Religious groups keeps connected in creative ways

By Elizabeth Kharabadze

As Muller Chapel stands in empty serenity on the Ithaca College campus, religious groups are finding new ways to create open and welcoming community spaces for students in a virtual setting.

Although the college is open for both online and in-person instruction for Spring 2021, religious organizations continue to meet virtually. Muller Chapel itself is not currently open for the community, but Hierald Osorio, executive director for student equity and belonging, and director of the Office of Religious and Spiritual life, said the office holds regular weekly virtual gatherings for the college community. The office hosts meditation sessions at noon every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Students looking to engage with others in a spiritual environment can do so in one of the many religious groups on campus—the Catholic Community Church and the Ithaca College, the Muslim Student Association, the Christian Community Church and the Ithaca College, the Christian Fellowship (LCF), Hillel at Ithaca College, the Muslim Student Association, the Christian Community Church and the Ithaca College, the Muslim Student Association, the Christian Community Church and the Ithaca College, the Muslim Student Association, the Christian Community Church and the Ithaca College. Muller Chapel itself is not currently open for the community, but the office holds regular virtual gatherings for the college community. The office hosts meditation sessions at noon every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

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Education degrees in HSHP eliminated

BY JORDAN BROKING

Sophomores Adam Buttaccio and Jake Cole are health and physical education teaching majors at Ithaca College. Dreams of becoming teachers led them to choose their degree at the college—a degree that no longer exist in the near future.

The health education, physical education and dual degree in both health and physical education programs are among the programs to be cut as part of the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process.

“It’s a program that has existed for such a long time that it’s kind of weird that they just cut it with, my guess, no thought because of weird that they just cut it with, for such a long time that it’s kind of weird,” Buttaccio said. “I couldn’t imagine myself going anywhere else.”

Senior Molly Sear said she became a physical education major her sophomore year after initially enrolling in the college as a journalism major.

“I’ve been in this field for more than 30 years. … This has been the lowest point in my academic career.”

Prior to the Academic Program Prioritization Implementation Committee releasing its initial draft recommendations, Subramaniam said there were talks of the programs being discontinued. Once the cuts were announced, he said the teacher education faculty in the department wrote feedback.

“In the recommendations that the professors provided, the department spoke about the impact these cuts will have on the shortage of health and physical education teachers across the state, as well as the obesity epidemic. ‘The physical education and health care education teachers are directly involved with this obesity epidemic that we have in the country,’ Subramaniam said.

The APPC recommended that in the future, health promotion and physical education students may ‘opt to explore an M.A.T. [Master of Arts in Teaching] graduate-level initial certification pathway’ in collaboration with the Department of Education.

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Students form new Muslim student group on campus

BY ALEX HARTZOG

On her first day as a transfer student in Spring 2020, junior Kinza Ceesay went to Campus Center Dining Hall at Ithaca College to find that she was unable to eat any of the food being provided. None of it was halal, the religious dietary standard of Islam. Ceesay, outraged, vowed to make a difference at the college.

Together with freshman Mely Megahed Ramadan, senior-at-large for the Student Governance Council (SGC), she began the recognition process for a new club, the Ithaca Muslim Student Association. The council has yet to be officially recognized. This process started in February 2021 when the two decided they could do more than just give Muslim students access to halal food.

“Not having how small our community is, we can still make our voices heard as a community,” Ceesay said.

The club has five members that comprise the executive board and is looking for more members.

“We are a very open and accepting community looking for more people to work with and to hear from,” Megahed Ramadan said.

Ceesay and Megahed Ramadan met at an SGC meeting, and the two said they shared a desire to build a Muslim community on campus to provide a safe space for Muslim students. The student organization can also help students field questions and concerns rather than going straight to the administration or the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, Ceesay said. In 2017, students campaigned to have a Muslim religious leader at the college to support Muslim students and increase Muslim student enrollment at the college.

“Not having a student-led initiative, not having a place where students can take action on something that’s very close to their identity, I think it’s just so detrimental,” Megahed Ramadan said.

Ceesay and Megahed Ramadan reached out to Hierald Osorto, executive director for student equity and belonging and director of the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, in February 2020 to have him act as the club’s adviser. Osorto says he feels that having an organization for Muslim students provides the community a higher level of agency and visibility on campus. The organization will allow the community to have a unified voice that can interact with the college administration, Osorto said.

“They are continuing the work of others that have come before them who have raised awareness, so far, just because it is difficult to get something like this started,” Osorto said. “Not that students don’t want this to happen, it is just that we need more involvement to move forward.”

Sara Hafeeli, assistant professor in the Department of Music Theory, History and Composition and faculty advisor for MIL, said student interest in organizations with a goal of increasing diversity in repertoire and the School of Music curriculum can be traced back to 2015. She said Ithaca students engaged in BLM protests on campus in 2015 that sparked similar conversations to the ones happening today.

“Just being able to be there for individuals, to do something that have come before them who have raised awareness and representing themselves and representing themselves through their music, in a way that many people in the majority have the privilege of doing without even thinking about it,” she said.

As a new organization, the current student involvement of MIL consists of approximately three to four regular attendees for Zoom meetings and, on average, approximately 20 student for open forums, senior Grace Dashnow, marketing chair for MIL, said.

Press said student engagement has been low for most student organizations because of the COVID-19 pandemic pushing meetings and events online.

“Not having a student-led initiative, not having a place where students can take action on something that’s very close to their identity, I think it’s just so detrimental,” Megahed Ramadan said.

According to the Pew Research Center, traditionally been underrepresented musicians who are not white, and LGBTQ musicians face. "We are a very open and accepting community looking for more people to work with and to hear from," Megahed Ramadan said.

Club works for inclusivity in music

BY JILLIAN BLEIER

A new student organization on campus is supporting minority and underrepresented student needs in the Ithaca College School of Music.

Junior Malaya Press founded the Musician’s Intersectionality Initiative (MII) in February. The goal of MII is to create a safe and equitable environment in the School of Music for students and faculty by providing forums for discussions about curriculum and diversity and resources for students. Press said the increase in protests for the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement during this past summer alongside Pride month in June inspired her to gauge student interest on Facebook regarding the creation of her organization.

“When we are learning about music, it is very much just this one perspective that we are getting and that is not what the world is like,” she said.

Junior Caitlin Glastonbury, treasurer of MII, said one of the biggest goals of MII is to help students and faculty in the School of Music be more open to having uncomfortable conversations about the challenges that musicians of color and LGBTQ musicians face.

“We are aiming to create a space in which musicians who are not white, cisgender, heterosexual individuals in the School of Music are comfortable completely, outwardly themselves and representing themselves through their music, in a way that many people in the majority have the privilege of doing without even thinking about it,” she said.

As a new organization, the current student involvement of MII consists of approximately three to four regular attendees for Zoom meetings and, on average, approximately 20 student open forums, senior Grace Dashnow, marketing chair for MII, said.

Press said student engagement has been low for most student organizations because of the COVID-19 pandemic pushing meetings and events online.

“I think involvement is just the biggest challenge we’ve had so far, just because it is difficult to get something like this started,” Dashnow said. “Not that students don’t want this to happen, it is just that we need more involvement to move forward.”

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“It’s easy to only know what you constantly see being reinforced in mainstream recordings, what symphonies are playing, and sometimes you have to work a little bit to find these composers who have traditionally been underrepresented,” she said.

The Music Intersectionality Initiative was formed in February 2021 to help facilitate conversations surrounding the challenges that underrepresented students face in the School of Music.

Staff statement supports APP

BY MAKAYLA CAROZZOLO

The Ithaca College Staff Council released a statement March 15 in response to the recent dialogue surrounding the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process.

The Staff Council, which is the representative body for all non-faculty staff at the college, expressed confidence in the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the APP process in the statement. In the statement, the council emphasizes with the pain expressed by faculty colleagues who have been cut as part of the APP process. The council states that over the past year, staff members have been primarily impacted by cuts at the college, which are expected to continue this year. At least 264 staff members have been furloughed or laid off since March 2020.

“We believe that clear communication, transparent decision-making and compassion are critical elements for remaining strong as an institution and we hope that innovative ways will be identified to preserve faculty and staff positions whenever possible, but understand that in some cases it will not be possible,” the statement said. “We urge the administration to share and build with us their vision and hope for the future. We need tangible signs of optimism.”

The Staff Council wrote that the college had expected financial challenges and said the 1975-1997 administration of President James J. Whalen projected in 1994 that there would be enrollment challenges over the next 20 years. Staff Council said that the college was able on a path of change and that the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the need for change.

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College Pagan Community

Osoro said the office’s main goal for the semester is to build on underlying themes of beauty and connection.

“How do we create a sense of belonging that is important for folks when they gather?” Osoro said. “It’s important for folks when they come to the chapel to feel warmth. Then they can have said, ‘It’s important for folks every week,’ during the Purim Drag Show on March 27, the first night of the Jewish holiday.

Sophomore Isaac Schneider, vice president of Hillel, said the Purim Drag Show on Feb. 25 in celebration of the Jewish holiday.

Sophomore Marco Painter, director of communications for the IC Pagan Community, said there were both positives and negatives for organizing virtually.

The virtual world is fantastic to bring together Pagan who may not be able to open about their faith with others like them,” Painter said.

FROM VACCINES, PAGE 1

incentives for students to provide us with that information when we do the contact tracing process — if we know that you’re fully vaccinated, then we will help facilitate with the [Tompkins County] Health Department to provide that exemption,” she said.

Moylan said that to the college’s knowledge, a large part of the campus community is not vaccinated, which is why most of the college’s guidelines are not changing.

In addition to quarantine, the college’s travel guidelines are also still in place, Moylan said. The college has stated that travel is not permitted outside of Tompkins County except in emergency situations, and students must fill out the Emergency Travel Request form. Travelers into New York who are fully vaccinated are no longer required to quarantine upon arrival if they do not present symptoms.

Junior Lynnette Hartwell said that she has received her first dose of the vaccine and that her friends will also be fully vaccinated by the end of the semester. She said she is looking forward to being able to sit down and get dinner with them.

“Something I didn’t realize was such a huge part of my life the way that I lived it. I was planning to go see people over a plate of food,” Hartwell said.

Restaurants in New York state, excluding New York City, are now operating at 75% capacity for indoor dining as of March 19. However, restaurants must continue keeping six feet of distance between tables and patrons.

Junior Sebastian Fullerton got his first dose of the vaccine and said he is also looking forward to being able to sit out and eat with friends.

He said that overall, he is looking forward to just being able to spend time with friends indoors once they are all vaccinated.

Right now, when there are people around each other, there’s a little bit of nervousness,” he said. “I really can’t wait for that to be gone because I love hanging out with my friends, and I think it’s just time to get back to hanging out with them normally.”

Fullerton said he has not thought of any plans to make with friends post-vaccination, but just wants to be able to spend time with them.

Hartwell said her birthday usually falls during the college’s final week. She said she and her friends will be vaccinated at that point and are looking forward to being able to safely celebrate.

“I’m really looking forward to being able to be in person with them and get to see them again and hopefully be able to go out to a restaurant to celebrate. … Just part of that normalcy that we don’t have right now,” Hartwell said.

Fullerton said he is happy to see lessened restrictions and a slight return to normalcy as more and more vaccines roll out.

“But even though it’s going to be in its early stages so there might not be a whole lot of other people that have both vaccinations, I am looking forward to spending time with those people that I can’t wait to see,” Hartwell said she is looking forward to spending time outside with her vaccinated friends as the weather in Ithaca gets warmer.

“We could actually go outside and not have to be wearing 3,000 layers of clothes as the weather in Ithaca continues to moderate, and I do think we’re going to be able to go out to a restaurant to celebrate. … Just part of that normalcy that we don’t have right now,” Hartwell said.

Senior Connor Shea, president of the SGC, said the SGC was working on a statement but because they feel like they’ve done enough,” Senior Connor Shea, president of the SGC, said the SGC was working on a statement but because they feel like they’ve done enough,” Shea said. “What is more? What action are we going to do, right? And that’s where I’m stuck … we’re continuing to edit a statement about that issue of racism.

“I do feel like one of the problems that we have especially with our administration, is that they kind of write these kinds of emails and then they kind of wash their hands of it, because they feel like they’re done enough,” Scotti said.

Senior Connor Shea, president of the SGC, said the SGC was working on a statement but felt like it was not enough.

“We could release it, but it’s, like what more could we say? ‘What action are we going to do, right? And that’s where I’m stuck … we’re continuing to edit a statement, but my hesitancy is, it’s just words.’

And is that what our community needs, or is there being else that SGC can doing”
COVID-19 variants found in county

BY ALEXIS MANORE

There are now three different variants of COVID-19, all of which are more contagious or severe than earlier variants, in Tompkins County. In a March 22 statement, the Tompkins County Health Department announced that cases of the U.K. variant, the New York variant and the Southern California variant of COVID-19 have been sequenced in Tompkins County residents.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.K. variant was first detected in the United States in December 2020 and was first detected in New York state Jan. 4. As of Feb. 22, there have been a total of six cases of the U.K. variant in the county. The health department announced the first case Jan. 15. Another three cases were identified Feb. 3.

The U.K. variant is a more contagious variant of COVID-19. In January, experts in the U.K. stated that this variant may be associated with an increased risk of severe disease compared to other variants of COVID-19, but more studies are needed to confirm this finding, the CDC stated.

The New York City variant was first found in November 2020 and may both be more contagious and affect the infected more severely. The Southern California variant is also more contagious than other strains of COVID-19. The COVID-19 vaccines are less effective against these variants of COVID-19, but more studies are needed to confirm this finding, the CDC stated.

Another three cases were identified Feb. 22. While we’ve vaccinated nearly one-third of our residents, the disease is still present,” Kruppa said in the statement. “We have to continue making residents about an increase of COVID-19 cases in the county. As of March 24, there are 152 active cases in the county and 3,761 total positive cases since March 2020. "We’re vaccinated near.

COURTESY OF THE TOMPKINS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Reed responds to allegations

BY ALEXIS MANORE

U.S. Rep. Tom Reed (R-NY) took full responsibility after being accused of sexual harassment and announced he will not run for public office in the future.

Reed represents Ithaca, which is located in New York’s 23rd District, and was reelected to the congressional seat in the 2020 election. Reed was elected to represent the 29th congressional district from 2010 to 2015 and the 25th district from 2013 to 2023. In a Washington Post article published March 19, a former lobbyist accused Reed of sexual harassment and misconduct.

"In reflection, my personal depiction of this event is irrelevant," the statement said. "Simply put, my behavior caused her pain, showed her disrespect and was unprofessional. I was wrong, I am sorry and I take full responsibility." Reed stated that he will not run for public office in the future and that he will retire from public service Jan. 2, 2022.

Looking ahead, she has started part-time work in a small, local solar company and hopes that raising her husband’s business is acomplementary to the college. At her job, she will be able to return to teaching her students. She holds out hope that someday she will be able to return to teaching.

THE FACES OF AUSTERITY

Laboring for Love, Not Money

Julie Fromer, 51, lecturer in the Department of English, has taught at Ithaca College since 2012 and taught full time from 2005 to 2009. In between, she stayed home to care for her young daughters and wrote a book.

"I love teaching, and I think I'm good at it," she said. "My students seem to really respond to my teaching. I'll miss the interactions with students, I'll miss teaching. And I think I'm good at it." she said. "I miss being part of this community. This college has had a big impact on my life." Reed had previously considered running for governor of New York after Gov. Andrew Cuomo began facing backlash for multiple allegations of sexual misconduct and accusations that he had altered data about the number of coronavirus deaths relative to COVID-19.

THE FACET OF AUSTERITY...
Enrollment strategy presentation to be held for campus community

Laurie Koehler, vice president for marketing and enrollment strategy (MES), and members of the MES leadership team will hold the next Path to Progress presentation 10-11 a.m. March 26.

MES hosts Path to Progress, which is an ongoing series for the campus community. Presentations will focus on the unit’s priorities, including admission, retention, marketing and branding efforts, financial aid, enrollment engagement, and analytics and institutional research.

A Zoom invitation will be sent to all faculty and students. Individuals requiring accommodations should contact Mary Nann, executive assistant to the vice president of MES, at mes@ithaca.edu.

Senior Leadership Team changes reporting structure and personnel

Ithaca College President Shirley M. Collado has announced changes to the structure of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

The college is still searching for someone to fill the position of vice president for marketing and enrollment strategy but will not fill the positions of vice president, general counsel and secretary to the Board of Trustees.

The SLT has changed its reporting structure to accommodate the vice president, general counsel and secretary to the Board of Trustees vacancy. As of March 1, the Office of Legal Affairs is reporting to Vice President for Academic Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness, and the Office of the President.

This group consists of college counsel Emily Rockett; associate dean Phil Gauth, Title IX coordinator Linda Koenig; and Omar Stoute ’17, deputy Title IX coordinator.

Collado said this approach mirrors the use of existing resources and staff expertise that defined the transition plan for Office of the President and Administration, a plan that included the decision not to hire an interim vice president to avoid the additional expense.

Staring July 1, Dave Wel’87, M.S. ’89, associate vice president of Information Technology (IT), will join the senior leadership team as chief information officer. Wel’ 87 will continue to lead the whole of the college’s IT operation, which includes applications and infrastructure, engagement and client technologies, information security, and learning and innovative technologies.

Updated group fitness schedule features hybrid workout classes

The Fitness Center’s block four group fitness schedule is now available and features both Zoom and in-person classes. The block four schedule can be found at https://www.ithaca.edu/fitness-center/group-exercise.

Registration will open 48 hours prior to the scheduled class start time and will close 30 minutes beforehand to allow the staff time to send the Zoom meeting invitations. Visit recreation.ithaca.edu to register.

Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact Sean Reilly, associate director of recreational sports, at sreilly@ithaca.edu or (607) 274-3294. Requests for accommodations should be made as soon as possible.

Politics department hold event to celebrate professor emerita

The Department of Politics is hosting a virtual symposium honoring the retirement of Asma Barlas, professor emerita in the Department of Politics.

The symposium, “Reflections on Identity, Race and Colonialism, and Islam,” will feature a keynote lecture by Barlas, “The West, Islam and the Mirror of Difference.” This event will be held 3–7:30 p.m. March 26, with the keynote lecture beginning at 4 p.m. The event was originally scheduled in 2020 but was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The symposium is a chance for alumni and others to share reflections about the work they did in Barlas’ courses on the topics of Islam, Race and Colonialism, and the lived experiences by expatriating, the process of repatriating and the challenges associated with this and the challenges of transnational migration in sport psychology practitioners.

In this qualitative study, participants highlighted the positive influence that their transnational training experiences had in their personal and professional lives.

The full article can be found at https://tinyurl.com/n9ba8rzn.

Two Canadian geese honk and swim at the pond outside the Muller Chapel on March 21. March 20 marked the first day of spring, and Canadian geese can be seen around campus as they migrate north for the spring and summer.

Geese honk for start of spring in Ithaca

A two-day police search for a missing person was unable to find a man who had been reported missing.

The full public safety log available online at www.theithacan.org.

KEY

SCC – Student Conduct Code
V&T – Vehicle & Transportation
AD – Assistant Director
FO – Fire Department

AD – Assistant Director
V&T – Vehicle & Transportation
FO – Fire Department
Anti-Asian discrimination is a virus that must end

Racism is ingrained in America. America consistently subjects people of color to exploitation and abuse—the mass shooting in Atlanta is a disgusting byproduct of centuries of systemic racism.

When news broke that yet another attack on Asian Americans occurred, mainstream American news outlets prioritized objectivity over empathy. Coverage from outlets like The New York Times stated that it was not clear whether the attacks were racially motivated. A Georgia official said the shooting suspect was merely having a “bad day.” The suspect told police his “sexual addiction” motivated him to carry out an act of terrorism.

A “bad day” does not justify murder. Neither does fetishization. Six of the eight victims were of Asian descent, and four of them were Korean. All but one of the victims were women. Racism and misogyny are the unfortunate answer. Eight people had their lives stolen. Eight families are unjustly being condemned to continuous “bad days” because of a white man’s anger.

Like many institutions, the Ithaca College administration responded to the attacks. It offered the campus community an insufficient email that stated a motive remained “unclear” and called on the community to create “a society that is inclusive and equitable and that values the lives and experiences of everyone.”

As a predominately white institution, it is not enough to just offer respect or sympathy—people of color on campus have been waiting for years to see actionable change.

Anti-Asian violence is racism, and it will not be solved by hollow rhetoric that does not recognize how deeply institutionalized these systems are within our society. Go beyond offering solidarity. Educate yourself on policies that have harmed the Asian American Pacific Islander community, speak out against Asian stereotypes and discuss the fetishization and objectification of Asian women.

We must challenge racism by altering our rhetoric and advocating for actionable change.

‘Wellness days’ do not alleviate college stress

Several “wellness days” dispersed throughout the semester do not provide the relief of a traditional spring break. They instead offer a mere pause—assuming that professors do not load up on assignments in order to compensate for losing a day of class.

In addition to classes, editors and staff members on The Ithacan take part in hours of work throughout the week. After seven weeks of exhaustive reporting at The Ithacan, we are taking a week off. Two of our last three wellness days fell on main production days for the paper, meaning we just had more time to work—there was no break.

Between classes and a nonstop news cycle, our editors, reporters, fact checkers, photographers and multimedia content creators deserve time to stop and recuperate. The work is fulfilling, and we are grateful to be in these positions, but we also need time to rest. The entire college community does.

We are overcoming a pandemic, collegewide changes and the individual challenges life presents. All of us need more than one day to even begin recovering.

While some professors are trying to be accommodating, workloads remain overwhelming. Considering the pandemic and its individual hardships, random days off do nothing to alleviate the stress students are under. Professors also deserve a break. Constant work with hardly any time off is exhausting. Studies have shown that time off from school can lower stress, decrease risk of heart disease, improve one’s outlook on life and increase motivation. More than ever, an actual break—not just a day to catch up on work—is essential.

Students are drained. Professors likely are as well. No one is thriving because of a couple of days off. This semester is not breezing by, and it is wearing us all out. We should prioritize sustaining our mental health in general, but even more so during a pandemic.
GUEST COMMENTARY

Why I choose Manolos over men in terms of love

BY ANGEL SOHU

One of my biggest joys in life is buying a new pair of shoes. The feeling of grasping a pair of boots made of Italian leather, sheepskin, etc., is such a euphoric moment for me — almost orgasmic. I’ve always wondered why buying new shoes brought me so much joy. As I grew older, I began to realize a pattern. I tend to have an urge to buy a new pair of shoes every time a romantic endeavor fails.

Why is it easier for me to find a pair of Manolos Illicitas on sale at Saks than to find a man who will wave hello to me when he sees me in public? I can blame men as a whole, but that always makes me feel cruel. I can blame myself, but that’s not healthy. The one plausible reason I can think of is something that is always swirling in the back of my mind, and forever will, whether I like it or not: Men are embarrassed by me because I’m a trans woman.

Finding love as a woman is already hard. Add being a woman of color on top of that, and it’s even harder. Now add being a trans woman of color, and the concept of finding love seems like a fairytale. As a trans woman, you are constantly being tested: Constantly having to worry about being feminine enough, wondering if someone actually likes you for you or if they fetishize you for something out of your context. You have to prove to cisgender society that you are a real woman.

I love love, but to say I haven’t partly given up on it would be a lie. Nowadays, I take what I can get. I’ve taught myself not to complain about the misfortune I endure. What I’ve learned through my troubles with love is that I don’t have many options. I don’t have the privilege to be picky in choosing my “prince charming.” I can either settle for what I’m being offered, or be alone.

At the moment, I’m fine with filling that void by ordering a new pair of strappy sandals or leather sneakers every week. A pair of Sam Edelman booties may not cuddle me at night and kiss my forehead, but at least they’re forever.

ANIEL SOHU is a senior CMD major. Contact her at asohu@ithaca.edu.

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Why is it easier for me to find a pair of Manolos Illicitas on sale at Saks than to find a man who will wave hello to me when he sees me in public? I can blame men as a whole, but that always makes me feel cruel. I can blame myself, but that’s not healthy. The one plausible reason I can think of is something that is always swirling in the back of my mind, and forever will, whether I like it or not: Men are embarrassed by me because I’m a trans woman.

Finding love as a woman is already hard. Add being a woman of color on top of that, and it’s even harder. Now add being a trans woman of color, and the concept of finding love seems like a fairytale. As a trans woman, you are constantly being tested: Constantly having to worry about being feminine enough, wondering if someone actually likes you for you or if they fetishize you for something out of your context. You have to prove to cisgender society that you are a real woman.

I love love, but to say I haven’t partly given up on it would be a lie. Nowadays, I take what I can get. I’ve taught myself not to complain about the misfortune I endure. What I’ve learned through my troubles with love is that I don’t have many options. I don’t have the privilege to be picky in choosing my “prince charming.” I can either settle for what I’m being offered, or be alone.

At the moment, I’m fine with filling that void by ordering a new pair of strappy sandals or leather sneakers every week. A pair of Sam Edelman booties may not cuddle me at night and kiss my forehead, but at least they’re forever.

ANIEL SOHU is a senior CMD major. Contact her at asohu@ithaca.edu.

Ithaca College has failed its survivors for too long

BY ROSWELL ECKER

Trigger warning for abuse, assault.

When Ithaca College announced Dr. Shirley M. Collado as our next president in 2017, I (alongside much of the campus community) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psychology and community (and cisgender) was thrilled; as a woman of color and a psyc

To anyone who needs to be listened to, Roswell Ecker ’18 offers their shoulder. They stated no one is alone in this, and community members deserve to be heard.

ROSWELL ECKER is a 2018 Ithaca College graduate. Contact them at roswellecker@outlook.com.
Prospective students deserve transparency

BY MEGAN HANDLEY

Anyone who knows me knows that I love my school. When I came home from my personal campus tour in 2018, I knew I had to go to Ithaca. I said something to my mom that I love my school. When I came to Ithaca College, the thing that bothering me most was when I felt committing to Ithaca, the thing that over 15 college tours before coming to Ithaca, the thing that
main hindrance would be not being able to meet prospective students in person, but the biggest roadblock has come with my dedication to transparency. As a tour guide, my number one priority is honesty. Having been on over 15 college tours before committing to Ithaca, the thing that bothered me most was when I felt like I was walking through an hour-long advertisement. I remember wondering how it could be possible that everything about a school was positive, that each institution was this pillar of academia and personal progress. I haven’t compared the public high school I attended, where at least half of the students were only there out of obligation. Leaving my high school tour, I thought this idea of perfection was the case. Even though my tour guide had been honest about how cold it was and what the food was about what you’d expect from a dining hall, everyone around me seemed to be glowing; they were all laughing in groups, advertising clubs or simply just studying something they wanted. I wanted to...

What’s not okay is impersonating perfection, hiding bruises showing clearly on the surface.

– Megan Handley

And now I’m here, giving tours and telling prospective students whose shoes I was once in that the food is, in fact, par at best. But now, I have to handle something new entirely – I’ve cracked through the facade the college advertised. I’ve seen the administration talking in near riddles to explain essential rules regarding COVID-19 or faculty cuts. I’ve spoken to a favorite professor on the edge of losing their position. I’ve gotten sick (as all first years inevitably do). I’ve made friends who didn’t last. But, in the end, I also made friends who did, and those are the people that have made everything more than worth it.

But how do you tell all of this in a Zoom panel with wide-eyed students who haven’t been able to set foot on a college campus, one they’re supposed to soon be paying thousands of dollars to? How do I tell them you, it’s terrible what’s happening with our faculty, and I’m not happy, but I still wouldn’t choose anywhere else to get my college education? It’s been a process of learning how to bridge this disconnect, especially through learning how to express love for something even when you’re at odds. But one thing I know for certain. We won’t make any progress toward making this place one that matches the glowing advertisement without having an open conversation about it. It’s okay to not be perfect, nothing in life is without flaws. What’s not okay is impersonating perfection, hiding bruises showing clearly on the surface.

GUEST COMMENTARY

How will Ithaca College proceed in years to come?

BY THOMAS PFAFF

Recent commentaries have suggested that the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and faculty have differing views on how to enact the practices of transparency and shared governance,” and that “moving forward we need meaningful collaboration.” Is the definition of transparency really in question? What gives us hope that the SLT might act differently in the future?

The SLT has repeatedly refused to state the amount of their pay cut even when Cornell’s administration has done so, instead allowing speculation that the pay cut was little to nothing. They have consistently refused to engage in meaningful dialogue with, and instead have admonished, the Open the Books coalition and its student activists. Weeks ago, the College’s American Association of University Professors chapter sent a letter with questions, and the letter has yet to be acknowledged, let alone received.

The IC shameless Austerity group repeatedly asked to meet with the SLT about the Academic Program Prioritization Implementation Committee (APPIC) in an open Zoom format; instead, we were told that we need a 12:1 student-faculty ratio, based on historic averages instead of finances or quality of education. Now we are told the college will be around 4,300 students in the next few years, putting us back to a 10:1 ratio. Is 12:1 really that important, or will more faculty be cut? Our historically weak yield has declined further the last few years, especially when compared regionally. Meanwhile, New York state colleges saw a 4% decrease in enrollment this past year, while IC was down around 15%. All of this leads to real concerns about the decision-making and fiscal future of the college.

These examples provide clear evidence of a lack of transparency, openness and shared governance and don’t inspire hope for the future. To change this narrative, I would like detailed responses to the following questions that allow for the campus community to ask follow-up questions. Faculty live in a world of peer review, and that process often improves our work, and these questions are put forth in that spirit.

1) How did the SLT arrive at 5,000 students? How will 5,000 students be distributed across campus effectively? Programs need a minimum number of students to offer an appropriate selection of upper-level classes.
2) What are the budget projections over the next five years? Please address how we will close our deficit. Include details of projected revenue and cost.
3) The brand that is Ithaca College has taken a step backward. Morale is low. Please provide an overview of how you will improve this situation. Simply telling faculty we will have travel money and raises isn’t inspiring, since we already had that.

The campus community looks forward to the SLT’s responses and engagement in a peer review process so that we all understand our current situation and future. I would be happy to address any questions the SLT may have.

THOMAS PFAFF is a professor at Ithaca College. Contact him at tpaff@ithaca.edu.
THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2021

DIVERSIONS

sudoku

By United Media

ACROSS
1 Cow’s “second course”
4 Relish
8 G lip
12 Before, to bards
13 He directed
14 Gov. division
15 Humiliate
17 Can
19 Comedian — Costello
20 Money repository
21 Kind of soup
23 Dash size
26 Straw roofing
29 Conservative
31 Roulette color
32 Cargo unit
34 Bored and tired
37 Prosecutors, for short
38 Complain bitterly
40 Latin dance
41 Bored and tired
45 Funny Charlotte
46 Prom place
48 Male vocalists
50 Mallard cousin
52 Caustic solution
54 Unpaid, as a bill
55 Kind of turf
56 Ireland
58 Eristwhile
59 Country auto
62 Large deer
63 Any woman

DOWN
1 Stop
2 Built-up
3 Unhearing
4 Zuider —
5 Subway opposite
6 Location
7 Pollute
8 Pierre’s st.
9 Prosperous (hyph.)
10 GI address
11 Heat meas.
16 Fall mo.
18 — degree
21 R2-D2’s owner
22 Oddjob’s creator
23 British rule in India
25 KGB counterpart
28 Store info
29 Brandy glasses
30 Banned bug
32 Cyclist starter
33 Big lug
35 Teacup handles
36 Double helix
39 Speak falsely
41 Pulls down
43 Wrap up
44 Wake up
46 Unduly severe
47 Mountain feature
49 True
51 Depot info
52 Open meadow
53 Puppy plaint
55 Stomach muscles
57 Shoe width
59 Nome’s st.

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The Sudoku Source of “The Ithacan”

last issue’s crossword answers

ACROSS
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57 Shoe width
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sudoku

easy

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Answers to last issue’s sudoku:

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medium

very hard
ICTV crews return to in-person production

BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

Last March, the studios of one of Ithaca College’s longest running programs, Ithaca College Television (ICTV), were silent and empty. However, after nearly a year of remote production, the cast and crew have finally returned to the studio. This time, students are working with a slew of new COVID-19 guidelines, including reduced numbers of crew members, staggered schedules and increased equipment sanitization.

Senior Steven Blenner, ICTV’s station manager, has been involved with ICTV since his first year at Ithaca College. When the pandemic shut down ICTV indefinitely last March, Blenner was serving as both its master control supervisor and associate director of technical operations. He assumed the position of station manager last May during the pandemic. Blenner said that this semester, ICTV has 22 shows in production, and all of the shows that needed studio time were able to get in. Two shows, “Good Day Ithaca” and “The Inside Scoop,” are being produced entirely virtually, while the other 20 have varying proportions of in-person and virtual production.

Blenner said one of his challenges is finding a way to consolidate the responsibilities of what used to be a large number of crew members into just a few. Additionally, Blenner said he has had to redistribute these responsibilities without overburdening the few members of the crew that remained. There is now a capacity limit of five to six crew members in the control rooms and studios. Blenner said he had merge roles, like reducing the number of camera operators from four to two — where there used to be one operator to a camera, there is now one person operating two cameras.

Blenner said he was also confronted with the dilemma of wanting the on-camera talent to wear masks while filming. However, this would alienate some viewers who are American Sign Language lip readers. So, Blenner allows the talent to take off their masks but only while filming.

Sophomore Hannah De Chalais, a business management major, is back in the studio as the anchor for “ICTV Reports” in Studio B in the Roy H. Park School of Communications. Her experience was being in the studio with friends creating.

“I think people are just happy to be back in the studio,” De Chalais said. “It gets stressful sometimes, but I think overall a lot of people are just happy to still be able to get the experience that they want and need. It’s still a good time. The stress doesn’t outweigh the experience. We’re still learning to deal with these changes, and it’s a good experience.”

Although sophomore Khimi Auerbach is learning in person this semester, she said most of her work can be done virtually. Despite being the assistant producer for the sports show “Ready Player Up” and an editor on the mockumentary show “A Piece of Art,” Auerbach said she hasn’t been on set yet this semester.

Sophomore Riley Grond operates a camera during the March 17 filming of “ICTV Reports” in Studio B in the Roy H. Park School of Communications.

“I’m very torn about it,” Auerbach said. “Part of me is like, it is nice because I don’t really have to go anywhere to do what I need to do. It’s all in front of me, which means less walking for me. … But I do kind of miss the energy of being in a studio or a set with people and being able to work with other people.”

The on-air talent has had a different experience. While senior Madison Moore is back in the studio as the anchor for “ICTV Reports with Madison Moore,” her time in the studio is limited.

Sophomore Jodi Resnick adjusts the white balance on the camera to prepare for filming the ICTV show “Sketch Me If You Can” in Studio B on March 21.

Due to concerns of COVID-19 transmission, Moore said the cast and crew try to get in and out of the studio as quickly as possible. Pre-production, like writing the script — which used to be done in person — has become virtual. The producers also create and print out shot lists for the cast and crew so that everyone in the studio can know and perform their role beforehand without congregating near one another. After filming, they discuss how the day went on Zoom.

“It’s just a bit of extra planning on our end and making it work and kind of rolling with the punches,” she said. “There were definitely a lot of things that when we get into the studio that we had to figure out how to do.”

Sophomore Jacquelyn Chin is ICTV’s director of on-air promotions this spring. Most freshmen who join ICTV are new to the elements of studio production. However, unlike her peers who are learning for the first time, Chin was fortunate enough to attend a high school with its own TV set. So, when Chin showed up to the studio in January, the studio environment was familiar to her. However, the reduced studio capacity that she was confronted with was unfamiliar.

“It is really different,” Chin said. “Normally I would know who is in the control room and be able to talk to them and then see what’s happening when I’m waiting and not in the studio in front of the cameras. It’s really weird because I haven’t set foot into the control room whatsoever because there’s already a lot of people in the crew.”

Freshman Jodi Resnick adjusts the white balance on the camera to prepare for filming the ICTV show “Sketch Me If You Can” in Studio B on March 21.

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Students step back on stage for live concerts

BY GRACE AZAULA

Masked instrumentalists sit six feet apart, waiting anxiously to perform on the stage at the Ithaca College School of Music for the first time since the start of the pandemic. A small crowd files into the seats of Ford Hall, smiles underneath their masks as they get settled.

This semester, students at the School of Music have adjusted to a hybrid format of practice and performance. As of March 15, in-person concerts at the James J. Whalen Center for Music are accessible to students and faculty with limited seating. Concerts that require more space or have a larger number of performers are open to those with an invitation.

In order to re-open Whalen safely, Interim Associate Dean Jeff Walz said she created a 36-page return plan featuring extensive research and safety precautions. Walz said this plan was then condensed into a webpage that shows the current safety plan and all the precautions that status. Whalen can be at a green level, the lowest level.

Instrumentalists must maintain 6-12 feet of distance and vocalists must maintain 12-20 feet of distance when performing. Groups and ensembles featuring aerosolized instruments, like wind instruments or vocalists, are required to maintain incremental increases with 25 minutes of space in between for the room to be aired out in an appropriate manner. Appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE), like masks and bell covers, must be used when performing in groups.

As the level, all of the same precautions are expected, but students are allowed to make more decisions about their PPE and it is encouraged to use accommodation that is pre-recorded or remote. At the orange level, solo practices are permitted, but students must use PPE at all times. Live performances for students in their final semester must be reviewed by the IC Health and Safety group and will only be livestreamed. All instruction must be virtual. At the red level, there is no performance, rehearsal or instruction permitted in the building.

Senior Alex Renzoni, a music education major, said rehearsing in an in-person setting was nerve-wracking at first. “It’s definitely been a learning curve,” Renzoni said. “I’ve had to readapt myself with being comfortable in large groups and measure myself that we’re all taking the precautions that we need to be safe. But overall, I do feel safe.”

Walz said the school’s in-person committees that discussed safety measures for aerosol producing instruments and general classroom safety.

It really is a huge school-wide collaboration in a place that’s been very dark for all of us in the School of Music, something that we’ve needed. Not just wanted but it’s in our blood it’s in our souls, we need it.”

Senior Anthony Pilcher, vocal performance major, said that although it is nice to be performing in person again, it has been stressful adapting to the new COVID-19 guidelines. “It’s honestly been extremely stressful,” Pilcher said. “Even just from an emotional standpoint, because I am giving a senior recital later in the semester, just knowing that my parents or any of my friends that aren’t students at the school can’t attend is kind of sad but then even just from a logical standpoint, it’s been super hard to try and plan things.”

Kiebell said there are approximately 100 live concerts booked for this semester as compared to approximately 210 live concerts performed in 2019. Kiebell said the numbers are lower this semester because elective recitals were not scheduled in main halls, there are no guest artists and remote students are not performing live.

Luke Klingenmuth, webcast services coordinator for the school of music, said that in addition to live performances, all perfor mances will be livestreamed and approximately 50% of performances will be recorded, whereas only approximately 5% performances were livestreamed and recorded before the pandemic.

In order to keep up with the high demand, Klingenmuth said he hired more student video operators to operate controls, compile the videos from pan tilt cameras and mix audios for the livestream. Klingenmuth said he had to get rid of the score readers who would look at the scores beforehand and decide what types of shots and production details could be added to enhance the performance.

Scheriber said that within the music field at large, he hopes musicians remain creative and continue making new music.

“I hope people don’t stop creating,” Schreiber said. “It’s scary, going into a field that doesn’t have a clear path. And with the world right now, everyone wants some stability. I just hope that people are brave enough to keep putting out content that they feel impacted by and that they think impacts others.”

CONTACT GRACE AZAULA
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Pop star and actor graces IC Zoom screens for Q&A

BY BRONTÉ COOK

For many 20-somethings, the name Jesse McCartney stirs an intense sense of nostalgia. The 55-year-old singer-songwriter came on the scene in the 2000s and is known for songs like “Beautiful Soul” and “She’s No You.” He is the epitome of an early 2000s heartthrob. Many of the participants came prepared with questions to ask the singer, including one about cooking.

On March 22, the Ithaca College Bureau of Concerts (BOC) hosted a virtual meet and greet with McCartney for students at the college March 22.

The Ithaca College Bureau of Concerts (BOC) hosted a virtual meet and greet with Jesse McCartney, musical heartthrob of the 2000s, for students at the college March 22.

COURTESY OF ITHACA COLLEGE BUREAU OF CONCERTS

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COURTESY OF ITHACA COLLEGE BUREAU OF CONCERTS

Jesse McCartney, musical heartthrob of the 2000s, for students at the college March 22.

COURTESY OF ITHACA COLLEGE BUREAU OF CONCERTS
The art of the director’s cut is a long-standing and occasionally fruitful Hollywood tradition. Classics like Ridley Scott’s “Blade Runner” and Francis Ford Coppola’s “Apocalypse Now” have each received substantial changes that garnered positive reassessment. However, the extent and nature of the changes that form “ Zack Snyder’s Justice League” place the film in a category of its own. The end product becomes an expensive, reassembled epic that does its best to fix everything that can, sometimes coming up short.

The original budget for 2017’s “ Justice League” was $500 million, a tremendous gamble for Warner Bros. in the early stages of the theatrical superhero movie trend. During the film’s production, these stakes grew after the studio pushed back a launch date, fired Snyder from the director’s chair, and then replaced him with Joss Whedon. “ Zack Snyder’s Justice League” now runs 242 minutes, while Snyder’s version clocked in at a staggering 212 minutes. While many rejoiced that Snyder would finally see his vision realized, many were disappointed with the manner in which he presented his final product was a mish-mash of ideas. Snyder’s eye for action. Snyder puts his extraordinary skills as a director to great use, employing dynamic visual geography to heat things up. He shoots each set piece and then pumping it full of slow-motion hero shots. Snyder also adds screen time. This dutifully adds to the film’s running time. The creative team behind the Springsteen’s Maniac, Batman’s abilities at playing the brooding, haunted Bruce Wayne with his largest canvas, Snyder paints deliberately and with his vision of a DC universe, something that no one else could replicate in sheer ambition.

The general plot remains largely untouched — alien creature Steppenwolf (Ciarán Hinds) wants a handful of metallic cubes to sum

A handfull of metallic cubes to sum

and is partially tucked away under a thick layer of visual grain. Still, some of the new effects like the background scenery in the climactic battle look rushed and possibly rendered too quickly.

“ Zack Snyder’s Justice League” is an overflowing monument of cinematic escapism. It appeals to the most childlike desire to see a band of superheroes and one rich man dressed as a bat duel it out with bad guys on the biggest green screen money can buy. A four hour runtime may seem like a daunting task, but the film affords more than enough spectacle to make it worth the investment. With “ Snyder’s Endgame” in the rearview and Marvel focusing on smaller projects like series “ WandaVision” and “The Falcon and the Winter Soldier”, the premiere of gangan

expected of Gomez. Its electronic-influenced bilingual dance track resembles what is expected of Gomez. Its electronic-influenced
to Gomez’s in this seductive

distinguishes soft vocal stylings like never before. Within ballads, like “ Vicio”, the slow tempo allows her singing to adopt a soothing

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TRANSITION TO CONCERT

The accompaniment plays to Gomez’s

Stern’s new projects like series “ WandaVision” and “ The Falcon and the Winter Soldier” have been an intense experience for the cast and crew. The decision to release the final product in two parts was a difficult one, but it was the only way to deliver the story as envisioned by director Joss Whedon. “ Zack Snyder’s Justice League” fulfills fans’ dreams of joining the superhero

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When head coach Hannah Quintana’s days as a Bomber, Quintana said the tradition came from former graduate assistant Mary Vande Hoeft ’06 who played at Central College in Pella, Iowa.

“It was a tradition that Central had,” Quintana said. “Central is always a program we really admired, so when she was here as a graduate assistant and started talking to coach [Deb] Pallozzi [former head softball coach] about this tradition, we felt like it fit our culture really well.”

As the freshmen settle into their roles on the team, their teammates and coaches evaluate which jersey is best for each new player. Quintana said that being a part of the program previously and knowing more stories makes the process even more special for her.

“How a graduate of 2007, I have a connection with some of the older alumni and know more stories about the team from the ’80s, ’90s and 2000s,” Quintana said. “I get to add some great history when we are trying to pick out numbers.”

Along with the jersey they receive, the players receive a packet of letters from past recipients of the jersey telling them about the Bomber way.

“One of the most meaningful points in the tradition is the packet of letters that have been written by past number recipients,” Quintana said. “Being able to give out those letters to our first-year players keeps the Bomber connection alive.”

Junior outfielder Hudson Hassler received the number nine jersey to wear for the next four years of her time as a Bomber.

“When I was given my number, I looked at all the previous nine’s statistics and was amazed at how talented they all were,” Hassler said. “One number a few years ago, and in the letter, everyone talked so highly of her and her hardworking attitude. I hope to carry on that tradition of working as hard as I can and giving as much as I can to the program.”

Quintana said the number nine for Hassler was such a clear fit for her due to her work ethic and talent. The decision was easy for her and the other players to make.

“Looking back at some of the nines I had the pleasure to play with, Stahl Coddington ’95 comes to mind,” Quintana said. “She had a motor that wouldn’t quit and played with laser-focus. Hudson embodies those two things, and she is just having a blast with everything we are doing and as hard as she is working.”

Jessica Fleck ‘17 wrote her letter to future players right after she graduated. She said she hoped her letter would inspire players the same way she was inspired. She said she looked at all the previous nines’ statistics and was amazed at how talented they all were, “One of the most meaningful points in the tradition is the packet of letters that have been written by past number recipients,” Quintana said. “Being able to give out those letters to our first-year players keeps the Bomber connection alive.”

Freshman Ainsley Rogers pitches for the Ithaca College softball team. She wears number 30. COURTESY OF ITHACA COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Freshman Hope Warren wears number 26 and plays first base and outfield for the Bombers. COURTESY OF ITHACA COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Freshman Belle De Oliveria represents number 15. She plays outfield for the Bombers. COURTESY OF ITHACA COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Freshman Hudson Hassler wears number nine. She plays outfield for the team. COURTESY OF ITHACA COLLEGE ATHLETICS

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Students create football docuseries

By Emma Kersting

Over a year after the 2019 Ithaca College football season, a team of 12 Ithaca College Television (ICTV) students completed production on a three-part docuseries following the team through its season.

The docuseries, “Pride and Poise: Journey to the Meadowlands,” will release one episode from March 25-27. Each episode can be viewed on local television and the ICTV YouTube page. The docuseries begins with the resumption of competition for many of her athletes.

“The idea was to find one of the sports that had the most possible footage we could access to it, and that narrowed it down to either football or basketball, pretty much,” senior Matt Clement, line producer on the film, said. “I was planning on producing two shows [for ICTV]. … When that got canceled, we were kind of scrambling for what we were going to do.”

Aside from finding footage in archives, there were plenty of challenges in the production of the docuseries, like editing remotely and acquiring footage from multiple sources. “Making a documentary is challenging,” Bampos said. “But making a three-part docuseries completely remote is like walking through a minefield or an obstacle course — there’s just so many things that get thrown at you.”

Bampos and senior Lee Folger, assembly editor on the project, would sit on video calls with each other for hours at a time during the pandemic, Bampos said. “Long editing would take hours for hours at a time three or four weeks from October to February. If the team was on campus with no COVID-19 safety restrictions, editing would be the responsibility of a small team rather than one person. Remote production also extended how long editing would take.”

Folger would also have to edit the interviews of members of the football team, media members and head coach Dan Swanstrom.

“I think of this myself where there’s no chance that I could have finished this in six months,” Bampos said. “This would have taken me two years.”

Teams travel to compete for first time

By Connor Glunt

Ithaca College spring athletes have waited nearly one whole competitive season after having their 2020 spring seasons canceled due to COVID-19. Once the Liberty League announced that there would be a spring season this year, teams were able to breathe a sigh of relief.

Spring athletics will look different this year compared to previous seasons, especially on the road. This year, spring sports teams will only compete at away events, according to the schedule, compared to over 100 last year. With the exception of the women’s crew team going to Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, on May 8, all other regular season competitions will be played within the state of New York. There are also rules and protocols in place like mandated mask-wearing outside the field of play and no overnight stays for away events.

On March 6, the men’s and women’s track and field teams competed in the Nazareth Invitational at Nazareth College in Rochester, New York. This meet marked the first event that any of the Bombers had traveled to since the resumption of competition.

Jennifer Potter, women’s track and field head coach, said the long-awaited return to official competition was an emotional experience for many of her students.

“We’d be back together after almost a year (social distancing of course) and I again get to do what I love to do and have very good people.”

Freshman runner Katrina Gomez said that while the invitational followed a traditional format in terms of the events themselves, there were notable differences in preparation for the meet. Athletes were only permitted inside the arena when they were warming up for their events or competing and had to go to another location after. “Because the men’s and women’s track and field teams do not have a suitable outdoor facility on South Hill, all of their meets will be at opposing schools.”

The baseball team also traveled out of town March 20 to face off against Elmira College. After the team returned from its 8-7 win, first-year graduate student Buzz Shirley said the new protocols gave traveling a different feel.

“This is just another roadblock in the way of us coming to success, but we don’t let that get us down,” Shirley said via email. “After all, it was the win that we won on the bus, obviously in our seats maintaining our distance, but hooting and hollering.”

Senior Garrett Callaghan said that on team buses, athletes are required to wear their masks and maintain social distancing rules. This means that there is no eating or drinking and that there is one person per row of seats. Callaghan said that while these changes are noticeable, they are worth it if it means they can play this season.

“Baseball is a game that’s meant to be played with players spread out,” Callaghan said via email. “The protocols really aren’t affecting our performance at all because it is really easy to stay six feet apart on a baseball field.”

In the grand scheme of things, it is not a big deal at all.”

The baseball team’s schedule includes six four-game series, each with a home and away match. In past seasons, the team would typically travel not in the middle of a series. The current schedule is designed to cram in as many games as possible.

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“The team typically would not travel to Elmira but that comeback fueled its success in the March 21 games.”

Women’s sports deserve equity

By Emily Adams

When Division I women’s basketball teams arrived in San Antonio for the NCAA national championships, they were expecting the royal treatment that men’s tournament players in Indianapolis had planned. There are no NCAA photographers at the men’s event to credentiate for the moment — at least, that’s what the NCAA says. The sportswomen and coaches at the women’s tournament had to dementiate to cover the event on their own, in the darkness of their social media accounts.

The now-infamous photos of the single dunk during UTSA’s wild win over Connecticut are a reminder of the problems that have existed for many years. While subpar food and gym space are major concerns, there are also issues with accommodations and marketing that are much longer-term problems.

It was revealed that the participants in the women’s tournament were tested using PCR COVID-19 tests, which are considered the most accurate test available. The NCAA chose to use rapid antigen tests, which are cheaper, for the women’s tournament. It’s a decision that was made in the name of recognizing and limiting media access. Even if outlets want to provide equal coverage of both tournaments, the NCAA has made that impossible.

The NCAs’ response to public backlash was arguably the most concerning part of the controversy. When push came to shove and the NCAA was forced to reconsider, it did not re-examine the men’s tournament. The NCAA’s ability to get its story straight is incredibly telling. The only explanation for its backtracking and inconsistencies is that it was not prepared for the outrage.

The NCAA never expected anyone to be upset by the obvious and observable differences between the men’s and women’s tournaments. This is the root of the problem. The NCAA knows that the inequity exists, it simply does not care.
From left, sophomore Isabella Reyes and junior Jessica Perro dance at an IC Unbound Dance Company practice March 21 in the Ithaca College Fitness Center. In order to hold in-person rehearsals, the company is requiring dancers to follow safety precautions, like wearing masks and dancing while distanced from each other.