged my teammates. I was screaming, I was so happy and I was honestly in shock.”

Her first collegiate goal solidified the Ithaca College field hockey team’s 3-1 victory over St. John Fisher University on Sept. 1, and she is not the only one to reach that milestone. As of Sept. 18, five Bombers, including Woodard, have etched their names in the score sheet for the first time in their collegiate careers.

Besides the five first-timers, the Bombers have had 11 different goal-scorers within their first seven games. Last season, the team had nine goal-scorers throughout its 22-game season.

Sophomore midfielder Abby Hennessy, who transferred into the team after playing her first year at Wagner College, is among those first-time goal-scorers. She has appeared in all of the Bombers’ first seven games, already notching one goal against Fisher and another against Misericordia University on Sept. 4.

“We always talk about knowing your role on this team and working as hard as you can at that role,” Hennessy said. “Some of our roles might be only going in for five minutes, but working as hard as you can for that five minutes and possibly scoring a goal is such a possibility on this team because we all have that work ethic.”

Head coach Kaitlyn Wahila’s substitution rotation has allowed every player on the roster to appear in at least one game so far. Many of her offensive players are only on the field for a few minutes at a time before

subbing off for a break.

“We like to sub our strikers and [midfielders] a lot,” Wahila said. “We expect a lot out of them on the defensive side of the ball, and specifically when we press it starts with our strikers. If our strikers don’t have fresh legs, you’re going to be able to tell.”

Woodard said her own contributions and those of the other younger athletes can be attributed to the trust and confidence instilled by the coaching staff and more experienced players. At any moment, Woodard said she knows she could be the next player up.

“I know that when any one of us subs into the game, we’re going to put 100% effort and make our time valuable for the team,” Woodard said. “We support each other and we always celebrate when someone scores or makes an awesome play.”

A wealth of experience comes from senior striker Natalie Descalso, who missed the team’s first three games while recovering from a knee injury. Descalso — who was named to the Liberty League and NCFHA First Teams in 2023 — said she had full confidence in her teammates to keep the standard of play at an elite level while she was on the sideline.

“My goal, obviously, was to be back for the first game,” Descalso said. “That didn’t happen, but that was OK because I knew that we had the depth. I wasn’t worried about that at all.”

Sophomore strikers Ainsley Grant

and Toni Ierardi rotated through Descalso’s position in her absence. On Sept. 18, both Grant and Descalso scored goals in the Bombers’ 2-0 win over SUNY Brockport — it was the first goal of Grant’s collegiate career.

Wahila said that getting younger athletes like Grant, Woodard and Hennessy into the game’s rotation, even for a short period of time, is what ensures the program’s longevity.

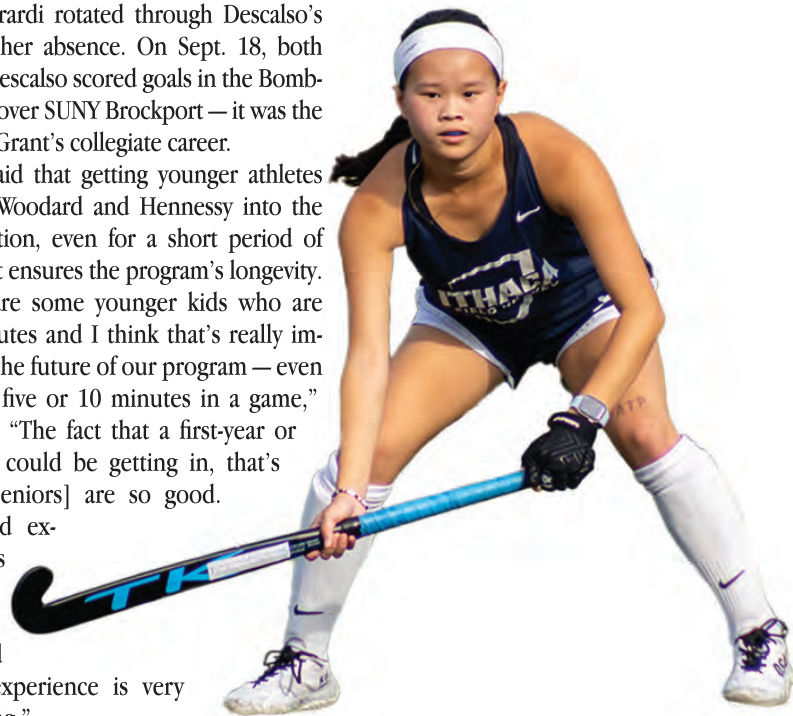
“There are some younger kids who are getting minutes and I think that’s really important for the future of our program — even if it is only five or 10 minutes in a game,” Wahila said. “The fact that a first-year or sophomore could be getting in, that’s why [our seniors] are so good. They earned experience as first-years and sophomores, and now that experience is very much shining.”

Besides Hennessy, the team also welcomed two other Division I transfers to the program. Ierardi played her first year at Merrimack College and sophomore goalkeeper Maeve Clark played at Monmouth University for one year. Wahila said the trio’s experience at the Division I level is another contributing factor to the team’s depth.

“I give [the transfers] a ton of credit for being able to step into our system and mesh right away,” Wahila said. “Specifically, Toni had to learn our three different presses and [Hennessy] is in the center of the field in a really critical position as well. Maeve didn’t see any game situations last season, so the fact that she’s been able to get minutes with us is really impressive.”

Hennessy said her transition from Wagner to South Hill taught her more about herself as an athlete and as a person. She said the Bombers’ supportive environment helped her find what she needs to be successful on the field.

“The biggest lesson it taught me is to lean on your teammates,” Hennessy said. “Being able



to have great teammates to support you and — especially being part of this team — our main focus is being a great teammate. Recognizing how I needed to be supported is helping me to support other people as well.”

The South Hill Squad have a season record of 5-3, with their only losses coming from University of Scranton, SUNY New Paltz and SUNY Cortland, who was ranked No 12 at the time.

With more than half of the regular season remaining and three ranked opponents ahead, the Bombers need all hands on deck to fight for a conference title and repeat their playoff berth. As the team continues to grow and more athletes find opportunities, Descalso said the team should have no problem making a statement.

“All of our younger athletes really just worked their butt off and proved that they deserve to play just as much as anyone else,” Descalso said. “I’m just really looking forward to seeing them grow into their confidence and get more comfortable in our presses. I think they’ve done a great job of that already, but I just can’t wait to see how much they grow.”

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All-American alum takes coaching to the next level

BY JACOB INFALD
STAFF WRITER

On Sept. 13, Ithaca College women's basketball legend Katherine Bixby '10 was inducted into the Ithaca College Athletic Hall of Fame. The former All-American has continued to leave her mark on the women's college basketball landscape, coaching at multiple levels. On Sept. 2, she accepted an assistant coaching position at the University of North Carolina.

As a student-athlete at the college, Bixby excelled on the court. Bixby said her experience at the college was valuable because of the connections she made not only in athletics, but also in the classroom.

"I was a head coach, really young, but building that community starting in college, you're starting to become your own person," Bixby said.

In pursuing her Master of Arts in Teaching, she worked as an assistant coach under women's basketball head coach Dan Raymond. Raymond said it was immediately evident Bixby had coaching in her future.

"She was the first assistant coach that I passed along a lot of the offense, end of game situations," Raymond said. "I had complete confidence that she was going to make some really good decisions."

While Bixby was an assistant at the college, she was introduced to Courtney Banghart, University of North Carolina's women's basketball head coach. At the time, Banghart was a head coach at

Princeton University and had invited Raymond and his staff to help work one of Princeton's prospect camps. Banghart was immediately floored with the immense knowledge and love for the game Bixby demonstrated as a student-assistant coach.

"She's just been so consistently a champion for women's basketball and a great thinker about it," Banghart said.

Bixby left South Hill after the 2013–14 season to take a head coaching position at Dickinson College. There, she turned around the program, taking them from a 5-19 record before she arrived to an 18-8 record in the 2016–17 season.

Bixby continued to have success as a head coach when she took a job at Johns Hopkins University in 2017. There, she led the program to three 20 win seasons, including a 23-5 2018–19 campaign that saw her win the Centennial Conference Coach of the Year award.

Raymond said it came as no surprise seeing his former player have immediate success as a head coach.

"Her biggest strength isn't the X's and O's, it's building relationships for the players, establishing those bonds of trust among the players," Raymond said.

Bixby said one of her focuses as a coach is to slow things down; when she was a player, this meant she let plays develop. As a coach, this means she takes her time to process the situation before giving a resolution. She said it helps her make the best possible decisions.

"Just constantly listening and



Katherine Bixby '10 speaks at the Ithaca College Athletics Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Bixby was selected as the second All-American in the women's basketball's program history.

KAELEIGH BANDA/THE ITHACAN

kind of being a good sounding board, but then also being able to insert my opinion when I'm ready," Bixby said.

After the Blue Jays, Bixby took the leap to the Division I level for the 2023–24 season when she was hired as an assistant coach at Loyola University Maryland. There, she also helped to turn the program around, taking them to an improved 16-15 record in the 2023–24 season, helping her fellow coaching staff win the 2024 Patriot League Staff of the Year.

Bixby said the key strategy for

programs like Dickinson and Loyola is to focus on long term growth of the program.

"Don't necessarily focus on winning as the outcome, but focus on what you're doing day by day," Bixby said.

Banghart said that despite Bixby only being in the program for a few weeks, it is evident she will have a major impact on her players and people are taking notice.

"She will be a key piece of what we do, bringing out the best of our individual players," Banghart said.

"There's not a person in this office that hasn't said to me, 'Great, great hire.'"

Raymond said that he could not be more proud of his former player and assistant coach and that he cannot wait to see what else she accomplishes.

"Whatever she does in her coaching career, it is to empower young women to realize they can accomplish anything and everything that they want to," Raymond said.

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IC men's soccer stacks squad with five goalkeepers

BY ANTONIO VENGOECHEA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Ithaca College men's soccer team faces a unique challenge this season — choosing among five goalkeepers: juniors Bryson Shaull and Johannes Berghahn, sophomore Brayden Milbrandt and first-year students Parker Giles and Paddy Eagan. The juniors and sophomore have started on goal.

As of Sept. 24, the Bombers' trio of goalkeepers has shared time cohesively. Milbrandt has seen the most action, starting five games with a solid 1.75 goals against average (GAA).

Berghahn and Shaull have each started one game, with Berghahn posting a 2.00 GAA and Shaull boasting a perfect 100% save rate across his 128 minutes.

The three have helped the Bombers secure two shutouts. Together, they have a combined 79.3% save rate and helped the Bombers secure two shutouts. The team is 4-3 this season, with the only losses coming to No. 10 Cortland, Hobart College and Eastern University.

While the goalkeepers are always prepared, the final decision on who starts ultimately falls to head coach Garret Eldridge.

"I take into account our upcoming opponents and how each goalkeeper's strengths align with the opponent's playing style," Eldridge said. "Anyone we recruit, we can send out there at any time. That's how confident we are."

Eldridge said each starting goalkeeper brings something unique to the table.

"Bryson is long and has the ability to do really well in catching crosses, and we've seen him do really well in that facet of the game," Eldridge said. "Milbrandt is a fearless shot stopper and has done really well on

breakaways. He's good in and around his box. He's very demanding of the defenders that play in front of him and he's shown to be a winner. And then Johannes started for us last season, in a season in which we made the Liberty League championship game."

With three goalkeepers competing for starting positions, the challenge is not just about game-day performance. Berghahn said it is also about staying mentally and physically prepared, regardless of whether he is in the starting lineup.

"Even when we aren't playing, we are still trying to fine tune ourselves," Berghahn said. "We are always trying to help the team at the same time. The goalie that is playing isn't the only one that impacts the game."

Eldridge said the keepers are always trying to improve either themselves individually or the position as a whole.

"College soccer is physical, and goalkeepers get hurt," Eldridge said. "No matter which keeper is starting, there is always a chance that any of them will see playing time. Goalkeeper is a position where defenders and attackers are constantly flying across the box and jumping into each other, so keepers have to protect themselves while keeping the ball out."

Having three separate goalies with years of experience at a high level gives the team insurance in case of injury.

As skill level increases for sports, toughness and strength has to be more than just physical. Milbrandt emphasized the importance of mental toughness and consistency.

"Every practice, every game whether I play or not, I go out and give 150%," Milbrandt said. "You get 1% better each day. If coach says it's my week, I'll go out and start. If he thinks someone else has it, I'm still going to be ready



From left, junior Johannes Berghahn, sophomore Brayden Milbrandt, junior Bryson Shaull and first-year students Paddy Eagan and Parker Giles are all goalies for the Bombers.

JORDAN RINALDI/THE ITHACAN

to go, but also ready to lift my teammates up before the game."

Despite the competition for playing time, Milbrandt said the relationship between the goalkeepers has created a unique team dynamic forged by support and camaraderie.

"There is no switch up when we leave the field," Milbrandt said. "We are all boys, if you have a good practice I'll tell you."

Berghahn echoed this sentiment, explaining how close-knit the entire team is, both on and off the field.

"We eat every meal together, do activities together, and it's significantly more than other college programs," Berghahn said. "No matter

what, we always fight for each other and back each other up — whether it's the goalkeepers or the whole team. Everyone's a brother to each other, and it's awesome. It's a lifelong bond."

Shaull said the strong connection among the goalkeepers extends beyond training, influencing the entire team's dynamic. He said their close relationships not only help them improve, but also foster team unity.

"Goalkeeping is different from the rest of soccer," Shaull said. "So, we're often training on our own. That time together helps us build strong bonds."

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THE BUZZER

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

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK AINSLEY GRANT/FIELD HOCKEY



Sophomore striker Ainsley Grant played a pivotal role in the Ithaca College field hockey team's 2-0 win Sept. 18 at SUNY Brockport. Grant scored her first career collegiate goal, assisted by senior striker Juliana Valli. Grant tallied two shots on goal in the win.

JORDAN RINALDI/THE ITHACAN

COMPETITION OF THE WEEK WOMEN'S SOCCER VS. ALFRED UNIVERSITY



The Ithaca College women's soccer team fought to a draw Sept. 17 at Carp Wood Field with the Alfred University Saxons. The Saxons came into the match with a 5-0-0 record while the Bombers posted a record of 4-0-1. The Bombers outshot the Saxons 31-2 in a defensive match.

MEI DENNISON/THE ITHACAN

EVENT TO WATCH

10 A.M. SEPT. 28-29

Coming off back-to-back record-setting weekends, the Ithaca College golf team will look to set a third straight record at 10 a.m. Sept. 28-29 at the Williams College Invitational. The Bombers set a program record for the second consecutive week on Sept. 21 by shooting 293 (+5) on day two of the Cortaca Cup from Sept. 20-22, defeating SUNY Cortland 3-0, 5-0 and 8-2.



ITHACA

VS.



WILLIAMS
INVITATIONAL

NOTABLE UPCOMING COMPETITIONS

FIELD HOCKEY: 1 P.M. SEPT. 28 VS UNION COLLEGE AT HIGGINS STADIUM

WOMEN'S SOCCER: 3 P.M. SEPT. 28 VS BARD COLLEGE AT CARP WOOD FIELD

MEN'S SOCCER: 4 P.M. SEPT. 24 VS HOBART COLLEGE IN GENEVA, NEW YORK

FOOTBALL: 12 P.M. SEPT. 28 VS CURRY COLLEGE IN MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



"We're gonna prepare mentally and physically for them. It's gonna be a battle, and we're looking to put three or four past them and make a statement for the Liberty League."

JARED KRASNOVE '26

On preparing for a Liberty League Championship rematch with Hobart College.





Clockwise from left, Sir Kenneth, Joe Crum and SingTrece performed "Stand by Me" by Ben E. King at 712 North Tioga Street as part of Porchfest. On Sept. 22, community members and local college students gathered across Ithaca for Porchfest, where musicians set up on porches and performed throughout the day.

KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN