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IC restructures amid budget deficit

BY KAI LINCKE

COMMUNITY OUTREACH
MANAGER

Ithaca College concluded its administrative analysis study with the Huron Consulting Group in June. Even though the study has ended, administrators are still working to reshape the college's organizational structure and align the size of the faculty and staff workforces to meet a smaller target student body enrollment, as part of the work to close the college's budget deficit by Fiscal Year 2028.

The college started working with Huron in October 2024 to understand realistic enrollment projections and identify opportunities to decrease costs while also increasing IC's revenue. After the college missed the Fall 2024 enrollment target by 182 students, Huron helped administrators decrease the overall target student body size to make more accurate revenue projections.

At the All-College Gathering on Aug. 26, Rakin "Rock" Hall said that reducing the target allowed the college to meet its Fall 2025 new student enrollment goal. Following insight from Huron, administrators also restructured the college into five divisional areas, effective July 1, to improve efficiency.

Each divisional area's leader has been working to meet expense reduction targets for fiscal



Huron helped IC administrators decrease the college's first-year student enrollment target and overall target student body size to 4,500 students to make more accurate revenue projections.

KAELEIGH BANDA/THE ITHACAN

years 2026, 2027 and 2028 — which may include reducing their staff workforce.

President La Jerne Cornish said during the All-College Welcome that administrators are working to align the size of the faculty and staff with the student body size.

The college's enrollment decreased each year from 2020 to 2024 following the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the number of faculty members de-

creased each year from 2021 to 2024, the number of staff members increased in 2022, 2023 and 2024.

The insight from Huron also helped the college form the five new divisional areas.

Stein told *The Ithacan* in April that the divisional restructuring will help the college combine similar areas to better support students and recognize any redundancies.

Tim Downs, the senior vice

president and chief financial officer, said divisional leaders may decrease costs by redirecting or eliminating positions that are not critical to the institution or by choosing not to fill a vacancy created by retirements or employees leaving the college. He said that spreading the total expense reduction target over three years instead of one allows division leaders to make more

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Students to get COVID payouts

BY KAELEIGH BANDA

NEWS EDITOR

Ithaca College students who were enrolled in Spring 2020 for in-person learning are entitled to financial compensation. Erik Akerman, a student at IC during Spring 2020, filed a class action lawsuit against the college on behalf of himself and other students who were unable to engage in college classes and activities as usual, but still paid tuition when the COVID-19 pandemic forced shutdowns.

The case of Akerman v. Ithaca College was filed on Dec. 12, 2023, reached a settlement agreement on Dec. 11, 2024 and was announced to students in summer 2025.

Eligible students can file for compensation by Oct. 5 and receive a part of the \$1.5 million settlement.

In the case, Akerman claims the college breached its implied contract with him and other students by not providing the promised educational experience.

When the college shut down in mid-March 2020, the college stopped providing an in-person and on-campus education and access to some campus services and facilities.

Akerman was the representative for himself and other students in the same circumstance through Apex Class Action to sue for a refund of tuition and fees for the respective time that IC switched to remote learning and services.

Exceptions include virtual-only students, students who withdrew before March 23, 2020, students with full scholarships, college employees and anyone who opts out of participating in the settlement.

In addition to receiving a portion of the \$1.5 million settlement, eligible students will also receive a one-time tuition credit of \$800 for graduate school at the college — excluding physician assistant graduate programs — and a complimentary ticket to alumni weekend.

The college contests the claims made by Akerman and said in the settlement agreement and release that the students were provided with the contracted-for services, and the college did not unjustly retain any benefit from the students.

After multiple rounds of settlement discussions and mediation sessions, the college agreed to the settlement but did not admit any wrongdoing or liability.

The settlement agreement and release stated the college settled to "avoid further expense, inconvenience, and the distraction of burdensome and protracted litigation, and to be completely free of any further controversy with respect to the claims that were asserted or could have been asserted in."

Hallie Kessler '23 said via email that she is one of the students eligible for compensation. She said she believes that the college should take accountability.

"I do feel that myself and other students deserve some form of compensation from Ithaca College," Kessler said. "For a very long time, it felt like there was no communication between the college and its many students. ... My learning experience in March 2020 was nothing like I thought I would experience as a

Students harassed during LGBTQ+ event

BY JULIAN DELUCIA,
EAMON CORBO

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITORS

Students seeking support can contact the Center for LGBT Education, Outreach and Services at 607-274-7394 or lgbt@ithaca.edu and Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 607-274-3136.

The Office of Public Safety can be contacted at 607-274-3333 or through their anonymous tipline at 607-274-1060.

On Aug. 22, unidentified individuals threw water balloons and tomatoes at students attending Glow with Pride, also called the Glow Party, an orientation event. Glow with Pride was an LGBTQ+ focused orientation event sponsored by the Center for LGBT Education, Outreach and Services and the Office of New Student and Transition Programs.

According to Public Safety Logs, the incident occurred at around 9:24 p.m. on the quad next to the fountains. Thomas Dunn, director and deputy chief of the Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management, said via email that the Office of Public Safety is actively investigating this event to identify those responsible and to understand their motive.



On Aug. 22, unidentified individuals threw water balloons and tomatoes at students attending the Glow with Pride orientation event on the quad beside the fountains.

MEI DENNISON/THE ITHACAN

Stanley Bazile, vice president for Student Affairs and Campus Life, addressed the incident in an Aug. 25 email to the campus community.

Bazile wrote in the email that while the

intent of the offenders is unknown, the affected students believe they may have been targeted because it was an LGBTQ+

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SUMMER BRIEFS

Office of Facilities shares updates on summer construction projects at IC

The Office of Facilities undertook a number of new construction projects this past summer. Among them were the renovations of Eastman and Landon Halls in Lower Quads. These renovations include new windows and exterior facade, roof coating, boilers, soffits, repainting, additional insulation, bathroom upgrades and single bathrooms on the first floor. Construction for the new track complex also began. Besides a new running track and jumping areas, bleachers, a press box and a new throwing area are also being constructed in the complex. For any questions about construction, contact the Facilities Customer Care Center at 607-274-3225.

Local music app developed in Ithaca now available on Apple App Store

A group of Ithaca College students, supported by the National Science Foundation and the H&S Summer Scholars Program, developed a music app called Localify. Initially launched as a web application at localify.org, the group expanded support to iOS and the app is now available on the Apple App Store. The app is designed to help users find local

music artists, festivals and events with ease. The app is currently in beta testing. Reach out to support@localify.org with any comments or suggestions.

Employee benefits platform Awardco to be discontinued in September

Awardco, an employee rewards program used by IC, will be discontinued Sept. 1. Employees that have Awardco points must redeem them before Sept. 1 or the points will expire. For additional questions, contact the Office of Human Resources.

Local credit union rebrands and changes Ithaca College branch hours

On July 1, CFCU Communiy Credit Union rebranded as Beginnings Credit Union. Members' access to their financial services has not changed. At the same time, the credit union is rolling out enhancements to its digital tools, including a rebranded mobile experience under the new Beginnings Digital Banking app. Additionally, the on-campus branch of Beginnings Credit Union changed its operating hours Aug. 4. Now, the branch only operates two days per week on Monday and Friday and the operating hours for the branch will be 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., closing for



Students engage with IC clubs at org fair

From left, sophomore Natalia Steves, senior Tyler Long, graduate student Mary Rion, junior Eliza Warner and sophomore Kira Meehan tabling for IC Unbound. LUCIA IANDOLO/THE ITHACAN

lunch from 11 - 11:45 a.m.

New program for internship funding covers vital costs for IC students

A new program called the Ithaca College Career Center Internship Fund supported

23 students in their internships this summer. The program is coordinated by the Center for Career Exploration and Development and made possible by alumni donors. The fund helped students cover costs like housing, transportation and meals.

MULTIMEDIA

VISIT THEITHACAN.ORG/MULTIMEDIA FOR MORE PODCASTS AND VIDEOS.



IC students on set with Waterloom Productions

Waterloom Productions provided students professional work opportunities in the heart of Ithaca. *The Ithacan* goes on set to get the full experience.



Coming Soon... Ithacan Podcasts!

Keep your ears peeled for new Ithacan podcast episodes! This semester's lineup includes returning shows like "Deja View," "How IC Sports," "Pop Off!" and "Popcorn Premieres."

THE ITHACAN

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thoughtful changes.

“There’s more flexibility, given that there’s time [before the FY 2027 and FY 2028 targets must be met],” Downs said. “For example, if they knew, OK, we need this organization to get a little bit smaller and we’re going to make changes in that area, in FY 27, it could be that somebody retires, or somebody leaves, and they say, ‘Oh, perfect. I’m now going to take the opportunity. I was going to do this, but now I’m going to do that.’”

Cornish said during the All-College Gathering that she understands restructuring has been difficult for divisional leaders and their staff. Cornish said she had nine vice presidents when she started serving as interim president in 2021, but she has since decreased her executive council to seven vice presidents.

Cornish announced in an Aug. 18 email to staff and faculty that she will eliminate the position of Vice President for Marketing Communications, which has been held by Mark Eyerly since the position’s creation, effective Aug. 31.

Dave Maley, director of Public Relations, said via email that the vice president for Human Resources position, which was last held by Hayley Harris, was eliminated from Cornish’s Executive Council in 2022. After Harris left the college, Cornish decided to name Kirra Franzese as Associate Vice President and Chief Human



During the Aug. 26 All-College Gathering, Rakin “Rock” Hall said that reducing the target allowed the college to meet its Fall 2025 new student enrollment goal. 1,197 new students enrolled.

KAI LINCKE/THE ITHACAN

Resources Officer.

“I cannot ask any division of this college to do anything that I am not willing to do myself as your leader,” Cornish said during the All-College Gathering. “These things have been hard to do, but these are things that we must do.”

Cornish announced that the administrators changed the college’s total target enrollment from 5,300-5,400 students to 4,500 students in an April message to the campus community.

At the All-College Gathering, Downs said that the college administrators hoped to enroll

1,150 new students for Fall 2025.

Hall said at the All-College Gathering that 1,197 new students had enrolled at the college for Fall 2025 as of Aug. 26.

“Right now, we are pacing in a very positive direction to land north of 1,150 and to maintain our goal and we’re already working on future strategies,” Hall said.

During the All-College Gathering, Downs said the numbers are still being finalized, but he projects that the college’s budget deficit increased from \$4.1 million at the end of FY 2024 to

\$10.3 million by the end of FY 2025 because the college missed its Fall 2024 enrollment target.

Cornish said during the gathering that the college must meet its FY 2026 approved budget, which projects that the deficit will decrease to \$9.2 million by the end of the year.

“As we look ahead to the 25-26 academic year, our foremost priority is ensuring financial stability,” Cornish said.

News Editor Kaeleigh Banda contributed reporting.

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student at my dream school.”

Tim Downs, senior vice president for Finance and Administration and chief financial officer, said the money for the settlement is coming out of the college’s cash and reserves, which are used to make sure the college does not have any issues with paying bills or making payroll.

The cash and reserves total to about \$100 million. He said the college’s latest financial projections will not be changed as a result of the settlement.

“Right now, we’re using some of [the cash and reserves] for our operating losses,” Downs said. “They can also be used for things like capital if we need them to make improvements on the campus and they’re also precisely for items like this when there are unanticipated or unexpected needs that arise.”

The funds from the settlement will be allocated on a prorated basis to students who opt into the class action lawsuit based on a percentage of net tuition and fees that IC received in Spring 2020.

Any financial aid from the college, grants or other tuition and fee reductions will not be counted. Downs said the settlement amount cannot be increased to more than the agreed amount.

“My understanding is there will be a framework how much everyone will be eligible for,” Downs said. “Within that set amount of money, they get to pay the lawyers and then the settlement out to everyone that’s eligible for that money and whatever doesn’t get dispersed comes back to us, so we will get a record at the end that shows how much was dispersed and to who.”

Kessler said that receiving any form of financial compensation would help her.

“I have tens of thousands of dollars to pay off in student loans, primarily from my time at Ithaca College,” Kessler said. “It often feels unfair that I’m stuck paying off loans for such



In addition to receiving a portion of the \$1.5 million settlement, eligible students will also receive a one-time tuition credit of \$800 for graduate school at the college.

FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

a compromised college experience. Financial compensation to all students affected by their actions would be a reasonable place to start.”

Similar class action lawsuits have been filed against other institutions of higher education from across the United States, including Molloy University, University of Rochester, Carnegie Mellon University, Cornell University and more.

Emily Rockett — vice president, general counsel and secretary to the Board of Trustees — said there was a first wave of similar cases closer to 2020, many of which settled.

“This is not unique to Ithaca College,” Rockett said. “This is one of many, many similar claims brought against colleges and universities that were in the same circumstance at a point in time.”

The case has a fairness hearing scheduled for Oct. 28, which is held to ensure that all of the students are treated equitably.

If any student believes the settlement is

unfair, they can present their objections during this hearing if approved in advance to speak. Rockett said the hearing is different than other fairness hearings because it is a class action lawsuit, so the large number of students represented do not have much input on the litigation strategy.

“It’s fairly rare that class actions get derailed at a fairness hearing,” Rockett said. “The judge has already had an opportunity to look at it, see if it’s fair and give what’s called preliminary approval, which has happened in this case.”

Notices about the case will be sent to students and families via Apex Class Action. Eligible students must object, participate or opt out by Oct. 5.

Students who attend the hearing will not be permitted to speak unless the court is notified in advance of the fairness hearing.

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FROM LGBTQ+, PAGE 1

focused event.

“There is no place for demonstrations of hate, discrimination, or bigotry on our campus,” Bazile wrote in the email.

The college was ranked as the most LGBTQ+ friendly college in the United States on the BestColleges list in 2024.

First-year student Jasper Wright attended Glow with Pride with a group of his friends. Wright said him and his friends were dancing together in a small circle near the barricade when his friend was suddenly hit with a water balloon.

He noticed shortly after that his friends were also being pelted with tomatoes. While not hit directly, Wright said water balloons hit his expensive electronics and almost broke his glasses.

First-year student Quentin Chick said they were hit by a water balloon on the side of the head, almost knocking off their glasses. Chick said they did not expect it to happen on IC’s campus.

“That’s kind of crazy that they’re going to be outwardly doing all that,” Chick said. “I feel like they have a false sense of [power] ... just because of the current political climate of the world. Certain people think they can do whatever they want and that is awful to think about.”

Wright said the shock and adrenaline rush of the situation caused him to have an absence seizure. Absence seizures are small lapses in consciousness and attentiveness that can be caused by stress.

Wright said these seizures are a symptom of a medical condition he lives with; this condition also requires him to use a mobility aid.

He said he recovered consciousness and motor function in about five minutes but his arm remained stuck in a bent position for around an hour before he could move it comfortably again.

“I hadn’t had one in a while, so it was like ‘Whoa, this is a direct result,’” Wright said.

Both Wright and Chick said they were told by several people that the perpetrators were at least four individuals wearing tight black shirts.

Wright is a queer student and said the college’s BestColleges LGBTQ+ rating was something he considered important when choosing to commit, but that the incident changed how he saw the college.

“That was a big draw-in factor for me ... I can start being myself here,” Wright said. “[After the incident], I was like, ‘This is crazy, what if this becomes a common event?’ It just put a lot of anxiety on me again.”

The incident occurred on Wright’s second full day on campus and it initially discouraged him from continuing at IC.

“I almost called my mom that night and was like, ‘Can you just come pick me up?’” Wright said. “I just didn’t know how to adjust and after experiencing that while still trying to adjust, I was like, ‘What am I even doing here?’”

Wright and his friends met with staff at the LGBT Center and administrators about how they wanted to handle the situation. They said that they requested the Aug. 25 email that was sent out by Bazile.

“It felt like, ‘Wow, the school actually does want to help,’” Wright said. “The college is trying to do something. That’s new for me; I’ve never experienced that.”

Crissi Dalfonzo, director of the Center for LGBT Education, Outreach and Services, said orientation events are sponsored by different on-campus organizations to provide a space for students to find others who share similar identities or interests.

“I’m very much hoping that this is an outlier event [and] that this is not a precursor of things to come,” Dalfonzo said. “Because I don’t think that this is what the majority of our student body stands for.”

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New app expands features to increase IC campus safety

BY EAMON CORBO
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

In July, Ithaca College launched the SAFE IC mobile safety application for iOS and Android devices. The app replaced the Rave Guardian mobile app, which the college ceased to support starting Aug. 1.

SAFE IC includes features like alerts and updates from the Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management, contacts for emergency services, a campus map and resources, the ability to report suspicious behavior or safety concerns, a mobile blue light system and a friend walk feature.

The friend walk feature of SAFE IC allows students to share their location with a friend to ensure they can get to their destination safely. First-year student Isabella Como said SAFE IC was promoted to her during orientation week.

“I did see there was an option for a friend walk,” Como said. “I thought it would be cool if you could send someone your location and they could come and meet you there.”

Members of the campus community will still receive emergency notifications from IC Alerts, the college’s emergency notification system that sends out alerts via voicemail, email and text messages, in addition to the notifications sent out over SAFE IC.

Rave Guardian is used in multiple higher education institutions as a safety app, while SAFE IC was developed specifically for the college using templates from AppArmor, a

custom safety app developer. Samm Swarts, assistant director for Emergency Preparedness and Response, said he designed and built the app along with the Office of Information Technology and Analytics and Marketing Communications.

“The previous app was a little bit static and we didn’t have a lot of control of the look and feel,” Swarts said. “Now we’ve been able to brand it to IC colors and all those sorts of things too.”

Swarts said via email that SAFE IC has received just shy of 1,000 downloads as of Aug. 26. Casey Kendall, deputy chief information officer and associate vice president of applications and infrastructure, said IT worked alongside OPS by helping get the app up on the Apple and Google Play Stores.

“We’re strategic partners,” Kendall said. “We work together hand in hand. If there’s additional needs from Information Technology and Analytics, we will certainly be there to help support it.”

Swarts said that while he was designing SAFE IC, he sought out feedback from students on features they would like to see included in the app through focus groups and emergency preparedness presentations on campus. He said a new feature of SAFE IC that was requested by students is the mobile blue light feature that allows students to call campus police and alert them to the student’s location.

“When you do call in to us, we can see exactly where it is that you are, if you so choose,” Swarts said. “It’s an



SAFE IC, Ithaca College’s new mobile safety app, includes features like alerts from the Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management, contacts for emergency services and a campus map with resources.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MARISSA MOSCHELLA/THE ITHACAN

optional feature inside the app.”

SAFE IC was announced to students via a July 8 campus-wide email and a July 14 Intercom post. Sophomore Hazel Moran said she only found out about SAFE IC from an IC Instagram story.

“Not everyone checks [IC’s Instagram], plus not everyone checks their email over the summer too,” Moran said. “I’m sure all the freshmen would download it, but I think the upperclassmen might not know about it.”

Swarts said he is working to expand SAFE IC to work for students studying at the Ithaca College London Center and in the Ithaca College Los Angeles Program. He said he is aiming to launch the expansion to the London Center and ICIA in the next few weeks.

“You’ll have all the local resources available to you and all of the information, kind of like you would on the main campus,” Swarts said.

Swarts said via email that the college decided to look into getting a

new safety app in Fall 2024. He said the college was limited in what it could include on Rave Guardian because it only allowed the college to include six icons for students to click on, while the college can add an unlimited number of icons to SAFE IC.

Kendall said the college will continue to send out communications materials on SAFE IC to help the student body become more aware of the app.

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New program helps faculty and staff become AI Ready

BY KAELEIGH BANDA
NEWS EDITOR

As artificial intelligence continues to be integrated into higher education, Ithaca College is partnering with the Council of Independent Colleges to offer the AI Ready program to provide AI education to faculty and staff. The program offers monthly virtual sessions on AI in private higher education throughout the 2025-26 academic year. The courses are free for faculty and staff, but the college paid the CIC \$2,000 to enroll.

In Fall 2024, President La Jerne Cornish announced the Presidential Working Group on AI to help integrate AI use at the college through Spring 2025. By joining AI Ready, faculty and staff can attend one workshop a month, including Senior Leadership Decisions and Developments and Hyper-Personalized Learning with AI, which cover a range of topics for different faculty and staff interests.

Research shows that AI has a negative environmental impact. Every time generative AI is run, it takes 4-5 times more energy than a standard search engine. This uses a large amount of electricity and water, which takes up natural resources and drains energy stores.

Scott Doyle, director of energy management and sustainability at the college, said that even though AI use negatively impacts the environment, he enrolled in the AI Ready program to educate himself more on AI and its role in higher education.

“You do see both sides of AI because this is going to solve all of our problems, or this is also going to be totally detrimental to our entire operation in higher education,” Doyle said. “When I saw that offering, I wanted to be aware, not only for my own kind of operations, but also to make sure that we’re continuing to talk about the environmental impacts lockstep

with advancing learning.”

Sabrina Sturgeon, the manager of networks at the CIC, said she has worked with faculty and staff from other institutions who were critical of AI because of environmental concerns. By the Spring 2025 sessions, Sturgeon said she noticed fewer people were concerned and more people were curious about how they can use AI to create effective learning.

“We are about application, not implication,” Sturgeon said. “We know those ethical questions are important and we know that we need to answer them, but we have this philosophy here at AI Ready that we’re not going to answer those by just thinking about them.”

Michael Smith, a professor in the Department of History, said via email that he did not choose to sign up for the program because of an overarching concern about AI’s environmental impact.

“AI is a metaphorical tsunami in our culture right now, except that instead of seeking higher ground, everyone thinks they can learn to swim in the wave,” Smith said via email. “I am deeply troubled by the generally uncritical embrace of AI, both at IC and in society more generally.”

AI Ready is made up of two courses — Program 1 and Program 2. Adam Pryor, a senior advisor at the CIC, said Program 1, “All Campus Essentials,” is the broad scale overview of AI use, and Program 2, “Building & Launching Together,” is designed to build on the basics to create AI tools. IC is enrolled in Program 1. Pryor said the program is not a typical webinar because those who join will be actively working with AI and exploring its capabilities.

“One of the things we really pride ourselves on is that it’s not a ‘listen to me talk for an hour,’ kind of workshop,” Pryor said. “We fully expect people to actually be asking questions and playing with a [Large Language Model] in



The AI Ready program will provide AI education to Ithaca College faculty and staff. The program offers monthly virtual sessions on AI in private higher education.

ILLUSTRATION BY KAIDEN CHANDLER/THE ITHACAN, PHOTOS VIA PEXELS

a side window the whole time.”

Narges Kasiri, professor in the Department of Management, said she had conducted research with faculty and staff on AI use and noticed hesitation.

“It’s good that we have the skeptical people, because they push,” Kasiri said. “And that brings more policies and guidelines. ... We want to close this gap between skeptical people and enthusiastic people. If they move towards each other, at some point, they will reach a consensus.”

A 2025 Microsoft study reports that 79% of higher education educators in the United States said AI literacy is essential. Kasiri said she hopes AI will eventually be integrated into every course on campus.

“[Integration] is not easy, but these are

good steps that we’re taking,” Kasiri said.

Sturgeon said that even though there are reservations about the technology, humans will continue to adapt and use it to advance education just like they have with other technologies.

“When personal laptop computers came into the world, campuses didn’t just say they were going to dig their heels in and not do that,” Sturgeon said. “The culture shifted. And nowadays, it’s almost a requirement for university students to have a laptop. ... We as humans have the capacity to take this new piece of technology — AI — and rein it in and use it to advance our education. We’ve done it before.”

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ATTICUS JACKSON/THE ITHACAN

EDITORIALS

Children’s media aids in addressing difficult topics

Adults still remember their favorite childhood shows: the bright colors, the catchy songs and their favorite childhood characters. But, what they do not always realize is how those characters continue to teach them new lessons through adulthood.

Children’s media is not just entertainment. It is one of the most powerful and overlooked tools for teaching difficult topics; it allows for more mature topics to be introduced in a comfortable and familiar environment, like in James Gunn’s “Superman.”

There has been an influx of comparisons of the war in the fictional countries of Boravia and Jarhanpur to the real-life war between Israel and Hamas.

Boravians are portrayed as light-skinned, with Slavic accents and Western-style military uniforms. Jarhanpurians are darker-skinned and dressed in Middle Eastern-inspired clothing — a clear visual reinforcing the West vs. East racial dynamic reminiscent of the tension in the Middle East.

Viewers are comparing Boravia to Israel and Jarhanpur to Palestine, interpreting Boravia’s invasion of Jarhanpur as an allegory for the Israel-Hamas war. However, Gunn insists he started writing the screenplay in 2022 — almost a full year before the Oct. 7, 2023 attacks — and separated the fictional story from the real events in the Middle East.

Whether intended for communicating a larger message or not, media based on children’s characters — like Superman — can and should be perceived in more meaningful ways.

Having stories with characters that audiences already connect to makes them easier to relate to and forces viewers to have more empathy.

In fact, the Erikson Institute recommends that adults engage with children’s media because it supports reciprocal learning and media literacy skills for kids and grown-ups.

Adults are able to learn just as much by interacting with these children’s characters as kids themselves.

Universities should provide more clarity on extra costs

For many, affording to stay enrolled in college can be a great challenge. The average full-time undergraduate student pays about \$1,240 a year just on course materials like textbooks.

A Gallup and Lumina Foundation survey found that 55% of U.S. adults without a college degree did not pursue higher education because of the cost of enrollment. A 2024 survey by Ellucian revealed that 59% of college students considered dropping out due to financial stress and nearly 80% reported negative impacts on their mental health as a result.

Ithaca College is attempting to combat this problem through resources like the Student Emergency Relief Fund, a financial aid program. This aid aims to help students pay for textbooks and other course materials not provided by the school.

The BOLD Women’s Leadership Network at IC is also working to help students afford their education. The Helen Gurley Brown Foundation has awarded a BOLD Magic Grant to the BOLD Scholar Class of 2024.

The class has been aiming to use the grant to provide a sustainable way for both students and faculty to donate course materials. Students can access donated textbooks and other course materials in two-hour intervals through the library.

Another way for colleges and universities to make resources affordable is by adopting inclusive access models such as Open Educational Resources, a public digital library of teaching, learning and research materials intentionally created for free access.

The college also has its own Libguide, an online catalog through OER, which provides textbooks for various courses. These textbooks are free of cost and yet are not effectively presented as a useful resource for prospective and current students by the college.

Universities and colleges should be using and advertising programs like OER, pushing for more students to access higher education easily.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

- Send to ithacan@ithaca.edu.
- All letters must:
- Be 250 words or fewer.
 - Convey a clear message.
 - Be emailed or dropped off by 5 p.m. Monday in Park 220.

GUEST COMMENTARY

- Send to ithacan@ithaca.edu.
- All commentaries must:
- Be 650-750 words.
 - Be written by an individual or group who has an educated opinion or is an authority on the subject.
 - Be emailed or dropped off by 5 p.m. Monday in Park 220.



2025

2026

SEASON







Cornell University

09.20.25

Le Vent du Nord

10.26.25

Orpheus Chamber Orchestra
with James Ehnes

12.05.25

Cécile McLorin Salvant

02.06.26

Garifuna Collective

02.27.26

Tigran Hamasyan

03.20.26

Sir Stephen Hough

04.11.26

Flamenco Vivo
Carlota Santana

cornellconcertseries.com

The Park Center for Independent Media at Ithaca College (PCIM)

PCIM's Mission

To engage students and media producers across the country in conversation about career paths in independent media. The center examines the impact of independent media and media (i)literacies on journalism, democracy, and political culture.



INTERNSHIPS

PCIM sponsors a summer internship program, placing IC students at some of the best independent media outlets in the nation. Students have worked at dozens of media institutions, including *The Progressive*, *The Real News Network*, *FAIR*, and *Democracy Now!*.

IZZY AWARD

Named after legendary muckraking journalist I.F. "Izzy" Stone, this award for "special achievement in independent media" is presented annually to independent outlets or journalists for their important work created outside corporate structures.

EVENTS & SPEAKERS

PCIM regularly invites leading voices in independent media to engage on topics of their expertise. PCIM also collaborates with Project Censored and Project Look Sharp throughout the year on issues surrounding media literacy.



For more information, please contact PCIM's:
Distinguished Director, Mickey Huff, mhuff2@ithaca.edu and
Research & Communications Coordinator, Marcy Sutherland, msutherland1@ithaca.edu.

Independent sci-fi film beams with student talent

SHEELAGH DOE

LIFE & CULTURE EDITOR

Since July 28, through summer rain or sunshine, Ithaca College students have been darting through town with walkies, filming equipment or makeup supply bags slung over their shoulders. Science fiction has found a home on Earth with the production of an independent film overrun with the handprints of students from the college.

Produced by Waterloom Productions, “In Fading Light” was shot in Ithaca and Cortland. 75 people were working on the production, 61 of whom were affiliated with the college as students, faculty, staff or alumni.

Directed by Andy Watts, associate professor and film program director in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies, the film is a science fiction love story highlighting the disparities between humanity and technology. The film takes place in a future where people have suppressed their emotions, meanwhile one woman enters a simulation of the past and is confronted with human feelings.

Junior Ryan Kretz, key and walkie production assistant, said it has been an incredible opportunity to work side by side with professionals.

“The most rewarding part of this job is you can learn all this stuff in film school and you can be told all this, but it won’t stick with you unless you’re there observing it,” Kretz said.

In a joint statement sent via email, the producers said all PAs were paid at least minimum wage and all other professionals negotiated individual rates.

“Students hired by Waterloom Productions LLC earned real titles - and some earned hours towards joining [unions representing their specialty] and we’re proud to have helped them break into an incredibly competitive field,” the statement said.

Other actors in the cast include



The *Ithacan* was invited to observe a behind the scenes shooting for “In Fading Light” at Ithaca Farmers Market Aug. 20. At the film set, student production assistants stayed busy by taking and giving directions into their walkies and aiding in the scene setting process.

MEI DENNISON/THE ITHACAN

Dylan Baker, known for his roles in the “Spider-Man” films and the TV series “The Good Wife (2016),” and Miku Martineau, known for her roles in “Kate (2021),” “Honor Society (2022)” and TV project “Star Trek: Section 31 (2025).” Daniel Reed Ferrell is another actor in the film known for his part in “City of Love (2023).”

Jesse Wendelken ’21, the set photographer, said that the department heads have been patient and generous with the new student workers.

“People are going to leave this with a huge amount of knowledge that they probably would not have gotten just jumping right into the deep end of another set where people wouldn’t be willing to teach like

they are here,” Wendelken said.

Wendelken said “In Fading Light” was born out of the anxieties of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of AI on the arts. He said science fiction moves complex topics by one degree, allowing the viewer to see a new angle.

“In media, [in order to express] complex ideas that we’re dealing with on the day to day in a way that people can understand and in a way that has narrative cohesion, I think weaponizing genres in a certain way can be extremely beneficial,” Wendelken said.

Rachel Wagner, professor and chair in the Department of Philosophy and Religion, teaches a class on science fiction and religion and

said the genre takes circumstances from the world and adds a scientifically plausible new element — the novum. The novum, in turn, allows examination of the human experience through an alternate lens.

“With technology changing so rapidly, right now we need these ... mediated spaces of the human imagination, these projections of the human imagination, to give ourselves warning about what could happen,” Wagner said. “I think that they have potential to work almost what some religious people would call prophetically.”

In “In Fading Light,” Bryan Fitzgerald, an actor in the film who has also played parts in “The Family McMullen (2025),” “Swipe (2025),” “FBI (2018)” and “13 Reasons Why (2020),” plays Brian Jones, a scientist riddled with anxiety and depression who invents a gene therapy to suppress emotion in an attempt to avoid conflict and the self-destruction of humanity.

“Science is always trying to make the world a better place, but sometimes these things are taken too far by whether it be corporations or governments or people in power and then they have unintended consequences,” Fitzgerald said.

Wagner said exploring “what if” scenarios is significant because they can reveal other outcomes. She said if we can only imagine one outcome, then the likelihood of changing that perceived outcome becomes much lower.

“The imagination and the arts in general ... can sort of crack open those possibilities and say, ‘Well, what if this other thing happened,’” Wagner said. “Either as a warning of bad things that can happen, but

even [showing a negative outcome] is trying to crack open the possibilities of doing something otherwise.”

While some science fiction may take place on other planets or alien ecosystems, Ithaca and its neighboring city, Cortland, have supplied this film with the structures and landscapes it needed.

However, securing filming locations in Ithaca was not exactly a walk in the park. Robert Corna, locations manager and production supervisor as well as an assistant professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies, said that securing Stewart Park was more difficult than when he had to secure locations in Central Park in New York City.

“I just have to say there’s a strange bureaucracy in [Ithaca] that makes it difficult to get a film permit approved,” Corna said. “I was literally told you’re going to have to jump through all these different hoops, by people that work for the city.”

Nonetheless, Fitzgerald said that Ithaca seemed like a great place to make movies and that everyone has been welcoming. Besides Stewart Park, they also filmed at Ithaca’s airport and at Ithaca College.

According to a statement from the producers, the budget was approximately \$1.5 million, supplied from private investments and contracted services through local vendors, such as Ithaca College.

“In [the] film world, this is a low-budget movie, so we didn’t have a huge budget for the locations, so that also goes into the strategy,” Corna said. “Let your limitations be your liberations, that’s when the creativity comes in.”

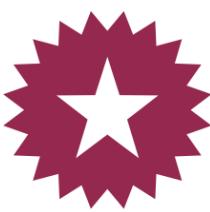


From left to right, key grip Craig Boydston and Andi Obarski ’13, the director of photography, use a dolly to bring the camera close for a zoomed-in shot. A dolly helps keep the movement of a shot smooth.

MEI DENNISON/THE ITHACAN

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THE



CRITICS

Movies you missed: the summer recap.

A revitalized ‘How to Train Your Dragon’ swoops in

SARAH COCHI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

★★★★☆ In 2010, DreamWorks Animation released “How to Train Your Dragon” to much critical acclaim, including two Academy Award nominations and a 99% Rotten Tomatoes score. In 2025, DreamWorks Animation teamed up with Universal Pictures to release virtually the same movie, but this time they ditched the animation in favor of live-action.

By creating such an authentic adaptation, DreamWorks has kept the joy and color of the Isle of Berk. The 2025 film has nearly identical recreations of heartwarming fan-favorite scenes like Hiccup and Toothless’ first touch. This poses the question of whether these re-makes are truly necessary.

However, just because a movie has been done before does not mean there is no value or skill in retelling it. In fact, it is the cast

and crew’s dedication to “How to Train Your Dragon” that makes it truly shine. The sets are beautiful, the performances are strong and the costuming is impressive.

It is a heartwarming tale about the universally relatable struggle between fitting in and doing what is expected of you versus fighting for what you believe is right. Although Hiccup is originally excluded from the rest of the Vikings for being different — too skinny, too weak and too emotional — these differences that ostracized him from his peers at the beginning of the film ultimately turn out to be his greatest strengths and just what the island needs to solve their dragon problem.

While it is a nostalgic and faithful remake, that is not what truly defines it as a film. It is the strength and emotion of the story that make it a four-star film.



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‘Superman’ makes an epic crash landing in theaters



LOGANTHOMPSON
STAFF WRITER

★★★★☆ “Superman” is a firework that is bringing new excitement into the oversaturated superhero genre. It is a fresh and hopeful take on one of pop culture’s most iconic fictional figures, launching a whole new saga of superhero fare akin to the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Despite these lofty aspirations — or maybe because of them — “Superman,” for the most part, works.

The actors work wonders, all fitting right into this wacky comic book world. David Corenswet embodies Superman with a combination of undampened love for life and charisma, always finding time to save people or animals, no matter who or what he is fighting. He stays true to being a boy scout with superpowers and delivers powerful monologues along the way.

However, “Superman” sometimes over-relies on one-liners and antagonistic banter. Many genuinely emotional scenes are interrupted with humor that inspires laughs from the audience, yet feel misplaced.

Occasionally, the comedic antics are dialed down to allow for greater dramatic impact, but not always. Some themes, like perceived xenophobia and anti-Zionism, come across powerfully, while others miss the mark.

The pacing slings through the runtime, rarely slowing down. There are few character-building moments. Instead, every scene relentlessly drives the plot forward.

Gunn’s “Superman” is not a perfect movie, but it is a movie that delivers a perfect hero. Superman exudes hope, justice and the power to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves.

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‘Weapons’ conjures wildly supernatural nightmares

BRIAN MURRAY
STAFF WRITER

★★★★☆ How do communities manage to recover from an unfathomable tragedy? “Weapons,” the new horror hit from writer-director Zach Cregger, begins with 17 third graders vanishing in the middle of the night. However, with Cregger behind the camera, the grim premise evolves into an entertaining fright.

Horror movies are a dime a dozen, so any film that feels original is worthy of praise. “Weapons” fits that description. The opening scene of the students running into darkness is hauntingly bizarre, leaving the film wide open for an explanation. Despite a slow start, the film lands the plane with ease with help from a few jump scares, a scene-stealing witch and excellent performances.

Cary Christopher delivers a remarkable

performance for such a young actor — he is nine years old as of the film’s release — and holds his own in a cast of established actors. Particularly, his scenes with Amy Madigan highlight the panic and confusion his character feels.

The one true weakness of the film is its use of voiceover narration. A child’s voice provides the backstory of the incident at the beginning of the film and a brief epilogue at the finale. It helps to clarify key plot points, but its sparse employment renders it inconsistent with the rest of the film.

“Weapons” is a rock-solid horror film and a leap forward for Cregger, elevating him to a class of must-watch directors. If his next film is equally as impressive, Cregger will have audiences running in droves, headed straight for the theaters.



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WANT TO SEE YOUR REVIEW HERE?

Talk to our editors at ithacanlifeandculture@gmail.com.

Golf team takes national stage for D-III academics

ISABELLA MCSWEENEY

SPORTS EDITOR

Long after finals and the rush of students moving off-campus for the summer died down, members of the Ithaca College golf team opened their Instagrams to a surprise.

The Women's Golf Coaches Association announced July 16 that the Bombers led Division III golf in academics across the nation with an average GPA of 3.917. The college's golf program received similar recognition following the 2017-18 season when it led the division with a 3.801 average. No other Liberty League Conference teams were listed in WGCA's release, which covered the top 25 average GPAs in each division.

All five athletes were named part of the WGCA All-American Scholar Team and four were named to the Liberty League All-Academic Team, which included 161 spring sport student-athletes from IC. Of the seven Bomber teams that announced their Spring 2025 average GPAs, gymnastics came second with an average of 3.745 and ranked third in Division III nationwide.

After seeing the effort put in by the team throughout the season, head coach Keith Batson said while he was proud of the team, it did not come as a shock.

"They are a smart bunch and work very hard," Batson said via email.

Elizabeth Bleicher, dean of student success, said many coaches at the college see the whole student, not just their athletic performance and work closely with the Academic Support Center to provide their athletes with resources to succeed on and off the field. The ASC is a new initiative combining staff from the dean's office and the Center for Student Success.

"Our coaching staff really understand the close-knit relationship that we can have," Bleicher said. "That's going to really form a net to lift our athletes up here at IC. ... It's long term and that it seems really healthy and robust."

Bleicher, as well as ASC associate director Allison Davis, speak with various varsity teams every year.



The 2024-25 golf team posing together after winning the Ithaca College Invitational on Sept. 8, 2024. The team went on to lead the country in NCAA Division III golf academics, with an average GPA of 3.917. The program has achieved this once before in 2018.

COURTESY OF THE ITHACA ATHLETICS CREATIVE MEDIA

Bleicher said her relationship with the athletics department began when she was asked to speak with incoming football recruits and their families about the college's Exploratory Program — where she served as director from 2012 to 2019 — and she has gradually become involved with more teams across campus.

Bleicher said that in addition to facilitating her talks, coaches are proactive in monitoring athletes' academic performance to ensure they do not fall below the 2.0 GPA required to be eligible for intercollegiate competition.

When it comes to the golf team, Batson said he often talks with the

team about their academics.

"Academics are our #1 priority," Batson said via email. "Our team knows that and they are supported in that."

One contributing factor to the team's success was their schedule. The team competes in weekend-long tournaments spanning August to April, but junior Helena Winterberg said most teams in the division will arrive early on Friday when they are not hosting to run through a practice round on the course.

"They'll miss all of their Friday classes and that can just be a mess," Winterberg said. "The only time we ever do a practice round is for conference championships. Every other time, we don't, so we can prioritize getting attendance and going to classes on Fridays."

While tournaments do not interfere with class schedules, they can monopolize players' weekends, which junior Abby Bladen said can lead to struggles when working on coursework and group projects. Winterberg said that including meals, the team is typically out of the hotel from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

"We'll have six-hour rounds where we have to warm up two hours before," Winterberg said. "Sometimes we get a chance to sit on the grass for a second while we're waiting on other people to hit, but once you get out there, you're straight up playing for five or six hours."

Winterberg said once the team gets back to their rooms, they open

their laptops and work on homework as they hang out. The small five-person roster allows the players to get to know everyone on the team and what works best for them.

"We're all always willing to help each other with any work that we have, if we have any questions," Bladen said. "We're not always in the same type of classes, based off of our majors. We're always gonna try and help and if we don't know, we always know other people that can."

The players' support networks extend beyond the team. When she's on campus, Winterberg said she and her friends regularly use the library's quiet floor to push each other to get their work done. In addition, Bladen said her professors have been excellent at listening to any issues she may have throughout her time at the college.

"The professors' relationships with students here is a lot better than you're gonna get at a lot of other colleges," Bladen said. "They really care and it's very easy to be like, 'I need help with this,' and they're going to make time for that."

When navigating extracurriculars, Bladen said that her classmates have always been willing to accommodate her schedule to finish a group project.

"A lot of the students at Ithaca are very understanding of the fact that you're an athlete," Bladen said. "You're traveling, you're busy and everyone will do their best to work around it. If I can't meet up

with a group, they'll text me everything."

Many students understand because they have extracurricular commitments of their own, whether those be sports, jobs or clubs. IC boasts many resources to help students with their academics, including the Writing Center and the ASC, that can connect students with advisors, success coaches and peer tutors.

Winterberg said her number one tip for other athletes, or any student, is to make the most of their professors' office hours.

"It sounds stupid, too, because everyone is just like, 'I'm not gonna go spend more time than I have to,' but it really is helpful," Winterberg said.

On top of external resources, Bleicher said an important topic she talks with athletes about is their mindset. She said athletes are particularly open to the kinds of mindsets that lead to academic success.

"What people don't know ... is that you can take the strategies that you use to get success from yourself in athletics and you can apply those to academics," Bleicher said. "It's an incredible advantage. What I talk about is how we can tap into what they know about growth mindsets, what they know about visualization and practice, what they know about persistence, what they know about resilience."



Junior Helena Winterberg was one of five Bombers named to the Women's Golf Coaches Association All-American Scholar Team.

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IC field hockey prepares to sprint toward success

ISABELLA MCSWEENEY
SPORTS EDITOR

After 2024’s historic performance, the Ithaca College field hockey team is unfazed by expectations and ready to put in the effort to return to the NCAA Division III Championship.

The Bombers ended last season by becoming Liberty League Champions for the first time since the program’s founding in 1968. They ranked 19th in the nation. Despite that, they quickly exited the NCAA Championships in a 2-0 loss against the No. 3 Wesleyan University Cardinals on Nov. 13, 2024.

Head coach Kaitlyn Wahila said her biggest takeaway from the post-season was that the team needed to get faster. She led players during the spring in strength and conditioning drills to increase their speed on the field.

“We competed in that first round NCAA game against a really strong and athletic Wesleyan,” Wahila said. “To be honest, I think our tactics were very equal, if not even better than theirs, but I think where we were lacking was just, in general, our ability to play at a faster pace.”

Junior goalkeeper Maeve Clark said speed is especially important for her as a goalie, not only for reaction times, but also to be able to move below the penalty shot line.

“I’m never going to run up to the other end of the field,” Clark said. “That’s not in my position, but I will have to get to ... a five-foot distance

or a five-yard distance as fast as I can to make a tackle or to make a play.”

Wahila said while the team’s ultimate goal is to reach NCAA tournament play, she is focused on not comparing its performance to past seasons.

“Over the last four or five years, it’s become the standard that our program is moving toward,” Wahila said. “Our returners have experienced it, so now they want it. I believe that our student-athletes know that nothing is guaranteed and everything is earned and it’s gonna be on them to put in the work.”

Since last season, seven players have graduated. The only returning starters are senior striker Brenna Schoenfeld, senior defender Reese Abrahamson, senior midfielder Eliza Ballaro and Clark. Wahila said she is looking for the team’s upperclassmen to bring high energy and experience to the field. Of the 28-person roster, 12 are juniors.

“Some of them have more minutes inside the lines than others, but they all understand what we’re after,” Wahila said. “It’s just going to be important for them to bring a level of consistency to the table.”

Although Clark is a junior, this is only her second year with the Bombers. She transferred from Monmouth University in Fall 2024 and she said she spent the year feeling like a first-year student again, getting used to the team’s style of play and teammates’ personalities.

“The transfer process was a really hard one, but you learn a lot about



The Ithaca College field hockey team captured its first Liberty League Championship since the program began 1968. The Bombers defeated the University of Rochester 2-0 on Nov. 10, 2024.

MARISSA MOSCHELLA/THE ITHACAN

yourself in it,” Clark said. “It’s made me more confident. ... I’ve gotten my first year jitters out of the way.”

Sophomore striker Mia Woodard had a similar experience. After spending a season with the team, Woodard said her biggest goal is to get out of her comfort zone.

“One thing I learned during the spring season last year was to not be afraid of myself,” Woodard said. “Last year, I was just kind of shy and timid and then we got to the spring season and I tried to open up more and that helped me form those stronger connections.”

While the large number of graduates changed relationships within the team, Woodard said the returning and new players have adapted and are ready to work as a cohesive unit.

“The group of girls that graduated, we all loved them so much, but people that are coming up, we feel just as much love [for them],” Woodard said.

The Bombers are in action against the SUNY Cortland Red Dragons at 7 p.m. Sept. 10 at Higgins Stadium. The team has only won once against the Dragons since 2000, but Wahila said everyone on the team is looking forward to the matchup.

“It’s always fun to play Cortland,” Wahila said. “This is my ninth season. I’ve only beat Cortland once as the head coach, and that was in 2018. ... It’s always a very exciting game, very action-packed.”

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Q&A: Coach brings global experience to volleyball team

The Ithaca College volleyball team added Mark Lucas to serve as assistant coach on June 16. Lucas brings decades worth of coaching experience to the Bombers, as they look to make another run in the NCAA tournament after making it to round three last season.

Lucas specializes in blocking, which is a crucial aspect of volleyball. He looks to help the Bombers in that aspect significantly.

Lucas previously served at Wells College as the head coach for men’s volleyball from 2016-2018, as women’s volleyball head coach from 2016-2024, and at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford for women’s volleyball in 2024. Lucas was also head coach in Kyoto, Japan, leading the men’s volleyball team at the Kyoto University of Foreign Studies to three regional championships in the process.

After coaching brought Lucas across the world, his next journey begins this season with the Bombers.

Sports editor Jonathan Falco sat down with Lucas to discuss his new role and strategy for the Bombers.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Jonathan Falco: What attracted you to becoming an assistant coach at IC and how do you see yourself contributing to the program’s goals?

Mark Lucas: I was looking for a new position and it coincidentally opened up. I’ve known Johan [Dulfer, former volleyball head coach], for years, so I reached out to him and I knew Tara [Stilwell, current volleyball head coach], back when she was a player. I reached out to Johan about it, and he said, “You’re not the typical assistant coach,” but then he thought about it for a minute, and he said, “But I know you and Tara, and I think

weirdly this could work.”

JF: How do you plan to build relationships with the current roster to help integrate your experience into your team’s culture?

ML: The easy part about that is the roster itself. When I was in the interview process ... I got to meet the players and the team and it was the perfect team culture for what I was always looking for as a coach before. It’s just a team of competitive Care Bears, and they’re super welcoming. It’s been really easy connecting with everyone.

JF: What makes blocking your forte, and what’s the most fascinating part about it?

ML: I think having coached here in the States and overseas in Japan, having played here and overseas and also coaching both the men’s and women’s sides. When I started coaching women’s, I was always a little bit frustrated that a lot of coaches would just use blocking on the women’s side as something to help your defense set up around. On the men’s side, that’s not the case, so I thought, “Why are we not taking full advantage of using blocking as a weapon and being really aggressive with it?”

JF: What cultural or strategic differences did you encounter while coaching in Japan and how will that influence your approach with the Bombers?

ML: Coaching and playing there changed me as a player and a coach tremendously. At the end of my career, I became a much better blocker because I was getting toolled by a lot of players who were a lot smaller and younger and I had to get better. I appreciate the ethic of hard work and being respectful to your teammates and your opponents, which was something I needed to learn as a player. I like taking aspects of the Japanese game that are more common ... there than they are here and vice versa and trying to pull that



Mark Lucas joins the Ithaca College volleyball program as an assistant coach. Lucas brings decades of coaching experience to the team, including a tenure in Kyoto, Japan.

SOFIA STERBENK/THE ITHACAN

into a team in the U.S. and creating a little extra something that teams may not even be aware of.

JF: What is your coaching philosophy, and how do you plan to implement that with the volleyball team here?

ML: I’ve always been what is called a players’ coach. I generally always kept small rosters, got to know my players really well. I preferred the Division III model, where you can play high-level volleyball, but you’ve got players who are not beholden to an athletic scholarship, that generally are at high academic schools. I think that kind of setup led itself into tying into the things that I like as a coach. I’ve always loved to find ways to improve players, to help them find their better game and as a result, have a better team and have fun too.

JF: How do you adapt your coaching style with different team dynamics and program size?

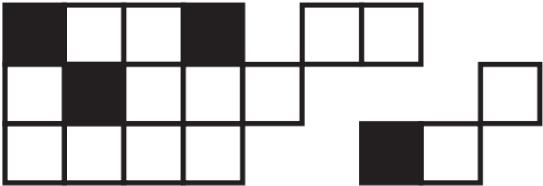
ML: I’ve never been adherent to a one-size-fits-all philosophy. For me, like I said earlier, I think this is the perfect kind of team culture that allows me to take full advantage of the things that I like to do and the things that I have the most experience at doing.

JF: Why should people want to follow your team this year?

ML: They enjoy playing volleyball and they’re good at it. If you watch them play, that will become apparent and it will be an enjoyable experience for you.

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DIVERSIONS



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8 French cleric
12 Sailor’s cry
13 Equitable
14 “So long, ami-go!”
15 Big cat
16 Mood of a place
18 Ruler
20 French river
21 Not talking
22 Suds in a mug
23 Cotton fabric
25 Coach
26 Compass point
30 Ground hominy
31 Dessert item
32 “— and a Half Men”
33 Dwindle
34 Bodily sac
35 Radar screen image
36 Sch. subj.
37 Aid and —
38 Jelly fruit
39 — -do-well
41 Flanders of “The Simpsons”
42 Sangfroid
43 Remotely
45 Cry of woe
46 Giant god
48 Pie crust design
52 In normal circumstances
55 Noose
56 “These — Are made for Walkin”
57 Bird class
58 To be (Fr.)
59 Doing nothing at all
60 Corral
61 Healthy upstairs

DOWN
1 Tranquil
2 Cleveland’s state
3 Lake bird
4 Blasting materials
5 Turner’s machine
6 Point
7 For
8 Stick
9 Coffin stand
10 Tiresome talker
11 Compass pt.
13 Ipso
14 Alter’s place
17 Forty winks
19 Operates
22 Popped
23 Hoisting device
24 Door hardware
25 Revealed
27 Book of maps
28 Steal
29 Drink to excess
30 Singer — Stefani
31 Underground stem
34 Topical fruit
35 Takes offense
38 Horned animal
40 Flightless bird
42 Dramas
44 Devotees
45 Patriot Ethan —
46 Walked on
47 “American —”
49 Jot
50 Succotash veggie
51 Sword
52 — -Wan Kenobi
53 Knock
54 “— Gotta Be Me”

The Film Flocks

BY ATTICUS JACKSON/THE ITHACAN



SUDOKU

2			5					
	4	3					6	


VERY EASY

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

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MEDIUM

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

The Ithacan

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Recruitment Night

Thurs. Aug. 28 • 6 PM
Park Auditorium



Fall 2025