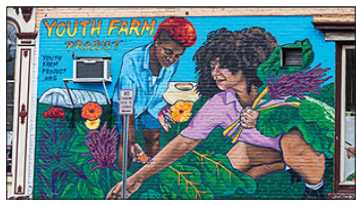


ACCURACY • INDEPENDENCE • INTEGRITY

LIFE & CULTURE | page 7

ITHACA ARTS NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED



OPINION | page 5

ART IS CENTRAL TO THE ITHACA COMMUNITY



SPORTS | page 9

FATHER-SON DUO MAKES HISTORY AT IC

ICLA starts classes safe from wildfires

EAMON CORBO

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

As wildfires continue to spread throughout the greater Los Angeles area, the Ithaca College Los Angeles Program is preparing for Spring 2025 from a safe distance.

Located outside of Burbank and Hollywood, ICLA is an internship-focused semester for juniors and seniors in the Roy H. Park School of Communications.

Orientation for ICLA was held Jan. 16 — after being pushed back one day to accommodate travel delays — and classes began Jan. 21.

Impact of wildfires on ICLA

Junior Carson Mrozinski was in the middle of the transnational drive from his home in Maryland to the ICLA campus when he learned about the wildfires.

Mrozinski said he and his roommate had to spend an extra night in Nashville, Tennessee, before heading to the ICLA campus because of the wildfires.

“I was shocked,” Mrozinski said. “We were packing up, getting ready to leave and then I knocked on my roommate’s door and he was like, ‘Hey, our parents are really

concerned, the fires have gotten out of hand.”

Stephen Tropiano ’84, ICLA program director and professor of the Integrated Studies platform, Screen Studies, said the wildfires do not pose an immediate threat to the ICLA campus.

As of Jan. 21, ICLA is outside the Palisades and Eaton fire evacuation zone. The Sunset fire — which was under six miles away from the ICLA campus — has been completely contained.

Tropiano said the ICLA program is prepared to handle natural disasters and has been dealing with them since the start of the program in 1994.

“We actually opened the day of the Northridge earthquake,” Tropiano said. “The first day of school was the biggest earthquake that we’ve had in the last 50 years. So there’s always the possibility of earthquakes and there’s always a possibility of wildfires.”

Samm Swarts, assistant director for Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management at the college, went to the ICLA campus in Spring 2024 to make



As of Jan. 21, ICLA is outside the Palisades and Eaton fire evacuation zone. The Sunset fire — which was under six miles from the ICLA campus — has been completely contained.

DATA VISUALIZATION BY KAIDEN CHANDLER AND CAL FIRE

sure it had the resources to be connected with the main campus and was in contact with the College Emergency Response Team.

Swarts said he has been talking with members of the ICLA program staff since the wildfires broke out and has been working with them to ensure they have N95 and KN95

masks to give to students.

“Right now, there’s not any immediate fire super close by to the campus,” Swarts said. “But again, there is still smoke and things like that in the air that is driving down the air quality overall.”

According to AirNow.gov the air quality near the ICLA campus is

moderate as of Jan. 22.

Mrozinski said that once he got to the ICLA campus, he realized students in the program were lucky to be a safe distance away from the fires. He said despite the one-day delay, orientation went on as usual.

FIRES, PAGE 3

IC property is torn down after 50 years of music lessons

KAELEIGH BANDA

NEWS EDITOR

The brick building owned by Ithaca College that once stood at 929 Danby Road was deconstructed beginning Jan. 9 after receiving 17 fire code violations. While the physical structure was torn down, the music made within the walls lives on in the 50 years of Suzuki Method students and the Reuning family.

The building became the home of Ithaca Talent Education after the building was purchased by the Reuning family in 1974 — over 100 years after the building was built in 1860. The Reuning family, in partnership with teacher Janis Butler and her husband Frank Butler, bought the space to serve as a place where students could receive music lessons on the violin, viola and cello. On June 29, 2023, Ithaca College purchased 929 Danby Road.

After the building became property of the college, it had to comply with the college’s fire code. Tim Downs, chief financial officer and vice president of the Division of Finance and Administration at the college, said that during the October 2024 fire inspection, the inspectors found multiple violations that were of high severity including a complete lack of a sprinkler system.

“To me, the worst thing we could have done was let it sit, deteriorate and continue to get worse,” Downs said. “If we’re not going to remediate it then it’s just going to become an opportunity for potential vandalism or things like that. This was the best path forward for us.”

Deconstruction of 929 Danby Road

Sanford and Joan Reuning founded Ithaca Talent Education as a way to bring Suzuki teaching to the community and the United States as a whole. Shinichi Suzuki brought the Suzuki method of learning music from Japan to this country in 1964, as did Sanford Reuning to Ithaca College. Sanford and Joan are now 90 years old and still active members of the Ithaca community. Carrie Reuning-Hummel, a retired Suzuki teacher and daughter of Sanford and Joan, said the loss of the building has been emotional for her and her family.

“As the oldest child in this family ... trying to usher the school to the next iteration and do it well and clear out that building was probably one of the most difficult things I’ve done in my life,” Carrie said. “You often hear about when your parents die and you have to clear out their space and how hard that can be. ... It really has been like a death.”

The college’s relationship with Ithaca Talent Education

The connection between Ithaca Talent Education and the college goes back decades.



The brick building owned by Ithaca College located at 929 Danby Road was deconstructed beginning Jan. 9 after receiving a demolition permit Jan. 8.

LUCIA IANDOLO/THE ITHACAN

The school had a reciprocal relationship with the college, and does to this day. A Master of Music in Suzuki Pedagogy and String Performance program was founded by Sanford and taken over by Reuning-Hummel.

However, the college cut the program in 2021 due to low enrollment. Carrie said that when the program was cut, many people sent letters pleading for the program to stay. She

said that even though her past experience left her feeling upset with the college, this time was different.

“Working with Tim [Downs] was the best experience,” Carrie said. “He offered [our school] free rent for over a year and he was patient to allow us to find another place to be.

BUILDING, PAGE 3

COLLEGE BRIEFS

Ithaca Outing Club hosts all skill level climbing competition

The Ithaca Outing Club is calling all participating climbers to come test their skills in a climbing competition. It will take place from 6–10 p.m. Jan. 30 in the Fitness Center. There will be a \$10 fee at the door for all climbers. There will be ping-pong and other games as well as snacks and drinks. All climbing skill levels are welcome. The top climbers will be awarded with prizes.

Holocaust survivor to visit Muller Chapel for Hillel event

Roald Hoffmann will give a talk 6–7 p.m. Jan. 27 in Muller Chapel. The event is being hosted by IC Hillel. There will be light refreshments provided by the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life. Contact jbodenadams@ithaca.edu for any accommodations or questions.

Center for Health Promotion hosts wellness scavenger hunt

The Center for Health Promotion is hosting a scavenger hunt. All participants will win a wellness whale figurine. The scavenger hunt is running from Jan. 16–27. Additional prizes will be given out to several participants from a raffle Jan. 27. You can participate in pairs or groups, and any pictures that are taken can be shared

with healthpromotion@ithaca.edu or tag [@wellness_at_IC](https://www.instagram.com/wellness_at_IC) for five bonus entries for the raffle.

The Student Organization fair is free and open to all students

The Spring 2025 Student Organization Fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 29 in Emerson Suites. Students can attend the fair and explore the student organizations on campus. The organizations can recruit new members and showcase the work they do at the college. The Office of Student Engagement is hosting the event. Any questions or accommodation requests can be sent to ose@ithaca.edu.

DKA Professional Cinematic Society hosts recruitment week

The Delta Kappa Alpha Professional Cinematic Society is a national society for cinematic arts students of all genders. DKA has three information sessions in Textor 102 throughout its recruitment week. The first information session is 7–8 p.m. Jan. 27, the second is 7–8 p.m. Jan. 28 and the third is 7–8 p.m. Jan. 29. The sessions allow attendees to learn about the society and its values. Attendance at at least one of the information sessions is highly encouraged for anyone joining DKA.



Gymnastics stays spirited despite close loss

Senior Abby Chesshire performs her floor routine as her teammates cheer her on. IC gymnastics lost in a close battle against SUNY Brockport on Jan. 12 in Ben Light Gymnasium. The team's next meet is at 1 p.m. Jan. 26 at Ursinus College.

LUCIA IANDOLO/THE ITHACAN

Questions or accommodation requests can be sent to recruitment@ithaca.dka.org.

Career Opportunities Week will be hosted for the third time

The Center for Career Exploration and Development is presenting the third-annual Career Opportunities Week,

known as COW. Running from Feb. 3–7, there will be multiple events and workshops each day that are dedicated to career preparation and development. The Career Center will be hosting giveaways throughout the week via their Instagram, [@iccareers](https://www.instagram.com/iccareers). All but three events will take place in Muller 101.

MULTIMEDIA

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VISIT [THEITHACAN.ORG/CATEGORY/MEDIA/](https://www.theithacan.org/category/media/)



Hanging out at Ithacan Recruitment Night

The Ithacan Recruitment Night will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23 in the Park Auditorium. All students are welcome to attend, and no prior experience is needed to join.



Coming Soon... Ithacan Podcasts!

Stay tuned for new Ithacan podcast episodes! This semester's lineup includes returning shows such as "Deja View," "Pop Off!" and "How IC Sports."

THE ITHACAN

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FIRES, PAGE 1

“[ICLA staff] didn’t even talk about [the fires] really,” Mrozinski said. “So it’s kind of like we’re just pushing past it.”

Impact on Californians

Caleb Malis, a sophomore at the ArtCenter College of Design in Pasadena, said he evacuated the city when the fires began. Pasadena is located near the Eaton fire, which has destroyed over 7,000 structures — making it the second most destructive California fire in history.

Malis said his college shifted to hybrid classes to discourage students from commuting up to Pasadena because of concerns over the poor air quality.

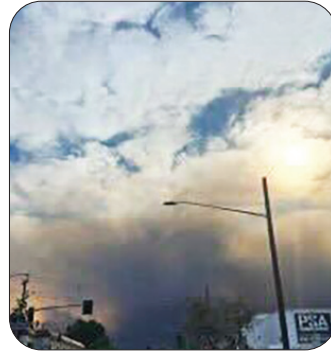
“It’s weird to come back and see a damage assessment: how many roads have been closed off, how many buildings have been taken over [and] how dirty the streets were,” Malis said.

In a Jan. 8 press release, California Gov. Gavin Newsom’s office said LA was receiving additional firefighters and resources from neighboring counties because of the severity of the fires.

Kile Graf, a fire captain for the Orange County Fire Authority, said his department has been sending firefighters to Los Angeles County to help with the wildfires.

Graf said the firefighters who remained in Orange County still felt the impact of the fires, despite not being sent to LA.

“People [at the department] are a little stressed because of the fires,” Graf said. “We’re all



Haze and smoke visible from a distance caused by the Palisades and Eaton fires in Los Angeles. These photos were taken by Ithaca College students, miles from the epicenters.

COURTESY OF MEREDITH FORD AND JACOB WILLINGER

working a ton of extra shifts, so we’re not getting home to our families.”

Graf said he has been able to work through the anxiety and tension created by the fires by being thankful for his own family’s safety and understanding his department’s responsibility to the public.

“I realize that we just need to kick in extra to help out for all the people that are up there that are suffering,” Graf said. “There’s over 5,000 structures that were destroyed so potentially 5,000 families have been affected or more.”

Next steps for ICLA

Swarts said he is continuing

to monitor the fires in case they spread to the ICLA campus. He said he encourages families to check in with students over the evolving wildfire situation.

“California has its own sets of natural disasters that they deal with on a regular basis: wildfires, earthquakes, things like that,” Swarts said. “We have preventative measures. We have plans in place for if any of those situations do happen to make sure that our students, faculty and staff are protected.”

Tropiano said that even though the ICLA campus is currently safe from the path of the wildfires, he recognizes how the fires will continue to

impact the entire LA community.

“The sad part of the story is there are entire neighborhoods like in the Pacific Palisades and Altadena that had things wiped out,” Tropiano said. “There’s going to be a lot of rebuilding going on in Los Angeles, but it hasn’t had a direct effect on the program. The program will still be here.”

Students affected by the LA wildfires can seek financial support from the college through the Student Emergency Relief Fund.

Assistant News Editor Julian DeLucia contributed reporting.

CONTACT: ECORBO@ITHACA.EDU

Faculty discuss benefits survey

EAMON CORBO

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Ithaca College Faculty Council met Jan. 21 for its first meeting of Spring 2025 to give feedback on survey questions for next year’s benefits cycle from the Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee.

The council opened the meeting by adopting the Jan. 21 agenda and unanimously accepting the minutes from its Dec. 3 meeting.

Provost Melanie Stein welcomed the council back from winter break and said she is looking forward to having a great spring semester.

David Gondek, chair of the council and associate professor in the Department of Biology, brought up potentially reducing the number of committees faculty are required to serve on.

He also proposed changing the required number of participants on each of the committees.

Gondek said that since 2019, there has been a 30% decrease in full-time equivalent faculty positions.

He proposed combining committees that serve similar purposes — like the Dana Professor Selection committee and the Honorary Degree Advisory Committee — to reduce the required service from faculty committees.

“Where possible, we’re going to try and cut service,” Gondek said. “Or where possible, we’re going to consolidate service.”

The council then gave feedback on an upcoming survey from FSBC that will assess faculty and staff priorities and preferences for next year’s benefits cycle.

FSBC serves as a liaison to the Office of Human Resources for current and proposed changes to benefits. Possible additions to the benefits include pet insurance and legal coverage.

One question on the survey asks how faculty would propose covering any deficits when the college is facing a large increase in claims.

Some members of the council had concerns about the question, including Rachel Wagner, professor and chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religion, who said any option the college chooses would still reduce employees’ take-home pay.

“When I look at these options, ... it’s all passing more costs onto me,” Wagner said. “Every single one of them is passing more costs onto me, and that is a sick tax.”

Cynthia Henderson, professor in the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, shared a similar sentiment to Wagner about how additional benefits could increase the amount faculty and staff are paying.

“When does this stop?” Henderson said. “It’s definitely felt like almost every year we’re picking up more of the cost.”

The council made a plan to ask representatives from FSBC to rewrite the survey to be more clear and to include examples in its questions.

Gondek said he plans to have a member from FSBC come to the council’s Feb. 4 meeting to help them deliberate the survey before members discuss it with their schools and departments.

The Ithaca College Faculty Council meets on the first Tuesday of every month in the Taughannock Falls room of the Campus Center from 4–6 p.m.

The faculty council can be contacted at facultycouncil@ithaca.edu.

Head News Editor Kaeleigh Banda contributed reporting.

CONTACT: ECORBO@ITHACA.EDU

BUILDING, PAGE 1

“When they decided to destroy the building, they checked in to make sure [we gave] permission, even though we didn’t own [the building] anymore. It was just all done in a beautiful way.”

As part of the agreement when the building was sold, the current Ithaca Suzuki Music Education school still has access to the college’s facilities to hold concerts and rehearsals for the next few years.

Sustainable deconstruction

Scott Doyle, director of Energy Management and Sustainability at the college, said that throughout the deconstruction process, sustainability was at the core of the project.

He worked with representatives from Finger Lakes ReUse and Historic Ithaca who walked through the property to analyze what could and should be protected or salvaged.

“One important thing that [the representatives] said was that while this has an important community history, it’s not a historic property in the traditional sense,” Doyle said. “They also helped us quantify what [materials] made up the building and what could be reused.”

The college hired Contento’s deconstruction and recycling company to do the demolition. Doyle said they chose that company in particular because they aim to divert as many materials from the landfill as possible. Materials like lumber, metal and



On Aug. 24, there was an open house where community members, students and families wrote memories on the walls of the building as a way to pay tribute to the time they spent there.

COURTESY OF SHARM ROBINETTE

brick are sorted and then reused.

“We’ll get the breakdown of how much of [the building] hit the landfill versus how much was diverted,” Doyle said. “And based on what the estimates that ReUse gave me, we’ll have a lot of stuff diverted.”

Despite the current financial deficit that the college is facing, Downs said that purchasing and deconstructing the building did not impact that deficit.

“There’s a lot of tension on our operating budget but the money we used to buy the property is not part of our operating budget,” Downs said. “We have a capital program that is used for real estate. ... Our

operating budget is what is funded through renewable sources like tuition, room and board ... but that is not what paid for the property.”

The legacy of Ithaca Talent Education

Downs said he salvaged the original Ithaca Talent Education sign before the deconstruction to preserve a small piece of the building’s legacy.

“We want to put [the sign] somewhere on campus to commemorate [the building,]” Downs said. “We want to be good community members.”

On Aug. 24, there was an open house held by the Reuning family and Ithaca Suzuki Music

Education in the building.

Generations of students and families wrote memories on the walls of the building as a way to pay tribute to the time they spent there.

Carrie said that even though the program moved to a new location at the South Hill Business Campus, the joy that the music brings has traveled with it.

“Now, new memories are being formed at the new facility,” Carrie said. “It is a wonderful feeling to walk in there. I can feel the lightness and the joy. So, as hard as this was, it couldn’t have gone better.”

CONTACT: KBANDA@ITHACA.EDU

Q&A: Professor works to debunk harmful music myths

Alex Reed, professor in Integrative Studies, Honors and the Department of Music at Ithaca College, was interviewed by CNN about his research on the stereotypes surrounding rock and gothic music and how they impact adolescents throughout their lives. Reed also researched the German industrial rock band KMFDM, which has been associated with school shootings in the U.S.

In both the Columbine High School shooting in 1999 and the school shooting Dec. 16, 2024 at Abundant Life Christian School in Madison, Wisconsin, media pointed out the perpetrators' music taste and clothing as an explanation for their actions. In both events, the shooters were wearing the same KMFDM shirt.

News Editor Kaeleigh Banda spoke with Reed about how he became interested in researching the assumptions surrounding alternative music styles. Reed also discussed how the connections between KMFDM's music and school shootings have caused harmful stereotypes.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Kaeleigh Banda: How did the perceived ties between violence and certain styles of music first come about?

Alex Reed: That goes back to Plato. ... There was an idea from the very start that music was indicative of how people felt, what they believed or what they politically wanted. And that probably has some truth to it. ... For example, if you listen to this music or that music, then you must be a bad or violent person. ... Historically,

when people make those accusations, more often [they are] driven by some other prejudice and oftentimes some other hate. In America, this is very often just tied to race. So there were all kinds of insinuations about the evils of jazz music back in the 1920s and the 1930s in the flapper era, and this was effectively born out of anti-Black racism, specifically in America. ... These [assumptions] have existed for a really long time and people will manufacture new ones as is convenient because they are never based on research. It's never actually about the music. It's always that there's a preexisting fear, whether justified or not.

KB: How did you first become interested in this research and the topic in particular?

AR: When I was a middle schooler and high schooler I dressed in black. I listened to a lot of sad and spooky music. ... I loved this music and I noticed that there was a lot of fear and anxiety surrounding [it]. Usually, when a kid in middle school or high school ends up diverging socially or in terms of neurodiversity, ... [they] start figuring out who they are and oftentimes, music is part of that. It's [something] that you can point to. There are lots of things about identity that are much harder to address than what clothes you're wearing or what music you're listening to, so they become sort of easy go-tos, and when I was in high school, that was happening to me as well. ... The media frenzy right after Columbine focused on the fact that the two gunmen who carried it out wore black trench coats



Alex Reed, professor in Integrative Studies, Honors and the Department of Music at Ithaca College, was interviewed by CNN about his research on the stereotypes surrounding rock and gothic music.

MEI DENNISON/THE ITHACAN

and listened to ... KMFDM and music I knew and listened to, as well. ... I remember that schools were immediately cracking down at that point saying, ... "Kids can no longer dye their hair, they can no longer wear black, they can no longer wear combat boots." That was us. We all hung out in the art room and we were harmless.

KB: How does your knowledge about this topic translate to your classes here at Ithaca College?

AR: I've taught a few classes that are really invested in aesthetics and subculture. I used to teach a seminar called "Punk and the Making of Self," which is a class about the histories of cultural margins and the ways that individuals have used their aesthetic tastes to find each other. ... This community-making

is the sort of thing that saves lives. ... I'm interested in my courses, in many cases, [to be] a beacon for students who do feel at the margins, who do feel like they don't necessarily fit into that middle lane of American culture.

KB: In your opinion, how can people shift the narrative surrounding certain genres of music to help prevent harmful false assumptions?

AR: Be unafraid of hard questions and be aware when you are avoiding them in hopes of easy answers. So let's say you look at any individual school shooting, there might be a different particular equation behind each individual situation, right? Some kids might not be getting the help they need and some kids might be under the influence of a really toxic peer or

parent. ... But maybe we should be thinking about questions on the broadest scale. We can have conversations much more materially about wealth distribution or access to mental health care or access to firearms. These are all hard conversations that there are billions, if not trillions, of dollars invested in maintaining the status quo. ... A larger-scale answer is to look at events as symptoms of larger states. And once you can do that, ... you're going to start seeing fewer bad things happen and more good things happen broadly. Look at the world as a garden rather than a causal chain, and you do your best to make that garden grow.

CONTACT: KBANDA@ITHACA.EDU

DEPARTURES

Charlie Sherman

Charlie Sherman, former fire marshal and building safety coordinator at the Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management, retired Jan. 14.

According to an Intercom post written by Elyse Nepa, assistant director of Clery Act and Prevention Education, Sherman worked in a local municipal fire service for three decades before coming to Ithaca College.

"Charlie is widely known across campus for his reassuring smile and offering of kind words to those in need, leaving a positive impression on everyone he encountered," Nepa wrote. "His presence on campus and in our office will be greatly missed."

Before his time at the college, he served the city of Cortland as assistant fire chief from 1988 to 2010.

After that, he worked as a fire marshal for the Oneida Indian Nation Department of Environmental Health and Safety from 2012–14.

Paula Larsen

Paula Larsen, former administrative assistant in the Department of Chemistry, retired Jan. 17. She worked at the college for 25 years. She began in the Office of Facilities before eventually becoming the administrative assistant of the Department of Chemistry.

Michelle Stiles

Michelle Stiles, former administration and

operations assistant in the Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management, retired Jan. 6 after 12 years at the college.

Stiles performed many administrative tasks for the Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management.

Stiles received a masters in education from Le Moyne College, and worked as a planning analyst and a material manager for different companies across upstate New York before coming to the college.

"Michelle will be leaving us to enjoy some of the finer focuses in her life to include her work with stained glass, leather sewing and repair and taking long motorcycle rides with her husband, Ron," Nepa wrote in an Intercom post. "A staple of Michelle's presence in the Office of Public Safety is her laughter, which can often be heard down many of the hallways of OPS, concurrently. This will be missed."

Shadayvia Wallace

At the end of Fall 2024, Shadayvia Wallace, former associate director of the BIPOC Unity Center and program director of the MLK Scholarship program, left the college.

She ended her time with a farewell party Dec. 16. Wallace undertook a new role as director of educational opportunity programs and assistant diversity officer at Tompkins Cortland Community College.

Wallace previously worked at Syracuse University from 2015–17 and at Le Moyne College from 2017–21,

before spending 3 1/2 years of her career at Ithaca College.

"While I am excited about this new chapter, leaving Ithaca College is bittersweet," Wallace wrote in an Intercom post. "I will deeply miss the joy, energy, and authenticity that define this community and the incredible people who make it what it is."

Liz Miller

At the end of Fall 2024, Liz Miller, former clinical assistant professor in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, left the college.

Miller was also the clinic director of the Sir Alexander Ewing-Ithaca College Speech and Hearing Clinic.

As both a professor and the head of the clinic, Miller played a large role in the School of Health Sciences and Human Performance.

Miller continually pushed the department forward, searching for and exploring new opportunities, expanding into telehealth and gaining new contracts with different services for the clinic.

Christine Haase

Christine Haase, former administrative assistant for the School of Humanities and Sciences, retired Jan. 6. Haase's time at the college began more than 34 years ago in the Mail Center.

After that, she worked with the Center for the Study of Culture, Race, and Ethnicity, the Department of Philosophy

and Religion and the Jewish Studies program. She also served on the Staff Council for three terms.

Haase was known for her dedication and commitment to the school and the campus community, as well as her fellow staff and faculty.

Jess Shapiro

On Oct. 14, Jess Shapiro, former assistant director of the Office of Student Engagement, left the college and headed across town to a new role as a program manager for the College of Arts & Sciences Career Development Office at Cornell University.

At Ithaca College, Shapiro was the adviser to student groups that planned IC After Dark events and Senior Week, as well as being the adviser of the senior class.

Shapiro was responsible for creating the Campus Center Programming Grant, which provides student-run organizations and clubs a stipend to organize one-time weekend events in the IC Square area of the Campus Center.

Additionally, Shapiro organized the first three years of the Co-Curricular Symposium, a forum for students to share their formative experiences with the various co-curricular programs at the college.

Before coming to Ithaca, Shapiro worked at universities across the Midwest, like Denison University, Bowling Green State University and the University of Michigan.

OPINION

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025

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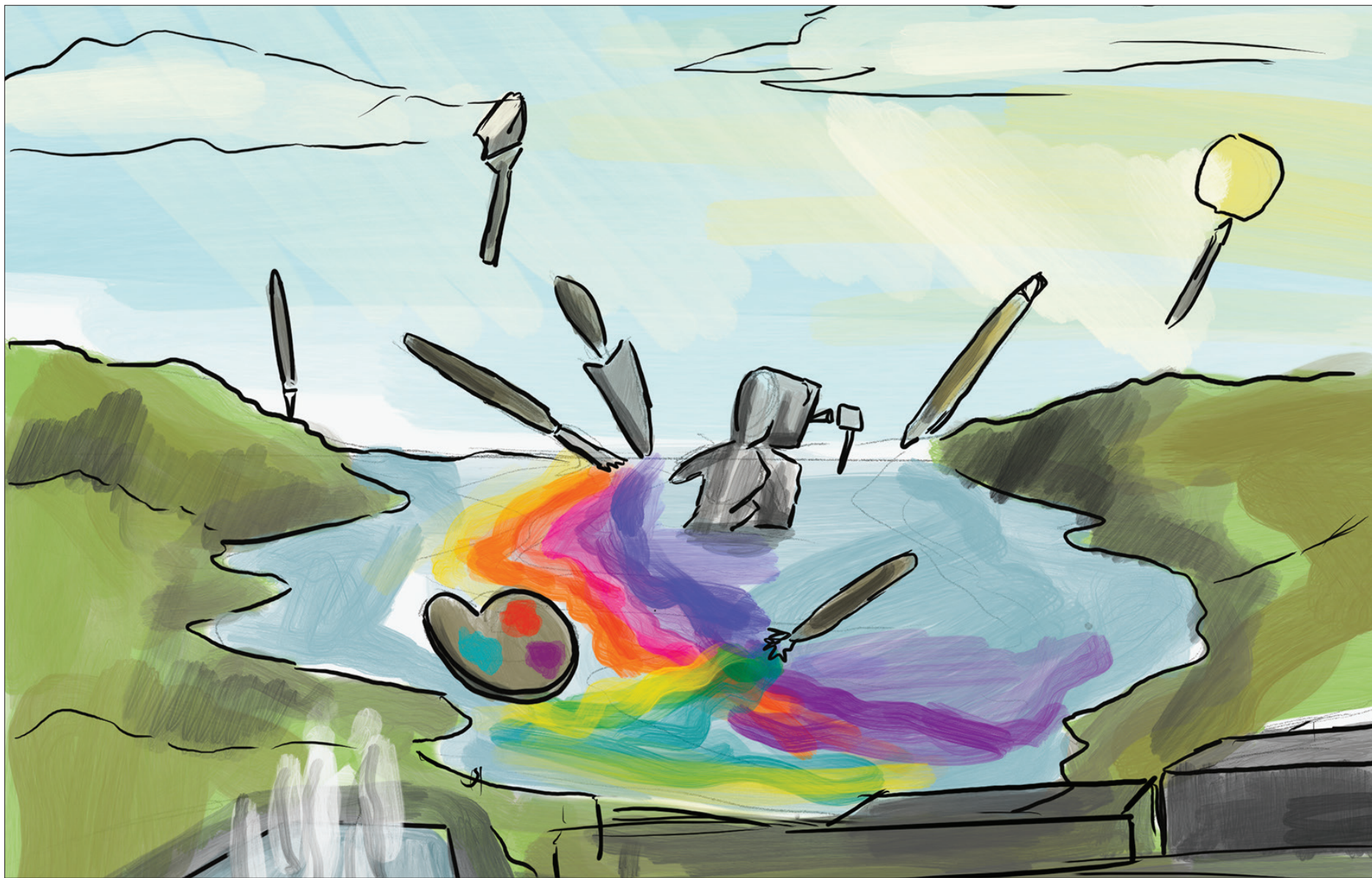


ILLUSTRATION BY ATTICUS JACKSON/THE ITHACAN

EDITORIAL

Ithaca's art scene is what makes the city so unique

Ithaca is known for its beautiful gorges, lavish gardens, organic farms, fine wineries and loving community. Yet, the most notable thing about the city is the mesmerizing art produced and cared for by locals.

Out of all medium-sized communities across the United States, the city ranks second for its community art vibrancy, according to data collected and published by the Southern Methodist University in Texas.

The moment one enters Ithaca, they are instantly greeted by mesmerizing murals and sentimental statues. Art galleries, music venues and theaters are on every corner. No matter the medium, art is in Ithaca's blood. Without it, the city would be unrecognizable.

During the day there are art events, open galleries, film screenings and public performances on The Commons. At night there are drag shows, live music in bars and theater productions. No matter the time of day, Ithaca never loses steam.

There is a conception that art is reserved for

the rich, which is a reasonable thought. Art is expensive to produce, requires money to improve and can often only be appreciated by those who can afford it. Though this may be true for other communities, Ithaca is different.

According to SMU's data results, the city takes first place in public support. Ithaca's art community thrives because of its shared goal to promote inclusivity. It recognizes and nurtures talent whenever it comes, regardless of background or technical ability.

The city's mission is to embrace every form of artistic expression and make it accessible to all, which it does. Art institutions in the area, like the Ithaca Community School of Music and Arts, actively work to break down barriers that stand between marginalized groups and creative activities.

To help financially support local artists, various programs give scholarships and grants for art programs. Free events are available for anyone to attend as well. The data proves that Ithaca, though small, is paving the way. Art is what makes Ithaca truly special.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Ithaca College community,

In this new year, *The Ithacan* is expanding on our commitment to provide informative and innovative community journalism. We are introducing new initiatives to strengthen our relationships with our Ithaca College and broader Ithaca communities and understand how we can better serve our community members.

We want to provide reliable, accurate, independent, fair coverage that reflects your needs and interests and makes your voices heard. We hope to build relationships with our community members and understand how we can better serve you. We want to know when our coverage has met your needs and when it has fallen short.

We're working to increase opportunities to get to know our staff members and share feedback about our coverage. In Fall 2024, we held our first ever open office event, which invited campus community members to meet with our staff and editorial board, share feedback about our coverage, learn about our reporting process and make suggestions about stories that we should cover.

During the spring semester, we will host more open offices, and we will table in locations around campus to offer more opportunities to get to know our team

and to share feedback about our coverage. We will launch a form on our website to share feedback about our reporting and interactions with our staff, as well as suggestions for future coverage.

In 2025, we are also working to increase our transparency and share more information regarding our mission, ethics and approach to reporting. Our new community guide outlines our policies, reporting processes and ethical standards. We hope this guide provides more insight into our reporting decisions and helps you feel more prepared to engage with our staff.

We want you to see yourselves in our coverage. We want our reporting to provide answers to your questions. We want to treat your stories with care and accurately represent your voices. We want you to feel comfortable coming to us with feedback and suggestions for coverage. Above all, we want to earn your trust and report for you.

Our community is our purpose, and we hope these initiatives will allow us to better serve you.

Thank you so much,
Kai Lincke '26
Community Outreach Manager

LETTERS 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 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.

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Ithaca arts vibrancy garners national praise

BY SHEELAGH DOE

LIFE AND CULTURE EDITOR

SMU DataArts, the national center for arts research, ranked Ithaca No. 2 for most arts vibrant medium sized communities in 2024. The downtown art scene in Ithaca flourished in public support of the arts in 2024, leading to this achievement.

Jennifer Benoit-Bryan, director of SMU DataArts, said researchers collect their own data and combine it with publicly available data about the financial and operational health of arts and culture organizations within a community.

The Arts Vibrancy Index polls the kind of support communities give the arts, including how many awards or grants are distributed, revenues in ticket sales and contributions, what gets paid out to employees and total expenses amidst other scores.

“Our indicator has 13 different measures,” Benoit-Bryan said. “We roll all of those scores up into an overall arts vibrancy metric and we really think about who’s providing arts and culture content in a community, like the artists, the employees, [and] the arts and cultural organizations themselves.”

Linda Luciano, property manager of South Hill Business Campus, built the Gallery at South Hill and Artist Alley, which has 54 studios and a year-long 20-person waitlist.

Luciano said she gets a wide variety of artists renting spaces, from painters to puppet makers.

“Some people do this and this is how they make their living and some people just [have] a hobby and everything in between,” Luciano said.

Despite adding nine more studios to Artist Alley in 2024, Luciano said she would love to add even more if there was the space. About five years ago, she had six studios built, all of which were

rented before she could display them at the open house.

“I went to the architect and I said ‘Hey, you know I gotta have some more. We got this open house, what am I gonna sell?’” Luciano said. “So I put tape on the floor where the new ones would be, had the open house, and I rented all of those. They weren’t built yet, it was just tape on the floor.”

Michael Sampson is the curator of the Gallery at South Hill and also runs Ithaca Gallery Nights, which showcases numerous artists in Ithaca on the first Friday of each month.

Ithaca Gallery Night is 25 years old and within the past year has gained 10 new venues. Sampson said that on average in 2024 there were 20 artist participants per month in the Friday gallery nights.

“As the program grows I think it’s bringing in a lot more people,” Sampson said. “So I’m noticing more attendance at Ithaca Gallery Night due to the fact that there’s more participation.”

While 2024 was a bustling year for art openings and a growing artist audience in Ithaca, there is one group of people that were largely missed: students.

Ed Brothers, president of the board of directors for State of the Art Gallery in Ithaca, along with Sampson and Luciano, expressed wanting to see more involvement from college students.

“We try to get an intern every year, which is usually from IC or Cornell,” Brothers said. “We love when students come in.”

Vincent Joseph, an artist at State of the Art Gallery, said there are some college students who come during gallery nights on Fridays, but not nearly enough. Joseph said that in his experience there has been a divide from college communities in the town as a whole.

“I would say that we have



Ithaca showcases its arts vibrancy through murals of various sizes across the city. “Youth Farm Mural,” located on Aurora St., is an example of many murals facilitated by Ithaca Murals. **MARISSA MOSCHELLA/THE ITHACAN**

made a pretty good effort trying to engage the college students,” Joseph said. “It hasn’t worked out to the full capacity that it could.”

Sampson said it was one of his goals to increase college student participation and to make sure students knew they were able to participate in Ithaca Gallery Night.

“I think one solution is to have more student exhibitions at Ithaca Gallery Night,” Sampson said. “With the opening of more venues, that’s more of an opportunity for students to exhibit their work.”

In 2024, Community Arts Partnership ArtSpace Gallery hosted a current Ithaca College student and an alum in its gallery, senior art major Safara Kalei Vaché and Jack Hassett ’24. Vaché said it was a learning experience as her first solo show.

“This was the first time I needed to get measurements of all of my pieces and really document them,” Vaché said. “It was something that was going to be much more public and honestly it was just really exciting.”

CAP ArtSpace is the statewide community regrant partner for the New York State Council on the Arts.

Megan Barber, the executive director of CAP, said CAP’s job is to redistribute the grants it receives for Ithaca from the statewide community regrant program to every corner of their county.

“So this year we have \$200,000 to give out to artists and arts groups for local arts programming for artists,” Barber said. “We have an artist and community grant, and then an arts and education grant. We also have a grant called the strategic opportunity

stipend, which supports local artists.”

These are just a sample of the grants they have to give out. Brothers said the primary grant that the State of the Art Gallery receives to help fund events is from CAP, which they have to apply for every year.

Barber said the gallery is always looking to increase their funding for the arts, which comes in the form of regrant funding. Regrant funding is when a larger organization distributes smaller grants from funding they receive in order to help direct money to smaller organizations or communities that need it.

“We used to get like \$80,000 of regrant funding from the state, and now it’s up to \$200,000, so that I feel really excited about,” Barber said.

According to the Arts Vibrancy Index, Benoit-Bryan said public support has been Ithaca’s strong suit.

“I think the place where there was the biggest leap from last year to this year has been in public support and in state arts funding,” Benoit-Bryan said. “But also in federal arts funding, ... which tells the non-profit organizations in Ithaca are really doing a great job of ... getting those grants funded and it tells me that in the state of New York in particular, that you’ve got some really good public support going out to Ithaca as a community.”

In 2023 Ithaca placed No. 3 for medium sized communities on the Arts Vibrancy Index. Benoit-Bryan said there often is not a large space between rankings at the very top of the list, and that moving from a rank of three to a rank of two can be a pretty

small change.

However, she said it was important to be able to celebrate the art vibrancy in communities and that they want the index to provide that.

“We really don’t want this to be used to shame communities,” Benoit-Bryan said. “It is exciting to be able to lift up and celebrate the amazing work that’s happening among arts and culture organizations, and so this has been a way to bring some positive attention to the way that arts and culture lives within communities, and can be an important part of these communities.”

For the next year, Joseph and Sampson share a similar goal in getting more performance-based participation from all different kinds of artists in their respective art events.

“I’m also really really interested for first Friday venues having demonstrations,” Sampson said. “Whether it’s calligraphy, or whether it’s knitting, anything that sort of feeds to the public and the public’s interest in actually seeing artists at work.”

Brothers has lived in Ithaca for 50 years and said the art scene has always been strong, but now he notices more of it.

“As you just walk around on the street, [there’s] more evidence of it because [of the] murals; I mean murals weren’t a thing 20 years ago,” Brothers said. “Now, you turn around and in fact there’s a whole community in Ithaca. ... There’s always been a new gallery, they sort of come and go but I think overall, there’s more. They’re accumulating rather than disappearing.”



State of the Art Gallery is displaying a group show of some of its member’s artwork, including oil pastel pieces by Ed Brothers. **MARISSA MOSCHELLA/THE ITHACAN**



REVIEWS

‘Mufasa: The Lion King’



BY NOLAN SHEEHAN

Attempting to build on Barry Jenkins’ impressive directing resume, “Mufasa: The Lion King” tells the prequel story of Disney’s “The Lion King.” Continuing the photo-realistic style in Disney’s 2019 remake of the original movie, Jenkins directs the tale of Mufasa and Scar’s relationship and how their conflict came to be. The premise, while worthy of a big-screen debut, unfortunately fails to live up to the quality of the original movie from the ’90s and its characters, much like how the live-action movie series began.

Unlike other entries in Jenkins’ directorial career such as “Moonlight” and “If Beale Street Could Talk,” the characters in the movie feel very underdeveloped. They make choices that, without proper buildup

in the story, feel jaded and disconnected from who they are established to be in the film. Scar— known as Taka (Kelvin Harrison Jr.), throughout the film— is the biggest example of this, betraying Mufasa for the main villain that has overtly wanted Taka dead. The betrayal doesn’t make sense, as Mufasa and Taka’s relationship had been the strongest factor in both of their lives. The writer clearly tries to push Taka into the direction of becoming Scar when Taka wouldn’t willingly take that direction.

“Mufasa: The Lion King” ultimately fails to roar to life. A collection of fantastic voice acting and a well-worked format are not enough to save the film from poor characters and a complete lack of stakes.

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‘Nosferatu’



BY WILL CARON

“Nosferatu,” released by Focus Features on Dec. 25, proves to be a visually stunning and interesting take on the age-old tale. The film was directed by Robert Eggers, who directed “The Lighthouse,” “The Witch” and many other acclaimed horror movies. “Nosferatu” is a retelling of the original 1922 silent film “Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror,” which was, in itself, a ripoff of the novel “Dracula,” meaning this film is adapting a nearly 130-year-old story.

“Nosferatu” serves as a very faithful retelling of the 1922 silent film, albeit with a few strange choices thrown in. This film revels in the uncomfortable and makes it very well known that it is willing to tackle mature content, almost to a fault.

Yes, this film is meant to be disturbing, yet it tackles its heavy themes and undertones in a way that can feel lacking in nuance. This movie deals with sexual assault, however, it did not spend the time necessary on the subject to grant it the depth it deserved beyond simply being scary.

With its overreliance on vampire tropes, some overall one-note characters and very dark subject matter that should have been granted more nuance, this film certainly is not for everyone. However, it serves as a very faithful, well-shot and well-acted retelling of one of cinema’s most important films. The lighting builds tension perfectly. This film leaves its mark on the viewer and deserves to be seen.

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‘The Brutalist’



BY LOGAN THOMPSON

Indie sensation and multi-Golden Globe winner “The Brutalist” is a grandiose spectacle that deserves to be seen on the biggest screen possible. It tells the story of a Jewish-Hungarian architect who flees postwar Europe amidst the Holocaust to start fresh in America. Although it’s structured like a slice-of-life film, its ideas are complex and touch on legacy, immigration, love, classism and much, much more.

Adrien Brody is a tour de force as renowned architect, László Tóth. After arriving on Ellis Island, he is welcomed with open arms and is invited to live in the Philadelphia home of his cousin Attila and Attila’s wife, Audrey. He quickly finds success as a designer for their furniture business. But even in America,

antisemitic and anti-immigrant prejudices threaten László’s success. Upon hearing László’s distaste for Attila converting from Judaism to Catholicism, Audrey’s fondness for him faded. Soon, László finds himself on the street and his cousins out of his life.

“The Brutalist” is much more than another film you’ll catch at your local multiplex, it is an experience. The movie and it’s dark direction explores whether America’s capitalist regime is any better than the fascism László escaped. It is grotesque in cognitive anguish, capturing America’s beauty and brutality. It is a celebration and a funeral. At the very least, this film is — to steal one of Van Buren’s favorite phrases — “intellectually stimulating.”

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‘DeBÍ TirAR Más FOToS’



BY MARIANA CONTRERAS

Almost a decade after Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio— known as Bad Bunny— started to gain recognition in the U.S. Hot Latin Songs lists, he released his sixth album, “DeBÍ TirAR Más FOToS,” on Jan. 5. The album goes beyond his usual trap and reggaeton sound, it dives into salsa, merengue, old-school perreo, bomba and plena — rhythms that originated and are a staple of Puerto Rican culture. With multiple features in the album, Bad Bunny shows his love and admiration to his nation not only through genres and lyrics but through collaboration with Puerto Rican artists like Boricua singer RaiNao, Omar Courtz, Dei V, the uprising band Chuwi and the plena group Los Pleneros de la Cresta.

The highlight of the album is “BAILE

INOLVIDABLE,” which starts as any other trap song. Bad Bunny laments losing a meaningful relationship as salsa softly fades with clear, silvery trumpets before turning into a Caribbean salsa.

This is Bad Bunny’s most vulnerable album yet, which makes it all the more enjoyable as not only music that touches your soul, but inspires us in times of despair. While not all of the 17 tracks are bangers, their impact is undeniable and the album’s reach is clear as it bridges solidarity among the new generation and the older generation. Bad Bunny is setting the standard for all Latin artists reaching the global stage to honor the sounds of their people.

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All-American family: like father, like son

BY DAVID SCHURTER

SPORTS EDITOR

With his recent First Team All-American selection, senior defensive back Jake Connolly followed in the footsteps of his father, Scott Connolly '96, who earned his All-American selection in 1995. The Connolly's became the second father-son duo in program history to both earn All-American honors.

In his senior season, Jake was recognized as the Liberty League Co-Defensive Player of the Year, leading the team with 86 total tackles and two forced and recovered fumbles. Jake also tallied 5 1/2 tackles for loss, one sack, one interception and six pass breakups.

Scott said he and his family would not be who they are without their ties to Ithaca College and their time as student-athletes.

"I'm not where I am today, and Jake is, for all kinds of purposes, not where he is without the Ithaca College football program," Scott said. "It's a special honor to be represented by a very special institution in Ithaca College."

Head coach Michael Toerper said Jake's unquestionable commitment to the team goes back to the beginning of his career, when he was waiting for his chance to take the field.

"He had a great opportunity to learn from a lot of guys that came before him that played a similar role, so he didn't take that for granted," Toerper said.

Toerper said Jake was the backbone of the team and that his work ethic is something that inspired others on the team to follow in his footsteps.

"When your best players are your hardest workers, then it is a great beacon for the culture of your program," Toerper said.

Toerper said Jake's parents' support of the program has built an everlasting relationship between the family and the college's coaches and players.

Before committing to the college, Jake was a multisport athlete, deciding between playing basketball or football in college. Jake eventually chose football and picked his father's alma mater. He said that the college was one of the last to recruit him, but that the Roy H. Park School of Communication's curriculum became the driving factor in his decision to commit.

Jake said that joining the long list of All-Americans to play for the program was something that was always in the back of his mind when he took the field. He said that seeing his vision fulfilled was an honor.

"Adding my name to that wall and into that list of legendary names means a lot to me," Jake said. "Just knowing all the hard work that I had put in over the four years paid off, and I was able to do everything that I could in my ability to just produce at a high-level on Saturdays."



From left, father-son All-American duo Scott Connolly '96 and senior defensive back Jake Connolly after the Ithaca College football team defeated the University of Rochester Yellowjackets on the road Oct. 21, 2023.

COURTESY OF SCOTT CONNOLLY

For Jake, the part of the football program he said he will remember the most is the time he spent with all of his teammates and coaches, from the long hours on the field to coming together as friends.

"I've made so many great relationships that I'll have for a lifetime," Jake said. "[Toerper] has done so much for me and my family, and we love him very much. Each and every player that has come through this program has been nothing but great, and the relationships and the experiences that I've had just really sit close up to my heart."

Scott, the athletic director at Bishop Fenwick High School in Peabody, Massachusetts, works with student-athletes interested in competing in college. He said that playing in college was never a question for Jake, but rather if the school he chose would be his new home.

"It's about the best fit for you," Scott said. "As parents, we look back now and just say Ithaca College was the best fit for Jake without question."

Scott, who played defensive end for the Bombers from 1992–95, also earned his All-American selection his senior season, when he totaled 10 sacks, 66 total tackles and 15 tackles for loss.

The only other father-son duo to both earn All-American honors in program history is offensive lineman Bob Garone '87 and his son Nick Garone '20 at the linebacker position.

Nick, like Jake, said his family ties run deep with the college. His older brother Bobby '15 also played for the program. Nick said the Connolly family joining that list was a great boost for the football program and the college in fostering a greater sense of community.

"I think Ithaca as a whole is a great place to spend your college years, and it says something about the community and the experience that you get when you go," Nick said. "Ever since I was a little kid, I wanted to go there because my dad went there."

Jake said that before he began his playing career, his goals were set in stone on joining his father and becoming an All-American. On Jan. 2, that thought became a reality for the Connolly family.

"It's super cool and I had known that my dad was an All-American when I was a freshman going here," Jake said. "I had always thought it would be very cool and just an honor to be able to share being All-American with him, especially

the father-son being the second time in program history, which is pretty crazy."

Toerper said Jake's playing career epitomizes the strength of Bombers football, providing a glimpse into what it takes to build a successful football career.

"When other guys watch Jake and the work that he puts in, it raises the level of everybody else because the results match the work," Toerper said.

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Senior defensive back Jake Connolly celebrates a big play for the Bombers in the 2023 Cortaca Jug game.

FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN



Scott Connolly '96 played defensive end for the Bombers from 1992–95, earning All-American honors in 1995.

COURTESY OF SCOTT CONNOLLY

First-year student navigates Bombers through injuries

BY JACOB INFALD
SPORTS EDITOR

The Ithaca College men's basketball team has had to navigate through adversity early on in the season as several key rotational pieces have been sidelined with injuries. However, led by the emergence of first-year forward Chris Leysath, the Bombers find themselves with a 9-5 record and are 6-1 in Liberty League competition.

When the season began, the Bombers only had nine healthy players. Sophomore forward Alex Penders, who was sidelined with a mid-ankle sprain, said this was the first time in his basketball career where he saw a team not have enough healthy players to play five-on-five scrimmages in practice.

"I think everybody kind of rallied behind the guys that were playing and that was something that I wasn't surprised by one bit, just because of the culture we have," Penders said.

Penders and sophomore center David Luberoff were expected to be two of the key interior players this season for the Bombers. With the two of them out, Leysath was thrust into a starting role to begin his collegiate career. However, he said he could not have done this without Penders and Luberoff's support.

"They helped me a lot with learning all the new roles, all the new plays and how to actually turn my game more into a college type," Leysath said.

Leysath had his coming out party Nov. 13 against rival SUNY

Cortland. He dropped career highs in points and rebounds with 16 and 13 and anchored the South Hill squad on the defensive end en route to a 64-58 victory.

The high emotions of a rivalry game did not deter Leysath as he said the only thing on his mind that night was winning.

"I kind of blacked out," Leysath said. "Like I got into some type of mode and I really wanted to win. The stats that I had was just a side piece to it, the win was really what I wanted."

Leysath's performance helped him win Liberty League Rookie of the Week for the week of Nov. 18, his first of three selections.

Head coach Waleed Farid said Leysath's ability to pass the ball, his high basketball IQ and his relentless work ethic, lead Farid to believe that the young star is just scratching the surface of his production as a Bomber.

"The team needed more than what we thought we were going to need from him and he stepped up to the challenge," Farid said.

Farid said he could not be more proud of the positive energy his injured players brought to the team, giving their rehab their all and continuing to show up to support their teammates.

"I think that did give energy to our guys that were out on the court because when you're seeing guys who could be taking a day off or could be slacking and they're not, I think that keeps you fired up," Farid said.

Penders said that while injured



First-year standout Chris Leysath faces up against a St. Lawrence University defender on the perimeter during the Bombers' most recent conference victory, in a 64-46 route Jan. 18 at home.

MARISSA MOSCHELLA/THE ITHACAN

he took the time to improve his vocal leadership while also ensuring he was prioritizing his own rehab. He said he would work with the athletic trainers once in between his classes and then again after practice for upward of an hour a day total.

This mindset paid off as Penders said his season debut against Vassar College on Dec. 6 was actually a couple weeks ahead of schedule. Penders dropped a season high 11 points the following game against Bard College where he drained three 3-point shots in a

key conference victory.

As the Bombers enter a critical stretch of Liberty League competition, they are ready to rebound from last year's late season struggles. Leysath said the entire team has bought in to winning the Liberty League and returning to the NCAA tournament for the first time since the 2019-20 season.

Farid said he believes that at the end of the day, the adversity his squad faced early in the season will help prepare them for the grueling home stretch. He said the way the

team overcame some tough key injuries helped to verify what he believed to be the team's biggest strength: its depth.

"We know there's going to be some close games throughout," Farid said. "We just got to continue to get better. We got to continue our level of discipline, especially in tight games, being able to focus on one possession at a time, focus on the execution whether it's defense or offense."

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Bombers on break: IC athletics performance recap

BY DAVID SCHURTER
SPORTS EDITOR

While Ithaca College students and faculty returned home for winter break, many varsity teams remained in action over the break. Basketball, swimming and diving, track and field, men's wrestling and gymnastics all competed during the academic recess, putting up multiple impressive performances.

Men's Basketball

The men's basketball team played six games to ring in the new year, finishing with a 4-2 record in those games. After nearly four weeks off, the team played its first game Jan. 4 against then-No. 19 Carnegie Mellon University, where it suffered a tough 87-73 loss. Following the loss, the Bombers tacked on four wins in five games — all within the Liberty League — improving their record to 9-5 and their Liberty League slate to an impressive 6-1 record, as of Jan. 19.

Women's Basketball

After a slow start to the season, dropping three of its first four games, the women's basketball team rebounded, going 6-4 in its last 10 games to return to an even record of 7-7 on the season. Since the beginning of play coming out of the break in December, it has been a tale of two streaks for the team. They dropped four straight games before catching fire during Liberty League play, ripping off four consecutive victories.

Men's Track and Field

Following the team's strong start to the season at the Cornell University Greg Page Relays on Dec. 7, the men's track and field team returned to the arena Jan. 11 for the Cornell University Southern Tier Invitational. Junior distance runner Ben Buffone set the

tone for the season, finishing fourth in the 3,000-meter run with a personal best time of 8:43.98, qualifying for both the Liberty League and AARTFC Championship.

The following weekend, the Bombers hosted their first meet of the season, the Ithaca College Quad meet. There, the team finished in fourth place, highlighted by first-year jumper Connor Yacomini winning the high jump, jumping 1.89 meters.

Women's Track and Field

The women's track and field team brought the energy upon its return to the track. At the Southern Tier Invitational, five athletes qualified for the AARTFC Championship: first-year jumper Eliana Barnett in the triple jump, junior distance runner Joy Petersen in the mile, senior thrower Lily Seyfert in the weight throw and shot put and senior multi-event Laura Suppa in the 200-meter dash.

At the quad meet, the pole vaulters stole the show and swept the podium. Sophomore Talia Hutchinson finished first with a jump of 3.55 meters, followed by juniors Erin Eastwood at 3.45 meters and Bree Boyle at 3.30 meters.

Men's Swimming and Diving

In the final stretch of its regular season, the men's swimming and diving team competed at Rochester Institute of Technology against the Tigers and Hamilton College Continentals. The Bombers fell to their Liberty League foe 183-117, but defeated the Continentals 166-132.

The Bombers also competed at the Henry Kumpf Invitational where they placed first as a team.

Women's Swimming and Diving

The women's team continued to impress individually over the break, despite falling to the Tigers and Continentals. Senior diver Kailee



The Ithaca women's basketball team celebrating as they walk off the court following a victory over Vassar College on Dec. 6, its first of six Liberty League victories.

ERIN SOLTANO/THE ITHACAN

Payne resumed her dominance on the boards by winning the 1- and 3-meter dives with scores of 254.70 and 301.80, respectively.

At the Henry Kumpf Invitational, the Bombers saw first-year student Sydney Koehler, freestyle and breaststroke swimmer, win the 200-yard breaststroke in a time of 2:28.07.

Wrestling

Posting a 9-1 record in duals this season, the No. 19 ranked Bombers wrestling team continued their dominance over the break. The team swept Messiah University's Chocolate Duals on Dec. 21, won the Ithaca Quad and defeated then-No. 20 Ohio Northern University at the Budd Whitehill National Du-

als at Lycoming College. The only loss for the Bombers at the National Duals was to No. 5 University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Gymnastics

Gymnastics kicked off the 2025 season with a close battle against SUNY Brockport on Jan. 12. The Bombers fell 187.625-86.550, but had several strong individual performances in the loss. Junior floor/vaulter Grace Murray managed the highest score in the vault, reaching the mark of 9.550. Murray closed out the meet with a 9.675 on the floor, keeping it close against the Golden Eagles, but not enough to take the lead.

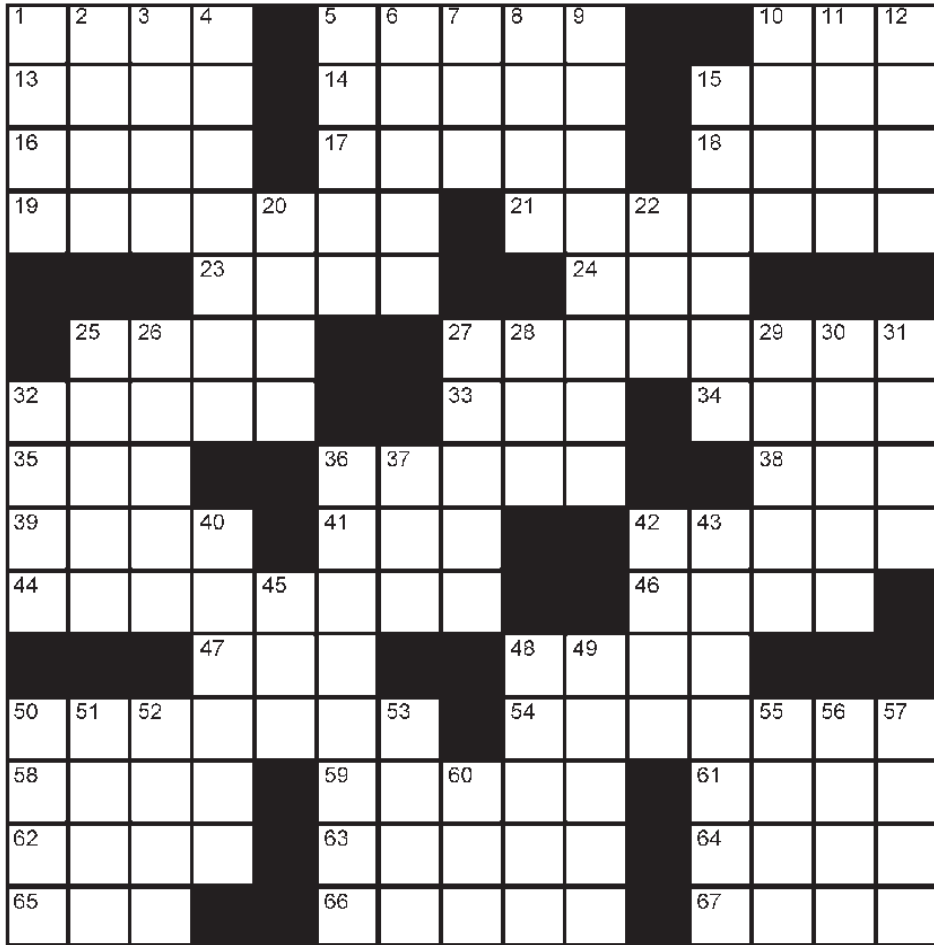
CONTACT: DSCHURTER@ITHACA.EDU

DIVERSIONS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025

crossword

By Quill Driver



ACROSS

- 1 Computer component
- 5 Waterway
- 10 Barracks bed
- 13 Bar mitzvah dance
- 14 Where Greeks once assembled
- 15 Skyrocket
- 16 Charity
- 17 Bird in a poem
- 18 Word in a threat
- 19 Poor villager
- 21 Stir up
- 23 Leg part
- 24 Saucer from space
- 25 Editor's override
- 27 Deliberate
- 32 Kills
- 33 Sch. subject
- 34 Timbre
- 35 Wheel center
- 36 Bit of grass
- 38 Favorite —
- 39 Love personified
- 41 — bran
- 42 Goes by boat
- 44 Supporters
- 46 Entreaty
- 47 Arctic bird

48 Self-satisfied

- 50 Way below freezing
- 54 Singer — Lynn
- 58 Nev. neighbor
- 59 Ram constellation
- 61 —-a-brac
- 62 "— Poppins"
- 63 Yields
- 64 Hard to come by
- 65 Antiquity
- 66 Strange
- 67 Copycat

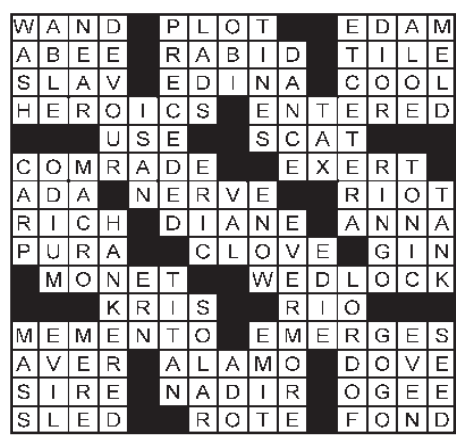
DOWN

- 1 Guy
- 2 Golfer's target
- 3 "Garfield" waitress
- 4 Access provider
- 5 Chili con —
- 6 Marble
- 7 Calendar abbr.
- 8 Length times width
- 9 English or Spanish
- 10 Fizzy drink
- 11 Tobacco kiln
- 12 Sapling
- 15 Get going (2

- wds.)
- 20 Insects
- 22 "No —, ands or buts"
- 25 Drink noisily
- 26 Forbidden
- 27 Supermarket
- 28 Conclude
- 29 — the Riveter
- 30 WWII plane — Gay
- 31 Lairs
- 32 "— Gotta Have It"
- 36 Place for tomes
- 37 Roman god

- 40 Stylish
- 42 Goad
- 43 Math class
- 45 Take legal action
- 48 Smooth
- 49 Like forest floors
- 50 Idem
- 51 River in Russia
- 52 Shuttlecock
- 53 Word on a cookie
- 55 Pitfall
- 56 Retread
- 57 Maple genus
- 60 "... as I say, not as —"

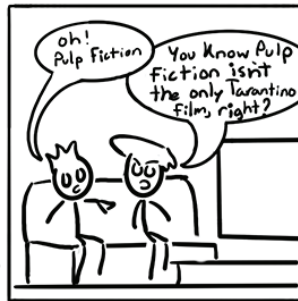
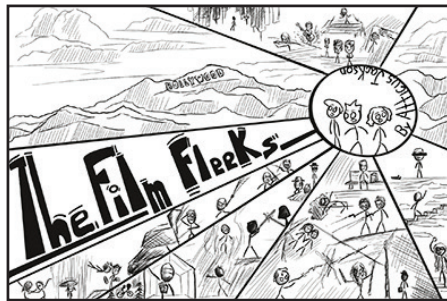
last issue's crossword answers



Ithacan Cartoons

The Film Fleeks

BY ATTICUS JACKSON/THE ITHACAN



answers to last issue's sudoku:

very easy

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

medium

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

easy

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

hard

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

