

IC VIEW

THE MAGAZINE OF
ITHACA COLLEGE

FALL
'20

HEALING IN A TIME
OF TURBULENCE

WORKING TOWARD
A JUST FUTURE

Hope
in action



PHOTO SUBMITTED



PHOTO BY ADAM BAKER

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👉 To read about how Ciara Lucas '17 and other alumni are covering COVID-19 in the news, visit ithaca.edu/icview.



PHOTO BY DANIEL GREY

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THE MAGAZINE OF
ITHACA COLLEGE

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MISSION: *ICView* is the magazine of the Ithaca College community of alumni, parents of current students, employees, retirees, supporters, friends, and neighbors.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



PHOTO BY ADAM BAKER

THE ISSUE OF ICVIEW that you are reading right now is both a call to action—and an affirmation of our bold, innovative roots as an institution.

As a college community—and as a nation—we are walking through an incredibly difficult time, grappling with two very different but equally gripping pandemics: the public health crisis brought by COVID-19 and our ongoing reckoning with this country’s deep systemic racism.

Institutions of higher education are not immune to either, and, as you’ll read in these pages, Ithaca College, with our strong commitment to serving the public good, is stepping forward into both realities with strength, courage, and hope.

But this moment is testing us as an institution, and I believe we have all the right attributes to prevail during this uncertain and challenging time. The climate created by the public health

crisis has accelerated our existing plans to realize many of the goals and objectives of our strategic plan, Ithaca Forever. Our college community created this plan just two years ago, and I know we have the courage to embrace a future that will be very different from the past.

This academic year, we are fully focusing on four key areas: supporting our students’ transformation as learners and as people by pushing the envelope of innovation in our teaching, learning, and engagement; carefully and wisely recalibrating our approach to this institution’s financial health by growing areas of potential and ending programs, practices, and structures that can no longer sustain us; doubling down on our commitment to be an employer of choice and a national model for student success by walking the walk of our institutional commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion; and, prompted by the direct and unavoidable impact of COVID-19, reframing and restructuring the ways in which our campus functions to ensure that we are contributing to the health and safety of our college and Ithaca-area communities, particularly as we support our intention to welcome all students, faculty, and staff back to campus this spring.

I am proud that even in the thick of this unprecedented and historic moment, our actions and our decisions continue to be guided by our institutional values of academic excellence, accountability and respect, equity, sustainability, and innovation—and by our unwavering commitment to our students.

What we do in the next two years will shape the future of Ithaca College and keep us IC strong together. A lot is at stake. This institution’s history is full of moments like this: moments of major transition that have called upon individual people—alumni, community members, faculty, staff, students—to act boldly and fearlessly to embrace innovation and courageous thinking; moments that remind us of our worth as an institution of higher education, and inspire us to honor and serve our communities.

This is the time when we, as an IC family, shine.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'S. Collado', written in a cursive style.

SHIRLEY M. COLLADO
President



QUARRY DORM PARKING LOT IN 1960. PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM LEVIE '63

THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE SNOW BUSINESS

We asked you to share your memories of college snow days, and we got some great responses. A number of you also commented on the @icalumni Facebook page and shared your memories. A lot of you remembered the blizzard the day before spring break started in 1994. Here's what you remembered from that time it snowed on South Hill.

The members of the IC orchestra were asked to stay to play for May graduation. It was 1976, '77, or '78. It snowed that week—in May!

STEPHANIE BERTCH TRACHTENBERG '79

Blizzard of '93 because we couldn't get back from spring break, and a storm (blizzard?) in '94 the day before spring break began. I remember shoveling out neighbors, so they could catch their flights to warmer locations!

WENDY BORST '94

School didn't close but I had to have some guy friends walk me to class! I weighed about 98 pounds, and the sidewalks were full of ice and the wind was blowing so hard that I couldn't stand up. I think the last year I was there, it snowed on May 28th? Good times!

JEANNE MERRITT BOSWORTH '68

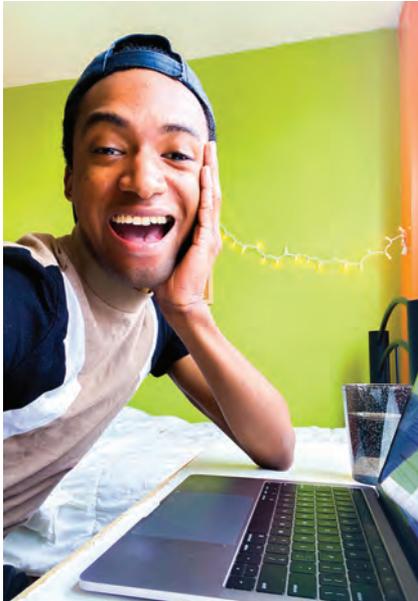
I remember two snow stories during my time at IC. First was a blizzard on February 21, 1973 (I believe that was the year). I remember the date as it was my birthday. The campus and all local roads were closed. Only snowmobiles were allowed on the roads. Second, and more remarkable, was mid-May 1974. I was finishing my junior year, and my parents had driven up from Baltimore, Maryland, to bring me and my things home. I remember my mom wore only a sweater as outerwear as it was May. It was snowing that day, and we got at least two inches of snow while loading the car.

CAROL ROBINSON REYNOLDS '75

The blizzard of '78, my freshman year. It snowed about three feet, and you couldn't see a single car in the Terraces parking lot. It took people a whole day to get their cars accessible.

JAMIE SPILLANE '81

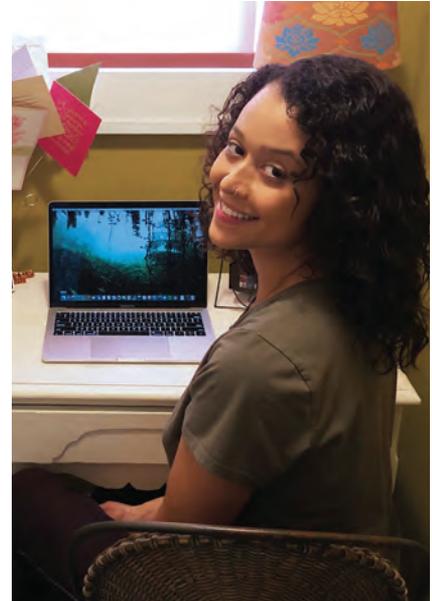
ON SOUTH HILL



Malick Mercier '21



Grace Collins '23



Leah Aulisio-Sharpe '22

PHOTOS SUBMITTED

DISTANCED BUT NOT DISCONNECTED

For the most up-to-date information regarding the college's plans, please visit [ithaca.edu/return-to-campus](https://www.ithaca.edu/return-to-campus).

This fall, Ithaca College announced that it would extend remote instruction through the fall semester in response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

“Bringing students here, only to send them back home, would cause unnecessary disruption in the continuity of their academic experience,” said President Shirley M. Collado. “I know this decision to continue remote learning through the fall is disappointing, and it does not reflect what any of us had hoped for. But I sincerely believe this is the correct and responsible choice for Ithaca College to help protect the health and safety of our students, their families, our faculty and staff, and our Ithaca-area communities.”

Though the campus may have looked different on the first day of classes this year, students were still able to experience a vibrant and engaging fall semester.

In preparation, faculty had the opportunity to participate in the Summer Institute: Flexible by Design, offered by IC's Center for Faculty Excellence. The institute taught faculty members how to better use technological tools to create engaging synchronous class sessions, communicate more clearly and frequently with students, set up more effective online learning environments, create community in remote

classes, and adjust the workload for remote learning, so students don't get overwhelmed.

“In these uncertain times, we need to design our courses to be flexible, to be effective for students no matter their circumstances and needs,” said Judith Ross-Bernstein, assistant director for the Center for Faculty Excellence.

Lisa Farman, assistant professor in the Department of Strategic Communication, said she changed course policies to accommodate students and create the best experience possible, based on the latest research in teaching, learning, and inclusive design.

“While I will miss our usual classroom experience and can't wait for things to get back to normal, I am really excited about the new ideas and improvements in my teaching that will make my classes better, not only for this fall, but also for the future,” she said.

Camilo Malagón, assistant professor of Spanish, added, “Students are not just a number or a line on my roster, they are individuals, and I want to recognize the difficulty of being in college today, while supporting them and encouraging them as they engage deeply with their intellectual goals in the classroom, virtual or physical, and beyond,” said Malagón. “The Summer Institute provided faculty with tools, theoretical and practical, to achieve that important balance between flexibility and rigor.”

➡ To read more stories about how IC's faculty adapted to remote instruction, visit [ithaca.edu/innovative-learning](https://www.ithaca.edu/innovative-learning).

SENIOR CAST IN WEST SIDE STORY ON BROADWAY

Dharon Jones '20 made his Broadway debut this past February, when *West Side Story* opened at the Broadway Theatre. Jones was featured in a story by *The New Yorker* this past January when he was cast to be Action, a member of the Jets, a Manhattan street gang. Later, it was announced that the acting major would take on the role of Riff, leader of the Jets, after his castmate suffered an injury.



PHOTO BY COLLIER SCHORR FOR THE NEW YORKER



PHOTO SUBMITTED

MUSIC FACULTY MEMBER WINS AWARD

Steven Banks, an assistant professor of saxophone at IC, became the first saxophonist to win the Young Concert Artists International Auditions, a prestigious award that has launched the careers of many world-renowned musicians in its 58-year history. Banks received one of four first prizes after the final round of the 2019 auditions last November in New York City. The award presents winners in debut recitals in New York and Washington, D.C., and offers a three-year comprehensive management contract to book performances around the world.



PHOTO BY ANDREW FRASZ

BUSINESS SCHOOL RECOGNIZED

The School of Business had its accreditation by AACSB International—the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business—extended last spring. Considered the hallmark of excellence in business education, AACSB accreditation has been earned by less than 5% of the world’s business programs. IC’s School of Business has been accredited since 2005.

Specific highlights of this year’s review include the Professions Program and the MBA in entertainment and media management. The report states: “The new MBA program is a terrific example of drawing on Ithaca College’s strength and working across schools to achieve interdisciplinary new program development.”

The report also lauded the close working relationships between faculty and students, and engagement with the

larger business community. As examples, it listed the Rev: Ithaca Startup Works Idea Demo Day, the Business Plan Demo Day, entrepreneurship mentoring, student participation in the Hardware Accelerator program to develop prototypes, the High School Investment Competition, the Market Maker Business Awards, and the trips to the Berkshire Hathaway Annual Shareholders Meeting.

The School of Business was also named a top undergraduate business school by *Poets & Quants for Undergrads*, a news outlet that covers business education. The school was listed as 61st in the nation in the 2020 ranking. Other top schools include the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and the Stern School of Business at New York University.

PHOTO BY SASHA ISRAEL '07



TRUSTEE NAMED CEO OF J.CREW

Alumna and IC Board of Trustees member **Jan Singer '86** was named the chief executive officer of international apparel retailer J.Crew last February. Singer, who majored in business and psychology at IC, has more than 25 years of experience working in fashion for iconic brands including Nike, Chanel, Prada, and Calvin Klein. In its announcement, J.Crew noted Singer's experience growing and modernizing omni channel brands and her deep understanding of the modern consumer.

IC SIGNS PHARMACY DEGREE AGREEMENT WITH BINGHAMTON

IC entered into an articulation agreement with the Binghamton University School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences this winter that will allow students to transfer into Binghamton's doctor of pharmacy program after three years of undergraduate study at IC. This 3+4 program will give qualified students the opportunity to complete their bachelor of science degree through coursework taken in their first professional year at Binghamton. As a result, the students in the program will have a lower cost of attendance, and they will benefit from the cross-sector collaboration between the private and public institutions, two main objectives of the Ithaca Forever strategic plan.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF
BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

CAROL SERLING LEAVES HER MARK ON IC

Carol Serling, a longtime supporter of Ithaca College, passed away on January 9, at the age of 91. The widow of the late Rod Serling, Carol had served for 18 years on the Ithaca College Board of Trustees and was named an honorary trustee in 2002. Carol and Rod met while both were attending Antioch College, from which she graduated in 1950 with a degree in psychology and education. She served in a variety of volunteer and civic roles for many years, and she was a passionate steward of Rod's legacy following his passing in 1975 while he was serving as a visiting professor at IC.

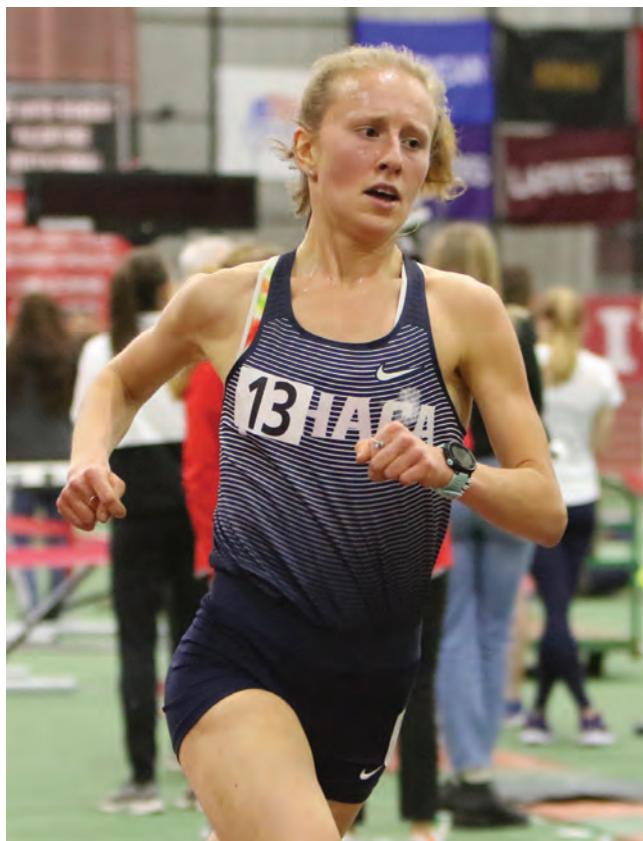
Carol served as associate publisher and consulting editor of *The Twilight Zone* magazine, project consultant for 1983's *Twilight Zone: The Movie*, supervising producer for the 1994 television film *Twilight Zone: Rod Serling's Lost Classics* and executive producer of the current CBS All Access revival of the *The Twilight Zone* series, hosted by Jordan Peele.

Carol began donating examples of her husband's work to Ithaca College and then continued her generous gifts over the years to help establish the Rod Serling

Archives as the largest single collection of television scripts and screenplays by the extraordinary writer. The collection also includes his six Emmy Awards; original typed scripts for most episodes of *The Twilight Zone* series; unproduced scripts; and photos, films, and books from Serling's personal collection.

She helped endow the Rod Serling Scholarship in Communications, which is awarded to students in the Roy H. Park School of Communications who demonstrate outstanding creative scriptwriting ability, and she regularly contributed to other scholarship funds at the college. Carol also took a central role in establishing the annual Rod Serling Award for Advancing Social Justice through Popular Media, which is presented to a contemporary media industry professional whose work shines a light on prejudice, inequality and evolving social norms.

Survivors include her daughters **Jodi '74** and **Anne**, grandsons **Samuel Serling-Sutton '11** and **Ryan Rothstein-Serling '12**, and granddaughter Erica Serling Petersen.



NATIONAL HONORS FOR TRACK AND FIELD COACH AND STUDENT-ATHLETE

Last spring, head women's track and field coach **Jennifer Potter '92** was named the 2020 Division III National Indoor Women's Head Coach of the Year by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA). Additionally, **Parley Hannan '20** was named the USTFCCCA's National Indoor Track Athlete of the Year.

At the time when the NCAA canceled all spring and winter championships, the Bombers were ranked No. 2 in the country and were strong contenders to win the indoor team championship. The squad had qualified student-athletes in 10 different events for the NCAA Indoor Championships. The team spent the entire season ranked in the top six in the country and spent two weeks at No. 1, the first time the program had ever been ranked in the top spot.

"Coach Potter launched the process of preparation for this year in earnest last June," said **Susan Bassett '79**, associate vice president and director of Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreational Sports. "She reviewed and analyzed every aspect of the program and led her staff

to prepare her team to earn a No. 1 national ranking. Knowing her process-oriented work, I am so happy that she [was] acknowledged by her peers with the National Coach of the Year Award."

Hannan, who was in her first season on the team, became the second Ithaca student-athlete to win the USTFCCCA's National Athlete of the Year award, following pole-vaulter **Katherine Pitman '17, DPT '20**, in 2018. At the time of the season's cancellation, Hannan was ranked first in the country in the 3,000-meter run, 5,000-meter run and mile, while also running on the top-ranked distance medley relay team. Earlier this year, Hannan set a Division III record in the 5,000-meter run with a time of 16:05.36. During the fall, she won the school's first-ever cross country national championship.

"Parley Hannan is without a doubt among the very elite Bomber athletes of all-time," Bassett said. "This was a breakthrough year for her in every event with each performance building on the last. She seems to have just scratched the surface of her potential. It has been a true joy to watch her compete."



Katie Paccione '12 in full PPE

PHOTO SUBMITTED

HEALING IN A TIME OF TURBULENCE

BY CHARLES MCKENZIE

IN A WORLD obsessed with finding and managing “the new normal,” the mega-storm of the coronavirus brought unrelenting squall lines of “the new worst.” Those who went out to meet it were among our best. But before we knew them as frontline heroes and essential workers, many of them were Ithaca College students.

IN MARCH, funeral director **Jonathan Green '09** was on a conference call getting projections from the Fairfield, Connecticut, health department.

"I remember thinking, 'These numbers can't be right. They must be thinking statewide,' only to find out they meant locally," Green said. Fairfield County alone had more deaths at the time than 34 states combined. "Everything just happened so quickly, and, as we were watching the news, the numbers they were reporting just grew exponentially. It was like watching a wave coming in from the ocean, where you see it from a distance, but you can't grasp the size of it until it's already on top of you."

When **Katie Paccione '12**, a registered nurse, approached the room of a COVID-19 patient for the first time, she willed herself forward. "We've been hearing about this. It's real now, and you can't turn around," she told herself. Part of everyone's reaction was due to the staggering workload, and part of it was worrying they'd get infected, or worse, that they'd spread it to others. "Every time you walk into that room you have to wonder if this is it," Paccione said. Single and both living alone, she and physical therapist **Victoria Rainaud '13, DPT '15**, volunteered to work with COVID-19 patients in hopes of sparing their colleagues who have families and/or medical conditions that make them more vulnerable to contracting the virus. "I'd want to take the hit before them," Rainaud said.

Doing his best to protect his patients and his own family, infectious disease doctor **Jay Sellers '05** adheres to strict protocols for personal protective equipment (PPE) and does his best to digest the daily volumes of guidance that come in. Knowledge is power, but information can drown you. With 25 years of experience in 45 countries on her résumé, **Melinda Frost '88** is a risk communication expert with the World Health Organization, helping not only with epidemics and pandemics but also with "infodemics," which occur when an overabundance of information makes finding a solution more difficult or even paralyzing. Sometimes just locating answers to simple questions can become impossible. Another part of her job is creating simulation exercises to test how entities would communicate during an emergency. Frost, who formerly worked for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said, "If I had ever designed a simulation exercise like COVID-19 with the scale and the speed...and the communications challenges that we faced, people would have simply not accepted it—or almost

laughed at it—because it would seem almost too unrealistic."

With COVID-19, it was the speed that killed, largely because the surges overloaded the medical system. With every swell of new patients, swamped health care workers thought that they must be hitting the crest. But each time the tide rose, they rose to meet it.

People, places, and things morphed into different kinds of people, transformed places, and new things as the searing heat and high pressure of the disease welded, molded, and remodeled. For example, physical therapist **Madeline Arena '13, DPT '15**, worked in an operating room that was transformed into an intensive care unit. Health care administrators **Anna Rosenblatt '12**, **Greg Lee '19**, and **Teresa Craugh '19** helped turn a mall parking lot into a

drive-through testing site. Previously on ventilators, some patients awoke to find themselves inexplicably adrift in a neon sea of theme park ponchos and hotel shower caps—makeshift substitutes for scarce PPE.

Nursing students like **Angela Grumley '17**, who was sent home from her Columbia University graduate program, were called to hospitals at New York's COVID-19 ground zero. In her first hours, Grumley saw death and a rebirth. Registered nurses like Paccione became overnight experts in the virus. Office-based physical therapists like Rainaud, given the option to sort supplies in the hospital's warehouse, chose instead to work in a COVID-19 ward in a hospital with one of the highest numbers of cases.

During easier times when they were all Ithaca College students, none of these people could possibly have imagined what they were headed for. So, even though most have said that this is what they signed up for, they never could have provided informed consent for something like this. But as their raucous neighbors have poured their appreciation into city streets at 7 p.m. every night, these heroes have said that—on most days—the coronavirus reaffirmed their decision to become frontline workers.

Their vignettes may be stories of people who were lost or stories of people finding themselves, tales of things received or things sacrificed, scenes of impossible days and decisions or scenes of resilience and reason, stories of jobs and businesses upended or stories of flexibility and nimbleness. But perhaps the most shocking part of the pandemic is that, from despair, we can find hope.

These are their stories.

“It was like watching a wave coming in, where you see it from a distance but you can't grasp the size of it until it's already on top of you.”

— Jonathan Green '09



PHOTO SUBMITTED

FINAL JOURNEYS: WAVES OF GRIEF AND HOPE

On one end of a March 26 conference call was the health department, and on the other was **Jonathan Green '09**, along with other funeral directors from Fairfield, Connecticut—a beach and college town about 60 miles north of New York City. The department was assessing their needs and conveying the latest COVID-19 statistics and projections.

In the preceding 48 hours, Fairfield County had doubled its number of cases, hospitalizations, and, most relevant to the people on the phone, fatalities. Of all the COVID-19 deaths in the United States at that point, 2% were from their county alone.

A frontline medic returning from World War II, Green's grandfather had built the Jewish funeral home in 1948. Outside, the marquee lists only the first two generations of funeral directors: Abraham L. Green & Son. Inside, Green the son and Green the grandson listened to the officials' projected numbers. Although the Greens have been

surrounded by the stages of grief longer than they've been called the "stages of grief," the shock and denial hit hard.

This is just so far beyond anyone's expectations," said the sociology major. "We knew it was coming, yet it felt so unexpected. We just didn't know how and when."

In the weeks following, most of their services were livestreamed. In-person events were limited in attendance and density. The funeral home faced long delays and had some of the same issues as the medical community in procuring personal protective equipment. Green said he hardly saw his wife, **Emily Rosenthal Green '09**, who works—now from home—for the Audubon Society.

Though some members of the Green family work together, most of them did not spend much time together this past spring. The family especially grieved the loss of their beloved Passover gatherings, but they're working together in hopes of better times to come.

👉 To read a Q&A with Jonathan Green '09, visit ithaca.edu/icview.

PROTECTING THEM WHILE THEY PROTECT US

ONE OF THE ICONIC AND ENDURING IMAGES OF PARENTHOOD IS a child rushing to greet a parent coming home from work. As with so many other things, COVID-19 has changed that. More parents are staying home, for one, but for frontline medical personnel like **Dr. Jay Sellers '05**, that formerly bright part of his day only happens after one last battle with the coronavirus beast.

With so much time spent on the front lines of the health care crisis, Sellers, an infectious disease specialist, and his wife, a pulmonary doctor, are both terrified of infecting their family with the disease they've been fighting for months. So their two daughters (both under four) must wait for warm welcomes until scrubs are carefully peeled off in the garage and thorough showers are taken as their parents perform their final defense of the day against disease transmission.

The primary barrier between COVID-19 and the Sellers family is thin and ephemeral, as throughout the day gowns, gloves, goggles, face shields, and masks—the personal protective equipment (PPE) so important to frontline workers—are donned and doffed, all in a very particular order. At the end of the day, and sometimes even at the end of each patient visit, Sellers methodically removes them.

Unfortunately, the rough workdays, especially now, may be even harder to shed, particularly in a two-doctor family. The couple withstands double the exposure, both to the virus itself and to the mental toll it takes. They debrief when there's time. Sellers's wife, Subhashini Sellers, is on the COVID-19 response team at the University of North Carolina Hospitals, treating the most critically ill patients who are often on ventilators in the intensive care unit.

Back in early January at a regular committee meeting, Sellers's team had taken about five minutes to discuss the novel coronavirus that had appeared in Wuhan, China. But within weeks, the virus essentially became the sole agenda item. It was in late March that he saw his first confirmed COVID-19 patient.

"I remember thinking to myself, 'I hope all of this PPE is on correctly and it will hold up because this is the real deal.' I wasn't sure how sick the patient was going to be, if they were going to be coughing a lot, or how much I was going to be exposed to the virus," he said. "But then, as the weeks progressed, I got more comfortable with the personal protective equipment and got more confident."

When Sellers removes his PPE, literally his every move is meticulously watched by a hospital staff member and

compared to guidelines designed to prevent contaminating the wearer. As it is in surgery, one false move could cost a life—his own, others, or both.

"The sequential order is very helpful, and we also have, for lack of a better term, a 'spotter' who will help you don and doff the equipment. The person will tell you, 'Okay, now take off your gown. Now take off your goggles. Now take your gloves off with this hand.' The spotters do a great job. They've even said, 'Wait. You just contaminated yourself right there with your left hand, so you need to wash again.'"

Katie Paccione '12 still remembers the first time she donned the full PPE gear and walked into a COVID-19 room

in New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center. "There was a moment of holding my breath, not because I thought that if I breathed in I would get infected. I was like, 'Okay, here we go.'"

She understood the weight of the moment better than she'd understood the weight of all the gear: "It still feels heavy, and especially by the end of the shift, everything hurts because of that weight. But it felt especially heavy that first time."

PPE is hot and sweaty, too. More than once, Paccione's face shield slipped off completely, and she also nearly passed out from the heat—all potentially serious incidents that she lightly files under "oh, snap!" moments.

She said the question has never been whether she would get sick but when: "Every time you walk into that room, you have to wonder if this is it."

Fear of catching the virus is a strong motivator said Susan Salahshor, a physician assistant who is the founding director of a new physician assistant program being launched soon at IC*, but the pressure to take physical precautions takes a mental toll.

"There has to be a healthy level of fear for you to say, 'I need to be careful what I do,'" she said. But when does that healthy fear become something counterproductive, obsessive, or scarring? "That's a very gray line, and that gray line is very thin. Almost every health care worker knows someone who has died, and of course they remember that episode. They know it only takes one mistake."

Victoria Rainaud '13, DPT '15, a physical therapist working in New Jersey, always has her guard—and appropriate PPE—up, even with patients who aren't yet known to be COVID-19 positive. "You're going to be safest if you assume everyone has it. And that's what we did, and so far, so good."

"I remember thinking to myself, 'I hope all of this PPE is on correctly and it will hold up because this is the real deal.'"

— Dr. Jay Sellers '05

*This proposed program has not yet been reviewed or registered by the New York State Education Department. This proposed program has not yet been revised or approved by ARC-PA, the accrediting body for physician assistant programs.



STRETCHING THE SUPPLY

The “everyone has it” philosophy has taken its toll on some of the supplies at the hospital in central New Jersey. “At one point, we had to reuse gowns, so we’d figure out who was definitely positive because you can use the same gown with them. For patients under investigation, you can’t.”

When they ran out of the bouffant caps that typically cover the head and hair, they noticed that the surgical gowns came wrapped in a sterilized cloth.

“So we’re recycling that sterilization wrap and using it as a bandana to cover our heads, and then you just throw that out at the end of the day,” she said. “Then I wear my N95 mask with a surgical mask, and I wear goggles, gloves, and gowns, and this is for the majority of the patients that we’re seeing. It’s a big setup to go into a room to work with a patient for a short amount of time and then come out and start all over again.”

Rainaud estimates that the changing process takes between 5 and 10 minutes. One day, she saw 14 patients, so that could be almost a quarter of a day spent just changing gear.

Madeline Arena ’13, DPT ’15, who also works at New York-Presbyterian/Columbia, saw the depletion of the PPE supply. But when donations of masks and 3D-printed face shields began to materialize, she and many of her coworkers at the hospital became better equipped.



IC MAKING PPE

At the local level, face shields were also being supplied to health care workers in Ithaca and the surrounding area thanks to some fast-acting Ithaca College professors and staff. In late March, when New York Governor Andrew Cuomo publicly asked any companies and individuals who were capable of producing personal protective equipment to do so, the IC community jumped into action on scales both large and small.

When Jeff Golden, director of general services at the college, heard Cuomo’s announcement, he said that a light bulb went off. “It occurred to me, print operations manager Glen Harris, and warehouse associate David Westgate that we were in a position to produce a lot of stuff pretty quickly,” he said. “So we talked with executive director of auxiliary services Dave Prunty about what we needed to do to get it up and running.”

Using college equipment and materials, such as the four-by-eight-foot sheets of plastic used for on-campus signage, the group printed a large number of face shields quickly to help meet local needs. They hope to print medical masks eventually as well.

With their initial printing, they sent 1,000 shields to the William George Agency, a nonprofit residential learning center for young men and women, and they donated 1,000 shields to the Cayuga Medical Center in Ithaca. Arnot Health, which covers parts of southern New York State and northern Pennsylvania, also placed a request for 1,000 shields.



Top: Victoria Rainaud ’13, DPT ’15
 Middle: Dr. Jay Sellers ’05
 Bottom: Madeline Arena ’13, DPT ’15

“Our production capacity is based on supply, to some degree,” Golden said. “But we could probably print up to 10,000 face shields a week. We’re in a unique spot to help with this, and we’re glad to do it.”

Susan Allen, professor of environmental studies and sciences, donated a LulzBot TAZ and an Ultimaker printer. Those and other supplies were distributed to associate professor of physics and astronomy Matt Price, Dana Professor of Physics and Astronomy Luke Keller, assistant professor of physics and astronomy Jerome Fung, and instructor of computer science Roy Westwater.

Westwater, who is also the founder and lead mentor of the robotics team at Charles O. Dickerson High School in Trumansburg, New York, had access to two printers from the high school in addition to his personal one. He and his son, Max, who was a senior robotics engineering and computer science major at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, turned their home into a makeshift print shop.

“We’ve got printers running 10 to 12 hours and the capacity to produce hundreds of pieces of PPE a week,” Westwater said.

Across the country, third-generation entrepreneur **Mike Miller ’84** of Minneapolis-based textile manufacturer Airtex Group/Acme Made pivoted his manufacturing operation at his Minnesota facility. The company was founded during the 1918 flu epidemic as a bag manufacturer, and for decades, its sandbags defended the Midwest from countless mighty floods. In April, he redeployed his workforce, going from making home textile products such as window treatments, pillows, throws,

and products such as cases and bags, to sewing gowns, nonsurgical face masks, and face shields. The company says the gowns are disposable level 2 isolation gowns and are made using recycled medical-grade materials.

The North Carolina infectious disease doctor, Sellers noted an outbreak in nearby Raleigh in mid-April, saying that he felt like he spent all day going from one set of PPE into the next. His group, Raleigh Infectious Diseases Associates, saw 10 new COVID-19 patients, and he personally saw five of them.

“I remember just putting all the PPE on in the emergency room and thinking, ‘Wow, this is a historic thing that we’re involved in, and it’s going to change the way that we practice medicine and how any of us interacts with each other.’ That was a crazy time, suiting up for five different patients in five hours.”

For health care workers using the PPE, every ounce of extra protection could literally be life or death. Each time Sellers, the infectious disease doctor, wears the PPE, he’s carefully saving patients. Each time he carefully takes it off, he’s saving those around him, including the two adorable little reminders of his day’s vigilance. When he gets home, their innocence and sweetness are just the right medicine.

“Sometimes, I just need to go home, decompress, and do Cosmic Kids Yoga with my daughter. That can really help a lot.”

For the two Sellers children growing up during a global pandemic, that’s what will have to count as a playdate for the time being. And when the shower door opens at the end of the day, what emerges isn’t a frontline hero so much as a mom or a dad—and sometimes a yoga partner.

“It’s a big setup to go into a room to work with a patient for a short amount of time and then come out and start all over again.”

– Victoria Rainaud ’13, DPT ’15



An employee of Airtex sews level 2 disposable gowns.

PHOTO SUBMITTED



Students from the course Contemporary Ensembles in the Public Schools stitched together videos from multiple singers and added video effects for their year-end concert.

NOTES FROM THE PANDEMIC

Nearly 500 years ago, King Henry VIII of England dismissed his court and pulled together a quarantine squad, which included his doctor and his top musician. Across the world and throughout time, musicians and music fans have used the art to soothe their isolated souls. And these days, music to the ears might even take the form of a chime, a horn, clanging pots and pans, or a soothing cacophony of them.

CAN YOU FEEL THE LOVE TONIGHT?

At 7 p.m. in New York and other cities, horns honk, sirens blare, and pots and pans clang a patchwork of gratitude that blankets semi-muted cities in a heartfelt attempt to salute the work of medical personnel. Although these essential workers are the guests of honor, the hoopla is a gift they didn't ask for at an event they never imagined they'd have to attend. Their goal every day is to save lives, eradicate the virus, and render the greatly appreciated nightly celebrations unnecessary. So while they work long, hard hours in a city not often known for its effusive praise, they soak it all in.

"Hearing the seven o'clock cheer is really overwhelming," said **Madeline Arena '13, DPT '15**, a physical therapist in Manhattan. "Sometimes I just stand in my window and cry because I'm shocked at how much people appreciate what we're doing, and sometimes I don't even have to go to the window. It's super loud. People are outside dinging cowbells and banging pots and pans, and yelling.

"The only thing that keeps me going, honestly, is the 7 p.m. shout-out," said **Dr. Edward Goldberg '83**. "I'd say at least three times a week, that brings tears to my eyes." On some nights, he joins in with a pot and a pan. The gastroenterology and internal medicine doctor has seen the virus from two perspectives. After catching it from an elderly patient, he spent two lonely but asymptomatic weeks in his Manhattan apartment, away from his fiancé, Ron, and his two dogs who remained in their home upstate. Goldberg would sit at his piano noodling or playing his favorites. "Any Elton John, Billy Joel, or a good Sondheim song. He has a song called 'Being Alive,' which I've found myself being attracted to." In it, the singer proclaims: "Alone is alone, not alive. Somebody, crowd me with love. Somebody, force me to care. Somebody, let me come through. I'll always be there, as frightened as you, to help us survive, being alive. Being alive. Being alive!"

SPRING AWAKENING

But nowhere celebrates being alive like the hospitals. Many have a special song or sound they play when a COVID-19 patient is released or extubated. Cheering health care workers sometimes line the halls as triumphant patients are wheeled out. One woman rose and briefly danced her way into her car. Physical therapist **Victoria Rainaud '13, DPT '15**, listens for the sublime chimes at CentraState Medical Center in New Jersey. For Arena at New York–Presbyterian

Hospital/Columbia Medical Center, it's the Black-Eyed Peas singing, "I've got a feeling (woo hoo) that tonight's gonna be a good night." Arena keeps a rough mental count of how often it plays in a day as a kind of barometer.

"At the beginning, it was very rare, but now I think I hear it like 10 times a day, which is awesome," Arena said. "When I hear it, it kind of puts me back into my groove." She said at the peak, she was having horrific days, "and then I would hear that song broadcasted, and I'd be like, 'Okay, good things are happening. I have to keep going. Let's do this!' It was just kind of like a reset moment when you heard it."

GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY

Fran Toscano '14 is glad that the night before the theatres went dark, she got to see *Hadestown* (with producer **Larry Hirschhorn '80** and assistant scene designer **Lawrence Moten '12**). Outside of the theatre that night, she was wearing a mask and gloves as part of the Red Bucket Brigade and collecting money for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. It was the first and last week of what was supposed to be a six-week campaign to raise money largely for AIDS causes but also for other types of health issues and emergencies in the entertainment industry—such as when a pandemic forces all of the theatres to go dark.

Each week Broadway is closed, an estimated \$33 million is lost in ticket sales, affecting almost 100,000 jobs. As a result, Broadway Cares and Toscano, who was an integrated marketing communications major at IC and is now a communications specialist, switched fundraising gears. She moved the effort online and launched a special COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Fund to help those in the entertainment community who need emergency financial assistance, health insurance, and counseling. All of it is administered by The Actors Fund, which also raised money in a special return episode of *The Rosie O'Donnell Show*, guest-starring **Aaron Tveit '05** and **Jeremy Jordan '07**. Tveit's *Moulin Rouge: The Musical!* went dark after 10 months when a castmate contracted COVID-19. Tveit appeared on *Rosie* from his Manhattan apartment.

"The thing that I miss the most about live theatre right now is the connection to our audience and the connection to people," Tveit said on the show. "So, what an incredible thing for us all to be able to come together to raise money...and help people in crucial times like these."

His debut in *Little Shop of Horrors* delayed, Jordan also helped The Actors Fund by putting his *Tarrytown* songs on the music streaming service Spotify and appearing in a *Smash* reunion. He said, "There are so many people out there who are struggling, and we all know that this might be one of the last jobs to come back online after this whole thing has passed," Jordan said. "Thank you all for being so incredibly supportive of the Broadway community during these crazy times; we all can't wait to get back to Broadway to entertain."

LIFE IS A CABARET

In Los Angeles—where almost all production came to a halt—actress, singer, and musician **Jessica DeShong '07** spent three days producing a music video, a commentary on her social isolation that contained a shout-out to frontline workers.

The song, called "Part of That World," is a parody of "Part of Your World" from *The Little Mermaid*. She sings from her couch, "I wear PJs and slippers aplenty. I stream Disney Plus all day long. Want some toilet paper? I've got 20. But who cares? I have way too much time to create this song."

Because IC's Commencement was virtual, choral professor Janet Galvan asked DeShong to record a congratulatory speech for IC School of Music graduates: "You are now equipped with a superpower. That is to create music, and to foster the love of music in others. So no matter what's going on in society, remember that you have the power to heal and the power to refresh and to energize others through the music you create. You will always be needed. So go out, live your life, love what you do, and never stop making music."

DeShong also collaborated with former classmate **Zack Ford '07**, who began the Coronavirus Cabaret (bit.ly/CVCabaret), where friends—and even strangers—could pick a song for Ford to record on his piano and send to them. They could then record themselves singing along with the piano music, and Ford would post it to the YouTube channel.

His idea started when the quarantine did.

The musical theatre major thought about his ensemble of friends in the Washington, D.C., area, many of them professionally trained but not all of them working in musical theatre. They are people like Ford, who works as a press secretary for the Alliance for Justice, an advocacy group dealing with the justice system.

"I love getting folks together to sing, and I knew that would be one of the first things that would go during the pandemic. I wouldn't be around people making music in the same way, and so what could I do to still make that happen?"

The answer debuted March 15 and was a hit—at least on YouTube and especially with Ford's fellow IC alumni. As of June, they had sung about a third of the 44 songs, which at \$10 per song, led Ford to donate \$440 to The Actors Fund. Viewers were encouraged to donate directly.

"There are definitely ways that people are using music that I think really stand out, and then you've seen all kinds of concerts and alone-together projects. I think people are recognizing, 'Well, I can't be around people. But one of the things I can still share with them is music.'"

Erin Jacobson '05 and **Krista Donough '05** were best friends who lived on Ford's floor in Terrace 4, but they had more than that in common. They had each planned to perform solo, and then a funny thing happened on the way to Ford.



“No matter what’s going on in society, remember that you have the power to heal and the power to refresh and to energize others through the music you create.”

– Jessica DeShong '07 (above)

“I thought it was hilarious that they both requested the same song within hours of each other without having discussed it in advance,” Ford said about their choice of “You’ll Never Walk Alone.” In his introduction to the duet, he noted, “They agreed to the challenge of figuring out how to sing it together. I guess you’ll never walk—or sing—alone!”

Matthew Hill '03 is a choral music teacher and drama club director in West Chester, Pennsylvania. “I jumped at the chance,” he said of participating in Ford’s cabaret. “It gave me a chance to sing a song from one of my favorite shows [*City of Angels*], and it gave me a creative outlet that I’m missing now that I’m not able to direct my middle school students,” whose performance of *Aladdin Jr.* was postponed indefinitely.

Some of the recordings are more polished and highly produced. Some are interrupted by little ones—toddlers and pets. They include an insurance agent, a Hollywood actress, a five-year-old, a new dad, a curious cat, and a 14-year-old whose school production was canceled because of the pandemic.

Noting all of this from nearby at the Library of Congress Music Division, **Melissa Wertheimer '08** contributes to a new web archiving project documenting life during the pandemic. The former flute performance major is now



Zack Ford '07

an archivist and music librarian leading a team of two colleagues who select internet content to archive that “represents what the performing arts world is producing right now, how the performing arts world is affected by the pandemic, where music is going, how our lives are going to change, which organizations are raising money,” Wertheimer said, pointing out that some items are creative in nature, but others include news, scientific studies, blogs, and more.

“I love that there are a lot of initiatives in the music world especially that are bringing people together to be creative but also to have a sense of community in isolation. That was actually why I selected Zack Ford’s initiative, the Coronavirus Cabaret,” said Wertheimer, who also included DeShong’s quarantine parody. “It’s evidence of musical creativity that is influenced by the very condition of quarantine. But also it shows evidence of community and fan music-making and engagement.”

So, next year, when the Library of Congress is no longer competing with internet sites that are still live, the archived websites will be entered into the library’s digital collections. Thanks to Ford and Wertheimer, this will give a digital legacy to the Coronavirus Cabaret recordings right next to performances from orchestras and internationally renowned musicians.

TRIAL BY FIRE

During the first few days of a new job, employees often spend time filling out paperwork, setting up accounts, touring the work site, and getting to know colleagues in a steady progression of settling in. But for nursing student **Angela Grumley '17**, her worst few hours on the job in a COVID-19 ward were her first two hours—and they were also two of her most exciting.

Grumley, who received a public health degree from IC, was set to graduate from Columbia School of Nursing in August and then stay for her doctorate of nursing practice. But when the university sent students home, shifting to online classes because of the pandemic, she and her fellow nursing students felt they had skills to contribute. Columbia and New York-Presbyterian Hospital agreed and offered them eight-week contracts during the peak of New York City's COVID-19 crisis.

“There was always a bit of fear every time I went into a room initially, but then I’d just kind of settle into a routine.”

— Angela Grumley '17

“Things escalated so quickly and all these health care professionals were really suffering and short staffed,” said Grumley, who worked as a nursing assistant from age 16. “Especially as a person with experience, I felt I should go.”

WORST THINGS WORST

Leaving her husband back home in Massachusetts, Grumley went to New York City to work as a nurse technician. She took vital signs and helped patients get comfortable—and get to the bathroom.

“There were a lot of moments when I was like, ‘Oh my God, I’m right here. What am I doing here?’ There was always a bit of fear every time I went into a room initially, but then I’d just kind of settle into a routine,” she said.

Although she didn’t know there was an intubation going

on, Grumley had been about 20 feet from a room, asking a colleague where the supply room was.

“And then somebody looked down the hallway and noticed that I was there, and I was instructed to go all the way to the [other] end of the hall,” she said. “Everyone was just being really careful and making sure that no one had exposure, or at least that it was minimized as much as possible.”

About an hour later, Grumley was asked to care for a patient who had passed away. Typically, nurses clean and wrap the bodies and handle other procedures to get them ready for transport to the morgue.

“This was my first time seeing that patient, but I was given a kind of backstory, and I still take the same level of care with the patient as I would if they were still alive, using a very gentle touch,” she said. “I had done postmortem care before, but I wasn’t used to so many patients declining so quickly. But when someone passes when visitors aren’t allowed, it’s even more heart-wrenching.”

LIFTING HER SPIRITS

Like an electrocardiogram reading, the emotional ups and downs of her first two hours took another turn soon after.

“That same day, I took care of somebody who had made it through the ICU and made it through intubation. I was able to get them up for the first time since they had been put under.”

Although the trip was just to a bedside commode, it was a momentous but exhausting one for the patient.

“That was a really impactful moment because of everything else I had just been through with the intubation and someone passing. But then, to see someone who did come out the other side of it, that was definitely one of the highlights.”

In just two hours, Grumley experienced an entire cycle of life on a COVID-19 ward. Since her first day, things have slowed, which she describes as a huge positive with a downside.

“I’m thrilled that social distancing seems to be working, and we have fewer patients. That was always the ultimate goal. But I’m not the type of person who likes to sit still. I’d like to be out helping people and taking care of people where there’s the greatest need.”



Angela Grumley '17

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH COVID-19

Victoria Rainaud '13, DPT '15, walked into a patient's room as part of a team that does the "heavy lifting" of COVID-19 treatment. Millimeters away from infected, unconscious patients, Rainaud and the team work to "prone" patients, a labor-intensive job that involves manually turning them onto their stomachs to get more oxygen into their lungs and bloodstream.

After proning a man, Rainaud noticed his wristband. Staring back at her was the name of a former patient. The global pandemic that had once crept slowly into Rainaud's life was now hurtling quickly and recklessly, becoming the sole focus of her new, modified job and reaching her in deeply personal ways.

"That was a really crazy moment," Rainaud said. "I guess I knew it was a possibility that I would see one of my former patients there, but I didn't expect it to be so soon."

He died that Sunday.

"That hit hard. It's difficult stuff," she said, still trying to process the moment.

Sometimes out of horror stories, good memories can grow. One of the epicenters of COVID-19 on the East Coast, CentraState Medical Center in Freehold, New Jersey, saw its first suspected coronavirus case on March 6 and was quickly overrun to the point that it closed satellite services, such as the outpatient physical therapy practice where Rainaud usually worked.

"We were required to show up at the hospital, but we weren't required to be in direct patient care," she said. Some colleagues worked in the warehouse and delivered meals, but Rainaud thought about her coworkers and their family members who have medical conditions, and her decision was easy.

"I volunteered to work inpatient right away," she said. "This is just so contagious. I'd want to take the hit before my other coworkers with families. I don't have those issues when I go home. I won't be around other people, and I guess that can be good and bad at times like these."

The need for isolation became more apparent than ever when Rainaud worked with one patient who lost several family members to coronavirus. But he was one of the lucky ones. She celebrated his discharge to a rehab facility, and then, days later, a colleague showed her a Facebook video.

"I wasn't sure he was going to survive, and there he was

walking out of the rehab facility—walking," she said. "He was probably one of the patients who was the most ill whom I was able to see make that much improvement. Seeing that video, that was really a good day."

Sixty miles north, in New York City, **Madeline Arena '13, DPT '15**, remembered a similar moment, which also stemmed from one of her earliest patients. An inpatient physical therapist at another epicenter, New York Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia Medical Center, Arena worked with a woman who had been surprised to regain consciousness in a place where patients aren't usually awake to see: an operating room. Additional Intensive Care

Unit rooms were built in order to accommodate the increase in numbers of critically ill patients.

"Just to kind of paint a picture, the OR looks like a room out of a sci-fi movie—metal everywhere with tons of machines, and everything's beeping. There are two or three other patients in that room, and everybody's on ventilators."

The woman had been taken off a ventilator once but had to be put back on it the same day. When she came to after a week, she could follow simple commands.

Arena later asked the patient what her first reaction was to waking up after being under for so long: "She said she looked around at all of the other patients in this OR who were asleep, so to speak, and she just bawled. She was afraid, and she cried because she was worried this was how she was going to have to live the rest of her life."

Arena describes the scenes that unfolded over the following weeks

with this patient in the same way a proud parent might record a child's milestones. And, similarly, the patient's family proudly oohed and aahed at her over FaceTime: "That kind of gave her hope to continue and fight on. She felt like she was going to be able to get better."

Arena recalls first seeing her. "She was scared, but I asked her if she wanted to try to get up to see how her strength was. She was so motivated, so very willing, and I won't ever forget that."

Arena carefully helped sit the patient up for the first time. Poor trunk, neck, and head control left her slumped more than sitting, and she had to be held up. But soon the patient was surpassing milestone after COVID-recovery milestone. Within two days she could sit up by herself. "I



Madeline Arena '13, DPT '15

will never forget her sitting at the side of the bed, and I asked her, ‘Do you want to take a picture on the iPad, so you can show them you’re getting up and able to sit up?’ and I will never forget her smile in that picture.”

“That was the most she’d done in over a month,” Arena said. “Two days after that she walked five feet with a walker and two therapists helping her. Two weeks after that, she was discharged, walking around without a walker, her tracheostomy taken out, breathing on her own without supplemental oxygen.”

All told, she was on a ventilator for a month and worked with Arena for more than three weeks before she was able to go home.

“This is a very fast recovery, and many of the patients I’m seeing now are not recovering nearly as quickly as she did,” said Arena.

“I wish I could give her a hug, but I really don’t think I can. It’s going to be a great send-off. Everybody is going to be clapping. She’s going to be cheering and very excited to see her family. It’s going to be emotional,” Arena said.

“I helped her sit at the edge of the bed by herself. I helped her stand by herself. I helped her take her first steps. It’s also going to give me hope for the other patients that they can end up walking out of the hospital, too. I think that had a lot to do with her mentality—her personality, her motivation, and her willingness to just give it her all every time.”

—Madeline Arena ’13, DPT ’15

INSIGHT FROM ON SITE

Anna Rosenblatt ’12, a practice facilitator for Cayuga Health Partners, was at home on March 14 when a message came in from work: “Can you come in?” That was the text.

The context was that the spread of COVID-19 meant mobile sampling sites were needed to flatten the curve. In plain text, Cayuga Health needed to finalize the planning for and opening of a drive-through testing site for Ithaca and the surrounding communities. Rosenblatt’s text came on Saturday, and the first patient/car rolled through the sampling site on Monday. There, proud but nervous, was Rosenblatt.

Asked whether she had done anything like this before, Rosenblatt laughed before she responded, “Well, I have definitely never set up a giant pandemic testing site before, no.” While she didn’t know all the specifics of the site, she knew what process was needed. Much of the preliminary planning had already been done.

“What was left was just process-mapping on paper, so writing out exactly what steps would be accomplished in what order and which could be kind of flip-flopped as long as they were completed. Being able to do that workflow mapping, that’s what I was able to immediately contribute.”

It was also a new experience for **Greg Lee ’19**, a public and community health major who was working for Cayuga Medical Associates in its first manager-in-training program. Although initially he helped to ensure patients were matched with their profiles in the health system’s records, soon he and Rosenblatt had helped set up not one testing location but two. After a week at the initial location on Craft Road, a higher-capacity replacement site was erected in the nearby parking lot of the Shops at Ithaca Mall. Lee transitioned to managing the staging, traffic, and flow of the new site—even working with Ithaca College to get barriers donated. Their methodical plans paid off as, once the mall site was up and running, it was testing 150-200 patients per day and occasionally offering same-day results.

“When I was first brought on to this testing-site project, I felt better prepared to adapt on the spot,” said Lee. “It was a big challenge, but I learned to adapt. You go into the day with a plan, but it might not always work out. You have to make the best of it and troubleshoot things while staying calm, cool, and collected.”

He said he really appreciated the chance to work on the project with so many people, including Rosenblatt and fellow practice facilitator **Teresa Craugh ’19**.

“It was really cool seeing everyone come together to work on one project for one common goal—especially that last weekend before the first site opened. That was really intense.”

The first location opened March 16. “Something beautiful happened almost immediately,” Rosenblatt said. “There was this real sense of teamwork and camaraderie. If someone exited the building and didn’t have a glove on, someone would say, ‘Oh, wait, you don’t have your glove.’ People were looking out for each other. That was something not



Anna Rosenblatt '12

“I can’t really do anything about this huge pandemic. But you know what? These are the problems happening right in front of me that I can work on.”

– Anna Rosenblatt '12

only leaders were doing but people at every level. That was awesome to see that very human reaction.”

Rosenblatt essentially reframes the global pandemic as a hyper-local problem—even things like sharing extra food or hand sanitizer with a neighbor or someone in need is important.

“I don’t want to detract from the fact that there are these giant scary things going on right now, and we should take time to acknowledge that and to allow ourselves to feel that sadness, but do not let them consume you.

“It’s like, I can’t really do anything about this huge pandemic. But you know what? There are these problems happening right in front of me that I can work on,” she said. “I can either say, ‘There’s nothing I can do,’ and be totally overwhelmed, or I can say, ‘Here are the things I can do to help people, so I’m just going to do them. And if I keep doing them, and if that person is able to help someone else, we can build it out.’”

Rosenblatt is inspired daily by all the people around her, not just on site but everywhere: “I feel lucky to see all the ways people have figured out to help each other, and there’s a whole community that’s being built around all of this. It’s happening everywhere in different ways, but it is part of what I really appreciate about living in Ithaca.”

“It’s a very tangible way to help,” said Rosenblatt about her work at the testing site. “If I can focus on those things, it makes me feel less alone and overwhelmed. Yes, I’ve been working seven days a week, but maybe I’m also doing that because it makes me feel better, and it wouldn’t be good for me to sit in my house and not work. Because of who I am as a person, if anything, I think it was actually better for me to stay busy. Time will tell.”

She and Lee both say they appreciate the opportunity to help during the pandemic and feel lucky to have skill sets that are needed. And their gratitude is matched by a local community that had been on edge but is headed safely in the right direction—one vehicle at a time.



Greg Lee '19



PHOTO BY DANIEL GREY

ALUMNUS SELLING MASKS IN NEW ORLEANS TO HELP ARTISTS IN AFRICA

The triangle created by Tremé, the French Quarter, and the Lower Ninth Ward encompasses the setting of much of New Orleans' history—from the height of its artistic improvisation in its music and cuisine to the depths of despair in its hurricane-induced flooding and devastation.

On most nights, you could have found **Edward Wycliff '11** and his sewing machine right in the middle of it all at an open-air night market, home to sculptors, jewelers, painters, and 40 other rotating artists.

For the last five years, Wycliff had been teaching people in southern Africa how to turn their local fabric into bow ties that he then sold, along with his own creations, in the market, usually until midnight or 1 a.m. But then COVID-19 closed the market in mid-March.

"It's a strong community of about 100 artists, some of the better artists in New Orleans creating original art, and then we all lost our spaces overnight," he said.

Wycliff had just been invited to sell his work at the New Orleans Jazz Festival, which brings in half a million people and a \$300 million economic impact across two weekends at the end of April.

"I pumped all of our funding into inventory for this event, where it's possible to sell tens of thousands of dollars' worth of merchandise," he said. So, when the festival also fell victim to COVID-19, "I was basically broke," said Wycliff. "I had no venue to sell all the inventory that I had, and I was wondering what the heck I could do to keep the business moving and pay my rent."

He found the answer in two characteristics of the Crescent City: "New Orleans is a hustler and an artist town," he said. "Everybody down here is a hustler."

So, when life hands you a pandemic, you make masks.

"I played around with a design and hit up a friend of mine who had a connection to a local nursing home because I knew that they would be needed there," said Wycliff.

Toward the end of March, he sold his first 100 masks to them for cost.

"Once we had a functional product, I advertised them on my website, Facebook, and Instagram," he said. "That was April 1. By the time I woke up on April 3, we had sold over \$15,000 worth of masks."

From then on, the pedal was literally to the metal. He gave sewing machines, material, and even training to many of his out-of-work artist friends.

"I would just buy directly from them while my teams in Lesotho and South Africa were producing the vast majority of our masks."

The fabric that he uses for the bow ties and masks is

“Once we had a functional product, I advertised them on my website, Facebook, and Instagram. That was April 1. By the time I woke up on April 3, we had sold over \$15,000 worth of masks.”

– Edward Wycliff '11

called shoe-shoe (pronounced *shway-shway*), hence his company name, Bow Shoeshoe. Known for its intricate, colorful patterns, the fabric has long been used for traditional South African clothing, becoming so ubiquitous that it's sometimes called the denim or tartan of South Africa.

A DIFFERENT VIRUS ON A DIFFERENT CONTINENT

The entire idea for Wycliff's original bow tie business actually emerged from the crucible of another virus, HIV. After graduating from IC, the politics major was volunteering for the Peace Corps in Lesotho, a small nation ravaged by HIV and AIDS.

“I saw that it was the combination of poverty and HIV that made the virus so deadly,” he said. “You can live a long and happy life if you have the resources to take care of yourself. So we asked, ‘What would the world be like if we could remove the destitute poverty from the HIV epidemic?’”

So, in several remote communities, Wycliff began hiring people who didn't have access to jobs, training, or materials. He gave them sewing work they could do from home or from community centers instead of from factories.

When COVID-19 hit, Lesotho closed its borders, and as a result, the country had just two cases in late June and didn't see its first death until mid-July. Wycliff continues to wire money to his partner, who purchases shoe-shoe from South Africa and disseminates the materials there and in Lesotho, where items like ties, handkerchiefs, and masks are sewn. Once the work is completed, Wycliff pays workers via text.

BACK IN NEW ORLEANS

From Africa, Wycliff receives unsewn fabric, finished ties—and now masks. Demand has been so great, though, that he continues to hire locally.

“Everybody is making them from their homes. I'm working here, and I've got another artist who lives next door who comes over and sews. And then I've got a musician who does a majority of our cutting of the material, and four

other artists who are very good at sewing.”

He buys his paper and shipping materials from a local paper company, and he hires a local print shop. He's also stocking more than a dozen local stores.

“I'm trying to do a little good here and make a buck,” he said.

Business grew even more when a different wave swept across the United States. Deaths, especially those of Black men at the hands of police, brought a new awareness to shoe-shoe and new support to Black-owned businesses. With the exception of two workers in New Orleans, everyone employed by his business across three countries is Black.

“It's a good opportunity because if people want to find a Black-owned business to support that actually has a social good component to it, we're perfectly placed to satisfy that demand. It is strangely coincidental, I guess, but things have been going well for us now—much, much better than expected.”

Wycliff also raised \$23,000 through a Kickstarter campaign where, for every \$15 somebody donated, they'd receive a mask, and another mask was given to a frontline worker or an at-risk community member in the city of New Orleans. Whether he's helping across the world or literally right in his backyard, Wycliff said he's in this business for good, in more ways than one. 🍀



PHOTO BY DANIEL GREY

Left: Edward Wycliff '11 pivoted to selling masks. Right: Friends model Bow Shoeshoe masks.

WORKING TOWARD A JUST FUTURE.

**AHMAUD ARBERY.
BREONNA TAYLOR.
GEORGE FLOYD.
DANIEL PRUDE.**

Their lives, and others, have given a renewed sense of urgency to the Black Lives Matter movement. These tragic deaths have sparked widespread protests throughout the nation and the release of videos, played over and over, have forced the world to pay attention.

For students of history, the summer of 2020 was eerily reminiscent of the late 1960s. After all, it was the late 1960s when public assassinations, racial tensions and intense arguments about structural racism last dominated everyday living. 50 years later, many institutions have made symbolic and incremental changes, but as evidenced by the events of this past summer, we will likely note the shallow inadequacy in radically changing the roots of systemic racism.

We recognize this is difficult work with many perspectives. In this feature, we highlight what Ithaca College community members are doing to dismantle systemic racism and advance social justice.

SICK AND TIRED OF BEING SICK AND TIRED

By M. Nicole Horsley

Assistant Professor of African Diaspora Studies in the Center for the Study of Culture, Race, and Ethnicity

"I CAN'T BREATHE."

These were the last words of Eric Garner, said while he was being choked out by the NYPD on July 17, 2014.

Nearly six years later, on May 25, 2020, "I can't breathe" was repeated when the Minneapolis police department choked out George Floyd.

Another phrase is evoked with these two deaths: "Me too." We can imagine Floyd saying "me too" to Garner, owing to the similar ways in which they died. And this "me too" echoes throughout the voices of thousands of Black men, women, and children killed by police terrorism. It echoes throughout the stories of Black sexual violence survivors, through the Black trans women killed globally, through the disproportionately Black queer homeless youth, through the silencing of Sandra Bland and Breonna Taylor, whose voices we cannot hear. To be clear, the problems Black people face are bigger than police terrorism; they are multifaceted and plentiful.

The cost for being Black globally means enduring the everyday terror and violence of being Black while walking to the store, standing outside, jogging in your neighborhood, and while sitting and sleeping in your home. Because of the ubiquity of this fear, it's critical to shift the conversation away from positioning Black lives mattering as a moment in time to an everyday attitude, practice, and belief.

Black Lives Matter is not a performative statement or protest; it's understanding that anti-Black racism is a set of mechanisms and practices that reproduce white advantages and Black disadvantages by stripping Blackness of its humanity. The Black Liberation Collective describes anti-Blackness as the "depreciation of Black humanity, denial of Black pain, and the obstruction of Black agency" through "anti-Black racist patterns" to maintain the privileges of whiteness.

The struggle and movement for Black liberation is intersectional, as it disrupts binaries that extend boundaries of gender, sexuality, and Blackness. We need to ask questions that allow us to imagine alternative approaches to capitalism, patriarchy, policing, prisons, racism, sexism, and misogyny to envision an ethic of love to shift from an ethic of domination, reconceptualizing structures of power.

On a campus-wide level, that means asking: How do we build infrastructures in Ithaca and at IC to transform the lived experiences for nonwhite community members, students, staff, and faculty that are inclusive of cisgender, transgender, queer, gender nonconforming/nonbinary, incarcerated and formally incarcerated, undocumented, disabled, and poor and working class? If we truly want Ithaca to be an antiracist institution and city committed to dismantling structures and logics of anti-Black racism, we must go beyond statements and antiracist training for white people.

Simply put, it's not enough to employ an intersectional framework, to mobilize white people to acknowledge the exclusion practices that are continuous and issuing statements that all Black lives matter. Real change would center the healing and protection of nonwhite people and place them in decision-making positions and at the center of the discussion. Black people must have power to influence and be a part of changing the direction of IC. This will also involve stronger relationships with Black people on the IC campus and in the community.

Throughout the history of the Black liberation movement, it has become evident that looking to and listening to those on the ground can provide some of the most meaningful and rich information. Those voices will help lay

the groundwork for us to reimagine the possibilities around policing and state-sanctioned violence against Black and nonwhite people whose identities politics—queer, trans, heterosexual, nonbinary, and disabled people—perform in order to build coalitions and networks of care. These organizers and activists center the politics of self-care and healing through mutual aid, fundraising for bail, repelling evictions, and fighting food deserts.



The challenges faced by Black liberation movements working for antiviolence, anti-imperialist, and queer liberation, as well as racial, economic, reproductive, gender, and food justice has equipped them with the knowledge and skills to create a revolutionary vision for freedom.

For Ithaca College to truly commit to being an antiracist institution that does not perpetuate white supremacy, they will have to make bold and hard decisions. They will have to elevate the most vulnerable voices and make the necessary commitments and sacrifices to end up on the right side of history.

ELLIS WILLIAMS '13 TACKLES RACISM IN AMERICA

By Robin Roger

Professional golf was once an all-white sport played at all-white clubs and covered by white announcers—often with all Black caddies. But in June, thanks to a video project orchestrated by **Ellis Williams '13**, viewers of the Charles Schwab Open saw the action interspersed with powerful perspectives on race, voiced by some of CBS Sports' top broadcasters.

Williams, a CBS Sports producer, was the point person for a series of video interviews with CBS Sports broadcasters of color. The interviews aired individually as one-minute spots during the tournament, with Brown providing a final 46-second spot. Online, the segments were stitched together to form one video that plays for eight minutes and 46 seconds, the amount of time George Floyd was pinned to the ground by police.

Titled *8:46*, the project touches on topics such as the history of oppression, racist experiences, and the American Dream. Williams also poses these challenging questions: Why is the conversation about race uncomfortable? Why do we need to have it? And, where do we go from here?

Williams talked about how the typical 30- or 60-second spot wasn't sufficient to address such a complex subject.

"We felt that wasn't enough time to speak to the depth and complexity of the Black experience, so we leaned into that and built the premise as 60 seconds to talk about X topic," he told the sports website *The Athletic*. "We devised eight topics such as racism, Black history,

reactions to today, equality, and being an ally. Our approach was to start with a conversation and through the discussion discover what topic was their truth."

Williams credited the faculty in IC's Center for the Study of Culture, Race, and Ethnicity (CSCRE)—including Drs. Belisa González, Sean Eversley Bradwell, Paula Ioanide, Gustavo Licón, and Asma Barlas—with helping him to address the difficult topics brought up in the video.

"My maturation in having these discussions, adding depth and complexity to the Black experience, is attributed to the work of the many talented doctors at the center," he said. "Each gave me a different tool with which to engage in meaningful discussion, contextualizing my experiences."

His experience at IC as part of the Martin Luther King Scholar Program and the mentorship of the recently retired associate vice president for student affairs and campus life Dr. Roger Richardson, director of multicultural affairs Malinda B. Smith, and director of admission Nicole Eversley Bradwell provided the foundation for helping him to see the world critically.

"Regardless of the paths [MLK scholars] ended up taking professionally, [mentors] encouraged us to use them to walk closer toward justice," he said. "It's an example of community; this group of educators gave me a home in the CSCRE, and a 'thank you' can't even begin to convey the love and appreciation I have for each and every one of them."

Following the success of the *8:46* campaign and the resulting one-hour

television broadcast of *Connected: What It Means to Be Me*, the PGA of America reached out to CBS Sports to discuss how they, too, could amplify the goals of the *8:46* campaign to shed light on systemic racism and the work we need to continue to make everlasting change. Last August, over the weekend of the PGA Championship, an additional 11 spots featuring Black PGA professionals, directors of golf, head professionals, and other former PGA and LPGA players, like Renee Powell, Tom Woodard, and Wyatt Worthington II, aired across three platforms in a joint effort to spread awareness. CBS, ESPN, and ESPN+, in addition to the PGA of America, contributed a substantial amount of time to feature the spots throughout the tournament, sharing these professionals' calls to action, personal anecdotes, and lived experiences.

"For me, it was a tremendous opportunity to be able to speak with these professionals because the game of golf has a rich history, and Black people are a part of that," Williams said. "To be able to shed light on a community in the world of golf rarely seen and seldom heard, I was fortunate to have a passionate team who worked diligently in meeting the timelines for air. Thank you to Jelani Rook, Justin Haley, Laurie Zelnick, Anthony Cortese, Wille Cochran, Mark Grant, Dominique Johnson, and Dave Anerella for putting in the hours to make these spots as dynamic and honest as possible. It was a true team effort and a testament to community and togetherness."



"MY MATURATION IN HAVING THESE DISCUSSIONS, ADDING DEPTH AND COMPLEXITY TO THE BLACK EXPERIENCE, IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE WORK OF THE MANY TALENTED DOCTORS AT THE CENTER."

– Ellis Williams '13

WHAT CHARLESTON TAUGHT ME ABOUT SYSTEMIC RACISM

By Idrissou Mora-Kpai

Assistant Professor of Media Arts, Sciences, and Studies

Since June, there have been worldwide antiracist demonstrations provoked by the murder of George Floyd. Rarely has the killing of an African American caused so much global uproar, triggering debates about structural racism not only in the United States but also worldwide.

In this moment where the images of extreme racist violence are pushed into the public eye, many individuals and institutions have pledged, often with big gestures, to the cause of Black Lives Matter. They want to be on the right side of history. Quick measures are being proposed everywhere. While this is all important and praiseworthy, it is critical to remember that structural racism is a sedimentation of long and evolving histories of white supremacy. Understanding and dismantling that requires a long-term approach lasting beyond the hype of the moment.

I began to think more about the question of short-term interest and long-term investment during the filming of my documentary *America Street* in 2015. Set in Charleston, the film examined the struggles of a historically Black community against ongoing social

segregation in this charming tourist city.

During production of the film, two significant events occurred. That April, Walter Scott, an unarmed African American man, was killed by a police officer. His killing was filmed. Just two months later, Dylann Roof, a white supremacist, killed nine Black people in a church.

In both cases, I witnessed a media frenzy that lasted approximately two weeks. After that, the journalists and cameras departed, but the people who remained continued to struggle with structural racism on a daily basis. That's a theme repeated all too often.

In Charleston, I visited the segregated public schools, which were completely underfunded, predominantly Black, and were a sure path to failure, the famous school-to-prison pipeline. In 1989, after Hurricane Hugo, the local administration maliciously decided not to rebuild the Black schools. This was an explicit attempt at fulfilling the goal of making Charleston a tourist destination. During this same time period, well-funded public charter schools, 99% populated by white children, were encouraged.

These are not just a mere coincidence but the result of very specific local policies that encourage these phenomena. There are many other examples that demonstrate long-lasting structural racism: the teaching of national history, the construction of prisons, accessibility to food, the justice system. I was confronted with all of these while filming the documentary.

The characters in my film struggled with this structural racism, trying to escape as much as they could, individually and collectively, the detrimental impact of these policies. Making my film allowed me, an African immigrant who recently moved from Europe, to understand U.S. structural racism in its deepest intimacy.

By following these characters, I witnessed for the first time first-hand how insidious these policies are on the most private lives of Black people. It allowed me to understand very concretely the subjective realities of very objective structures.

Documentary film is a wonderful tool to lay bare the connections between structural racism and the lived reality into its seemingly most insignificant moments of life. But, by its very nature, it requires time. It is so urgent to take this time, in order to dismantle fully these long-established and ossified structures.

Those of us who don't directly suffer from structural racism might be oblivious to these structures because they seem so normal. But one has to realize that the apparent harmless normalcy for some, means the continuous suffering for others. Beyond the very praiseworthy declarations of support and BLM hashtags, we all need to commit to do this long-term work, even when it is difficult and uncomfortable.



"MAKING MY FILM ALLOWED ME, AN AFRICAN IMMIGRANT WHO RECENTLY MOVED FROM EUROPE, TO UNDERSTAND U.S. STRUCTURAL RACISM IN ITS DEEPEST INTIMACY."

— Idrissou Mora-Kpai



**“IT’S A MOMENT
WHERE I FELT
LIKE I CAME
HERE BECAUSE
IT WAS WHAT I
WAS SUPPOSED
TO DO.”**

– Provost La Jerne Terry Cornish

A FAMILIAR FACE AT THE FRONT OF THE ROOM

*As told by Provost La Jerne Terry Cornish, PhD
to Nichole Owens '94*

La Jerne Terry Cornish, PhD, is provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Ithaca College. She came to IC in 2018 from Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland, where she taught and served in administrative capacities for 20 years.

When I attended Goucher, I was one of nine Black students in my class. I never had a Black professor. I began teaching there and, in the fall of 1998, when I started, I was the only African American female on the faculty. The reason that I went into academia was because I never had anybody who looked like me in the classroom, and I thought it was so important for students of color to see themselves reflected in the front of the room.

One of the goals for Ithaca in our strategic plan is for us to become a national model for colleges committed to the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion. We created a new diversity, equity, and inclusion statement as a result of the strategic planning process. We also stated it as one of our five core values: academic excellence, respect and accountability, innovation, sustainability, and equity. So, we are saying that this is who we are; this is what we are committed to. Now we have to translate the words into action. What does that mean? What does that look like?

[In December] I invited the campus community to join me in a slow read of Ibram X. Kendi’s *How to Be an Antiracist*. Little did I know when I invited the campus to participate in this what this book would become. My office purchased 1,000 books and made them available to anybody in the campus community who wanted a book.

In February, I, along with Rosanna Ferro, vice president for student affairs, and Professor Chris McNamara, who is the chair of the Faculty Council, met with student leaders from the people of color (POC) organizations to hear from them about their lived experiences on our campus. The things that they shared were hard to hear.

I met with the Faculty Council Executive Committee. And they said, “You know, I think we should return to the book.” And I thought, Yes, that’s a really good idea. And I think that some faculty should take the lead on having book circles with their colleagues to discuss the book. Long story short, 20 faculty agreed. And not only did they use *How to Be an Antiracist*, but they also did a book circle on *White Fragility*, and they brought in plays and documentaries. By the end of June, early July, the faculty got together, virtually, to discuss the text.

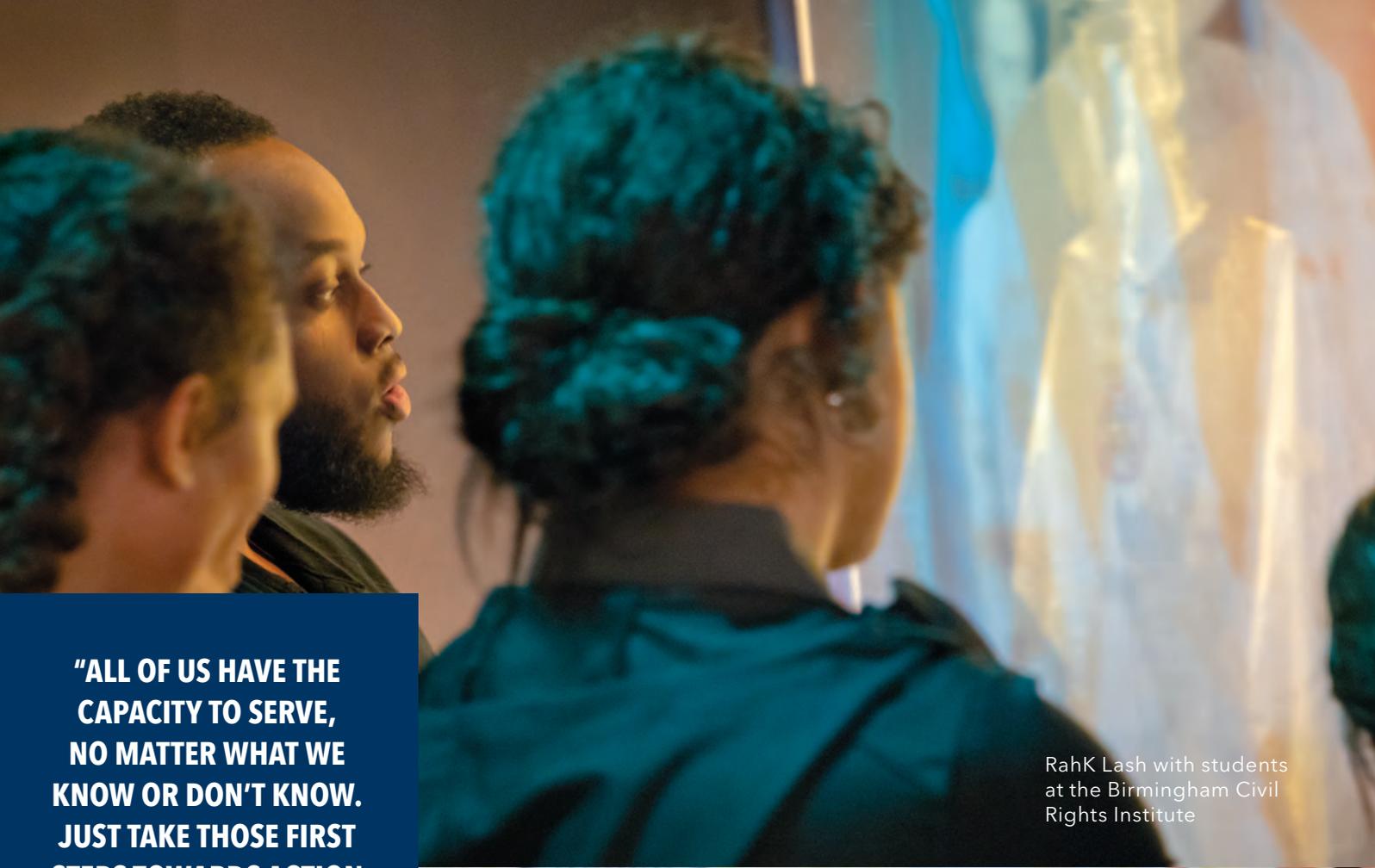
Along the way, the Faculty Council

Executive Committee said, “We want to write a statement to our students and our faculty of color.” The statement—it made me cry because my white faculty owned their whiteness and owned how complicit they have been. What I love about the statement is they are now saying, “You can hold us accountable. We are going to call out each other when we see microaggressions and racism on this campus.” And so that was powerful.

It’s a moment where I felt like I came here because it was what I was supposed to do.

I’m now going into my third year as provost. The work ahead of us is tremendous. It took 128 years for IC to become the institution that it is, and it is not going to change in a short period of time. But the fact that we are willing to name our issues, confront them, address them, and be willing to admit the role we play in the maintenance of structural racism is powerful.

We need faculty of color—in every school. We need to diversify the curriculum. It’s one thing to have diversity at the top, but change happens in the middle, and the middle is still predominantly white. When things change in the middle, we will have done something.



"ALL OF US HAVE THE CAPACITY TO SERVE, NO MATTER WHAT WE KNOW OR DON'T KNOW. JUST TAKE THOSE FIRST STEPS TOWARDS ACTION BECAUSE IT'S WHAT WE DO THAT WILL DEFINE US, NOT JUST HOW MUCH WE KNOW."

— RahK Lash

RahK Lash with students at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute



Students visit the Civil Rights Memorial at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama.

PHOTOS BY ADAM BAKER

CHANGING HEARTS, MINDS—AND ACTIONS

By Nichole Owens '94

In 1963, before the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led the March on Washington, a survey found that 66% of white Americans believed there was no race problem.

“They didn’t understand why this March on Washington had to happen. They didn’t understand what the ‘Negroes’ were doing; they didn’t understand King,” said RahKim “RahK” Lash, director of the Center for IDEAS (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Social Change) and the MLK Scholar Program at Ithaca College. “Over the course of the Civil Rights Movement, Black folks were told they wanted too much too fast. Even if you just focus on King’s Letter from Birmingham Jail, religious leaders were telling Dr. King, ‘You’re moving too fast’; ‘This isn’t how you do it’; and, ‘This isn’t how you go about justice.’”

A 2019 survey from the Pew Research Center showed that the perceptions of white Americans hadn’t changed much. And Lash sees echoes of the same sentiment playing out today. As Black Americans continue to speak out about the injustices they face—by kneeling during the national anthem or by marching in cities across the country—some observers criticize the approach . . . and miss the point.

“Folks are saying, ‘Don’t do it like this. Do it like that.’ But then we’ve been doing it like that, and every other way, and we still haven’t gotten what we need,” Lash said. “Changing Aunt Jemima and giving folks Juneteenth off doesn’t address structural oppression. Those are things you probably should have done many, many years ago. Those might be some good first steps, but that’s not what people are asking for. So it begs the question, ‘Are we really listening to each other?’”

Lash emphasized that, while it’s important to change hearts and minds, it’s also important to change policy.

“Policy is what’s going to protect me if you decide not to change your heart and mind,” he said. “We need policies to

protect us. That’s why it’s so important to talk about voting.”

With the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and so many other individuals, Lash said there has been a “white awakening.” But with this greater awareness of the struggles Black Americans face, he said, must come action.

“I continually hear that it’s different this time,” Lash said. “But we have to ask, ‘How? How are we going to make sure it stays different?’ This is nothing new, so it’s not about joining book clubs, and it’s not about coming to the meeting to say, ‘I read the book.’ How have actions changed?”

That’s exactly why it’s so important to teach young people about the history of the Civil Rights Movement, as Lash does with incoming students in the Martin Luther King Scholar Program—so they can see not only how far we’ve come but also how far we still have to go as a country.

“It’s an opportunity for them to touch history, to connect with the past, but it also helps them to see themselves,” he said. “We’re looking at history because we have to have this foundation to see how we began to understand where we are. That foundation allows students to know that, number one, we’re inheritors of progress. No matter how it feels, we’ve inherited progress. There’s a collective struggle, and it’s important for them to see the struggle and the foot soldiers who fought it on the forefront, especially with this one movement, so they can see that in the conversations about racism today.”

Each year, new students in the MLK Scholar Program are required to take a three-credit course in U.S. civil rights, which includes a five-day tour through cities in Georgia and Alabama that were key to the Civil Rights Movement: Atlanta, Montgomery, Selma, and Birmingham, as well as several stops in between.

“It’s an opportunity to not just read about history in a book but to touch and talk to someone who was on Edmund Pettus Bridge on Bloody Sunday,” Lash said. “We still have a few foot soldiers here

with us.” With the deaths of civil rights icons like Rep. John Lewis, this opportunity becomes all the more priceless.

Students get to talk to activists like Carolyn Maull McKinstry, who is a survivor of the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. As the church secretary at the time, she answered a call that turned out to be a bomb threat, and the bomb went off, killing four young girls.

“They get to talk to Dr. McKinstry, and that’s a precious opportunity, because we don’t know how long they’re going to be here with us,” Lash said.

Another important element of the MLK Scholar Program is service.

“All of us can serve,” Lash said. “All of us have the capacity to serve, no matter what we know or don’t know. Just take those first steps towards action because it’s what we do that will define us, not just how much we know.”

The MLK scholars also take a seminar with Dr. Sean Eversley Bradwell as sophomores, Researching Social Justice. In this class, they take a deeper dive toward understanding civic engagement and pivot from the volunteer model of service required during their first-year experience. Scholars choose their focus area of research and interest in social justice and how they can connect with community partners and organizations in Tompkins County to address social justice-based needs. This varies from scholar to scholar, from working with retirement centers on how they think about the various needs of their diverse community members to using ballet to support local youth of color as they develop literacy skills and strengthen their love of books.

The current sophomore class came together as first-year students to send representatives to a conference on student leadership and activism. They have since been working on plans to use the resources gained for civic engagement as a cohort.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

ADVANCING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION, ONE COURAGEOUS CONVERSATION AT A TIME

By Nichole Owens '94

James E. Taylor, '00, PhD, remembers the time a few summers ago when an elderly white couple stopped to ask him a question while he was watering his front lawn. “As they walked by,” Taylor recalled, “they asked me if I worked for the people who owned the house.”

He also remembers the time a waiter at a high-end restaurant brought the bill before his meal was served—the implication, of course, being that he couldn’t afford to dine at such an extravagant expense.

And he recounts several times being mistaken for a professional athlete. “I drive a sports car. As I get out of the car, on occasion I will hear people whisper,

‘Is that a Pittsburgh Steeler?’ The insinuation is that if I can afford to drive the car that I own and look as I do, I must be an athlete.”

Taylor isn’t an athlete. He’s senior vice president at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), a \$21 billion, nonprofit health care provider and insurer, and the largest nongovernment employer in the state of Pennsylvania. Diversity and inclusion are some of the corporate functions for which he is responsible. An applied psychology major at IC, he’s made it his life’s work to bring attention to and try to help undo not only systemic racism but the microaggressions—the off-handed,

offensive statements or actions like those described above—that help to perpetuate it in American life and institutions.

“I want to dispel the myth that in order for an experience to be considered or classified as racist, a person has to have ill intent,” Taylor said.

Working to shift mindsets about diversity, inclusion, and race has been Taylor’s career for nearly 20 years. He has worked exclusively in the health care industry, previously for Carolinas HealthCare System and also Kaiser Permanente. In his current role, Taylor, who also serves on the Ithaca College Board of Trustees, spearheads UPMC’s diversity and inclusion, innovation, and talent management functions, which entails developing leading-edge inclusion strategies that advance the diversity management capability of UPMC.

“The responsibilities are significant to ensure diversity is embedded in everything we do as the largest academic medical center in the country,” he said.

Due to the current environment created by the COVID-19 pandemic and the global outcry for social justice, the opportunities for action around diversity and inclusion are significant, as well. For Taylor and his team, this means partnering with communities who have serious underlying medical conditions that make them more vulnerable to COVID-19—namely, Black, Indigenous, and Latinx communities, as well as the elderly in all communities, who are disproportionately affected by the virus.

“Improving the health and health status of the communities we serve is at the core of our mission at UPMC. And for us, the multicultural dimensions of our communities are undeniable,” Taylor said. “Health care is an extremely personal experience. And figuring out how to best link culture to health care outcomes is an important differentiator between good and exceptional quality care.”

Taylor said that in Pittsburgh, that

commitment to measurable outcomes transcends health care to other fields, as well. He referenced a report released in fall 2019 around race and gender in the city of Pittsburgh, which compared the city to 89 other cities in areas of health, employment, education, and income. The results were startlingly disappointing, with Black Pittsburghers faring far worse in most categories than their counterparts in other cities. Taylor said the study brought issues of disparities to the forefront, and with it, action.

“We’ve seen the community galvanize in a way I have not seen before—not just here in Pittsburgh but anywhere,” he said. “Foundations, nonprofits, and businesses are working on comprehensive interventions focused on, ‘How do we create a more equitable city and attract a more diverse workforce?’ I’m glad to be a part of this work that’s literally changing historic and systemic structures of our once iconic steel town into a modern cultural and innovation hub.”

And Taylor said that it’s that work that differentiates the present-day movement for social justice and equity from previous movements.

“This moment feels different from where I sit. What’s different is the degree of action companies are putting behind their pledges, especially when it comes to defining expectations for what it means to be an antiracist. Organizations, to some extent, are investing in this work as they hadn’t done before. They’re invested in community partnership, employee education, and reexamining hiring practices. Regardless of the C-suite chair they sit in, leaders are charged with advancing a diversity agenda.”

These investments are evident in popular culture and in professional sports organizations, such as the National Football League and NASCAR. “The Washington Redskins,” Taylor noted. “For my entire lifetime, there was talk about their team name being offensive. I used to live in Charlotte—

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— James Taylor ‘00

home of the NASCAR Hall of Fame—and I can tell you how significant it is to ban the Confederate flag from its racetrack properties.”

Taylor said that substantive, meaningful change starts with conversation, and he wants to do his part to ensure that conversation, coupled with actions toward real, lasting change, continues to move forward. When asked how he’ll be able to measure whether he’s been successful, he said, “If I’m ever able to work myself out of a job—if we leverage this moment in time, diversity and inclusion will become so embedded and baked into our communities and organizations that an oversight team or leader that oversees the D&I function for an organization will no longer be needed. If we leverage this moment, the work of diversity and inclusion practitioners will become somewhat obsolete as this will be a core function that every member of an organization is accountable for.”



PHOTO SUBMITTED

TAKING THE NEXT STEP

Senior Yetunde Smalls wants to use her platform to help activate campus-wide change.

By Patrick Bohn '05, MS '07

The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery have sparked a lot of feeling and reflection in Yetunde Smalls '21.

"I've been overwhelmed with emotion," she said. "I was in middle school when Trayvon Martin was killed, and then a few years later Sandra Bland was killed, and I thought they were these snapshots where people were made aware of how Black people were brutalized, but it seemed like they grew numb to it. Now it's happening on a global level, and people are reacting. I'm hoping that as a global community we can create initiatives and change minds."

Smalls is not alone in wanting global change. But she's also focused on the changes that she can make on the Ithaca College campus. As a former student trustee on the Ithaca College Board of Trustees, a current MLK scholar, a 2020 Newman Civic Fellow, and a senator for the class of 2021, she sees opportunity. However, she knows change happens in stages. One of the first things that has to happen is a willingness to communicate.

"As a community, we're so nervous to offend and ask questions of each other, it creates a barrier," Smalls said. "I think if as a community we move past that, we can come to an understanding. One of the things that would be helpful is finding the commonality in our differences. At our core, we have a lot of similarities, and we have something that drove us

to IC. We should embrace those."

Increased communication is a first step, but for Ithaca College to move closer to being an antiracist campus, Smalls wants to see structural changes as well, starting at the classroom level.

"We want to make people feel welcome and like they have spaces where they will be validated for what they have to say," she said. "But at the same time, we want to make sure they aren't tokenized, and we really listen."

The line between welcoming and tokenizing is a critical one to recognize. "If an instructor makes a comment that, as a person of color, you feel is directed at you, you feel the eyes on you and a pressure to respond," Smalls said. "But other people need to understand that you're not the spokesperson for all people of color."

Smalls said that she's starting to see professors make progress on these types of issues. In July, hundreds of white faculty members posted a letter to Intercom addressed to students, faculty, and staff of color in support of Black Lives Matter. In the portion directed to students, the letter acknowledged,

among other things, that students have experienced "microaggressions and outright racism" in the classroom, and that "many departments' curricula have centered whiteness, white authors, and white experiences." The faculty members pledged to make changes to their classes to address those failings.

To Smalls, this letter was critical because it validated the experiences of people of color in the classroom. The next initiative is to work with administrators.

"What Student Governance Council wants to see is students across schools highlighting what they want to change across campus and then discuss how it can be implemented," she said. "We'd like to hold a series of webinars with the deans to take those next steps."

As she works to drive change across campus, Smalls credits many of her experiences as a student with helping shape her vision, in particular her time as the Community Council president of her residential cluster as part of the college's First-Year Residential Experience (FYRE) program and her time as an MLK scholar.

"Doing FYRE put a spark in me to become an RA and join government and be a trustee," she said. "I also learned to look beyond myself and my own needs at what my peers might need. And as an MLK scholar, I realized it wasn't necessary to be the next Dr. King. What we need to do is take what we see and the dreams that we have for the world and make them happen." ■

**"AS A COMMUNITY,
WE'RE SO NERVOUS
TO OFFEND AND ASK
QUESTIONS OF EACH
OTHER, IT CREATES
A BARRIER."**

— Yetunde Smalls '21

Honoring Retired Faculty

BY KELLI B. AN '04

AN AMAZING PROFESSOR CAN make a lasting impact, imparting lessons that resonate with students not just during their years on campus but throughout their careers as well. And, as three well-loved Ithaca College professors reach the end of their teaching careers, they are leaving an equally powerful legacy through scholarships and program funds that bear their names.

When **Jamal Rossi '80** heard that Steve Mauk was retiring and his family members were raising money to establish a scholarship in his honor, Rossi's reaction to the news was unequivocal: "I just simply said, 'Yes, absolutely. Count me in.'"

"I don't think there was a lot of arm twisting," Rossi said of the fundraising in tribute to the professor who taught

saxophone at IC for 44 years. "I imagine many, many former students reacted just as I did."

Now the dean of the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music, Rossi noted that "the person with whom you will study your instrument is your teacher for four years and your mentor and friend for 40 or 50 years. That's definitely been my relationship with Steve Mauk."

Indeed, gifts for the Steve Mauk Endowed Scholarship for Music poured in—from professors, alumni, students, family, friends, saxophone colleagues, and other members of the Ithaca College community.

Here, current and former students recall what makes these professors so special and how their awards will continue to make a difference.

LEAVING A LEGACY Do you have a favorite professor whose influence has lasted beyond graduation? Do you want to help future students get the most out of their experience at IC? For more information on establishing an endowed scholarship or program fund, email philanthropy@ithaca.edu or call (607) 274-1388. The minimum amount needed to establish an endowed scholarship is now \$25,000.



JAZZ PHOTO BY ALEXANDRA ROSE '20, BACKGROUND PHOTO BY GIOVANNI SANTACROCE, PORTRAIT PHOTO BY SHERYL SINKOW, PHOTO COLLAGE/ILLUSTRATION BY NIKKI BUHLER

Steve Mauk Endowed Scholarship for Music

Namesake: Steve Mauk, emeritus professor of saxophone who retired in 2019

Awarded to: A saxophone student with financial need

“We were incredibly lucky to have [Mauk] as a teacher,” said **Connie Frigo '97**, an associate professor of saxophone at the University of Georgia. “His teaching keeps giving and giving and giving. There’s not a day that goes by that his teaching is not present—that he’s not present in the way I carry myself.”

Frigo has known Mauk for 30 years, since she was a high school student. “He has been a part of every decision of mine,” she said, starting with her choice to attend Ithaca College.

Mauk was the one who encouraged Frigo, as a junior at IC, to audition for a rare opening in the United States Navy Band. “I was so young. I knew none of that world,” she said.

Mauk’s help proved invaluable. “He literally wrote my résumé,” she said. “He set up the recording session for the tape you had to send in to be invited for a live audition.” And after she was selected to audition, they practiced nonstop.

Although Frigo wasn’t selected after that first round of auditions, the Navy invited her back for another chance three months later. In the interim, Mauk helped her “prepare deeply” based on the Navy’s feedback from her first audition. “And that’s when I got the position,” she said.

“To call him a father figure is partially accurate,” said Frigo. “He’s someone who cares deeply about the success of his students, and he is willing to do whatever each student needs to help them.”

So when Mauk told Frigo he didn’t want a retirement party, Frigo was surprised: “I immediately called his wife and said, ‘Is he serious about this?’”

Judy Pizik Mauk '69, a former administrative assistant for the college’s Robert R. Colbert Sr. Wellness Clinic and a School of Music graduate, let Frigo in on a secret. The family was working to create an award recognizing Mauk’s extensive contributions to the college, which also included serving as faculty trustee on the Ithaca College Board of Trustees and interim dean for the School of Music.

“We wanted something that would live on at the School of Music with his name on it,” said Mauk’s daughter, **Jenna Mauk Reynolds '04**, who was a senior prospect researcher in the college’s philanthropy and engagement division at the time the endowment was established.

Frigo jumped in to help them covertly reach out to alumni. The surprise held until Commencement weekend, when the family hosted a party for donors to share the news with Mauk. Also, as part of the celebration, Frigo and dozens of former students and colleagues submitted letters for a memory book celebrating Mauk’s impact.

“To those of us who have studied directly under [Mauk], he is Ithaca College,” Frigo said as part of her remarks at the scholarship announcement. “He’s our role model in all ways.”

The first award is still a few years out, as pledged gifts continue to come in.

“It’s a great honor for me,” said Mauk, who was awarded his emeritus status last winter. “More importantly, it will help students who may be struggling financially to continue at the college or to even attend in the first place. That to me is much more important than the namesake.”



BACKGROUND PHOTO BY ANDREW FRASZ, PORTRAIT PHOTO BY RACHEL PHILIPSON, PHOTO COLLAGE/ILLUSTRATION BY NIKKI BUHLER

Greg Bostwick Fund for Artistic Excellence

Namesake: Greg Bostwick, emeritus professor of theatre arts who retired in 2019

Used to: Fund special projects in the Department of Theatre Arts

“I really believe that Greg gave me every single brick in my acting foundation. I really owe my career in many ways to the things he taught me when I was 18,” said **Jen Waldman ’97**, a theatre coach who runs her own studio in New York City.

Waldman met Bostwick during her first acting class on campus. And after she graduated from IC, her first paid acting job was in a production Bostwick directed. Years later, she directed him in another show, and they still talk regularly. “He’s definitely a staple in my story,” she said.

Ben Feldman ’02, who is currently starring in the NBC sitcom *Superstore*, recalled Bostwick as a professor with “incredible heart, incredible passion, and incredible energy.”

“Greg cast me in a main-stage play right at a pivotal moment where I was thinking, ‘Maybe I suck as an actor—maybe this was a bad idea,’” Feldman said. “It was a saving moment for me, and that stuck with me.”

Over his 42 years at Ithaca, Bostwick directed 36 shows in the Dillingham Center for Performing Arts. So when his wife, **Julie Bonney ’72**, started mulling over the idea of creating an award in Bostwick’s name to surprise him for his retirement, it felt fitting to support the program’s productions.

“I wanted to create a fund that would benefit the students, obviously, but that would also provide resources to Greg’s colleagues, so they can think outside the box a little bit,” she said.

The aim is that the department will be able to tap the fund every three or four years so that each student “would benefit from some bigger, more ambitious project” at some point before

graduating. “This will enable them to expand the scope of plays they can consider,” she said.

Bonney kept her efforts under wraps until the end of the academic year, when the theatre arts department held an event to honor Bostwick—who, among other accomplishments, had chaired the department several times over the years.

“I am deeply honored to have my name associated with an initiative of this kind,” said Bostwick, who was named professor emeritus last winter. Theatre productions serve as “learning labs” for students, enhancing what they pick up in classes, he explained. So having extra funding in that area can make a powerful impact. “I cannot think of a better way to support the education of a broad range of theatre arts students in one fell swoop,” he noted.

Waldman said the focus of Bostwick’s award makes sense because “when I think about the plays that I did with him, they were big. As a student, I think that the scale of those shows trained me for my Broadway experience.”

“Now that I have two decades of life between me and my college days, I’m able to see with more clarity and hindsight the real gifts I was being given in college, beyond the technical training,” she said.

“There was never a day that Greg allowed any of us to be lazy in our work. There was never a day where he let us use our youth as an excuse for not doing well,” Waldman said. “I was treated like a professional actor by Greg when I was 18. And because of that, I was able to develop the skill set to believe I can do this.”



BACKGROUND PHOTO BY ANDREW FRASZ, PORTRAIT BY ROBYN WISHNA, PHOTO COLLAGE/ILLUSTRATION BY NIKKI BUHLER

Carole White Dennis Study Abroad Scholarship

Namesake: Carole White Dennis, professor of occupational therapy who retired in 2020

Awarded to: Occupational therapy majors who have financial need and are studying abroad

Scholarship recipient Renee Manosh '22 wrote from her spring study abroad in South Africa that Dennis's investment brought her "so much opportunity. The funding I was granted for this scholarship has made the entire experience possible for me."

That was the aim for Dennis, who taught at the college for 21 years and served as her department's chair and program director. She started thinking about funding a scholarship in 2018, inspired by the experiences she had while teaching IC students in the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Morocco.

"Stepping outside of where we are sometimes gives us a broader view," she said. "The opportunity to do things in other countries and other places, particularly with cultural differences, helps us to grow and appreciate difference, which is really good when we get home."

For budding occupational therapists in particular, the opportunity to study abroad in a developing country can go a long way in making them more effective health care providers, she said.

"In order to help those we serve to participate fully in their lives, as they wish to live them, we must respect individual values, beliefs, and experiences," she said. "Stepping outside of our own culturally bound lives in the U.S. can help us appreciate difference, and hopefully better able to respect the individual values, beliefs, and experiences of those we

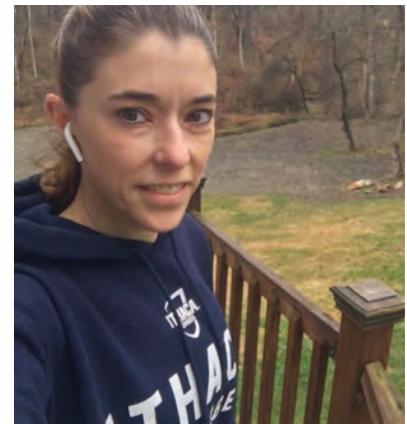
serve. About 13% of the people who live in America were born outside of the U.S., and people born here differ in their ways of living, their values, religions, and politics."

But studying abroad is an experience not every student gets to have, Dennis pointed out: "I thought that a scholarship might encourage people who wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity."

The scholarship's first recipient was Emily Lighthall '22, who traveled with Dennis to study in Morocco last year. In her scholarship thank-you note, Lighthall wrote, "Being a part of this trip opened my eyes to so many new ways of life, solidified my passion and excitement for occupational therapy, and definitely gave me the travel bug."

She said the opportunity to work and observe therapists in Morocco under a different set of standards gave her a new appreciation for what occupational therapists can do and are capable of doing. She hopes to work as an occupational therapist in an elementary or middle school.

"In providing me this scholarship, you have further shown the kind, amazing woman that I got the opportunity to meet in Morocco," Lighthall wrote. "Thanks again for everything you do and continue to do for your students in helping them discover new things about themselves and the world around them." 🍀



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

SUSTAINING THE IC ALUMNI EXPERIENCE

While COVID-19 sidelined in-person IC events for much of 2020, the college's Office of Philanthropy and Engagement continued to offer virtual meet-ups and professional development opportunities to the IC alumni community.

The weekend of April 3 saw more than 400 alumni from coast to coast register to lace up their sneakers and get outdoors to participate in the college's first-ever IC Digital Dash 5K. Promoting social distancing requirements and keeping the safety of registrants top of mind, the college invited alumni to run/walk/jog/roll a distance of 5K on their own and submit their time.

Also in April, alumni and families of current students heard directly from President Collado and college leaders during two Fireside Chats with the President events facilitated via Zoom, a video communications site. Participants learned about the college's evolving response to the coronavirus pandemic and the Ithaca Forever strategic plan, and had the opportunity to submit their

questions and have them answered live.

The college also provided virtual 30-minute meditation sessions three days a week (held live) and continued offering IC Webinars on a monthly basis, during which presenters (the majority of whom are IC alumni themselves) shared their expertise with more than a thousand participants on professional development, career, and wellness topics.

PRESENT A WEBINAR

If you're interested in being considered as a webinar presenter, please email alumni@ithaca.edu.

Stay up-to-date on upcoming IC alumni events through our monthly alumni e-newsletter, and be sure to keep your contact information current to make sure you're receiving the latest IC news!



PHOTO SUBMITTED

DEAR IC FRIENDS,

While 2020 has been a year of upheaval, it has also been a time for ingenuity and creating fresh solutions to new challenges, and that's exactly the focus I'm hoping to bring as the new president of the of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. This is a pivotal time for our nation and also for our college, and it is our duty to lean on each other and take action to effect positive change.

Fortunately, I have the amazing work of Ami Maki '94 to build upon and an energized group of new and returning directors committed to IC's future. As we navigate challenging new circumstances, we will continue to focus on helping the Office of Philanthropy and Engagement staff fulfill their charge to support our alumni community and keep them connected to South Hill. We are looking forward to adapting to virtual events and creating programming that we hope will be accessible to alumni like you, whether you've participated in events before or haven't connected with the college since you left.

It's surreal to think that just last year we had one of the largest alumni gatherings ever as we bested the Cortland Red Dragons in MetLife Stadium. Having just moved back to the Ithaca area myself, I think it's bizarre to be so close to campus and yet not able to visit a place that holds so many dear memories. There's no reason, however, that we can't continue to connect with our fellow Bombers, champion a college that transformed so many of our lives, and do what we can to ensure current students have just as memorable an IC journey, even when navigating a pandemic. I personally look forward to working with President Shirley M. Collado, the administration, trustees, campus community, and fellow alumni to guide the college forward by leading the alumni board in an innovative, sustainable, and inclusive way.

I likewise hope you'll do your own part as an alum. Join us for our virtual events, and invite your Ithaca College networks to participate as well. Keep in touch with them, as we all need as much support as we can find these days. Open your LinkedIn network to build new relationships with IC alumni and students so that we can all lift each other up. And please, continue to support the Ithaca College Annual Fund so that the pandemic has a minimal impact on our alma mater's ability to keep delivering a top-notch educational experience, now and—as the song goes—forever.

If you have questions or suggestions for the alumni board, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at alumni@ithaca.edu. We want to hear all your creative ideas for how we can support you or keep you involved with the college. I have complete faith that by working together we can weather these turbulent times.

CHRISTY AGNESE '06

President, Alumni Association Board of Directors

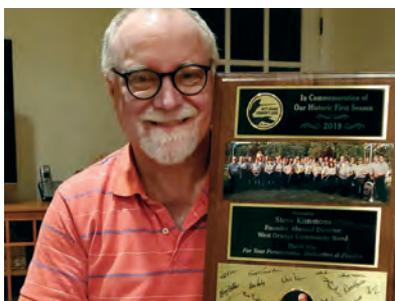
1969

RICHARD C. MILLER retired from his position as vice provost at Western Kentucky University and served as interim dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Benedict College for the 2019-20 school year.

1974

LINDA STERN has been working as a K-12 special education teacher and facilitator for many years in various schools in Las Vegas, Nevada, and is currently an administrator for a charter school.

1978



Steve Kimmons created the West Orange Community Band last July, and the ensemble has since grown to 87 active and reserve members. In recognition of his efforts, Steve was presented a commemorative plaque by band members during the dress rehearsal for the final concert of the season. Steve has an extensive background in organizing community bands and orchestras, including his work as a high school band director in Riverdale, Maryland, for five years before going on to win a nationwide audition with the U.S. Air Force and serving six years as a band commander. Steve is a former director of alumni relations at Ithaca College.



Peter Steinhaus, who goes by Peter King on the air, accepted the Edward R. Murrow Award for Breaking News Coverage from ABC News correspondent Jujie Chang.

Peter, a correspondent for CBS News Radio, was given the award for his coverage of the Parkland, Florida, high school shootings. This was his third Murrow Award, with prior wins for coverage of the Pulse nightclub shootings in 2016 and the 2010 Haiti earthquake. Peter also produced, wrote, and edited a long-form documentary commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing and featuring interviews with some 30 people who flew, worked on, covered, or simply watched Apollo 11. *One Giant Leap: Revisited* aired on several dozen CBS News Radio stations.

1979

ELLEN ISRAEL has been named to the Ithaca College Alumni Board. She has worked as a commercial real estate broker since graduation.

1981

PENNY STERLING is a storyteller based in Rochester, New York. She transitioned to her authentic self in October 2015. In 2016, she wrote and performed *Spy in the House of Men: A One Woman Show (with Balls)*, a seriocomic telling of her life pre- and post-transition. She's since performed the show more than 40 times across the country and has also created and performed two other shows, titled *Parents & Children, Husbands & Wives* and *Smilf Life*. Prior to storytelling, Penny was a successful video professional, having worked in public broadcasting, news, advertising, and sports television.

1982

NEIL E. HARTMAN is the director for the Center for Sports Communication and Social Impact at Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey. His responsibilities include mentoring sports communication and media students by providing them with career advice and assisting with internships. Neil is also responsible for attracting high-profile guests to campus as speakers and industry professionals who participate in networking opportunities for the students.



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PASSIONATE
STUDENT WHO
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ALUMNI NOTES

1983

MICHAEL UNGER has been named the artistic director at Milwaukee's Skylight Music Theatre. Previously he was the associate artistic director and the director of education for off-Broadway's York Theatre Company. Skylight Music Theatre produces a variety of music theatre including opera, operetta, oratorio, concerts, and musicals. He will continue in his role as the producing artistic director of NewArts in Newtown, Connecticut, which was formed to bring healing through the arts in response to the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy.

1984

STEPHEN LONG was recognized as a 2019 river advocate by the Massachusetts Rivers Alliance. He was honored for his work as director of government relations for the Massachusetts Nature Conservancy, advocating for the state's climate adaptation plan and its Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program, which provides support for cities and towns as they plan for climate change resiliency and implement priority projects to enhance safety, avoid costs, and foster nature-based solutions and equity.

1989



Tony DeFazio's company, DeFazio Communications, received recognition during the Pepperpot Awards, hosted by the Philadelphia chapter of the Public Relations Society of America, for its campaign on behalf of the Discovery Labs. The awards event brings together Philadelphia-area public relations professionals to recognize top public relations tactics, campaigns, and professionals.



MICHAEL HERTZENDORF

was named president and CEO of Northeast UAS Airspace Integration Research (NUAIR)

Alliance. He previously served as the company's interim CEO, and since 2018, as its chief of staff. In this role, he will continue to lead the advancement of New York's 50-mile unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) corridor, creating a fiscally responsible business structure and enhancing NUAIR's services.

1990



MIKE CHERENON,

executive vice president of SCG, an advertising and public relations company, joined the One to World

Board of Directors, where he will support the organization's mission of bolstering connections between New York-area communities and international students. One to World's activities include enrichment programs for international students, global education for area schools, and development and peer support for international educators. Mike is a member of the Public Relations Society of America's Educational Affairs Committee and a site team member for the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications.

MICHAEL S. MAISTELMAN was voted to the Milwaukee Public Museum Board of Directors.

IAN PERLMAN maintains a writing blog (lookinginyourwindow.com) that began as a hobby and has developed into a passion. He began the blog when his beloved wife, **JESSYCA KATZ**, was diagnosed with glioblastoma. The writing is a way for him to process all that is inside and seeks a way out.

1991



IC alumni of the 1991 "Bronx Bombers," physical therapy students at Jacobi Hospital in their senior year, celebrated Craig Wood's 50th birthday at their annual reunion. Standing, left to right, are Eric Baughman, **Matt Thompson '91**, Tracy Thompson, **Renee Taefi Baughman '91**, **Dave Armet '91**, **Julie Karel Bringas '91**, and Mike Bringas. Seated are Bryan Morris, **Craig Wood '91**, and **Jen Shuey Armet '91**. The group decided at graduation that they would get together once a year. Their 28th reunion was in New York City.

1994



Dave "Shinn" Shinnlinger, woodshop teacher at Mascoma Valley Regional High School in Canaan, New Hampshire, received the 2019 Teacher of the Year Award from the New England Association of Woodworking Teachers. He and his wife renovated an old garage in nearby Lebanon and opened it as Lucky's Coffee Garage. The new coffee shop was voted "best of New Hampshire" in that region and received an award for historical preservation from the state.

1996

SETH WILLIAM MEIER was an executive producer for the feature film *The Turning* for Amblin Partners. This will mark Seth's second film with Amblin Partners, following *A Dog's Journey*, which was released in May 2019.

WHAT YOU TAKE FROM CANCER

Professors and peers helped **Scott Capozza '98** get through cancer treatment and graduate with his classmates—now he works to help others

BY GREGORY PINGS

When **Scott Capozza '98** was diagnosed with stage two testicular cancer while finishing his final year in IC's physical therapy program, the treatment threatened to sabotage his plans for graduating.

"Can we wait until winter break?" Capozza asked his doctor when surgery was advised. "I don't have time to deal with this."

Final exams and a six-week clinical rotation loomed ahead. The doctor simplified his case: "If you don't deal with the cancer right away, it will kill you."

Except for the professors who had to know, Capozza did not tell anyone of his diagnosis—and when he did, he said as little as possible.

With finals on Monday and Tuesday, and surgery on Thursday, Capozza's schedule held. For the upcoming clinical rotation, he vaguely advised his professor of a surgery and no heavy lifting. His rotation was adjusted accordingly.

Then the doctors discovered that the cancer had spread, and Capozza would need a second surgery to remove lymph nodes near his kidneys. In-patient recovery was expected to last five days, so Capozza called in sick to be excused from class. However, complications extended his recovery to an entire month.

It was time to let everyone in on the secret.

“ ”

If I could ignore symptoms in my own body, then so might others who are in a position to know better.

"The director of the physical therapy program (Ernest Nalette) said we would figure this out," Capozza recalled. "And, with his support, I told my classmates. Everybody was amazing—super supportive." The professors gave him extra assistance, and his friends helped him study. "I finished my academic work on time, despite missing four weeks."

His final clinical rotation was postponed due to chemotherapy treatments, but the college allowed Capozza to walk in graduation with his friends and



PHOTO BY CHRISTINA BROWN

Scott Capozza '98 works with a young breast cancer survivor who had undergone surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy and developed lymphedema, which caused swelling in her arm.

complete his final clinical rotation the following fall.

"I was bald and trying to put weight back on when I graduated with my classmates," Capozza recalled, but he was thankful to participate.

Today, Capozza works at the Smilow Cancer Hospital Survivorship Clinic in New Haven, Connecticut, as part of a multidisciplinary team to address the many physical and emotional long-term effects of cancer. He is a member of the first-ever class of board-certified clinical specialists in oncology physical therapy.

"There are 69 of us in the United States," he pointed out. "That number will grow."

The larger medical community is beginning to accept the idea that physical therapy is a vital part of cancer treatment. Studies have shown that exercise and rehabilitation can decrease the likelihood of lymphedema (swelling caused by removal of lymph nodes), fatigue, anxiety, and depression in cancer patients.

"Now doctors and therapists are able to discuss exercise as medicine," Capozza explained.

After five years of studying physical therapy at IC and running on the cross country and track teams, Capozza had a strong sense of the human body. Despite that, he realized he had done nothing about his symptoms for two months and had even completed his first marathon a month prior to his diagnosis.

"If I could ignore symptoms in my own body, then so might others who are in a position to know better," said Capozza.

So he returned to Ithaca to talk about his experience and the importance of self-examination. His annual trek soon morphed into oncology rehabilitation lectures on how physical therapists can help cancer patients.

Capozza's lecture series at Ithaca College will continue in 2020. 🍓

WHEN INFATUATION MEETS APPLICATION

A degree in television-radio led **Andrew Steinthal '02** to launch an online platform for restaurant discovery

BY GREGORY PINGS

Andrew Steinthal '02 offered a compendious summary of his college experience:

"I was way more focused on the radio station than I was on my classes," he said. "WICB was just such an exciting opportunity."

He also recalled one of those realizations that an undergraduate degree is all about:

"The one time I truly focused on a paper while at Ithaca, I wrote about the music business," Steinthal said. "I poured myself into the project. It was my best work."

The professor gave him a C.

"I was bummed. But through that process, I learned that I actually enjoyed writing about things I was interested in," he said.



Everybody eats, but not everyone cares about the chefs or the cooking aspects of their dinners.

Steinthal's work at WICB took him during his junior year to New York City for College Media Journal's radio music marathon. While there, he met Chris Stang, a student from Colorado State University who also worked at his university's radio station. They became fast friends and knew that someday they wanted to do something entrepreneurial together. Initially after graduation, Steinthal advanced his public relations career with Warner Bros. Records while Stang worked his way up to vice president of marketing at Atlantic Records.

"The music business is a night-time sport," Steinthal explained. "You're out three to four nights a week entertaining artists, managers, and the press. We spent a ton of time inside bars and restaurants."

Steinthal and Stang became adept at picking the right place depending on the people they were working with.

"Among our colleagues, we were known as the guys with all the hot restaurant intel," Steinthal said.

Eventually the two came to the realization that



PHOTO BY EMILY SCHINDLER/THE INFATUATION

reliable "restaurant intel" need not be limited to people with expense accounts. They also recognized that respected food reviewers often favored industry jargon that many people don't understand.

"Everybody eats, but not everyone cares about the chefs or the cooking aspects of their dinners," Steinthal pointed out. "People want to know where to take their parents who are visiting from out of town or find a decent place for a first date. They want honest and real recommendations that help them match the right place with the right experience. Chris and I saw that hole in the market."

In 2009, they launched what would eventually be called The Infatuation. Steinthal is the chief revenue officer, handling partnerships with brands like American Express, Nike, and Stella Artois. Stang is the chief executive officer. The Infatuation offers content about restaurants and bars in over 40 markets, with full-time operations in New York, Los Angeles, London, San Francisco, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, Miami, and Seattle. The company also hosts over 50 events annually, including a food festival, EEEEEATSCON.

"We've always believed The Infatuation was the Zagat of this generation—a dining guide that embodied trust," Steinthal said.

The Zagat Survey, originally established in 1979, was a compilation of restaurant ratings and reviews based on survey responses from diners. Steinthal and Stang bought Zagat from Google in 2018 to add a reliable user-generated platform to complement their reviews. With their Zagat purchase, Steinthal and Stang were flooded with requests to bring back the book, which had been out of print. So The Infatuation ran a survey and printed the results in the *Zagat 2020 New York City Restaurants* guide.

"The books are selling like crazy," Steinthal enthused.

Moreover, Zagat has a digital future. The Infatuation will launch a user-generated online platform soon. ■

1998



Jacob Werblow received the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award to Japan for Lecturing in American Studies. He will lecture at Kyoto University and Kyoto University of Foreign Studies in courses related to society and education, and contemporary and comparative education. Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement, as well as their record of service and demonstrated leadership in their respective fields. Jacob is one of 800 U.S. citizens who taught or conducted research over the 2019-20 academic year through the program.

2004

JESSE GOLDBERG-STRASSLER was named *Ballpark Digest's* Minor League Baseball Broadcaster of the Year. He handles radio broadcasts and media relations for the Lansing Lugnuts, the Class A affiliate of the Toronto Blue Jays. Jesse also directs the Michigan Baseball Hall of Fame, serves as a broadcaster for Central Michigan University women's basketball, and has published two books, *The Baseball Thesaurus* and *The Football Thesaurus*.

2005

ZACHARY JAMES is making his Metropolitan Opera debut in Philip Glass's *Akhmaten*, playing Amenhotep III. Zachary appeared in this production previously at the English National Opera and the LA Opera.

JESSE T. KATEN was a recipient of a SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching.

2006

JONNA CLARK, MS '07, was honored as the Rotary Teacher of the Month for Renton, Washington.

Jonna is an occupational therapist at Cascade Elementary School. In addition to teaching, Jonna helped create and publish *Conversation Club Curriculum: Teaching Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Published in 2016, the book provides a comprehensive instructional framework for teaching the "how" and "why" of conversation to elementary-age children.

AMANDA JOY is cofounder and director of education for the Wrinkled Brain Project, which began during an education start-up competition. Amanda and the company's other cofounder are both science educators who are passionate about helping students develop science inquiry skills. They have developed Gedanken, a tool for teaching science inquiry and helping students be creative and work collaboratively. Most recently, they have been doing "explorer in residence" programs at local schools, providing in-class custom support programs.



Gina Zurlo, PhD, was named one of the British Broadcasting Corporation's 100 most inspiring and influential women of 2019. She is recognized as a scholar of religion and an expert in religion statistics. As part of the BBC series *100 Women*, Gina gave a talk at the 100 Women event in Delhi, India, on the future of religion worldwide. Her talk focused on new methodologies for analyzing the future religious landscape and the potential role women have in it. Gina is co-editor of the peer-reviewed *Journal of Religion and Demography* and is co-editor of the *World Christian Database* and *World Religion Database*.

2008

AARON BLOOM is a resident in the anesthesiology department at the

University of Minnesota. He was elected chief anesthesia resident for 2019-20, after which he will finish his fellowship in chronic pain at the University of Colorado. After Ithaca College, Aaron graduated from the University of Arizona with a master's degree in medical pharmacology in 2012 and then began his medical school studies at the University of New England.

DANIEL CARRIÓN completed his PhD in environmental health sciences from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health in July 2019 and then started a postdoctoral fellowship at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. His work focuses on the relationships among social disadvantage, air pollution, and extreme heat and how these exposures may inform adverse birth outcomes such as preterm birth.

CAROLYN VITALE is a pediatric cardiology fellow at the University of Michigan, where she will be joining the cardiology faculty in the pediatric cardiac intensive care unit. She graduated from Temple Medical School in 2012, preceding a pediatrics residency at the University of Connecticut and a pediatric critical care fellowship at the University of Michigan.

2009

SARAH GARCIA studies the functional morphology of the avian vocal organ—why one bird sounds different from another. As part of her research, she has traveled to Argentina and Panama, writing a thesis that involves the discovery of a three-sound source vocal organ. Since finishing her PhD, she has started instructing courses at the University of Utah and Westminster College.

JOSEPH GOODLIFFE is a scientist at biotech company Decibel Therapeutics, where he studies the inner ear and novel therapeutics for hearing loss, tinnitus, and

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE SUPER BOWL

Nate McCoart '13 manages the world's biggest screens at the world's biggest games

BY CHARLES MCKENZIE

Whether talking about a kickball tournament, an Oscar party, or Girl Scout cookie season, people often describe the biggest annual event in their lives as their Super Bowl. For **Nate McCoart '13**, his Super Bowl is *the* Super Bowl, and it has been for the last seven years.

McCoart is the technical operations manager for Van Wagner Sports & Entertainment, which again this past season worked with the NFL, Fox Sports, and host Hard Rock Stadium in Miami to develop, produce, and direct a three-hour pregame show and the in-stadium entertainment. This included managing key moments and some pretty impressive video real estate.

With 65,000 fans in attendance, some of whom spent tens of thousands of dollars to be there, and with literally 100 million television viewers, shouldn't McCoart have some anxiety on the eve of the game?

"I've been here for two and a half weeks, and we've been through three days of hardcore rehearsals and checks, so we're in a pretty good spot going into tomorrow," he said from his hotel room just hours before his 6 a.m. stadium arrival. "So there's nothing really keeping me up tonight. We try to plan for the unexpected and have a rough idea of what our responses will be."



I've always had the mindset that the sky is the limit, and as far as you can push yourself is as far as you will reach.

All that's left is execution, which, for him, means turning from technical guru into showman. As long as fans enjoy the experience, his team wins. But that thrill of victory comes with the agony of the feet.

"I easily walk a marathon on game days alone," said McCoart.

And it doesn't stop after the final whistle. In fact, he still has a full day's work ahead.

"Even after the trophy is presented, the game still isn't over for my team. It's time to break down all of the equipment," he said.

Every year, McCoart's 22-hour Super Bowl Sunday stretches deep into Monday morning. Around 4 a.m.



PHOTO BY GIOVANNI SANTAGROCE

he heads to bed for just a few hours before returning to the stadium.

While working these high-profile events, McCoart has met a few celebrities.

"I grew up in Rhode Island a born and bred Patriots fan, so getting to interact with Tom Brady and Coach Bill Belichick over the last couple Super Bowls has been pretty cool."

But as soon as one event is done, they're preparing for the next. For McCoart, that meant the two-week Paribas Open, arguably the biggest non-Grand Slam tennis tournament in the world.

Although he works about six marquee events per year—for the NFL, Olympics, U.S. Open Tennis, and college national championships—McCoart stays on the road about two-thirds of the time, supporting two dozen or so events per year. Between the college football national championship and the Super Bowl in January, he was home only once—for one day.

It may be a dream job, but it's come with a lot of hard work.

"I've always had the mindset that the sky is the limit, and as far as you can push yourself is as far as you will reach," said the sport management major.

McCoart said he produced nearly every home athletic contest for the Bombers between 2010 and 2012. He also served as an event and facility manager when IC first opened its Athletics and Events Center in 2011. He's tried to learn from everyone he's met, including several IC alumni.

"The classmates and other alumni that I have come across, sometimes just randomly at events, have been great. They're everywhere, especially in the sports and production areas," said McCoart.

He also worked the Cortaca Jug game at MetLife Stadium this past November.

"It was exciting to work with folks I went to school with or worked alongside at IC. I thought we helped put together a pretty amazing day." 🍀

other inner ear disorders. In 2016, he received his PhD from Boston University School of Medicine, studying brain development. He then completed an academic postdoc at Boston University School of Medicine, studying neuronal physiology and connectivity in Huntington's disease.

2011

ASHLEY ANDERSON is a middle school math teacher who has taught both biology and math since completing her master's in teaching from the University of Washington.



Katherine "Kit" Straley received a National Science Foundation graduate research fellowship in 2014. Her ongoing dissertation research at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst focuses on the effects of forest fragmentation and suburban development on the nesting behavior and success of the declining wood thrush songbird species. Kit also teaches in the ornithology lab at the University of Massachusetts, annually leads a local section of the Audubon's Christmas Bird Count, and volunteers in the summers as a bird bander.

2012

NOAH MARK obtained a master's in soil, water, and environmental science from the University of Arizona and is now a chemical and microbiological analyst at the Community Science Institute, an Ithaca-based nonprofit water quality testing lab that monitors and protects water quality in the Finger Lakes and Southern Tier regions. Noah guides day-to-day lab operations, carries out experiments, and helps with the organization's fundraising and outreach activities. He also co-owns a small, diversified vegetable

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ALUMNI WEEKEND

Alumni Weekend has been rescheduled for next June, and after so much disruption in 2020, there will be more to celebrate than ever! Come back to South Hill to enjoy many events:

- A Series of Celebrations for the Class of 2020
- Special Reunions for Classes Ending in 0, 1, 5, and 6
- Alumni Awards Celebration
- The Chance to Reconnect with Faculty and Friends

Interested in serving on your class reunion committee?

Contact Kristin Van Ormer at kvanormer@ithaca.edu or (607) 274-3314.

👉 alumni.ithaca.edu/alumni-weekend

ALUMNI NOTES

farm called Here We Are Farm in Trumansburg, New York.

KELSEY SCOTT has worked as an environmental scientist and regulatory staff member for HDR Engineering in Syracuse, New York, since 2018. Her work focuses on renewable energy development and compliance in the Northeast. Her main expertise is licensing and relicensing hydropower facilities under the Federal Power Act, which includes hydrological studies; federal and state consultation regarding rare, threatened, and endangered species; dam and public safety implementation; and archaeological and cultural protection.

2013

ADAM CAPOFERRI (formerly Longwich) is a first-year PhD student between the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Georgetown University's microbiology and immunology program. After graduating from Ithaca, he enrolled in the University of Massachusetts Medical School before returning to Johns Hopkins University to work with the NIH laboratory in characterizing the HIV virus of patients from Rakai, Uganda.

KACEY DEAMER has joined Cornell Small Farms as the program's first communications specialist, taking on the management of all storytelling and outreach across the program's website, social media, e-newsletter, magazine, and more. She has built and launched a new website, designed with new branding, for the program.



LEEANN HILL is a senior scientist at PSE Healthy Energy, where she focuses on the effects of energy production and use on human health, the environment, and climate. Her work includes

characterizing chemical use and waste streams associated with oil and gas development across multiple states and deploying a low-cost air monitoring network in the Bay Area. She has examined the human health hazards and risks associated with underground gas storage, oil and gas development, and produced water reuse. Intent on sharing her findings with relevant and diverse audiences, she has written commentaries, developed data visualization tools, and authored numerous peer-reviewed and technical reports.



STEPHANIE LAVALLATO is the global data manager for investor initiatives at CDP, a global environmental nonprofit helping investors, companies, and cities assess their environmental impact and build a sustainable economy. She oversees CDP's commercial data partnerships with capital market stakeholders, from whom there is growing demand for quality environmental data to use in investment decisions, portfolio building, index creation, and more.

JEFFERY MATHERS is the assistant minor league strength and conditioning coordinator and director of rehabilitation for the Seattle Mariners pro baseball team. He implements and supervises the Mariners' strength and conditioning program for athletes in rehab to safely return to play.

JESSICA WUNSCH graduated with a master's in public policy and urban and regional planning from the University of Michigan, where she participated in community-based research to advance innovation in affordable and safe housing, food systems planning, and climate adaptation. Now a Hatfield Fellow at Oregon Housing and Community Services, she is working to make access to

homeownership more equitable for households of color in Oregon.

2014

JOSHUA MESSINGER earned his doctorate from Duke University in molecular genetics and microbiology and is applying to industry positions in medical affairs and data science. His first authored paper was published in *mBio*, making the cover of the issue. The paper identified host biomarkers of Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) latency states. He spoke at the 2018 international conference on EBV and KSHV (Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus) in Madison, Wisconsin, and also gave a talk at IC's biology department.

2015

LYNZI DELUCCIA is a multimedia journalist and reporter with NBC 10 WJAR in Providence, Rhode Island, after having spent three years at CBS 6 in Albany, New York. With NBC 10, Lynzi reports on breaking news, investigative pieces, and also the great parts of Providence.



JORDAN FREY is working toward a master's in geographic information science (GIS) at Clark University. He is focusing his studies on learning methods for storing, analyzing, and visualizing geospatial data for business, public administration, and environmental applications.



CURT MCCONNELL is in his fourth year of a dual-title PhD program in ecology and biogeochemistry at Pennsylvania State University. His research focuses broadly on nutrients in the soil-plant-water system. In his research, he is using stable isotopes to monitor controls on soil phosphorus dynamics with the

CREATING AN IMPRESSION

Adrian Anderson Phung '14 turned her passion for fine arts into a career with the Barnes Foundation

BY JESSICA TROSKOSKY

Adrian Anderson Phung '14 has had an interest in the arts since she was young. In high school, she dabbled as a flutist and scene painter, drew, and immersed herself in art history. While she said she wouldn't call herself a master in any of these art forms, she knew early on that a career incorporating her passions was important to her.

Her desire to follow her interests led her to Ithaca College. Anderson, who is from Philadelphia, was at first unfamiliar with the college. However, when she saw the courses listed for IC's degree in theatre arts management, she thought they might be exactly what she was looking for.

"I was not wrong," Anderson confirmed when she described her first impressions of the program. During her time at IC, she worked shifts at the box office, was an usher for performances, and helped with show production. She carefully curated her course work to provide an even split between business acumen and art.

"Essentially, IC gave you the tools to drive your own career in the arts field," she said. Each student was also assigned a practicum experience every semester, which included managing performances, holding opening-night receptions, and publicizing events.



Careers should be treated like a work of art. Most masterpieces weren't thrown together in an hour. It takes time, thought, and creativity to create something noteworthy.

Anderson's four years at IC—combined with her internships with London's Donmar Warehouse Theatre, Pennsylvania Ballet, Walnut Street Theatre, and Barnes Foundation—helped her realize her dreams. For two years after graduation, Anderson worked at Philadelphia's Walnut Street Theatre, the oldest theatre in the United States. The historic venue offers shows, tours, and educational sessions.

"It was a great first job out of college," said Anderson.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

As part of a small team, she gained experience in a wide variety of promotional activities such as email marketing, social media, and merchandising for the gift shop.

In 2017, the Barnes Foundation, which promotes art education and houses an impressive art collection, was looking for a marketing design and content specialist. Anderson, who knew the hiring manager from her senior-year internship there, jumped at the opportunity. She loved her job at the theatre but longed for the chance to work at a museum.

"My background as an art history minor and experience in scene painting drove my desire to get closer to this art form," she said.

Today, Anderson is the marketing manager for the Barnes Foundation. She helps promote ticket sales, exhibitions, and programs, and creates content and imagery that reflects the brand and is used consistently throughout the organization. She credits her last semester of college for helping her learn the importance of brand awareness. When her college advisor asked for help in creating a print piece for student recruitment, Anderson learned about the importance of fonts, color palettes, and writing style in a brand's overall image.

Anderson continues to hone her marketing skills and seek out opportunities to learn new things. For instance, when the Barnes Foundation wanted to track guest purchases in order to personalize the marketing efforts with relevant offers, Anderson learned and tested ways to sync ticketing, purchases, and membership information together to automate and personalize promotions to guests. This wasn't something she learned at IC, but she credits her practicums and internships for helping her feel confident that she could teach herself new skills.

Anderson's experiences at IC continue to serve her well. She offers a piece of advice to recent graduates: "Careers should be treated like a work of art. Most masterpieces weren't thrown together in an hour. It takes time, thought, and creativity to create something noteworthy." 🍷



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- Network effectively

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👉 Contact careers@ithaca.edu to learn more.

goal of translating his experimental results into an established agroecosystem simulation model.

AUDREY WALLENDAL was promoted to communications manager with Taft Communications. She works to manage the firm's health, life science, and public issues accounts, as well as educate nonprofit and business leaders

on communications that inspire audiences to action. She also drives creative strategy and content development for both nonprofit and mission-driven clients.

2016

EMILY CONKLIN began her zoology PhD at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in 2018, working on ecosystem modeling and coral

genomics. She enjoys uniting biology and computer science to inform management practices and is involved in projects on coral bleaching, software development, population genetics, and modeling how fish larvae get from one place to another. She is supported in part by a National Science Foundation graduate research fellowship.



Zack Conner is finishing his master's degree in geoinformatics at Hunter College while working as a GIS specialist for the New York City Department of Transportation. Day to day, he uses computer coding to automate data collection and manipulation processes. Prior to this role, Zack worked with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County as a water quality technician, monitoring storm water drainage.

2018

JUSTIN ASHLEY made his Top Fuel debut at the National Hot Rod Association's NTK Carolina Nationals, where he advanced to the semifinals, racing in a car that can reach speeds of 330 miles per hour in under four seconds. He also opened a real estate investment company dedicated to the rehabilitation of distressed residential properties in New York. To document his adventures in both house flipping and racecar driving, he has aired a web series on YouTube called *Fix, Flip, Fuel*.



GEORGIA CAPLEN is an environmental scientist at AquAeTer Inc. She conducts environmental assessments, laboratory water quality studies,

wetland delineations, and other field studies to support current and future environmental studies.



VERONICA ORTIZ

played Marjorie May in the Bay Area Musicals production of the Tony-winning *Gypsy* at San Francisco's Alcazar Theatre.

OMAR STOUTE worked as an administrative assistant with the Office of the Provost at Ithaca College upon graduation and now works as the Title IX deputy coordinator in IC's Title IX office.

2019

LIAM BARRY is spending two years in Sāmoa as a community-based development worker and an ESL teacher. He is working with elementary students to improve their English, and in his second year, will be collaborating with a Sāmoan teacher to co-teach English courses.

MARYBETH MACKAY teaches part-time private violin lessons at Creative Arts, a community school in Massachusetts, and works as a behavior therapist for Behavioral Health Works, a company that assists individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities. In her free time, she plays gigs in the Boston area.

CAITLIN MEREDITH-HANSON FINN is an assistant defensive coach with the Hobart College football team in Geneva, New York. She works predominantly with inside linebackers.

Celebrations

KIMBERLY KAHLER NEWTON '77 and William E. Naughton, on October 8, 2019, at the Paris Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

ANGELA AFFRONTI '07 and Dan DeCaria, on July 6, 2019, in Rochester, New York.

Brittany Burgess Wynn '08

was a bridesmaid. Jeremy Menard, manager of television and radio operations at the Roy H. Park School of Communications, was a groomsman.

VICTOR SHELDEN '11 and Emily Nhaissi, on August 24, 2019, at Gratitude and Grace in Ithaca, New York. **Cameron Scheible Judkins '11** served as best man, and **Zachary Kozlowski '07** was a groomsman.

Introductions

DAVID A. MANCUSO JR. '99 and Casey Mancuso: David Mancuso III, May 1, 2019.

PATRICK BOHN '05 and Ashley Bohn: Sullivan Patrick, November 15, 2019, joins older sister, Cora.

NATALIE GAMBLE SKELDING '07 and Joseph Skelding: Jack Henry, November 3, 2019.

KARA JOYCE ZDROJESKI '12 and **TIM ZDROJESKI '12**: Vincent Edwin, May 27, 2019.

Farewells

ROBERT J. FISHMAN '94, March 10, 2019, at the age of 46, in Sharon, Massachusetts. After obtaining a degree in international business, Rob began his investment career and later joined New England Pension Consultants (NEPC) of Boston in 1999—the same year he earned an MBA from Bentley University. In 2002, he became a chartered financial analyst and worked his way to partner at NEPC in less than eight years, ultimately spending nearly 20 years at the firm. Outside of work, he coached his children's soccer, basketball, baseball, and softball teams. He is survived by his wife of 19 years, **Lisa Becker Fishman '94**; and his children, Daniel and Sarah.

TO PLACE AN ALUMNI NOTE, Celebration, Introduction, or Farewell, please visit ithaca.edu/icview and fill out the online form.

ICView reserves the right to edit for length and clarity.

Notes can also be mailed to

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PHOTOS

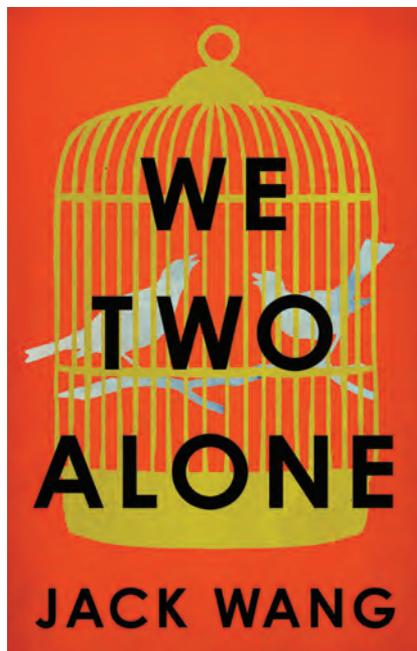
Photos should be at least 3.5 inches wide and have a resolution of at least 300 dpi. If you mail a glossy print to us, please make sure to include your contact information and the names of any people in the photo.

FAREWELLS

Farewells honor alumni, current or retired employees, and students who have passed away. Space limitations may compel us to include only career, military, and volunteer activities.

This Alumni Notes section includes news that was received by January 10. Because of the nature of a periodical and the volume of notes we receive, you should expect to see your note about six months after you submit your information.

MIXED MEDIA



BOB CHRISTINA '62

Instinct Putting Revisited: Look Where You Want to Putt the Ball
(Independently published, 2019)

Coauthored with Cary Heath and Eric Alpenfels, this evidence-based golf instruction book is a radical break from conventional wisdom, bringing a whole new paradigm to the art and science of putting.

MANDY KAPLAN '96

30 Nights
(Tape Ball Entertainment, 2018)

Kaplan cowrote, produced, and starred in this award-winning short film about a couple trying to save their marriage through 30 unconventional sex assignments.

THE LONG ARC OF HISTORY

Professor's book shines a light on the immigrant experience

BY PATRICK BOHN '05, MS '07

INSPIRATION FOR EACH OF THE STORIES in Jack Wang's debut collection of fiction, *We Two Alone*—about the challenges faced by those of the Chinese diaspora—came to him individually. But as he was putting the stories together, he started to notice connections.

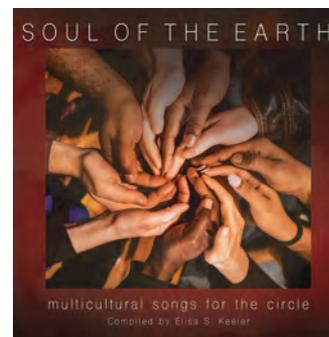
"There are a lot of books that focus on the experience of one family in one place at one time," said Wang, associate professor and chair of the department of writing at IC. "I was trying to capture the immigrant experience across time and space. And as the stories came to me, I saw this larger arc."

As such, the stories in Wang's book take the reader from 1920s Canada to modern-day New York, with stops in Shanghai, Port Elizabeth, London, and Vienna. And although the specific experiences of the characters in each of these stories differ, there's an undercurrent running through them, according to Wang.

"In the first story, the character faces potential bodily harm, whereas the last story is about representation in Hollywood," he said. "It's analogous to the struggle of a lot of immigrant groups, where there's a shift in the dangers they face. They become less overt but are still serious."

Despite the serious circumstances surrounding many of the characters, Wang says the stories are focused on relationships and love. And he hopes that readers of the book come away feeling connected to the characters.

"We sometimes see certain groups of people as less than," he said. "But I want people to realize that we're all full-fledged human beings endowed with emotion and intelligence." ▀



ELISA SCISCIOLI KEELER '03

Soul of the Earth: Multicultural Songs for the Circle
(Records DK, 2019)

Keeler's second album contains 15 songs for all ages from a variety of cultures. The songs, which are taught in Keeler's workshops and in public school settings, are full of rich harmonies and messages of peace, unity, groundedness, gratitude, joy, and love.

SETH WILLIAM MEIER '96

The Turning

(Amblin Entertainment, 2020)

Meier was executive producer on the feature film *The Turning*, his second film with Amblin Partners.



ASHLEY BOOKHEIMER MOULTON '09

Let's Party! Kids Cookbook: Tasty Recipes Kids Will Love to Make, Eat, and Share

(Rockridge Press, 2019)

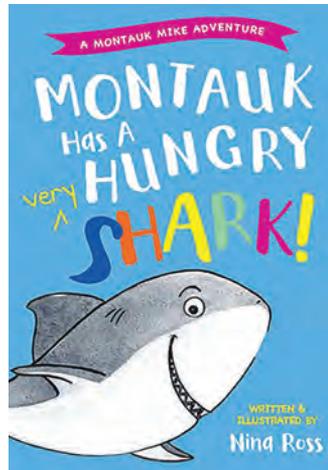
Inspired by the work she has done with her kids' cooking company, Nomster Chef, Moulton's first book is filled with 12 playful party themes for kids and their guests to have fun with, all centered on recipes that kids can make themselves.

DAVID PURETZ '03

The Escapist

(Global City Press, 2020)

Puretz's debut novel dives into the complex perspective of a broken yet determined and ultimately hopeful central character grappling with mental health, sexuality, substance addiction, family conflict, and childhood traumas.



NINA ROSS '93

Montauk Has a Very Hungry Shark

(East End Press, 2020)

Inspired by a shark sighting on vacation, Ross created Montauk Mike, a lonely shark who lives in the ocean near Montauk, New York. In this book, Mike dons a disguise and travels Long Island's East End in search of the perfect ice cream sundae.



TONY SCARINGE '70

Earthan

(Self published, 2020)

This book tells the story of a highly evolved culture from another planet on a mission to discover new life in the universe.



OSCAR SILVER '71

Tally Ho!

(Ingram/Oscar Silver Publishing, 2019)

Silver's mystery-meets-fantasy book follows a retired New York Police Department homicide detective turned private investigator.

JEN TRACY '12

Occasionally Interesting

On this podcast, Tracy and her cohost interview a variety of people on subjects such as professional adventuring, the cure for addiction, how to have a successful relationship, and the importance of finding your individual passion.

PATRICIA ZIMMERMANN

Documentary across Platforms: Reverse Engineering Media, Place, and Politics

(Indiana University Press, 2019)

In her latest book, Zimmermann, a professor of media arts, sciences, and studies in IC's Roy H. Park School of Communications, looks at the evolving nature of the practices known as "documentary" and how those practices interact with the world.

ONLY IN ITHACA

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

As the economic toll of the coronavirus pandemic became more apparent last March, **Gregar Brous '81**, co-owner of Collegetown Bagels, turned his eatery into a “pay-what-you-can” community kitchen, offering bread and other food to community members facing financial difficulties.

“It became clear that people were going to be laid off, and that, as a result, there would be a growing number of people in our community who needed help,” he said. “I knew we needed to provide that help.”

Brous also launched two other initiatives, one where people could buy coffee and food to be delivered to first responders such as nurses in hospitals, and the other was a delivery service of pantry items like butter, flour, and eggs.

“My mission has changed,” Brous continued. “Instead of trying to sell things, I’m trying to see what people need. The community connection that IC encourages, it’s affected me, and it’s part of the values I try to live up to every day. We believe in our community. They’re our friends, who we’ve been serving for 40 years, and at their time of greatest need, we’re going to help them.”



PHOTO BY MATTIE HAUSE '19

I REMEMBER WHEN... I PROPOSED AT HOMECOMING!

I met my wife on her first day at IC. We dated for the next three years until, during the Homecoming football game, I hired a plane to tow a banner that said, “Paula Jo Marry Me” over the field. They stopped the game, the band played “Here Comes the Bride,” and she said “YES!” We are now on our 33rd year of marriage and still huge Bomber fans! Our daughter went to IC for her bachelor’s and master’s degrees, as did her husband. We love IC!”

– **Rob Gates '85**, husband of
Paula McBride Gates '86

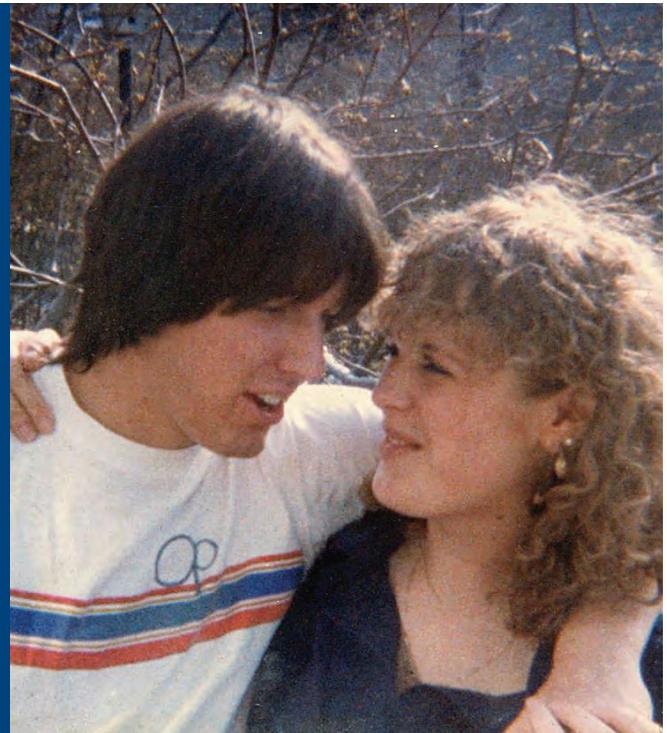


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—BARBARA AND MARK PETRACCA, PARENTS '20

The IC community welcomes and values each student as an individual. This community is why Barbara and Mark Petracca felt confident when their son entered Ithaca College four years ago. They give to the IC Annual Fund to ensure more students have access to a transformative educational experience.

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During the pandemic, many local community members hiked to the Heart Wall, a place within the Roy H. Park Preserve, to place heart-shaped rocks along a shale ledge.