THE ITHACAN

VOLUME 93

ACCURACY • INDEPENDENCE • INTEGRITY

LIFE & CULTURE | PAGE 8

INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORES IN ITHACA THRIVE



OPINION | PAGE 6
THIRD PLACES
ARE CRUCIAL TO
COMMUNITIES



SPORTS | PAGE 11

FOOTBALL STAR COACHES LEAD YOUNG SQUAD

IC expands creative arts programs amid deficit

BY KAELEIGH BANDA

NEWS EDITOR

Ithaca College is expanding its palette of creative arts offerings through new majors and returning graduate programs amid college-wide cuts and restructuring.

On Aug. 31, IC announced the return of three Master's in Music programs in composition, conducting and performance, in addition to a new Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance and choreography for musical theatre for the 2026-27 academic year.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the college had master's programs in performance, conducting, composition, Suzuki Pedagogy and music education. The master's programs in the School of Music were suspended by the Academic Program Prioritization Implementation Committee in 2021.

Steve TenEyck, dean of the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, said the graduate students will provide support for the music students and faculty through accompanying, conducting ensembles and teaching secondary instruments.

"The Masters of Music programs are integral to our ecosystem," TenEyck said. "[Graduate students] help the undergraduate student population in looking up."

Tim Downs, senior vice president for finance and administration and chief financial officer of the college, confirmed via email that MTD was an area identified for growth



On Aug. 31, the college announced the return of three Master's in Music programs in composition, conducting and performance, in addition to a new Bachelor's of Fine Arts in Dance and Choreography for Musical Theatre for the 2026-27 academic year.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KAELEIGH BANDA AND KAIDEN CHANDLER/THE ITHACAN

given the strong program demand in the research conducted by Hanover Research and Huron Consulting Group. Despite being the second smallest of the five schools at the college, MTD welcomed 10

new faculty members in Fall 2025, while the other schools only had two to six new faculty members.

Daniel Gwirtzman, associate professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance Performance, said the dance faculty has been working on the new major for about six years, and this major will be the first of its kind

"It is impressive and exciting that we're growing," Gwirtzman said. "[It's] a counternarrative to most of what we're hearing in higher [education]. ... It shows that we're leveraging a strength and that we

ARTS, PAGE 3

Librarians undertake new responsibilities | Students excel

BY JULIAN DELUCIA

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Two Ithaca College librarians, Jim Bondra, former business librarian, and Karin Wikoff, former electronic and technical services librarian, both retired Aug. 25. The current librarians have restructured the Ithaca College Library to account for the losses amid a turbulent time for libraries across the United States.

The college's librarians, previously assigned to specific schools with titles that reflected that, have had their job titles updated, all becoming research and instruction librarians. Each of the six librarians still have their specialization but now serve two or three of the schools, with at least two assigned to each school.

College Librarian Laura Kuo said traditionally academic libraries have a liaison model, where specific librarians cover certain subjects, but that Bondra's retirement inspired a change in the librarian structure and the implementation of a new structure called the team model.

"I see us librarians as information specialists, not necessarily subject specialists,"
Kuo said. "We have this skill set to be able to



College Librarian Laura Kuo said a change in library structure was discussed before the COVID-19 pandemic because different schools' librarians had different workloads.

JULIAN DELUCIA/THE ITHACAN

deconstruct whatever information system or tool we're looking at and [are] able to help students with it."

Kuo said a change in library structure was discussed before the COVID-19 pandemic

because different schools' librarians had drastically different workloads. Kuo said the new model was designed with the idea that

LIBRARY, PAGE 3

Students excel despite NSF cuts

BY ISABELLA EDGHILL

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A National Science Foundation grant meant to increase the opportunities for minority students in STEM was cut in May for Ithaca College students. Part of the lost funds were set aside to help biology majors present at the 2025 International Worm Meeting over the summer. With financial support from the campus community, students in the Department of Biology were still able to present their award-winning research on an international stage.

The Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation program provided funding to assist colleges in diversifying their science, technology, engineering and math programs. The grant intended to provide IC with approximately \$1,999,741 over the course of five years, starting in August 2021. However, the grant's termination in May 2025 resulted in approximately a \$400,000 loss.

Junior biology major Casey Ellison said

BIOLOGY, PAGE 3

NATION & WORLD NEWS

Zelenskyy to meet Trump at UNGA to push Ukrainian security guarantees

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will meet with U.S. President Donald Trump during the United Nations General Assembly in New York, which is from Sept. 23-29, in a bid to persuade the U.S. administration to join a security tguarantees framework supported by Kyiv and its European allies.

"I would like to receive the signals, how close we are to understanding that the security guarantees from all partners are those what we need," Zelenskyy told reporters in Kyiv on Sept. 21.

Ukraine's potential postwar security issues have been widely discussed in recent weeks both in Washington and across European capitals, with the potential for a ceasefire seemingly at an impasse amid continued Russian bombardment of civilian targets across Ukraine.

—Olesia Safronova/Bloomberg News/TNS

Pentagon demands journalists allow government to verify information

The U.S. Defense Department is requiring journalists to agree to submit anything they publish about it for government approval as a condition of access, the latest Trump administration effort to control what

information the public knows about military operations during peacetime.

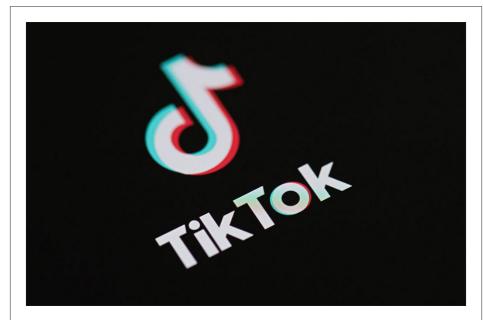
The new rule — part of an updated press credentialing process presented to news organizations — came in a memo by Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell. The memo said that journalists will be required to sign the 10-page form as a condition of receiving and holding a press pass to report on the Defense Department.

- Tony Czuczka/Bloomberg News/TNS

Cuba foreign minister slams Rubio amid fears of US action in Venezuela

Cuba's foreign minister lashed out at U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, calling him "a fraud" and "an international criminal," in a personal attack that suggests the island's government has given up on improving its strained relationship with the Trump administration amid heightened fears of a potential U.S. military action in Venezuela.

Asked in a news conference Sept. 16 about his expectations for the relationship with the United States, Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez accused Rubio of executing a "violent" and "politically motivated agenda tied to dark, corrupt interests, particularly in Florida," to provoke regime change in Cuba.



TikTok deal gives the US majority ownership

The White House says U.S. operations of TikTok will be majority-owned and controlled by Americans under a deal to spin it off from its Chinese ownership.

— Kasia Klimasinska/Bloomberg News/TNS

MARTIN BUREAU/AFP/GETTY IMAGES/TNS

—Nora Gamez Torres/Miami Herald/TNS

Luigi Mangione seeks dismissal of death penalty and federal charges

Luigi Mangione asked a U.S. judge to dismiss his federal indictment or bar

prosecutors from seeking the death penalty for allegedly fatally shooting UnitedHealth Group Inc. executive Brian Thompson outside a midtown Manhattan hotel.

— Patricia Hurtado and Bob Van Voris/Bloomberg News/TNS

MULTIMEDIA

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



A new series at the Hangar Theatre takes flight

"The Kaplan Cousins Improvise" show was performed Sept. 20 at the HangarTheatre in Ithaca and kicked off the Hangar In Flight Entertainment series.



Popcorn Premieres - TIFF/Fall Movie Preview

Hosts Logan Thompson and Dylan Long break down the Fall 2025 movie slate and Thompson recounts the highs and lows of his time at the Toronto International Film Festival.

THE ITHACAN

220 ROY H. PARK HALL, ITHACA COLLEGE, ITHACA, NY 14850

(607) 274-3208 • ITHACAN@ITHACA.EDU

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF MANAGING EDITOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH MANAGER **OPINION EDITOR NEWS EDITOR** ASST. NEWS EDITOR ASST. NEWS EDITOR LIFE & CULTURE EDITOR ASST. LIFE & CULTURE EDITOR **SPORTS EDITOR** ASST. SPORTS EDITOR **PHOTO EDITOR PHOTO EDITOR** ASST. PHOTO EDITOR VIDEO EDITOR **VIDEO EDITOR** PODCAST EDITOR ASST. PODCAST EDITOR **CHIEF COPY EDITOR PROOFREADER PROOFREADER DESIGN EDITOR** ASST. DESIGN EDITOR SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER **NEWSLETTER EDITOR** ITHACAN ADVISER

PRAKRITI PANWAR **REESE SCHENKEL KAI LINCKE LEAH ELLENBERG KAELEIGH BANDA JULIAN DELUCIA EAMON CORBO** SHEELAGH DOE **EVA LEON** ISABELLA MCSWEENEY **BILLY WOOD MEI DENNISON MARISSA MOSCHELLA SOFIA STERBENK JULIA HARGREAVES AVA SUFFREDINI ETHAN KAUFMAN** HANNAH COULTHURST **CAROLINE FENNEL NATALIE MILLHAM GILLIAN FLETCHER KAIDEN CHANDLER RAESSLER GUTHRIE TAMAR WACHI ISABEL ALASIO CASEY MUSARRA**

COPY EDITORS

Charlotte Lieber, Kai Lincke, Sarah Payne, Molli Semel

GOT A NEWSTIP?

Contact the News Editor at ithacannews@gmail.com or 274-3208

THE ITHACAN IS PRINTED AT TOWANDA PRINTING COMPANY

SINGLE COPIES OF *THE ITHACAN* ARE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE FROM AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTION POINTS ON THE ITHACA COLLEGE CAMPUS AND IN THE ITHACA COMMUNITY. MULTIPLE COPIES AND MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE OF *THE ITHACAN*. PLEASE CALL FOR RATES.

FROM ARTS, PAGE 1

understand that even in difficult financial times, people seek entertainment, and the cultural offerings of theater and dance are nonnegotiable."

The college's creative program expansion is also continuing beyond MTD.

At the Sept. 8 Faculty Council meeting, Melanie Stein, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, said the new schedule grid is allowing for more cross-school initiatives, such as the potential new creative industries major.

The major is planned to combine assets from four of the five schools at IC: the School of Business; the School of Humanities and Sciences; the Roy H. Park School of Communications; and the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance.

Michael Johnson-Cramer, dean of the School of Business, said the college's goal is to have a creative industries major available within the next two years or so.

"I've now sat in on meetings with colleagues around this, where we just don't stop laughing and imagining and thinking about what this could do for a student," Johnson-Cramer said.

Gwirtzman said there is an expectation that by the third year of the program, the college will hire new dance faculty.

"The college green-lighted the degree with an understanding that, at least initially, we will not gain any new resources," Gwirtzman



Students in the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance's conducting master's program will have the opportunity to accompany and conduct ensembles as well as teach secondary instruments.

ALLY DHEERADHADA/THE ITHACAN

said. "Space is definitely a challenge ... but we're hopeful that it will [change] in the future once we demonstrate the need with these students coming in."

Khyle Wooten, assistant professor in the Department of Music Performance, said the return of the graduate programs will bring light to the powerful legacies of master's degree programs.

"The resources haven't flowed like they have before, we will have to get creative, we will have to write more grants," Wooten said. "So it is really going to take all of us putting our heads and our

hands and our resources together to make sure that we have a good lift off."

Sophomore Kaitlyn Campbell, a music education and vocal performance double major, said that having graduate students in the music program is something she has been hoping for.

"The competition is going to be a lot harder, because we have people who are going to have a lot more knowledge all around," Campbell said. "But learning from someone who has such talents and such knowledge is also better. So I see it as more of a good thing than a bad [thing]."

TenEyck said he admires that Stein and other college administrators have found ways to offer new programs without spending a large amount of money.

"It's not just about, let's just cut, cut, cut," TenEyck said. "It's about 'How do we use what we have in the most strategic way? Where can we find efficiencies?' There are things that make us great that I think that we're investing in, which is awesome."

 ${\tt CONTACT: KBANDA@iTHACA.EDU}$

FROM BIOLOGY, PAGE 1

money from the grant was supposed to fund her trip to the 2025 International Worm Meeting and her summer research expenses as part of the Summer Scholars Program. When Ellison first heard about the grant cut, they said they began to panic, knowing there was no way to make up the money on their own.

"My life just blew up a little bit," Ellison said. "I was just really disappointed and just accepting the fact that I wasn't going to be able to go."

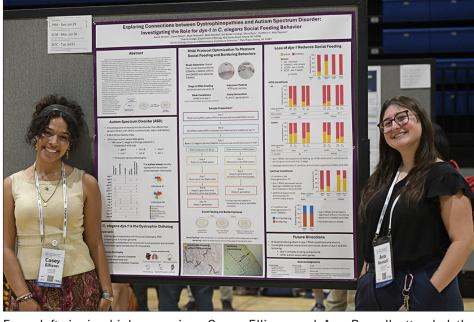
According to Ellison, the total amount they would need to cover to fund the summer research and conference expenses was about \$8,000.

The goal of the LSAMP program is to increase the number of students from under-represented minority populations pursuing high-quality STEM degrees. IC was one of seven small colleges and universities in central New York to receive an LSAMP grant from NSF. On May 2, the grant was one of over 300 terminated in a round of budget cuts at the federal agency.

Despite the funding cut, Ellison and fellow junior biology major Ava Remoll still made it to the conference, where they won the award for best undergraduate poster for research.

Te-Wen Lo, professor in the Department of Biology, reached out to multiple departments on campus to help pull together the necessary funds to ensure Ellison could attend the conference. The Center for Career Exploration and Development, the School of Humanities and Sciences Dean's office and the Department of Biology all helped to cover the cost of Ellison's trip. Lo said that, while stressful, the experience highlighted the sense of community at IC.

"You will often hear people say, at Ithaca College, the students are our 'why,' and this, I think, is a great example of that," Lo said. "It really was wonderful to see the different pieces of this campus sort of pull together to



From left, junior biology majors Casey Ellison and Ava Remoll attended the 2025 International Worm Meeting where they won an award for their research.

support one of our students."

Lo said that watching her students' success at the conference amid the funding issues made it all the more meaningful.

"If anyone was wondering what the importance of NSF grants and those types of funding opportunities are, I think this just sums it up," In said

Ellison and Remoll work with Lo in her genetics lab and traveled with her to Davis, California to present at the 2025 International Worm Meeting. The meeting is a bi-annual conference for scientists of all levels who work with "C. elegans," a tiny worm that is often used as a model organism for humans because of similarities in their genes. Lo said the conference is organized by leaders in "C. elegan" research and is community-driven.

Remoll said the Summer Scholars Program allowed her to focus her time and attention on the experiment without the pressures of school. The program allows students in H&S to participate in either independently designed projects or faculty-led research.

COURTESY OF AVA REMOLL

"If you really like what you're working on, and you wish you had eight weeks to do it full time and get paid, that's a really cool opportunity," Remoll said.

Jean Hardwick, professor and chair of the Department of Biology, said that working throughout the summer allows students to make much more progress on their projects.

Remoll and Ellison said they are continuing their research in Lo's lab in Fall 2025, this time looking at dystrophin in combination with other proteins that may have an effect on social feeding.

"There's pretty much unlimited science to be done all the time," Remoll said. "You can work on the same project for decades and decades, and never run out of questions to ask about it." FROM LIBRARY, PAGE 1

a smaller team could more effectively split the total workload by not specializing in a certain school.

"We're all having to communicate and share our own nuanced experiences, skills and tricks within our discipline with all of the other disciplines," Kuo said.

Kuo said a challenge she and the library faced going into this academic year was dealing with a flat budget. A flat budget is a budget that does not change or increase year-to-year. Kuo said the library has many subscriptions and contracts with different databases, such as JSTOR and Gale, which increase in price each year.

"That's just how publishing works, there's always an increase," Kuo said. "There's a lot of work being done to make sure that we're providing and still able to connect students, faculty and staff with the right resources under a tighter budget."

The IC library is not the only library dealing with a reduced budget. On March 14, President Donald Trump signed an executive order directing sweeping budget cuts at the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The IMLS is a federal agency that provides funding grants to libraries and museums across the country. The stated goal of the executive order was to "reduce the performance of their statutory functions and associated personnel to the minimum presence and function required by law."

The IMLS was one agency of many that received funding cuts from the Trump administration and the Department of Government Efficiency since he came into office in January.

Kat Savage, librarian and department head of youth services at Tompkins County Public Library, said funding being pulled on a federal level puts more strain on state and local economies and taxpayers in order to fund their libraries.

"There's only so much money to go around," Savage said. "Tompkins County Public Library has a lot of support on a local level, but that isn't to say that things [will not] get more dire in other areas."

Public libraries offer more than books; they also act as centers of community and safety. Judd Karlman, librarian and department head of Adult Services at TCPL, said he and his team offer a range of community services, such as book clubs, a makerspace and resources for digitizing family records.

"[The library] is a rare environment where there isn't an omnipresent capitalist pressure to pay your way," Karlman said. "It's mostly paid with Tompkins County taxes, so our patrons have already paid and they don't have to think about that."

Additionally, TCPL provides support to the local unhoused community and people struggling with addiction. Public libraries are open, free spaces where anyone can come for shelter or to access the internet, electricity and more.

"The library is a really good barometer for what's happening in the community," Karlman said. "The opioid crisis is a challenge in our community and we see that in patrons who are struggling with addiction and are in various stages of recovery. ... We do everything we can and if we can't help someone, then we call someone who can."

Karlman said TCPL received a harm reduction grant as part of New York state's Opioid Settlement Fund, allowing them to offer free Narcan and fentanyl test strips. The grant totaled \$37,500 and provided these resources, as well as Narcan training for the librarians and staff.

"I have been out in the community at outreach [events] and I've heard people say that their lives have been saved because people in the library were doing harm reduction," Karlman said. "When there's a tough day, the thing I always come back to is, 'It was a tough day, but who did I help today?' That's the thing that keeps us all going."

Greek life students work to help local community

BY SYDNEY MARTIN

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

While Cornell University supports over 50 on-campus fraternities and sororities, Ithaca College has no affiliated groups, leaving students to form independent groups that pursue the same goals of philanthropy and community building.

Across the country, there are about 750,000 students involved in Greek life, with a further nine million involved with alumni networks. The only Greek life organizations open to IC students are unaffiliated with the college and do not have headquarters on campus because of a decision in 1980 that disallowed their presence on campus in the wake of student safety concerns.

These include sororities such as Gamma Delta Pi, a locally affiliated social service sorority, and Zeta Phi Beta, a member of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, which is open to both IC and Cornell students.

Despite being unaffiliated with IC, both groups still carry a heavy emphasis on service and supporting one's community. Zeta Phi Beta is a historically Black sorority that works primarily with its own National Educational Foundation and the March of Dimes, in addition to promoting educational achievement and sisterhood among its members.

Another sorority, Gamma Delta Pi, founded in the City of Ithaca in 1965, works with a large variety of causes, including the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, March

for the Animals and BomberTHON. IC senior Funmi Omotosho, secretary of Zeta Phi Beta's Xi Phi chapter, said the service aspect was one of the main reasons that she wanted to join Zeta Phi Beta.

The Xi Phi chapter works with a variety of local organizations and hosts an annual baby shower drive in collaboration with the March of Dimes.

"When we have community service events that are open to other students ... or other chapters ... it helps raise awareness, especially when people often leave knowing things that they didn't learn before," Omotosho said.

For many sororities, like those at Cornell, the semester's community service is well underway. On Sept. 20, participants gathered at the Kappa Delta house on Cornell's campus for the "ShamROCKing Into School" 5K, in support of Prevent Child Abuse America. Open to students and the larger Ithaca community, the race was sponsored by several local businesses and raised over \$4,000 for PCAA, one of two main organizations that Kappa Delta partners with for their philanthropy.

While Greek life groups on the IC campus may be small, IC senior Hanna Pitts, president of Gamma Delta Pi, said that being a smaller group has allowed the sorority to get more hands-on in its service, both on campus and in the local area.

"Not being nationally affiliated has allowed us to diversify what we do," Pitts said. "Being able to look at



From left, Cornell University sophomores Sonali Gopal, Andreana Frangos, Liliana Franzese and El Youngquist at the "ShamROCKing Into School" 5K, in support of Prevent Child Abuse America.

ROBERT DANIELS/THE ITHACAN

different causes throughout the year is really important because it allows our sisters to dip their toes in a lot of different service events and stuff like that. We don't have to just stick to one thing all year."

While Gamma Delta Pi is one of the two main active sororities IC students engage with, it is also one of the many groups open to IC students that are focused on community service. There are 38 clubs listed on IC Engage as community-service organizations,

each with its own goals and focus, such as raising guide dogs or supporting small businesses. Many groups like Gamma Delta Pi focus on providing needed support for a variety of causes. Its most recent programming was an event for the Ithaca Children's Garden, which allowed members to engage with the local community and get more familiar with the region and the needs of the people within it. Though sororities face stereotypes in the larger popular culture, sorority members

hope that the philanthropy and outreach aspect of so many groups can help to combat that. Chen said she is proud to break those stereotypes through her involvement.

"It really opened up my eyes on how open and how nice girls could be," Chen said. "We still have a stereotype associated with every single house on campus at Cornell. ... I'm kind of proud that I'm breaking stereotypes."

CONTACT: SMARTIN9@ITHACA.EDU

SGC releases election results

BY EAMON CORBO

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

On Sept. 21, the Ithaca College Student Governance Council announced the elected senate candidates for the 2025-26 academic year. Candidates campaigned from Sept. 16 to Sept. 19, with voting on IC Engage opening Sept. 18 and ending Sept. 19.

First-year students Marissa Moskowitz and Jacqueline Thompson were elected as Class of 2029 senators, with Moskowitz receiving 55 votes and Thompson receiving 47. First-year students Nathaniel Krajnak and Graham Wohlers both received 45 votes. There were 16 votes of no confidence total among the candidates.

First-year student Margaret "Mega" Gem Martinez was elected as the international senator with 18 votes. There was one vote of no confidence.

Sophomore Frankie Weisse was elected as the School of Health Sciences and Human Performance senator with 39 votes. There were four votes of no confidence.

First-year students Aditya Valecha and Ari Medvinsky and sophomore Ash Beall were elected as senators-at-large, with Valecha receiving 166 votes, Medvinsky receiving 154 votes and Beall receiving 119 votes. First-year student Ayush Sharma received 60 votes. There were seven votes of no confidence.

The SGC is the sole representative body for the Ithaca College student community. The SGC meets from 7-9 p.m. every Monday in the Taughannock Falls room of the Campus Center. The SGC can be contacted at sgc@ithaca.edu.

Makerspace relocates for renovations

BY REMUS O. NELSON

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Changes are being made to Ithaca College's Makerspace rooms to help increase visibility to students and promote flow within the space by creating an internal passage between the rooms.

Temporary locations have been established in Job Hall room 102 and in the form of a pop-up in the library on the third floor of the Gannett Center, while the primary locations in rooms 101 and 102 in Friends Hall undergo a three to four-week renovation.

This is the latest installment in a string of upgrades to the Makerspace, following the addition of a second room, Friends Hall room 101, in October 2024.

Ash Bailot, makerspace and specialized technology lab coordinator, said items such as power tools, laser cutters, the fabric bin, paper resources, the laminator, soldering irons and paints will not be available until the renovations are completed.

"It has to be manageable enough that my students can pack everything up at the end of the day and unpack it and reset everything up during the opening hours," Bailot said. "We didn't want to bring stuff like paint and power tools that could get the library messy or create any kind of damage in the library."

In the meantime, the pop-up makerspace in the Gannett Center is offering a limited selection of its resources, including Cricut machines, button maker, beads, thread and hot glue.

Inside the rooms in Friends Hall, renovations will consist of a 5-foot-wide archway installed within the shared wall, a larger entrance desk, a new coat of paint and monitor adjustments. Friends 102 will receive



First-year student Ayush Sharma utilizing the pop-up makerspace in the third floor of the Gannett Center. The pop-up makerspace is offering a limited selection of resources.

NATHAN GLASSER/THE ITHACAN

electrical changes to allow for dimmable lighting. Though the rooms will experience some aesthetic modifications, the attached hallway will be heavily redecorated with fresh signage, door and window decor and LED lighting.

Davidson said the placement of the Makerspace often has students commenting that they did not know of its presence.

"It feels like we're in an outdoor museum or a live art exhibit because we are a lot more visible on the second floor [of the library]," Davidson said.

Andrew Hogan, director of engagement and client technologies, said the Makerspace is used by a significant portion of the college's student body. In the 2024-25 academic year, Makerspace ID-scans recorded a total of 4,781 walk-in visitors, including 1,006 unique users.

Hogan said they had set a goal to increase the usage of the Makerspace by 20% for the 2024-25 academic year, compared to the 2023-24 academic year.

Kuo said the library was happy to have this partnership with the Makerspace and that makerspaces are traditionally hosted in libraries. The Tompkins County Public Library, for example, also operates a makerspace with a range of items. She said she hopes the Makerspace's temporary presence in the library will bring more awareness to it when it returns to Friends Hall.

"The Makerspace and the library ... share a mission of providing access to services and learning and creativity," Kuo said.

COLLEGE BRIEFS

Knowledge to Action Retreat to include trip to Harriet Tubman's home

The Office of Student Engagement and The Unity Center are holding the 2025 Knowledge to Action Retreat from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 1. The retreat will take place in Auburn, NY, and includes a trip to Harriet Tubman's home, a trip to the Equal Rights Heritage Center and a discussion panel of Ithaca College alumni activists. Students interested in the retreat can register over IC Engage by noon Oct. 13.

The Office of International Programs holding study abroad info sessions

Any student planning to study abroad during the 2026-27 academic year must register for their program using the IC Terra Dotta portal by Feb. 15, 2026.

The Office of Internatioal Programs is holding an information session on studying abroad from noon to 12:30 p.m. Sept. 30 in Textor Hall room 103.

Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact studyabroad@ ithaca.edu or 607-274-3306 as soon as possible.

The Ithaca College Eco Reps seeking volunteers for Friday food donations

Ithaca College Eco Reps is seeking volunteers for its food donation events on Fridays from 7:45-8:45 p.m. at the Campus Center Dining Hall.

The group helps combat food waste by packaging and labeling unused food to give to

The donations are collected through the Friendship Donations Network, a nonprofit organization based in Ithaca.

Campus SAFE IC app now available to students abroad at IC London Center

Samm Swarts, the assistant director for

Emergency Preparedness and Response, announced that the SAFE IC app — the college's mobile safety application — is now available for students studying at the Ithaca College London Center via a Sept. 19 Intercom post.

The app provides students studying at the IC London Center with local resources for emergency resources, health services, student support and community assistance.

Swarts said in the post that students, faculty and staff at the IC London Center are encouraged to download SAFE IC and explore the app's features.

The Unity Center hosts Protect Your **Crown Retreat in Campus Center**

The Unity Center is holding the Protect Your Crown Retreat from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sept. 27 beginning in the Taughannock Falls room of the Campus Center.

The retreat focuses on teaching students how to protect their natural hair through styling, care and policy. The retreat will end with a trip to a beauty supply store in Syracuse. Students will be provided with goodie bags containing samples of various hair care products.

Individuals with questions or with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact unitycenter@ithaca.edu as soon as possible.

General Social Survey hosted as part of the DATA TALKS colloquium series

Stephen Sweet, professor in the Department of Sociology, will be holding a talk on using the General Social Survey to teach students data analysis skills at 4 p.m. Sept. 29 in Williams Hall room 320.

The discussion is the second session of the DATA TALKS colloquium series, which focuses on data and data analysis from across disciplines at the college and in the local Ithaca community.



IC EcoReps helps reduce food waste in Ithaca

Junior Shay Mogge packages unused food on Sept. 19 in the Campus Center Dining Hall kitchen to distribute to people experiencing food insecurity in Ithaca. JOSEPH BUCHER/THE ITHACAN

IC Trivia Club holding a Taylor Swift the trivia night. themed trivia night in IC Square

IC Trivia Club is hosting a Taylor Swift themed trivia night from 7-8 p.m. Sept. 28 in IC Square.

Attendees are encouraged to dress up as their favorite Taylor Swift era and to bring bracelets to trade.

IC Trivia Club will provide a bracelet making station during the Taylor Swift trivia night event. Groups of six or less students are encouraged to attend

Free mental health screenings with the Center for Health Promotion

The Center for Health Promotion and the Mental Health Flock are holding free mental health screenings from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Emerson Suites in the Campus Center. Participants will be able to build their own self-care kit, can enter a raffle to win self-care prizes and will be provided with tea and coffee.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM SEPT. 1 TO 14

SEPT. 1

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE / ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: Lyon Hall SUMMARY: The Tompkins County 911 Center reported a person had fainted. Patrol Officer Steven Hutchison responded. The person declined medical assistance from ambulance staff.

SEPT. 2

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

LOCATION: Terraces SUMMARY: Caller reported finding a backpack containing cannabis and drug paraphernalia. Patrol Officer Thaddeus May responded.

SEPT. 3

WELFARE CHECK

LOCATION: 130 College Circle SUMMARY: Caller reported feeling anxious. Lieutenant Michael Nelson responded. The person was provided with assistance.

SEPT. 4

STALKING

LOCATION: Terraces SUMMARY: Caller reported a person who was restricted from the campus waited and grabbed a person by the arm. Patrol Officer

Ivan Cruz responded.

SEPT. 5

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE / PSYCHOLOGICAL

LOCATION: Chapel Pond SUMMARY: Caller reported a person sent an alarming text message. Patrol Officer Jon Carr responded. The person was taken into custody under New York state's Mental Hygiene Law and transported to the hospital by ambulance.

V&T LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT

LOCATION: Terraces SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown vehicle damaged a handrail and left the scene. Corporal Kevin

McClain responded.

CHANGE IN THE CASE STATUS

SEPT. 6

LOCATION: Office of Public Safety SUMMARY: Patrol Officer Ivan Cruz reported a person was arrested for stalking from an incident that occurred in Terraces Sept. 4. The person was issued an appearance ticket for Ithaca Town Court.

SEPT. 7

V&T LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT

LOCATION: Circle Lot 4 SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown vehicle damaged a parked vehicle and left the scene. Sergeant John Elmore responded. The incident is being investigated.

SEPT. 8

LARCENY CREDIT CARD

LOCATION: Campus Center SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person stole a bag with a wallet. Patrol Officer Steven Hutchison responded. The incident is being investigated.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT / PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: Farm Pond Road SUMMARY: Caller reported a forklift and vehicle property damage motor vehicle accident.

SEPT. 9

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: 351 College Circle SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. Enoch Perkins, fire protection specialist in the Office of Environmental Health and Safety, responded.

SEPT. 10

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT/ PERSONAL INJURY

LOCATION: M-Lot

SUMMARY: Caller reported vehicle and rock property damage motor vehicle accident. Patrol Officer Thaddeus May responded. The incident was investigated and a report was completed.

SEPT. 11

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE / ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: 131 College Circle SUMMARY: Caller reported an ill person. Corporal Robert Jones responded. The person was transported to the hospital by ambulance. The incident was investigated and a report was completed.

SEPT. 12

CRIMINAL CONTEMPT

LOCATION: Towers Marketplace SUMMARY: Caller reported a person attempted to make contact with another person in violation of a lawful court order. Sergeant John Elmore responded. The incident is being investigated.

SEPT. 13

SCC IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL/DRUGS

LOCATION: Garden Apartment 28 SUMMARY: Caller reported an intoxicated person. The person declined medical assistance from ambulance staff and was referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards. The incident was investigated and a report was completed.

SEPT. 14

SCC IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL/DRUGS

LOCATION: Substation Road SUMMARY: Sergeant Kevin Noterfonzo reported an intoxicated person fell from a scooter and injured their face. The person was transported to the hospital by ambulance and referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards. The incident was investigated and a report was completed.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE / PSYCHOLOGICAL

LOCATION: J-Lot

SUMMARY: Caller reported having suicidal thoughts and had self-harmed. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded. The person was taken into custody under New York state's Mental Hygiene Law and transported to the hospital by ambulance.

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, SEPTEMBER 25, 2025



EDITORIALS

On any given week in Ithaca, you can wander into a poetry reading at Buffalo Street Books, browse titles at Autumn Leaves Books, meet a local author at Odyssey Bookstore or walk through the aisles of the Tompkins County Public Library. These spaces are more than just places to buy books; they are integral spaces to the Ithaca community.

Independent bookstores, like Buffalo Street, Autumn Leaves and Odyssey, make up some of Ithaca's third places: a dying breed in many parts of our country.

Third places are places outside of work or home that provide an opportunity to socialize with like-minded people. In this casual social environment, members of the community can come together, creating a mutual meeting ground within the community.

All three bookstores support connection in not only the community, but within families as well. At any time, you can find parents with their kids at story hour, college students browsing listings or locals wandering the aisles.

The loss of these third places reveals our culture's emphasis on individualism and profit. Profit has been continuously valued over human connection in American culture; the lack of third places sends a message to increase time at work because there is no other option.

In independent third places like Buffalo Street Books, Autumn Leaves Books or Odyssey Bookstore, value, connection and community are valued over profit. Sure, you can get the same book from Barnes and Noble as any of these independent book stores, but you won't find the same type of community.

Between drag story hours, local author talks and book clubs, these bookstores are staples to the Ithaca community. Buffalo Street Books is even a co-op, with hundreds of community members pitching in as owners to save the bookstore in 2011.

Without third places like these, the Ithaca community would not be the same. It is more important now than ever to support third places like these independent bookstores.

Independent third places IC returns to its roots with are crucial to communities revived master's programs

In September 1892, the Ithaca Conservatory of Music opened its doors to students in a fourroom house on East Seneca Street. In the 133 years since its opening, it has transformed into Ithaca College located on South Hill, renowned not only for music, but also theater, communications, film and much more.

The growth of Ithaca College has allowed for a wider applicant pool across a variety of different majors and schools within the college. More programs means more revenue from tuition for the school, giving the college a stronger financial base — this extra profit can help the college pay back its \$10.5 million deficit. However, when a college that started as a music conservatory grows into dozens of majors, it risks losing its musical identity and can feel like it is just another liberal arts school.

Despite its divergence from the original conservatory of music, IC continues to be immersed in the art of music. Administration announced in Fall 2025 the return of the composition, conducting and performance master's programs.

The addition of the master's programs further reinforces IC's status as a leader in the performing arts. It continues the rhetoric that IC produces pioneers in music, with the master's programs at the forefront.

Though, the master's programs are not the only reason why Ithaca's music program is prestigious. The Princeton Review named IC's theater program the 11th best in the country, and there have been over 190 IC alumni on Broadway.

IC's School of Music, Theatre, and Dance produces over 450 performances a year, many of which are often made free to the public. These performances bring music and theater to the community in an affordable way; these programs are not only teaching and benefiting Ithaca College students, but the entire Ithaca community.

Ithaca College is returning to its roots — the reinstatement of these programs symbolizes a return to Ithaca's artistic legacy, reaffirming that even amid academic expansions, its identity as a conservatory of music still stands strong.

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.

GUEST COMMENTARY

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

Artificial Intelligence is eroding critical thinking skills

SAMUEL RADCLIFFE

STUDENT

The emergence of generative artificial intelligence has fundamentally transformed the very way that we work. Despite the potential benefits and increased productivity it offers, there is still public wariness towards AI, largely stemming from misconceptions and a lack of understanding.

New evidence suggests that AI comes with an invisible trade-off. It helps us complete tasks faster, but also has the potential to erode our cognitive skills. Essentially, we are swapping long-term cognitive ability for short-term efficiency. We have to weigh the costs of AI and consider how we can use it as a tool without jeopardizing our engagement in cognitive processes.

First, it is important to understand how AI actually works. There are many kinds of AI, but the public tends to be most familiar with one type. ChatGPT, Gemini and Meta AI are all examples of large language models: a type of generative AI focused on human language.

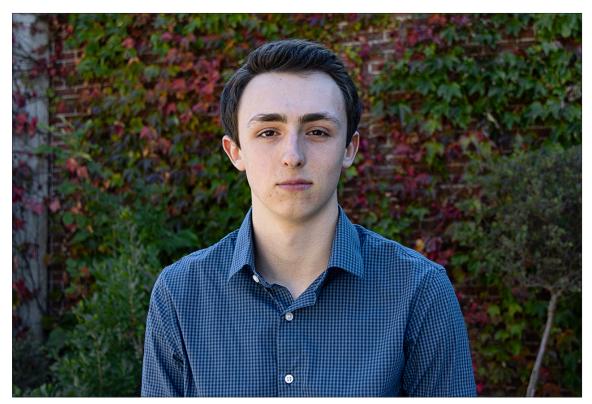
In his 2023 book "What Is ChatGPT Doing ... and Why Does It Work?" computer scientist Stephen Wolfram explains how ChatGPT really works behind the scenes. The model is trained on large amounts

of data to recognize patterns and produce a reasonable continuation: it predicts the word most likely to come next, one word at a time, until it has generated human-sounding text.

This kind of AI is becoming increasingly accessible and part of our everyday lives. People use chatbots to draft emails, generate code and summarize large bodies of text. It can provide students with tools that can boost learning outcomes by lending personalized feedback and instruction, potentially improving academic success. Despite these advantages, growing evidence suggests that an overreliance on AI can cause negative impacts.

Michael Gerlich, the head of the Center for Strategic Corporate Foresight and Sustainability at SBS Swiss Business School, examined a 2025 study on the cognitive impacts of AI in the journal "Societies." The study found a negative correlation between frequent AI use and critical thinking abilities. Over time, delegating mental tasks to external aids can lead to a decline in cognitive engagement and skill development; Gerlich calls this phenomenon cognitive off-loading.

AI often offers quick solutions and convenience that discourages users from participating in cognitive processes. Like a muscle, the human



First-year student Samuel Radcliffe discusses the consequences of continual overuse of Artificial Intelligence on the human brain, causing a decline in cognitive engagement and skill development.

brain can also suffer from disuse. We can undergo a kind of "cognitive atrophy" due to lack of mental stimulation. If we off-load too much, we can cut ourselves out of the thinking process entirely.

The first step to embracing any new technology is understanding how it works so we can get a better sense of the impact it will have. AI is undeniably a valuable tool, but that is all it is — a tool. We should still be in the driver's seat. Critical thinking is arguably our brain's most valuable function. Forming logical connections, decision making, problem-solving and reasoning all fall under the umbrella of critical

thinking. It is an essential skill to academic success and simultaneously what makes us human. Our ability to think critically is what separates us from AI in the first place.

Samuel Radcliffe (he/him) is a first-year TPDM major. Contact him at sradcliffe@ithaca.edu

GUEST COMMENTARY

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

Real-world experiences facilitate effective learning

NARGES KASIRI

PROFESSOR

At the Ithaca College School of Business, we often talk with our students about the power of data-driven decision-making. Over the past year, we turned that philosophy inward and experimented with LinkedIn as a platform for alumni engagement, institutional storytelling and student learning. What began as a conversation quickly became a school-wide effort that has transformed our digital presence.

What made this project special is the way it blurred the lines between classroom learning and professional practice. Students in our social media team served as content creators and strategists. They designed campaigns, tracked performance metrics and collaborated with faculty and administrators to align messaging with institutional priorities.

Inspired by IC's mission of "theory, practice, and performance" and its core value of academic excellence, for example, we launched a video series called "Pursuing Excellence" to showcase the achievements of students, faculty and clubs. There was never a shortage of successes to highlight, and content was sourced from all across the School of Business.

As the faculty advisor who initiated this endeavor, my role was to guide, mentor and ensure that students applied their business, technical and analytical skills in meaningful and impactful ways.

When we started in October 2024, the School of Business's LinkedIn page was quiet, with about 450 followers and very little activity. Today, we have about 3,000 followers. This

is the result of deliberate strategy, consistent content creation and the active involvement of students, faculty, alumni and staff. The School of Business now outperforms several peer institutions on the platform in terms of engagement and visibility.

Alumni began to reengage with their alma mater through LinkedIn polls, event announcements and messages. Faculty gained a platform to highlight their research and community involvement. Students discovered how professional storytelling could shape career opportunities and institutional identity. And the School of Business benefited from a tool that supported recruitment, fundraising and broader visibility within the IC community and beyond.

The journey was not without challenges. Early on, we struggled with inactive posts and low engagement rates. The solution was to experiment with different content and formats — moving from static photos to reels and videos and coordinating across multiple platforms. We also learned the value of synchronization: aligning LinkedIn content with Instagram for campaigns and major events like Giving Day that created momentum and consistency.

Why does this matter beyond the School of Business and IC? Because it shows what happens when social media is treated as a laboratory for student learning and institutional innovation.

Many colleges, universities as well as some schools on IC's campus face the challenge of building digital communities. Our experience demonstrated that a student-centered, faculty-led approach can achieve



Narges Kasiri, professor in the Department of Management, explains how the School of Business built its online and social media presence, with students at the forefront.

KAI LINKE/THE ITHACAN

that goal while giving students real-world skills in analytics, communication and leadership.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue this work with new directions under the guidance of the School of Business's incoming social media advisor, while keeping students at the center of the effort.

At the School of Business, LinkedIn has become more than a social media platform. It is a bridge between the classroom and the world, between students, alumni and professionals. And if you are reading this, there is a good chance you may already be one of our follow-

ers. We are grateful for your support in helping us grow this community. That is a success story worth sharing.

I would like to acknowledge and thank our student team for their invaluable contributions to this project. Senior Elle Wilcox, who served as content creator and strategist; senior Brendan Occhino, who led the analytics; and Cole Doyon '25, who managed our Instagram posts.

Narges Kasiri (she/her) is Professor of Management. Contact her at nkasiri@ithaca.edu

LIFE & CULTURE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2025



Independent bookstores create hubs for thought

ALLY DHEERADHADA

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Bookstores have long been places of inclusion, comfort and community, and the independent bookstores in Ithaca are no different. They are important spaces for the sharing of ideas, the connecting of communities and learning about the world.

The relationship between independent bookstores and the Ithaca community has been a long and symbiotic one. Buffalo Street Books, an independent bookstore in the Ithaca area, survived only due to the support of the community. Lisa Swayze, executive director of Buffalo Street Books, said via email that after the bookstore almost shut down in 2011, the community came together and raised \$250,000 to purchase the store from its previous owner. The store became a consumer cooperative, owned and managed by the members of the community it served. In Fall 2024, the store became a non-profit to further represent the mission of the bookstore.

"Buffalo Street Books only exists because of this community and everything we do is about serving the community through the books on our shelves, our partnerships with other schools, libraries, and organizations, book donations, and our comprehensive list of free programming and events," Swayze said.

Ramsey Kanaan is a publisher for PM Press, an independent publisher that owns Autumn Leaves Books. Kanaan said the abundance of independent bookstores in Ithaca is due to the shared principles of promoting literacy and the spreading of information.

What we all share in common is that ideas matter," Kanaan said. "And not one single store, or not one single book, of course, can be the repository for all that is fantastic, wonderful and engaging and those ideas."

Third places are places outside of work or home, where communities can gather and socialize. Bookstores are considered part of this category, which have been shutting down and declining rapidly over the years, according to the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research.

Megan Graham, assistant professor in the Department of Writing at Ithaca College, said third places, especially independent bookstores, are deeply important to a



Gabriela Medina, an employee at Buffalo Street Books, peruses the bookstore's diverse fiction section which aims to reflect the interests of the community while introducing readers to new perspectives. JOEY BUCHER/THE ITHACAN

community like Ithaca.

home [or] work, where we can congregate and talk about things that matter to us," Graham said. "Bookstores and libraries ... create spaces for performers to gain audiences, for authors to find readers and just for everybody to bond over the things that matter to us. ... The first step in having a healthy society is to have those kinds of spaces where people can connect to each other."

Laura Larson, owner of Odyssey Bookstore, said bookstores serve as a third place with less pressure to spend money while there. Unlike a coffee shop or a restaurant, bookstores can offer a low-to-no cost space for social connection.

"Bookstores are really gorgeous third spaces, spaces that people can go into where you actually do not have to buy anything," Larson said. "You go into a coffee shop, you really feel like, 'I need to at least buy

a coffee to be sitting here.' Wherelong tradition of having a space that you're welcomed into to browse, to wander through, and those are really important spaces ... people crave that kind of casual interaction that comes from being in those spaces together."

Prices at independent bookstores also factor into their importance in a community. Junior Anusha Bhargava said that they prefer to spend money at independent bookstores, not only for their lower prices, but also because they feel more secure in knowing where their money is going.

"In Barnes & Noble, the main factor for me is, it's expensive," Bhargava said. "I feel like most of my money is not [going to] go toward the author, and it's really not [going to] help them. ... It's a lot more feasible for me as a student ... I might as well just buy ... cheaper books."

Chris Hallam, the coordinator of

the Friends of the Tompkins Coun-"We need spaces that aren't as [with] a bookstore, there's just a ty Public Library Booksale, where hundreds of donated books are put on sale for under \$5. Hallam said that things like the booksale are meant to put books in the hands of everyone, regardless of their economic standing.

We need these places because it gets books in the hands of people that can't afford [it]," Hallam said.

Graham said that they love the serendipity of what they find at bookstores, how many things can be found at independent bookstores that wouldn't be available at a chain stores.

"Those bookstores are run by people who love books and literature and authors, and they want everyone to get access to cool things, and that's just sort of like a natural difference," Graham said. "A corporation can never love reading, and people love reading."

Independent bookstores are often places that are meant to be

welcoming and safe, and Buffalo Street Books is no exception. In the middle of the bookstore, there is a sign stating its commitment to making sure everyone feels safe and welcomed, regardless of race, gender or sexuality. Swayze said that the decision was meant to show all customers that they are supported and welcomed in the store.

"This is a community-owned store," Swayze said. "I think any indie bookstore, the more it fills that role where everyone can feel welcome and see themselves on your shelves, the better job you're doing."

The air of inclusivity and a welcoming atmosphere is not only promoted by these independent bookstores but also felt by members of the community. Junior Rachel Garrity said she finds a lot of diversity on the shelves of independent bookstores.

"It is very important to see yourself in all these books," Garrity said. "I've found a lot more of my personal identities represented at independent bookstores."

The Park Center for Independent Media at Ithaca College helped fund the Ithaca is Books Festival which was organized by Buffalo Street Books and other independent bookstores in the area. It was held on Sept. 11-14 on the Commons.

Mickey Huff, the distinguished director of PCIM, said that independent bookstores are places of civic engagement, and dissemination of information from places independent of large corporations is crucial.

"Independent bookstores, think, are hubs for thought," Huff said. "They're hubs for discourse, they're hubs for disagreement. They are places where people can gather. ... They're really part of the community ... and I think that's what's really important, is because people look at reading as a solitary event, and I think that it's really a community event."

Kanaan said that having spaces where the sharing of thoughts and ideas is occurring is deeply beneficial to a community.

"Ideas actually matter, and books ... historically ... have been the main way that ideas are conveyed," Kanaan said. "The more ideas that are out there, the more conversations that are happening, the more stories that are being engaged with, the better for everyone."

CONTACT: ADHEERADHADA@ITHACA.EDU

South Asian Student Association returns revitalized

TYLER RUSTYAK

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The South Asian Student Association, which was reestablished as a club in Spring 2025, is returning to campus after a hiatus. SASA will be making its debut once again as a community that will teach others about South Asian culture and provide a safe space for those who identify with it.

Senior Ashan Anthonisz Chandrasena, president of SASA, said he restarted SASA with two other students: Leena Asim '25, an international student from Pakistan and sophomore Pranat Shah, the treasurer of SASA, who is an international student from India.

"It is a platform for us to celebrate our culture, but also a platform to spread awareness about the misconceptions of what the culture is about," Shah said. "It's actually more fun than you might think."

Anthonisz Chandrasena said in 2022, SASA was not very active and once the e-board graduated, there was not anyone to take up the mantle, so the club did not get re-recognized. In Spring 2025, Anthonisz Chandrasena and Asim worked together on reestablishing the club starting with an e-board and an adviser. Because the re-recognition timeline had passed, they had to start anew.

Anthonisz Chandrasena said that SASA is now working on collaborating with other organizations such as IC International Club and the Asian American Alliance.

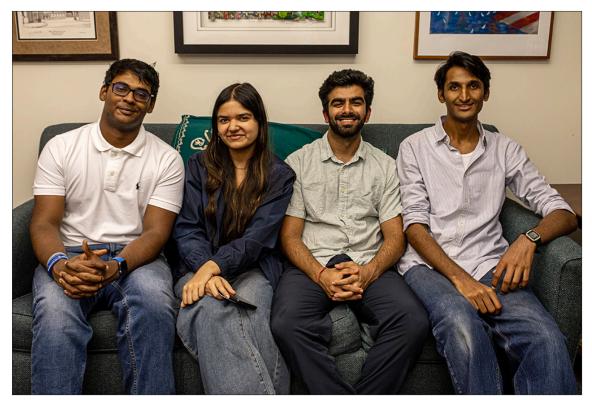
Anthonisz Chandrasena said that SASA is talking with the IC International Club to collaborate in its celebration of Diwali, a Hindu festival of lights, and Holi in the spring, a festival where participants throw powdered color at each other.

"Anyone who wants to learn, anyone who wants to attend, anyone who wants to try the free food or listen to some really good music, [is] always more than welcome to come to these events," Anthonisz Chandrasena said. "Right now, we're in a lot of planning stages."

Anthonisz Chandrasena said that despite having the IC International Club and the Asian American Alliance, there is still a lack of opportunities to have dialogue on South Asia.

"It's really hard to see [South Asian culture represented] at a lot of events," Anthonisz Chandrasena said. "Myself ... and Leena ... came to a completely new culture. We never experienced American culture before [and] what that was like. It was a huge adjustment period, and we didn't have that kind of space to be ourselves."

Anthonisz Chandrasena said that while IC International Club was open for everyone, it was a mixture of many different cultures and it was hard to connect with people specifically from South Asia. Anthonisz Chandrasena said he was the only Sri Lankan at the college for his first two years, and when he heard there



From left, senior Ashan Anthonisz Chandrasena, junior Angel Pandey and sophomores Jagrit Dhingra and Pranat Shah make up the e-board for the South Asian Student Association at Ithaca College.

NYX BHATT/THE ITHACAN

was another Sri Lankan on campus his junior year, he got really excited.

Trisha Mukherjee '23, adviser of SASA and academic success coach, said that SASA is meant to create an environment where people can get to know each other and help each other out.

"Creating a space where people can meet each other and rely on each other in times of need is important," Mukherjee said.

Anthonisz Chandrasena said that some frequent issues South Asian

international students face are a new education system, adjusting to different weather and a different diet.

"For me, it's big," Anthonisz Chandrasena said. "It's important to have this place where we can talk about our culture, it's very helpful." Shah said one of the activities for

the club could be playing outdoor games like Lagori. Lagori is a team sport containing a pile of seven rocks and requires breaking the pile with a ball.

"I think that's one great way to

learn about South Asian culture," Shah said. "Learning about team building, relying on each other."

Anthonisz Chandrasena, Mukherjee and Shah said their wish for the club is for everyone to join.

"It does not matter where you are born, it does not matter what culture you were raised with, it does not matter the color of your skin," Anthonisz Chandrasena said. "Everyone is welcome."

CONTACT: TRUSTYAK@ITHACA.EDU

Ithaca band upholds its legacy with a new drummer

PARKER ANNE DEVINE

STAFF WRITER

Ithaca College's diverse collection of student bands includes groups that vary from one-semester-only cover bands to long-term musical projects that last beyond the musicians' graduation dates. Lost Mary's band, with members Margaret Harper '24, Gerard Allen '25 and seniors Zach Ryan and Christopher Tassone, has become a staple of this community since its formation in Fall 2023. In Fall 2025, Lost Mary's announced in an Instagram post that Mike Lomino, a senior at Five Towns College, would be joining the band as its new drummer.

A four-piece when they started in 2023, Lost Mary's is no stranger to inviting friends to play with them for a song or two during their shows. In Spring 2025, Lomino played with Harper and Tassone at a Joni Mitchell tribute show.

"You could tell within 15 seconds that this is the drummer that you want in your band," Ryan said.

As of Fall 2025, Ryan and Tassone are both full-time students at IC, while Lomino lives on Long Island and Allen lives in Connecticut. Harper works full-time and is also part of multiple other Ithaca-based musical projects, including Cast Iron Cowboys, a country band that plays a combination of original songs and line dances. Even if they don't get to be together all the time, when they all reunite in Ithaca for a show, Harper said that Lost Mary's is the band that she feels the most creative with.

"[When I'm] focused on playing Boot Scootin' Boogie, I'm not going to go home and write an emotional ballad," Harper said. "Now, being with [Lost Mary's] and hanging out with them, I'm more inspired."

Lomino and Tassone share a hometown

on Long Island and frequently collaborate on music.

"I knew he was the perfect fit because Chris was his biggest advocate and best friend," Harper said. "I trust Chris with everything. And [at the Joni Mitchell show] Mike laid it down. It was just beyond impressive. It was foundational and what we needed. It was sealed after that."

Lomino said that getting asked to join Lost Mary's band was something he expected eventually because of his connection with them.

"We gel together perfectly, which excites me," Lomino said. "Being asked to join the band was an honor to me ... all the Mary's have shown me nothing but love from the jump."

Ryan said that with a designated drummer, Lost Mary's would finally be able to perform with two guitar players.

"We started out kind of as this acoustic guitar with some drums and electric instruments as well," Ryan said. "So I think that kind of lends itself a little bit towards alt-country, plus that's a genre that isn't really too prominent out here in Ithaca. We thought we would be something a little different."

Lomino's addition to the band is not only to free up a second guitarist. Harper said that many of the original songs Tassone has brought to Lost Mary's have been in collaboration with Lomino, even before he was a permanent part of the band.

"It's not like he's just a stand-in guy," Harper said. "It's almost like [he has] always been with us actually, so it just feels complete."

Playing together for two years, Harper, Allen, Ryan and Tassone have created a strong foundation of support between the band members.



From left, senior Zach Ryan, Margaret Harper '24 and senior Christopher Tassone play at Angry Mom Records. Mike Lomino first played drums for them at Ithaca Porchfest.

ALLY DHEERADHADA/THE ITHACAN

"I used to not be so sure about songwriting," Harper said. "But sometimes I'll have an idea and I'll bring it to them and just to be affirmed in your creative process, not just aided but supported in every way [means so much]."

Ryan said the band members, even when they are not practicing or playing, are a very close-knit group of friends.

"The bond of having a friendship is honestly more than the band," Ryan said. "So if it weren't for the band, it'd be okay because we'd be friends."

Tassone explained that the distance and different circumstances does not discourage the band.

"I think we're on the comeback," Tassone said. "I don't know where [Lost Mary's] will end. As long as it's fun, [we will continue

to] keep playing."

Harper said that the band is not looking at the distance as a difficulty, but rather a way to embrace their connection.

"If by the end of this academic year, we're all in different places we're obviously not going to be coming back and playing a show at gardens or in downtown Ithaca," Harper said. "Regardless, whenever we see each other, we won't be able to resist playing music together. It's not even a want, it's a need."

Harper alluded to the idea that their next show could be anywhere.

"We have goals," Harper said. "[Lost Mary's] doesn't just stop with Ithaca, but Ithaca is definitely home."

THE OUEUE Commentary from The Ithacan's culture critics

66 EXHAUSTS MORE THAN EXCITES 99

"A BIG BOLD BEAUTIFUL JOURNEY"

66 SHOCKED AND GASPING FOR AIR 99

"HIM"

66 INTRIGUING AND ELECTRIC INTRO 99

"THE DREAM"

'A Big Bold Beautiful Journey' is anything but its title

RILEY YOUNG

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Despite its intriguing title and visuals, "A Big Bold Beautiful Journey" falls flat on its romantic fantasy. The film stars Academy Award nominees Margot Robbie (Sarah) and Colin Farrell (David). The story follows two strangers who rent a car from the same mysterious dealership, leading them to continuously run into one another, eventually deciding to take a fantastical, larger-than-life adventure together.

After deciding to go on the titular "Big Bold Beautiful Journey," they find themselves traveling to different places to literally walk through different doors to relive important moments in their lives. Their first door, taking them to a small house in Canada where David visited once years before, sets a precedent for how the rest of the door visits go: poor

visual effects, weak editing that makes the film more confusing than it should be and poor character development that is accompanied with corny dialogue. The lines are delivered well by Farrell and Robbie, who try their best to piece this story together with what they are given, even if the film continuously botches its attempt to mean something.

Despite these critiques, the visuals and cinematography look stunning at times, with memorable shots that are destined to be posted to X, formerly Twitter, declaring that the film is a "modern classic" that will be understood properly in twenty years time.

While "A Big Bold Beautiful Journey" may consist of one beautiful frame after another, every other aspect struggles to piece itself together, making the film a hollow experience that exhausts more than excites.

CONTACT: RYOUNG3@ITHACA.EDU



MATT KENNEDY/SONY PICTURES/TN

'Him' tackles toxicity in sports through horror genre



UNIVERSAL PICTURES/TNS

BRENDANTOMASZEWSKI

STAFF WRITER

Gory. Unsettling. Surreal. Messy. These are the four words that describe the theatrical experience of watching Justin Tipping's "Him."

"Him" is a psychological horror sports film about rising star quarterback Cameron Cade (Tyriq Withers) suffering a traumatic brain injury while on his way to becoming a part of the film's equivalent of the NFL.

With this year being full of original and provocative horror films, "Him" dares to stand out by being a horror film that is about topics that have not been covered in mainstream horror media: sports injuries and the impact of potentially career-ending physical trauma on athletes. While there are moments where the plot seems confusing and is seemingly folding over itself, it was still a breath of fresh air in a year full of horror movies striving to be

different from the rest.

The most controversial aspect of "Him" is the writing. The first half of "Him" is a tight exploration of the football industry, using Cameron as an example of an athlete who worked his whole life to become one of the 'greats.' Cameron is at his lowest point at the beginning of the film, and he is slowly groomed for succeeding and spirals with the intent of becoming "better."

Overall, "Him" is a unique depiction of masculinity and the toxic cycle of abuse for athletes in the sports industry that has some disturbing highs and head-scratching lows. It makes up for its strange writing choices with its excellent sound and production design and the addictive dynamic between the protagonists. It will leave many audiences shocked and gasping for air.

 ${\tt CONTACT:} \textbf{BTOMASZEWSKI@ITHACA.EDU}$

The Favors' creates an authentic and dreamy debut

GEORGIE GASSARO

STAFF WRITER

If any other Fleetwood Mac or "Daisy Jones & The Six" fans have been on the prowl for a vibrant guy-girl, whimsically magnetic band to worship, The Favors may have answered the call with its debut album, "The Dream" that released Sept. 19. The Favors has carved an intriguing and electric introduction with warm vocals, thoughtful lyricism and instrumentals nostalgic of when music was created by authentic musicians.

The short intro track, "Restless Little Heart," is a stripped down, enchanting lullaby featuring the two lead voices, while the title track, "The Dream," is a surprising and utterly satisfying proper introduction to what this band is really all about. "The Dream" is jazzy and the harmonies are haunting — the signature recipe the two leads are known to craft

when they collaborate.

"Lake George" showcases the duo's biggest strengths: complimentary voices and sincere arrangements. The piano has almost an immersive sound even when streamed digitally. Both lead singers may have a repertoire of borderline-alternative music, but they also fall into the category of pop—albeit not mainstream.

The catchy disco-sounding "Home Sweet Home" should have been earlier in the tracklist to mark the halfway point and juxtapose the more melodically similar "The Hudson" and "Ordinary People."

The music industry is experiencing a shortage of true bands that regularly perform together among a slew of solo artists who may not even write their songs, to which The Favors may inspire necessary change.



ALEX G HARPER /TWNTY THREE PR

CONTACT: **GGASSARO@ITHACA.EDU**

SPORTS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

Football star power to coach next generation

BILLY WOOD

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

One Beat. The motto of the Ithaca College football team emphasizes togetherness and an almost brotherly connection. This season, the Bombers have relied on three new coaches who all have deep roots with the program.

On March 24, the Bombers announced the hiring of assistant coaches Ben Mason, Will Margraff and Will Gladney '20. Mason was brought in to coach both running backs and tight ends, while Gladney was brought in to coach wide receivers and Margraff to coach linebackers.

Linebackers coach Will Margraff

While both Mason and Gladney played college ball, Margraff grew up around football. The son of legendary Johns Hopkins University

football coach Jim Margraff, Will was around football all his life. After graduating from the University of Maryland in 2022, Will took a defensive quality control job at the University of Pennsylvania. There, Will worked with former Ithaca College coaches Sean Reeder and Dan Swanstrom. Later on, as an outside linebackers coach at Marist, Will worked with former Bombers coach Tom Biscardi. Will said his relationships are what led him to Ithaca.

"Between those three guys, having been here before and the way they talked about how the school itself was and the culture of the team, I knew it was someplace I wanted to be," Will said. "I have known [head coach Michael Toerper] since I was 10 years old, so once he gave me the phone call and told me that there may be an opportunity to come here, I said 'If I get a chance to work with Coach Toerper at this place I've heard such great things about. I'd be an idiot to turn it down."

Before coming to Ithaca, Toerper coached receivers and defensive backs for Jim Margraff at Johns Hopkins. Not only did Will know Toerper from a young age, but he knew Swanstrom as

well. Will said Swanstrom and Toerper were both key in crafting what his coaching philosophy was.

"Coach Swanstrom, we actually both went to Rhodes College and he got inducted into the Hall of Fame at Rhodes during the fall while he was coaching at Ithaca," Will said. "My brother and I gave his Hall of Fame acceptance speech, so the ties run really deep. ... I've called him to ask for advice and he has always been honest with me, helped me out. I know he's always a phone call away."

Sophomore linebacker Bobby Lombardo said Will mixes in a great combination of a serious and friendly relationship.

"[Will] is very upfront and honest," Lombardo said. "He tells us what we need to do, he keeps it professional but also loose. It's a very good player and coach relationship, but it's also a good coach and friend relationship."

Running backs/tight ends coach

Mason coming to the program furthers what is a Bombers' family line. Mason's father Bob Mason, a two-time all-American, played defensive tackle for the Bombers from 1985-87 and Ben's brother Dan, played running back and tight end for the Bombers from 2019-23. Ben did not go to Ithaca; instead, he played fullback, defensive line and tight end at the University of Michigan from 2017-20. Ben turned his success under Jim Harbaugh into a four-year NFL career where he spent time with the Baltimore Ravens, New England Patriots, Chicago Bears and Los Angeles Chargers. Ben said he immediately pursued coaching after his

"I just love the game of football and really want to be around it," Ben said. "I was always told as a player, play

as long as you can and then coach as went to school with my dad. I started volunteering in the middle of the year to get my foot in the door."

With his experience of playing fullback, Ben started his career as an offensive analyst in a fullback's dream offense, the triple option, at Army West Point. Ben said that longtime West Point head coach Jeff Monken taught him a lot about how to lead from the front.

As a player, Ben had the opportunity to play under both of the Harbaugh brothers and briefly Bill Belichick. Ben said while those names are some of his greatest mentors, he wants to take what he has learned from them and make his own story.

"I definitely try to take a little bit from everybody, but at the end of the day, you have to take the good bits and pieces from each and morph it into your own," Ben said. "Those are some of the greatest mentors that I've had in my entire life and I'm super thankful that I've had the opportunity to be around some great coaches."

Lombardo said Ben's experience playing at such a high level has shown in Ben's knowledge of the game.

"[Ben] knows little details about special teams that you wouldn't even think of and that hands-on experience he has is something that I would say very little, if no other team in the country has," Lombardo said. "Not even just on special teams but in the tight end room and offense in general, the experience that he brings is tremendous."

Wide receivers coach Will Gladney '20

Gladney's ties run directly to putting the shoulder pads on for the Bombers. In 2019, Gladney walked out of Butterfield Stadium as the program leader in career receiving yards and touchdowns. Gladney played professionally in Germany and spent time as a trainer before making his way back to IC. Gladney said his relationship with Toerper is different now, but they have the same goal.

FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

"[Toerper's] on the defensive side of the ball, so it was really competing against him and his guys essentially to a certain degree," Gladney said. "Now that I'm coaching under him, we're all together. Back then, we were together because we're one team, but I just vividly remember the battles between us in practice, me chirping at him, him chirping at me. He's making me better, I'm making his defensive backs better. That was how our relationship was when I played; now that I'm coaching underneath him, it's a lot different."

Gladney spent last year coaching high school ball at Saint John Nemann High School in Naples, Florida. Gladney said he wanted to coach at a level where all players love the game, which brought him to college. Gladney said he wants to unlock the talent the Bombers' wide receiver group possesses.

"We have a lot of guys that have potential, but I tell them all the time, potential is just potential, now you have to go execute," Gladney said. "Now you have to go make those plays consistently. Now you have to show up to practice every single day wanting to be better."

Lombardo emphasized the connections in the staff and said those connections play into the culture the team is trying to sustain.

"One of the things we preach is culture," Lombardo said. "The coaches are super close because they have all those deep-rooted connections and it just makes a very great environment for the team."



long as you can. Opportunity presented itself at [the U.S. Military Academy]. I knew a guy over there by the name of John Loose ['87]. He's an Ithaca grad who graduated back in the '80s and



Ben Mason played four years in the NFL with the Baltimore Ravens, New England Patriots, Chicago Bears and Los Angeles Chargers before being named running backs and tight ends coach for the Bombers. COURTESY OF THE NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS/ERIC J. ADLER

CONTACT: wwood@ithaca.edu

Women's wrestling gears up for inaugural season

LYLA DORAN

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Last July, Ithaca College expanded its athletics program by introducing an NCAA varsity women's wrestling team. With the 2025-26 inaugural season approaching, the team's preparations are in full swing, including the hiring of head coach Ryan Ciotoli '02 and the recruitment of the eight athletes.

After the announcement, getting a team built and coaches hired was a priority. IC Athletic Hall of Famer Ciotoli has spent his time coaching men's wrestling at the college, high school and club level, including assistant coaching the men's team at IC from 2002-08.

Over the past year, Ciotoli was tasked with finding the first Bombers for the team. Ciotoli said many competing programs began scouting earlier, which presented a challenge when finding players.

"I've been involved with wrestling for 30, 40 years, and I've made very good contacts with some of the top clubs and coaches," Ciotoli said. "I started making those phone calls. 'Who do you have available? Do you think they would be a good fit for Ithaca College?' I just started hitting the pavement."

Shortly after Ciotoli's hiring, first-year Sophia Torian from Menards, New York became the first athlete to announce her commitment. Torian said she was thrilled to find out the college was adding the sport.

"I knew about Ithaca and I knew it was a really good school, but they didn't have a [women's wrestling team]," Torian said. "So when I found out they had one, I applied, got it and then I toured the school and I really liked it ... so I just committed."

During her high school senior season, Torian went 17-6 and placed first at the Kristie Stenglein-Davis High School Tournament. Torian said she is very excited about the seasons ahead of her.

"I don't have any serious goals for this year, because I'm a freshman, but as I get older, I want to go to nationals," Torian said. "I just can't wait to wrestle with my team."

Over the next few months, the team added first-year commits Delaney Bisaillon, Angie Berry, Arianna Leo, Melina Georgas, Emmie Moore and Faith Villanueva to the South Hill roster. Ciotoli said it was difficult fighting other schools for recruits, but he is happy with the team.

"Some of the other colleges had a leg up on us with the recruits, but we did really well," Ciotoli said.

The team also had one more recruit become a pioneer member, senior Sammi Meyer. In middle school, Meyer wrestled but her high school did not offer a program. Meyer tried to create a wrestling club at IC, but it never got off the ground. Meyer said her dream was nearly lost.

"I kind of gave up on the dream and then I heard that we were having women's wrestling," Meyer said. "I was excited [so I] talked to Coach



From left, head coach Ryan Ciotoli '02 and assistant coaches Kate Zavuholnik and Joel Ferrara will lead the women's wrestling team in their inaugural season when they take to the mat in the winter.

and he was all for [me joining]."

Ciotoli said that although Meyer can only be on the team briefly, she could make a substantial mark on the future of the team.

"She will only be on the team for a year, but she hopes to make a lasting impact," Ciotoli said.

On Sept. 3, Ithaca's 28th varsity sport held its first-ever practice. On top of having to build chemistry with a brand new team, some of the athletes had to learn a new style of wrestling according to the

guidelines of New York state. Meyer said New York high school athletes use freestyle techniques, but anyone coming from out of state had to learn it. Freestyle is a faster-paced style of wrestling that emphasizes explosiveness and quick scoring.

"[The coaches are] just kind of getting everyone really familiar with freestyle, for those who are out of state," Meyer said.

Torian said the team has felt like it is able to build community quickly due to its small crew. "Since we have such a small team, I feel like it's a lot easier [to build relationships]," Torian said. "We all hang out ... and it's really fun."

Ciotoli said everyone in the athletics office is very excited to introduce the new sport.

"The coaches are very helpful," Ciotoli said. "Everybody's been great. [The athletes] are all positive, coachable people. [I'm] just excited to be a part of Ithaca College again."

CONTACT: LDORAN1@ITHACA.EDU

Sophomore transfer trades cleats for running shoes

MORGAN SPRIGGS

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Before the start of the Fall 2025 semester, junior Lola Gitlin had never competed in a cross-country race.

That was until Sept. 6, when Gitlin finished in ninth place at the Tom Balon Alumni Classic 5K race in Brockport. Gitlin finished in second on her team, a remarkable feat for someone running their first cross-country race. For her performance, Gitlin won Liberty League Women's Cross Country Rookie of the Week honors.

Gitlin was a lifelong soccer player, from high school to Division I Long Island University. Gitlin transferred to Ithaca College for the Spring 2025 semester. She came to South Hill to play for Mindy Quigg, head coach of the women's soccer team. IC won the Liberty League Championship Tournament in the Fall 2024 season. Gitlin was thrilled to learn from Quigg and said she is a legendary teacher.

Gitlin made a hard decision before her third year as a collegiate athlete: she was changing sports from soccer to cross-country. The sport she had grew up with her whole life was not working for her anymore. The choice stemmed from the physical toll the sport took on her.

"I have been dealing with injuries since high school," Gitlin said, "When I was coming back, I think I convinced myself that I was still so in love with soccer ... but the reality is ... I kind of took a step back and ... realized that, although there's such incredible people here and the team is so incredible, soccer was no longer serving me."

She missed her entire first-year campaign and redshirted the year. She had a cleaner bill of health in the 2024 schedule, playing defense for 11 out of 16 possible games in Fall 2024. However, Gitlin wanted a change.

Before switching sports, Gitlin swapped one New York institution for another, relocating from LIU to IC in the middle of her sophomore year. This change led to nervousness for Gitlin as she adapted to a new school.

"The biggest challenge was trying to find a way to just get myself out there," Gitlin said. "Getting rid of that fear of being cool and accepting that ... everyone's here to make friends, and being [OK] with not having as many in the beginning and continuing to grow my circle [helped]."

Gitlin tried to get involved in many clubs and extracurricular activities at IC, which made her college transition go smoother.

"[IC] has made it so incredibly easy to do that by just having amazing student organizations, incredible resources, and I've taken advantage of almost all of them," Gitlin said.

Furthermore, Gitlin was nervous about how she would interact with her team. All of those worries were dismissed once she met head coach Erin Dinan's cross-country squad.

"This is my first time ever running cross-country, and so I have a lot of questions and a lot of different asks," Gitlin said. "They've been so incredibly kind and welcoming and have treated me like family the second I walked in. ... I feel like I'm finally exactly where I belong."

Gitlin said she feels at home with her new team, leading to early individual and group success. From a coaching standpoint, Dinan said that this is not the first time former soccer players have run under her leadership.

"I love to get soccer players," Dinan said. "They are great runners and have a lot of drive and competitiveness."

Gitlin reached out to Dinan in Spring 2025 and got prepared over the summer for her new sport. Dinan said that the transition was smooth and that Gitlin got adjusted to the sport seamlessly. Despite the welcoming atmosphere and smooth transition, there are always challenges when shifting sports, but Dinan said that the



Junior Lola Gitlin transferred from Division I Long Island University in Spring 2025 with the intention of playing soccer. Gitlin switched to cross-country in Fall 2025.

BELIA BASTOS/THE ITHACAN

team has incredible chemistry that will help with any further adjustments that need to be made.

It is also important for Gitlin to stay healthy during the cross-country season. Dinan noted that the team's schedule is spaced out in a way that avoids overworking a runner's body to avoid wear and tear and unnecessary afflictions.

In her time at Ithaca, Gitlin has bonded with her teammates well, like with senior runner Jessica Goode. Goode finished seventh in the Tom Balon Alumni Classic 5K on Sept. 6 and has accumulated numerous accolades, including Liberty League Rookie of the Year in her first-year campaign.

Goode said the pair often go on long runs to practice for the season, which has led to them getting to know each other and bond outside of running. She said Gitlin's hard work and strong work ethic has led to improved team chemistry. $\,$

"She's super dedicated, super motivated and she brings an energy to this team that we've been lacking," Goode said. "She cares so much. I cannot emphasize enough how much she cares about this team and the betterment of the team. Having her only adds to our greatness as a team."

Leading up to the first meet, Gitlin had mixed emotions. She said that while not knowing how she would perform in her inaugural cross-country venture, it was all worth it.

"I went in and took a risk, and it worked out in the end," Gitlin said. "My teammates have been there every single step of the way, giving me guidance, so I just can't wait to keep on getting faster and win more."

DIVERSIONS





CROSSWORD BY QUILL DRIVER BOOKS

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21				22		23				
			24			25		26	Г					
27	28	29					30		31			32	33	
34				35						36				37
38			39		40			41	42		43			
44		Г		45			46			47		48		
	49	Г			50		51				52			
			53			54		55						
56	57	58							59			60	61	62
63			Г		64		65	66			67			
68					69						70			
71					72						73			

ACROSS

- 1 Lower forehead 5 Grown material
- 10 Dog paddle
- 14 Bellow
- 15 "Once _ mid-
- night dreary ... 16 Stockings
- 17 Vaulted church area
- 18 Strength
- 19 "- La Douce"
- 20 Stinging plant
- 22 Primped
- 24 Apple remnant 26 Bridge charge
- 27 Skyscraper (Hyph.)
- 31 Cake serving
- 34 Fuss
- 35 Be too fond 36 Mobile phone
- 38 Action words 40 FamiliarTV show
- 43 Bargain
- 44 Score in golf
- 46 Showy flower 48 Dined
- 49 Chairs
- 51 Highly respected 53 Sch. Schedule
- 55 Greek god

- 56 Indonesian island
 - 59 Fish hawk
 - 63 Graceful horse 64 Gasket (Hyph.)
 - 67 "- woman in love ..."
 - 68 Fish organ
 - 69 French writer Jules -
 - 70 Actress Gray
 - 71 Bone (Prefix)
 - 72 City in Germany 73 Ebon
 - **DOWN**
 - 1 High-fiber food
 - 2 Lariat
 - 3Tabacco kiln
 - 4 Unhappy fellow
 - 5Topnotch
 - 6 Mil. address 7 Lug
 - 8 Bungling
 - 9 Hard to squeeze
 - through
 - 10 Protected 11 Tattered
 - 12 "Woe -!"
 - 13 Fermented honey drink 21 Tilted peer

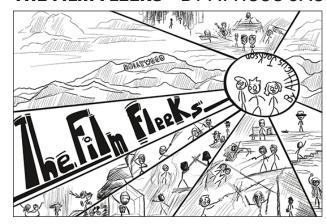
- 23 Energy type (abbr.)
- 25 Punta del —
- 27 Own
- 28 Notions 29 Stuff oneself
- 30 Uncanny
- 32 Shine
- 33 Fill with joy 37 Winter vehicle
- 39 Deserving culpa-
- 41 Major
- 42 Common gas
- 45 Coup d'-

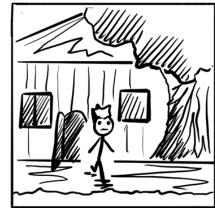
- 47 Understands
- 50 Attempted 52 Caught sight of
- 54 Rabbits
- 56 Palm starch
- 57 "Exodus" author
- 58 Sprouted grain
- used in brewing
- 60 avis
- 61 Arab ruler
- 62 Pull
- 65 Tax agcy.
- 66 Opp. of SSW

LAST ISSUE'S CROSSWORD

S	С	Α	R			G	0	N	Е		J	0	К	E
С	Α	S	Ε		S	Ε	D	Α	N		0	М	Α	R
Α	R	Е	S		Ε	L	Ε	С	Т		Ν	Τ	Т	Ε
В	Ε	Α	Т	П	Т			R	0	Т	Α	Т	Ε	
			Ε	R	0	S		Ε	М	Τ	Т			
S	Т	Α	D	_	U	М	S		В	Е	Η	Α	┙	F
VI	R	S		Ş	Η	Ι	L	Е			Α	Р	Α	R
Α	1	Т	S			Т	0	N			Ζ	Α	Ν	Α
S	Р	Е	С			Н	0	Т	Ш	L		R	Α	Ν
Н	Е	R	Α	L	D		Р	Е	D	Α	Ν	Т	П	С
			L	Ε	Ε	S		R	Ι	С	Ε			
	Ε	L	Р	Α	S	0			S	Е	G	U	Е	D
F	L	0	Ε		Ω	L	U	Τ	0		Α	Z	Т	-
E	Α	R	L		0	Α	Κ	Е	Ν		Т	Ι	N	Α
Ε	Ν	D	S		Т	R	Ε	Е			Е	Т	Α	L

THE FILM FLEEKS • BY ATTICUS JACKSON/THE ITHACAN









MY ROOMMATE IS A WITCH • BY KENDALL STRAND/THE ITHACAN



SUDOKU **III**

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

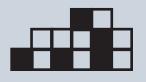
HARD

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



LOOKING FOR MORE?

Play crossword and sudoku puzzles at theithacan.org/games.





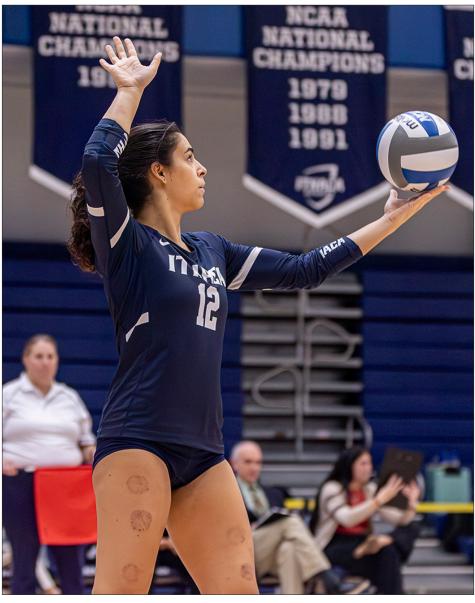
THE ITHACAN'S BREAKDOWN OF ITHACA COLLEGE'S WEEK IN SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK **AINSLEY GRANT/FIELD HOCKEY**

Grant contributed four shots and one buzzer-beater goal off of the bench for the Bombers' offensive assault against the SUNY Brockport Golden Eagles on Sept. 17. The team outshot the Golden Eagles 43-8 and outscored them 9-0.

ERIN SOLTANO/THE ITHACAN

COMPETITION OF THE WEEK **ITHACA INVITATIONAL**



IC faced New York University, Swarthmore College and Smith College on Sept. 19-20, dominating the trio 3-0. Junior outside hitter Gabriela Gonzalez-Abreu earned her fourth double-double of the season with 17 kills and 16 digs against Swarthmore.

JENNA GRIMES/THE ITHACAN

EVENT TO WATCH



1 P.M. SEPT. 27 AT BUTTERFIELD STADIUM

The 2-1 Ithaca College football team will make its return from a succesful two-game roadtrip to face the 1-2 Hobart College Statesmen. The Statesmen are off to a rocky start but the Bombers will aim to avenge their only Liberty League loss from last season, which cost them the conference championship. The Bombers are coming off two dominant performances: a 45-14 victory over Alfred University and a 65-3 trampling of Hilbert College on Sept. 20.

>>>> MORE UPCOMING COMPETITIONS

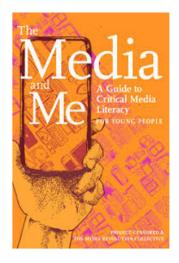
WOMEN'S TENNIS: Sept. 26-28 at ITA Northeast MEN'S SOCCER: 3 p.m. Sept. 27 vs. Vassar College at Regionals in Saratoga Springs, New York

Carp Wood Field

VOLLEYBALL: Sept. 26-27 vs. Skidmore College and SCULLING: 9 a.m. Sept. 28 at Green Mountain Head Clarkson University at the Ben Light Gymnasium

Regatta in Putney, Vermont

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



What's Next Ithaca? Sunday, October 5th | 6pm

South Hill Cider, 550 Sandbank Road

A community initiative to discuss topics of wellbeing and learning. This meeting will focus on the importance of independent media and media literacy education. Moderated by Felix Teitelbaum of WRFI. Confirmed speakers: Mickey Huff of PCIM, Cyndy Scheibe of Project Look Sharp, and other community voices.



Banned Books Week: Censorship is so 1984 Thursday, October 9th | 10am

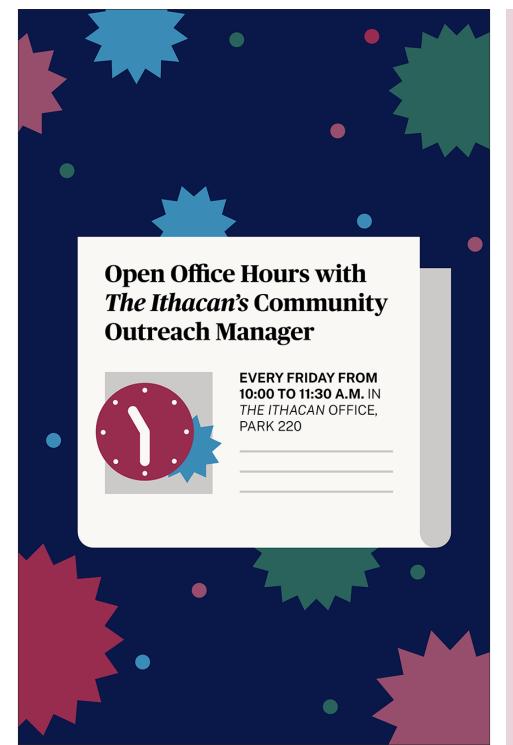
James J. Whalen Center 2105, Robert A. Iger Lecture Hall Award winning student film, *Pages of Protest*, screening. Followed by Q&A with filmmakers and other experts on banned books. Moderated by Mickey Huff of PCIM. For more details, visit: https://www.parkindymedia.org/.



Free and open to the public.

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





RECRUITING FOR YOUR CAMPUS ORG?

Get the word out about your student organization with an advertisement in *The Ithacan*.



TUNINGIN TO FALL

Ithaca musicians break into songs, captivating crowds at Porchfest 2025.







