Sophomores Jordan Brown and Grace George photographed the bushfire damage at Blue Mountains National Park.

BY RYAN BIEBER

When Ithaca College sophomores Jordan Brown and Grace George stepped off the plane in January in Sydney, they immediately got a whiff of smoke.

"I just remember walking off the plane and thinking, ‘Wow this is so real,’" George recalled. "It was smoky in Sydney, and we were 200 kilometers from the nearest fire.

Brown and George, who are both cinema and photography majors at the college, are currently studying abroad at the University of New South Wales in Kensington, Australia. Although they had heard about the fires in Australia on the news, neither realized the scope of the problem until they were standing face to face with it.

"The first thing you smell is smoke," Brown said. "You see people wearing masks because of the air quality.

This year’s fire season began in September 2019 and is just beginning to die down, approximately six months later, because of massive rainfall.

Although bushfires are a common occurrence in Australia, this year’s fires are unprecedented. The Australian climate has become increasingly dry and hot, resulting in longer and more intense fire seasons. This is a trend that has rapidly increased over the past 200 years in Australia, an occurrence that many scientists attribute directly to climate change.

The result has been extreme fires that have ravaged the ecosystem, destroying millions of hectares of forests and killing an estimated half a million animals, many of which are exclusively found in Australia.

The Australian government has had to call in fire fighting help from countries around the world, including Canada. The fires killed a total of 27 people, including four firefighters, and an estimated half a billion animals. Thousands of people were forced to evacuate as homes were destroyed.

"I just remember walking off the plane and seeing the fire," George said. "You see people wearing masks because of the air quality."

Brown said. "You see people wearing masks because of the air quality."

Sophomores Jordan Brown and Grace George photographed the bushfire damage at Blue Mountains National Park.

AUSTRALIA, PAGE 14–15

Position filled for Title IX

BY CAITLIN HOLTZMAN

The Title IX office in the Ithaca College Office of the General Counsel announced Feb. 14 that Omar Stoute ’17 is the new Title IX deputy coordinator.

Stoute has worked at the college in different positions in recent years and is taking over the position, said La Jerne Cornish, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, in the announcement. He started the position Feb. 17.

He will lead the college’s sexual and dating violence prevention efforts and conduct investigations for the Title IX office, the announcement said.

“During my time as an Ithaca College student and now professional, I have developed a passion for equity and inclusion and ensuring that all community members are resourced equitably,” Stoute said via email.

Before joining the Title IX office, Stoute worked for the college in the Office of the Provost as an administrative assistant and as a project coordinator for the Latinos Program and the Center for Civic Engagement.

Stoute was a founding member of the First Generation Organization, which was created in Fall 2016. He is currently acting as a peer mentor to 12 students on campus, the announcement said.

Stoute is a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity in which he does community service with Ithaca High School and the greater Ithaca community, the announcement said.

Koenig was unavailable to comment.

NOTES

- The annual meeting of the Ithaca College Board of Trustees was held Feb. 12–13.

- The group discussed a variety of topics, including implementation of the strategic plan, the campus climate, the 2020–21 fiscal budget and enrollment and marketing strategies, the email stated.

- At the meeting, the group discussed how institutional change was affecting the campus climate, according to the email. The email stated that the group approached the discussion with “a common understanding that the college’s success depends on its ability to adapt.”

- The email stated that the conversation provided context about current issues surrounding the campus climate, but it did not say what specific issues were discussed.

- “In light of the challenges faced as the college makes progress toward a sustainable future, trustees recognize the necessity of collaboration, civil discourse and transparent discussion among all campus constituents to realize the shared commitment to and the success of Ithaca College,” the email stated.
French government reports first death from virus outside Asia

The French government reported the first death outside Asia of a person infected with the new virus from China on Feb. 15. An 80-year-old Chinese tourist, who two French hospitals initially turned away, died. Also, a new confirmed case was reported that brought the country’s total to 12. Health Minister Agnès Buzyn said she learned Feb. 14 night about the death of the patient, a man who tested positive for the virus in late January and had been isolated in intensive care at a Paris hospital.

Gas leak in Pakistan city causes death of 14 and leaves more sick

A gas leak in Karachi, Pakistan, has killed 14 people and sickened hundreds more, Pakistani health officials said Feb. 18. The leak that started Feb. 16 has set off a panic in Karachi’s coastal neighborhood of Kamari, and residents began rushing to local hospitals. Authorities said they were planning to evacuate residents from Kamari to safer places by evening Feb. 18.

Group urges court to reverse Harvard admissions case ruling

A group that opposes affirmative action filed a federal appeals court Feb. 18 to overturn a ruling that cleared Harvard University of discriminating against Asian American applicants. Students for Fair Admissions has accused the Ivy League college of deliberately holding down the number of Asian Americans accepted in order to preserve a racial balance on campus. U.S. District Judge Allison Burroughs ruled in October that Harvard’s admissions process, while “not perfect,” passes constitutional muster and that there is “no evidence of any racial animus whatsoever.”

Federal judge refuses to delay sentencing of Roger Stone

A U.S. federal judge refused to delay sentencing for Roger Stone on Feb. 18 on his conviction. President Donald Trump kept up his unrelenting defense of his longtime confidant and said he wouldn’t be quieted on social media even if he’s making things harder for his own administration.

Mexican women rally against femicide

Women gather to demonstrate against gender violence Feb. 15 in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. The protest came after Ingrid Escamilla was murdered by her boyfriend and images of her body were printed by the press.

Boy Scouts seeks bankruptcy and asks victims to step forward

The Boy Scouts of America urged victims to step forward Feb. 18 as the 110-year-old organization filed for bankruptcy in hopes of surviving a barrage of lawsuits, many of them made possible by recent changes in state laws to allow people to sue over long-ago sexual abuse.

Source: Associated Press

Athletes pose for spring sports preview

Ithaca photo editors took photos of athletes for the spring sports preview coming out in the Feb. 27 edition of The Ithacan.
BY LUCY CALDERON

Jonah Hintz, a member of Assigned Female at Birth (AFAB), a local all-transmasculine a cappella group, stepped onto The Hague stage Feb. 14 with a whistle in his hands.

He told the completely packed room that the song he was performing was influenced by his experiences at Planned Parenthood, which helped him learn about self-love and acceptance.

"Planned Parenthood is one of the reasons I feel safe here in Ithaca," Hintz said.

Hintz was one of the handful of performers, including Ithaca College student musicians, who participated in the second-ever Planned Parenthood Benefit Show.

The benefit concert coincided with Valentine’s Day.

The event was sponsored by Dan Small’s Presents (DSP) Shows, a concert promoter company, and Ithaca Underground, a non-profit organization that promotes underground music.

The event was also put on by Ithaca College senior Kyra Skye and Mackie Quinn, director of Park Promotions, the college’s in-house promotion agency, who emceed the event.

The event had an eclectic bill of musicians from both the college and the local community.

The bill included Sky, senior Abbey Sullivan and Quilt, a band made up of female musicians Vanity, Malene Carroll, Ali DeFrancisco, Gabe Sam, Zan Laamstein and Davide Fiorentino. Junior Jake Layson and senior Dan Yapp, Local musicians like Hintz, Lady Borderhop and Vee Da Bee also performed.

The concert raised over $5,000, which is over $1,000 more than the previous year’s concert, said Leah West, the talent buyer at DSP Shows.

Planned Parenthood is a non-profit organization that provides reproductive health services and education.

It offers birth control, sexually transmitted infection testing, treatment and vaccines, pregnancy tests, cancer screenings, gynecological exams, patient education, LGBTQ services and general health care, according to its website.

"They’ve given me some answers," Delery said. "Everybody there is very supportive. It’s affordable, and it’s accessible. It’s very, very accessible. And it’s not just cis female questions. It’s everybody. And I think it’s important that even men — even cis men or any men, wherever you fall on the spectrum — have somewhere there to support you more than just to stick a finger up your butt and ask you to cough, you know what I mean? There’s a whole other level.

West said one of the goals of this year’s concert was to be more inclusive because last year’s concert was completely female-dominated. People don’t normally see female-dominated events in the music industry," West said. "I know that in my job as a talent buyer, I am sometimes the only woman in the room. It was just really powerful to have all women run the event and play the event.

West said she hoped to better reflect the wide range of people who use and need Planned Parenthood services with a more diverse organization and staff music line up.

"We feel like last year we were kind of excluding people," West said. "Having Jonah, as a trans man, I think is really powerful because, obviously, Planned Parenthood helps a lot of people in the trans community… all genders, all sexual identities."

Skye said it was special to both organize and perform at the event. "To also be one of the performers is crazy because you’re actively creating the space for the event to happen and then also sharing energy in that space," she said. "That’s another reason why I like Planned Parenthood is that it creates spaces for people to feel safe and to be safe.

Layson said she hoped to help West put on the third annual benefit show next year.

Ithaca College freshman Sabin Layson said that she never left the front row during the four-hour event. "It was amazing seeing all of these local bands come together to support Planned Parenthood," Layson said. "They’re all insanely talented and passionate about their music, and it really shows."
CSCRE develops new major for 2022

BY JULIE DANNEVIG

On Feb. 6, Ithaca College students and faculty filled Clark Lounge as they discussed, questioned and collaborated to develop the Center for the Study of Culture, Race and Ethnicity (CSCRE) major called race, power and resistance.

Through CSCRE, the college offers minors in African diaspora, Asian American, Latino/a, Native American and indigenous studies. Belisa González, CSCRE director and associate professor in the Department of Sociology, said approximately 70 students are currently enrolled in CSCRE minors.

She said the major is not official yet, but those involved in CSCRE are working to have it offered at the college in 2022.

She said CSCRE is developing the race, power and resistance major to offer a more complete understanding of history and different cultures from around the world.

The event was hosted by CSCRE and opened with an activity in which students and faculty worked together in groups to create pitchs for the story behind the race, power and resistance major.

González instructed the groups to create this pitch by starting with, “Once upon a time.”

González said the groups should use this exercise to explain the process of creating the major and express what it means to them.

After approximately 15 minutes, the groups shared their stories.

“Once upon a time, there was a group of young professionals who every day experienced widespread disillusionment due to the structural ignorance of the education system,” one group said. “One day, we realized that we deserve to have a fair education, and we were determined to fight against traditional history and white supremacy.”

The other groups pitched included similar ideas, like wanting to update current curricula to include learning about different cultures and all sides of history.

Students were later given the opportunity to share ideas, questions and concerns about the major with faculty members in CSCRE.

González prompted the audience with questions like, “What is missing from your education?” and “What will the goals and priorities [of the major] be?”

The students gave suggestions for classes and workshops relating to the major. Senior Diana Mejia said she wanted to see more faculty in CSCRE as well as a designated space for student engagement. Mejia said CSCRE should work to offer courses focusing on more specific facets of history and culture to offer students a more complete education.

“Right now, [the curriculum] is very general,” she said. “I think it would be really nice to have optional courses where you can learn about specific countries and tribes,” Mejia said. “Right now it is a little broad, and I think it would be really nice to have more specific courses.”

She suggested workshops of faculty to help students feel more comfortable with the major.

Senior Diana Mejia works on a pitch Feb. 6 for the Center for the Study of Culture, Race and Ethnicity to house a new major. The major is planned to start in 2022.

Tenure list announced

BY FALYN STEMPLE

The Ithaca College Board of Trustees granted emeritus status to nine retired faculty members and promoted 20 current faculty members to tenured positions as of its annual February meeting, according to an email from the administration Feb. 17.

The tenured faculty members given emeritus status are Gary Moroz, professor in the Department of Exercise and Sport Sciences, who retired in 2019; Dan Bristot, associate professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, who retired in 2019; Bruce Thompson, associate professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, who retired in 2019; Verna Brunnett, professor in the Department of Music Education, who retired in 2018; Frank Campos, professor in the Department of Music Performance, who retired in 2018; Kim Dannick, professor in the Department of Performing Arts, who retired in 2019; and Gordon Stout, professor in the Department of Performance Studies, who retired in 2019.

On behalf of the board, we offer our deepest congratulations to these faculty.

–Shirley M. Collado and Dave Lissy

The professors who were promoted to associate professor status, who grants them tenure, include Matthew Geiszler, professor in the Department of Accounting and Business Law; Christine Battelle, professor in the Department of Management, Christy Gauthier, professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies; Lisa Farman, professor in the Department of Strategic Communication; Jennifer McKeon, professor in the Department of Exercise and Sport Sciences; Sarah Fischl, professor in the Department of Physical Therapy; Patrick Lewis, professor in the Department of Education; Matthew Thomas, professor in the Department of Mathematics; Joslyn Breton, professor in the Department of Sociology; Katherine Cohen-Filipek, professor in the Department of Sociology; Jacob White, professor in the Department of Writing; Crystall Puebles, professor in the Department of Music Theory, History and Composition; Evis Sammoutis, professor in the Department of Music History and Composition; Dmitri Norgordovskiy, professor in the Department of Performance Studies; Vaden Strong, professor in the Department of Performance Studies; Marc Webster, professor in the Department of Performance Studies; and Lisa Ferilli, professor in the Department of Physical Therapy.

President Shirley M. Collado and Dave Lissy, chair of the board of trustees, said on behalf of the board that it was proud of all the faculty who were promoted.

On behalf of the board, we offer our deepest congratulations to these faculty for attaining this milestone in their careers,” they said to the campus community via email.
Alumni discuss post-graduation issues

BY JULIE DANNENGE
Six alumni offered advice about preparing for life after graduation as they reflected on their past experiences at the college Feb. 18 in Clark Lounge for the Five Under Five - Looking Back, Moving Forward event.

The event, hosted by the Students Today Alumni Tomorrow (STAT) as part of “I Love IC Week,” featured panels of senior Abby Roberts ’19, Brandon Galione ’17, Karina Green ’17, Imogen Mills ’18, Melissa McGill-Carlison ’15, MBA ’16, and Harrison Malone ’15. The panels all graduated within the last five years and represented each of the five academic schools at the college.

Seniors Rachel Gutsuspan, president of STAT, and Francesca Cherchio, vice president of events for STAT, led the discussion.

Senior Abby Wiel said she attended the event in hopes of finding a source of guidance for preparing for life after graduation.

“I’m a senior graduating in May, and I am very confused about my future,” she said. “So it was nice to hear from alumni who have kind of gone through the same thing that I’m going through right now.”

Roberts said she started working approximately one month after graduating in Spring 2019. The transition into a professional career was smooth overall, but she faced difficulties adapting to the new environment, she said.

“I think learning different people’s styles of how they work is definitely a new thing,” she said. “In [the communication management and design major], especially, you’re working with people who have been trained to work the same way. … but when you’re walking into an organization that has been around for 20 years, … they have a certain working style.”

Schneider said he valued the opportunities he had after graduation to explore and discover new interests outside of his Bachelor of Music program.

“Students don’t immediately know what they want to do,” he said. “You’re allowed to do other things that make you happy.” He added that “you’re working on your personal trainer certification now.” He has running certification. None of these things are ever going to have been imagined for myself, but that’s okay.”

Schneider said he currently works as executive assistant to Stephanie Lemons, the associate choreographer and global dance supervisor of Hamilton. He is also the director of operations of Kate’s Art Project. According to its website, Kate’s Art Project connects children facing life-threatening illnesses with emerging and established artists.

“I sort of feel like after college, I’m at this standstill,” Levens said. “I don’t know how much more I can learn. So hearing what [Schneider] said was something that I really needed to hear.”

Alumni senator following meeting

BY SAM HAUT
Freshman Henry Wade, Class of 2023 senator for the Ithaca Col-lege Student Government Council (SGC), resigned from his position after a disagreement concerning racial tensions in the Roy H. Park School of Communications occurred during senate confirmations at the SGC meeting Feb. 17.

At the meeting, senators voted to confirm three different students as SGC senators with a vote of 4–3. The discussion surrounding whether Galione should be allowed to run again as a senator caused Wade to resign.

Freshman Lila Weiser was confirmed as the School of Music senator with a vote of 6–1, and freshman Hannah Herula was confirmed as the transfer student senator with a vote of 7–0.

During Galione’s confirmation, freshman Senator-at-Large Nikita Lucidane asked him how he would deal with racial tensions among students, faculty and the administra-tion in the Park School. Students in the Park School have claimed that the majority of the student consensuses worked on things that don’t really know about.”

Lucidane said, “I understand that it is a shocker, and especially being a woman of color, it’s hard to hear something like that.”

Senior SGC President Farwa Shakeel was shocked to hear Galione was unaware of the racial issues in the Park School.

“I think it’s fair to say that may-be most of us who are not ready to deal with this situation, that faculty either perpetuate or tolerate microaggressions, as previ-ously reported by The Ithacan.”

Galione said he was unfamiliar with those issues but hopes to edu-cate himself on whatever problems students are facing.

“I definitely would want to help in any way that I can and find the maj-oity of the student-consensus to work on that so that they can be able to address those issues,” Galione said.

Lucidane said she would appreci-ate if Galione educated himself on this issue.

“This club isn’t at liberty to be most of us who are not ready to deal with that potential, that has the discipline and the drive to work on things that he doesn’t really know about.”

Lucidane said, “I need to understand that he doesn’t really know about, and especially being a woman of color, it’s hard to hear something like that.”

Senior SGC President Farwa Shakeel was shocked to hear Galione was unaware of the racial issues in the Park School.

“I think it’s fair to say that maybe most of us who are not ready to deal with him as per what he presented today,” Shakeel said.

Junior Elijah Nishniara, vice president of campus affairs, said he believes Galione should educate him-self about the issues and come back to the SGC.

“If he just needs to go back and bring more photos and research and show that he has the care, I’m fine,” Nishniara said.

In his resignation letter sent after the meeting, Wade said that he believes the SGC should not consider someone like Galione for a position if he is not familiar with the racial issues in the Park School.

“On the one hand, I have always been willing to work with people of differing opinions than I,” Wade said in the letter. “On the other hand, I believe that ignorance is the most dangerous thing that exists in our world. I am unable to reconcile these two philosophical beliefs. To-night served as an example of this conflict. I won’t work with people that display that ignorance and I uncom-fortable (sic) working with people that tolerate it.”

Nishniara said the reason the SGC chose not to confirm Galione was that “it is the discretion of the senate, and the senate will make judgments on confirmations.”

Wade said via email that he thinks Nishniara’s response “was in-adequate and very insensitive.”

Patricia Rodriguez, associate professor and chair of the Department of Politics, said that “it is the discretion of the senate, and the senate will make judgments on confirmations.”

Page said the company joined the Cli-mate Justice Alliance last year, a group that is focused on reaching a consensus climate solution.

“Across our company, we promote inclusive economic growth and a commu-nity in communities where we operate, and, by 2023, we will invest $1.75 billion toward these efforts,” the statement said. “We recognize the complexity of cli-mate change issues and actively engage with a diverse set of stakeholders to understand their views.”

Page said the company joined the Cli-mate Leadership Council last year, a group that is focused on reaching a consensus climate solution.

“Burger said the response in the press re-lease from the bank was insulting.”

“We spent hours and hours researching, and I don’t think they could offer us any more of a craps shoot,” he said. "It had no substance.”

Patricia Rodriguez, associate professor and chair of the Department of Politics, said she spoke at the protest about the financ-ing of extractivism, which is the process of extracting natural resources from the Earth for sale.

“It was interesting to be there and see the solidarity and support,” Rodriguez said.

Reporting was contributed by news edi-tor Taylor Stalnecker.

Ithaca College students today Alumni Tomorrow hosted a panel of six alumni, titled “Five Under Five - Looking Back, Moving Forward,” as part of “I Love IC Week.”

-- Courtesy of GALEN MCELHANEY

iTHACAnews@ithaca.edu

Alumni discuss post-graduation issues

BY JULIE DANNENGE
Six alumni offered advice about preparing for life after graduation as they reflected on their past experiences at the college Feb. 18 in Clark Lounge for the Five Under Five - Looking Back, Moving Forward event.

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Roberts said she started working approximately one month after graduating in Spring 2019. The transition into a professional career was smooth overall, but she faced difficulties adapting to the new environment, she said.

“I think learning different people’s styles of how they work is definitely a new thing,” she said. “In [the communication management and design major], especially, you’re working with people who have been trained to work the same way. … but when you’re walking into an organization that has been around for 20 years, … they have a certain working style.”

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Alumni discuss post-graduation issues
Students use local radio to report on Cayuga Lake

BY ALEX HARTZOG

Ithaca College students collaborated with the local radio station WRFI Community Radio to produce the fifth annual radio series that monitors the health of Cayuga Lake.

The series, "The Ripple Effect Radio Project," was broadcast in three parts, segments that were approximately 10 to 20 minutes long, from Jan. 15 to 28. Senior Meaghan McElroy, juniors Maggie McAiden and Skylar Eagle and sophomore Lauren Leone worked with WRFI. Local organizations and institutions, including The Ithaca Voice, The Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Cornell University, and WRFI, provided an opportunity for the students to show the world the health of the lake.

Nicole Koschmann, director of the Park Scholars Program at the college, but it is not exclusive to recipients of the scholarship. Park Scholars can participate in the research series and use content up to 10 hours credit toward their scholarships.

McElroy, McAiden and Eagle are all Park Scholars. Eagle said that Nicole Koschmann, director of the Park Scholars Program, asked Eagle to be the leader of the group service project. She said she managed deadlines and coordinated story pitches with WRFI.

She said the project helped her learn about a field she did not typically study in college. She said it was also really cool to learn so much about something that she really wouldn’t learn otherwise in school because we’re all communication students, mostly. Eagle said, “We really don’t study botany or marine science on any science really. You’re not only helping your community, but you’re learning more about [the community] and improving your skills as a journalist.”

McAiden—who studies communication management and design and environmental studies at the college—said she helped to produce a segment about HAIs.

She said she volunteered and was interested in HABs because she is a Ph.D. student out in Chicago at the University of Chicago. Eagle supplemented her research with the Harmful Algal Bloom Harrier Program, which is a group of local community members who volunteer to watch for outbreaks of HAIs on the lake.

The outbreak happened because of growing cyanobacteria that released toxic compounds that are harmful to humans and animals, McAiden said. In July 2019, the Town of Ithaca closed Cayuga Lake for swimming because of HAIs.

The students also interviewed a community member who aims to prevent shoreline erosion by planting buffer plants as part of a state-wide initiative called "Buffer in a Bag."

McAiden said she was also interested in the semester-long research project for a final paper. "I used to be a journalism major, so I know what having your work published feels like," McAiden said. "I was really good to be able to share the work that I did with the people that I interviewed because they were super invested."

McElroy, who has double majors in journalism and environmental science, said that working with WRFI provided an experience for her to work with radio, which was McAiden’s goal.

"The Park Scholars working with WRFI is exciting because we get to do reporting in ways that we might not be able to do," McElroy said. "I know that my schedule hasn’t allowed me to work at WCRB even though I have a really strong interest in radio, so it’s exciting in that way that I got to try something that I wasn’t able to before."

She also said that for the first time, the project will be extending beyond a one-semester-long project.

She said the project is currently looking into relevant issues like flooding, droughts and development along the coast of the lake.

"We’re trying to figure out who is tackling what issues and what issues there are left to tackle," McElroy said. "Ithaca is an incredibly water-rich place to be.

WRFI plans to submit the project to the New York State Broadcasters Association (NSBA) for an award competition, said Michayla Savitt, news director at WRFI.

"The more content we create, the more we can share it with places as evidence — that we’re capable of producing these types of investigative reports, that we are a community radio station," Savitt said.

Previous radio projects in which Ithaca College students collaborate with WRFI, like "The Loneliness Radio Project," have won first place for outstanding public radio affairs through NSBA.

Lauren Leone is assistant professor and former editor, Skylar Eagle was previously a news staff writer, Meaghan McElroy was previously opinion editor and Maggie McAiden was previously managing editor of The Ithacan.

CONTACT ALEX HARTZOG

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Students use local radio to report on Cayuga Lake

Professor publishes chapter on adults with disabilities

Jenna Heffron, assistant professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy, gave adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities camaraderie and participation goals, and showed them how they could learn about a field she does not typically study in college. She said it was also really cool to learn so much about something that she really wouldn’t learn otherwise in school because we’re all communication students, mostly. Eagle said, “We really don’t study botany or marine science on any science really. You’re not only helping your community, but you’re learning more about [the community] and improving your skills as a journalist.”

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Professor publishes chapter on adults with disabilities

Jenna Heffron, assistant professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy, gave adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities camaraderie and participation goals, and showed them how they could learn about a field she does not typically study in college. She said it was also really cool to learn so much about something that she really wouldn’t learn otherwise in school because we’re all communication students, mostly. Eagle said, “We really don’t study botany or marine science on any science really. You’re not only helping your community, but you’re learning more about [the community] and improving your skills as a journalist.”

McAiden—who studies communication management and design and environmental studies at the college—said she helped to produce a segment about HAIs.

She said she volunteered and was interested in HABs because she is a Ph.D. student out in Chicago at the University of Chicago. Eagle supplemented her research with the Harmful Algal Bloom Harrier Program, which is a group of local community members who volunteer to watch for outbreaks of HAIs on the lake.

The outbreak happened because of growing cyanobacteria that released toxic compounds that are harmful to humans and animals, McAiden said. In July 2019, the Town of Ithaca closed Cayuga Lake for swimming because of HAIs.

The students also interviewed a community member who aims to prevent shoreline erosion by planting buffer plants as part of a state-wide initiative called "Buffer in a Bag."

McAiden said she was also interested in the semester-long research project for a final paper. "I used to be a journalism major, so I know what having your work published feels like," McAiden said. "I was really good to be able to share the work that I did with the people that I interviewed because they were super invested."

McElroy, who has double majors in journalism and environmental science, said that working with WRFI provided an experience for her to work with radio, which was McAiden’s goal.

"The Park Scholars working with WRFI is exciting because we get to do reporting in ways that we might not be able to do," McElroy said. "I know that my schedule hasn’t allowed me to work at WCRB even though I have a really strong interest in radio, so it’s exciting in that way that I got to try something that I wasn’t able to before."

She also said that for the first time, the project will be extending beyond a one-semester-long project.

She said the project is currently looking into relevant issues like flooding, droughts and development along the coast of the lake.

"We’re trying to figure out who is tackling what issues and what issues there are left to tackle," McElroy said. "Ithaca is an incredibly water-rich place to be.

WRFI plans to submit the project to the New York State Broadcasters Association (NSBA) for an award competition, said Michayla Savitt, news director at WRFI.

"The more content we create, the more we can share it with places as evidence — that we’re capable of producing these types of investigative reports, that we are a community radio station," Savitt said.

Previous radio projects in which Ithaca College students collaborate with WRFI, like "The Loneliness Radio Project," have won first place for outstanding public radio affairs through NSBA.

Lauren Leone is assistant professor and former editor, Skylar Eagle was previously a news staff writer, Meaghan McElroy was previously opinion editor and Maggie McAiden was previously managing editor of The Ithacan.

CONTACT ALEX HARTZOG

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Professor publishes chapter on adults with disabilities

Jenna Heffron, assistant professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy, published a chapter in the book "Occupational Therapy for Adults with Intellectual Disability."
Women's network creates club to discuss books about diversity

The Ithaca College Women's Mentoring Network created a book club focused on the topics of diversity, equity and inclusion. The purpose of the book club is to engage people in conversations surrounding diversity and how the college can have a more inclusive campus. The books may not all relate explicitly to higher education, and the discussions can take members beyond the university lens. The club will meet every two weeks, dividing each book into sections to discuss. The book club will and discuss is "Waking Up White" by Debby Irving.

Dean candidates to visit campus to meet with search committee

Candidates for the School of Music dean search will be visiting the campus March 2–6. Several sessions will be open to the entire campus community. Candidates for the Roy H. Park School of Communications dean search will visit the campus March 16–20. Several sessions will be open to the entire campus community. The Park School and the media and news search committees include composed of professors in various departments, students and other members of the administration.

Professor receives a local award for work in advocacy education

Sister Wendy Braddell, assistant professor in the Department of Education, received in 2020 the Deanna African American History Month Award from the Ithaca Common Council.

By referring to Ithaca and getting his doctorate in policy analysis and management from Cornell University, Braddell earned a background in political science and an M.S. in education from the University of Rochester. He joined the Ithaca City School District in 1986 as a government teacher and has participated in the multicultural education at Lehman’s Alternative Community School. Braddell, following school, helped moderate the Tompkins County Search on Racism. Earlier this month,Braddell facilitated a discussion hosted by the Greece Central School District, where teachers, parents and students have voiced concerns about the use of the Nowor in school. Braddell said it's "touching to be honored by Ithaca, their "adopted hometown" of 25 years.

IC to hold events during week to boost school spirit on campus

The college scheduled several events Feb. 17–23 to celebrate "I Love IC Week." At 7 p.m. Feb. 7 in the Campus Center, the college hosted five people in a series of "Minute to Win It"-style activities, including trivia and entertainment. At 10 a.m. Feb. 19 in the Campus Center, students can answer trivia questions about the college and win prizes. "I Love IC Week" is organized by Students Today Alumni Tomorrow.

BOLD Scholars program seeking nominations for sophomores

The college is looking to add another cohort of BOLD Scholars. All faculty and staff are invited to recommend students who fit the BOLD Scholar criteria. In order to be considered for the program, potential BOLD Scholars must identify as female and plan to graduate in May, summer or December. The program considers full-time students with good academic standing. Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 and be involved in extracurricular activities. The program is part of the fifth volume of the book. "A Companion to World Literature," is a comprehensive study of key authors, texts and topics from around the world and throughout history. Six comprehensive volumes present essays from over 500 prominent international scholars focusing on many aspects of this vast and burgeoning field of literature, from ancient origins to the most modern narratives.

Employee of 32 years to retire from design technology position

After 32 years of service, Bill Weeks, associate director for network and unified communication architecture for the applications and infrastructure team in Innovation Technology, is retiring. Weeks started at Ithaca College in 1987 and has been instrumental in designing and building the data and voice networks that the college uses daily. In 2006, Weeks and his son graduated from the college on the same day.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM FEBRUARY 3 TO FEBRUARY 9

FEBRUARY 3

MEDICAL ASSIST/INJURY

LOCATION: Athletics and Events Center SUMMARY: The caller reported a person injured their shoulder while lifting weights. One person was transported to the hospital by an ambulance. Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

LOCATION: West Tower SUMMARY: The caller reported a door was found open at a residence. The investigation is pending. Patrol Officer Joseph Oppen responded.

FEBRUARY 4

MEDICAL ASSIST/PSYCHOLOGICAL

LOCATION: Lyon Hall SUMMARY: The caller reported a person had made alarming comments in the lobby. The caller escorted the person to the counseling center. Patrol Officer Shawn Lansing responded.

FEBRUARY 5

TOMAHAWK LEMANIAN 3RD DEGREE

LOCATION: Landon Hall SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The activation was caused by an unknown person maliciously setting off an alarm. Patrol Officer Joseph Oppen responded.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

LOCATION: Roy H. Park Hall SUMMARY: The caller reported an unknown person repeatedly calling for a person. They were not a threat to themselves. The officer determined the information was online. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain responded.

SCC FIRE SAFETY RELATED OFFENSES

LOCATION: Garden Apartment Building 28 SUMMARY: The caller reported a lit candle in the window. The officer determined the room was unoccupied and extinguished the candle. Fire investigation is pending. Sergeant Don Lyke responded.

MEDICAL ASSIST/ILLNESS

LOCATION: Eastman Hall SUMMARY: The caller reported a person had an allergic reaction. The person was transported to the hospital in an ambulance. Sergeant Don Lyke responded.

FEBRUARY 6

HARASSMENT 2ND DEGREE

LOCATION: Garden Apartment Building 29 SUMMARY: The caller reported a person repeatedly knocking on the door. The person would not leave. The officer judicially referred one person. Patrol Officer Maya Colon responded.

OFF CAMPUS INCIDENT

LOCATION: Other SUMMARY: The caller reported a person soliciting people off campus to join a church. The caller was forwarded to the Tompkins County Sheriff’s Department to file a report. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded.

FEBRUARY 7

MEDICAL ASSIST/PSYCHOLOGICAL

LOCATION: Rowland Hall SUMMARY: The caller requested a welfare check on a person who made alarming comments. The caller reported the person was taking into custody under New York state mental hygiene law and transported to the hospital by ambulance. The officer referred one person for irresponsible use of alcohol. Patrol Officer Sophia Dimkos responded.

FEBRUARY 8

SUSPICIOUS PERSON

LOCATION: College Circle SUMMARY: The caller reported observing an unknown person going through a trash dumpster. The officer reported one person was armed for going through the dumpster to collect recyclable items. Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

SUSPICIOUS PERSON

LOCATION: Hood Hall SUMMARY: The caller reported an unknown person knocking on the door. Officers checked the area and were unable to locate the person. Master Patrol Officer John Tagliavento responded.

FEBRUARY 9

MAKING GRAFFITI NO DEGREE

LOCATION: Terrace 6 SUMMARY: The caller reported an unknown person spray-painted an obscene word on elevator buttons. The investigation is pending. Patrol Officer Shawn Lansing responded.

SCC IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL/DRUGS

LOCATION: Talcott Hall SUMMARY: The caller reported the area checked and was unable to locate the person involved. Master Patrol Officer Waylon Degrees responds.

KEY

SCC – Student Conduct Code

V&T – Vehicle & Transportation

AD – Assistant Director

FD – Ithaca Fire Department
AFFILIATED STUDY ABROAD WEEK
February 24-26, 2020

CIISabroad
Monday 2/24, 12:00-2:00 pm
Information Table, Campus Center Lobby
• Affiliated programs in Greece, Japan, Peru, Scotland, & Thailand

CEA Study Abroad
Tuesday 2/25, 12:10-1:00 pm
Info Session, Friends 210
• Affiliated programs in Argentina, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Ireland, & Italy

IES Abroad - Amsterdam
Wednesday 2/26, 6:00-7:00 pm
Info Session, Friends 210
• Overview of all IES Abroad programs, with a special focus on their programs in Amsterdam.
• Affiliated programs in Argentina, Austria, Chile, China, Ecuador, France, Ireland, Italy, Morocco, Netherlands, South Africa, & Spain.

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**CSCRE major program will improve diverse thought**

The Center for the Study of Culture, Race and Ethnicity (CSCRE) at Ithaca College hosts some of the most important conversations on this campus. Considering the increasing tensions around microaggressions, discrimination and racially charged interactions between faculty and students, this center is a necessary venue for students and faculty to have difficult and necessary conversations.

The center is developing a new, and in its first year, formal major program. A group of students and faculty joined together Feb. 6 to work out the goals of the new degree program, titled race, power and resistance.

When considering ideas for the major, Lisa González, director of CSCRE and assistant professor in the Department of Sociology, “once upon a time” and look back at the history and diversity, it is telling students that their heritages, experiences and perspectives of the world matter, and it invites other students to expand their own understandings outside their personal backgrounds.

This announcement comes at a time when the college is riddled with the fear of campuswide budget cuts, which means possible revisions and removals of degree programs. Some might look at this as a new major on the already exhaustive list that exists within the School of Humanities and Sciences. However, this major is necessary for the future of the college because it puts diversity at the forefront. In the adaptation of a new major program in CSCRE, the college is dedicating its funds to bettering student education. It will provide avenues for more conversations about race and social structures that exist in the world. These are conversations that need to happen for the campus to continue growing, learning and practicing better inclusion of all cultures.

**Successful fundraising is built from shared passions**

Music is known for its unwavering and unconditional ability to bring people together. This was especially true Feb. 14 at The Haunt, where Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes held a benefit concert. The event featured Ithaca College student musicians like seniors Abby Sullivan and Kyla Skye and the band Quail, as well as local acts like Jonah Hirst, Lady Borderhop and Vee Da Bee.

This fundraiser was held to raise money for Planned Parenthood, and this event in particular was special in the fact that it raised over $1,000 more than it did last year. The organization is a vital part of the Ithaca community, and it has faced resentment and many challenges in the past few years. President Donald Trump’s administration has threatened to block Planned Parenthood’s funding, and anti-abortion advocates have pushed to defund Planned Parenthood and reverse Roe v. Wade.

At a political moment in which many seem to have their agendas set on bringing down the organization, the sentiment was quite the opposite at The Haunt on Feb. 14. Many of the bands and performers claimed to have connections to the organization and were proud that so many people came out to support their music and the organization.

This concert was also a powerful means of fundraising because of its efforts in furthering inclusivity. Hirst, a member of Assigned Female at Birth 4, a local all-transmasculine a cappella group, performed. The event was packed with female power — emceed by Skye and Mickie Quinn, as well as female performers featured in almost every act.

When Hirst got onstage, he began with how important Planned Parenthood has been to him and his personal journey. This event was highly attended, and it speaks volumes about how important Planned Parenthood is to members of the Ithaca community. The event offered a way for individuals to bring together social justice matters and music under one roof.

This is what fundraising should focus on: creating a bond between people through a shared experience. While the money being raised is the purpose, people tend to be more dedicated and invested in missions they can see themselves in and root for as a result. The Planned Parenthood benefit show was an example of just that.
Caitlin Squibb

I never lost that angle.

A student from Ball State University holds a sign at the protest that occurred Jan. 28 after a white police officer called the police when a black student refused to change seats in his class.

Corey Chilenkamp/Associated Press

Sultan "Mu

Shaheen Borna. "The decis- on to suspend the professor. The student whom Borna called the police on in Sultan "Mu- fasa" Benson. Benson called the police the "slap on the wrist," and he said the overall situation was dealt with insufficiently. Benson also said that he believes the situation was met with him because of his race and that once the police were called, he was nen- vous about his safety.

In regards to Borna only re- ceiving a suspension after the event, the decision is not nearly enough but is "a step forward in the right direction," Benson told The Associated Press. "I want justice, and a temporary leave for all of the policies he broke is still the bare minimum.

As for the reaction from the rest of the university, the stances are split among much of the facul- ty, staff and students.

Approximately 30 of Borna's follow faculty members wrote a letter to the university's student newspaper. The Daily News, showing support for Borna and rallying for the support of the community. In the letter, they asked people who do not know Borna not to judge him based on the way he reacted, noting that Borna is usually a "by-the-book" educator and person.

The faculty letter justified Borna's actions because of the university's Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. In Appendix V: Responding to Disrup- tion in the Academic Setting," the code details that faculty are allowed to ask a student to tem- porarily leave the classroom in the case that they are being disrup- tive, according to the code, if the student then refuses to comply, the faculty member is allowed to call University Police and request to remove the student from the academic setting. Allegedly, Benson was provided the option at the scene to ei- ther move seats or have the police be called.

The code details disruptive behavior as "any behavior a reasonable person would view as being likely to substantially or repeatedly interfere with the con- duct of an academic setting."

Meanwhile, over 100 facul- ty members signed a letter to the university newspaper that critiqued the situation. These facult ies faculty came to the defense of Benson and stated, "condemn- ing the misuse of police in the classroom, calling out the institu- tional racism behind it, and telling you, our students, that we are with you."

The NAACP described Borna's choice as an example of "weapon- izing the police against people of color impossibly."

"Countless men and wom- en throughout our nation have experienced discrimination, ra- cial profiling and over-policing at the hands of bigotry and intoler- ances, ... The actions taken by Professor Shaheen Borna are yet the latest example of thoughtless behavior that yields traumatic and frequently detrimental out- comes," the organization stated in a news release.

Contact Kate Squibb

Kate Squibb

What inspired you to go into this specific discipline within sociology?

Joslyn Brenton, a recently tenured assistant professor in the Ithaca College Department of Sociology, recently published a book that she described that looks at the relation- ship between childhood obesity, motherhood and social class.

The book, titled "Pressure Cooker: Why Home Cooking Won't Solve Our Problems and What We Can Do About It," follows a selection of mothers and how food and its access affects mothers, their chil- dren and family dynamics as a whole.

Opinion editor Kate Squibb spoke with Brenton about her book, the research used in the book and the importance of sociology when addressing health and food structures.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

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THE OPINION THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020

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White professors have responsibility as allies

BY JENNIFER HUEMMER AND LAUREN BRITTON

I have been a faculty member at the Roy H. Park School of Communications for three years. In that time, colleagues have become friends, students’ faces have become familiar, and my office has become a home away from home. I am comfortable. When I first arrived at Ithaca College in 2017, the name Tom Rochon was spoken in the hushed whispers that evoked a “he-who-shall-not-be-named” sense of taboo. I was grateful to have missed that era. Grateful that it was not my fight.

Last semester, I started hearing rumors of microaggressions and racist incidences happening at different schools across Ithaca College. But I did not involve Park. I kept my head down and focused on my work, my classes, my courses. A few weeks ago, La Jerne Cornish, provost and senior vice president for faculty affairs, came to Park to discuss the lived experiences of students of color at our school. Students were feeling unsafe, unheard, and unsupported. The murmurs from unfiltered faculty during the meeting made it clear that many of them felt marginalized, single-out, and falsely accused. Did I have an opinion about this? Yes, but I’m just a faculty member, an accused. Did I have an opinion about the history and context of this? Yes, but I’m just a faculty member, an accused.

My time at Ithaca College has been invaluable to my professional and personal growth. The Roy H. Park School of Communications is where I braved harsh winters, wrote screenplays and made some of my closest friends. I have become a person my 18-year-old self could not dream of being. Though I will ultimately look back on my education with fondness, I recognize that the process of power construction and maintenance, and many of us are privileged enough to be blind to its machinations. To take dis- cussions of racism on our campus personally is to miss the point. We have to stop deflecting. If we attack the tone, the delivery, the language, then we don’t have to deal with the substance of the argument. But the substance isn’t going anywhere. Our students are hurting. Our administration has attempted to communicate this to us. By dismissing the premise of the argument because we don’t like the delivery, we dismiss the very real experiences of our stu- dents of color. I think many of us (myself included) have gotten a little too comfortable. But we are not entitled to comfort, nor are we entitled to police the tone of people of color who attempt to communicate the realities of racism on this campus. As James Baldwin famously said, ‘I don’t know what most white people in this country feel, but I can only conclude what they feel from the state of their institutions.” Our students of color have expressed their concerns about the state of our institution. We must listen.

White faculty, we must do better. What we as college students inadvertently perpetuate a competitive culture surrounding our work that is harmful and unproductive. It is a hegemonic character flaw. It is a way of thinking that coexists with rather than destroys the natural world. The sooner we can come to understand our place as a society in the world will produce more productive strategies for addressing the societal and global prob- lems we’re facing today. Essentially, misunderstanding a problem will yield faulty solutions, so reunderstanding the problem will lead to better solutions. Just as we have operated under a myth of independence within society, we have extended a similar myth to our planet. But as water levels rise and begin to submerge cities, and as fires rage and destroy biomes, the truth of our interdependent relationship with nature has become unavoidable. To ensure our own continued existence at the basic existential level, we need to admit that dependence and rebuild cit- ies that coexist with rather than destroy the natural world.

In an ecosystem, every living and non- living organism plays a role that depends on the system of the planet. On our planet, nature and society affect and rely on each other. And in societies, we act far more often on outside pressures than on inde- pendent will. The sooner we can come to terms with our dependence on oth- ers, as well as our planet, the sooner we can progress toward a more sustainable and equitable future.

Contact Jen Huemmer
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Toxic competitive culture harms student psyche

BY SEAN MURPHY

My time at Ithaca College has been invaluable to my professional and personal growth. The Roy H. Park School of Communications is where I braved harsh winters, wrote screenplays and made some of my closest friends. I have become a person my 18-year-old self could not dream of being. Though I will ultimately look back on my edu- cation with fondness, I recognize that the culture fostered within the Park School led into a festering insecurity of mine. As a doe-eyed freshman, I joined an ap- propriate amount of extracurriculars to get involved and meet new people. As weeks went by, my peers would tell me how they were barely surviving while taking the maxi- mum amount of credits, helping on projects and running clubs. Even with a decently busy schedule, I could not help but ask myself, “Why am I not doing that? Am I doing enough?”

To be short, I was definitely doing enough, and you probably are as well. Despite know- ing this, every semester I would overpromise and give more of myself than I could. Having spoken to friends who also feel this way, I believe that we as college students inadvertently perpetuate a competitive culture surrounding our work that is harmful and unproductive. It is a hegemonic character flaw. It is a way of thinking that coexists with rather than destroys the natural world. The sooner we can come to understand our place as a society in the world will produce more productive strategies for addressing the societal and global prob- lems we’re facing today. Essentially, misunderstanding a problem will yield faulty solutions, so reunderstanding the problem will lead to better solutions. Just as we have operated under a myth of independence within society, we have extended a similar myth to our planet. But as water levels rise and begin to submerge cities, and as fires rage and destroy biomes, the truth of our interdependent relationship with nature has become unavoidable. To ensure our own continued existence at the basic existential level, we need to admit that dependence and rebuild cit- ies that coexist with rather than destroy the natural world.

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Humans create climate change

The fires in Australia this year have un- deniably renewed our sense of urgency in our fight against climate change. Our own world is closing in on us, forcing an exist- tential reckoning with how we treat and understand the planet. And while people in positions of greater power obviously hold more responsibility in the matter, I want to suggest that the climate crisis is an opportunity to reunderstand our own relationship to our planet and, by exten- sion, one another. Our societies are like ecosystems. We are not really independ- ent agents. Instead, we are a function of a greater whole, and we only exist in the context of our communities.

It was human behavior that produced the climate crisis in the first place. In- efficient means of energy production, oversized carbon footprints and the cap- italistic incentive to export luxury over sustainability have landed us here. This behavior relies on the hidden assumption that other human sacrifices are somehow separate from the planet, as if we can just exchange this one for another once we have succeeded. It was in the aftermath of our failure to control the climate that I first realized how much I cared about people in other parts of the world.

This assumption of separation is at work in our societies as well. We tend to view our own country’s car- eers and behaviors, as up to us. This is especially true in our own country. In the global imagination, America is positioned on this very assumption of freedom. The implication is, if you work hard enough, you can be successful no matter where or how you grew up.

In reality, our decisions are often the result of external pressures that are out- side of our control. In other words, we do not independently determine our own fates. Instead, they are bound up in the gi- ant societal ecosystem within systems that support and rely on one another. Thinking more honestly about our place as a society in the world will pro- duce more productive strategies for addressing the societal and global prob- lems we’re facing today. Essentially, misunderstanding a problem will yield faulty solutions, so reunderstanding the problem will lead to better solutions. Just as we have operated under a myth of independence within society, we have extended a similar myth to our planet. But as water levels rise and begin to submerge cities, and as fires rage and destroy biomes, the truth of our interdependent relationship with nature has become unavoidable. To ensure our own continued existence at the basic existential level, we need to admit that dependence and rebuild cit- ies that coexist with rather than destroy the natural world.

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The Brown Girl Chronicles
Sophomore Jordan Brown said he took a train to Voyager Point in West Sydney, which is being highly impacted by the bushfires, to photograph the fire's damage.

The process consists of running relatively cool fires during the winter so that there is less that will burn during the summer, Baker said. "Because of the warming climate, the opportunities to control or prescribe fires in the forest is getting narrower and narrower," Baker said.

He said this is because the annuals are drier and the winters are shorter than before, an issue that is reducing the time frame in which Australians can prescribe burn. As opposed to having two to three months, he said, they have weeks.

Australia is the world’s No. 1 exporter of coal, a fossil fuel that significantly contributes to the production of greenhouse gases. These greenhouse gases, in turn, accelerate climate change, which leads to longer and hotter fire seasons.

There have been pointed protests recently because many feel Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison is failing to address climate change and instead is downplaying and denying its existence.

When Brown and George arrived in Sydney, they found themselves smack in the middle of the controversy. Brown said they knew they had to act and wanted to let their photography tell the story.

"I think through film and photography, you can talk about things that don’t get talked about, like the bushfires," he said. "I just felt like I had to say something and speak up."

Brown immediately began reaching out to different fire and rescue companies in hopes of tagging along with the crew, but he was turned down.

"A lot of people would say it was too dangerous or that they couldn’t send me out there," he said. "After a lot of rejection, I just looked up where the fires were, and I went to the train station and walked to the aftermath of a fire."

Brown took a two-hour train ride to Voyager Point in West Sydney. He turned down opportunities to go onto the Blue Mountain National Park to capture more photos of the bushfires.

When he first got to the preserve, Brown said, he was shocked.

"I didn’t take photos for a while, and I almost forgot why I came," he said. "As soon as I saw the aftermath and how much was truly burnt, I just stared at it. It was a sight that kind of put you in awe."

"Voyager Point is in Southeastern Australia, which is a region of the country being greatly impacted by the bushfires, according to reporting from The Australian. When Brown began taking photos, he realized the difficulty of shooting fires and smoke.

"It was almost like going into a cloud," he said. "It would get so dense where you literally couldn’t see 10 feet in front of you. Every time I would take a photo, it would just look like a white screen."

"I've never experienced anything like this before," she said. "We received smoke on an almost daily basis, and some days it looked like a fog it was so thick. It's disconcerting not being able to see the sky or any landmarks that you're used to."

After his initial trip, Brown reached out to George, and the two of them attended a massive protest on Jan. 10 in Sydney.

Approximately 30,000 people were in attendance, with similar political protests being held in every capital city in the country on the same day. The protesters demanded that the government not neglect the climate crisis, including the bushfires, and provide relief services.

George said the two were able to sneak onto the Blue Mountains National Park to capture more photos of the bushfires. George said the two were able to sneak onto the Blue Mountains National Park to capture more photos of the bushfires.

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George said she had a similar reaction to Brown regarding the aftermath of the fires.

"It feels sort of apocalyptic in a way," she said. "I think the photos I got really kind of demonstrate the phenomenon around it."

When Brown returned to the city, he said, he reached out to everyone he knew to get their photos published.

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"It feels sort of apocalyptic in a way," she said. "I think the photos I got really kind of demonstrate the phenomenon around it."
There were protests in every major city in Australia on Jan. 10 demanding that the government address the climate crisis. Sophomores Jordan Brown and Grace George went to the protest in Sydney where people demanded action.

The protest in Sydney on Jan. 10 attracted at least 30,000 demonstrators who expressed frustration and concern with the government’s handling of the environmental crisis. Protesters said the government must address the bushfires.

When Brown returned to the city, he said, he reached out to everyone he knew to get their photos published by major media outlets.

"The night that I got all the photos, I stayed up until the sun came out," he said. "I reached out to every news outlet in the United States saying, 'I have these photos and think they should go out there.'"

Brown did an interview with his hometown radio station WITF in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where his photos were published.

During the first weeks of February, Baker said, massive rainfall has helped to either contain or completely put out fires. While one problem has been extinguished, Australia is now facing a different challenge as massive flooding plagues the country.

Australia's weather agency said that in a four-day period, Sydney saw more than three times the average rainfall for February. The New South Wales Rural Fire Service said the rainfall extinguished more than 30 fires over the weekend. A flash flood warning was issued.

Australia is a continent of extremes," he said. "In the context of climate change, it will continue to happen and get worse."
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Trivia night at Kilpatrick’s encourages friendly competition

**BY LIAM CONWAY & AVERY ALEXANDER**

On Monday nights, Kilpatrick’s Pub Black House fills with Ithaca locals and students playing trivia. Phones are put to the side — or else groups risk disqualified — and Ithaca with Geeks Who Drink commences.

“Trivia with Geeks Who Drink is co-organized by Kilpatrick’s and Geeks Who Drink, an organization that hosts trivia nights in 42 states and parts of Canada. Based in Denver, Geeks Who Drink has a large editorial board that works every week to come up with questions and topics for the games.”

The event was formerly 21 and up when it was hosted by The Haunt on Tuesday evenings. Since its switch to Kilpatrick’s in 2018, the event is free and open to all ages.

Kavi Kardoshian has hosted the event at Kilpatrick’s ever since she came to Ithaca from Houston three years ago. She said the game’s national scale makes trivia night especially exciting because it is more than just a social experience on a local stage.

“If I was playing in Ithaca and my mom was playing in Houston, we would all be answering the same questions,” she said.

Moss Mameli is a regular at the event and attends other trivia nights in Ithaca too. He said that because Trivia with Geeks Who Drink is a large-scale event, the experience is more polished than other trivia nights in the area.

“They’ve got it down to a science,” Mameli said.

“Kavi Aldrich sat at the same table as Mameli and also participated in the quizzes. Besides being a regular at the event, Aldrich is a substitute host, and she takes over the trivia event when Kardoshian is out of town.

“We’ve been to [trivia nights] where maybe the questions are good but the presentation is really janky,” Aldrich said.

“We’re pretty chill. We just like going and having a good time, but it’s nice that it’s so well-organized.”

Trivia games at the pub consist of eight rounds of eight questions. Kardoshian said some quizzes revolve around themes with straightforward questions while other rounds are audio or visual-based. Groups win points for every round, and depending on the subject, some rounds are worth more than others.

“Staying true to the name of the event, the quizzes are based on traditionally geeky interests like television shows or movies. The ‘Office’ quizzes are always really popular,” Kardoshian said. “For some reason, people seem to love that show more than ever. I don’t get it.”

In the first round of one game, Kardoshian asked players to explain the plot of a movie if they had watched it backward. Rounds two and seven were audio rounds, which meant the player had to identify a song or movie based on the audio alone. In the fifth round, the clues were visual, so players had to come up with the answer to a broad question based on pictures.

“I would say my favorite part of any given trivia night is when the answer is on the tip of your brain,” Aldrich said. “You are really suffering to remember it, and then you remember it without any help.”

Aldrich said the explicitly geeky theme of Trivia with Geeks Who Drink is what attracted her and her husband back when it was still located at The Haunt.

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“Typically, people are not obnoxious [or] too way too intense, but people push down, and they’re into it,” Aldrich said.

Even though he’s participated in trivia nights before, Eschen said, he thinks the recurring event at Kilpatrick’s is the most entertaining one he’s been to.

“It’s the best way to spend a Monday night,” Eschen said. “We’ve never won, but we come back every week. … I’ve done a little trivia when I was younger, but this is the most fun I’ve had.”

Assistant Life & Culture editor Arleigh Rodgers contributed reporting to this story.

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**CHEERS TO NERDY KNOWLEDGE**

From left, Alice Letchford and Peter Finocchiaro participate in Trivia with Geeks Who Drink.

KRISTEN HARRISON/THE ITHACAN

**KRISTEN HARRISON/THE ITHACAN**
When something’s hard, it’s almost like we need to run toward the pain and run toward the hurt rather than run away from it. I think you get kind of healing when it comes to that.

JUSTIN BIEBER, on his fears about negative responses to his music

Kesha’s six-year legal battle against her former music producer Dr. Luke has hit a snag. The case began when Kesha accused Dr. Luke of raping her. In response, the producer claimed that Kesha was raising a false claim against him in order to defame him. This month, a text message that Kesha sent to Lady Gaga was deemed to be evidence of defamation by the judge. The text message claimed that Dr. Luke had raped Katy Perry, a claim that Perry denied. This decision means that even if Kesha is successful in her case against Dr. Luke, she might have to compensate the producer for defamation. The case is still developing. Kesha’s lawyer said in a statement that they will be appealing the judge’s decision.

One person was killed and four people were injured in a shooting Feb. 15 outside Tempodrom, a music venue in Berlin. The shooting happened while a comedy night event was being held inside. Investigators said that one or more persons opened fire during the incident and that they do not know the shooter’s motive yet.

An updated indictment against musician R. Kelly on Feb. 14 introduced additional sex abuse allegations from another accuser. The indictment does not add charges but introduces additional counts of child pornography from an anonymous accuser referred to as “Minor 6.”
Then the next day, as I was on my way to another team … and I did a work session with them. and I sent in a video, and I met with the creative team and was given an audition notice for “The Color Purple”.[Professional theater] Towards the end of that contract, my agent sent me an email about an open mic night in which students of any major can take their turns jamming to popular jazz standards. Although the event has been going on for years, the club swings to the open mic stage whenever any students of any major at Ithaca College come to the event to participate. “I knew I wanted to do something musical even though I’m not a music major, and I wanted to find space on campus where I could do that,” they said. “You don’t have to be a music major. Just come and jam with us.”

When Presburger took the stage, he glanced back at the band before closing his eyes and focusing on the music. He opened the show and started the classic tune “Fly Me to the Moon,” famously sung by Frank Sinatra with a Grammy-winning score. Martin often plays at the open mic night in which students of any major at Ithaca College come to the event to participate. “I was impressed by how easily they were able to fall in line to the music,” he said. “It’s a special kind of group to be able to communicate with each other in the middle of a song silently.”

Freshman saxophone player Drew Martin often plays at the open mic every week at Towers Marketplace to gain experience playing live. “Now’s the time to put what I practiced into performance,” he said. “Sometimes, it can be a little nerve-wracking, but other times, you’re burning. Your hands are working, your mind’s spinning, and it’s just great.”

“August [Bish] will probably run it, but we’re definitely trying to make sure we can keep it going for the future,” Yapp said. For now, however, Yapp said he’s just glad he can share his love of music. “We get to reach out to more people,” he said. “It’s just the place to be on Thursday nights for jazz people.”

**Sophomore Ali DeFaggon, freshman Drew Martin, sophomore Henry Sauer and junior August Bish play at Ithaca College Jazz Club’s open mic night. The event happens Thursday at Towers Marketplace.**

LUCAS CAIWAY/HIT THE ITHACAN

**Alum takes to the stage in ‘The Color Purple’ tour**

In the national tour of “The Color Purple,” a Tony Award-winning musical, Mariah Lytke ’19 plays Celie, the show’s protagonist. She has been working across North America with the show since October 2019. The tour will continue until May 2020. “The Color Purple” is based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel written by Alice Walker and Academy Award–nominated feature film with a Grammy-winning score.

Lytke has been involved in musical theater since she was in her freshman year of high school. Since then, she has continued her pursuit of theater arts. At the college, Lytke played Sarah in “Bag Lady,” Mabel/Lula Standby in “Violet,” Dot in “K-4 S-A-N-G-4-M-A,” Mutt in “Company” and Mama in “Dreamgirls.” Her regional credits include playing Dorothy in “The Wiz” at the West Virginia Repertory Theatre in Richmond, Virginia, and Sarah in “Ragtime” at Park Playhouse in Albany, New York. Ithaca College’s choir was invited to participate in the national tour of “The Color Purple,” which is in Act 2. “Miss Celie’s Pants” is the first time that [Celie] gets to actually be happy and is taking what used to be a negative aspect in her life and turning it into something positive, while also showing that everyone can learn. So she used to have to sew and clean when she was living with her husband, Mister, and when she got out of that relationship, she turned her sewing into a business and started to make profit and her life just really started to turn around. “I got the call that I got this job. I’m not a music major, and I wanted to find space on campus where I could do that,” they said. “You don’t have to be a music major. Just come and jam with us.”

Sophomore Henry Sauer, a former jazz studies major turned writing major, said he has been coming to the open mic night for the first time after hearing about the club at a recent student organization fair. He said that because the event allows performers from any majors and from the college, he felt compelled to participate.

“I know I wanted to do something musical even though I’m not a music major, and I wanted to find space on campus where I could do that,” they said. “You don’t have to be a music major. Just come and jam with us.”

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‘Locke & Key’ weighed down with teen drama

SHOW REVIEW: “Locke & Key” Netflix ★★★★☆

BY THOMAS MACHACZ

Who hasn’t wondered about that creepy house down the road? This is a trope that goes back as far as gothic novels of the 18th century that weave tales of romance and woe by candlelight. Netflix’s latest fantasy horror series, “Locke & Key,” attempts to add another chapter to this centuries-long curiosity, with mixed results.

The series centers around the three Locke siblings — Tyler (Connor Jessup), Kinsey (Emilia Jones), and Bode (Jackson Robert Scott). Following the murder of their father, the Lockes move with their mother to an ancestral Massachusetts manor. There they find magical keys that possess a range of seemingly unlimited powers. But as the siblings learn more about the keys, and the mystical beings that seek the keys’ power, ugly truths about the Locke family come bubbling to the surface.

With such a promising setup, one would think the series would deliver something delightfully strange. In reality, the series feels short on chills and high on oversimplified characters and petty teen drama.

The two most integral characters in the story are the teenaged siblings, Tyler and Kinsey, who are struggling to adapt to their new environment in New England. Standard issue bullies and best friends come and go throughout the season. Many of the dramatic twists and turns feel silly and easily avoidable, even for a high school narrative. Beyond the local high school, Boyle encounters similarly tedious situations, though his young age makes such silliness more forgivable.

For example, there is a moment approximately halfway through the series in which Tyler and Kinsey find a shapeshifting key. Immediately after, they witness a crime that is supposedly committed by one of their most trusted companions. Despite the obvious connection between the two events, neither of the characters even considers the painfully obvious possibility that the magic key could be involved. The series is littered with many of these maddening delays in resolution and lapses in judgment.

In spite of its plot issues, “Locke & Key” is a visual treat. There are few settings as fascinating as a historic manor and Keyhouse deserves a place among the chilling estates that curse “Crimson Peak” and “The Haunting of Hill House.”

The Lockes’ new home is a lush Victorian manor filled to the ceiling with dark, imposing furniture and gaudy artwork. It is easy to get lost in the details during the silent moments between scenes. The visual effects are just as wonderful, each contributing its own bold style and distinct visual history to the overall story of the show.

Stephen King once wrote, “Monsters are real, and ghosts are real too. They live inside us and sometimes, win.” Watching “Locke & Key,” it is difficult not to think of King. The series is produced, written, and directed by the graphic novel by Joe Hill, King’s son and a bestseller in his own right. It features many of the elements known as King trademarks: a quaint New England town, alcoholism, abusive parents and a malevolent force magical with murky origins. Despite all of these connections, the new Netflix series lacks perhaps the most crucial element of King’s work — its boundless empathy.

There is little respect for the characters, and consequently, little respect for the audience. What is obvious to the audience is frequently beyond the understanding of the characters, leading to a frustrating and disappointing experience. In order to honestly showcase characters who suffer the effects of trauma and addiction, it is crucial to treat them with respect, not as simplified archetypes.

That is the heart of the aforementioned quote from King and what drives so many readers and moviegoers back to stories like “The Shining.” The monsters and ghosts that wrestle inside us sometimes win, and that is exactly what makes us human, no less than anyone else.

“Locke & Key” attempts to have it both ways, treating lighthearted elements of fantasy with the same weight as genuine trauma and addiction.

Granted, the show is visually stunning and competently crafted. However, it mostly leads to a viewing experience that is passively interesting at its best and downright patronizing at its worst.

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‘Locke & Key’ is a new fantasy horror show from Netflix. The show is well-crafted and visually pleasing, but it fails to live up to its incredibly promising premise.

COURTESY OF NETFLIX

Album is a refreshing twist on band’s traditional style

ALBUM REVIEW: “Father of All…” Reprise ★★★★★

BY EVA SALZMAN

Emerging from its four-year hiatus, Green Day’s new album “Father of All…” works to incorporate a new sound into the band’s repertoire. The 10-song album will sometimes feature the band’s classic sound, but the band song branch out into a new pop-punk tone.

The main vocals are pitched down, away from the band’s more popular older works, putting a pop sound into the band’s repertoire. The 10-song album a more pop-rock feeling, setting it apart from the band’s most well-known work. Green Day changed its sound for new album “Father of All…”. The changes give the album a more pop-rock feeling, setting it apart from the band’s most well-known work.

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COURTESY OF REPRISE

“I Was a Teenage Teenager” is another song that breaks away from the band’s usual sound. The track starts with a simple bass intro that flows into a more pop-rock feeling, setting it apart from the band’s most well-known work. The lyrics still adhere to the pop-punk style the band is known for in much of its older music. However, a few songs on the album possess musical themes familiar to fans of the band’s earlier work. The notable track is “Junkies on a High,” which exemplifies the traditional style Green Day’s more recent work lacks.

Additionally, some songs feel more old-school, diving into indie or grunge rock. “Yeah You in the Heart” begins with electric-sounding guitar, but the beat, lyrics and overall tone of the song present a compelling mix of angst and old school rock. In this track, it seems as if Green Day combined the classic punk sounds of their former years and rock that is reminiscent of Elvis Presley’s “Hound Dog.” “Yeah You in the Heart” has an extremely catchy hook that is repeated throughout the track, making it a likely fan favorite.

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Jumbled narrative creates chaos in bizarre thriller

MOVIE REVIEW: "Horse Girl" Netflix

BY SARAH DIGGINS

Director Jeff Baena’s “Horse Girl” is a bizarre experience that tackles difficult topics, including mental health, with a unique twist. The offbeat Netflix thriller follows Sarah (Alison Brie), a socially awkward woman with interests in arts and crafts, horses and a supernatural TV show called “Purgatory.” Sarahresearches her past and the world around her. It is never revealed what the results of this test actually are, but it is clear that this is where the story begins.

The film’s charm almost solely from Brie’s voice makes it practically impossible not to root for Sarah. When she sits at home alone on her birthday or fumbles through awkward romantic interactions, audiences can’t help but want her to find happiness. But as the plot turns more toward the bizarre, it becomes increasingly difficult to follow what the film is about or the message it is trying to portray. The ending leaves much up to the audience’s interpretation. This element is disappointing considering the film’s success at creating a sense of unease in the audience. Despite all of this, the film is not without its faults. The characters excel, the plot falls short. The core of the plot revolves around a fairly simple yet compelling conflict in which the characters find a diamond that holds the key to a murdered woman of color who has found a new life with the young equestrian who now owns her childhood horse.

Yet something about the sweet inflection of Brie’s voice makes it practically impossible not to root for Sarah. When she sits at home alone on her birthday or fumbles through awkward romantic interactions, audiences can’t help but want her to find happiness. But as the plot turns more toward the bizarre, it becomes increasingly difficult to follow what the film is about or the message it is trying to portray. The ending leaves much up to the audience’s interpretation. This element is disappointing considering the film’s success at creating a sense of unease in the audience. Despite all of this, the film is not without its faults. The characters excel, the plot falls short. The core of the plot revolves around a fairly simple yet compelling conflict in which the characters find a diamond that holds the key to a murdered woman of color who has found a new life with the young equestrian who now owns her childhood horse.

Margot Robbie spreads her wings as the eccentric and powerful Harley Quinn in the comic movie “Birds of Prey.”

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Gladney is being trained by performance trainer Kyle Piper for the NFL draft.

Will Gladney, former Ithaca College wide receiver, celebrates after the Bombers won the Cortaca Jug game against SUNY Cortland on Nov. 16 in MetLife Stadium.

“Number one, he’s always one of the guys who wants to be first in line,” Piper said. “I think that says a lot about a kid’s character and their motivation. You can see it any time he’s in a group with kids that played in Power 5 conferences.”

By Connors Glunt

Gladney makes a run past Cortland junior linebacker Dylan Dubuque during the Cortaca Jug game in MetLife Stadium. Gladney scored a touchdown in the win.

"I catch everything that’s thrown my way," Gladney said. "I have an edge in my workouts when it comes to those kinds of athletes because of where I come from, but I feel like I’ve played with an edge from the beginning."

"As the football player, he’s just pure," said Piper. "He’s very clean on his breaks. He’s very clean catching the football... Hopefully, in six months from now, I’m watching him play in an NFL preseason game for his first game."

Will Gladney, former Ithaca College wide receiver, celebrates after the Bombers won the Cortaca Jug game against SUNY Cortland on Nov. 16 in MetLife Stadium.

"I’m a physical player, and I love football."
Sophomore forward Cara Volpe dribbles the ball up the court in the Bombers’ 73–43 win over Clarkson University on Feb. 14 in Ben Light Gymnasium.

### The Bombers Roundup

*The Ithacan provides statistical updates on all the Bombers’ varsity squads during the season*

#### Women’s Track & Field

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Katelyn Hutchison</td>
<td>22nd</td>
<td>400-meter dash</td>
<td>56.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parley Hannan</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>5,000-meter run</td>
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<tr>
<td>Distance medley relay</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Distance medley relay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Gee</td>
<td>27th</td>
<td>Triple jump</td>
<td>10.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4x400-meter relay</td>
<td>25th</td>
<td>4x400-meter relay</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

**Next Meet: 10 a.m. Feb. 22 at the Cornell Marc Perreault Invitational at Cornell University**

#### Men’s Track & Field

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kasim Cisse</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>High jump</td>
<td>2.05 meters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrison Buttrick</td>
<td>10th</td>
<td>Weight throw</td>
<td>17.26 meters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danny Jagoe</td>
<td>13th</td>
<td>5,000-meter run</td>
<td>15:04.46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dan Monchek</td>
<td>17th</td>
<td>60-meter hurdles</td>
<td>8.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance medley relay</td>
<td>9th</td>
<td>Distance medley relay</td>
<td>10:11.96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Next Meet: 10 a.m. Feb. 22 at the Cornell Marc Perreault Invitational at Cornell University**

#### Women’s Basketball

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ithaca</td>
<td>Feb. 14</td>
<td>73–43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarkson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Score</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ithaca</td>
<td>Feb. 15</td>
<td>85–55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Lawrence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Next Game: 7:30 p.m. Feb. 21 against Vassar College in Ben Light Gymnasium**

#### Wrestling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weight Class</th>
<th>Decision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Logan Ninos</td>
<td>125 lbs</td>
<td>MD: 12–3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travis Jones</td>
<td>133 lbs</td>
<td>FALL: 2:57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Brisman</td>
<td>141 lbs</td>
<td>MD: 9–1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam Schneider</td>
<td>157 lbs</td>
<td>MD: 21–10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eze Chukwuezi</td>
<td>184 lbs</td>
<td>TF: 20–4</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Next Meet: 11 a.m. Feb. 29 at the NCAA Mideast Regionals in Glazer Arena**

#### Gymnastics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cassidy Marquette</td>
<td>Vault</td>
<td>9.675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katie Holcomb</td>
<td>Uneven parallel bars</td>
<td>9.800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kylee Black</td>
<td>Balance beam</td>
<td>9.500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paige Landes</td>
<td>Floor exercise</td>
<td>9.500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameryn Nichols</td>
<td>All-around</td>
<td>37.625</td>
</tr>
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**Next Meet: 2 p.m. Feb. 23 at the Harriet Marranca Invitational in Ben Light Gymnasium**

#### Men’s Basketball

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ithaca</td>
<td>Feb. 14</td>
<td>101–82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarkson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ithaca</td>
<td>Feb. 15</td>
<td>98–71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Lawrence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Next Game: 7:30 p.m. Feb. 21 against Vassar College in Ben Light Gymnasium**

*Updated as of Feb. 18*
Senior runner Maggie Nickerson has been trying to qualify for the NCAA championship, and this year she is right on the bubble.

The Ithaca College women's track and field team is currently No. 2 in Division III, and Nickerson is No. 19 in the 1,500-meter run with a time of 2:17.15. To qualify for the NCAA championships, athletes need to be ranked in the top 20 after the league and regional championships conclude March 7.

At the David Hemery Valentine Invitational on Feb. 14, Nickerson, along with fellow seniors Lindsey Scott and Parley Hannan and sophomore Kelyn Burnstock, broke the college's record for the distance medley relay (DMR) with a time of 11:48.70. The time puts the Bombers' DMR team at No. 1 in the country.

Staff writer Dani Pluchinsky spoke with Nickerson about the program's success this season, her recruiting story and the DMR team and the postseason mentality of the team.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Dani Pluchinsky: What makes this team special compared to other teams you have been a part of?

Maggie Nickerson: I think each one is special in its own way, but this one, my grade is a really big part of it. I think having someone else, I think they would say the same thing. We're all friends, and we're all having a good time. We're all on the same page. We show up to practice. We have the same goals, and we understand what each other is going through, and we're not just teammates. I think having a really good connection and trust in your teammates carries the team far.

DP: Because there are so many athletes on the team who are currently ranked in the top 30, how does that affect the team's mentality heading into the postseason?

MN: We always knew that we are a postseason team, and our program works really well for us to feel our best at the end. We know that come championship season that we are going to do what we need to do, and we have confidence in our trainers, our coaches and our teammates for that. But seeing this many people on the leaderboard this early in the season is awesome because we know that we aren't at our peak yet. Seeing everything happen so early and seeing it come together so much earlier makes us have so much confidence looking ahead.

DP: What was the feeling you had when you realized the DMR team was ranked No. 1?

MN: I was not expecting it because it was on a banked track, so they add time to your regular time. It was a bit of like a huge personal record. So then to realize that we went that fast and that we're No. 1, I was a confidence booster because we had all raced the day before, and we hadn't been putting a ton of energy into the DMR at this point. We know we were going to start practicing it later in the season, and normally a fast DMR is run at the end of the season. I've never been in a position of No. 1 in the country at any point in my individual races or my relays, so to say that I am up there right now is really cool.

DP: Can you talk about the mentality of possibly falling out of the leaderboard before nationals?

MN: The last three years, I've been trying to go for the 800, and this year is the closest I've been so far. The funny thing is that with a lot of track events is that the leaderboard is going to completely change by the end. So usually we know from previous years what times qualify, and my coach is confident that a 2:14 will go, and I'm currently running a 2:17. The way I approach it is that I keep telling myself that I'm up in the leaderboard, and it's the closest I've been, so I'm already doing better than I have been, and I'm already in a good spot. It's good to think about and good to focus on that accomplishment to carry me into dropping another three seconds off my time.

Senior runner discusses championship aspiration

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Senior runner Maggie Nickerson races the 1-mile run during the Bomber Invitational on Feb. 1 in Glazer Arena. Nickerson placed first in the event with her time of 5:16.99.

ABBY LANDOR/ITHACA COLLEGE
BY EMILY ADAMS

During the 2018–19 season, then-sophomore diver Justin Moczynski was a key diver on the men’s swimming and diving team. This season, the junior has some realistic expectations for the first time in freshman teammate Ethan Godfrey.

Last year, Moczynski was more than 200 points better than the second-best diver on the team on both the 1- and 3-meter boards. While Godfrey has been the team leader on both boards, Godfrey has been challenged for the spot all season. The pair are currently separated by only 18 points on the 3-meter and 52 points on the 1-meter.

Both divers also made the cut for the NCAA regional championship meet, which will be held Feb. 28 and 29 at the Kelsey Partridge Bird Natatorium.

Godfrey said his relationship with Moczynski has helped push him to greater levels of success despite this year being his first on the team.

“Having Justin there, some really good talent, is always pushing me to try new dives and just keep going,” Godfrey said. “In high school, me and this kid that I practiced with, we would both always go back and forth at meets, and it was pretty much the same thing I have with Justin — just pushing each other, trying new stuff. It’s a healthy relationship, but always trying to beat each other.”

Moczynski and Godfrey have both seen marked improvements throughout the season. Of the nine meets this season both athletes have competed in, Moczynski has placed first five times on the 3-meter board, while Godfrey has taken top honors three times and placed higher than Moczynski with his third-place finish at the Ithaca Bomber Invitational. On the 1-meter board, Godfrey leads Moczynski with four wins and a better second-place finish at the Bomber Invitational, while Moczynski has four wins.

Moczynski said that because he and Godfrey are on similar skill levels, they have a deeper connection as teammates.

“It’s really nice to have someone to relate to who’s doing similar dives, and we can bond over that,” he said. “We bond over certain practices, and we just have a really nice relationship with another person to relate to.”

Junior driver Chris Griffin said he sees the pair use each other for motivation and encouragement, both during practices and competitions.

“It raises the bar for everyone when they can bounce off each other and see each other’s success,” he said. “If Justin has a bad meet and Ethan has a great meet, Justin is just happy he has a teammate who can pick up the slack. It’s a good dynamic. It’s not about the first place, it’s just about trying to get better.”

Godfrey said that having Moczynski as a teammate has helped his transition to collegiate diving easier and that he has taught him a lot about the intricacies of the sport.

“College scoring is a lot more subjective and can change a lot from meet to meet,” Godfrey said. “That can get you down. When you’re doing well, the judges will be throwing out lower scores. I put it into perspective for me that it doesn’t depend on your score. It depends on how you’re performing in comparison to the competition.”

Freshman Theo Summerville has also had a strong year for the Bombers and is currently third behind Moczynski and Godfrey on both boards. Griffin said he has been trying to build up the men’s program for several years and is finally seeing his efforts come to fruition.

“It’s beginning to be where we’re trying to be,” Griffin said. “We’ll get a guy in here for a year and then they graduate out, but we’re finally starting to build. It’s nice to have some good members on the guys’ side.”

The women’s diving program has been one of the strongest in the country for several years with 10 athletes earning All-American status in the last decade. Griffin said that his goal is to get the men’s team to the same level of success as the women’s.

Moczynski said he thinks the increasing size and skill of the team has helped him improve over the past three years.

“This year specifically, our team has expanded significantly with a good combination of people who have done and people who are new to the sport,” he said. “This year, I feel like I’ve seen the most growth with myself in terms of technique with everyone else.”

Griffin said his goal for the pair is to have both qualify for the national championships. He said the pressure will be on at the regional meet because that single competition determines who moves on to nationals.

“We have some high goals,” Griffin said. “We have some things we’ve planned out. We stated them early in the season, and we’re going for them. We’re taking it one step at a time. There are hopes and goals, but right now it’s [to] do the best you can each day.”

Assistant sports editor Arla Davis, staff writer Conner Glunt and contributing writer Max Scher contributed reporting to this article.

Junior diver Justin Moczynski stands with freshman diver Ethan Godfrey on Feb. 1 at a meet against Union College at the Kelsey Partridge Bird Natatorium. Moczynski won the 1- and 3-meter boards.

CONTACT EMILY ADAMS EADAMS3@ITHACA.EDU

Freshman class succeeds for women’s swim team

BY LAUREN WHITE

As the Ithaca College women’s swimming and diving team prepares for its Liberty League and postseason championship competition, the team is loaded with talent from top to bottom.

Though led by a large group of senior veterans, the Bombers are also supported by an even bigger class of skilled freshman swimmers and divers. In preparation for the 2019–20 season, head coach Paula Miller added an impressive class of 16 freshmen to the roster, the largest freshman class’s goal is to continue to bring the team to national prominence. Miller said that replacing their caliber of talent will be a challenge.

In addition to the substantial size of the team this season consists of eight swimmers and two divers. Krom said that it works out well because her large class came in when the team will be losing the big group of seniors but that replacing their caliber of talent will be a challenge.

“We are a big group of friends, but we also push each other,” Krom said. “From the beginning, they have really helped me become a stronger swimmer.”

Freshman Jane Pfeuffer and Emily VanderSleen have been standouts for the squad as well. Pfeuffer and VanderSleen hold the first and second-best times of the year in the 50-yard freestyle. Pfeuffer also leads the team in the 50 and 100-yard backstrokes. VanderSleen is currently on the lineup for all four relay “A” teams.

Fourteen of the 16 freshman athletes are also qualified to compete in the Liberty League championships, which are being held from Feb. 19 to 22 at the Kelsey Partridge Bird Natatorium.

Miller said she has watched the freshman swimmers improve their times every time they get in the pool to race, and that element of surprise has made coaching them extremely enjoyable.

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THE BUZZER

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

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

SENIOR RILEY THOMPSON

Thompson scored 36 points during the men’s basketball team’s game against St. Lawrence University. Thirty of those came from the 10 3-pointers he sank to tie the school record for 3-pointers made in a single game.

COMPETITION OF THE WEEK

DAVID HEMERY VALENTINE INVITATIONAL

Sophomore Katelyn Hutchison set a new 400-meter school record and was on the distance medley relay team that did the same. Senior Parley Hannan also set the 5,000-meter run national record for Division III.

EVENTS TO WATCH

10 A.M. FEB. 19–22 AT THE KELSEY PARTRIDGE BIRD NATATORIUM

The men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams will aim for a team win at the conference championship meet. The women’s team is defending its 2019 title.

5:30 P.M. FEB. 21 IN BEN LIGHT GYMNASIUM

The women’s basketball team will take on Vassar College to determine which team will host the Liberty League championship games beginning Feb. 25.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Recruiting is not just looking for someone that can jump high and hit the ball hard. We try really hard to find the right match.”

– JOHAN DULFER

VOLLEYBALL HEAD COACH
Freshman Nicholas Reyes attempts a long jump at the Cornell Sunday Invitational on Feb. 16 in Barton Hall. The men’s track and field team is ranked No. 22 nationally.