Survey finds strong resistance from faculty regarding cuts

BY ALEXIS MANORE
The Ithaca College Faculty Council’s Executive Committee (FCEC) is urging the administration to address faculty concerns regarding the Academic Program Prioritization Implementation Committee (APPIC) process after conducting a survey to gather faculty feedback about the cuts.

The council held a vote to determine whether or not faculty members support the draft “Shape of the College” document, which recommends the elimination of 116 full-time equivalent (FTE) faculty positions and 26 departments, majors, and programs. The survey ran from Feb. 2 to 15. Participants indicated their support or opposition to the cuts and then provided written feedback as well. Out of the 547 faculty members at the college, 519 faculty members participated in the survey. A summary of the survey results stated that 248 faculty members, or 78% of the participants, indicated that they support the recommendations. The results of this survey do not reflect the views of the faculty overall. However, the Department of Politics and the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences have written letters to voice their opposition to the cuts. Individual faculty members have been critical of the proposed cuts as well.

The summary of the survey stated that the main concern from participants is the lack of transparency surrounding the rationale for the cuts. Many are not convinced that the Academic Program Prioritization Implementation Committee (APPIC) recommendations are, in fact, strategic, the summary stated. “One faculty member noted: ‘I had truly believed that ‘academic prioritization’ and the concept of ‘don’t waste a crisis’ were meant in earnest and that the pain of the layoffs would also allow for new curricular opportunities. ... This report suggests a simple, ... irreparable ...

By February 2020, the Commons was a hub for the Ithaca community, where students from Ithaca College and local residents crossed paths. Downtown was bustling with students and Ithaca residents dining at restaurants, going to bars and browsing through the local shops. Over the course of the year, the COVID-19 pandemic left the future of many businesses uncertain. However, now that students are returning back to Ithaca, businesses are adjusting and hoping to bounce back after a difficult year.

Ithaca businesses struggle and adapt during COVID-19 pandemic

Brett Bossard is the executive director of Cinemapolis, a local theater that shows independent films. The theater has been closed throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, but Bossard is hoping to reopen for private showings in February.

"While it is certainly the case that Ithaca College faculty were able to contribute feedback to the APPIC as it was in the process of composing its recommendations and after seeing the draft recommendations first circu- lated on Jan. 13, this does not in itself constitute shared governance," the IC AAUP chapter wrote in its petition.

"The role of the Faculty in Budgetary and Salary Matters," the AAUP states that faculty members should be involved in the development of the institutional budget and in relevant financial decisions about salaries, academic programs, tuition and others.

"No faculty members were
Community adapts to hybrid classes

BY CAITLIN HOLTZMAN

Ithaca College students are adjusting to taking classes in person again for the first time in approximately 10 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic but are facing some challenges with the hybrid model of instruction.

The spring semester started with fully online classes Jan. 25, and in-person classes started Feb. 8. This semester, there are 10 classes that require 100% in-person instruction, 1,143 hybrid classes, 139 online asynchronous and 685 online synchronous classes, according to HomerConnect. In Fall 2020, there were 42 hybrid classes, 265 online asynchronous, 1,651 online synchronous classes and no classes that required 100% in-person instruction. Professors had the ability to choose what modality for each class.

Sophomore Madeline Miele said that at first, it felt strange having some students in a classroom and others on Zoom, but it is an adjustment she has gotten used to. Miele said she felt like professors had time to prepare to be in the classroom again despite the return to campus causing some worries for her.

“I do get anxious sometimes just because you’re sitting there and being like, ‘We’re in a pandemic and in a class,’” she said. “Then I remember all the precautions with testing and everyone wearing masks and sitting far apart.”

The college introduced policies for COVID-19 testing twice a week, mask-wearing on campus and social distancing to keep students, faculty and staff safe. Larger spaces on campus, like the Emerson Suites and the Klingenstein Lounge in the Campus Center, have been converted into classroom settings to maximize social distancing.

Sophomore Angelina Postorito said she feels like students and professors have made sure everyone is being safe when in the classroom.

“Everyone in the classroom, including the professor, has been really good about the rules,” she said.

Miele said she is glad there are limits to how many students can be in a classroom at a time. She said she would not feel comfortable attending classes in person if classroom capacities were not limited. She also said she likes how she can take a class online one day if she does not want to be in person.

Freshman Alison Hitchen is also on campus this semester and has three classes that she takes in person.

Hitchen said that while she usually attends class in person, it seems like students on Zoom might not get the best view of the professor or the board, and she said it seems difficult for the professor to hear them.

“Just observing the atmosphere in the classroom, it is easy to see that students on Zoom are often neglect,” she said.

David Salomon, associate professor in the Department of Art History, said one of his biggest challenges has been trying to connect with students in the classroom and students on Zoom.

He said it can be difficult to use whiteboard features on Zoom and show students what he is doing.

“It is harder to judge the engagement of students who are attending remotely,” he said via email. “I’m still working out how to have meaningful interactions between students in the room and students on Zoom.”

Jeff Holmes, professor in the Department of Psychology, teaches a hybrid class Feb. 15. Holmes is teaching all hybrid classes this semester to allow students to attend his classes in person or online.
Environmental science department decries cuts

BY SYD PIERRE

The Ithaca College Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences (ENVS) is voicing its opposition to the draft “Shape of the College” document, which recommends that at least three faculty members in the department are cut.

The department sent a letter to the Ithaca College Board of Trustees on Feb. 12 requesting that the Ithaca College Board of Trustees are cut.

The department, which recommends that at least three faculty members within the department have been notified their positions are recommended for termination by the APIC.

Fae Dremsock, assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences, said she thinks the proposed faculty cuts are devastating.

“People who made the cuts, they didn’t ask us what the effects would be, they didn’t look to see what we were trying to do. They don’t even know the names of the people they cut in some cases or what they were doing here,” Dremsock said that after learning that her position at the college would be cut, it was hard for her to begin teaching her spring courses.

“I felt very paralyzed,” Dremsock said. “Seeing the students, it was wonderful. Because I do love what I do, I care about my students, I do. It’s just part of who I am. I can’t function without actually trying to make the world better. I do that through teaching. After those first couple of classes, it was so depressing, because it felt like this is going to be the last three semesters I teach.”

Drake has been teaching at the college since 2007, before the department was created in 2009. He said he started the field-based course Environ-mental Sentinels with Jordan and Hamilton based on their work with the Primitive Pursuits, a year-round nature awareness program in Ithaca.

“On the surface, we’re taking students out into the woods and doing environmental education,” Drake said. “And yet, there’s kind of something deeper under there, when you spend intimate time outdoors with people in nature and give students a chance to have that access to the na-ural world in that way.”

Some Ithaca College community members are cut.

“Dan and Tim Drake, both lecturers in the department, are cut. At least three faculty members within the department were recommended for termination by the APIC,” said Dan and Tim Drake, both lecturers in the department.

“People with certain underlying conditions or medical conditions. However, the department was allocated 800 doses of the vaccine, they will receive. The number of doses needed but are not informed supply of vaccines. County health departments are eligible populations.

These phases include populations like health-care workers, first responders, teachers, people 65 years or older and some essential workers. People with certain underlying conditions or comorbidities became eligible to receive the vaccine Feb. 15. College faculty who are teaching in-person classes are among the eligible populations.

Some students, show off their vaccination cards after getting the COVID-19 vaccine.

From left, Danielle Johansson and Nina Bussamante, sixth-year physical therapy students, show off their vaccination cards after getting the COVID-19 vaccine.

Dremock wrote a letter to Melanie Stein, dean of the School of Humanities and Sciences, and La Jerne Cornish, provost and vice president of academic affairs, expressing her support of Dremsock and her contributions to the department, noting her expertise in environmental justice.

Dremock said she was confused and frustrated about the decisions behind the faculty cuts.

“It’s like everything was done without inclusion, without true shared governance and without really sitting down department by department and saying, ‘What can we change? What can we do to shrink our budget? What would be the best solution to how we could handle this?’” Dremsock said. Hamilton said he felt like faculty members feel pressured not to complain.

“They pitted us and the current students against the future students,” Hamilton said. “And it’s not at all a pleasant place. … There were many other ways that this could have gone down, that we could have together, the administration and the faculty, ac- 
quainted what a future Ithaca College would look like. And we could have worked towards it together.”

Read the department letter and the alumni letter on page 8.

CONTACT SYD PIERRE
SYDPIERRE@ITHACA.EDU

College community gets a shot at COVID

BY ALYSHIA KORBA

Some Ithaca College community members who are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vac-cine are getting vaccinated.

New York state is in Phase 1a and starting Phase 1b of COVID-19 vaccine distribution. These phases include populations like health-care workers, first responders, teachers, people 65 years or older and some essential workers. People with certain underlying conditions or comorbidities became eligible to receive the vaccine Feb. 15. College faculty who are teaching in-person classes are among the eligible populations.

Some students showed off their vaccination cards after getting the COVID-19 vaccine.

From left, Danielle Johansson and Nina Bussamante, sixth-year physical therapy students, show off their vaccination cards after getting the COVID-19 vaccine.

COURTESY OF NINA BUSTAMANTE

She said she experienced body aches and chills following the second dose of the vaccine.

According to the CDC, common side effects of the vaccines include pain, redness and swelling at the injection site and chills, lethargy and headaches.

Patricia Hunsinger, lecturer in the Depart-ment of Art, said she had to miss work because of the timing of her second dose appointment and because of the side effects she experienced. Hunsinger said she experienced swelling at the injection site and lethargy.

“We all want the vaccination and will sign up for it at any time as long as we can even get it!” Hunsinger said via email. “It’s like a lottery. If you are lucky enough to get the vaccination, you’ll compromise whatever it is you must do so that you can get the shot.”

Finance forums open to students

BY ALEXIS MANORE

Infinite Presentations, which are meetings about the financial status of Ithaca College, are now open to students.

The first Infinite Presentation of Spring 2021 is at noon to 1 p.m. Feb. 22. The meeting will be held over Zoom, and it is open to faculty, staff and students at the college. At the presentation, Bill Guerrero, vice president for finance and administration, and members of the Division of Finance will speak about the college’s finances and provide updates about the 2021-22 fiscal budget. A Zoom link was sent to faculty, staff and students via email Feb. 15.

Previously, the meetings were open to stu-dents, but during the fall semester, they were open to faculty and staff but not students.

Throughout Fall 2020, the Open the Books coalition campaigned for increased financial transparency from the college. At the All-College Gathering on Feb. 9, President Shail-ey M. Collado said that the college is financially transparent and that its financial information is available to students.

Guerrero said that sophomores Grace Mad-eye, vice president for business and finance for the Student Government Council (SGC), re-quested that the meetings be open to students during a discussion about how the college can be more financially transparent.

In Fall 2020, the SGC passed the Fall 2020 Tuition Transparency Request Bill. The rec-ommendation asked the college to publish a breakdown of what it spent students’ tuition money on after it refused to give tuition discounts when it decided to hold classes remotely for the fall. The college denied the request.

Guerrero said the annual audits and form 990s are available to the public.
The economic impacts of COVID-19 will affect Tompkins County into 2021 but that the county will see benefits from community initiatives as the economy recovers.

"The economic impacts are devastating, and they’re widespread, and there’s a lot of industry sectors being impacted, for sure," Tarreas said. "But I think if everyone were a little more creative and collaborative and willing to work together to address it, it could be a lot worse."

Despite loss of revenue, Cinemapolis is one business that has been able to retain its staff. Cinemapolis is a theater in Ithaca that primarily shows independent films. Brett Bossard, executive director of Cinemapolis, said that due to the business’s nonprofit status and dedication to being a living wage employer, he could keep all 12 employees on the payroll while Cinemapolis remained closed. Bossard said Cinemapolis has used funding from the Federal Pandemic Protection Program and dipped into the business’s reserve funds to continue paying employees.

The theater has been closed since mid-March, when the pandemic first shuttered businesses across the nation. Bossard said Cinemapolis’ revenue is less than half of what it normally would be. Normally the theater brings in approximately $1 million a year, but Bossard said he doesn’t consider it a failure if the theater earned $500,000 in 2020.

"It’s definitely going to be a challenge," he said. "We’re very fortunate that we have a generous landlord, an understanding community and a very supportive community financially that we need to show.

Bossard said Cinemapolis plans to open at the end of February with private showings for groups of 10 to 15 people. Rates and more information will be available to the public later in the month. Due to limited seating restrictions and a lack of independent film releases, Bossard said Cinemapolis will not have public viewings until further notice.

However, Cinemapolis will work with Ithaca College for its annual Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival, which will be held virtually this year. When many businesses in the entertainment and leisure sector of the economy had to remain shut down for much of the year, businesses selling alternate forms of entertainment saw a small boost that earned them profits out of the woods. Joseph Wetmore, owner of Autumn Leaves Books, said he has seen a rise in tourists coming to Ithaca to buy books.

Dan Breen, associate professor in the Department of English, is the chair of the newly formed American Association of University Professors chapter at Ithaca College.

This would include audited financial statements, breakdowns by department: projected revenues and expenses, including administrative salaries and new hires within the college, among other things.

It will also include the performance of the endowment: a summary of the total liquid assets; and a justification of why the college needs to decrease enrollment to 5,000 students.

In its report “Recommended Institutional Regulations on Academic Freedom and Tenure,” the AAUP states that an elected faculty governance body should participate in discussions surrounding financial exigency — an ominous financial crisis which threatens the survival of the institution as a whole. It includes the spending of one-time money or reserves, surpluses, pay cuts, deferred compensation plans, early retirement packages and cuts to nondedicated programs and services, including expenses for administration.

"Yet the college has been told repeatedly that they are not present in a condition of financial exigency," the IC AAUP stated in the petition. "Certainly, no faculty-elected or faculty-appointed body has participated in a determination of financial exigency. In addition, the campus community has not been informed of any specific alternative proposals or possibilities that may have been considered, nor have faculty participated in the identification of criteria for the elimination of positions."

The results of a vote conducted by the Faculty Council showed that many other faculty members share these concerns. "The petition has signatures from various constituencies — IC students, alumni, former faculty members, faculty members at other institutions and community supporters — but the goal was to present it primarily to IC faculty," Breen said via email.
IC alum works for President Biden

From South Hill to the White House, Rob Flaherty ’13 started his new position as the director of digital strategy for the Joe Biden administration last month.

Flaherty oversees a team that manages the White House’s media, online communication and digital partnerships.

Prior to his current role, he was digital director for the Biden 2020 presidential campaign, digital director for the Beto O’Rourke 2020 presidential campaign and deputy digital communications director for the Hillary Clinton 2016 presidential campaign, among other positions.

Contributing writer Chris Toye spoke with Flaherty about his time at Ithaca College and his time working in the White House so far.

“This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Chris Toye: What is daily life like at the White House?

Rob Flaherty: It’s surreal. Every day is different, and it has been a whirlwind. We just got in the door less than a month ago, but it feels like a longer time than that. We are still trying to figure out where the water cooler is, while also trying to communicate directly with the American public about the president’s agenda.

CT: Did you ever think you would be working at the highest levels of the U.S. federal government?

RF: No, certainly not. I was doing NewsWatch on [Ithaca College Television] and I always wanted to go into politics. But this is something of a dream job for me. … On my walk home, I leave the Eisenhower Executive Office Building and I’m facing the White House every day. It’s this crazy moment of ‘I can’t believe I’m here.’

CT: How will digital strategy under Biden differ from that under the Trump Administration?

RF: We have a bunch of different core strategic needs. We have to make the government more accessible and trustworthy. But we also need to show off the president’s empathetic leadership. It is a dark moment for the country, and we have a lot of work to do, so we have to put him in those situations where he can speak directly to everyday Americans who are going through the brunt of the COVID crisis. … So, part of our strategy is to get off the White House platforms and on to the influencers, creators and YouTubers to communicate with folks wherever they might be online.

CT: What challenges did you face during the transition after the election?

RF: It is public record that the transition was not given all of the information that it would have liked to be given. That said, it was still one of the most successful transitions of all time. With the speed at which they staffed the government and the effectiveness with which they got an agenda up and running, they were certainly able to overcome those challenges.

CT: What advice do you have for current students?

RF: If you want to go into this line of business, it is really rewarding. … Go out and get experience. Start knocking on doors. In this world that we are in where everything is being reimplemented all of the time, we really need thoughtful doers, people who can think critically about the world around them and then execute. By the nature of being a part of the Ithaca College community, you’re well set up for that. Just go do it.

Rob Flaherty ’13 is serving as director of digital strategy for the Joe Biden administration. He previously worked on presidential campaigns for Beto O’Rourke and Hillary Clinton. COURTSEY OF ROB FLAHERTY

THE FACES OF AUSTERITY

BY HARRIET MALINOWITZ

Scott Thomson, director of forensics and assistant professor in the Department of Communication Studies, has always enjoyed a good argument.

From his undergraduate days as a member of the U.S. National Debating Team through his graduate studies in Argumentation to his job as director of forensics, coaching Ithaca College’s Speech and Debate team over the past 20 years, Thomson has revelled in sparring about ideas.

He’s even taught an Ithaca Seminar called “The Rhetoric of Conspiracy Theory.”

He loves to travel, and he has had the chance to when the team attends regional and national tournaments. Last year, he led the team to victory in the Junior Varsity Division championship in St. Louis, Missouri. One of the things he likes best about the debate team, he said, is that, “It’s a place anyone can join. Students from all different backgrounds have participated, leading to ‘outstanding diversity.’”

Thomson, 55, is a first-generation college student with a son currently attending the college. His wife is from Mexico and teaches in an Ithaca elementary school and loves it.

Heading south of the border is often on the family’s travel itinerary, and they are active in the local Latino community.

If he has to leave Ithaca for a new job, he will have to depart from serving on the board of One World Market on the Ithaca Commons—a nonprofit, fair-trade store where proceeds go to the international artists who create the products.

Thomson has been committed to keeping the employees safe and employed through the COVID-19 pandemic.

By losing its coach as part of the “rightsizing plan,” the debate team may be approaching the end of its approximately 100-year-old existence.

PROFESSOR CLAIMS CUTS BELIE IC’S ANTI-RACIST GOALS

Lenora Warren is a lecturer in the Department of English at Ithaca College, with a Ph.D. in English New York University in New York City. She is an African-American and Latina woman and has taught African-American literature at Ithaca College for approximately 18 years.

At 42, she is a runner who has vowed to run a marathon for her 45th birthday. She left a tenure-track job at Colgate University in Hamilton, New York, because her husband was the executive director of the Cornell Prison Education Program, “and I didn’t want to become one of those super-commuter couples.”

She also happened to be having a baby, who is now a 21-month-old toddler.

Warren’s book, “Fire on the Water: Sailors, Slaves, and Insurrection in Early American Literature,” is about the history and literature of abolition and insurrection in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. She reflects, “I’m interested in how violence becomes a political act and gets read — and racialized — which depends on which audience is reading it. Of course, this impacts our current moment.”

As a scholar proposed to be terminated at Ithaca College, she feels herself to be in “a surreal position,” “demoralized” and with “a sense of total identity loss. She still gets invitations to publish articles — chapters for two different Meville anthologies are in the works — but, ‘I don’t have a position to support that. When you’re not working for a college, academic work is unpaid labor. And I’ll be working in isolation.’

Warren finds it especially perplexing that the college claims to believe in diversity and anti-racism education, yet “is cutting that part of the curriculum away.” She said that she had to stop attending administration-run faculty forums “because at a certain point I started to feel very dispirited by the language of, ‘This is going to be hard for all of us, our college is going through a hard time.’” She realized that the “we” being referenced were the ones who were staying, whose jobs were safe — not the ones being fired. It isn’t even my college anymore.”

This series aims to put human faces on the faculty members who have been notified of their termination as a result of the Academic Program Prioritization process. Faculty members interested in sharing their stories can reach out to Harriet Malinowitzz, lecturer in the Department of Writing, at hmalinowitz@ithaca.edu.

CATHERINE MALINOWITZ

THE FACILITATOR OF WRITING, AT hmalinowitz@ithaca.edu.

Faculty members interested in sharing their stories can reach out to Harriet Malinowitzz, lecturer in the Department of Writing, at hmalinowitz@ithaca.edu.

Contact Chris Toye
CT TOYE@ITHACA.EDU

Contact Alesis Manore
AMANORE@ITHACA.EDU

Trustees discuss impending cuts

BY ALEXIS MANORE

The Ithaca College Board of Trustees provided feedback on the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process and discussed the college’s financial health and enrollment strategy in its February meeting.

In a Feb. 15 email to the college community, President Shirley M. Collado and Dave Lissy ’87, chair of the board of trustees, announced that the board met Feb. 11 and 12 over Zoom for its annual February meeting.

The email stated that the board met with the executive councils of the Faculty Council, the Student Governance Council (SGC) and the Staff Council, as well as with members of the administration, to discuss the return to campus. The board also held plenary sessions to discuss financial health, strategic pricing and the APP process.

Board members shared thoughts about the proposals in the document about the recommendations for faculty, department, program and major cuts outlined in the draft “Shape of the College” document.

“Trustees were incredibly impressed by the work of the APP,” the email stated.

The board voted unanimously to adopt the blueprint for strategic priorities and value strategy. The email stated that this strategy will allow the college to better yield retain certain students.

The Board of Trustees met with Bill Guerrero, vice president for finance and administration, to speak about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the college’s finances and the endowment. The board will vote on the 2021–22 budget in its May meeting.

Contact Chris Toye
CT TOYE@ITHACA.EDU

Contact Alesis Manore
AMANORE@ITHACA.EDU

NEWS | 5

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021
Esports room available for use and gaming equipment loans

The Office of Recreational Sports and Information Technology announced the opening of the Ithaca College Esports Room located in Friends Hall 101. Community members are eligible to use the facility provided that they are in compliance with all testing and screening requirements from the college and are cleared to access campus.

The room will be open Monday through Saturday from noon to 11 p.m. The room can be reserved up to two days in advance at recreation.ithaca.edu. The maximum capacity of the room is eight people. A reserve individual will be required to check in with their Ithaca College ID cards at the Lab Consultant Station across from the Esports room.

The features six gaming stations. Computers and workstations are spaced six feet apart to allow for physical distancing. Community members are encouraged to bring their own controllers if they are able. A variety of gaming equipment will be available to check out from the Lab Consultant Station for use in the Esports room.

Pre-submitted questions accepted for full-staff meeting Feb. 17

There will be a virtual all-staff meeting at 1 p.m. Feb. 24. Virtual meeting details will follow. Questions can be pre-submitted online until noon Feb. 19 at https://bit.ly/3jTBsr5. There will likely be time during the meeting to answer incoming questions as well.

Contact humanresources@ithaca.edu with any questions.

Deadlines are extended to submit applications for IC London Center 2021 programs. The application deadline for the IC London Center 2021 programs has been extended to Febr. 26, and the application for the full program has been extended to March 15. Students are encouraged to register for a virtual information session for more information.

School of HSHP continues to host discussion series on COVID-19

The School of Health Sciences and Human Performance announced that the Spring 2021 edition of Conversations on COVID will commence at 2–3 p.m. Feb. 19. The program began in Fall 2020.

School of HSHP continues to host discussion series on COVID-19

The School of Health Sciences and Human Performance announced that the Spring 2021 edition of Conversations on COVID will commence at 2–3 p.m. Feb. 19. The program began in Fall 2020.

The School of Health Sciences and Human Performance announced that the Spring 2021 edition of Conversations on COVID will commence at 2–3 p.m. Feb. 19. The program began in Fall 2020.

The School of Health Sciences and Human Performance announced that the Spring 2021 edition of Conversations on COVID will commence at 2–3 p.m. Feb. 19. The program began in Fall 2020.
Administration casts aside college community’s voices

What does the administration need to understand that the Ithaca College campus community is unhappy about the Academic Program Prioritization process? Countless letters, organizations and a faculty vote have all expressed the same sentiment: The collective decision is to slow down.

There is no denying that the college needs to make painful department and program cuts and layoffs. But it is the haste of the process, accelerated by a global pandemic, that infuriates the community. It is the lack of transparency, despite self-proclaimed assertions, that heightens the collective anger.

Over 300 faculty members participated in a survey that measured “up-or-down” faculty support of the “Shape of the College” draft. According to the vote, 78% of respondents indicated concerns and opposition to the draft. Just one example of this is when a request from alumni to meet with the Ithaca College Board of Trustees was met with a “no.”

The administration, it seems, cannot — or is choosing not to — hear these concerns. People are sharing the hurt and grief they are feeling as a result of these decisions. But clearly, feelings don’t factor into the college’s strategic plan.

The administration is mercilessly severing ties with its most important constituents. The administration will struggle to regain the trust of the campus community, and we will see if it will move to a leadership model that is truly collaborative and inclusive.

Rebuilding Ithaca’s economy will require student effort

What is a college town without colleges? It is no secret that the COVID-19 pandemic had a severe impact on Ithaca’s economy, especially when such a large part of the student population did not return in the beginning of the academic year. Many businesses were forced to close, and others have been forced to restructure.

Undergraduate students make up approximately 21% of the population of Tompkins County. Because they are part of the community and utilize its resources for most of the year, they have an obligation to support it. Part of this can be done by being intentional when deciding where to shop and choosing to support local shops and restaurants.

As small businesses suffer, Ithaca College has only challenged the economy further by proposing to fire over 100 faculty members. Many of these employees at the college who will lose their jobs will unfortunately need to move out of the area, meaning that there may be an even more adverse impact on the economy. Clearly the college is not changing its course, but what is in our power is to support small businesses.

Luckily, being back on campus provides students, staff and faculty the opportunity to help local businesses. It is undoubtedly disappointing that there is no weeklong spring break this year for students to either return home or go on vacation. However, it is important for students to see these days as opportunities to engage further with the local Ithaca community.

With the ongoing pandemic, we are provided a unique opportunity to invest in the community. It is a perfect time to engage, explore and try new places. The next time you go to order on Amazon, consider heading downtown to support a local business instead.
Dear Dean Melanie Stein and Provost La Jerne Terry Cornish,

We, the alumni of the Ithaca College Environmental Studies and Sciences Department (ENVS), write to you in support of Dr. Fae Dremock, who is scheduled to be cut from the department as part of the Academic Prioritization Process (APP).

Dr. Dremock was one of the most influential professors we encountered during our time at Ithaca College ENVS majors. She offers important and relevant coursework centering around environmental justice, communication, writing, and activism that is provided by no other professor within our department. Rather than focusing on the ways we have benefited from Dr. Dremock’s expertise personally, we want to help the administration understand what the ENVS program as a whole stands to lose if she were cut.

The emphasis on hard sciences in the department needs to be balanced by learning skills in critical thinking and writing, particularly as part of a liberal arts school. As a human being and as a professor, Dr. Dremock models the importance of these skills. She speaks her mind, even when she risks being judged or dismissed. More often than not, she takes these opportunities to make sure our students and their education. These traits are essential for sustaining a robust department and helping the ENVS program to grow. Most of the faculty in our department teach us how to write scientifically and objectively, which is of course a valuable and necessary skill. However, Dr. Dremock is the only professor who teaches us environmental writing, with the purpose of capturing and holding the attention and the hearts of all audiences, including laypersons, across all genres. For example, some of the hottest global temperatures ever were recorded in 2020. How do climate scientists convey the urgency of these extreme temperatures to the world’s citizens? It is nearly impossible to do this without being clear and accurate, very long and dry scientific reports. This is precisely where Dr. Dremock’s expertise is crucial. She teaches her students how to convey the severity, the brokenness, the urgency, and the authentic human struggle associated with climate change and environmental destruction. She teaches us how to tell stories by modeling her own story. By revealing to her students what it was like to grow up poor and Hispanic in Texas and encouraging her students to showcase their own stories ...

She is the only professor in the ENVS department who devotes her course content to issues of environmental activism and communication. In our experience, no other professor has discussed the intersection of racism, classism, with inequity and violence in the context of environmental action. She truly dives into the complex, disintermediated, and multifaceted nature of environmental justice. She forces her students to think, to collaborate, and to evaluate the decisions that they make as environmentalists. We know this because we’ve been in her courses. We’ve discussed the ethics of contamination, disaster, and triage. We’ve contemplated the layers of decision making that goes hand in hand with addressing a crisis. In a time when this country is finally setting its sights on social and racial justice, this department (and Ithaca College) needs to step up our efforts to be more environmentally and socially conscious. We gravely need her perspective, her coursework, and her expertise. We need to believe that the college truly values social and environmental justice, related degrees of study, and faculty members who are leading the way.

On a personal note, Dr. Dremock gave us some of the most valuable writing skills of our college careers. She taught us how to examine our writing closely, how to engage an audience, how to write about the places we love, and most importantly, why we write what we write. Finally, as a mentor to students under her wing, she goes above and beyond what we have observed or experienced with many other professors. She invests herself in the success of each and every one of her students, and, particularly when it comes to mentorship and advising, this is incredibly apparent. We hope that this letter gives you a better understanding of how Dr. Fae Dremock contributes to the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences and what will be sacrificed if she is cut.

Sincerely,

ENVS Alumni '17–20

View the signatures at theithacan.org/envsalumniletter.

ENVS faculty members share dismay over cuts

Dear Chair Lissy, and all members of the Ithaca College Board of Trustees,

The Faculty of the IC Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences write to you to share our dismay at both the process and result of the current Academic Prioritization Process (APP). The proposed cuts to our faculty will have far-reaching effects on our degree programs because each one of us represents specific specialty areas. Every faculty hire in ENVS was a strategic decision based on considered evaluation during external program review and consultation among faculty and administration for building strength in particular areas.

With these cuts, the administration has made curricular decisions regarding the shape of our B.A. and B.S. degrees and our curriculum. This has resulted in the de-facto determination of the substance of our curriculum without our input. As proposed, these recommendations would impact ENVS in many ways, including the following:

• The elimination of Dr. Fae Dremock’s position means that students would lose her lose invaluable expertise in writing, science communication, and environmental humanities, as well as life experience in environmental advocacy and resilience as a first generation BIPOC (Latinx) woman. Dr. Dremock has been a powerful force promoting diversity and inclusion in ENVS. She has brought lived experience, empathy, and a tireless devotion to student learning that invites first-generation, low-income, and students of color to find their place in environmental studies. She has created a center of gravity in our department around environmental and climate justice, one of the most important growth areas in environmental studies and a key leverage point in mainstreaming anti-racism, social justice, and inclusive excellence. Her removal extinguishes a vibrant and successful program in experiential environmental humanities, which included an international, peer-reviewed online journal (Alluvian) and a student-led online environmental communication outlet (Reinvent).

• The elimination of our part-time faculty members Mr. Tim Drake and Mr. Jed Jordan will result in the loss of irreplaceable expertise and teaching skill in experiential environmental education. Mr. Drake has been a leading force in contemplative pedagogy and in the formation of the Nature Rx program at IC.

It is particularly troubling that people were told their positions were cut based on the recommendations of the “draft” the Shape of the College were commenced — even before the document was publicly released. While we are committed to providing our students with the best learning experience possible with the resources available, we owe our students and employees nothing less than to approach any necessary changes in a collaborative, strategic, and inclusive manner.

We respectfully request that the APP be paused and reconsidered with true collaboration and good-faith discussion on the actual future shape of Ithaca College.

Sincerely,

The Faculty of the Environmental Studies and Sciences Department
Anthropology alumni respond to proposed cuts

As students in the Department of Anthropology, we studied a most pressing problem. What does it mean to be human? We learned that, in its most basic form, anthropologists study our own behavior, in its most basic form. Because of this, anthropologists have gone on to pursue careers in a wide range of fields, including business, biology, and education. Now, as alumni, we have gone on to pursue careers in fields that allow us to contribute to the betterment of humanity. And, as alumni, we have gone on to pursue careers in fields that allow us to contribute to the betterment of humanity. These experiences led us to believe in the importance of our field of study.

The proposals for the Academic Program Prioritization (APPIC) disregard the importance of anthropology. Anthropology is the study of our own behavior, in its most basic form. Because of this, anthropology majors are routinely selected to represent the Summer Scholars Program and join the National Anthropology Honors Society. Students across the college double major in anthropology, demonstrating its inherent interdisciplinary nature. Moreover, the Department of Anthropology provides significant general education courses through the Integrative Core Curriculum. In addition to teaching, anthropology faculty members are world-class scholars, producing groundbreaking research, publishing in prestigious journals, presenting at national conferences, and giving talks and presentations at world-class universities.

This choice demonstrates a lack of respect and appreciation for the Department of Anthropology and its impact on the campus community. Along with its courses, students attend field schools, earn departmental honors, contribute to publications as both students and alumni, present at conferences, give TEDx talks, lead public seminars and bring capable speakers to campus. Anthropology majors are routinely selected to represent the Summer Scholars Program and join the National Anthropology Honors Society.

Now as alumni, we have gone on to pursue careers in fields that allow us to contribute to the betterment of humanity. And, as alumni, we have gone on to pursue careers in fields that allow us to contribute to the betterment of humanity. These experiences led us to believe in the importance of our field of study.

We urge the President, Provost and APPIC members to listen to the growing resistance among the Ithaca College community and reconsider the decision to dissolve the Department of Anthropology. We strongly believe that working closely with faculty to reimagine a department that serves anthropology students and adheres to financial constraints makes the most sense for the college’s future. If the purpose of the APPIC is to prioritize and preserve the education of Ithaca College students, the proposed dissolution of the Department of Anthropology is antithetical to that goal.

Signed by: Stefanie Mercado

Alman '13; Alexis Anthony '14; Shannon Anthony '14; Hannah Antonson '15; Alison Armour '16; Emma Heath Beal '15; Margaret Butler '17; Cristina Carlin '13; Alison Carter '15; Bella Gabutti '13; Valerie Falconeriz '13; Kasey Gregory '19; Kathlyn Gough '18; Jamie Horn '15; James Konour '18; Alex Mair '15; Gabriel Leffers '15; Amber Zadrozny Lescard '13; Danie Martin '17; Walter Martzen '19; Paula Merkle '18; Macy O’Hearn '14; Page Picic '14; Cherrie Rhodes '11; Erin Mahon Scott '16; Kyla Sewell '14; Alison Siegel '15; Michael Spears '10; Zoe Voek '14; Kasse Waldbottem '14; Taita Watson '11, Theodora Weatherby '16, Adam Netzer Zimmer '15.
ASK A FRESHMAN
MIKAYLA TOLLIVER

How has adjusting to campus been?

Being on campus for the first time is like starting college for a second time. In a completely remote first semester, I found that the academics of online school were the only aspect of college I had to worry about. Open up the laptop, sign in and deal with the side effects of online school.

Surprisingly, last semester wasn’t entirely bad. I made connections with some of my peers from my freshman seminar, realizing later that I already had friends on campus. It’s much easier to connect with people once you’re in person. I also figured out that I have another academic interest. I met people with a major that sounded interesting to me, and I realized I could major in this too: cinema and photography. I have always loved the concept of visual storytelling in addition to the written ones I express through my writing major.

Having attended a summer writing program at Ithaca College a couple summers ago, I had memories of what campus was like in a pre-pandemic world. I thought I knew what the college would be like, but did not consider the small details that have changed. This includes everything from limited events to only walking down and up certain staircases. In my first few days on campus, I felt lost. Everything was overwhelming, especially the dining hall with its long lines and blasting music. Adjusting to living in a dorm room is definitely a challenge. I’ve never shared a room with another person, communal bathrooms aren’t an option and being in an entirely new location made me feel lost internally.

I thought I knew what the college would be like, but did not consider the small details that have changed.

— Mikayla Tolliver

There’s a kind of loneliness that is involved with the first days of moving to campus. We’re trying to adjust to new habits and responsibilities, all while attempting to make new friends and connections. My advice is that people, friends, come with time. On my first two nights on campus, I grew frustrated wondering how I could make friends quickly. I soon realized this was flawed thinking because forming friendships is never enjoyable.

Being on campus poses its own challenge, like being around a large number of people during a pandemic. I do, however, feel safer than I thought I would. I would never wish to return to a completely remote semester. On campus, I’ve met people beyond a screen, got to explore campus, study in the library, laugh with friends and develop a life on campus to be with myself and learn independence.

I thought I knew what the college would be like, but did not consider the small details that have changed.

— Mikayla Tolliver

GUEST COMMENTARY

Alumni must be involved in APP

Ithaca College alumni have not been consulted about the “Shape of the College.” Two weeks ago, alumni sought to rectify this gap by organizing a virtual Town Hall. It was attended by nearly 150 community members who expressed serious concern with the Student Leadership Team’s (SLT) decision to cut important members of our community. These concerns have been echoed in national coverage as well as the numerous heartfelt testimonials alumni have provided.

We shared our collective concerns with the board of trustees through our alumni letter, which includes a pledge to earmark donations to preserve people and programs. We are excited about realizing this pledge and becoming recovery leaders as more substantive participants in IC’s public, pedagogical and financial futures. It is our professors and programs we remember, and it is to them we want our donations to flow.

Our letter was accompanied by a request to meet with the board and SLT. On Feb. 15, Board Chairperson David H. Lissy responded via email that such a meeting is “impossible.” President Collado also declined a meeting with our network, with no explanation, even though she told us she is “always ‘listening.’” Considering so few alumni have been able to speak with the SLT directly, the stakes are far too high to write anything off as “impossible.”

Lissy shared that the board met with the Alumni Association Board of Directors and had a “productive dialogue,” but the majority of alumni were neither informed nor involved with these behind-the-scenes meetings and, thus, were not adequately represented.

Real equity would require sustainable endowments; real governance would mean both open books and an openness to the processes of collective bargaining; real sustainability would be holistic, not a slash-and-burn that keeps financial accumulation and outsized service spending intact. A real liberal arts mission, more so, to the point, would mean cherished programs are preserved and workers are considered indispensable.

The fallout from the current path will be dire. It will further alienate the alumni base, sever institutional memory, erode degree value, increase unsavory public relations, dilute the educational experience and dampen donations, forever changing the landscape of what has made IC, distinct and valued. This is not the future we want, but it is the one that leadership is shuttling towards with hastened and myspace. It is time to acknowledge that the strategic plan has failed and has already fractured our community. We must now take the time to pool our creative and critical resources for a truly sustainable vision.

Sincerely,
Chris Zodich ’12; Sara-Maria Sorentino ’08; Sarah Grunberg ’08; Greg Peterson ’09; Samantha DiFalco ’18

PERFORMATIVE ACTIVISM IS NOT ALIYSHIP

BY SHARIFA ABUKARI

Black History Month has always been a bit of a mixed bag for me. I smile and joke around when non-Black people wish me a happy Black History Month, jest and jibe when fellow Black people throw it into conversation. But I am reminded that to many non-Black Americans, the relevance of Black creatives, inventors, writers, intellectuals, children, families and their stories is fleeting.

Non-Black Americans are reminded every February that Black lives not only matter, but are essential to the fabric of their society. They are allowed to casually forget these truths the rest of the 11 months, unless of course a Black person being brutally murdered is rewepted onto their timeline. Then, they have no choice but to feel something — anger, guilt, sadness or frustration — or only long enough to reach out to their closest Black friend and dump their emotions onto them under the guise of “condolences” and “sympathy.”

It is hard to enjoy a month dedicated to the excellence of my people knowing that we are excellent everyday. I am tired of my white peers being performative allies by only attending protests occasionally, posing in front of squares on their Instagrams whenever a Black life is taken. Time and time again, my white peers have proven that either their ignorance is too deep or they are perceived as being racist is more important to them than acknowledging and actively dismantling the inherent racist ideologies they harbor unknowingly. White fragility prevents them from understanding that only respecting Black voices in fleeting moments is an act of racism and erasure of Black people.

I once lost a good friend because her in-ability to see past white fragility prevented her from listening to what I had to say. She accused me of using Vodun, a West African religion based on the worship of spirits and nature, to ‘do something’ had to her, an act she presumed led her bank account getting hacked. One of my Black friends, who was in the room during the accusation, confronted her and told her that her actions were racist and violent. She responded, “Every time I text ou or erupt, your first instinct is to turn the conversation to race.” When I spoke to her after, trying to reason with her and tell her why that exact mentality was racist, she became defensive. She proceeded to tell me I didn’t make sense for me to say she was rac- ist because she cared about my pain during the height of the Black Lives Matter protests last summer.

With white fragility and performative activism running rampant in the minds of well-meaning white people, it is becoming increasingly impossible to actually educate and bring attention to Black voices outside of the spaces and timelines deemed appropriate by white people.

To call oneself an ally requires tedious research, comprehension and deconstruction of, in some cases, core beliefs rooted in oppression. It is not easy and it is not pretty, but it is your job to listen to Black voices, even when they are telling you something that is uncomfortable to hear. The first thing allies should do is listen and create spaces for Black voices to be heard and understood.

The only road to equality and liberation is one paved with the blood, sweat and tears of those whose ancestors worked hand-in-hand to build the systems of oppress- tion we face today.

SHARIFA ABUKARI is a junior journalism major. Contact her at sabukari@ithaca.edu.

PERFORMATIVE ACTIVISM IS NOT ALIYSHIP

Junior Sharifa Abukari reflects on white fragility. She hopes that non-Black people will execute true allyship more than once a year for Black History Month.
For many Ithaca drag fans, the third Thurs-
day of every month is special. After a long
day of work, they rally together, dressing up
in their shiniest clothes and putting on their
flashiest makeup, excited for what will no
doubt be a thrilling night. Once everyone is
glammed up, they walk to the couch, open
up a laptop and pull up Flame Night Fever, a
digital drag and burlesque show, on Twitch.

From performers in colorful little dress-
dances to hit from “Mama Mia,” to
others geared up in leather, posing on
motorcycles while lip-syncing to Britney
Spears, Flame Night Fever has a little bit of
everything for everyone. “We usually make a nice cocktail, put on
a spicy lip color, and I’ll always dress up for it,”
Shelby Buche ’18 said. “Even if there’s only a few people there, it’s always a special,
exciting time, and for me it really did replace going
in person to those types of events and seeing
those exact people.”

Flame Night Fever was created during the
pandemic, in May 2020, by co-hosts and
producers Tilla Cordata and Kinschy Scoff-
law ’17. It streams on the third Thursday of every month on Twitch a video streaming
platform. The suggested donation is $1–20
through Venmo or PayPal, and tipping individ-
ual performers is encouraged.

Flame Night Fever is a variety show root-
ed in drag and burlesque but also featuring an
eccentric mix of performance art, includ-
ing circus acts and puppeteers. Depending on the individual performer and their style,
drag and burlesque often features provoca-
tive, sometimes comedic performances
with dancing, singing or lip-syncing, lavish
costumes and makeup.

Scofflaw said Flame Night Fever hosts per-
rformers with a range of experiences. They said
some performances are basic, one-take shots
while others are highly edited. Cordata and
Scofflaw host the show live, engaging with the
audience through the comment section and
introducing each pre-recorded act. “Because people can create the video
art in advance, they can do things that you
could never do live that are just in-
credibly unique and amazing,” attendee
Prince Cunningham said.

Cordata said that at the start of the pan-
demic, she and Scofflaw were working together on “Drag Me to School” — a pro-
gram at Cornell University's LGBTQ Resource Center that Cordata started three years ago — when they decided to create a virtual
drag show as well. “It was kind of pitched as a one-time thing, and then as we were planning it, we were see-
ing the amount of interest, and we were like, ‘Oh maybe we’ll do a couple more,’” Cordata said. “Then as the pandemic stretched out, we
realized it just was a recurring thing because
this wasn’t going away.”

Lea Davis, technical director of Flame Night Fever, said the first few Flame Night
Fever shows were held on Zoom before mov-
ing to Twitch. She said she began using Open
Broadcast Software (OBS), a cross-platform
streaming and recording program, to lives-
steam on Twitch, Davis, a theater lighting
designer, said that when the pandemic hit, she
had to learn new skills in order to keep work-
ing, like how to use OBS and livestream.

“When [COVID-19] hit, when your whole
career is based on events and gatherings, ev-
eything stopped for me,” Davis said. Davis
said Flame Night Fever gets 150 to 200 unique visitors every show from all over the world. Scofflaw said virtual shows are very dif-
ferent from in-person shows, especially because the audience interaction and energy
is so different. “Every once in a while I have that moment
during the show where I’m just like, ‘I’m just
screaming at my computer for two hours. This
is weird,’” Cordata said. Cordata said the comment section helps her feel reconnected to the LGBTQ commu-
nity amid the pandemic.

“I got into drag and have persisted through
drag mostly for community involvement, like
building spaces for the community and being visible,” she said.

Cordata said Flame Night Fever does activism work. They assemble resourc-
es for anti-racism and also donate a
portion of their profits to local or national
organizations every month.

Davis said that while hosting, Cordata and
Scofflaw try to promote an interactive com-
ment section through trivia, games and jokes.

“We’ve just gotten comfortable on the air
in a way that almost feels like a bar and like a
communal space online, but it’s taken a really
long time to adjust to that,” Davis said.

Davis said Flame Night Fever’s stream has
gotten kicked off of Twitch a few times due to
restrictive policies about sexual content and
nudity on the platform. According to its Com-
munity Guidelines, Twitch restricts all content
that “involves nudity or is sexual in nature,”
including sexually explicit and sexually sug-
gestive content. Sexually suggestive content
includes groping or explicit gestures, erotic
dances and pole dances.

“We’ve learned how to finesse around it,”
Scofflaw said. “We’ve told the tags . . . on Twitch because that kind of flags it for them, and we try to put anything more risqué toward the end because it does take a minute for them to take the stream down.”

Despite these restrictions, Flame Night Fever
performers have complete freedom in their per-
formances, though they are asked to keep guidelines in mind, Cordata said.

“It’s very much their own creativity and
their art that we’re just showcasing,” she said.

The next show, Flame Night Heart-
burn, will be at 8 p.m. Feb. 18. Scofflaw said the theme for this show is
Valentine’s Day-inspired. Like usual, there is a lineup of 10 perform-
ers for the show, Scofflaw said. Each show has a different lineup, though there are some frequent performers, they said. Scofflaw said Flame Night Fever is always accepting submis-
sions at flamennightfever@gmail.com.

One performer returning to Flame Night Fever is Veruka Dagger ’18, an Ithaca College alum based in Los Angeles. Dagger said that through her ties to Scofflaw and Cordata, she got involved with Flame Night Fever during its first show in May and has performed a few
times since. She said that though there are
some drawbacks to virtual drag shows, like
the disconnect between performers and the
audience, she appreciates the level of control
performers have over their work. They have the
power to record and to delete, making it
easier to brand themselves, Dagger said.

“I think something that’s great about dig-
ital drag shows and Flame Night Fever is that
what you put out there is 100% authentically
you,” she said.

Seasoned performers like Dagger will also
be sharing the virtual stage in Flame Night Heartburn with newcomers like Brooklyn Bridges, a former Ithaca College student and
recent Cornell transfer.

Bridges said she started doing drag before
coming to Ithaca College. She said she got
into the local drag scene and was inspired by
other performers, including Dagger.

Bridges said she has been refining her makeup and dance skills during the pan-
demic. However, she said she knows a lot of
college queens who were not able to practice
their crafts during quarantine like she was.

“I know for other queer, it’s been really
difficult because either they are very focused
on getting a paycheck because clubs are shut
down and performance venues are shut down
[or they] didn’t have access to their stuff or
were in spaces that weren’t safe for them to
make their art,” Bridges said.

For her first Flame Night Fever perfor-
mance, Bridges will be performing to “Cyber
Sex” by Doja Cat.

“My name was out there, and they know I’m a busted baby queen, but luckily they’re placing their trust in me to perform, and I will not disappoint,” Bridges said.

Davis said Flame Night Fever is important
because it is a gathering place — though not a
physical one — for the LGBTQ community.

She said she feels appreciative of the commu-
nity the show has cultivated.

“I think there is a wide audience for drag,”
Davis said. “I think I kind of forget this living
in Ithaca, but there are a lot of queer people out there who are really seeking queer art and
creativity . . . When I feel my best about this,
I remember that we are really helping people
see one another.”

CONTACT EMILY LUSSIER
ELUSSIER@ITHACA.EDU
Freshman Vanivy Delaney hugs her mother as she finishes moving into her dorm Jan. 28. Ithaca College students must remain in Tompkins County for the entirety of the semester.

IC Square provides a space on campus where students can remove their masks to eat.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

Cyndy Scheibe, professor in the Department of Psychology, teaches a hybrid classroom of students in person and on Zoom Feb. 15 in the Emerson Suites. ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

Sophomores Rachel Rose and Meredith Garrity work in the Ithaca College Library during the first mini-break Feb. 16. The college is giving students five of these in place of this semester’s spring break.

MIGUEL EUVELL/THE ITHACAN

Students lined up to check into their housing Jan. 28 at the A&E Center before starting a mandatory 24-hour quarantine.

ALYSSA BEEBE/THE ITHACAN

Residential Director Tanner Jones helps Freshman Ava Cooson with check-in Jan. 28 at the A&E Center.

ALYSSA BEEBE/THE ITHACAN

Freshman Scout Frost walks through the “Entrance Only” doors into Phillips Hall on Feb. 2.

BEC LEGATO/THE ITHACAN

Students adapt to college life during the pandemic.

Freshman Vanivy Delaney hugs her mother as she finishes moving into her dorm Jan. 28. Ithaca College students must remain in Tompkins County for the entirety of the semester.
Students march to the rhythm in drum corps

BY MADDY MARTIN

In addition to their weekly school work, some Ithaca College students spend their free time perfecting their instruments, working out and rehearsing routines so that they can be in top shape for the competitive world of Drum Corps International (DCI). DCI, described as “Marching Music’s Major League,” is a league of elite, competitive brass ensembles for students up to the age of 21. The DCI season runs from June to the second week of August when performing groups and drum corps travel around the country and compete with each other. During competitions, teams perform complex marching routines that combine music with physical movements to create an auditory and visual spectacle. There are two divisions within DCI: the larger World Class and the smaller Open Class. Drum corps are independent organizations that are often affiliated with a school institution, and have a membership limit set at 150.

DCI has no official tie to Ithaca College, but Alexander Shanker, professor in the Department of Music Performance, said he has had several students participate in DCI in the past.

Sophomore Justin Lordi, a marching baritone player for the Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps, said he had wanted to do drum corps since he was a kid because his older brother was a member of the Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps, a drum corps that is part of the Drum Corps Associates (DCAs). DCA is a separate league from DCI that allows members of all ages. While he was in high school, White joined the Hurricanes himself.

“When was I going through really tough times in my life, it gave me a family,” White said. “The DCA guys were actually attuned to my family because of my brother. I was joining them with big open arms was really nice.”

Schneider said he auditioned for the Phantom Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps during his senior year of high school without expectation of getting in so he could have the experience of auditioning.

Sophomore Timothy White, a euphonium player for the Blue Knights Drum and Bugle Corps, a World Class drum corps, said he had wanted to do drum corps since he was a kid because his older brother was a member of the Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps, a drum corps that is part of the Drum Corps Associates (DCAs). DCA is a separate league from DCI that allows members of all ages. While he was in high school, White joined the Hurricanes himself.

“I signed the contract and accepted my spot, and that was when it really started, but then COVID kind of ruined it,” Schneider said.

“When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March 2020, the DCI 2020 season was canceled. Despite having just joined their respected corps a few months before, Schneider, Lordi, and White were left practicing with their respective corps members over Zoom.

“Lordi said the Cadets have continued to hold virtual rehearsals online. The corps sent out dance routines for members to perform on their own, Lordi said, and post videos of in a Facebook group. Lordi said he was left practicing whenever he could.

“I would just find a space that I had enough room in and went, ‘Alright I’ll do it here,’” Lordi said. “Sometimes I would do it in the basement of my parents’ house. Here on campus, I would find a really big practice room in the School of Music and do the visual stuff there.”

Despite not having the chance to compete yet and only communicating with their corps members online, Lordi, White, and Schneider said there is a strong sense of community within their drum corps.

“At the core of [drum corps] it is about being a family first, and through this family, uplifting people to be disciplined, productive community members who can communicate beyond music and be outstanding individuals,” Schneider said. “There’s this musical and performative aspect that’s really competitive, but the culture extends to... building a community and family of people that can take into the real world.”

Sophomore Timothy White completes an online assignment for the Blue Knights Drum and Bugle Corps. Drum corps members keep in touch and practice over Zoom amid the COVID-19 pandemic. COURTESY OF TIMOTHY WHITE

Professor’s documentary captures life on the border

BY KATHERINE KROM

Every year, hundreds of people cross the Sonoran Desert in Mexico for two weeks, traveling into the United States on horseback. Cathy Crane, associate professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies, depicts this scene in her new documentary “Crossing Columbus.”

“Crossing Columbus” was featured online by the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. Feb. 10-16 and was shown at Cornell Cinema in October. The National Gallery of Art also showcased “El Mar La Mar,” a documentary by Joshua Bonnetta, associate professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies, in February. “El Mar La Mar” is about the oral history of the Sonoran Desert on the United States-Mexico border.

“It’s been an odd year to introduce a film into the world,” Crane said. “When you make films, it is often unknown to whom they will be seen. I am always very grateful for an opportunity to have my work be accessible to people who would other wise not see it.”

Cran worked with two alumni Daniel Masciari ’15 and Cory Dahn ’14 on the documentary. Masciari was the film editor for “Crossing Columbus” after working with Crane on “The Manhattan Front.” Masciari said that the team filmed 200 hours of footage and spent a year and a half cutting it into 80 minutes.

While filming, Masciari said the team focused on the shot of the border fence and how powerful an object that divides two countries can be.

“I think there is one thing that the audience should take away, it’s the absurdity and the bizarre nature of a physical division between two countries,” Masciari said. “This film is not real that political a film. There are important political things, but you can on many sides of the spectrum and have a similar experience... So when you are watching this film, you realize that people don’t forget what has happened and people’s memories are really strong.”

Dahn is from New Jersey and said that working on this film in Mexico took him out of his comfort zone.

“I am not really a Spanish speaker,” Dahn said. “I can understand a little bit, but it’s not a strength of mine. Cathy told me to ‘Walk across the border into Juárez, and Antonio, our translator, is going to pick you up and drive you out to where you are going to film and meet up with the horse role.’ That was a pretty surreal moment. I don’t know how much you know about the city of Juárez, but it’s not exactly considered a very safe place to be.”

Cran said the filming of the documentary was a learning experience for her as well.

“I am not a fan of the talking head,” Crane said. “I don’t really like to photograph people talking. The atmosphere, the audio recording in the desert, is perhaps one of the most difficult things to do, and do well. I had a sound designer that got all that material; he did incredible work with that.”

With the coronavirus pandemic still present, Crane said that many film productions and viewings are still in question with theaters closed and festivals canceled. Now that the film is finished, Crane said she will be taking a break.

“Do enjoy the times when I am not traveling, like during COVID,” Crane said. “I just read and think through ideas and sort of wander around in my little house and go for walks. For me that is also part of the creative process.”

Cathy Crane, associate professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies, traveled to New Mexico for her new film. This is a still from the trailer. COURTESY OF CATHY CRANE

With the coronavirus pandemic still present, Crane said that many film productions and viewings are still in question with theaters closed and festivals canceled. Now that the film is finished, Crane said she will be taking a break.

“I do enjoy the times when I am not traveling, like during COVID,” Crane said. “I just read and think through ideas and sort of wander around in my little house and go for walks. For me that is also part of the creative process.”

CATHY KROM KRAMERWHITEACA.EDU

LIFE & CULTURE | 13

ONLINE? WATCH THE VIDEO ON THEATRICAL DRUM-CORPS-ROPS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021
**FILM REVIEW:** “L’ultimo paradiso / The Last Paradiso” 

By SYDNEY BRUMFIELD

If modern soap operas no longer carry enough drama and passion, look no further than “L’ultimo paradiso.”

The Last Paradiso. Directed by Rocco Ricciuddi, this Italian film paints a narrative of love, loss, vengeance and betrayal while class warfare ensues throughout a village in the Apulia region of Italy in the 1950s.

Inspired by true stories Ricciuddi heard from his mother during his youth, the story follows Ciccio Paradiso (Riccardo Scamarcio) as he fights for better living conditions for himself and his fellow villagers.

The community is composed of olive farmers who live under the thumb of Campà Schettino (Antonio Gjerardi), the mayor of the village and owner of one of the largest olive farms, who refuses to pay them living wages. As Ciccio’s movement gains momentum, tension mounting in his private life begin to take precedence.

Emotions of promising film thrown off by soundtrack

**FILM REVIEW:** “Little Big Women” Each Other Films

By ELIJAH DE CASTRO

One of the most striking lines of dialogue in Joseph Hsu’s film “Little Big Women” is: “Practicing Buddhism depends on fate.” For the women of the new Mandarin-language Netflix film, fate has rigged their family on a slippery slope of grief.

Set in Taiwan, the film follows a widow Lin (Shuang Chen) and her three adult daughters after the family patriarch has passed away. But the truth is, he was never really present in their lives to begin with.

So, how do they grieve him?

This question rings throughout most of “Little Big Women.” Despite making ambitious ventures into exploring what it means to grieve, the film is seriously hindered by the thick, sticky layer of schmaltz that was poured into too many of its scenes, right from the beginning. In the opening scene, Lin is shopping at a market and interacting with the happy-go-lucky shop owners who give her free seafood. A gleeful altercation plays in the background. Cheap hits at sweetness like this appear throughout the film.

“Little Big Women” gets into it; there is a dead body. But after the death of Lin’s unmarried husband, the acting seems to be nothing but hope for the farmers’ uprising against Schettino — the film utilizes natural lighting. Additionally, the characters wear brighter and more vibrant costumes in the first half of the film. With the emergence of doom and as the conflicts begin downward spirals, the lighting becomes white and gray.

For the second half of the film, the characters’ costumes also shift to being much darker. This creates an effective visual strategy that enhances the viewer’s emotions.

The forbidden romance between Ciccio and Bianca is the most enticing element of the film. The dialogue written between the two characters is melodio. Their most poetic lines, like, “Every time I see you, it’s like my head is on fire and I can’t make sense of anything,” whisk the audience off into the dreamscape of these two lovers. Scarnanco and Amara’s performances are extremely compelling, and their chemistry is palpable. Despite Ciccio already being married, the film makes an excellent job of getting the audience to root for these star-crossed lovers.

Though well-intentioned, “L’ultimo paradiso” crammed as much as it could into its story, making it overwhelming at times. This period-piece romance is packed in the brain with drama and convoluted twists that may captivate some viewers but leave others confused and browsing for other titles.

**CONTACT SYDNEY BRUMFIELD**

sbrumfeld@ithaca.edu
**Drama detaches from reality of romance**

**MOVIE REVIEW:** “Malcolm & Marie” Little Lamb Productions

**BY JACKSON NOEL**

What role nepotism plays in the failure of “Malcolm & Marie,” Netflix’s latest award-winning disaster, should be obvious. The film, written and directed by Sam Levinson — son of Oscar-winning director Barry Levinson — and starring John David Washington — son of Denzel Washington — plays out like a deeply privileged take on the failure of relationships that only growing up in the padded upper echelon of Hollywood could provide.

Malcolm (John David Washington) and Marie (Zendaya Coleman) roll up to their seclusive mini-mansion after a night of praise at the premiere of Malcolm’s latest film. All is well until Marie reveals that her exclusion from Malcolm’s thank you speech opened deep wounds in their relationship. Such begins an exhausting argument lasting over an hour between two people who love to yell. Unfortunately, despite all the noise, they fail to sell a realistic depiction of 21st century romance.

The easy standout is Zendaya’s performance as Marie. For all the film’s oversaturated angst, her physical movements are subtle but noticeable. At the same time, it should surprise no one that the most talented actor in the microscopic cast excels. Her spirit takes the audience along with Marie solely because her character actually feels invested in the situation, making everything that comes afterward feel one-sided. A depressing waste of Zendaya’s talent.

Perhaps a more apt title would have been “Malcolm Versus Marie.” For the extent of the taxing experience, Malcolm and Marie spend little time actually on the same side. Rarely does a film appear so detached from reality in terms of both what makes a romance interesting or what audiences want to see. The most rational conclusion for the creation of this film is that “Malcolm & Marie” is what happens without movie theaters for a year.

CONTACT JACKSON NOEL
JNOEL1@ITHACA.EDU

---

**Korean media set to gain popularity**

**BY AVERY ALEXANDER**

Webtoons, a form of fan and nifty virtual comics designed to be read on the go, have become a fairly regular part of Western pop culture. Today, this medium, which was originally popular in Korea and other East Asian countries, continues to evolve. As the webtoon industry changes, it has the potential to help bring Asian entertainment further to the forefront of the rest of the world.

As with other popular Korean popular culture — like K-pop, K-drama, food and make-up — one of the market factors to watch is how the genre, known in the United States, Americans quickly grew interested in the industry.

WONDERBOY, a popular K-pop reading app, was originally launched in Korea in 2004 by Junsoo Kim. It debuted its services to the United States in 2014 and is often considered to be one of the most popular webtoon apps. Another less popular but well-known webtoon service is Tapas, created by Chang Kim in 2012. I myself am obsessed with WEBTOON. I noticed a rather interesting trend — WEBTOON has been adapting some of its most popular comics into Korean dramas, or, more simply, KDramas.

I first noticed this when watching the 2016 drama ‘Cheese In The Trap.’ It wasn’t until later that I realized the show had been based on a webtoon of the same title, originally published on WEBTOON in 2018.

In December 2020 alone, WEBTOON released two major KDrama adaptations — “True Beauty,” released on the streaming service Viki, and Netflix original “Sweet Home.” WEBTOON doesn’t show signs of slowing down, with other adaptations already planned for the coming year.

Converting comics into live-action shows isn’t limited to just WEBTOON’s service, however, as other Korean-made comics from alternative services have found their places on the small screen. Other KDrama adaptations include “Love Alarm,” originally published by Kye-Young Chon on Daum Webtoon.

Have there also been a handful of webtoons converted to Japanese animation or, more commonly, anime. Anime is another popular form of East Asian media that has found a foothold following in the United States. The WEBTOON service has converted some other KDrama to anime form, like the砍橘 life comic “My Giant Nerd Boyfriend” into a bite-size internet miniseries. However, anime and cartoons are already a staple in Western entertainment and receive recognition from audiences all around the world. KDrama is a new, primarily unexplored market outside of Asia, and these adaptations carry the potential to expose Western audiences to a fresh genre.

American consumers make up 5–6% of KDrama national viewership. It wouldn’t surprise me if KDrama saw a boom in popularity in the coming years, much like webtoons saw in the 2010s. Adapting globally popular comics into dramas is a pretty solid way to get more foreigners interested in this niche.

An increase in KDrama popularity wouldn’t be out of character for American consumers. The same thing happened when K-pop made its way to the United States in the early 2010s. Right now, just look at BTS, the wildly popular South Korean boy band.

The move to webtoon drama adaptations is a clever marketing strategy. With any luck, it will diversify America’s entertainment market and hopefully give KDrama the recognition it deserves.

CONTACT ELIJAH DE CASTRO
EDECASTRO@ITHACA.EDU

---

**Rock band sticks to formula**

**ALBUM REVIEW:** “Medicine at Midnight” Roswell Records

**BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO**

Foo Fighters probably won’t be making any new fans with its 10th studio album, “Medicine at Midnight.” It’s slam- mingly a Foo Fighters record — loud, fun and abrasive, grunge high they look for in a Foo Fighters album. Dave Grohl, the lead singer, guitarist and songwriter for Foo Fighters, dominates the band’s tremendous sound, “Making the Band” is a solid album with enter- taining tracks, similar to many of the band’s previous albums like “One By One” and “Wasting Light.” Although there isn’t much new that Foo Fighters bring to “Medicine at Midnight” — especially lyrically — there is still much fun to be had.

The album stumbles out of the gate with the exceptionally cliché song “Making a Fire.” While the other eight tracks on the album at least retain the band’s tremendous sound, “Making a Fire” is surely clean and sounds fresh out of an insurance commercial. The repeated “na-na-na” choruses and guitar riffs are ince- redibly overused and out of date, making for a painful opening. It’s not until its third track, “Cloudspot- ter,” that “Medicine at Midnight” figures itself out. “Cloudspotter” gives listeners the abrasive, grunge high they look for in a Foo Fighters album. Dave Grohl, the lead singer, guitarist and songwriter for Foo Fighters, domi- nates the song with his mighty voice.

Had this quality of production carried over into the album’s title song, “Medicine At Midnight” would have been a track to call home about. Unfortunately, “Medicine At Midnight” drops its extraordinary guitar solo in an overwhelming and obnoxious chorus. The first half combines well-performed lyrics with a mysterious percussion rhythm, pink Floyd-styled guitar riffs, and “Medicine at Midnight” does not earn this achievement.

CONTACT ELIJAH DE CASTRO
EDECASTRO@ITHACA.EDU

---

**POPPED CULTURE** is a weekly column, written by Lisa & Culture staff writers, that analyzes pop culture current events. Avery Alexander is a junior English major. Contact her at aalexander2@ithaca.edu.
ACROSS
1 Island near Borneo
5 Cultivate
8 Not bad
12 Eddie’s cop character
13 Distinct period
14 Grease gun target
15 Orange peel
16 Cash substitute
18 Place
20 Kayak
21 Put up boards
24 Unwilling
27 Spanish article
28 Pooh —
31 Atlas dot
32 Duet
33 Dueller with Hamilton
34 Expected any time
35 Smokeshouse hanger
36 Meditators
37 Distant planet
39 Desire
42 Arm bones
46 Freighter hopper
47 Debate side
49 Composer — Stravinsky
51 “The Mammoth Hunters” author
52 Musical notes
53 Car import
54 Hockey goals
55 Pass at Manitou Springs
56 Third-quarter tide

DOWN
1 Glass container
2 Poles’ connector
3 Chimney
4 Firm, as pasta (2 wds.)
5 Swiss heroine
6 Pizarro’s quest
7 — Claire, Wis.
8 Festivity
9 Wagon pullers
10 Dist spread
11 Hockey feint
19 Contended sigh
20 Music albums
22 Andes
23 Dawn goddess
24 Cap
25 Big Ten sch.
26 Stout
28 Moth or ant
29 “ Exodus” character
30 Four-baggers (abbr.)
31 Armed conflict
33 Sarajevo
35 Tone
36 “ Futuroworld” name
37 Medical worker
39 Action star Jackie
40 Cad
41 Help a thief
42 Tennessee players
44 The chills
45 Bubbly drink
47 Winter woe
48 Nutritious grain
50 Pull apart by force

Diversion
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021

Sudoku

Create and solve your Sudoku puzzles for FREE. Play Sudoku and win prizes at PRIZESUDOKU.COM.
NEW ISSUE
EVERY THURSDAY

THE ITHACAN

FROM IMMIGRANT TO CITIZEN

Ithaca College professor offers advice to immigrants and refugees

CAPs winter coat drive extends because of increased demand

College releases new diversity statement

NEW ISSUE AVAILABLE EVERY THURSDAY

CAMPUS CENTER • MAC’S • TEXTOR HALL • FRIENDS HALL • A&E CENTER
PEGGY RYAN WILLIAMS CENTER • ROY H. PARK SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATIONS
WHALEN SCHOOL OF MUSIC • SCHOOL OF BUSINESS • SMIDDY HALL • LIBRARY
By Michael Memis

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, athletes have been affected in ways they had never imagined. With sports seasons being abruptly canceled and team meetings being held over Zoom rather than on the pitch, student-athletes have been dealt challenges that a lifetime of competition could not prepare them for.

However, as a result of the pandemic, student-athletes have been given new platforms to speak their minds and opportunities to participate in activities they may not have before, including guided journaling, yoga classes and informational sessions on topics like self-talk, intuitive eating and self-care.

Two new virtual platforms Ithaca College athletes have been engaging with are Untold Athletes, a national social media platform and website that formed in March 2020 for athletes struggling with the sudden loss of their seasons and The Hidden Opponent, a national nonprofit organization that is working to destigmatize mental health in sports.

The pandemic has continued to have a negative impact on student-athletes’ mental health. The NCAA recently released results from a Fall 2020 follow-up to its NCAA Student-Athlete COVID-19 Well-Being Survey, first conducted in Spring 2020. In both surveys, participants reported struggling with mental exhaustion, anxiety, hopelessness and depression. These results were especially high among women, student-athletes of color, LGBTQ student-athletes and those facing economic hardships.

Untold Athletes has also given athletes a space to voice their opinions on topics like the pressures of being an athlete, recovering from injury, race in sport, gender inequality, body image and mental health. The program came to South Hill in September as its first college satellite branch. The partnership was in part due to an effort between Erienne Roberts, associate athletic director of communications, and Whitiny Johnson, the Ithaca Athletics chief of business development.

“I wanted to make sure we highlighted DIII athletes, and Ithaca came first to mind,” Johnson said. “Instead of just highlighting a few of [the athletes], let’s help them build and bridge throughout the association, our voice and get our voices heard, and I definitely said seeing it online felt empowering.”

Ithaca football player Donte Garcia celebrates after Ithaca College defeated SUNY Cortland in the 81st annual Cortaca Jug game Nov. 16, 2019 at Metlife Stadium.

Garcia’s interview with Untold Athletes was the first time he had anything published about him. He said seeing it online felt empowering.

“Instead of just highlighting a few of [the athletes], let’s help them build and bridge throughout the association, our voice and get our voices heard, and I definitely said seeing it online felt empowering.”

The common notion has been athletes are looked at as superhuman or on this high pedestal sometimes, and there is a lot of pressure behind that. . . . I think it really is about that pressure, that expectation, and the ‘Do the most, be the most, or you’re not enough’ [mindset], and those are things that can really negatively impact an athlete, especially at the college level.”

Barlow said she felt the organization is effective in its mission to destigmatize mental health in sport.

“It’s really beautiful, and even just being on that one talk two weeks ago, the energy of all the athletes that showed up for that was really, really beautiful,” Barlow said. “People are connecting and they’re not alone. They know they’re not alone in any of these challenges, these mental health challenges, by providing them with a safe space.”

Junior football player Donte Garcia celebrates after Ithaca College defeated SUNY Cortland in the 81st annual Cortaca Jug game Nov. 16, 2019 at Metlife Stadium.

A little over a year after The Hidden Opponent was founded, the campus Captains program was launched, allowing college and high school chapters to be formed. The organization has been increasing engagement with hundreds of Campus Captains on more than 30 campuses nationwide and across all levels of college and high school athletics. Karlyn Buschorn, graphic design intern and blog contributor, said Campus Captains make conversations about mental health more comfortable for athletes.

“Our organization … is working to destigmatize mental health, and really want to destigmatize mental health.” Buschorn said, “‘We want it to be something that’s so commonly talked about, that it’s just like an everyday conversation. Nobody should be embarrassed or not talk about it because they’re like, ‘Oh I’ll be judged,’ or, ‘I will make less of an athlete or less of a strong person.’ I think the main goal is really just to make sports culture something that accepts that there are mental health challenges and that we all are facing a hidden opponent, and we just need to work together to get over it.”

The Ithacan. 

The Hidden Opponent develop in the future so athletes are given a space to speak about issues outside of their sport.

“I definitely think more platforms like that will become more common,” Hutchison said. “The common notion has been athletes are just supposed to shut up and play. We’re really not supposed to have our own opinions. Now we’re seeing more athletes being open to talk about social injustices and other things that are affecting them, like dealing with gender, race, disabilities and things like that.”

Editor’s Note: Arla Davis is sports editor of Ithacan.
Athlete creates network for women in sports media

MaryKate Siegel ’19, a former Ithaca College field hockey player, recently founded a new social media brand called “Women Changing The Game” to help more young women enter the male-dominated world of sports media.

In 2017, approximately 10% of sports editors and 11.5% of sports reporters were women, according to SportsPro. Siegel started the account on Instagram in September while searching for a job after her Corporate Partnerships Game Day internship with the New York Giants ended. “Women Changing The Game” has since expanded to a website, a podcast, TikTok and LinkedIn. In under a year, the Instagram account has grown to over 700 followers while the TikTok account has over 120,000 followers.

Contributing writer Aidan Charde spoke with Siegel about the creation of the account and her goal to make the sports media industry more inclusive.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Aidan Charde: What was the idea behind Wom-en Changing The Game?
MaryKate Siegel: I was in my senior year of college, and I had two internships, and I was supposed to start a third when COVID-19 hit and cancelled it. It was especially hard because I love my field hockey jobs, especially because sports basically stopped for a while, so I knew I needed a way to stay connected in the sports world. When that was happening, I realized I lacked mentorship from women in the industry and that I lacked confidence in reaching out and asking questions, so I decided to create a space meant solely for women to connect in the industry. I started this on Instagram, just because I found that would be the easiest way to get started. I could be creative with my posts and gain a following on the platform. … My overall mission is to just bring it to classrooms and to sports teams, to fully introduce this world to girls and to bring more leaders into schools that may not have this privilege that Ithaca does with [its alumni community].

AG: How do the media resources that Ithaca College offers help you to make this account?
MS: All the alumni visits in classes definitely helped me. I would highly suggest to all the students now that when those alumni come in, take advantage of that. Really ask questions and pay attention because that’s going to help you, and then try to connect with those people after. I would also say it influenced me because a lot of these people who were coming in to give the talks for sports were men. So with “Women Changing The Game,” I wanted to bring about that change, and maybe start a trend where women who work in sports come on and give these talks.

AG: How do you think that playing field hockey influenced you to start “Women Changing The Game”?
MS: I think that playing sports in college definitely made me want to stay in the field of sports, just being surrounded by athletes and obviously the coaches who work in sports motivated me to do that more.

AG: How has your experience been so far?
MS: I love it so much. I do not even care if I have a huge following, because if I can help one girl get her dream job, that’s all I care about, so it’s been so rewarding. On the other side of it, I have spoken with so many cool women in the industry who are just doing great things. I get to interview them and get advice from them first hand, which has been a great experience itself.

CONTACT AIDAN CHARDE
ACHARDE@ITHACA.EDU

MaryKate Siegel ’19 recently founded a new social media brand called “Women Changing The Game” to assist women aspiring to work in the sports industry.

COURTESY OF MARYKATE SIEGEL

Alumni establish fund in retired coach’s name

BY TOMMY MUMAU

George Valesente, former head baseball coach at Ithaca College, will be remembered for his 44-year coaching career. Even as he steps away from the position, he will have a lasting impact on the program with a new fund established in his name.

Three former Ithaca College baseball players started the George Valesente ’66 Endowed Baseball Fund. Steve Guinan ’84, Gregg Kidd ’84 and Steve Feldman ’86 provided the funding to establish this endowment in honor of the iconic coach. The fund is created to provide the baseball team with the resources it needs to grow the program. This includes providing funding for the team’s annual spring trip to California, where the Bombers usually begin each season. The alumni endowment will also be put toward purchasing new equipment and upgrading facilities, like the field. Kidd said he has committed to contributing $25,000 and believes the fund will have approximately $100,000 to start. This amount is, to not yearly.

Valesente said the team will not be traveling to California this season due to the changes in the academic calendar and travel restrictions and will most likely be playing games within the state. The college has yet to make a decision regarding spring sports competition. The coach stated in its announcement Nov. 9 that a decision would be made in January or February.

Senior outﬁelder Garrett Cal- laghan said he is grateful to the alumni who are making the effort to improve the program.

“It’s so great to see that we have so many alumni willing to push us to even newer levels.”

– Garrett Callaghan

The 2005 American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame inductee led the Bombers to two national titles and 1,116 victories in his career. Valesente said he is honored that his former players hold him in such high regard and that he is proud that their experience with the baseball team has prompted them to give back to the program. Valesente said he hopes that the fund will help the team remain competitive against opposing schools.

“It’s wonderful to know that my time coaching has been instrumental in the development of young men’s lives as they mature, developing discipline, work ethic, dedication and humility,” Valesente said. “Knowing that this endowment for the baseball program will provide assistance which can be drawn upon for many years is sincerely gratifying.”

When the hall of famer no lon- ger serves as the head coach of the program, the Valesente baseball legacy is carried on at the college by his son David Valesente, current head coach of the Bombers base- ball team. David Valesente said he is also humbled by the gesture of the alumni and is grateful that they are committed to helping the program succeed.

“It’s incredible,” David Valesente said. “It’s something that’s highly valuable to our program. It real- ly speaks to the relationships and the connections that my dad built with hundreds of players. Now, having the opportunity for them and my dad to give back to the program annually is very special.”

CONTACT TOMMY MUMAU
TMUMAU@ITHACA.EDU

George Kidd said he has committed to purchasing new equipment and an endowment will also be put toward establishing the program. This includes adding resources to the baseball team with the funding to establish this endowment in honor of the iconic coach. Kidd said he has committed to contributing $25,000 and believes the fund will have approximately $100,000 to start. This amount is, in total, not yearly.

Valesente said the team will not be traveling to California this season due to the changes in the academic calendar and travel restrictions and will most likely be playing games within the state. The college has yet to make a decision regarding spring sports competition. The coach stated in its announcement Nov. 9 that a decision would be made in January or February.

Senior outfielder Garrett Cal- laghan said he is grateful to the alumni who are making the effort to improve the program.

“It’s so great to see that we have so many alumni willing to push us to even newer levels.”

– Garrett Callaghan

The 2005 American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame inductee led the Bombers to two national titles and 1,116 victories in his career. Valesente said he is honored that his former players hold him in such high regard and that he is proud that their experience with the baseball team has prompted them to give back to the program. Valesente said he hopes that the fund will help the team remain competitive against opposing schools.

“It’s wonderful to know that my time coaching has been instrumental in the development of young men’s lives as they mature, developing discipline, work ethic, dedication and humility,” Valesente said. “Knowing that this endowment for the baseball program will provide assistance which can be drawn upon for many years is sincerely gratifying.”

When the hall of famer no lon- ger serves as the head coach of the program, the Valesente baseball legacy is carried on at the college by his son David Valesente, current head coach of the Bombers base- ball team. David Valesente said he is also humbled by the gesture of the alumni and is grateful that they are committed to helping the program succeed.

“It’s incredible,” David Valesente said. “It’s something that’s highly valuable to our program. It real- ly speaks to the relationships and the connections that my dad built with hundreds of players. Now, having the opportunity for them and my dad to give back to the program annually is very special.”

CONTACT TOMMY MUMAU
TMUMAU@ITHACA.EDU
Freshman Lexi Held saves a shot on goal at the women's lacrosse practice Feb. 10 at Higgins Stadium. The team is training in hopes of competing in the spring.