Alumni group voices opposition to faculty cuts

BY SYD PIERRE

The proposed plans for public safety reform in Ithaca are receiving mixed reactions from the Ithaca community.

Ithaca’s Reimagining Public Safety Collaborative initiative was created following an executive order from New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, which requires all municipalities with police departments to adopt a plan for police reform by April 1.

The Ithaca Police Department (IPD) was not included in the draft recommendations for faculty and program cuts in a March 1 event.

The council planned to go into closed session to discuss the APP with President Shirley M. Collado and La Jerne Cornish, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. Collado and Cornish approved the Academic Program Prioritization Implementation Committee’s (APPIC) recommendations for faculty and program cuts Feb. 24.

On March 1, Ithaca College Faculty Council invited the president and provost to attend the meeting with alumni and faculty guests should be present — because the President and Provost would agree to take our questions if the discussion was held in closed session.

The event opened with John Burger, lecturer in the Department of Health Promotion and Physical Education, singing a song he wrote for the college’s financial status.

Jenner Black '08, former lecturer in the Department of Sociology, and Sara-Maria Soren- tino '88 started a GoFundMe fundraiser March 1 called the “IC Alumni Action and Worker Support Fund.” The money raised will go toward resisting the cuts and to the staff and faculty who are being impacted by the cuts. The fundraiser also calls on the college’s leadership to stop all the layoffs; establish shared governance where students, faculty, and staff have decision-making power; and in good faith with the Contingent Faculty Union; and secretary of the council. One councilor in the Department of English and women’s and gender studies coordinator, expressed disapproval of the APP, how they will restore relationships with alumni donors and what the future of the college looks like.

Several questions were centered around shared governance, according to the Faculty Council Meeting Report written by Claire Gleitman, professor and women’s and gender studies coordinator in the Department of English and secretary of the council. One council member asked Collado and Cornish about their intentions with their In- side Higher Ed piece, whether they are concerned that many faculty members expressed disagreement about the APP, how they will restore relationships with alum- ni donors and what the future of the college looks like.

Several questions were centered around shared governance, according to the Faculty Council Meeting Report written by Claire Gleitman, professor and women’s and gender studies coordinator in the Department of English and secretary of the council. One council member asked Collado and Cornish about their intentions with their Inside Higher Ed piece, whether they are concerned that many faculty members expressed disagreement about the APP, how they will restore relationships with alumni donors and what the future of the college looks like.
Student employees decrease for spring

BY ALYSHIA KORBA AND CAITLIN HOLTZMAN

Some departments on campus are having to adjust to operate with fewer employees while former student employees look for other jobs amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hayley Harris, vice president for the Office of Human Resources, said she is pleased to see many departments across campus returning to operation and having student employees. She said there are currently approximately 2,500 student employees, which is less than the usual numbers of student employees each year.

"Some units were not able to employ their usual numbers of student employees over the past year," she said via email. "These include Dining, Athletics and the Library — all areas that were impacted by our move from in-person to remote instruction, with employees over the past year," she said.

There are likely approximately 2,300 student employees. She said there are currently approximately 200 student employees in dining. McWilliams said he hopes to have more students working in the dining halls soon.

"Now, due to COVID-19 protocols, everything has to be served, there’s nothing that students can touch," he said. "It takes a lot more hands to do that."

Food in the dining halls is served to students in a buffet-style line rather than students being able to serve themselves. McWilliams said that training student employees has also been difficult. He said usually training occurred in person, but now it is all done virtually.

Bernard Hogben, access services manager for the Ithaca College Library, said there were 56 students employed at the library before COVID-19. There were 20 student assistants and 12 student managers. He said now there are 14 student employees, 11 student assistants and three student managers. Hogben said student managers have more library training than assistants and also receive training from the Office of Public Safety as they work overnight.

"It takes a lot more hands to do that," she said.

Senior Nicole Brokaw is a student manager at the Ithaca College Library. She is one of 28 students who are employed there. This is a decrease from the 38 students who previously worked at the library.

Hayley Harris, vice president for the Office of Human Resources, said some departments across campus are having to adjust to operate with fewer employees while former student employees look for other jobs amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

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The change in the library’s hours of operation has affected the library’s budget and hours. She said the change in the library’s hours of operation has affected the library’s budget and hours.

"For students that, like me, have exclusively worked overnight, it’s like a little bit of a shift," she said.

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Administration speaks about APP

BY JORDAN BROKING

Senior Mackenzie Schade was in a lacrosse meeting when her friend texted her saying that the aging studies major is to be eliminated as part of the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process.

“If I wasn’t in that meeting, I would’ve started crying immediately,” Schade said. “But because I was in that meeting, I had to pull myself together, and then after the meeting, I was just so sad.”

Schade said she came to Ithaca College knowing she wanted to major in aging studies, in part because of the personal interactions with professors in the major.

“Because classes are not huge, most classes are 10 kids maybe… they just know you on such an individual level that it was just so lucky to have,” Schade said.

The aging studies major is one of the majors, programs and departments slated to be eliminated as a result of the APP process. The aging studies major is housed in the Department of Gerontology, housed in the School of Humanities and Sciences.

Mary Ann Erickson, associate professor in the Department of Gerontology, is one of two professors who will remain at the college following the APP. Erickson is a geriatrician at the Ithaca College Geriatric Study and sees patients at the Delaney of Bridgewater, a retirement community in Bridgewater, New Jersey.

“I’d like to see part of the aging studies field and Longview partnership, can continue,” Erickson said.

As part of the Longview partnership, aging studies students conduct research at Longview Community Senior Living and interact with adult students there. Seniors living here can also travel to campus and take classes at the campus as well. With COVID-19 restrictions, the partnership has turned to a virtual setting.

“The minor is really important to us because that means that most of the classes that we teach about aging will still be offered to the minor,” Erickson said. “I feel pretty strongly about the value of the minor.”

According to the Office of Analytics and Institutional Research, only seven students enrolled in the aging studies major for Fall 2020. Senior Emma Brown-Shaklee first came to Ithaca College as a music major but then heard about gerontology at Accepted Students Day when she met with aging studies students.

“The students, they are what drew me in, or who drew me in,” Brown-Shaklee said. “They’re just really warm and compassionate and engaging. It really helped to have gerontology come to home to.”

According to the American Geriatric Society, there are 6,796 certified geriatricians in the United States and 3,590 full-time practicing geriatricians. As of 2018, the older adult population was 49.2 million.

The society also projects that there will be a 4% increase in demand for geriatricians between 2013 and 2028.

Sophie Hud ’19 said she is upset about the major getting cut.

“Hud credits Erickson for helping her look at other areas of the aging studies field and deciding on where she wanted to work. Hud currently serves as the Delaney of Bridgewater at the Delaney of Bridgewater, a retirement community in Bridgewater, New Jersey. While she said she thinks it’s great that the college is keeping the minor, she does not know how the program will look as there were only three professors in the department before the APP process began.

“If I didn’t take the classes that they provided me and I didn’t have the experience, I don’t think I would be where I am today,” Hud said.

Aging studies included in cuts

Communications studies major eliminated

BY ALYSSA BEEBE

Students, alumni and faculty within the Department of Communication Studies at Ithaca College have expressed their opinions with the elimination of the communications studies major, which is being cut as a part of the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process.

The communication studies major is housed in the School of Humanities and Sciences. The communication studies major focuses on the effects of communication, both verbal and nonverbal, with a broad background of the liberal arts. The department also includes the Department of Communication Studies and is housed in the School of Humanities and Sciences.

Thomson said faculty members often consult with students, host events and bring students to conferences. By the time students graduate, they really feel like they are a part of us,” Thomson said.

Thomson, Brecht, lecturer in the Department of Communication Studies, and Regina Carpenter, lecturer in the Department of Communication Studies, have been very influential in the major’s success. Additionally, Stephen Mosher, professor in the Ithaca College Department of Communication Studies, is retiring at the end of this year.

Sophomore Laura Iliaiss said she loved being in Brecht’s Fundamentals of Interpersonal Communication class and wished she could take more courses with Brecht.

“She is the kind of professor that you would be sad if she canceled class,” Iliaiss said.

Sophomore Bella Cruz said that although she is in the culture and communication major, she worries she will have fewer course options with faculty in the Department of Communication Studies.

“Lots of great professors I’ve had are leaving too, and that’s very sad because I had such a great connection with many of them,” Cruz said. “The professors that remain are going to be overwhelmed trying to pick up the slack and the student-professor connections are going to be strained as a result.”

Communications class and wished she could not go to that. SC: I think our response was our announcement in the decision that we made and how we’re moving forward, and in fairness to your question too, most recently, we know that there’s a set of bills that have come from the SG that we received on Friday. One of them is, as you know, basically a lack of confidence in the APPIC. We’re moving forward. There’s a lot more to do.

A longer version of this interview will be published on ithacan.org on March 5.
have in issues surrounding policing. “I want folks to understand [that] although we created a process we felt, for the time period that we had, that we could reach out to folks and get that information,” Keesee said.

The draft was mentioned in an article about Myrick that was published in GQ on Feb. 22, prior to the public release of the draft. The draft was presented to the Ithaca City Common Council on Feb. 22 and was met with mixed reviews.

At the Common Council meeting, Ithaca City Public Safety Officer Nardo was criticized by police officers in attendance about the draft from the article first, rather than from himself. “They feel so dejected and devalued,” Nardo said.

Myrick later apologized to the IPD and City Council.

Some Common Council members expressed concern about the budgetary impact of the recommendations. “I recognize you can’t put dollar amounts against every one of these ideas at the moment,” said Bob Gearhart, 3rd Ward Alderperson and associate dean for the Roy H. Park School of Communications. “But the sooner we can understand the scope of what we are hoping for and what we can reasonably get, and how things might not be able to be funded and what impact that has on the plan, that will be really important.”

The Ithaca Police Benevolent Association, the collective bargaining unit, strongly objected to the proposed recommendations.

Approximately 156 community members attended a virtual public forum Feb. 25 in which the draft was met with primarily negative reactions. Myrick said the recommendations would not rebrand the IPD but instead design a new department. Some community members also criticized Myrick for sending mixed messages about his opinion on the noting being specific incidents that had occurred over the past 10 years in Ithaca.

There were ongoing protests against police brutality and racism in Ithaca throughout 2020, specifically at incidents involving the IPD.

The IPD faced criticism for its handling of an incident on The Commons involving City Council members Ferguson and Ross DeGroet, two Black Ithaca residents. In 2019, DeGroet was initially charged and later found guilty of second-degree attempted assault, resisting arrest and obstructing governmental administration. His charges were later dropped. Ferguson was found not guilty of disorderly conduct.

Community members at the college have also had negative interactions with the IPD. In 2020, Kyle Goldstein ’18 was allegedly detained and arrested by Ithaca police officers. Goldstein suffered permanent eye damage as a result of being pepper sprayed.

Three professors at the college: Paula Ioanide, professor in the Center for the Study of Culture, Race and Ethnicity (CSCRE); Belisa Gonzalez, associate professor and director of CSCRE; and Sean EversleyBradwell, assistant professor in the Department of Education, have been working with the reimagingative initiative.

There are five working groups that tackle different parts of the reform movement: a leadership administration/budget group, an IPD analysis group, an academic/research analysis group, a communications/community group and a law enforcement/public group.

Ioanide is a part of the IPD analysis group.

Molino headed the collaborative and said wanted faculty members involved to bring an additional perspective to the table.

“They’re members of the community; they have a level of expertise; … and that’s an important piece as we work through this and assess the information and look at solutions,” he said.

Ioanide said she thought the community engagement aspect of the collaboration was extensive, but it is unclear whether the community input in the collaboration will result in actual concrete policy changes.

“Partially why I wanted to get involved was to make sure the community input is well-represented and not misrepresented to do something else,” Ioanide said.

Over the past few months, Park Scholars at the college partnered with WRF Community Radio and the Ithaca Voice to create a five-part radio series titled “Which Way Forward,” which explored solutions to address policing and public safety through interviews with city officials and community members.

The series aired from Feb. 1 to 5. “Which Way Forward” and the goal of the project was to build on existing discussions around police reform and encourage more communication on the local level. The series looked at alternatives to policing, community responses to police brutality in Ithaca and grassroots organizations that are working for equitable public safety.

“We kind of collectively decided that this was something that we need to do,” Miranda said. “It’s the contingent faculty that are really the ones that were sitting down and saying that this was just formed in 2017 after excessive effort after many, many people who worked for years to make that union happen,” Miranda said. “It is now being essentially grafted by the school, the only faculty union on campus.”

The college is not eliminating tenured and tenure-eligible faculty, and according to Section 49B of the Ithaca College Policy Manual, terminations resulting from the discontinuation of a program will be done in the order of part-time, per-course faculty, adjunct faculty, faculty employed by term appointments, non-tenure-track faculty, tenure-eligible faculty and tenured faculty.

He said the Contingent Faculty Leadership Committee has made requests to the college to add terminated faculty members. He said it asked the administration to mention COVID-19 in the termination letter so that staff can seek unemployment insurance sooner and to send the termination letters out in a timely fashion. He also said it asked that the college do anything it can to keep faculty members on H-1B visas, which allow people to work in the United States if they receive an offer of employment, so they would not be deported. He said they requested electronic copies so that people can follow their letters and Netpass access so faculty can continue their research and write letters of recommendation for students and alumni.

“We were told categorically to do every single request, categorically no because the answer was really, ‘We are not legally obligated to do that,’” Miranda said.

The Ithaca Democratic Socialists of America held a “Festival Against Hate” on Oct. 24 in response to a “Back the Blue” rally held the same day on the Ithaca Commons. This resulted in a tense face-off.

FROM POLICE, PAGE 1

FROM COUNCIL, PAGE 1

“Nearly 250 students worked on the project,” said Myrick, who was one of the project leaders. “We have a really strong team of students.”

According to Miranda, these conversations were starting to happen locally and all of these protests were happening weekly, she said.

A part two of “Which Way Forward” is currently in the works and will air in May, Eagle said. Junior Danny Malone said he was surprised to see Myrick take a radical approach to reform. He said he was supportive of the draft.

“Regardless of if the proposal is approved or not, I think we will fuel conversation and action,” Malone said via email. “We’ve had enough symbolic victories and it’s time for true change. This proposal, I think, is the first step.”

CONTACT NICK BAHAMONDE

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FROM ALUMNI, PAGE 1

“The President said that she sees shared govern- “The President said that she sees shared government creating space for meaningful input, enancing principles for authority resides for different decisions,” the report states.

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She also said, regarding IC’s future, that there will likely be more pain to come, specifically for staff,” the meeting report states.

Following the closed session, Jason Har- rington, associate professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies, said he appreciated the discussion that other council members facilitated during the session.

“My colleagues on council who asked some amazing questions that I thought, in many cases, were really brave,” Harrington said. “And for that, I thought we got further than in many other meetings.”

Fatima Hajjar, assistant professor in the De- partment of Marketing, then made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was ap- proved, and the rest of the meeting was held in executive session.

According to the meeting report, the coun- cil agreed to report what happened during the executive session. The report states that the council discussed a vote of no confidence against the administration during the executive session as well as other issues that they could take to show faculty concerns.

No confidence votes are held when groups within the college community believe that the president is ineffective at running the college. They are symbolic votes because it is the Ithaca College Board of Trustees that has the power to remove a president from their position.

The Student Governance Council passed

The Ithaca College Faculty Council meets in March 2020. The council met March 2, 2021, with members of the administration to discuss the faculty and program cuts.

FROM COUNCIL, PAGE 1

FROM POLICE, PAGE 1

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FROM COUNCIL, PAGE 1

“For the past two years, the administration has been working with the Black Ithaca community,” Harrington said.

The administration has been working with the college community on diversity and inclusion in several ways, Harrington said.

“We’re here to support your initiatives and the work you’re doing,” Harrington said. “And we’re here to support you in the work that you’re doing.”

Harrington said the administration and the college are working to ensure that the university is a place where people from different backgrounds feel welcomed and supported.

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He said the Contingent Faculty Leader - 
The faces of austerity

By Harriet Malinowitz

Nature is the prescription

Matt Vosler, assistant professor in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies, has a clear approach to mental well-being get people outdoors. At 36 and in his fifth year at Ithaca College, he has three advanced degrees and a work history that includes Outward Bound in Maine, Naturalists at Large in California and wilderness therapy in Utah. He is a certified Wilderness First Responder with a focus on outdoor professionals.

His entire department is being cut, leaving no one at the college trained and certified to safely facilitate outdoor education. Vosler is the coordinator of the Nature Rx Program, an interprofessional group that “uses the restorative benefits of nature as a prescription for stress and depression,” he said.

He is also the coordinator of the Ithaca Outing Club, which for the past three years became the largest club on campus. Living a life in which the boundaries between work and play blur and 80-day wilderness expeditions with students and local communities. Vosler is also dedicated to blacksmithing, woodworking, scuba diving and traveling. He said he is dubious that he will find other teaching positions as a result of the elimination of his program.

“I teach resilience and survival, so I’ll probably figure out what to do, though I still have loans to pay,” Vosler said. “Maybe I’ll go live in a van.”

He noted the ways that the college incorporates the area’s natural wonders into its recent promotional material. There’s no clear demarcation between the town of Ithaca and the surrounding Ithaca. “The natural beauty of the Finger Lakes is something we as an institution identify with, yet by cutting the department and clubs that provide the most access to that, the students will be losing a lot,” Vosler said. “It’s tragic.”

Breaking through the silos

For the past six years, Dreyan Johnson-Taff, lecturer in the Department of English, has taught in the Departments of Writing and English. She is 35 and a mother of two young children. A specialist in early modern literature and culture, she has published journal articles and book chapters, and has a book contract with Edinburgh University Press for her forthcoming book, “Gendred Seascapes and Monarchy in Early Modern English Culture.”

While she is a part-time faculty member, Taff has been a nonstop contributor to the college. She has taught courses on poetry, William Shakespeare, “Literature and the Environment,” a senior seminar on Renaissance literature called “Women, Science and Politics” and interdisciplinary freshman courses. She is the English department’s liaison to the Department of Education and represents contingent faculty members as Contingent Faculty Union steward.

Having served as a strategic planning task force member, she is well aware of the college’s stated intention to break the silos on campus and has worked toward that end. She has co-ordinated the Medieval and Renaissance Colloquium, in which cross-disciplinary faculty share their work, form reading groups and invite outside scholars for talks. She worked with faculty in the Departments of History, Communication Studies, Philosophy and Religion, and Art History to develop a new interdisciplinary minor in Global Modern Studies.

She has also joined the Ithaca Natural Lands Committee, whose members serve as stewards and education coordinators for the Natural Lands. “I was hoping to eventually teach up there and bring literature to the outdoors,” she said. “I had a lot of long-term ideas about bringing environmental humanities into the curriculum.”

A longtime dancer, rock climber and hiker, Taff’s ultimate passions are teaching and scholarly work. She considers a different career, and there’s no future for this one,” she said.

With the current academic job market dimmed up, the future is discouraging, she said. “I’m a mess,” Taff said. “I love my department, I love my students, this feels like the end of all that.”

Visiting scholar program eliminated

BY ALEX HARTZOG

After escaping from Nicaragua on Christmas Day in 2018, Pedro Molina, Ithaca College’s Interna-
tional Visiting Scholar in Residence, is now struggling to plan his future after the college decided to end the Scholar in Residence program.

The Ithaca City of Asylum (ICOA), an organization that offers asylum to international writers, scholars and artists, has been spon-soring writers-in-residence, many of whom have been exiled from their homes, since 2001. The Office of the Provost and the Honors Pro-
gram at the college have supported of the Provost and the Honors Pro-
gram at the college have supported scholars and artists, has been spon-
sored by the college from the beginning. In 2012, Dave Maley, director of public relations, said that Molina’s residency will be over at the end of the 2020–21 academic year.

The process of phasing out the program began before the Aca-
demic Program Prioritization (APP) began. The decision to not appoint a new scholar is not specifically associated with the APP but is consistent with its objectives, Maley said.

“The Office of the Provost told the ICOA in September that it would not be seeking a scholar in residence for the upcoming year,” Barbara Adams, assistant profes-
sor in the Department of Writing and founding member of the ICOA, said. Adams said the ICOA began helping Molina search for alter-
native placements and positions that would allow him to stay in the U.S. and sponsor his visa, as ICOA does not have the financial means to sponsor Molina’s residency without support from the college. While in Ithaca, ICOA helped pay visa, legal and housing fees for Molina and his family, Adams said.

Molina is a cartoonist who draws daily comics for Confidencial, a Nic-
araean digital publication. Molina fled Nicaragua after police raided the offices of Confidencial, killing one journalist and jailing two oth-

ers. He said being able to continue his work in safety has helped him greatly, as he no longer has to fear for his family’s or his own safety. “The problem is, the situation in my country — the crisis — is not going on,” Molina said. “It’s even worse than when I left. Going back is not an option.”

Molina said he feels the main benefit his involvement in the Scholar in Residence program has been a different perspective, different communities and other perspectives he is able to provide. “I teach resilience and survival, so I’ll probably figure

[The reason the program is valuable] to the Ithaca community is that they are able to learn from a different perspective, different sensitivity, about what is happening around the world and how the rest of the world sees what is happening in the U.S.,” Molina said.

Raza Rumi, former scholar in residence, director of the Park Cen-
ter for Independent Media and a current board member of the ICOA, said that the Scholar in Residence program was extremely valuable to him and his family. “It enabled me, first of all, to become a part of a very vibrant community on campus and outside the campus and it enabled me to continue work on my writing and journalism,” Rumi said.

“Alicia Swords, associate profes-
sor in the Department of Sociology and former director of the Honors Program, said the Scholar in Resi-
dence program allowed honorees to offer classes from the perspective of those who are being targeted for their actions and views. “I think that a model that really should be replicated, not undone,” Swords said. “It’s a model for knowledge to be cre-
ted by the people most directly affected.”

“Let’s be real,” Taff said. “Ithaca College isn’t resourcing this program.”

Pedro Molina is a cartoonist at Confidencial in Nicaragua and a visiting international scholar in residence at Ithaca College. With the program eliminated, he will need a new sponsor for his visa.

COURTESY OF PEDRO MOLINA

COVID cases fall below 100

BY CAITLIN HOLTZMAN

Active COVID-19 cases have fallen below 100 in Tompkins County for the first time in months.

As of March 5, there were 81 active cases, with four new cases reported the same day. Active cases have been under 100 for the last four days.

The last time there were fewer than 100 active cases in the county was Nov. 11, with 75 cases.

There have been a total of 3,452 cases in the county since March 14, 2020. There are three hospitalizations and 27 reported deaths due to COVID-19 cases, as of March 5. Tompkins County is also seeing more people get vaccinated. As of March 5, 10,829 people have received their first dose and 7,116 have received their second dose of the vaccine.

The average number of daily positive cases has also decreased throughout February. The average for February was 16.3 cases per day, with 31 and 9 cases for January was 11.2 Since Feb. 10, Tompkins County has report-
ed no new COVID-19 deaths.

Ithaca College has also seen a low num-
ber of cases since students moved back, despite delays in testing and COVID-19 guideline violations.

During the week of Feb. 21–27, there were free cases at the college. In the previ-
ous week, there were two cases. As of March 2, there are six active cases: two residential students, two off-campus students, one fac-
ulty member and one staff member. Due to the low number of cases, the college an-
nounced Feb. 17 that it would be releasing some restrictions related to COVID-19 start-
ing March 1.

Testing at Ithaca College is done through a 15-minute saliva test which can be dropped off by 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday at the Athletics and Events Center, the Campus Center and Terrace 13.
CoLLEGE BRIEFS

Students able to apply for DNA Student Internship Program

Ithaca College students are invited to apply to the DNA Student Internship Program by March 8.

The program is for students receiving need-based financial aid from the college and is made to provide valuable work experience for students. The internship is given to freshmen, sophomores and juniors with a GPA of 3.0 or above.

Academic year internships are expected to work 10 hours per week during the 10-week internship period. Interns will receive employment compensation and a scholarship of $1,200 per year. Summer interns are expected to work 40 hours per week for the 10-week internship period.

Art history professors have their articles published in art journal

Kelly DeGraw, assistant professor in the Department of Art History, published essays in March 21 issue of the “Art Bulletin.”

The “Art Bulletin” is the flagship journal of the art history discipline and the College Art Association. Jolly’s article, titled “The Aesthetics of Conflict: Perspective and Anamorphosis in Siquieros’ Art of the 1930s,” discusses Mexican muralist David Alfaro Siqueiros’ use of principles of diachronic materialism and experiment with perspective as a way to politically engage viewers. Jolly presented an overview of the article at the Provost’s Colloquia in Fall 2019.


New Learning Management System in final revision phase

The Learning Management System (LMS) Governance Committee are making final revisions on the new LMS pilot plan.

The college is switching to Canvas from Sakai and is currently in the process of reviewing the initial pilot plan and adding in feedback from campus community members. The final plan will be released by the end of the week along with a list of expectations and participation opportunities.

There are four phases in the implementation of Canvas. These phases are vision and planning, initial implementation and exploration, full implementation, and review and refinement. The college is currently in the last phase.

Instructional Development Fund grants proposals for open faculty

The grants fall into two categories. Diversity and International Affairs, and Direct Course Enhancement.

Grants are open to support post-terminal degree scholarship and creative endeavors. Proposals can be submitted by full-time continuing Ithaca College faculty members and faculty that are employed on at least a half-time basis.

Grants applications for scholarly and creative faculty work open

Grant applications for summer faculty work are available until March 26.

The grants are used to support post-terminal degree scholarship and creative endeavors. Proposals can be submitted by full-time continuing Ithaca College faculty members and faculty that are employed on at least a half-time basis. The awards purchased with funds are limited to no more than $3,785 in compensation for eight weeks of work.

Professors invited to speak at Post-Sabbatical Colloquium

La Jetne Cornish, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, is hosting an event for campus community members March 25.

The event is in recognition of the intellect and creativeness of college faculty members.

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Office of Student Engagement opens scholarships applications

Scholarships through the Office of Student Engagement (OSE) are now open for the 2021–22 academic year.

Descriptions for all of the scholarships are available through the OSE Service and Involvement Scholarship website. Students can apply for multiple scholarships through one application. Each scholarship has different qualifications but most involve some sort of campus involvement or community service.

Some of the scholarships are only open to students with financial aid. The priority deadline to fill out the FAFSA is March 1.
Claiming transparency is not actual transparency

Selective transparency does not count as transparency when you are making decisions that impact the entire campus community.

On March 2, the Faculty Council Executive Committee (FCEC) invited President Shirley M. Collado and La Jerne Cornish, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, to discuss their Inside Higher Ed op-ed and the final Academic Program Prioritization (APP) decisions. Though the FCEC expressed its desire to keep the meeting open, it accepted the president and provost’s conditions to keep the session closed.

While it is understandable that some faculty members would be comfortable without the press in attendance, journalism serves as the Fourth Estate — a check on administrative powers. By restricting The Ithacan’s reporting, the administration is not upholding its promise of being fully transparent and open to the public. Also, by preventing faculty guests from attending, they circumscribed the type of participants and range of questions they might face.

We commend the Faculty Council for sharing the meeting report after the meeting. It is disappointing that if it were not for the report, those outside of the meeting would not have known about the fears and frustrations that faculty members shared with the administration.

When asked about transparency throughout the APP process in an interview with The Ithacan, Collado and Cornish said they felt as though they have been transparent. Collado said that to her, transparency is “consistent and direct ways of giving people the information that they need,” but “that doesn’t guarantee that people will like the information or agree with the decision.”

This is true. But if alumni, faculty, staff and students have been repeatedly asking for more transparency, is it not evident that the administration can offer more — or even reevaluate what transparency means to them?

Abolishing police is a threat when policing still exists

Following the unjust deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and countless other innocent Black lives, protests around the world and locally called for police reform and abolition. Instead, the City of Ithaca, Tompkins County and the Center for Policing Equity responded with a performative proposal.

The “Reimagining Public Safety” draft report states, “The total abolition of law enforcement agencies was not seen as a viable approach to reimagining public safety in Ithaca and Tompkins County.” However, abolition is the next step of radical change in America. Abolition deconstructs the agencies that were built to continue systems of oppression.

The systems that were designed to protect society do not include Black people. Our current policing system upholds systems of oppression. Black people are more than three times as likely to be murdered by police officers than white people. The systems that were designed to protect society do not include Black people. Instead, while white people are raised to trust the police, Black people are raised to be cautious, understanding that the police are a threat to their safety.

When people call for abolition, they do so because nobody should die at the hands of a police officer. Police abolition is meant to create communities that can provide for their own safety and well-being.

The proposal still promises to deliver more transparency and reduce the number of armed officers. The draft also proposes to replace the Ithaca Police Department (IPD) with the “Department of Community Solutions and Public Safety,” which would include armed “public safety workers” and unarmed “community solution workers.”

The plan funnels more money into policing, ignoring that true abolition allocates money, time and commitment to affordable housing, rehabilitation and the community. While the plan is more ambitious than what the United States has seen so far, to claim that it is the “most ambitious” or “radical” is ignorant and ignores the work being done by Black grassroots organizers.
Saying farewell to Ithaca College after 18 years

BY SANDRA STEINGRABER

For the past 18 years, I have served as our campus’ scholar in residence, recruited by a previous provost with a vision for shaping the college into a laboratory for environmental sustainability.

My post has been a joyful one. As someone with a master’s degree in poetry, a background in journalism and a national platform in the environmental movement, I have represented Ithaca College around the world – in Congressional briefings, at the Paris climate conference, to advise administrations and helping to shape my shared mission.

I believe in transparency: my salary is $31,050.

To that end, I joined fellow faculty and staff serving on IC’s Climate Action Group. This committee worked for the better part of last year, drafting recommendations and helping to shape my own ambitious proposal.

The bad news: both faculty chairs of the Climate Action Group are now among those losing their jobs as a consequence of Academic Program Prioritization, which, as far as I can see, is disaster capitalism for higher education.

I wanted to build a thriving Center for Climate Justice at Ithaca College. My idea was to create a national destination for students seeking engagement with the climate crisis that would equip them with tools to envision a renewable future, and make it so.

Finally, and because I believe in transparency: my salary is $31,050.

SANDRA STEINGRABER is a distinguished scholar in residence at Ithaca College. Contact her at ssteingraber@ithaca.edu.

Brain injury awareness needs to be illuminated

BY MOLLY MACFARLAND

For most people, the thought of being impacted by a brain injury or even knowing someone who has dealt with one is unimaginable. Admittedly, the thought never crossed my mind until 11 years ago when my father had a massive stroke, one of the most common types of brain injuries. The bad news: both faculty chairs of the Climate Action Group are now among those losing their jobs as a consequence of Academic Program Prioritization.

Many people with disabilities may feel constrained and trapped by their label of injury. Therefore, the BIAA’s central message of #MoreThanMyBrainInjury serves as a catalyst for awareness and empowers individuals to overcome labels of limitation and stigma. Because every brain injury is different and comes with a range of difficulties, including compromised cognitive function, speech, language, perception and paraplegia, this has resulted in stigma that are extremely dangerous and disrespectful.

Often in brain injury recovery, the individual may seem perfectly fine and in tune one day, but physically and mentally worn out the next day. Because of this, individuals can experience discrimination from family, friends, co-workers and others, as well as suffering from self-stigma due to physical and social isolation. It is crucial to remember that those who have sustained brain injuries are valuable members of our communities too and deserve utmost respect.

Lives are impacted by brain injuries every single day and everyone is at risk, whether it is a child who falls playing in the yard, a victim of a car accident or a survivor of a stroke.

Sandra Steingraber is a distinguished scholar in residence in the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences. She is leaving Ithaca College following the finalization of the faculty cuts.

BY MOLLY MACFARLAND

For the past 18 years, I have served as our campus’ scholar in residence, recruited by a previous provost with a vision for shaping the college into a laboratory for environmental sustainability.

My post has been a joyful one. As someone with a master’s degree in poetry, a background in journalism and a national platform in the environmental movement, I have represented Ithaca College around the world – in Congressional briefings, at the Paris climate conference, to advise administrations and helping to shape my shared mission.

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The good news: after a year of planning and writing, I got the grant.

Finally, and because I believe in transparency: my salary is $31,050.

SANDRA STEINGRABER is a distinguished scholar in residence at Ithaca College. Contact her at ssteingraber@ithaca.edu.

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Lives are impacted by brain injuries every single day and everyone is at risk, whether it is a child who falls playing in the yard, a victim of a car accident or a survivor of a stroke.

The head injury awareness needs to be illuminated.
Open the Books responds to APP finalization

Today - February 24th, 2021 at 11:07am - President Shirley M. Collado formally announced that Ithaca College will move forward with the Shape of the College plan, as presented by the Academic Prioritization Process Implementation Committee on February, 17th, 2021. As a result of this plan, 116 full-time equivalent (FTE) faculty positions and 26 majors, programs and departments will be eliminated in the name of creating a more “lean,” “sustainable” institution.

We are angry. Insulted. Tired of the constant bureaucratic hypocrisy we’ve seen for months – even years. Since November, students, faculty, staff, and alumni alike have implored the Senior Leadership Team, President Shirley Collado, and Provost La Jerri Terry Cortish to recognize the dangerous, damaging precedent that they set by choosing to pursue a rushed agenda of austerity in the midst of an international health, housing, and economic crisis.

We have made clear that the APP goes against the “sustainability” of Ithaca College; beyond an artificial fear of a “student enrollment cliff,” quickly approaching on the horizon; beyond the “right-sizing” of a college which feels too big, or too small, but felt like home. The decision made today proves that the Ithaca College administration does not “prioritize student success and sense of belonging,” as President Collado stated in today’s announcement. Cutting programs and educators that bring diverse perspectives and unique opportunities in favor of a profit-centered education model directly contradicts the values that Ithaca College promised students they would uphold. The implementation of drastic cuts ahead of any perceived long-term enrollment decrease, leaving students with larger classes and fewer opportunities for one-on-one engagement, is a recipe for disaster. Put more plainly, it’s a self-destructing prophecy which guarantees the very student enrollment cliff which senior administrators fear so much.

From left, sophomores Gianna Nigro and Julia DiGeronimo attend an Open the Books protest Feb. 19 outside of the Peggy Ryan Williams Center. This was the group’s fourth protest since October.

MIRANDA JUNE/ THE ITHACAN

Make no mistake - the implementation of the APP at Ithaca College is yet another clear-cut example of Ithaca College administration governing on behalf of the top earners in higher education, strategically eliminating unionized workers and scholarly troublemakers en masse under the guise of “Ithaca Forever.” We see what is happening here. We see the disappearing face of our contingent and part-time faculty members. We see the precarious position our administration is creating for scholars young and old, for BIPOC and queer educators who, disproportionately to their white, cis, and straight colleagues, find themselves outside the protections of tenure and tenure-track positions. We see it all. And so do our comrades at educational institutions across the United States.

In today’s email, President Collado claimed that “we have listened attentively and closely over the past several weeks and months as members of our community - students, staff, faculty, alumni, IC families, and community members-—have shared with us their thoughts on the proposed changes.” Over the past 6 months, we - students, faculty, alumni, and staff - have begged the administration to see the implications of this disastrous choice, while being repeatedly stonewalled by cold, bureaucratic indifference. We have hosted weekly meetings, town halls, livestreams, and COVID-safe, in-person gatherings. The administration was explicitly invited to these events and refused to attend. What the Office of the President offered in return were shoed Zoom webinars which fail to deconstruct the imbalanced, top-down power structure we know all too well. When questions about the APP were raised in restrictive and inaccessible meetings, they were either ignored or shut down. In the end, their non-existent attempt to collect real, unmediated feedback from the campus community makes one thing very clear - they were never going to listen to us in the first place.

Open the Books and IC Alumni Against Austerity were not called to cause trouble for the hard-working Ithaca College community, nor to provide an outlet for boredom or rebelliousness. Our coalition was created to resist rushed changes which will not only endanger the livelihoods of our fellow community members, but will revive the spirit of colleagues, students, and comrades who remain at IC.

Some might say that we should pursue our organizing through “normal” channels, officially endorsed by the administration. Well, in collaboration with the Student Governance Council, we did just that. On Monday, February 22nd, the Student Governance Council (SGC) passed two bills, by nearly unanimous decision, which call for financial transparency and shared governance at Ithaca College. The administration has chosen to ignore them. It is evident that the idea of students holding any kind of real power to influence critical institutional decisions is nothing but a facade, which the SLC dangles over the heads of students, faculty, and alumni alike.

In the end, we could be wrong. Heartless layoffs could be the only way to “save Ithaca College.” But how would we ever know without a real, inclusive, non-hierarchical reconsideration of the APP process where ALL community members are equally and thoroughly consulted? How will we know without a clear, comprehensive outline of Ithaca College’s past, current, and future finances? How will we know if we’re categorically shut out?

And if sacrificing our workers and their humanity is the only way to save IC, would we even recognize what’s left? What good is “Ithaca Forever” if it’s corporate, cold, and disconnected?

Our resolve does not waver, and our demands remain the same:

1. Halt the implementation of the APP Process at Ithaca College immediately.
2. Implement a system of real shared governance at Ithaca College, in which decision-making power is distributed evenly among tenured, NTEN, contingent, and part-time faculty, students, staff, and alumni.

While I agree that Malcolm & Marie isn’t Oscar-worthy, I couldn’t help but notice the review’s inaccuracies. Honestly, the author’s analysis seemed based upon a single watch.

Author Jackson Noel argues that the film lacks self-awareness about the supposedly upperclass protagonists who, “roll up to their secluded mini-mansion after a night of praise from which they’ve returned.” Yes, the dialogue definitely read like Levinson’s excuse to use the biggest words he knows. However the depiction of Malcolm & Marie as an ignorant detachment from modern romance is extreme. The couple’s arguments detail a codependent need to stay together alongside an inability to compromise on their own ego. If that doesn’t encapsulate toxic relationships under the pressures of social media, then I’m unsure what can.

Malcolm & Marie is far from perfect, but I’m surprised that “The Ithacan” would allow simple mistakes about a film to be the basis of any review.
Indian bills harm small farmers

Currently, Indian farmers are protesting three new bills that will gut government price subsidies and other agricultural protections. These bills will further imperil vulnerable small farmers and peasant workers who already struggle to survive in a market dominated by international capital. Current price subsidies guarantee that their goods will sell at a marginal profit, which would be entirely erased with the new bills.

The right-wing government led by the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have historically poor record when managing civil liberties. Prior to Modi’s PM appointment, his administration famously in- voked riots in 2002, leading to the slaughter of Muslims in his home state of Gujarat. Recently, he has been active on the interna- tional stage with former President Donald Trump.

The current iteration of the farmers’ protests began in November when an organized front marched to Delhi for their encamp- ments at the Delhi border have become places of festive folk songs, dance, and community. A significant aspect of the modern movement is that it brings to- gether many different factions of the rural farming society across tribes, castes and religions.

Currently, the government has jailed prominent farmers and protesters for sedition and other political crimes. Despite potential legal proceedings, these individuals could spend years in jail before their cases are reviewed and innocence can be proven.

None of this feels democratic or fair. The BJP is a vague term used by everyone from Joe Biden to Modi and even college admin- istrators. Concrete democracy is discussed in my politics classes as the combination of political representation and characteris- tics of civil society. These include diversity in types of household, community services and diverse forms of enterprise.

India lacks in almost every democratic category, according to society’s most vulnerable. The poor languish and suffer from increasingly anti-democratic pol- icies such as the new farm bills. The BJP regularly kills and covers up killings of the poorest. Repre- sentation is inherently lacking.

Civil society is also not fairly represented in the international scope of India. Corporate farms stand to benefit immensely from the new farm bills. They will effectively sell their goods at extremely low prices, take over the poor farmers’ lands and fur- ther cement themselves as the ruling class in India. There is increasing polarization of life- style in India between the richest and poorest, according to several reports.

The Modi government is an- other parastatic symptom of what an anti-democratic state is capa- ble of inflicting on its citizens. India is a “1%ers” party that has continued the suffer- ing of India’s most vulnerable. Racial alliance-based organizing from farmers and their families is a crucial step in the reimaging of India itself.

AKSHAN SHAH is a senior politics and sociology major. Contact him at ashah@ithaca.edu.
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crossword

By United Media

ACROSS

1 Backtalk
2 Toughen up
3 Fix potatoes
4 Possibilities
5 Pub. prosecutor
6 Stared at
7 Sponsorship
8 Mystic sound
9 Collapses financially (2 wds.)
10 Pull laboriously
11 Help-wanted abbr.
12 Collection of tales
13 Dunaway of films
14 Wry face
15 Scorches
16 Earth, in combos
17 Custard ingredient
18 Psycho component
19 Leave-takings
20 Hydrox rival
21 Leave-takings
22 Out caller
23 Note before mi
24 Noisy dispute
25 Ooola’s guy
26 Gloomy
27 Big bird
28 Aloud
29 Tooth fillings
30 Dobby, for one
31 Fierce feline
32 Not masc.
33 Dec. precursor
34 Traffic cone
35 Aloud
36 Dec. precursor
37 “Cogito ergo —”
38 Swift horse
39 Block
40 Facade
41 Caligula’s nephew
42 Have rapport
43 Plaything
44 Roulette bets
45 Forum hello
46 Speaker’s pause
47 Eavesdropped
48 Cringe
49 Touché provoker
50 Painter — Magritte
51 Livy’s “it was”
52 Gleeful cry
53 Rogue opposite
54 Major artery
55 Show of anger
56 Must-have
57 Up in the —
58 Must-have
59 Painter — Magritte

DOWN

1 Cabinet post
2 Standard
3 Fix potatoes
4 Possibilities
5 Pub. prosecutor
6 Stared at
7 Sponsorship
8 Mystic sound
9 Collapses financially (2 wds.)
10 Pull laboriously
11 Help-wanted abbr.
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58 Must-have
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sudoku

medium

by United Media

ACROSS

1 Backtalk
4 Think-tank output
8 Gawk at
12 Collection of tales
13 Dunaway of films
14 Wry face
15 Scorches
17 Custard ingredient
19 Psycho component
20 Hydrox rival
23 Note before mi
24 Noisy dispute
26 Gloomy
29 Love in a gondola
31 Fierce feline
32 Not masc.
34 Traffic cone
37 “Cogito ergo —”
38 Swift horse
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42 Have rapport
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46 Speaker’s pause
48 Cringe
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answers to last issue’s sudoku:

easy

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

hard

3 5 2 6 4 9 7 1 8
6 8 9 3 1 7 5 6 2 1 7 6 5 8 2 3 4 9
9 6 8 7 5 1 4 2 3 2 1 4 9 6 3 8 5 7
7 3 5 8 2 4 1 9 6 6 2 7 4 3 5 9 8 1 4 8 3 1 0 6 2 7 5
5 9 1 2 7 8 6 3 4

very hard

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

last issue’s crossword answers

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THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2021

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MORE THAN PICTURES

Graphic novel writing workshop concludes annual Will Eisner Week

BY SYDNEY BRUMFIELD

Find a superhero cape and a pen because it is Will Eisner Week at the Tompkins County Public Library. The library holds the week every March in honor of the late cartoonist Will Eisner, who is often referred to as the father of the graphic novel art form.

From 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Mar. 5, Will Eisner Week will conclude with “Beyond Bang, Wham, and Pow: How to Create Compelling Narratives in Comics,” a comic writing workshop that is run by Ithaca College’s Graphic Novel Advisory Board (GNAB). The workshop will be held virtually and is free to the public.

Will Eisner Week is celebrated by libraries, museums, schools and comic book stores across the country to promote graphic novel literacy and freedom of speech. The Tompkins County Public Library began celebrating Will Eisner Week in 2019.

Eisner was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1917. His career as an artist spanned almost 70 years until his death in 2005. He was a trailblazer, developing visual panel layouts associated with graphic novels. Most notably he was the creator of crime fighter and superhero comic series “The Spirit,” “Lady Luck” and “Uncle Sam.”

Sophia McKissick, community engagement and outreach librarian at the Tompkins County Public Library, said that Will Eisner Week was created as a celebration of his contributions to the art world and also graphic novels in general.

“This week helps people understand that [graphic novels] are not just superhero kid stuff,” McKissick said.

Interest in graphic novels is on the rise. Amid the pandemic, graphic novels saw weekly gains of as much as 30% over 2019, according to Forbes. According to a report on graphic novel sales from Publishers Weekly, combined sales of graphic novels and periodical comics in the U.S. and Canada totaled approximately $1.21 billion in 2019.

McKissick said that when she assisted with the first Will Eisner Week held at the library, it was originally just a meeting of the Panel Graphic Novel Book Club, a local book club. Since then, Will Eisner Week has grown tremendously.

Tompkins County Public Library’s week is composed of three days of activities. It started with the meeting of Panel by Panel, where this year McKissick led a discussion of the winner of the Will Eisner Award-winning graphic novel, “Snow, Glass, Apples” by Neil Gaiman and Colleen Doran.

“People can sometimes be dismissive of graphic novels as not ‘real’ books,” McKissick said. “I think that’s really underselling the level of talent and work that goes into them.”

On Sunday, the second day of Will Eisner Week, the library ran a cartooning basics workshop with the illustrator Corinne Roberts. The workshop will be teaching the dos and don’ts of how to effectively use narrative so that it works with pictures instead of against them.

“People can sometimes be dismissive of graphic novels as not ‘real’ books. I think that’s really underselling the level of talent and work that goes into them.”

— Sophia McKissick

Junior Kaitlyn Denney is one of the members running the workshop as a part of GNAB. Denney said that GNAB started out as a class offered at the college and is transitioning into a student organization. GNAB is dedicated to doing community outreach to schools and libraries to help them accumulate graphic novel collections.

This is the first year GNAB is working with the library on Will Eisner Week. This workshop intends to offer insight into the art of writing graphic novels for individuals aged 12 and older. Senior Angelina Randazzo, a member of GNAB, said anyone who is interested in writing or has a passion for graphic novels, and any artists who want to step outside their comfort zones and try something new, should register online for this virtual workshop.

“I think comics and graphic novels are a lot of fun,” Randazzo said. “I think they have a lot more freedom than textual novels, and I think anyone should really try.”

Denney said she will be talking about plot and story structure, and the workshop will also discuss how the visuals and the written text work together. Denney said the group attempts to change the public’s perception of graphic novels.

“We think that graphic novels aren’t given enough credit.” Denney said. GNAB informs people about the educational benefits of graphic novels, beyond just being an entertaining form of literature. Denney said graphic novels increase visual literacy and critical thinking, which is increasingly important now, especially with a large amount of media being predominantly visual.

Senior Coletrane Herrmann, a member of GNAB, is helping at the workshop as well. Herrmann will be crafting practice activities for the workshop in a sort of mad-lib style in which he will be providing prompts and blanks to help people get their creative gears turning.

“That’s really what I am most interested in, seeing how the participants will work with what I’ve written and how they write their own new stuff,” Herrmann said. “Seeing if they write differently knowing that the context is for a graphic novel versus than if the context was for a book is fascinating.”

Will Eisner was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1917. He was a comic book artist for 70 years and created popular series like “The Spirit,” “Uncle Sam” and “Lady Luck.”
Actors social distance for Spring 2021 season

BY CONNOR AHERN

After being away from the Ithaca College stage for a year, singers, actors, directors, playwrights and others are preparing for the Spring 2021 season through Zoom and socially distant rehearsing.

The Department of Theatre Arts will be showing four productions during Spring 2021. Sophomores Clark Atheray and Aaron Hutchins said “The Trojan Women” will premiere in March. “Stop Kiss,” “The Magic Flute” and “Stop Kiss” will premiere in April. They said that the Zoom rehearsals are rough, and many of the shows, though some are still awaiting confirmation.

“We have been performing the show having followed the COVID guidelines during rehearsals and will follow them during performances,” Atheray said. This includes wearing a mask and maintaining at least a 6-foot distance apart if they are speaking and 20 feet apart if they are singing.

Each show will be performed in front of approximately 50 people in theaters that normally seat 400. Atheray said this includes wearing a mask and maintaining at least a 6-foot distance apart if they are speaking and 20 feet apart if they are singing.

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I wanted to give a voice to genderqueer teens and genderqueer people in general who just never really got a chance to see themselves, and who need to see themselves," they said.

Salvatore's book is coming at a time when LGBTQ characters in literature are becoming more prominent, but still remain in the minority. According to Library Journal, the book, which will be released on March 9, has been ranked 25 on Amazon's Teen and Young Adult (YA) Theater Fiction.

Rachel Fomalhaut, lecturer in the Department of Writing, teaches Queridi Studies at the college this semester. The class includes large and small group discussions that highlight topics like queer history and sexual identities throughout time. Fomalhaut said that she believes books like “Can’t Take That Away” and classes like Queridi Studies help students understand who they are. "In some ways it’s wonderful to feel how intensively a lot of the students are connecting the material to their own experiences," she said. "Many of the students needed this class." "I wanted to give a voice to someone who is not me, and have their situation be different." said Steven Salvatore '08.

The young adult novel follows Carey Parker, a genderqueer teen, fighting to perform in the school play. "I wanted to do that one day, and I can actually have that," Rachel Fomalhaut, lecturer in the Department of Writing, teaches Queridi Studies at the college this semester. The class includes large and small group discussions that highlight topics like queer history and sexual identities throughout time. Fomalhaut said that she believes books like “Can’t Take That Away” and classes like Queridi Studies help students understand who they are. "In some ways it’s wonderful to feel how intensively a lot of the students are connecting the material to their own experiences," she said. "Many of the students needed this class."

Junior Prince writes coming-of-age stories with queer themes. Similar to Salvatore, they base many of their novels and short stories on personal experiences. "Since all my characters are queer, I resonate with them," they said. "It feels cathartic in a way, to write as someone who is got me, and have their situation be different." Prince is currently working on a queer YA fantasy novel inspired by "Cinderella." The novel features magic, a childhood friends-to-lovers romance and the relationship between selflessness and self-preservation.

"Most of my characters need to figure out who they are and who they want to be," they said. "These are often times two different things."

Although Carey’s story has some hardships, Salvatore said that good things come out of hard times as a testament to their personal life experiences. "There’s a lot of pain and there’s a lot of hardship, but there is a balance between the darkness and the light," said Salvatore.

BY CHARLIE BECHT

The Ithaca College Center for LGBT Education, Outreach and Services used the documentary, “Disclosure: Trans Lives on Screen,” as a starting point for their conversation about LGBTQ representation in media in a panel Feb. 26.

The panel, “Tired Tropes and Stale Stereotypes: LGBTQ Representation in Media and Arts,” consisted of LGBTQ alumni with experiences in the media and arts fields. Jessica Earl ’14 is a journalist and YouTuber personality who discusses LGBTQ issues and superhero and stardust pop culture. Calvin Richardson ’13 is the author of the novel about a queer teen who is devastated when their mother dies and is forced to go home to meet his father for the first time, “Several People Are Typing,” to be released in September 2021. Ashton Muita ’14 is an actor, performer and artist and currently based in New York City. Isabel Galupo ’14 is a staff writer for Nickelodeon and Hasbro’s recently announced transgender television show "Stephanie Tropiano, director and professor of the J.B. Pritzker Center in Los Angeles and author of "The Next Door: Close the History of Homosexuality on Television," was also a panelist.

Salvatore, who graduated from Rehabilitation in 2008, has their first novel, “Can’t Take That Away,” coming out March 9. The young adult novel follows Carey Parker, a genderqueer teen, fighting to perform in the school play. "I wanted to give a voice to someone who is not me, and have their situation be different." said Steven Salvatore ’08. "I wanted to give a voice to someone who is not me, and have their situation be different." said Steven Salvatore ’08.

The panel, “Tired Tropes and Stale Stereotypes: LGBTQ Representation in Media and Arts,” was held Feb. 26. The panel featured LGBTQ media professionals.

BY MOLLY SHEETS

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Since Netflix first launched streaming options in 2007, streaming services have exploded into a massive multibillion dollar industry. In the early years, there were limited options, but as time has passed, more and more streaming services have appeared and continue to pop up. While these new services may seem to present an opportunity for innovation and market diversity, the rapidly expanding industry might seem to be about its own downfall.

There are a staggering number of streaming services in existence, including Disney Plus, HBO Max, Hulu, Discovery Plus and Netflix. There are also more specialized services like CH Media and the anime streaming service Crunchyroll. There are over 500 services available in the United States.

At first, it makes perfect sense that companies would want to invest in this industry. After all, 55% of American households subscribe to more than one streaming service, according to a survey conducted by Broadband Genie. According to a study conducted by Deloitte, the market no longer generate new demand. The expanding industry might actually bring about the death of streaming. Products and services within that market are simply too expensive. The average American household pays for approximately three streaming services in existence, including Disney Plus, HBO Max, Hulu, Discovery Plus and Netflix. As more services appear, Americans will be forced to either break their budget or make a choice between the services they would like to have.

If you, as a consumer, want to have HBO Max, Netflix and Amazon Prime Video, those three services alone will run you $59 per month. That’s 18% more than the average American household pays to pay. The convenience of streaming services has led to many people cutting the cord on cable. Even though the price for streaming services is significantly less than the price of cable, the cost is on the rise.

Many Americans might be willing to pay for more services, but many of the options that exist are just not worth the extra cost. Some examples of these lesser-than-optimal selections include Quibi, which closed down after less than a year, and the now-shuttered HBO Go.

Ultimately, the ever-increasing number of streaming options is an example of market saturation. When a market becomes oversaturated, products and services within that market no longer generate new demand.

So, what are the long term effects of this oversaturation is allowed to continue? Many people theorize that eventually, consumers will simply stop paying for streaming services entirely. Experts believe that customers will turn to piracy. While 18% of consumers report (that they don’t) watch any form of pirated content, 37% say that they would turn to illegal means of consumption in response to an uptick in service options, according to a survey conducted by Broadband Genie.

Fifty-seven percent of American consumers report that they are already suffering from “subscription fatigue,” according to a study conducted by Deloitte. Seeing as there has already been an increase in consumers turning to pirated content, services need to reevaluate their business practices. Otherwise, the industry will continue to splinter and inevitably render itself obsolete.

### Crime film gives power to female leads

**REVIEW:** *I Care A Lot* Netflix

By Sydney Brumfield

Giving a much-needed breath of fresh air to the crime-thriller genre, *I Care A Lot* is a gripping adrenaline rush from start to finish. Written and directed by J Blakson, this engrossing narrative follows the morally opaque endeavors of Marla Grayson (Rosamund Pike) and her partner, Fran (Eiza González). Together, they attempt to seek the legal guardianship of elders in order to drain them of their life’s savings. Their master plan seems foolproof—that is, until they hook a fish too big for their boat.

Marla forcefully assumes the legal guardianship of idiosyncratic Jennifer Peterson (Dianne Wiest), who has no recorded living relatives to take care of her after being medically inca pacitated by the Cleveland Russian Mafia. Blakson makes an effort to keep viewers engaged with his deceptively meditative evil plot, making Marla an antihero for the ages. Marla Grayson is a strong and confident woman who has made a career out of manipulating the diabolical institutions that are the American healthcare system. She has built herself from the ground up and fights for herself throughout the film for success and financial stability for herself and Fran.

The beautiful partnership between Marla and Fran is a joy to watch. Lesbian relationships in film are all too often made the sole focus of the narrative, but not in this case. *I Care A Lot* avoids tokenizing the relationship, providing a refreshing normality of the main characters’ sexual identity. The love between Marla and Fran is palpable. While the film is unapologetic in its frank portrayal, it does exhibit genuine compassion and empathy for one another, they are not peripheral to the plot.

Blakson also tackles themes surrounding toxic masculinity throughout the film. Marla faces blatant sexism and verbal abuse from men butowers to no one. The women in this film refuse to abandon their ambition, especially in the face of the patriarchy.

“I Care A Lot” pushes the boundaries of what is commonly associated with crime thrillers. The audience is continuously forward thinking by evaluating its own morals. The viewer wants Marla to succeed in her schemes but knows that it comes at the expense of others. Marla is a much-needed female figure in the media, one that breaks away from feminine stereotypes and is allowed to be just as flawed as other male characters in this genre. With her emergence, it would be brilliant to see more characters like her exist.

*“I Care A Lot” is an apologetically ruthless and leaves audiences clinging to the edge of their seats. In the end, Marla is the criminal who viewers love to root for, a femme fatale on Walter White. Her biggest weapon is a flawed health-care system created by America’s institutions, which she exploits terrifyingly well. She is not a mob boss or a kingpin but an intelligent, capable woman—and isn’t that threatening enough?*

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**Actor writes dark comedy about backstage identities**

**REVIEW:** *A Bright Ray of Darkness* Penguin Books

By Elijah De Castro

Ethan Hawke, beyond being one of Hollywood’s most sophisticated actors, is a sensitive introspect who enjoys philosophizing. It’s no surprise that the pen Hawke writes with in his new novel *A Bright Ray of Darkness* combines the nuances of his acting with his personal plights of identity.

Readers of *A Bright Ray of Darkness* who have seen Alejandro González Iñárritu’s award-winning film *Birdman* will notice the similarities immediately. Both portray a fictional disgraced actor brought to life by a real-life actor, the peak of their fame behind them. In the case of *A Bright Ray of Darkness*, the fictional actor is William Harding, written by the actor into existence.

In a similar fashion to *Birdman*, *A Bright Ray of Darkness* takes a painfully preventable look at the story of a washed-up actor puttting on a Broadway show — and communicates its conventional ideas through ridiculous characters in an attempt to prevent being overwhelmed and funny.

Hawke, a has-been actor in his 30s, is going through a premature midlife crisis. The existence of his wife humilates and enrages him. He loves his kids and their innocence. When he falls asleep, it’s usually with a belly full of whiskey. He hates when fans come up to him and ask him for a picture. When he gets a chance to cheat on his wife with a young woman, he can’t hold an erection. It’s certainly a familiar type of character seen across different mediums.

Hawke is acting in a show of Shakespeare’s *Henry IV*, which Hawke did in 2003 when he was the same age as Harding, and is trying to get a post-fame resurgence. Harding’s insecurity leads him to cerebrate far too much of his life, with his ego trying to make sense of everything. He is self-deprecating, constantly looking for evidence for why he is so miserable.

Hawke’s iconic style doesn’t hold back, making for pages that put the red-hot shame Harding feels about himself directly in the reader’s face. “I left the studio unshaven and in an ambulance after 5 months of shooting. And no one from the cast, the crew, or the production has called yet to see if I’m alive. That should give you some idea the kind of giant asshole I’ve become,” Hawke writes.

Hawke describes Harding’s castmates on the set of *Henry IV* as stereotypical to

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**POPPED CULTURE is a weekly column, written by Life & Culture staff writers, that analyzes pop culture current events. Avery Alexander is a junior English major. Contact her at aalexander@ithaca.edu**

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Diving into new waters
Swimming and diving coaches lead two teams for first time

BY ARLA DAVIS

After months of being drained of both water and athletes, the Kehey Partridge Bird Natatorium saw life again as Ithaca College divers were finally able to face an opposing team, Carnegie Mellon University, on Feb. 27. However, this meet looked different than any the team has competed in before. With the Bombers being the only ones on South Hill, and the opposing team being over 300 miles away in its own pool, fans watched the two teams compete next to each other on a Zoom screen rather than in the stands.

COVID-19 guidelines have left the Bombers training in pods based on where they live, sharing lanes with just one other teammate compared to the usual three to six and wearing a mask until the moment they jump into the pool and again the second they step out of the water. However, the challenges that COVID-19 presented for the Bombers are not the only ones Kevin Markwardt, men’s and women’s swimming and diving head coach, and the team have faced. When Paula Miller, former women’s swimming and diving head coach, retired from coaching after 36 years in June 2020, Markwardt was promoted to head coach of both teams. He and Mike Blakely-Armitage, assistant swimming and diving coach, are now the only two coaches for 70 athletes.

“I support them and make this the best year for them. We’re very conscious of Zoom fatigue, so we found it a challenge to keep working on team culture things where we can’t be in big groups, but we don’t want to overemphasize or overburden them with Zoom,” Markwardt said. “We’ve got to be creative in thinking of ways to continue the culture and team-building part of it.”

Hoffman-Smith said team bonding has been a priority for the women’s team, along with finding ways to keep practice light and fun. She said the team has hosted Zoom game nights and gone on hikes together. However, she said training in pods has made building the women’s team culture difficult due to upperclassmen being separated from freshmen.

“For me, the first years are not in my pod, so I don’t really see them,” Hoffman-Smith said. “I haven’t really interacted with them, so it’s a little harder to create a more unified team culture that way.”

Senior swimmer Stan Zaneski’s experience with training pods has differed from Hoffman-Smith’s. He is the only senior in a pool of freshmen team members, which he said has given him a different perspective on the sport as his last season has not gone quite as he hoped it would.

“The freshmen are looking at this semester as a way to get ready for next season when they have their first season,” Zaneski said. “But in my sense, I’ve had to really analyze, ‘Why am I here? What am I getting out of this? What can I get out of this?’ I’ve essentially had to pull myself away from, I want to swim fast and I want to do well, to ‘How can I support them and make this the best year possible for them?’”
Liberty League to resume spring sport contests

BY SYD PIERRE

Despite Ithaca College varsity spring sports being cleared to compete in the Liberty League conference this season, club sports teams worry about practice and training on campus during the spring semester but will not be allowed to compete. Some club sports teams have concerns about funding and safety heading into the semester.

Senior Dina Barossi, club sports assistant, said the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics said the club was allowed to practice and train on campus during the spring semester but will not be allowed to compete. Some club sports teams have concerns about funding and safety heading into the semester.

Currently, there are 27 competitive and semi-competitive club teams and 13 performance and recreational teams. Each team will be required to designate a safety officer, submit a safety plan and follow protocols like social distancing, enforcing mask-wearing and de-densifying facilities.

"Club sports do not have the same level of supervision to move forward safely at this time," Bassett said via email. "Hopefully, as we continue to make progress managing COVID-19 we will be able to continue to expand club sports involvement in a car for carpooling and implementing contact tracing for both the college and the farm. Teams members also wear masks unless they are mounted, as horseback riding is a naturally socially distanced sport.

Senior Megan Szuchman, captain of the women’s club softball team, said the softball team usually practices off campus at a field in Lansing, which costs $300 per practice session. "We feel that basically what they’re doing is getting on our bus and driving together when they get off the bus," Bassett said. "When we go to another campus, we won’t be going anywhere like restaurants — just that athletic facility. We’re not really engaging with the other campus.

Sophomore lacrosse player Andrew Tinnes said his biggest concerns starting competition again are remaining healthy as a team and being able to finish the entire season, since his first run with the Bombers was cut off last spring.

"The biggest concern for me now is keeping everyone around me safe," Tinnes said. "I really just want to play lacrosse again since our season got cut off last year. I’m really conscious of the regulations in front of us and feel like we have a chance to go all the way [through the season] as we keep following the guidelines."

Bassett said the president of the Liberty League are still discussing the potential of hosting one day of competition for fall and winter athletes during the last week of April. Tinnes said that hearing that the Liberty League is resuming competition motivated him to continue training hard.

"My first reaction was probably, ‘Thank God.‘" Tinnes said. "We have been practicing for a month — a month and a half during the week. So when you do that for a long enough time with your teammates, you start to lose hope. Everyone was really relieved, and it’s just another motivation for the season and the games to come."
Professor teaches course about women in sport

BY CONNOR GLUNT

The Park School of Communications introduced a new course this semester to highlight women in sports media.

The sports media program introduced Professor Staurowsky’s Women’s Sport Media Incubator, which is taught by Ellen Staurowsky, professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies. Staurowsky, who published the book, “Women and Sport: Continuing a Journey of Liberation and Celebration” in 2016, was recently brought back as a professor at the college in 2020. The class is centered around a semester-long research project and addresses the history and current events of women in sport.

Staurowsky said she wants her students to be able to refine their topics in the field of women’s sport media. “We as a department have just begun the research for the semester-long project and the research topic of the course,” Staurowsky said. “We’re making the research an integral part of the course. I really felt that the class should be able to have a voice in how they’re going to be doing the research and what they’re going to be doing. We as a department have just begun the research for the semester-long project and the research topic of the course.”

The goal is to eventually reach a conclusion of how to create change in the sports media industry. “It’s been a team effort to stay in contact with the students enrolled this semester and to continue the research,” Staurowsky said. “We’re fortunate enough that Ithaca College has decided to allow basketball to go back to playing, but the team is making the most of every practice together so far.”

Currently, Burton’s former position has not been filled, but the team has two assistant coaches — senior David Arillo and first-year graduate student Sebastian Alderete, a former student of Burton. “We’re making the most of every practice together. Ithaca College草 isn’t always greener on the other side.”

Sean Burton ‘09, head men’s basketball coach,oversaw practice Feb. 27 in Ben Light Gymnasium. Burton earned All-American honors three times as a Bomber.

Following a historic run to end the 2019–20 season, Jim Mullins, Ithaca College men’s basketball head coach, announced his retirement. The team looked to replace Mullins, it turned to one of the best players in program history.

Junior Jake Lentz said he is optimistic about the upcoming season. “We always tell the guys to control what they can control and not worry about what they can’t control. … They’re both great coaches, just in their own way.”

“We’re fortunate enough that Ithaca College has decided to allow athletics back on campus,” Burton said. “We’re following all of the protocols to make sure we’re safe and healthy throughout these workouts. It’s unbelievable to be back in person, working on our skill set, our communication and make sure our workouts are completed. Sinn said Staurowsky’s familiarity with the team assisted in the position change.”

“The course has 25 seats, and 14 of the students enrolled this semester are women. Staurowsky said it was the first and only class in the sports media major in which she has had more female students than male. Senior Alura Luggard said she was drawn to the class due to Staurowsky’s reputation and the course description. "I saw Professor Staurowsky’s class," and I really loved the idea of women in sports because I thought that thing is such a topic that people don’t discuss, and if they do discuss it, it’s very vague. Leggard said, "I think it’s something very important that people go into the understanding of if as well as just going into the understanding of just gender itself, gender and sex in sports.”

Sophomore Jake Lentz said an aspect of the class that he appreciates is the open discussions Staurowsky encourages. “We as a department can change the way we can get more women involved in sports media,” Lentz said. “For men, it gives them things to look for that they do without thinking that could be disrespectful towards women in the field. For women, it gives them a safer environment to talk about things.”

Contributing writer Kyle DeCarolis contributed reporting to this story.
Senior Samantha Healy competes in shot put at the intrasquad track meet Feb. 27 at the Athletics and Events Center. Healy's throw reached the 11.72 meter mark.