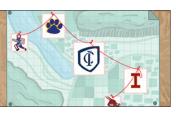
THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025 THE ITHACAN VOLUME 92 ISSUE 14

ACCURACY • INDEPENDENCE • INTEGRITY

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SPORTS | page 11 LOCAL ITHACA ATHLETES PLAY AT IC ATHLETICS

Deaf studies minor to be cut after Fall 2025

BY SHEELAGH DOE

LIFE AND CULTURE EDITOR

Ithaca College's Deaf studies minor has been put on an administrative pause and is currently not accepting more students for the foreseeable future. The three ASL lecturers at the college are being laid off after the Fall 2025 semester.

According to professors in the program, this minor has proven itself popular among students in and out of the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Department, where the program is housed.

There are about 31 seniors, 14 juniors, eight sophomores and two first-year students enrolled in the minor in Spring 2025.

Lynne Hewitt, professor and chair of the Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, said the department is making sure all students who are already enrolled will be able to complete the minor in Fall 2025. As of April 7, she said all students who started taking classes in the program but were unable to formally declare the minor before it went on pause, can have their request accommodated.

Hewitt said that part of the college's plan for balancing the budget involves scrutinizing its staffing and programs, which they are asked to do every year. She said they were really asked to look at staffing their courses with full-time faculty. Hewitt said the Deaf studies minor is staffed with three experts in American Sign Language and Deaf studies who are all part-time lecturers. The fact that they are all part-time faculty came into consideration when discussing the department's staff and programs around January 2025.

On April 3, President La Jerne Cornish sent out an email to the campus community as part of an Administrative Review update. In the email, she wrote that the college has been conducting a detailed analysis over the past six months to identify opportunities that could drive financial improvement.

Lisa Witchey, instructor for ASL courses, said via email that she and her colleagues were officially informed in March that there was a small chance there would be classes for the minor in Spring 2026, but was later informed that classes would end after Fall 2025.

"I knew the college was facing budgetary issues, but never did I think the organizational restructuring would include the Deaf minor," Witchey said via email. "There are not many colleges that offer Deaf minor which makes Ithaca College unique in that regard. ...



From left, part-time ASL lecturers Jim Meyers, Lisa Witchey and Kip Opperman will be laid off after Fall 2025 because Ithaca College is putting the Deaf studies minor on an administrative pause. SHEELAGH DOE/THE ITHACAN

Understandably, I was quite shocked and, dare I say, in mourning. I could not foresee my 22-year career not coming to an end on my terms."

Jim Meyers, instructor for ASL, teaches some of the intro-level ASL classes and said he and the other professors were not involved in the conversation to pause the program.

"It happened that our department chair came in and just kind of mentioned ... there's decisions that have been made to both ... the ASL program as well as the Deaf studies minor," Meyers said. "It was mentioned very gently, I will be honest about that. We've had great support from that department, but I had no idea that it was coming prior to that."

Meyers said part of the surprise stemmed from the fact that the ASL classes the college offers fill up quickly. Meyers and Kip Opperman, instructor for ASL, both said their ASL classes are always full with up to 20 students.

"Deaf people are expected to

acquiesce to the majority hearing culture by learning how to speak," Opperman said. "So it's great that [my classes have been] ... full since I've been [teaching here]; we've never had to go out recruiting students. There is an interest — a significant interest — in the hearing population of Ithaca College to learn."

Meyers said he had to make an announcement in his classes to make everyone aware of the

DEAF STUDIES, PAGE 4

Ithaca College works to decrease budgetIC expands AIdeficit through revenue enhancementuse on campus

BY KAI LINCKE

because we would reach points at which the services we'd offer would just not be to the standard and caliber ... for what the students expect and what the students really need," Downs said. Melanie Stein, provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs, explained during the February State of the College meeting that Huron has found four primary paths to increase revenue: tuition and fees, academic program development, athletics and advancement strategy. Downs said enrollment and net tuition revenue have the largest impact on revenue. According to its FY 2024 audited financial statement, the college generated \$167.4 million of its total \$208.4 million revenue from student-related revenues: tuition. room and board.

BY JULIAN DELUCIA

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR Throughout the 2024-25 academic year,

MANAULI

Ithaca College has been working with Huron Consulting Group since October 2024 to identify strategies to close the budget deficit through a balance of cutting costs and increasing revenue. Administrators are pursuing multiple paths to increase revenue, including increasing enrollment, net tuition revenue, retention and philanthropic gifts.

Tim Downs, vice president of the Division of Finance and Administration and chief financial officer, said he projects that the college's budget deficit will increase from \$4.1 million at the end of fiscal year 2024 to \$12 million by the end of FY 2025. Downs said the college hopes to close more than half of the deficit through revenue enhancement and growth.

"We cannot cut our way down

To try to increase net tuition revenue, Downs said the college will change the discount rate — the



Ithaca College administrators are pursuing multiple paths to increase revenue, including increasing enrollment. JULIAN DELUCIA/THE ITHACAN

share of the listed cost of attendance that students actually pay after receiving merit aid and financial aid — to 60% for incoming students starting in Fall 2025. **Maintaining Enrollment**

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, which studies higher education demographic trends and innovation, forecasts that college enrollment will significantly decline starting in Fall 2025 as the number of high school graduates

REVENUE, PAGE 4

Information and a solution of the solution of

The Presidential Working Group on AI is a group of faculty, staff and students that has been working since July 2024 to create the plan and principles for further integrating AI into the college. In the last few months, the group has visited various representative bodies — Student Governance Council, Faculty Council and Staff Council — for feedback.

Dave Weil, vice president and chief information and analytics officer, said the implementation of AI must be strategic and appropriate, especially as a small institution. Weil said the focus of AI in a smaller institution should be to reduce the time spent on tedious

AI, PAGE 4

Nation & World News

Ukraine says Russian missiles kill dozens on Palm Sunday

Ukraine said more than two dozen people were killed and scores were injured after Russian missiles struck the city of Sumy, days after U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff met with Russian President Vladimir Putin to discuss ending the war.

The city's regional administration said two ballistic missiles hit the center of the city, in northeastern Ukraine, on Palm Sunday morning.

- Greg Sullivan and Aliaksandr Kudrytski/Bloomberg News/TNS

Israel bombs Gaza hospital as military operations intensify

The Israeli army said it targeted a command and control center used by Hamas located inside Al Ahli Hospital in northern Gaza, a day after establishing a new corridor dividing Rafah from the rest of the Gaza Strip and expanding its military offensive.

Hamas used the compound to plan and execute attacks against Israeli civilians and troops, according to the Israel Defense Forces. The IDF said it took measures to minimize harm to civilians prior to the strike, including issuing warnings, using precision-guided munitions and conducting aerial surveillance.

– Omar Tamo/Bloomberg News/TNS

Trump is in 'excellent health,' White House physician says

Donald Trump's annual physical examination found that the 78-year-old president was "fully fit to execute the duties of the Commander-in-Chief and Head of State."

There were "no abnormalities in his mental status, cranial nerves, motor and sensory function, reflexes, gait and balance," the White House physician, Sean P. Barbabella, wrote in a memo released April 13.

-Lauren Dezenski/Bloomberg News/TNS

Cuomo vows to build 500K housing units in New York City

Mayoral candidate Andrew Cuomo is rolling out a housing plan that seeks to build 500,000 new apartments in New York City over 10 years, but the blueprint is light on some key specifics and contains few novel policy prescriptions for how to achieve the ambitious goal.

The 29-page proposal is presented as a road map for how Cuomo, as a seasoned government veteran, can turn the tide on the city's housing crisis, which has caused rents to skyrocket amid a dearth of vacant apartments and surging demand.

- Chris Sommerfeldt/New York Daily News/TNS



Beijing and northern China hit with storms

Storms and wind gusts are wreaking havoc in China's capital Beijing and some northern regions of the country. Many events were canceled due to the weather. — dpa/TNS

AFP/GETTY IMAGES/TNS

Pitt research points to solution for problem of bacteria resistance

Daria Van Tyne did not expect to see changes in a population of bacteria taken from a UPMC hospital. Her hunch was wrong, but the results of her recent study point to a potential solution for antibiotic resistance. Bacteria are ancient creatures that have learned advanced evolutionary behaviors over billions of years. The particular strain Van Tyne was studying, enterococcus faecium, exists in the guts of humans and many animals and is hard to kill.

— Hanna Webster/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/TNS

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IC Creatives: Devils in the Details

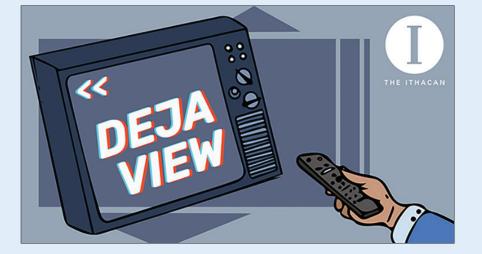
The Ithacan went on set to experience what it is like to work on a student film set. Sophomore filmmaker Meghan Macsuga describes the narrative and process of her work.

THE ITHACAN

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Deja View – Hard Sci-Fi

Hosts Dylan Long and Christopher Meadows discuss the real-world sci-fi elements of "The Martian" (2015), "Sunshine" (2007) and "Ad Astra" (2019). New episode Friday! AD SALES MANAGER NEWSLETTER EDITOR ITHACAN ADVISER GRACE VANDERVEER MARIANA CONTRERAS CASEY MUSARRA

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SGC holds open house to hear student feedback

BY AELA SHAW

STAFF WRITER

The Ithaca College Student Governance Council hosted an open house April 14 instead of a regular council session. SGC recorded that 75 students came to learn about the council, share concerns, participate in a raffle and eat from an Indian buffet.

During the executive board's opening remarks, junior Rishabh Sen, president of the student body, highlighted recent SGC initiatives. Among these initiatives were the 2021 bill to improve lighting on campus and the 2022 bill to require all academic buildings to have at least one gender-neutral bathroom.

Senior Kathi Hodel, vice president of business and finance, announced that the interest form to run for SGC for the 2025-26 academic year has opened. She said information sessions will be held for interested students April 18 and 21, followed by platform presentations April 24, voting April 28-29 and final results April 30. The first meeting with the new senate will be held May 5. All SGC meetings are open to the student body.

Junior Caleb Cackowski, vice president of communications, told attendees about the importance of SGC as a representative body for students. He said that while it is valuable to run for a seat on the council, students can also get involved by



From left, junior Senate Chair Nikki Sutera and junior Rishabh Sen, president of the student body, had conversations with students who did not know what SGC was before attending.

voicing their concerns and ideas to existing members.

"If you take away nothing else, SGC is here as a service for you," Cackowski said.

Students then made their way around seven stations — residential affairs, student affairs and campus life, academic affairs, appropriations, social justice and sustainability, elections and "ask us anything" — where they spoke to senators about their

to work in SGC.

Senior Andres Hernandez said he barely knew anything about the council before attending.

"I wanted to see what SGC was doing for students on campus and if they could give me any kind of clue as to how it's going to look after I graduate," Hernandez said.

Other students came to the open house with concerns about campus. First-year student Rob Wintsch said he spoke to senators about implementing a gender-neutral bathroom policy for non-academic buildings, noting that Muller Chapel does not have one. He also said he is passionate about environmental sustainability. At the open house, Wintsch advocated for limiting the amount of time residential building lights stay on at night and then found out that SGC is working on an initiative to dim the lights at night. "I didn't know that [SGC] did all this stuff," Wintsch said. "I have brought up a couple issues and they're like, 'Oh, we're working on that."

First-year student Sam Knight said he came to the open house to express concerns about the implementation of artificial intelligence on campus. He criticized the college's AI mini-grants, stipends given to professors during the 2024-25 academic year to integrate AI into their curriculum to promote AI literacy. Knight said the mini-grants divert resources away from skilled professors in the Department of Computer Science who work with large language models, the machine-learning model used by AI softwares like ChatGPT.

"We have people here who are doing this research, and it's going to random professors in other fields so they can incorporate AI," Knight said.

SGC members said they were happy with the outcome of the open house. Junior Senate Chair Nikki Sutera said she had meaningful conversations with students who did not know what SGC was before attending, but left knowing their senators. She said several students asked how they can get involved in SGC.

"It is so exciting to see students take the initiative to be leaders on campus, and I am happy that so many people learned that SGC is a place where that can happen," Sutera said via email.

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IC research looks into monkey population decline

BY JACOB GELMAN

STAFF WRITER

Lisa Corewyn, associate professor in the Department of Biology and coordinator of the anthropology minor at Ithaca College, and Kari Brossard Stoos, microbiologist and associate professor in the Department of Health Sciences and Public Health, are studying a population of mantled howler monkeys. They, along with students from Corewyn's research lab, are investigating why the population of monkeys is declining by genotyping fecal samples and analyzing that data. This knowledge could then be applied to other wildlife to stabilize the decline of endangered species.

A method the researchers are using to investigate is genotyping, which involves studying the genetic makeup of an individual and analyzing that DNA. Mantled howler monkeys are classified as an endangered species and are commonly found in Central and South America, among other locations. Corewyn said this species of monkey has held pretty well against human development and that its decreasing numbers serve as an indicator that something may be wrong.

go toward the greater cause."

Corewyn said that as long as protocols are followed and the fecal samples used to genotype the monkeys are stored correctly, she and her students can sample the fecal matter collected from the field for a very long time. They currently have around 300 samples.

Student researchers are working with Corewyn to genotype individual monkeys by using microsatellites, which are tracts of repetitive DNA located within an organism's genome. They extract DNA from the sample, then run that DNA through a polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Shortly after, Corewyn and her team take the data from the PCR to Cornell's Genomics Facility for sequencing. They then plug what they found into a computer software program, which allows them to read alleles and genes using bioinformatics to understand that information.



rom left Appley Steery (20 worked with Line Corowyn, appendiate professor in the

Brossard Stoos said via email that she is working with Corewyn to examine the spread of antimicrobial resistance among gut bacteria in wildlife. She said the presence of resistant bacteria could mean human intrusion into wild spaces, which Brossard Stoos said would point to a greater need for conservation.

Junior Brianna Jankowski, a health science major working with Corewyn, said she hopes appropriate action is taken if the data indicates a solution for the monkeys. This could include efforts to limit deforestation or to build corridors so the population expands.

"I think that maybe some kind of implementation of laws could be done," Jankowski said. "That's obviously a super big picture, and this is a smaller research product project, but it's all to Corewyn said climate change is a major factor in the population decline of mantled howler monkeys. According to the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, climate change causes droughts, which alter the wet and dry seasons that Corewyn said the monkeys are used to.

Corewyn said another problem many species face is a lack of room to move around due to habitat loss, which can cause decreased biodiversity within a species. Anthropogenic barriers often consist of man-made structures, like roads and highways, that cut through ecosystems.

Corewyn's lab research on mantled howler monkeys requires permits and funding, as do other methods to help endangered species, like building corridors. Corewyn said that obtaining permits that allow her to conduct wildlife research and collect biological samples is both time-consuming and complicated, as is getting funding. This is because of the extensive paperwork process. Corewyn said via email that any significant funding available in the U.S. for a project such as the mantled howler monkey research would only Department of Biology, in 2018 doing ongoing research on mantled howler monkeys.

be possible through grants from the National Science Foundation. Corewyn said the NSF was hit hard with recent budget cuts. According to ScienceInsider, NSF has awarded almost 50% fewer grants since President Donald Trump took office.

Corewyn said she and her research team used to go to the site in Costa Rica every summer to study, but they have not been able to travel to Costa Rica since 2022 because of the funding and permitting process.

"Now, with our regulatory agencies, we can't import fecal samples without CDC permits," Corewyn said. "The CDC might be disbanded under the current administration, so those are all threats to the kind of work we do."

Senior biology major Leo Iandolo said that researching with Corewyn is teaching him how to use PCR machines.

"Learning how to use different machines is always helpful because you might use something similar in the future," Corewyn said. "Being able to get comfortable with [the machines] quickly so that you don't worry too much about them [is helpful] because the more you worry, the worse things get. And if you can comfortably work with different things, even if it's the first [or] second time, it makes it a lot easier."

Corewyn said it is vital for people to be aware of the diminishing biological diversity in the world.

"It's really important that we take responsibility and better understand the world around us so that it's there for future generations," Corewyn said. "[The monkeys] don't need us, but we need them. We definitely need them. And that's a message that gets lost in our everyday life. ... What's going on in this world is pretty important."

CONTACT: JGELMAN@ITHACA.EDU

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adminstrative pause.

"It's disappointing," Meyers said. "[The program has] gotten stronger over time. ... We felt like we were peaking or at a good stage of where the minor was."

Witchey said that each semester, ASL II classes host ASL gatherings for ASL I students. They practice their language skills in small groups and Deaf community members are invited to lead a question and answer session.

"I wanted to share this vibrant and rich language with others," Witchey said via email. "In general, it boosts communication skills, enhanced cognitive abilities [and] opportunities to learn about a new culture."

Senior McKenna Deignan, who completed the Deaf studies minor in her junior year, is the president of iSign, a student-run organization devoted to learning ASL and building awareness of Deaf culture. She said students in the club are hoping that with the loss of ASL classes, their attendance outcome will improve.

Deignan said she became interested in the language in high school when she met a deaf child who she could not understand.

"I had no idea what she was talking about," Deignan said. "And I felt really bad as a person that I could not communicate with her, and it wasn't her fault, it was mine. So from that point on, I started teaching myself. ... Just her face the next time I showed up — you could tell her parents were so grateful."

The Deaf studies minor



From left, first-year students Evening Doyle and ElsaSofia Rodriguez learn the signs, grammar and distinct syntax of ASL along with the cultural aspects of the community in their class. SHEELAGH DOE/THE ITHACAN

includes learning the signs, grammar and distinctly different syntax of ASL along with the cultural aspects of the community.

In Opperman's intro-level ASL courses, the first hour is spent with no speaking. Students learn about each other and their professor through the visual language — learning to dismantle the societal norm that speaking is the only way to communicate. Sophomore Emily Donahue said the courses give students a chance to understand the cultural ties to the language.

"DEI is no longer enforced as much as it was, under the new presidential administration," Donahue said. "You're cutting out a program that is very much about inclusivity and making a minority group of people feel taught about."

Hewitt said the school had dialogues about pausing the minor earlier because they wanted to look at the curriculum and student feedback to make sure the courses were as contemporary as they could be.

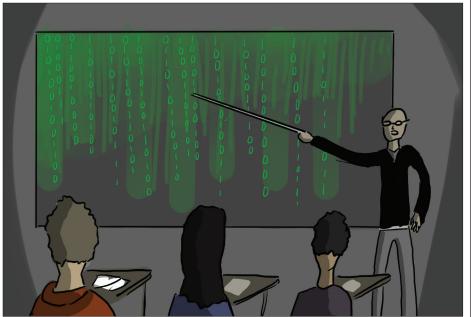
She said the ASL instructors were alerted of the decision to pause the program as soon as she was given the final information. While there is no current plan to reinstate the program, Hewitt said that being able to bring some version of the minor back in the future is a goal of hers.

"We'll miss [the lecturers] very much," Hewitt said. "Kip is always a beam of sunshine. It has been a pleasure working with them."

Deignan said iSign has been trying to express its gratitude for the lecturers. Despite the sadness surrounding the situation, Witchey said that the decision of which staff to let go must have been an agonizing decision for the department.

"The college is losing over 60 years of experience amongst the three ASL Instructors," Witchey said via email. "My mind wanders in thinking how many more years are being lost in all the cuts campus-wide. Recognition of our careers, in some way, would end my time here on a positive note."

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The shifting focus on AI in education is not solely in higher education. According to a

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decreases. WICHE predicts that concerns about college affordability and doubts about the value of a college education also contribute to declining enrollment.

Patrick Lane, vice president of Policy Analysis and Research at WICHE, said there is no perfect solution to the challenges facing colleges because each college's context is so different.

"Our big takeaway — and this is not by any means exciting or novel or new — is [colleges must] measure and evaluate and adjust," Lane said.

Downs said the college is working to increase retention over the next three to four years and is considering ways to better support students while increasing efficiency. For example, he said the college is planning to move the Center for Student Success and the Center for Career Exploration and Development within the division of Academic Affairs starting July 1. Downs said this will allow students to go to one central location for advising and career support and could reduce the number of staff members needed to support the volume of students.

The college is also investing in intercollegiate athletics. Downs said students who otherwise might not consider IC often enroll because they have the opportunity to play their sport, and student-athletes have a higher retention rate than other student populations. **Academic Program Development**

Stein said administrators often look at the academic portfolio — the college's undergraduate majors and minors and graduate program offerings — to make sure that the college has degree programs that students want to pursue.

The college started working with Hanover Research, a market research consulting firm, during the 2024-25 academic year to identify academic programs that the college can add or reimagine to attract more students and increase enrollment.

Hanover benchmarks the number and types of academic programs at IC with peer institutions' offerings, and it compares the number of students that are graduating from each program.

Stein said her office decided to start working with Hanover to obtain market research to guide faculty members' academic program development work.

"In [this] kind of environment, every college needs to try to be as smart as possible about how it's shifting and adapting its program mix to align with what the workforce markets need and what students are looking for," Stein said.

Stein said her office is working on developing or reimagining 17 academic programs — including undergraduate majors and minors, as well as graduate degrees.

It can take several months to a few years for the college to develop new programs or changes to existing programs and get them approved by the New York State Education Department. **Philanthropy**

Laine Norton, vice president for Philanthropy and Engagement, said the college is also working to grow the endowment. The college can spend up to 4.5% of its endowment each year, so growing the endowment will allow the college to take out more money. Norton said the college is also trying to connect with alumni to attain more private gifts and grants, which can offset costs that the college would otherwise carry. Downs said private gifts can fund capital projects, like the new outdoor track, and scholarships, which count toward students' financial aid awards. The college received \$4,062,304 in private gifts and grants in FY 2024.

FROM AI, PAGE 1

tasks and enhance interpersonal experiences.

"Things you might spend half an hour doing ... the AI tool can do it in a minute," Weil said. "Now you have 29 more minutes in your day to meet with people or engage with [other] things."

Weil said there are three ways to consider AI uses on campus: productivity AI like ChatGPT or Microsoft Copilot, embedded AI — or AI that comes with a program like Zoom AI — and AI programs developed at IC like the AI for Ithaca College Awareness, Response, and Education Team (ICare) support.

Jenna Linskens, director of the Center for Instructional Design and Educational Technology, said students need to be familiar with AI because of how it is changing the job market.

"Digital literacy is not a new thing," Linskens said. "What it is though, is an evolving thing. We need to look at adding AI into that digital literacy and preparing our students for the workforce."

At the beginning of Spring 2025, Ann-Marie Adams, assistant professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences, and Studies, received an Artificial Intelligence Mini-Grant from the Center for Instructional Design and Educational Technology. The mini-grant, which began in Fall 2024, is a \$600 stipend for developing and integrating AI into the course curriculum.

Since the generative AI boom in 2023, more data has been uncovered about the environmental effects of AI. Susan Allen, professor and chair of the Department of the Environment, said AI requires immense computing power, consuming large amounts of electricity and freshwater and causing significant carbon emissions. AI programs require data centers, temperature-controlled buildings dedicated to housing large computer systems.

A recent preprint by researchers at the University of California, Riverside, the University of Houston and the University of Texas at 2024 AIPRM report, 54% of grade school students use AI tools for schoolwork. ILLUSTRATION BY ATTICUS JACKSON/THE ITHACAN

Arlington found that by 2027, AI data centers will consume as much freshwater as half the United Kingdom. By 2026, it is also estimated that the electricity consumption of global data centers will sit between Russia and Japan as the fifth-largest global electricity consumer.

Allen said it would be very difficult to measure how much of an impact on the environment AI use on campus would have. Scott Doyle '98, director of Energy Management and Sustainability, said there are no measures to observe AI impact on sustainability reports, but it will become easier to measure as the energy management industry continues to learn more about it.

"I think there's actually a ton of interesting research in this [industry] that thinks about, 'Hey, ... what's the best way we can use this for advancing our goals and not going backwards?"" Doyle said.

Allen said she believes the school should

pursue AI initiatives to keep up with the latest educational technologies. She still has concerns regarding the environment and the impact on students' ability to learn and think for themselves.

"Are we moving to a society where no one has to know anything because you can look it all up?" Allen said. "What does it mean in terms of our ability to communicate with each other?"

Weil said it is important to understand that AI has limitations but also to acknowledge its potential.

"We have to acknowledge the reality that the world is embracing AI so we can't ignore it," Weil said. "Ithaca College is an institution dedicated to empowering people through theory, practice and performance. ... We are thinking deeply and very intentionally about the use of these tools for Ithaca."

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Norton said her team prepares endowment reports to show how donations impact current students and the campus community.

"Private dollars are going to be a significant contributor to our differentiation as an institution," Norton said. "It's a really powerful and transformative way to be involved in the future of the college."

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COLLEGE BRIEFS

Student Film &TV Alliance to hold headshot fundraiser in Park Hall

The New York Film & Television Student Alliance is hosting a headshot fundraiser from 9 a.m. to noon April 18 in Park Hall room 144. Attendees can get headshots taken for \$5.

The Makerspace to host a mini needle rug making workshop

The Makerspace is hosting a mini punch needle rug workshop from 5-7 p.m. April 18 in Friends Hall room 102. Attendees will learn how to make a tiny punch needle rug with materials provided by the Makerspace.

Business School holds a panel on urban green space planning

The School of Business is hosting a panel on urban green spaces from 5:30-6:45 p.m. April 22 in the Dorothy D. and Roy H. Park Center for Business and Sustainable Enterprise room 111.

The event is part of Sustainability Week and will focus on green spaces, planning and education. The panel will feature Dan Flerlage, retired member of the Youth Farm Project in Ithaca; Karen Edelstein, author at FracTracker Alliance and member of the Unique Natural Areas Board for Tompkins County and Sarake Dembele '24.

Outing Club leads Natural Lands hike for Sustainability Week

The Ithaca College Outing Club is holding a hike from 4:30-5:30 p.m. April 23 in the Natural Lands as part of Sustainability Week. The club will meet at the entrance outside of Boothroyd Hall. Attendees are encouraged to wear weather appropriate clothing and to bring a water bottle.

The fourth annual Co-Curricular Symposium to be held April 24

The Office of Student Engagement is holding the fourth annual Co-Curricular

Symposium from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 24 in the Clark and Klingenstein Lounges in the Campus Center.

The event will be a celebration of students across campus and will showcase what they have learned through their involvement in co-curriculars at the college.

DKA Cinematic Society arranges a Wes Anderson trivia game

The Delta Kappa Alpha Professional Cinematic Society is hosting a Wes Anderson trivia event from 7-8 p.m. April 24 in Textor 103. At the event, there will be a chance to win a Grubhub gift card. Entry into the event costs \$3 for individuals and \$5 for a group.

The proceeds go to the Motion Picture & Television Fund.

Terry Carroll to give the keynote address for Sustainability Week

The School of Business is holding a keynote address with Terry Carroll, chief sustainability officer for Tompkins County, from 5-6:30 p.m. April 24 in Textor 102 as part of Sustainability Week.

Carroll will share his experience working on clean energy and sustainability issues and the sustainability initiatives the county is pursuing.

Holocaust survivor to speak on Holocaust Remembrance Day

Judith Altmann will speak about her experience as a survivor of the Holocaust for Holocaust Remembrance Day at 6 p.m. April 24 in the Dorothy D. and Roy H. Park Center for Business and Sustainable Enterprise room 104.

Altmann will take questions from the audience and will attend the event on Zoom.

Easter Mass to be led by Ithaca College Catholic Community

The Ithaca College Catholic Community will be holding Mass for Easter at 6 p.m. April



New tradition springs fountains to life

On April 4, Ithaca College President La Jerne Cornish counted down to the fountains turning on for the rest of the semester. Members of the campus community attended to see the fountains on for the first time since November.

20 in Muller Chapel.

Dinner will be provided after the Mass. Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact Katie Dillabaugh at kmahoney1@ithaca.edu or 419-450-9003.

Park Center for Independent Media presents 17th Izzy Awards

The Park Center for Independent Media is hosting the 17th annual Izzy award at 7 p.m. April 30 in Emerson Suites in the Campus Center.

Steve Mellon of the Pittsburgh Union Progress and Maximillian Alvarez of The Real News Network will be awarded at the event. Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodation should contact Marcy Sutherland, msutherland1@ithaca.edu.

Author Jack Mayer coming for Hillel-hosted book discussion

Ithaca College Hillel: Foundation for Jewish Campus Life is hosting a book club discussion with Jack Mayer, author of "Life in a Jar: The Irina Sendler Project," from 11 a.m. to noon April 25 in Clark Lounge in the Campus Center.

Those who are interested can email Julie Boden Adams at jbodenadams@ithaca.edu to pick up a free copy of the book.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM MARCH 31 TO APRIL 6

MARCH 31

RAPE THIRD DEGREE

LOCATION: On Campus Residence Hall (Unknown Specifically)

SUMMARY: Title IX reported third-hand information a person had sexual intercourse with another without consent. Thomas Dunn, director and deputy chief for the Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management, responded. Title IX provided report was completed.

WELFARE CHECK

LOCATION: Terrace 7 SUMMARY: While investigating a separate complaint, Corporal Robert Jones became concerned about a person's welfare.

MAKING GRAFFITI

LOCATION: Terrace 7 SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person had written graffiti on a poster. Corporal Jordan Bartolis responded. The incident is being investigated. SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown vehicle damaged a parked car and left the area. Patrol Officer Ivan Cruz responded.

APRIL 3

SAFETY HAZARD

LOCATION: S-Lot SUMMARY: Caller reported a vehicle leaking oil and radiator fluid. An Ithaca Police Department officer determined the fluid leak was caused hanging up. Corporal Jordan Bartolis responded. The incident is being investigated.

APRIL 4

SCC UNDERAGE POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL

LOCATION: East Tower / 143 Tower Skyline Drive

SUMMARY: The Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards the ambulance staff.

SCC IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL / DRUGS

LOCATION: Dillingham Center SUMMARY: Caller reported an intoxicated person causing a disturbance. Sergeant Kevin Noterfonzo responded. The person was taken into custody under New York State's Mental Hygiene law and was transported to the hospital by ambulance and referred to the

resources and options.

FORCIBLE TOUCHING NO DEGREE

LOCATION: On Campus Residence Hall (Unknown Specifically) SUMMARY: Title IX reported on third-hand information that a person had sexual contact with another without consent. Thomas Dunn, director and deputy chief for the Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management, responded. Title IX provided resources and options.

APRIL 1

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

LOCATION: Campus Center

SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person called multiple times and was using derogatory language about the college. Corporal Robert Jones responded. The incident was investigated and a APRIL 2

WELFARE CHECK

LOCATION: East Tower SUMMARY: Caller reported a person made statements about self-harm. Sergeant John Elmore responded. The person was not an imminent danger to themself.

PETIT LARCENY BETWEEN \$50-\$199

LOCATION: Whalen Center for Music SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person stole a jacket. Patrol Officer Steven Hutchison responded.

V&T LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT

LOCATION: S-Lot

from an off-campus property-damage motor vehicle accident. The IPD officer took the MVA report and an Ithaca College officer cleaned the spill.

FIRE ACTUAL FIRE / FLAME / IGNITION

LOCATION: L-Lot

SUMMARY: Tompkins County 911 Center reported sending the Ithaca Fire Department to a vehicle fire. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded. Upon the officer's arrival the fire was out. Officer determined the cause and origin of the fire was a spark from jumper cables. One person burned their hands putting the fire out.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

LOCATION: Campus Center SUMMARY: Caller reported third-hand information that multiple times an unknown person was calling and reported 12 people had been referred for underage possession of alcohol. Master Security Officer Amy Noble responded.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF FOURTH DEGREE

LOCATION: Recreation Trails / Natural Lands

SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person cut the locks to storage units. Patrol Officer Connor McCoy responded.

APRIL 5

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE / ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: Campus Center SUMMARY: Caller reported a person having a seizure. Patrol Officer Connor McCoy responded. The person declined medical assistance with Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

APRIL 6

SCC DISRUPTIVE / EXCESSIVE NOISE

LOCATION: Circle Lot 8

SUMMARY: Caller reported people yelling. Security Officer Michael Nelson responded. Four people were referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

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

OPINION

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025



ILLUSTRATION BY ATTICUS JACKSON/THE ITHACAN

EDITORIALS

Deaf studies program cuts hurt all students at IC

R rograms like Deaf studies don't just teach language — they teach empathy, advocacy and accessibility. So, why are they prioritized for cuts? Ithaca College's recent decision to pause its Deaf studies minor has sparked concern among students, faculty and advocates for inclusive education.

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The pausing of the Deaf studies program undermines efforts to better engage with and support Deaf culture, and raises questions about the college's commitment to diversity and inclusion. The Deaf studies program was more than an academic offering; it was a bridge to understanding and integrating a marginalized community into the broader fabric of society. The Deaf studies minor at the college was designed to develop students' proficiency in American Sign Language and deepen their understanding of Deaf culture. The program was open to students across disciplines. By providing interdisciplinary education that combined linguistics, sociology and education, the program ultimately prepared students for careers in advocacy, education and social services.

Ithaca College, like many institutions, has faced significant financial challenges in recent years. The college is projecting a \$12 million budget deficit for the 2025 fiscal year, a situation attributed to factors such as including declining enrollment numbers that were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nationally, higher education enrollment has been decreasing at a rate of 1.5% each year since 2011. Ithaca College experienced a noticeable drop in student numbers, with first-year student enrollment falling about 200 students below target in Fall 2024. In response, the administration has undertaken measures to cut costs, including the decision to eliminate certain academic programs like Deaf studies. resource allocation. However, this approach raises concerns about the metrics used to assess a program's value. While enrollment numbers are a tangible measure, they do not capture the full impact of programs like Deaf studies, which contribute significantly to the college's mission of fostering diversity and inclusion. Moreover, the decision overlooks the potential for growth and the need for professionals trained in ASL and Deaf culture.

Eliminating the Deaf studies program has far-reaching implications for underprivileged communities. By removing such programs, the college risks alienating students from marginalized backgrounds and diminishing its appeal to a diverse student body. Furthermore, the Deaf community itself is underserved and faces barriers to education and employment. Programs like Deaf studies play a crucial role in training advocates and educators who can work to dismantle these barriers. The program's removal not only limits opportunities for students but also reduces the support available to the Deaf community at large.

Instead of eliminating the Deaf studies program, the college could have explored alternative strategies to enhance its viability. Investing in marketing efforts to raise awareness about such a unique program, forming partnerships with organizations serving the Deaf community, and integrating the program with other disciplines could have attracted more students and funding. Additionally, the college could have leveraged the program to differentiate itself in the competitive higher education landscape. If IC positioned itself as a leader in Deaf studies, it might have attracted students interested in social justice advocacy, and inclusive education, thereby increasing enrollment and enhancing the college's reputation. The decision to cut the Deaf studies program at the college represents a missed opportunity to uphold the institution's commitment to diversity, inclusion and social responsibility. While financial challenges necessitate difficult choices, it is imperative that the college considers the broader impact on underprivileged communities and its mission.

As part of efforts to address financial challenges, the college has undertaken an academic program prioritization process, leading to the elimination of certain programs, now including Deaf studies.

Programs were evaluated based on factors such as enrollment numbers and

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.

ALL COMMENTARIES MUST:

- Be written by an individual or group who has an educated opinion or is an authority on a specific subject.
- Convey a clear message.
- Be 650-750 words. Whether more or less space is allotted is at the editor's discretion.

GUEST COMMENTARY

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

International students carry the burden of gratitude

BY SONYA MUKHINA

SOPHOMORE

Watching injustice from afar is always difficult, but being torn between two worlds and still expected to be grateful for it is even worse. As we face a massive shift of political narratives around the world, including in the U.S., it has become much harder to stay silent or be silenced, when the world around you is literally burning.

Every international student is to some extent torn between two different worlds: their home and their new environment. Each of us tries to find a sense of comfort and belonging in these two worlds. With President Donald Trump in office, promising to limit immigration by securing the border or completely shut down the Department of Education, we are constantly reminded of how dangerous it can be to stay silent.

In November 2023, I had a midterm at Ithaca College, the same day my hometown in Odesa, Ukraine, had no electricity because of the massive missile attack. While my country was on fire, I was forced to watch it burn from afar. When the political climate in the U.S. gets intense, we can't do anything — can't vote, can't protest. Our right to stay here depends on how useful we are to this country, and through it all, we're expected to smile and be grateful, as if survival alone is a privilege.

Since the Russian invasion of

Ukraine in 2022, I have heard the same phrase told to me over and over again: "You've got to be grateful for the opportunities you have, that your house wasn't bombed and for something that many weren't fortunate to experience, because Russia took away their lives." Those words always hit hard. International students, specifically Ukrainian students, are forced to follow the narrative of being grateful, or constantly being called "the lucky ones." It feels like I am shamed by my people for getting out of a small and unstable town, while also being shamed by others who can't accept me for coming to a new country.

What people don't see is the survivor's guilt — the feeling of helplessness and deeply enrooted trauma that comes from being misplaced, torn away from your world, even if it was your choice to some extent. In those moments, gratitude becomes a mask that hides those issues, a protective mechanism that helps us keep going and build new lives.

The anti-international and the anti-immigration narratives are very dangerous parts of the newly emerging American rhetoric. Those only push the U.S. to forget how all foreign politics are interconnected.

We have seen it happen before: one nation deciding to separate from the rest of the world and establishing the narrative of a deeply authoritarian government. We've seen where those narratives led us: to war, political imprisonment, authoritarianism and ultimate destruction. I find it very disturbing to see that the nation that has always advocated for opportunities for everyone is choosing to stick to this narrative again.

The part no one talks about is that international students carry both privilege and pain. While we are forced to be strong and grateful despite the political and personal issues occurring around us, we are also quietly grieving the version of ourselves that we left behind. And that is what makes us human.

My good friend from Odesa once told me, "I miss you deeply, but I'm cheering for every opportunity you've embraced. I stayed not because I didn't have the chance to leave, but because I chose to remain. And you left because you had to." Her words remind me that while some of us became the face of our country abroad, others stayed to become its backbone. Both choices are acts of resistance and prove that we belong in this country, too.

ASA JELLEY/THE ITHACAN

Sonya Mukhina (she/her) is a sophomore double major in journalism and psychology. Contact her at smukhina@ithaca.edu

GUEST COMMENTARY

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

Artificial intelligence can be a useful tool for classrooms

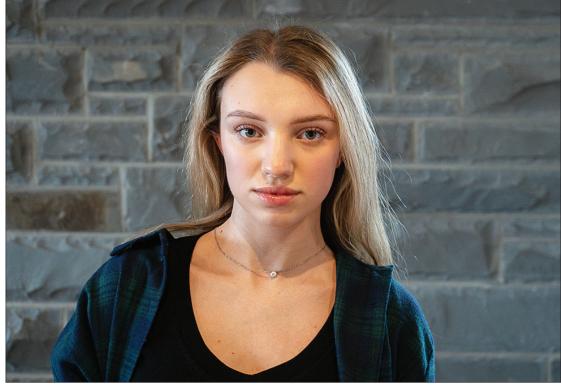
BY CHARLIE PHIPPS

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT

Artificial intelligence has revolutionized the way our world works. It has made it much easier to gain direct access to questions people may have, and it works even faster than the internet. With that has come some controversy about the uses of AI, especially the use of it at the high school and college level. Many individuals believe that AI is harmful for students as it leads to more plagiarism on exams and essays. An AI detection tool known as Turnitin, found that out of the over 200 million papers reviewed, over 6 million were at least 80% AI written. For this reason there is wide support for AI to be banned in school as it hinders academic progress by allowing for new ways to cheat. While this is true, AI is not going anywhere anytime soon and it is only going to get bigger. As a result, I believe that it is extremely important for students to learn how to benefit from AI and how to properly use it for their academic studies. Furthermore, AI can aid faculty members in creating lesson plans that will be geared toward their specific class. AI is not perfect and can provide information that is not totally accurate, so it is important for students to distinguish between a truth and a lie. One article by the Harvard Independent writes, "tools like ChatGPT impair learning when used incorrectly because of both the ease at which it can give students answers and its confident inaccuracies." Despite this being true, the act of banning the use of AI is not going to fix the problem. Even if AI is banned there will still be students who try to find a way around this and use it to their advantage. This is why schools should embrace AI and teach students how to properly use it in order to distinguish fact from misinformation. An article by Education Week writes, "Teachers also said students should learn to be creative, generate their own ideas and focus on human interaction and hands-on learning." Although this may be true for some students, AI can actually aid in creative thinking by helping students come up with ideas about a topic that they know very little about. In addition, it may assist students in coming up with an outline for their essays when they have no idea where to even begin.

AI is becoming a major part of the academic





Sophomore Sonya Mukhina reflects on the challenges of studying and getting opportunities in the U.S., while her family and her friends stayed behind in her home country of Ukraine.

learning process and finding the many benefits can help propel learning in the classroom. The New York Times states, "Los Angeles Unified School District had agreed to pay a start-up called AllHere 'up to \$6 million to develop Ed,' a chatbot that 'would direct students toward academic and mental health resources, or tell parents whether their children had attended class that day, and provide their latest test scores." This new initiative can expedite the communication system for students and their parents and can also encourage students to find helpful resources. This consequently will be of service to staff members who already have enough on their plate, which is teaching their students.

Another article by AI Powered Response Manager called "AI in Education Statistics" writes, "Less than a third (30%) of those working in low-poverty schools have received AI training opportunities compared to around one in 10 (12%) in high-poverty areas." With so little training in both low-poverty and high-poverty areas many teachers are not First-year student Charlie Phipps discusses the benefits of implementing artificial intelligence in higher education classrooms, as long as its use is properly managed. ASA JELLEY/THE ITHACAN

equipped to even know how AI works. Moreover, students will continue to use AI without the teachers even being able to detect it.

If there was more training on AI, professors would be able to understand how it works and be able to incorporate it in their classroom in a safe and beneficial way. This is further supported by a guide created by Walden University which states, "Teachers who've tried AI have found that it can help make their jobs easier, from coming up with lesson plans to generating student project ideas to creating quizzes. With assistance from artificial intelligence, teachers can gain more time to spend with their students." This AI is extremely helpful for faculty members as it lessens the time spent grading homework assignments, making tests and coming up with lesson plans. This leads to them being able to spend more one-on-one time with their students.

Artificial intelligence can be seen as something that is dangerous toward our way of life, but just because we feel afraid does not mean AI is going to stop expanding. If we learn to use AI to our benefit, it can be used to enable future generations to become more successful.

Charlie Phipps (he/him) is a first-year clinical health studies major. Contact him at cphipps@ithaca.edu

LIFE & CULTURE THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025

Lotus Banquet ignites unity amid DEI attacks

BY GIANNA IZZO

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STAFF WRITER

Now in its fourth year, the Lotus Banquet returned to Emerson Suites on April 12, offering women of color at Ithaca College a space to celebrate their identities at a time when national discourse continues challenge Diversity, Equity to and Inclusion efforts. Hosted by Sister2Sister, the evening centered on the theme of "Reclamation," and encouraged attendees to embrace visibility and affirm their worth in a space created for and by them.

S2S is a student organization that strives to empower women of color at the college by providing a safe and affirming space. The group meets weekly to foster open dialogue around identity, belonging and shared experiences.

S2S encourages members to care for their wellness and embrace their identities through events like "Care For Your Crown," a self-care and hair care event with Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

Academic support is another key element: students often exchange tips for navigating institutional challenges and accessing campus resources. Socially, S2S partners with other organizations led by students of color to host bonding events and promote a culture of mutual support both on and off campus.

The Lotus Banquet is S2S's largest annual event, bringing together students, performers and community members to honor the voices of students of color.

This year's banquet opened with a welcome from members of S2S, followed by a series of performances and notable keynote speeches. The organization described the event as a night to empower students of color by celebrating their beauty, resilience and embracing their full identity.

The evening of celebration featured various performances from student groups including KATALYST, the college's first and only K-Pop



First-year student Glenda-Avril Galloway, member of Sister 2 Sister, hosted a dress competition at the Lotus Banquet. After contestants showed off their dresses on the runway, they cheered as Galloway and co-host junior Noeline Luyindula took the reins in a mock-runway. ALEXSIS FULIOT/THE ITHACAN

dance group; NUVO, the college's first BIPOC-aligned a capella group; Amani Gospel Singers and Pulse Hip Hop. Phenomenon, Cornell University's only non-Greek co-ed step team, also performed. Many of these groups are composed primarily of students of color and the banquet offered them a platform to celebrate their identities through performance.

First-year student Tamia Silvera, a member of S2S, said that attending her first Lotus Banquet marked an important moment in her time at the college.

"Being at a predominantly white institution, being surrounded by people that look like us is cool," Silvera said. "With a lot of uncertainty about what DEI stuff could change and look like, having your community and a network of people you can turn to is really good."

Reclamation, which is defined as the act of retrieving or recovering

group's mission.

something that was lost or taken, aligns closely with S2S's mission to create and protect affirming spaces for women of color. It emphasizes restoring ownership over identity and community. The theme comes at a time of growing conversation around diversity, equity and inclusion efforts nationally.

Junior Aysia Louis, vice president of S2S, said recent pressures from national backlash against DEI initiatives have informed the

"There's definitely a lot of unspoken tension," Louis said. "That tension has been more of an opportunity to continue to do our mission and ... provide a safe space for BIPOC individuals and make sure they feel safe, heard and empowered in a society that's making them feel otherwise."

Louis added that S2S has recently focused more on wellness and emotional care, regularly checking in with members and offering support. She shared a personal moment that underscored the importance of the organization's mission.

Greater Ithaca Activities Center, part of a broader goal to connect with younger students and local community members.

"I grew up here," Louis said. "I know as a teen I wanted people to reach out to me ... so that's really been a goal with us."

Sophomore Nina Mananu reflected on what drew her to the organization and what the evening represented to her.

"I was searching for a space that felt safe, affirming and deeply connected to my identity as a woman of color," Mananu said. "Sister 2 Sister ... became a support system rooted in healing, reflection and self-empowerment."

Mananu described the theme of reclamation as deeply personal, connecting it to her desire for a space where she could feel seen and supported as a woman of color. She said her decision to join S2S came from a desire to find community at a predominantly white institution.

"[It] means embracing all the parts of myself that have been pushed to the margins - my culture,

'21, founder of Black Girls Don't Get Love - an organization that uplifts Black women - and Semaj Campbell-Blakes, a Ph.D. student in history at Syracuse University, addressed the audience with personal stories and messages focused on identity, perseverance and purpose.

Strachan referenced the writings of Audre Lorde.

"Turn silence into language because your silence will not protect you," Strachan said. "I would never have achieved what I did if I didn't speak up and take up space."

Strachan encouraged students to embrace their narratives by speaking up and owning their identities. She referenced her own journey of launching her company while still being a student, despite fears of how it might affect her professional life.

Campbell-Blakes reflected on the significance of belonging in academic spaces. As a woman of color in history - a male-dominated field - she shared that she has often felt isolated in her program, an experience that she said shaped her understanding of the imposter syndrome many BIPOC



Professor Nia Nunn, adviser of Sister 2 Sister, gave a speech at the Lotus Banquet along with the two other keynote speakers. **ALEXSIS ELLIOT/THE ITHACAN**

"I was the most recent recipient of one of the scholarships under

investigation," Louis said. "Hearing that there's a narrative surrounding it that's negative - and quite opposite of the reasoning for it - was definitely a shock. But honestly, it gave us even more reason to put our feet to the ground ... and keep doing what we're here to do."

Junior Moe Doherty, treasurer of S2S, addressed how the organization is often perceived as only being concerned with institutional DEI efforts, when that is not the case.

We're not just here for diversity," Doherty said. "We are good at what we do, we uphold excellence ... we can compete with the best ... when it comes to events when it comes to caring for our community."

The organization's work extends beyond campus. Louis discussed recent outreach efforts with the

my voice, my confidence - and honoring them without apology," Mananu said.

Mananu also addressed the broader challenges facing DEI initiatives on campus.

"The inconsistencies in how [these issues] are addressed reveal how conditional support can feel," Mananu said. "It's made me more aware of the need to protect spaces like Sister 2 Sister ... spaces genuinely invested in our growth and well-being."

Attendees at the Lotus Banquet responded with enthusiasm to the programming. From student performances to playful superlatives like "Most likely to perform at the Super Bowl" and "Most likely to be the drippiest in class," the banquet included moments of reflection and celebration.

Keynote speakers Eden Strachan

students face at PWIs.

"You deserve to be here not because someone made room for you, but because your ancestors dreamed you into this space," Campbell-Blakes said.

She concluded with a call and response affirmation that echoed many of the evening's themes: community support, identity and perseverance. Throughout the night, students shared reflections on staying grounded amid challenges to DEI efforts. Performances, speeches and peer recognition created a space that centered students of color both individually and collectively. As the event came to a close, the final words spoken in unison carried the tone of the event forward.

"I am worthy," Campbell-Blakes said. "I am powerful. I belong here.

CONTACT: GIZZO@ITHACA.EDU

IC students produce EP showcasing college bands

BY PARKER ANNE DEVINE

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On April 4, "Retro/Active," an EP created by graduate students Gus Genova, Sam Abramson, Stephanie Tokasz and Meredith Westfield, was released on all streaming platforms.

Genova, Abramson, Tokasz and Westfield were passionate about creating a project that could celebrate the music scene in Ithaca.

"The 'Retro/Active' project is a concept compilation EP that compiles a multitude of Ithaca artists together, bringing together [the] Ithaca community, but also shedding a light on how great the Ithaca music scene is," Genova said.

The "Retro/Active" EP is one of several projects currently being produced out of South Hill Entertainment, the production company run by IC's entertainment and media management MBA students.

Tokasz said each MBA student is required to work on a year-long project through their practicum class, which is designed to give students experience in the entertainment business world. The projects are made through many types of media, which gives students the freedom to work in the field of their choice.

The "Retro/Active" EP was originally pitched to the practicum class by Genova in Fall 2024. Genova's music-centered pitch piqued interest for Abramson, who had initially wanted to manage an artist for his project. Abramson said he knew that "Retro/Active" was for him.

"I've always known I wanted to

be in the music industry somehow, and so this was an extension of that passion," Abramson said. "I love listening to new artists. That was something fun with this project, discovering new artists in Ithaca."

The final tracklist of the "Retro/ Active" project showcases songs by IC student musicians: delia-h, June Felman, Microbes Mostly, Little Slicer and CARPET CRAWLER.

Felman said that when Genova asked her if she was interested in including one of her songs on the EP, she knew this was a collection that she would want to be a part of.

"It seemed like a really thoughtful project they were working on," Felman said. "It was so nice that they wanted to represent current and past students and give us a platform to really solidify that into history for the college."

Abramson said that all of the artists featured on "Retro/Active" have their own projects, shows and releases to promote and "Retro/Active" was another way that they could reach a broader audience.

"Something that I think is really cool about the EP is that each individual artist has their own story," Abramson said. "This has been really cool to put out in tandem with them. We shout them out, they shout us out, and we work together to break through all the noise, because there's a lot of noise in the music industry."

"Retro/Active" provides a unique experience for both Delia Vaisey '23, vocalist for delia-h, and the management team. Vaisey was the only artist on the EP that did not d on her "I'm really excited about the ecording last song on the album, called Estate" at PARKSIDE," Abramson said. "It's their first song on Spotify. It's was the their first song anywhere. They've been performing in Ithaca for a

while now."

Since the EP's release, Abramson said he has been receiving praise from members and fans of Ithaca's music community.

"I have been loving the reaction," Abramson said. "They're still coming in, which is great. Someone said to me that it achieved something that a lot of school projects don't; the people involved enjoyed the result and people really are understanding that it's a celebration of Ithaca music, which is what we intended from the beginning. That's been very rewarding."

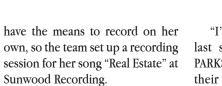
Tokasz said that no matter what kind of music someone usually gravitates toward, there is something for everyone on the EP.

"As long as you like one song on the album then we did our job," Tokasz said. "We showed you the music in Ithaca. Spread the word, maybe your friend will like a different song."

CONTACT: PDEVINE@ITHACA.EDU

NASS NASS

From left, graduate students Sam Abramson, Meredith Westfield, Stephanie Tokasz and Gus Genova partnered with Angry Mom Records to sell "Retro/Active," a compilation EP of Ithaca artists. PARKER DEVINE/THE ITHACAN



"The most fun thing was the Sunwood recording session," Genova said. "Even though I wasn't the engineer, being there in that space and seeing [Delia] work in the creative space was really cool."

"Retro/Active" also gave CARPET CRAWLER its first opportunity to release music to streaming platforms. Abramson explained that after the release of the compilation EP, CAR-PET CRAWLER now had its own page on Spotify and Apple Music.

'e-Motion' raises awareness for artificial intelligence

BY MARIANA CONTRERAS

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

"e-Motion" will take stage at the 20th anniversary of the La MaMa Moves! Dance Festival, held by Daniel Gwirtzman Dance Company, in New York City from April 18 to 20. Alongside Gwirtzman, performer and assistant professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance Performance, is Saviana Stănescu, playwright and associate professor and chair of the Department of Theatre Studies, whose script forms the conceptual backbone of the dance-theater duet.

At its core, "e-Motion" is a narrative about artificial intelligence being introduced to the world. Beyond its storyline of machine learning and emotional evolution, the piece represents something more intimate: the creative synergy between two full-time educators who continue to thrive as working artists. "This piece had to work as both a dance performance and as a dramatic story. Daniel and I wanted to talk about human-AI connectivity and see how that can be suggested and performed in a dance theater piece," Stanescu said. "We're [inspired by] Frankenstein; or, the modern Prometheus by Mary Shelley." questions of ... what's too far and raising concerns that there's no going back," Gwirtzman said. "There's still an opportunity to try to put some guardrails to prevent either people from losing sense of a reality that AI — for all of its wonderful benefits — can never be an actual person."

Stănescu said she and Gwirtzman wanted to explore these issues two years ago before they became even more relevant. Those concerns — of artificial consciousness, emotional intelligence and the risks of runaway technology — have become central at Ithaca College.

"At this point we are looking at ways in which to incorporate AI into our teaching," Stanescu said. "Obviously AI [can be] a tool. ... However, people are increasingly worried that AI can learn so much from us that it can develop consciousness, that it can be harmful at some point against humans. ... I think there are many ways now to think about AI, but we shouldn't lose sight of the fact that we need to be mindful and careful of how we use it."This semester, Gwirtzman brought sections of "e-Motion" into his Partnering in Dance class, inviting students to engage with the choreography first-hand. Senior Brooklyn Moore, who is in Gwirtzman's partnering class and modern dance class, said Gwirtzman has created a sense of community that resembles a dance company. "He has given me so much faith in myself doing these choreographies that are at a professional level," Moore said. "You're learning stuff that people are performing in New York City, at big festivals like that is such a big deal. ... Daniel really made me feel like I can do this -Icould be a professional dancer."



Through a of blend of neuroscience, text, choreography and ethics, "e-Motion" is a hybrid performance that represents AI in a very humane and provoking manner.

The duet, performed by Gwirtzman and dancer Sarah Hillmon, tells the story of an AI humanoid robot launched into the world and its relationship with neuroscientist and creator, Ava. Gwirtzman said "e-Motion" explores ethical boundaries through AI's perspective as it develops its own consciousness.

"It's very clear that as AI becomes more prevalent in our life ... there are these serious

Moore said Gwirtzman's dual role as a professional choreographer and a professor is something she finds motivating. From left, professor Daniel Gwirtzman and Sarah Hillmon perform a set in their latest rendition of "e-Motion," capturing the complexity of potential artificial intelligence.

COURTESY OF KATIE SIMS

"[He's] a dancer first, before [he's] a teacher," Moore said. "You see the care and consideration that he has for every single move, even down to the tips of his toes and the tips of his fingers. That's really awesome and something I want to implement in my artistry."

For Gwirtzman, teaching and performing are deeply interconnected. He said he is able to apply his real-time skills to his instruction.

"What you're doing now in the classroom with your peers can continue and be so meaningful and satisfying as a career," Gwirtzman said. "It's so much more fun to work on this project with Saviana than to have developed a dance alone. It's the energy. It's holding accountability for each other and really being able to bounce ideas off [one another]." "e-Motion" has become a statement in the power of collaboration — not just among disciplines, but among people who trust and challenge each other to take creative risks. Gwirtzman said he wants to model to students that there are no limits to performative art.

"I think the students recognize that we, as the creators of this piece, [are putting ourselves] out into the unknown where there'll be critical response," Gwirtzman said. "We are modeling fearlessness and a desire to be vulnerable, to take chances and risks. The definition of success is [in] trying, the pleasure of the process and the enjoyment of that process."

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THECOOUEUE Commentary from *The Ithacan's* culture critics.

$\star \star \star \star \star$ The Hunger Games return



SCHOLASTIC PUBLISHING

BY MARISSA MOSCHELLA

ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

With a March 18 release, author Suzanne Collins brought readers back to the brutal world of Panem in the highly anticipated prequel novel, "Sunrise on the Reaping." The newest installment in "The Hunger Games" series seamlessly ties together "The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes" and the original "The Hunger Games" trilogy.

Upon the reaping of the 50th annual Hunger Games, a young Haymitch Abernathy – Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark's mentor — finds himself thrown into the vicious Hunger Games, a punishment from the Capitol to keep its citizens in line. Haymitch is introduced as an intelligent and emotional loverboy, fiercely protective of those he cares about. "Sunrise on the Reaping" shows readers the trauma that shaped the man that we later meet in "The Hunger Games" novel.

The novel is brutally tragic, stripping away the illusion of the games and reminding us that the real enemy of the story was never the other tributes, but the world that forces them to kill. Although Haymitch's spark of rebellion didn't quite catch, his pain and defiance laid the groundwork for rebels after him.

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'Warfare' brings accuracy

BY MILA VENTURA-RODRIGUEZ

STAFF WRITER

"Warfare," co-directed by Alex Garland and Ray Mendoza, is a realistic war movie that appears to capitalize off of A24's recent success with "Civil War." It is a cinematic representation of Mendoza's memory of a major event while serving in Iraq.

This film is a successfully visceral experience. It feels like the famous first few minutes of "Saving Private Ryan," but extended to feature length. The sound production is excellent, maintaining its power throughout and heightening every moment. The bombs never stop inducing flinches. The gore and

roaring tsunami of debris leave both the characters and the audience ducking for safety and shrinking from terror. The gunshots are so much louder than gunfire in usual action films for a far more realistic representation.

This film is plain and dirty. Soldiers scream hysterically, mutter incoherently and twitch on blood-soaked floors while waiting for help. Every artistic decision made in "Warfare" comes together to make this the most inglorious depiction of war in a film, and in doing so, this film manages to be one of the most important depictions of war.

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A24



Bon Iver explores tragedy

BY NOLAN SHEEHAN

LIFE AND CULTURE CO-EDITOR

Thematically rich and beautifully written, Bon Iver returns to the music world with his first studio album in six years, "SABLE, fABLE." This two-disc album is a reflective piece where Iver breaks down the first meeting with his former lover and how their bond transformed one another over the course of their relationship. Iver finds that the core of his character is irreversible, even in the presence of someone he loves. The album fires on all cylinders, blending genres effectively.

Disc 1 exists as a prologue to Iver's rela-

opening that displays his negative emotions about himself in a short four-track list.

Disc 2, "fABLE" follows the memories of their love together before the heartbreaking dissolution of their relationship at Iver's hands. "Short Story" is the opening, combining Iver's signature slow acoustic guitar with synthesized chord samples, mixing the energy of both people in the relationship to make an original blend.

The memoir comes full circle in its despair, painting a beautiful story that will stay with listeners for years to come.

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Landon refuses to 'Drop' it

BY BRIAN MURRAY

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In "Drop," the exhilarating new thriller from director Christopher Landon, a woman's romantic misgivings on a first date fall by the wayside as a sinister plot unfurls. In an age of online dating apps and dubious profiles, trusting someone enough to meet in person is a leap of faith. Despite some cinematic flaws, the film is a wildly engaging watch with a unique modern focus.

Screenwriters Jillian Jacobs and Chris Roach imbue the script with shocking twists and turns that make it hard for viewers to look away. The ingenious ways in which Violet tries to outwit her manipulator are cleverly constructed and devastatingly foiled. They also ground the main plot's towering stakes with Violet's emotional arc; the film gradually reveals that her late husband was abusive, and she is trying to overcome the trauma she associates with relationships.

"Drop" is not the sturdiest or most original film in the thriller canon, but serves as an extraordinarily fun one. With help from a talented cast and a seasoned director, it announces itself as an updated take on a familiar formula.

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UNIVERSAL PICTURES/TNS

SPORTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025

Homegrown: Ithaca natives join IC athletics

BY TESS FERGUSON

SENIOR WRITER

When sophomore baseball player Benjamin Ruth stepped onto Ithaca College's campus for the first time, it was not as a high school student exploring options; it was after transferring from a Division I program and realizing that maybe, the best place for him had been in his backyard all along.

The pitcher, who graduated from Ithaca High School in 2023, initially committed to Niagara University in Lewiston, New York. But after redshirting his first year and dealing with an injury, Ruth began exploring new possibilities.

"I was a bio major at Niagara, but I know the [physical therapy] program here is really good," Ruth said. "When I decided to transfer, I came and visited. ... I liked everything I saw. The coaches, the facilities — it just felt like a good place at home."

Ruth said he was not quite sure what it would be like to attend college in the same town he had grown up in. To his surprise, he said being a "local" did not have to mean feeling stuck.

Although Ruth lives off campus with his family, he said that coming to the college each day is like stepping into a different world.

"It doesn't feel like I'm at home, if that makes any sense," Ruth said. "I thought it was going to be like, 'Oh, I'm staying with my parents. ... I go to class and I come home,' but college offers so much more. It's been way more of a full experience than I thought it would be."

Striking a balance between staying close to home and still getting the full college experience is something first-year cross-country runner Caden Sitts can relate to since he graduated from Lansing High School in 2024.

Despite the college only being a 20-minute drive from home, Sitts said he finds himself on campus

just as much — if not more — than a typical student.

"I don't really go home that often," Sitts said. "Even though I'm in the same area, I still feel like I'm away at college, which is what I was hoping for."

For Sitts, the decision to attend Ithaca College came partly from academics — he is studying sound recording technology with a concentration in voice — and partly from an existing connection with Matt Scheffler, Lansing High School's track and field coach. Scheffler also coached the Bombers' pole vaulting squad for 18 years before retiring in August 2024.

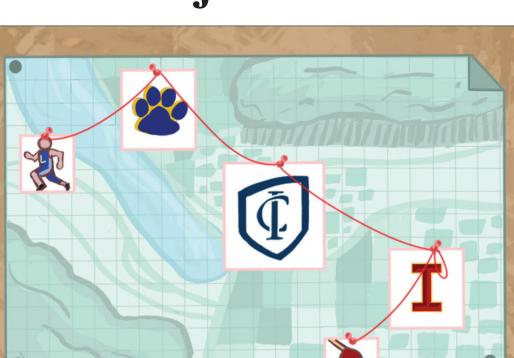
Prior to Sitts' commitment to the college, Scheffler had arranged for him to meet with Jim Nichols, former track and field head coach. Through that connection, Sitts was able to tour the Bombers' facilities and find out more about what the track program has to offer.

"[Sitts] was interested in music, and IC has a great program for that," Scheffler said. "He was also a distance runner, so I connected him with the head coach, Coach Nichols at the time. ... I just told him, basically, I thought it was a great fit for him. And, you know, he thought the same after coming out and visiting."

Sitts' connection with Scheffler was imperative in his decision to run for the Bombers. He said that having a familiar face to vouch for the program added an air of certainty when Sitts was still on the fence.

"I was considering a few SUNY schools and it was kind of up in the air if I wanted to continue running or not," Sitts said. "I'm still not sure if I would have continued running if I didn't have that connection here with Scheffler."

Scheffler said many local students hesitate to consider the college because of its proximity to home. However, some of the college's most decorated track athletes were products of local high schools. Pole vaulting national



Some of Ithaca College's varsity athletes come from just down the street. Sophomore Benjamin Ruth and first-year student Caden Sitts decided to continue their athletic careers while staying local.

EILE GUENEGO/THE ITHACAN

champions Dom Mikula '24 and Meghan Matheny '23 graduated from Charles O. Dickerson High School in Trumansburg, New York and Lansing High School, respectively.

Having experienced so much of the program's success, Scheffler said he tells many of his athletes to focus on how they can thrive within the campus community.

"A lot of kids think,

'Oh, I don't want to go somewhere so close," Scheffler said. "But what I have to remind them of is, it's a great college, a great program—and that's really what you're looking for. It doesn't matter how close."

That small nudge from a familiar face made a big difference - a theme echoed in Ruth's story as well. Though he did not decide to attend the college right out of high school, Ruth had known of head baseball coach David Valesente. When came time it to consider a transfer, Ruth said their preexisting relationship offered a sense of stability in a moment of uncertainty.

The baseball team has also seen its share of local talent. Buzz Shirley '22, Ben Light Senior Athlete of the Year Award recipient and Gil Merod '23 College Sports Communicators All-District catcher also graduated from Ithaca High School and were coached by Amato.

When Ruth transferred to the program that gave Amato so much



alumni events and catching up with his former players is one of his favorite parts of the job.

"The more we can get athletes to stay local, the better," Amato said. Watching that transition from the original Coach Val now to his son David — and then going to alumni events and seeing our former players now in the college program —

it's been a really good connection from the high school to IC."

Even beyond the comfort of familiar names and places, both athletes found that staying local has allowed them to offer something unique to their teammates: insider knowledge. Ruth said his local perspective is something both he and his teammates appreciate.

"I definitely know all the spots," Ruth said. "People ask me where the best food is, where to go. Everyone goes down to The Commons, which is cool, but I've been there a million times. So, I tell them about other places, and it's kind of fun helping make their experience better." Sitts said he has found that his deep-rooted familiarity with the area can come in handy sometimes. However, it also often comes with the surprising realization that there is still more to discover. Perhaps, if not for his coach's influence, Sitts said he may have never realized all that Ithaca has to offer. "It feels like I know the area pretty well, but I'm still learning new things, which is really cool," Sitts said. "I didn't expect that."

11



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Sophomore pitcher Benjamin Ruth is a graduate of Ithaca High School. He transfered to IC after one season at Niagara University. COURTESY OF BELLE ADAMS

"[Valesente is] a really good coach, and I know the baseball team here is always a national contender," Ruth said. "I felt like it could be a good fit."

Ron Amato, Ruth's baseball coach from Ithaca High School, also did his time in Bomber threads playing football and baseball from 1997-2001.

Although not an Ithaca native himself, Amato said that it is important to him to keep the pipeline from the high school to the college alive and continue strengthening the city's athletics community.



First-year student Caden Sitts is a graduate of Lansing High School and runs men's cross-country and track. COURTESY OF NICOLE TELLECHEA

> experience, Amato said he could not have been happier to have him back in town.

"It's always nice to see our guys continuing their athletic careers past high school," Amato said. "There's such a small number of kids that move up to the next level, so when they do — and they choose to stay local — it's special. I've always been in full support of that program."

Amato said that although it can be difficult to connect with his alumni during their busy collegiate sea sons, he finds going to the college's

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Baseball team sports useful depth at catcher position

BY BILLY WOOD

STAFF WRITER

From 2020 to 2023, the backstop at Freeman Field was primarily protected by the prowess of catcher Gil Merod '23. Now, the Bombers have leveraged a four catcher rotation to try and replace Merod, creating a competitive bond that has pushed the team throughout the season.

The Bombers currently roster five catchers: seniors Tyler Pugliese and Logan Scully, junior Ethan Daddabbo, sophomore Owen Callahan and first-year student Justin Navarro. So far this season, Pugliese and Scully have caught eight games, Daddabbo has caught six games and Callahan has caught two games.

This split time has been common for the past two seasons, with Pugliese being the main man for the 2024 Liberty League Championships and the NCAA championships. Pugliese said that before the beginning of the 2025 season, the job was back up for grabs and every catcher would have to prove why they should start.

While the coaching staff is currently in the process of deciding who will be the primary catcher for the back half of the season, head coach David Valesente said that having four catchers who can play at any given time has been a luxury for the team.

"We typically carry three varsity catchers," Valesente said. "It is a position that's pretty injury prone, just with the nature of guys getting beat up and things can happen. We typically don't catch one guy every single game . . . but ideally we have two really strong catchers."

Both Pugliese and Scully transferred to the college in 2023 after experiencing time at the Division I level.

Pugliese came to the team after two years at the University at Albany and Scully came in after one year at George Mason University and another year at Cloud County Community College. Both were aware of each other when they committed to IC.

Rather than start their time with the Bombers on an adversarial note, they began rooming together and said they have formed a tight friendship. Pugliese said that even with the competition for playing time, the catching squad's cohesion and camaraderie is strong.

"Ever since we stepped on the field we knew that we were competing against each other but we're always going to feed off of each other," Pugliese said. "We have built such a great relationship over the last couple of years. . . . So it's been a cool two years going back and forth."

Callahan came in the same year as the seniors and said the loyalty to each other has been unbreakable. Callahan said he owes a lot of his development to the guidance and mentorship of the guys in the room.

"We're super tight, they're like three of my older brothers [along] with like three of my best friends on campus," Callahan said. "I look up to them and I'm very grateful for the role they play [be]cause they've definitely gotten me a lot better."

While friendly competition has brewed within the catchers' room,



Senior catcher Tyler Pugliese makes a throw back to the pitcher in a 11-1 victory March 22 against St. Lawrence University. Pugliese was the Bombers' main catcher throughout Spring 2024. MEI DENNISON/THE ITHACAN

that same bond is felt between the players throwing to them. Senior pitcher Colin Leyner has been the ace of the Bombers pitching staff for the past two seasons and had ample experience throwing to Merod. Now, with Leyner throwing to multiple catchers, he said the options behind the plate are not something that slows down the pitcher-to-catcher connection on the field.

"They're our guys, so I think having a close team bond, which is what we've built, shows that you can throw any catcher in there and whoever is on the mound is confident throwing to them," Leyner said.

That push to fight for the number one spot is felt by every catcher in the room, but they have not quit. Every catcher has chosen to compete because of their commitment to the team. As of right now, Valesente said the team will just have to wait and see who emerges.

"That's been a frustration on our end, trying to find a guy that can be the number one," Valesente said. "Unfortunately, in our eyes and performance-wise we haven't seen somebody that has stepped up and taken that role. Catchers need to do so many things well, they need to manage our pitching staff, they need to be good receivers, good blockers, they need to obviously have emotion and be able to separate offense and defense. We have four really good catchers and it has been just kind of a stressful process of finding the guy that's going to step up and be the guy."

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First-year student-athletes make instant contributions

BY KHARI BOLDEN

STAFF WRITER

As the 2024-25 academic year comes to a close, the student-athletes of Ithaca College find themselves amid another season of spring sports. For several IC teams, they have looked toward first-year players for immediate contributions and their faith in recent recruits has been rewarded.

IC women's lacrosse has been among Division III's most successful women's lacrosse programs in the last decade, making it to and advancing in six of the nine NCAA tournaments held since 2016. Coming off of an 18-2 season, the program's best win percentage of its tournament runs, the Bombers needed to completely refresh as 60.7% of the 2024 team's points graduated following the season. First-year attacker/ midfielder Kathryn Scallon has been among the new faces turned to this season, and she credited her new teammates with helping her get settled in so quickly. "It's still hard adjusting to playing with different people," Scallon said. "But my teammates have been so supportive and have helped me understand our style of play. I honestly think every day we get, I understand how I can improve and how I can make an impact." That impact came right out of the gate for Scallon, as she fired the team's first goal of the season from the eight-meter arc just 10 minutes into her Feb. 23 debut against SUNY Brockport. So far, Scallon has started all 12 games this season and tallied 11 goals, the most of any firstyear student since 2022. She said her experience at IC has been a source of encouragement for not just herself, but also her sister, a high school junior and verbal commit to the University of Vermont for lacrosse.

"It's so different in college," Scallon said. "Whenever my sister's having a rough day — I always tell her that it's going to be so much better in college, and that you need to just keep working for it because when you get to college, there's gonna be people surrounding you, helping you get better and having your back no matter what."

A month after Scallon's award, another firstyear Bomber saw his performance rewarded with Liberty League honors. In just his second start of the season against St. Lawrence University on March 22, first-year pitcher/first baseman Ethan Murley took a perfect game into the fourth, before a line drive single broke it up. He would finish his six-inning outing with just



three hits and one earned run allowed while striking out seven. The 90-pitch outing earned Murley a Liberty League Baseball Pitcher of the Week award, something he said he appreciates while remaining focused on the next game.

"Baseball's a very hard mental game, and if you overcomplicate it, that's when things will go wrong," Murley said. "So just reverting back to a mindset where I can get these guys out, I know I'm better than them, I know I can strike them out. That mentality for me has helped me kind of just guide my success."

Despite his first-year status, Murley has been one of the Bombers' most reliable starters, and is among the best pitchers in the region. His 2.93 ERA is sixth in the Liberty League, and he is top five in the conference in opposing batting average at 0.218 and total runs allowed with 13. Andrew Parker — Ithaca College's assistant director of athletics for sports performance said Murley has done nothing but improve in the weight room as well.

"He picked up our base patterns really quickly," Parker said. "With our freshmen, we

First-year attacker/midfielder Kathryn Scallon of the Ithaca College women's lacrosse team is one of many first-year student-athletes who are leaving an immediate impact. JENNA GRIMES/THE ITHACAN

don't try to rush that process. Ethan really kind of took that step and really tried to be savagely good at basics and push himself to the point where he was mastering those basic skills."

Since the spring season began, 11 firstyear athletes across seven different sports have earned weekly honors from the Liberty League. In addition to those already named, the honorees include Ivan Kisic of men's tennis; goalkeeper Mikaela Dattilo of women's lacrosse; sprinter Aynisha McQuillar of women's track and field; Beth Roberts of women's rowing; and Liam Baker, Andrew Cheely and Andrew Coit of men's rowing. Most recently, thrower Luke Ellor and infielder/pitcher Ethan Fantel took home Rookie of the Week honors for the week of April 14 in men's track and field and baseball, respectively.

These honors reflect a larger trend across the Bombers' athletic teams this season, as first-year players across all varsity sports have stepped up when called upon.

"When it comes to general success as a firstyear, they're obviously skilled in their sport, but they're also willing to do things that are going to help them," Parker said. "It's hard just to pick out two, three, four, five freshmen that have done that."

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DIVERSIONS THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025

С	rossword By Quill Driver													
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51 "I could – a horse!" 52 ABA mem. 53 Field cover 55 Cut of beef 57 Midday (2 wds.) 61 Original 65 Town in Utah 66 Do a farm job 68 Soap plant 69 Singer – Turner 70 Greek letter 71 Canterbury -72 Upperclassmen (Abbr.) 73 French river 74 Choose

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last issue's crossword answers



WHERE'S THE REST OF HIM?

BEHIND THAT WALL

I GUESS BUT WHO

REALLY CARES

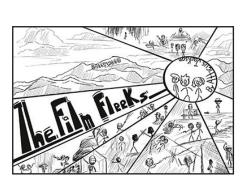
Ithacan Cartoons

Shoelace Carnival

BY DJ BERCHOFF/THE ITHACAN



BY ATTICUS JACKSON/THE ITHACAN





13

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WHAT IS IT?

Last issue's sudoku answers are available online at theithacan.org/sudoku





very easy

THE BUZZER

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

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK TIM ROGERS/MEN'S LACROSSE



The Ithaca College men's lacrosse team took on the St. Lawrence University Saints on April 12. Rogers led the team in scoring in a hard-fought 10-9 loss, as the junior attacker scored four points, tallying two goals and two assists.

JENNA GRIMES/THE ITHACAN

COMPETITION OF THE WEEK WOMEN'S ROWING AT KNECHT CUP REGATTA



The Ithaca College rowing teams traveled to New Jersey for the Knecht Cup Regatta from April 12-13. On April 12, the women's first varsity eight finished in third place in the first varsity eight heat, also winning the Varsity Eight Petite Final 2 on April 13.

MEI DENNISON/THE ITHACAN

EVENT TO WATCH



NOON APRIL 19

The Ithaca College baseball team will look to build on its strong start in Liberty League play as it hosts the University of Rochester Yellowjackets for a doubleheader April 19. The team is fresh off a doubleheader sweep of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Engineers on April 13. The Bombers and Yellowjackets have rivaled in the Liberty League Championship Tournament the



UNIVERSITY OF past three seasons, with the Bombers going undefeated in those matchups.

NOTABLE UPCOMING COMPETITIONS

ROCHESTER

TRACK AND FIELD: 10 A.M. APRIL 18 AT MORAVIAN UNIVERSITY IN BETHLEHEM, P.A.

SOFTBALL: 3 P.M. APRIL 18 VS. CLARKSON UNIVERSITY AT KOSTRINSKY FIELD

WOMEN'S LACROSSE: 4 P.M. APRIL 18 VS. VASSAR COLLEGE IN POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y.

MEN'S ROWING: 8 A.M. APRIL 19 VS. WPI, COLBY AND TRINITY COLLEGES IN WORCESTER, M.A.

OUOTE OF THE WEEK

"OUR COACH ALWAYS TELLS US WE DO OUR BEST WHEN WE'RE DANCING, SMILING [AND] HAVING FUN COMPETING."

> JENELL SLESSER '25 On the mental preparation for diving

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April 30th, 2025 7:00 pm **Emerson Suites Ithaca College**



Free and open to the public

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From left, senior Haley Rayfield and junior Caroline Buell of IC Premium Blend, perform a duet together at the Ithaca College American Choral Directors Association's benefit concert titled "Make Our Garden Grow" on April 7. The concert was in partnership with Opus Ithaca, a nonprofit music school. KAELEIGH BANDA/THE ITHACAN