

IC VIEW

THE MAGAZINE OF
ITHACA COLLEGE

FALL
'21

HERE,
PROGRESS
NEVER
STOPS

CONTENTS

28



ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHERYL CHALMERS

10



PHOTO BY GIO SANTACROCE

18



PHOTO SUBMITTED

24

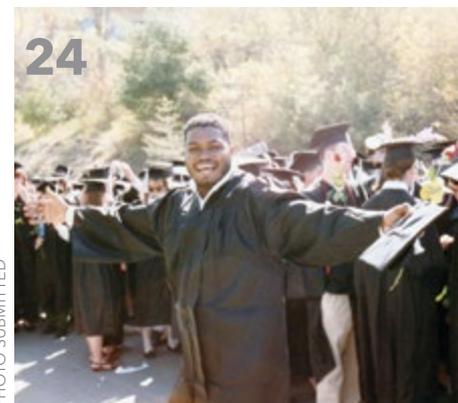


PHOTO SUBMITTED

FEATURES

10 | **HERE, PROGRESS NEVER STOPS**

Ithaca College transforms lives as it continues to adapt and change

18 | **FINDING HOME IN A FOREIGN LAND**

Reflections on more than 50 years of the African-Latino Society

24 | **THE POWER OF HEOP**

The legacy of the Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) at IC

28 | **IC RECOGNIZES ALUMNI HEROES**

Thirteen noteworthy graduates to receive alumni awards this fall



PHOTO BY CHARLES MCKENZIE

FAREWELL TO ICVIEW EDITOR ROBIN ROGER

With 25 issues of *ICView* now under her belt, the esteemed editor-in-chief of the marquee magazine of Ithaca College is moving on to her next exciting communications assignment.

We're so grateful to Robin and deeply thank her for a decade of dedication to the college—where she has reached tens of thousands of college community members, touching their lives with well-told stories of our beloved IC.

We wish Robin continued success in the next chapter of her progressively rich and rewarding communications career. We will miss you dearly, Editor Robin Roger!

—The *ICView* Team

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 | **FROM THE PRESIDENT**
- 3 | **FROM THE INTERIM PRESIDENT**
- 4 | **ON SOUTH HILL**
- 36 | **CONNECTIONS**
Alumni news; alumni notes; profiles; and celebrations, introductions, and farewells
- 54 | **MIXED MEDIA**
- 56 | **ONLY IN ITHACA**

IC VIEW

THE MAGAZINE OF
ITHACA COLLEGE

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FRONT: Illustration by Paula Welling
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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 ALLISON USAVAGE '11

THE PATH OF PROGRESS

As I look back on my time at Ithaca College, I remember that one of the things that fascinated me was its origin as a music conservatory. How did Ithaca College . . . become Ithaca College?

The story is often told as if magic happened. In 1892, W. Grant Egbert established a small music conservatory cradled within the city of Ithaca, and then . . . here IC is, more than a century later, a thriving comprehensive, residential college on top of South Hill.

Make no mistake—I firmly believe there is something magical about IC. How else can you explain the powerful spirit and essence of this place? The sense of belonging that connects alumni across professions, across continents?

But now, as I wrap up my time here as president, I see so clearly that the transformation of Ithaca College

relied on more than heart and soul. It relied on a commitment to progress, the hard work and innovation of generation after generation of this learning community—people who held fast to an unwavering dedication to a high-quality liberal and professional education and a top-notch student experience. It relied on diligent, thoughtful decision-making, which read the signposts of an always-shifting landscape of higher education and charted a course forward with insight and alacrity. Ithaca College became Ithaca College because this IC family believed, so strongly, in what our college can give to the world.

Today at Ithaca College—129 years later and in the midst of a historic time for higher education—the transformation continues. Still marked by the same work ethic, the same courageous inspiration, and the same commitment to melding theory, practice, and performance in sophisticated ways that contribute to the greater good.

As a new academic year opens at IC, it does so by adding more texture, intention, and thrill to the college's evolution. This year, IC will launch a new physician assistant master's program and begin its first year as a Davis United World College Scholars Program institution, both strong examples of how this college walks the walk of its mission to be a global destination for bold thinkers seeking to build thriving communities.

IC will also welcome the creation of fresh, transcendent majors for our students, such as screen cultures—a collaboration between multiple departments in our schools of communications and humanities and sciences—and race, power, and resistance studies, the first major for the Center for the Study of Culture, Race, and Ethnicity, both of which showcase how curriculum is reflecting the intersectionality between disciplines and adapting to meet student interest.

In this moment of progress, and as I transition out of my role as president, I am reminded of a passage from C. P. Cavafy's "Ithaka":

*Ithaka gave you the marvelous journey.
Without her you wouldn't have set out.*

As IC prepares to welcome its class of 2025, I think about their journey, beginning in the fullness of a transformative year, and your journey as alumni, rooted so deeply within this institution, evolving and blossoming right along with us.

It has been my greatest honor to serve as the ninth president of Ithaca College during such a historic time in our sector, our nation, and our world. This place is so special because of you—and for the magic you create as part of this IC family. Thank you.

All my best,

SHIRLEY M. COLLADO
President

LA JERNE TERRY CORNISH SERVING AS INTERIM PRESIDENT OF ITHACA COLLEGE

Former IC president, Shirley M. Collado, to become CEO and president of College Track



PHOTO SUBMITTED

La Jerne Terry Cornish, formerly provost and executive vice president, has been named interim president of Ithaca College for the 2021–22 academic year, following the announcement in July that Shirley M. Collado will be departing IC to lead College Track, a comprehensive college completion program. Collado now serves as senior advisor to the interim president and board of trustees through December 31, 2021.

Cornish joined IC as provost in July 2018 and has been an integral part of the development and implementation of the college’s strategic plan, Ithaca Forever. The Ithaca College Board of Trustees tapped Cornish to serve in the interim role, citing her strong and steady leadership and her ability to provide continuity and momentum.

As the college embarks upon a pivotal year, *ICView* asked Interim President Cornish a few key questions.

What do you see as your chief priorities in stepping into this leadership role at such a dynamic time for the college?

My chief priorities are to provide stability for the college and community, and continued progress toward the attainment of the goals outlined in the strategic plan. One of our goals is to become a national model for student success, engagement, and well-being, helping students reach their unique potential. As we welcome students back to campus this fall, we will remember that students are our “why” and place them at the center of everything we do.

What are some of the major challenges you anticipate in the coming year?

We must be mindful that faculty, staff, and students are returning to campus at a time when our nation

struggles with a still-evolving pandemic as well as political, racial, and cultural polarization. As an institution of higher education grounded in the liberal arts tradition, we are called to look at problems through multiple perspectives in an effort to find solutions and effect change for the betterment of ourselves, our neighbors, and the world in which we live.

When we arrive at the end of this academic year, what will success look like?

We fully expect to celebrate a vibrant and robust year in person and on campus, and an in-person Commencement for the class of 2022, reflective of all the magic that is Ithaca College. Our year will bring major milestones, including our welcome of the inaugural class in our physician assistant program and — because of this community’s hard work over the past few years — we will move forward with positivity and strength as we continue to mobilize a seamless and supportive experience for our students.

What have you learned about this community during your three years at IC, and how will this shape your approach to leadership as interim president?

I have learned that this community is passionate in its love for IC, and everyone wants to be seen, heard, and valued. Most importantly, I have learned that good people can have honest disagreements in a way that is respectful and appropriate, and that can lead to change.

Learn more about La Jerne Terry Cornish at ithaca.edu/office-president.

ON SOUTH HILL



PHOTOS BY GIOVANNI SANTACROCE (LEFT) AND NATALIE DAFFINEE '09 (RIGHT)

A TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO CAMPUS

This past spring semester, Ithaca College enrolled a total of 5,264 students. Thanks to the efforts of the entire campus community, coronavirus case numbers in the spring remained low, and students experienced a fulfilling semester back on campus.

“This has been one of the most historic and remarkable academic years ever at Ithaca College,” said IC’s former president, Shirley M. Collado. “Our institution has been tested—in fact, the whole of higher education has been tested—and the reason why this college and this community has persevered is clear: the indomitable IC spirit.”

Students, faculty, and staff who were approved to access campus participated in weekly surveillance testing and completed daily health screening questionnaires. A digital “badge” system allowed students to display their testing and screening status and gain access to classrooms and other shared spaces, such as the fitness center, library, and dining halls. Students, faculty, and staff wore face coverings at all times, and a student-led campaign, IC Students Together, encouraged respect and support for the COVID-19 health and safety guidelines.

Students were given opportunities to connect with classmates during the college’s Spring Welcome, which featured several weeks of in-person and virtual events for all students. Students gathered around fire pits and made s’mores; ice skated on a temporary rink outside Campus Center, played Virtual Swag Bingo to win IC gear, and took physically distanced, outdoor campus tours.

The campus grounds also underwent a transformation to make it safer for those working and taking classes in person. Spaces that traditionally housed 100 people for large group gatherings were turned into classroom spaces for 30 to 50. HVAC filters and plexiglass dividers were installed, and more than 15,000 signs and stickers were placed around campus to indicate acceptable distancing.

Christina Moylan, who was appointed director of public health emergency preparedness in the fall, oversaw the college’s Return to Campus Plan and advised the senior leadership on matters related to the pandemic and public health. She assembled a Public Health Task Force and a Health and Safety Advisory Group to provide up-to-date guidance to college administration on its COVID-19 response strategies.

“While the pandemic is not over, we have grown significantly as an institution both in our understanding of public health and the sophistication of our emergency preparedness infrastructure,” Moylan said last May. “We know that we must continue to evolve and adapt to be effective.”

The expansion of vaccine eligibility and the increase of vaccine production have allowed the college to plan for a reopening of the campus this fall where in-person teaching, learning, and community-building can occur in ways that resemble a prepandemic “normal,” with a greatly reduced risk of infection for our campus community. Students returned to campus for a fully in-person semester with classes starting on August 23.



PHOTO BY NATALIE DAFFINEE '09 (LEFT), AND PHOTOS SUBMITTED (RIGHT)

Speakers included (clockwise from top left) Liz Tigelaar '98, Eileen Filler-Corn '86, the Very Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas, and Raj Chetty.

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2021

The college celebrated the class of 2021 in person and virtually at Ithaca College's 126th Commencement on May 23. **Liz Tigelaar '98**, an Emmy- and Golden Globe-nominated television creator and showrunner, and the executive producer of the acclaimed Hulu limited series *Little Fires Everywhere*, delivered the main address to students.

"You've lived through a global pandemic, classes on Zoom, and now a graduation your parents can't attend," said Tigelaar. "In many ways, you were robbed. That is true. But in what was stolen, something was left. A gift... And that's what life is going to bring you. Losses that are gifts. You have to be resilient. Yes, grieve the loss, but find the gift."

Students were honored in two in-person ceremonies

on campus that were also webcast to allow parents and loved ones to share in the students' special moment.

The Ithaca College Presidential Medal was given to **Eileen Filler-Corn '86**, speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates, who is the first woman in the 402-year history of Virginia's legislature to hold the position. The college also recognized noted economist Raj Chetty and groundbreaking theologian the Very Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas with honorary doctor of letters degrees.

Additional speakers included President Shirley M. Collado and senior class president **Ali Kelley '21**. Graduates were surprised with guest videos congratulating them from IC alumnus **David Boreanaz '91**, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and White House press secretary Jen Psaki, among others.

The college also celebrated the class of 2020—whose Commencement was originally celebrated virtually—in an on-campus event in June.

NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS ELECTED

The Ithaca College Board of Trustees has elected three new members.

In February, the board elected **Christopher D. Palmieri '96** to a four-year term. Palmieri currently serves as president and chief executive officer of Commonwealth Care Alliance, a Massachusetts-based, not-for-profit health care organization dedicated to

improving the health and well-being of individuals with significant needs.

At its May meeting, the board elected **Lee Bird '86** and **Traci Hughes '85** to four-year terms. Bird serves as chairman of the board and chief executive officer for At Home Group Inc., a national retailer operating more than 200 stores across the United States. Hughes is vice president of human resources at the European division of Colgate-Palmolive.

James Taylor '00, previously serving a term as an alumni trustee, will begin a four-year term as a trustee.

ITHACA COLLEGE GIVING DAY

IC GIVING DAY BREAKS RECORDS

On May 4, more than 3,450 Ithaca College students, alumni, faculty, staff, and supporters demonstrated their collective love for IC by coming together to raise a record-breaking \$1.85 million in support of the institution during Ithaca College Giving Day. This 24-hour fundraising initiative gave community members the opportunity to show their love for the aspects of the IC experience that are closest to their hearts. Donors contributed to all five schools, specific departments, IC athletics teams, and student organizations and clubs.

The IC Annual Fund for Athletics received the highest overall number of gifts, and IC's field hockey carried the day as the team raising the most funds for its program. Of the five schools, the Roy H. Park School of Communications received the most Giving Day dollars and donations, followed by the School of Business.

"Giving Day 2021 was a record-breaking moment, exceptional not only for its philanthropic impact on the college but for what it says about this community and the value and meaning of the IC experience," said IC's former president, Shirley M. Collado.

Total Donors



3,459

Each gift has an **impact on the student experience** at IC.

Top Donor Groups

1,690
Alumni

638
Parents

545
Students,
Faculty, Staff



Young Alumni Challenge



\$57,637

66 alumni who graduated between 2011 and 2020 made gifts to help fulfill the **Jack Dembow '77 Light the Towers Challenge**.

Total Raised

\$1,856,496

This was the largest community-based, single-day fundraising effort in the history of Ithaca College.



PHOTO BY ADAM BAKER

Susan Salahshor (right), PhD, PA-C, DFAAPA, is the director of the new PA program.

IC LAUNCHES PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Ithaca College recruited its first class for the newly approved master of science in physician assistant (PA) studies program. The program's focus areas will include rural medicine, family medicine, behavioral and mental health care, population and community health, and interprofessional education and practice.

Work as a PA is one of the fastest growing professions, with the number of jobs expected to grow 31 percent from 2019 to 2029, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. It ranks among the best jobs of 2021, according to *U.S. News & World Report*.

“The launch of this program represents a historic milestone in the evolution of Ithaca College, anchored in our roots of theory, practice, and performance,” said IC’s former president, Shirley M. Collado.

Ithaca College has been awarded approximately \$1.6 million through the New York State Higher Education Capital Matching Grant Program toward the construction and renovation of facilities in the former Rothschild Building on the downtown Ithaca Commons to be used as the location for delivering content for the PA program. This supplemental instruction site will bring PA students and faculty to the center of the community that they will help serve. Additionally, the PA program supports IC’s strategic plan, Ithaca Forever, one of the goals of which is to develop cross-sector and community partnerships that address challenging issues, optimize the use of resources, and serve the public good.

“Because there’s such a great need for providers in this region, a way to get people to relocate here is to have the program in this region and for them to experience it and fall in love with it, and then stay,” said Susan Salahshor, PhD, PA-C, DFAAPA, director of the PA program.

This fall the college will also offer a dual degree master’s in athletic training program that will allow students to graduate with a master’s degree in five years rather than six. The program—which also includes a summer session—will consist of three years of preprofessional courses followed by two years of professional, graduate-level coursework.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Tim Downs

NEW VICE PRESIDENT TO SERVE AS CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Tim Downs, who has served in leadership roles in operations and financial management at Princeton University for the past 14 years, has been named vice president for finance and administration and chief financial officer at Ithaca College. He started his new position at Ithaca on August 2. Previously, he was the executive director for facilities finance and administrative services at Princeton.

“I am honored to have been selected for this position,” said Downs. “What drew me to Ithaca College is the ability to join an institution at a time when it is implementing bold and impactful changes. These changes, necessary to weather the significant challenges facing the higher education industry in the years to come, will position Ithaca College for the future.”

ON SOUTH HILL



(LEFT AND RIGHT) PHOTO BY LARRY RADLOFF, D3PHOTOGRAPHY

(From left) Parley Hannan '21 won the 10k and 5k races, the women's varsity eight took second place, and Meghan Matheny '22 won the pole vault in national competitions.

ATHLETICS ENDS 2021 SEASON ON TOP

Though the pandemic caused varsity athletics to go on pause starting in March 2020, teams returned to competition in the spring 2021 semester to achieve great success.

The women's crew placed third overall in the national championship and the varsity eight boat finished as runner up, while the second varsity eight boat finished fourth. Those finishes led to a third-place overall finish for the program.

Women's track and field team rode three individual

national championships to a fourth-place finish at the NCAA Outdoor Championships.

Individual championships included Parley Hannan '21, who won first place in both the 10,000 and 5,000 meter runs, and Meghan Matheny '22, who won in the pole vault. With her victories, Hannan became the seventh student-athlete in school history to win more than one national title at a single championship event.

On the men's side, Dom Mikula '22 finished as national runner-up in the pole vault. That marked the first time since 1988 that a member of the men's team finished as national runner-up.

The Bombers will return to full competition in fall 2021.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

NEW DOCK FOR CREW

When the rowing seasons got back underway, Ithaca College crew and sculling launched from a brand-new dock at the Robert B. Tallman Rowing Center. The state-of-the-art structure was installed over the fall and completed last December. The crew gift and endowment funds provided the money to replace the old docks and install the new ones.

Visit ithaca.edu/icview to watch a time-lapse video of the dock being installed.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Ed Glazer '92 (top left) lifted the Lombardi trophy; Adam Heaslip '07, MBA '08, (bottom left) started his day long before fans arrived; and Ata Movassaghi '10 (bottom right) celebrated with running back Leonard Fournette.

BOMBERS TAKE PART IN BUCS SUPER BOWL VICTORY

Whether it was working with athletes, managing video, or producing the game, Bombers were involved at several levels of this past year's Super Bowl, all the way up to the owner's suite, with **Ed Glazer '92** at the helm.

"Winning two Super Bowls is an incredible accomplishment, but it also takes an incredible team," said Glazer, co-owner of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. "I couldn't be more proud to share this with other IC alumni who are part of the Buccaneers and NFL family. They do an incredible job, and I'm so happy we can share this championship."

Adam Heaslip '07, MBA '08, who serves as the NFL's account director of club business development, supports the team owners and their leadership teams to help drive their business initiatives. Heaslip is also league office business account executive for the Tampa

Bay Buccaneers. **Benjamin Simonds '00** is the NFL's vice president of media sales.

Keaton Kovacs '12 currently serves as an account executive on the ticket sales team for Tampa Bay, and **Matt Taylor '00** is the Bucs' assistant video director.

Ata Movassaghi '10, head of digital marketing and content at Roc Nation Sports, handles the digital marketing for several athletes, including Leonard Fournette, a running back who scored a touchdown in the third quarter.

Ellis Williams '13, content producer and associate director at CBS Sports, spent three weeks in Tampa directing crews and prepping shows for the big game, including a piece on the history of breaking color barriers in the NFL, starring Viola Davis, and an hour-long special hosted by Tony Romo in conversation with Super Bowl-winning quarterbacks from around the league. He also produced a piece on George Toma, 92, who has worked as the official groundskeeper for the Super Bowl since 1967.

HERE,
PROGRES

NEVER
STOPS



Illustration by
Paula Welling

Ithaca College was founded in 1892 by a homesick violinist who had returned to the United States from Europe to start a music conservatory in downtown Ithaca. The first class of students to graduate included two pianists.

Fast-forward to today, and the college is now a world-class institution with a thriving campus on South Hill and learning centers in London and Los Angeles. Cutting-edge programs in music, the humanities and sciences, communications, health care, and business offer an array of study options. The newest is a physician assistant master's program, which started in the fall 2021 semester. A portion of the instruction for the program will be given at a newly renovated site on the downtown Ithaca Commons—just a few short blocks from where it all started—as IC continues on its path to progress.

LIFE IS A WORK IN PROGRESS

Becoming ourselves is a gradual process, except when it happens all at once. Those transformative moments are hard to plan around. Sometimes our well laid plans take us exactly where we want to go. Sometimes life throws a twist at us. When we accept the challenges of life's twists and turns, we can find ourselves bending towards unexpected greatness.



PHOTO BY ADAM BAKER



PHOTO SUBMITTED

From Making Comedy to Making History

When **Rob Flaherty '13** came to IC to pursue a degree in television and radio, he dreamed of working for *Saturday Night Live*. He learned to produce videos at ICTV, but, as a sophomore, he realized a career in entertainment no longer appealed to him.

Having binge-watched the political drama *The West Wing* during his winter break, Flaherty began to consider a career in politics. He worried about changing his major because it seemed like starting over. So a professor helped him chart a new path toward a degree in political science.

As a junior, he worked on Svante Myrick's campaign, helping Ithaca elect its first Black mayor. When he applied for his first job after graduation, he drew upon his television experience. Knowing how to edit videos gave him an advantage.

Flaherty built on those skills from one campaign to the next, working his way all the way up to the historic 2020 Biden-Harris campaign. When he started on the campaign trail in December 2019, little did he know the whole world would shut down and he'd have to figure out how to connect voters with a candidate who couldn't hold in-person events. The digital aspects of the campaign became even more crucial.

When Joe Biden announced that his running mate would be then-Senator Kamala Harris, the first woman of color to be named a vice presidential candidate, Flaherty knew that he was part of history in the making. His next step? He's now the director of digital strategy for the White House.

You Can't Be What You Can't See

There's only one person who doubted **Beth Ryan '22** could succeed in science: Beth Ryan. Representation mattered, and it was effectively absent for Ryan.

"Growing up, I didn't know a lot of females in the sciences," she said. "When you think of career day, you think of a man in a white coat telling you what his research is. You don't think of a powerful woman, explaining how they're making a difference in the world."

Today, Ryan is a biochemistry major and Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadet who wants to pursue a PhD in chemical biology or medicinal chemistry and conduct pharmaceutical research within the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps.

But she might not have gotten there if it weren't for the support of the faculty. Ryan's advisor and mentor, Te-Wen Lo, associate professor of biology, encouraged her to

apply in her sophomore year for the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship, for students in science, but Ryan decided against it because she thought she didn't have a chance. So the following year, Lo finally convinced her to apply.

"Now I'm one of 410 truly incredible people—a community of fellow nerds who want to make the world a better place in the dorkiest way possible," she said. "Winning made me feel like I can do this. Maybe I do know what I'm talking about. Maybe I do belong in this field. It was definitely confirmation that I'm on the right track."

Ryan and a classmate founded a new student organization, IC Women in STEM, for female-identifying individuals in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math, to help other students who may be lacking confidence and role models.

"I wanted to show that, yes, women can succeed in these fields," said Ryan. "A lot of us get weeded out because we think it's not for us. We think we're not tough enough or smart enough, like the other guys that are in the major. I wanted to show that everyone can succeed in this program, especially women."

SOMETIMES
EXPERIMENTS
DON'T WORK,

BUT I GET TO
COME BACK AND

TRY AGAIN
EVERY DAY.

THAT MAKES THE
SUCCESS
EVEN

BETTER

BETH RYAN '22

PROGRESS
FOR ME
IS THINKING ABOUT
THE FABRICS
OF PEOPLE WHO
BROUGHT SOMETHING
FORWARD,
NOT JUST
ONE NAME
IN A
HISTORY BOOK

BELISA GONZÁLEZ

PROGRESS IS A PATH

The late U.S. congressman and civil rights leader John Lewis was inspired by Rosa Parks and advocated getting into “good trouble” for a good cause. Likewise, IC students have left their mark on the college community, creating positive change.

Belisa González is the director of the Center for the Study of Culture, Race, and Ethnicity, which launched a new major, race, power, and resistance, this fall.

Other new programs this fall include the following:

- Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- Screen Cultures
- Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (See page 7 for more information.)



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Pushing for Progress

Rita Bunatal '16 began on her path toward making positive change at IC thousands of miles away from South Hill. Born and raised in Texas, she relocated in 2008 with her family to Ghana, where she attended high school. When she came to IC, she joined the African Students Association. Soon, she was

gaining national media attention for her social media campaign called *The Real Africa: Fight the Stereotype*. The campaign aimed to dispel common misconceptions and myths about the vast continent of Africa and the people who live there.

IC was in the national spotlight again later when students protested as part of the Black Lives Matter movement and in response to a series of racial incidents at the college. Bunatal designed T-shirts that were worn by the students who spoke out, and her work resonated with students, faculty, and staff alike.

In the summer of 2015, she started her own company, Malaika Apparel, dedicated to the empowerment of people of color. Her startup won the

top prize in IC's Business Plan Competition and \$20,000. She used the money to grow her business, which is now moving into its next phase: the Malaika Collective.

"Malaika Collective is a brand that represents the radiance, regality, and resilience of the African Diaspora," Bunatal said. "We created Malaika Collective to foster a multicultural home for Black and brown people from all parts of the African Diaspora and allies alike. As a collective, we strive to create content that reminds you of the comfort of your home country and the promise of new beginnings. Malaika Collective creates and celebrates the fabric of home—the one we're born into and the one we create in community."



PHOTO BY ADAM BAKER

Learning, Trying, and Doing

Ithaca College's distinctive approach to education is rooted in the theory, practice, and performance model of the music conservatory, and that same principle can be seen in action today. Students across the college develop and hone their skills through an iterative process of learning, practicing what has been learned, and then putting what has been practiced to the test.

For example, the new maker spaces on campus give students in all majors the opportunity to experiment with low- and high-tech equipment like sewing machines, 3D printers, a laser cutter, and virtual reality (VR) programming. Theatre students have used the space to make costumes; students in the South Hill Forest Products class used it to cut maple leaves out of wood to adorn their syrup bottles; and education students have used the VR technology to create immersive lesson plans.

PROGRESS IS ONGOING

Over the next 20 years, thousands of students will leave Ithaca College and enter a different world. Coming from all over the United States and from around the globe, they'll add their personal histories to the world's history and use the opportunities presented to them to accelerate their ideas. To say they'll enter a reimagined world does not give them enough credit: they'll imagine it and build it themselves.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

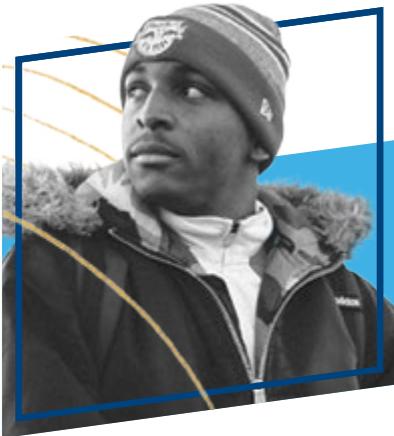


PHOTO SUBMITTED

Changing the Picture

In 2018, The Walt Disney Company, led by chief executive officer **Bob Iger '73**, made history by making the first blockbuster movie centered on a Black superhero: *Black Panther*. Now, Iger is aiming to increase representation in the newsroom.

He and his wife, Willow Bay, have committed \$1

million to establish the Iger-Bay Endowed Scholarship, awarded to incoming students in the Roy H. Park School of Communications who demonstrate financial need; have declared a major of journalism, sports media, or documentary studies; and hail from communities that are historically underrepresented and underserved in these fields at the college and nationally.

The first recipient of the scholarship is **Damani Madir '24**, a sports media major from Brooklyn who aspires to become a commentator for Showtime boxing.

There's a line in Joyce Carol Oates's celebrated *On Boxing* that Madir said resonates with him: "Life is a metaphor for boxing—for one of those bouts that go on and on, round following round, jabs, missed punches, clinches...you and your opponent so evenly matched it's impossible to see your opponent is you."

Expanding Access

This past spring, IC was selected as a partner institution for the Davis United World College Scholars Program, the world's largest privately funded international scholarship program. As part of the program, IC students are now eligible to apply for Projects for Peace grants.

This year's recipient, **Himadri Seth '23**, is working on a project to help the children of sex workers in Delhi, India, gain access to education through a computer-based curriculum and computer lab. She received \$10,000 from the program, which supports projects that promote peace and address the root causes of conflict.

Seth saw how systemically disadvantaged children were excluded from the traditional school system. The worst off were the children in Delhi's largest red-light district, Garstin Bastion Road.

“Because of the pandemic, their education just came to a halt because they don’t have access to the technology and electronics they need,” Seth said. “They face a lot of discrimination because of the profession their parents have often been forced into. I feel like it’s just not fair for some people to not have access to the kind of education that they deserve. I’m very interested in trying to make sure that as many people as possible have access to good education.”

Read more about the Davis United World College Scholars Program at ithaca.edu/icview.

Making Progress

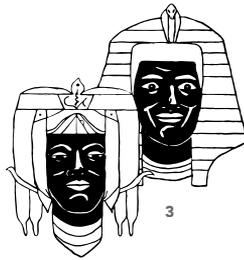
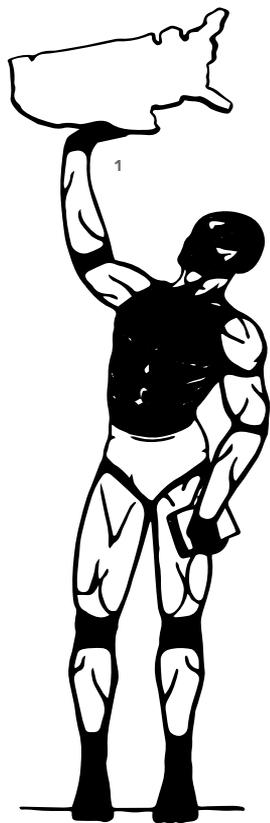
Progress is shaped by community, and the brand platform, A Place Called Progress, was shaped by IC’s community of students, alumni, faculty, and staff who shared their perspectives with the college’s Creative and Marketing Group. Visit ithaca.edu/icview to read about how the team collaborated to realize A Place Called Progress with guidance from alumni **Ryan Berman ’98**, founder of Courageous, and **Jason DeLand ’98**, founding partner of Anomaly. ●

AT THE
END OF DAY,
WHAT’S IMPORTANT
IS THAT YOU
REFLECT

ON YOUR
PROGRESS
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TO DO IT AGAIN THE
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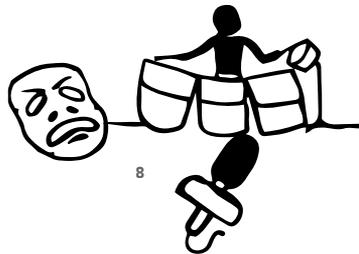
DAMANI MADIR '24



Finding Home in a Foreign Land

Reflections on the African-Latino Society

By Nichole Owens '94 and Charles McKenzie



TODAY, THEY ARE CALLED “students of color,” and their individual perspectives and cultural memories might be very different from one another. But still, they have for more than 50 years found comfort and inspiration in each other, bound together and even supported by whatever common threads ran through the fabric of their respective experiences. When their support network somehow fell short, they found hope and encouragement where they could. Sometimes, it even came to them like a care package from another time or place.

In 1996, young Ithaca College administrator **Dr. Jill Holmes-Robinson '89** was conversing in the African-Latino Society room with someone who did not know her or her particular frustrations, but still, she recalled how this stranger “got it.”

“She said, ‘Don’t cry. Just know you are here for a reason,’ and she gave me this big grandmother hug,” Holmes-Robinson remembered.

The other woman was Maya Angelou, a towering figure in literature and civil rights, who three years later would deliver these words of inspiration at IC’s graduation: “Each of us has the possibility of being a composer, to compose the climate in which one lives,” Angelou said at the Commencement ceremony. “To indeed compose the neighborhood, to compose the melody of life, to compose the richness of it. To decide, ‘I will have a climate in which all men and women must be treated equal. I will compose that.’”

For generations, IC’s students of color have composed their stories here, which in a very real way meant writing a new history for Ithaca College, one that included more students of color and their perspectives. If there was one place where that history took shape, it was likely the African-Latino Society (ALS), which provided students with the sense of home they found elusive at IC, where the food, culture, and curriculum did not reflect their identities. What they sought at IC they had to build—and many continue to build it today through ALS.

“**That was ‘our house’. If the ALS room could talk, just like an old oak tree, it would have so much to tell.**”

– DR. JILL HOLMES-ROBINSON '89

OUR HOUSE

The students’ backgrounds were diverse. Many were Black and Latinx—and the first in their families to attend college—while others came from wealthy, college-educated families. Some grew up in neighborhoods and schools where they were in the majority. Others had been among a handful of students of color in their predominantly white schools and communities. Once here at IC, they learned from one another’s perspectives and they fought

together, and sometimes they even fought each other, as their visions collided. Some were seeking to overturn the entire system at once, while others sought to push for change incrementally, from within.

No matter where they came from or where they wanted to go, all of these tributaries came together in the ALS room. ALS was originally called the Afro Latin Society by its founders, including the late **Louis Baldwin '70**. Chartered in 1969, it’s the second-oldest campus organization, behind the Student Governance Council. The dean of students, John Brown, gave ALS its iconic space in West Tower, but students quickly made it their own—part sanctuary and part war room. Ever since, they have gone there to study and to play, to seek comfort and to organize, to relax and to be inspired, to sooth and to stir. They see it now as less of a room than a monument, a place where the hallowed, mural-covered walls still echo their cries, whether they were filled with rage because of where they’d been, joy because of how far they’d come, or resolve for where they wanted to go.

“That was ‘our house,’” said Holmes-Robinson. “Just like an old oak tree, if the ALS room could talk, it would have so much to tell. It would talk about the hue and beauty of students who sat there, the discussions had, the family atmosphere.”

OUR FAMILY

“People would come to the ALS room when they were feeling the most distant from their families

◀ INSPIRATION AND CELEBRATION

The mural in the ALS room celebrates the history of the African Diaspora and aims to inspire future students.

1. “Lift every voice and sing. Our futures promise us only everything.”
2. The drum, used for music and communication
3. Nefertari and

Ahmoese, Egyptian royalty

4. “Education is our most valuable resource.”
5. Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, and Phillis Wheatley

6. A tribute to mothers

7. “The wiseman... storyteller, prophet, historian”
8. Music and the arts
9. A woman walking to market

10. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Elijah Muhammad, and Malcolm X

11. “The dance,” a beautiful and expressive art form



PHOTO BY SHEVORI GENE '22

A group photo from the combined 50th anniversary celebration for ALS and HEOP in 2019

and from what they knew, just to get back to a sense of belonging, a place and space where you could reclaim yourself and be unilaterally accepted," said **Traci Hughes '85**.

"The biggest culture shock for many first-generation students of color from metropolitan areas was Ithaca itself. It definitely wasn't a big city, 24/7 kind of vibe, so... we found so much community in a group that was very much us," added Hughes.

Ultimately though, it didn't matter where the students came from.

"It mattered that you had a shared experience of being a student of color at a predominantly white institution and needing a place to feel like yourself without explanation, without apology, without retribution," she said. "You could always find it in ALS and specifically in the ALS room."

A first-generation college student from Jamaica, West Indies, **Carlos Perkins '99** saw it as "a place of respite...where we went and collectively built energies and determination to be able to deal with what was outside. It was a place where we cried together, and we argued. It felt like our space."

A decade apart, Perkins and Hughes both served as the spokesperson of ALS. While other

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People would come to the ALS room when they were feeling the most distant from their families and from what they knew, just to get back to a sense of belonging, a place and space where you could reclaim yourself and be unilaterally accepted.

– TRACI HUGHES '85

student groups are often headed by a "president," ALS is led by a "spokesperson" because the organization wants to emphasize the collective power of the members' voices rather than the power of the position or of a lone person.

For many members, the support they found in ALS was a substitute family, a stand-in for their relatives back home. For others though, ALS was the closest thing they had to a family: home, holidays, and all. The room was the hub from which ALS ran cultural events during Hispanic Heritage Month,

Black History Month, and Women's History Month, and where it planned popular social gatherings. Basketball tournaments, fashion shows, and a minority Professionals Symposium brought alumni back to campus to give students advice and insight into various career paths.

And any time speakers like Angelou came to campus, they would be welcomed to the ALS room. Figures like comedian and civil rights activist Dick Gregory, poet Nikki Giovanni, tennis legend Arthur Ashe, and musical artists like Chuck D of Public Enemy and Sister Souljah came there to meet with students of color.

"They would often ask us students in parental compassionate tones how we were 'holding up' at IC—knowing themselves as Black and brown activists and famous persons, but still living in white America, the similar difficulties of navigating as a minority in a predominant culture," Holmes-Robinson said. "It's a safe place for fellowship but also a student think-tank for social justice. It's historically been charged with holding the institution accountable."

OUR ACTIVISM

The ALS room was a launchpad for student activism and the helm for protests that called for justice, not



Rashaand Sass '97 and Dr. Jill Holmes-Robinson '89 at IC's 1997 Commencement



Students in the ALS room in the 1990s

PHOTOS SUBMITTED

just at the college but in the state, and even abroad.

Under Hughes, ALS organized protests that supported Nelson Mandela and opposed IC investments in companies that supported South African apartheid. ALS has also pushed for more diverse faculty. At times, they made suggestions to the administration, and other times, they made demands, sometimes even in person, delivered across the president's desk. They even called the president to their own turf, stipulating that one particular meeting had to be held in the ALS room.

"Nobody gives you permission at 20-something years old to organize people or to lead people, and nobody tells you that you've still got to do your work, you've still got to get your finals in," Hughes said. "This ability to lead others was a voice that I found at IC. And it was because of ALS and having that need to try to give the administration that perspective of, 'We are here. We are not content to just be ignored. Can we meet? Can we talk?' that was so important."

As spokesperson in 1995-96, **Rashaand Sass '97** led a protest of Black and white students against the state's proposed defunding of the New York State Higher Education

|| —————
 The decision to lead the protest, the decision to become student body president, those decisions came out of that [ALS] room. There was so much beauty in that room, in those ideas, many of which have helped me become the leader I am today.

– RASHAAND SASS '97

Opportunity Program (see page 24 for more information on the HEOP). Though the cuts were at the state level, IC's then-president James J. Whalen bore the brunt of the outcry.

"The administration wasn't saying clearly what they were going to do to preserve the funding for a lot of students like myself. There was real concern...with so many students of color facing that uncertainty," Sass remembered. "We had heard about the protests prior to us coming to IC in the '70s and the '80s, and for us, we felt like that was a way for us to

just let everyone know what was important to us. Getting quoted in *The Ithacan* wasn't enough. Having opportunities to talk to the Board of Trustees wasn't enough."

So they raised the stakes, if not their voices.

"Ultimately, our silent protest was the reason President Whalen sat down with us to hear how this issue was impacting the community of color and how the college's position did not demonstrate Ithaca's 'commitment to excellence.' The goal was to make this issue less about race and more about diversity being critical to the fabric of our school, and we were not going to entertain the idea of a future without a diverse student body."

Perkins also remembered asking the college to open the Center for the Study of Culture, Race, and Ethnicity, and leading a protest when administrators refused to hear the proposal.

"Ithaca taught me how to protest," he said. "Social justice was planted into our blood. A group of us in the African-Latino Society, under my leadership, walked in and just sat in the middle of the room at a Board of Trustees meeting and demanded that they give attention to the center. When we went back in 2019 for our 20th class reunion, they were celebrating the 20th



Alumni at the 50th anniversary celebration



Dr. Jill Holmes-Robinson '89 and ALS president Tomás García '21

PHOTOS BY SHEVORI GENE '22

anniversary of the Center for the Study of Culture, Race, and Ethnicity.”

OUR TRAINING

Ultimately, Sass, who even lobbied in Albany for the HEOP, helped save it, and the next year Sass became president of IC’s Student Government Association (SGA).

“The decision to lead the protest, the decision to become student body president, those decisions came out of that [ALS] room. There was so much beauty in that room, in those ideas, many of which have helped me become the leader I am today,” said Sass, who is now the principal of KIPP DC KEY Academy in Washington, D.C.

The experience was a training ground and a place where leaders honed or even found their voices. Some took their leadership skills abroad. After rising to vice president of human resources for Colgate-Palmolive’s Africa Middle East Division, Hughes led human resources for their Latin America Division and then Europe Division. She now lives in Switzerland.

Others returned to Ithaca. Holmes-Robinson finished graduate school and returned to IC to become the program counselor for HEOP, helping students navigate being students of color at a

predominantly white institution, and eventually became the ALS advisor. She went on to become director of educational opportunity programs at IC before moving on to the University of Virginia, where she earned her doctorate and worked in the financial aid office. She later became director of the Women’s Center at Georgetown University.

Carlos Perkins also returned to IC. He became the director of IC’s Office of Multicultural Affairs, which preceded the current Center for IDEAS (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Social Change). Today, he is the senior pastor of Bethel Cathedral AME Church, the oldest African American congregation in Indianapolis.

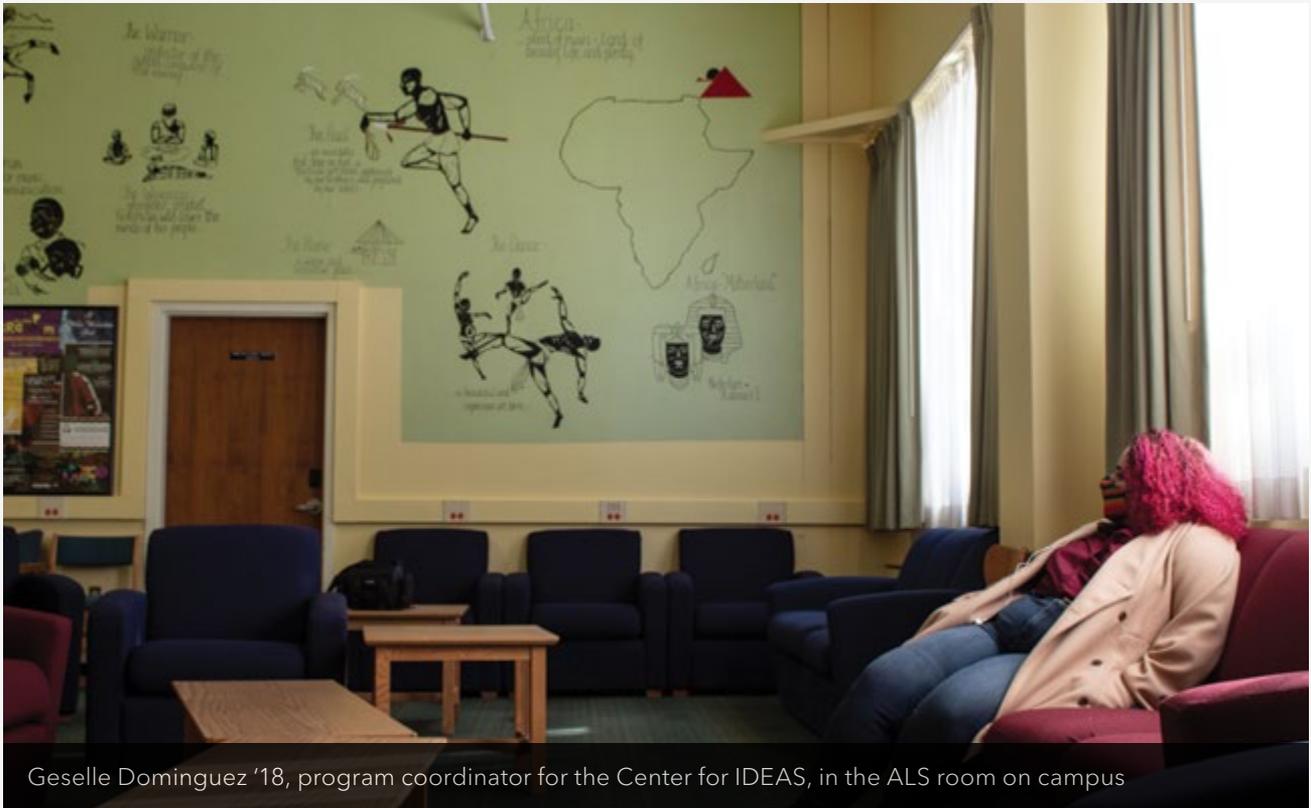
OUR HISTORY

All of the ALS leaders from the past are still part of the ALS story, either through their legacy or through their continued involvement. To assist current students of color, alumni formed the African-Latino Society Alumni Advisory Board. Holmes-Robinson says she hopes ALS continues to offer the signature voice of Black/African American and Latinx students and alumni as they help compose the story of the changing college.

When ALS celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2019, much had

changed at IC. The college’s ninth president, Shirley M. Collado, was the first person of color to serve as president of IC, and the first Dominican woman to serve as president of a four-year college in the U.S. Within the student body, the population of students of color surpassed 20 percent for the first time ever.

Yet so many challenges from the past remain: despite the increased numbers in their ranks, students of color still express feelings of not being fully seen—on campus, in the number of staff and faculty, and in the curriculum. Like its past, the future of ALS is already written on the walls of their beloved room, members say. Its mural (see *the next page*) includes the title of an anthem almost as old as the organization, “Ain’t No Stoppin’ Us Now.” The lyrics still bring a smile to Holmes-Robinson. ■



Geselle Dominguez '18, program coordinator for the Center for IDEAS, in the ALS room on campus

PHOTO BY ERIN PEDERSEN '21

A Room with a View: Inspiring Generations

By Nichole Owens '94

On South Hill, on the first floor of the West Tower, tucked into a little corner is a room, a room you might pass unaware if you didn't know to look for it. But inside this room are hallowed walls, walls that have heard and borne witness to the hopes, dreams, secrets, frustrations, and plans of generations of IC alumni of color.

And it's not just what has happened inside these walls over the years, but also what is on the walls that matters. Painted in black, against a pea-green background, and spanning the circumference of the entire wall is a journey-on-acrylic of people from the African Diaspora—from the Egyptian pyramids on the African continent through the Middle Passage, to the Civil War and Reconstruction, to the Civil Rights Movement—celebrations of our collective success in sports, in academia, in surviving.

This mural, this ALS mural, was the brainchild of **Nicholas Moore '80**, a recreation major. Moore was a rising senior working as a peer counselor when he got the idea for the mural in the summer of 1979.

"I went to downtown Ithaca and got some paint and told my friend, who was also a peer counselor, 'I'm gonna paint the wall.' I bought some acrylic paint, which I knew would last a long time," said Moore. "I wanted to be sure we had the African American, Caribbean, and Latino

experience captured. I spent every night and every morning painting the mural."

It took him four months to do it.

"Ithaca at that time had about 5,000 students, and out of those, 150 to 160 were Black and brown folks. We had a very close-knit community. On weekends, we'd have our families come up and the food that people served—rice and peas, codfish—I wanted to capture that," said Moore.

"Before the mural existed, the ALS room was there. The ALS room was, and still is, for everybody I know, a safe place from anxiety," Moore said. "When I first went to IC, there were a lot of the same protests [about social justice issues] that we have today—IC divesting from South Africa, free Nelson Mandela, the war on drugs, Reagan, Bush. The ALS room represented that place where we could be safe. People could come here and be at peace with people who looked like them, talked like them.

"As long as that building stands, I hope that there will be a way to memorialize what's on that wall," said Moore. "The legacy of ALS and the mural can be preserved together—all the lives of everybody who ever walked through that door. The wall is more alive today than when I painted it 40 years ago."

THE POWER OF

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**BY CHARLES
MCKENZIE**

WHEN THE ARTHUR O. EVE HIGHER EDUCATION

Opportunity Program (HEOP) began 50 years ago, it sought not just to bring more students to New York State colleges, but also to infuse those campuses with the richness of experiences and perspectives these future scholars and professionals would bring.

The students' circumstances were as diverse as the students themselves, and not just in terms of race, class, and gender—though those were huge factors. Some had challenging home lives or came from communities fighting poverty. Others came from the middle class families of entrepreneurs. Many were all-star students who just needed some extra financial support. What they had in common was the desire and the resilience to walk through the doors that can be opened with a college education.

“We have a number of students who not only come to IC and earn their degrees but are also doing really important things in terms of adding to the research being done on campus, to serving in the local community.”

— LYNN CORTESE, director of IC's Office of Access, Opportunity, and Achievement

Stemming directly from the U.S. Civil Rights Movement of the '50s and '60s, the program represented a reimagining, or perhaps an awakening, of both how the high school students saw themselves and of the colleges' assumptions about what prospective students looked like.

HALF OF A CENTURY

The 50th anniversary of HEOP at Ithaca College was celebrated at IC's last Alumni Weekend before the coronavirus pandemic.

While the program was created by the state legislature in 1969, Ithaca College was among the inaugural independent colleges and universities to offer it. The college allocated money to the program and relied on funds from New York State to cover the rest, admitting a few students through the program each year.

Fast-forward to the 2019 celebration in the James J. Whalen Center for Music, which included hundreds of students, HEOP alumni, staff, and faculty (both past and current). They shared stories about the founding of the program, the struggles along the way, and how it helped bring hope and an academic and economic catalyst to students and their families, even for generations. All were proud of what they had accomplished at IC,

where faculty and staff have long been thankful for the contributions and diversity the program has brought to its halls and legacy.

Many members pointed to financial or academic support, but others recalled the social aspect, the power of seeing friendly faces and supportive staff who greeted them as they stepped foot on a college campus, many for the first time. They were walking into a world of possibility, one that may have seemed impossible years or even months before. While program administrators did everything they could to find those students and prepare them, it was ultimately the talent and tenacity of the students themselves that enabled them to set down roots and bloom.

For example, former peer mentor **Christopher Miree '13** said HEOP afforded him opportunities to explore more, ultimately yielding his two biggest passions: “By breaking down financial barriers, HEOP allowed me one, to focus on my studies and two, to really get involved on and off campus, working at the YMCA and doing comedy.”

After graduation, Miree moved to the Los Angeles area, where he still works as an executive director for a YMCA and manages a talent agency for college comedians.

A SUMMER TO DISCOVER

All 16 or so yearly incoming HEOP students at IC attend a five-week orientation program in the summer before classes begin. It not only teaches them about Ithaca College, like most orientation programs, but it also further supports the students' academic success by offering learning tools and strengthening their academic background. Essentially, it's a preview of what college-level work looks like and how to adapt to the new challenges college will present.

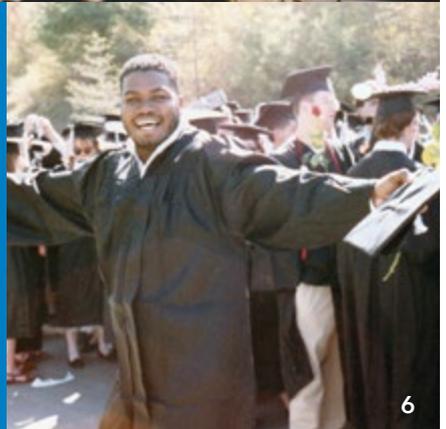
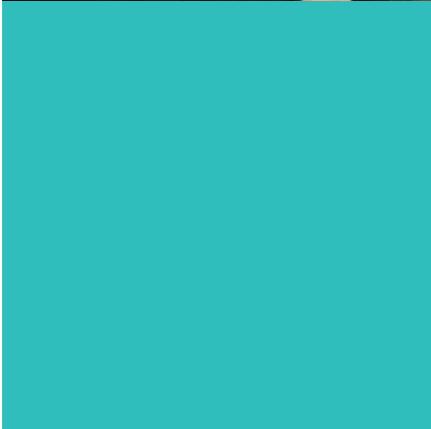
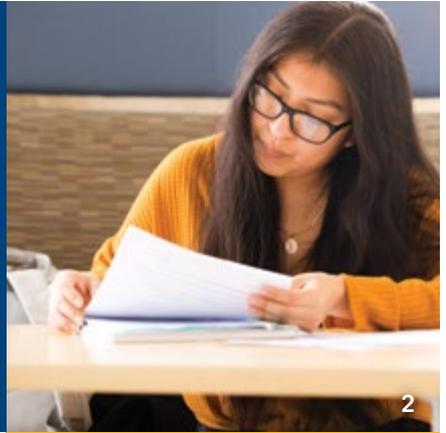
Christina Lachman '20 noted the intensity of the five-week program. “But it was all worth it because it made me a stronger student in the fall. It ingrained in us how much work would be required to succeed and showed us what our classes would be like.”

She really valued how HEOP familiarized her with the many resources in place to help all IC students, not just HEOP students, and the time-management skills she learned were invaluable. Summer programming went from 7 a.m. until lights-out.

“There were back-to-back classes, work, study hours, and it just kept us going the entire day,” she recalled. “If they didn't have it as structured as that, I feel some people would fall through the cracks because a lot of people didn't really know how to prepare for college.”

Socially, the summer program also gives them an opportunity to create a support network of friends, staff, and faculty. For first-year students whose family members attended college, advice is only a text away. Many HEOP students have to find a different path.

“Dealing with the stress sometimes is a lot, and I don't



PHOTOS 1, 4, AND 6 SUBMITTED; PHOTOS 2 AND 5 BY GIOVANNI SANTACROCE; PHOTO 3 BY SHEVORI GENE '22

really have anyone at home who can help me with this," said **Odalys Altamirano '21**. "But just going to the office and sitting with other students that I know are first-gen and struggling eases that heavy weight on my shoulders, like, 'Ok, we're all in this together.' Everyone in there is like a family, and having each other to rely on makes it better."

Omar Stoute '18 agrees that HEOP helped him transition to college.

"There's a learning curve from high school behavior to college behavior," recalled Stoute, now IC's deputy Title IX coordinator. "As a first-gen student, I didn't personally have anyone else to go to to help walk me through that: how to study, how to go to office hours, how to negotiate difficult conversations, or just how to deal with the culture shock."

"...we're all in this together.' Everyone in there is like a family, and having each other to rely on makes it better."

– ODALYS ALTAMIRANO '21

Through counselors and other resources, the program's support continues throughout the first year and until graduation. Students can get help with academic work, financial aid, career planning, and even personal concerns and setbacks. All first-year students meet weekly with one or more tutors and with a program counselor. After that, students may consult the academic support staff as needed and attend regular meetings in order to strengthen academic performance.

The results of the program are immeasurable, alumni say. Most have paved the way for their children and other family members to go to college, some even to their alma mater.

Nick Wharton, the former director of IC's HEOP, said it's not so much about helping students as getting them what they deserve, what they have earned.

The support, whether it was from faculty, staff, peers or even campus speakers serves to help the students weather and even erode institutional barriers. "Overcoming institutional racism was a constant climate dynamic that required administrative advocacy and negotiation to create a more inclusive campus community for minority students to thrive. And thrive

they did," Wharton said, pointing to higher graduation rates for students in the program compared to the student body at large.

And the contributions of HEOP students for 50 years is what has shaped IC's legacy and helped the college's continuing growth into a more diverse and welcoming environment. 🍓

Who Qualifies?

Students must have a high school diploma or equivalent GED, but there is no minimum SAT score or GPA requirement to qualify for HEOP. Applicants can even choose to apply without test scores, as IC has been "test optional" since 2012. The applicant's household income must fall within a New York State-mandated range, although there are some exceptions for students who are wards of the court, in the foster care system, or receiving other government aid. Tuition and other costs are paid for in a variety of ways: IC contributes money directly to student aid, and HEOP and its activities are also supported in whole or in part by the New York State Education Department. Other aid comes through need-based state and federal programs, New York State's Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) grants, and federal aid programs such as Pell grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), Stafford loans, and work-study.

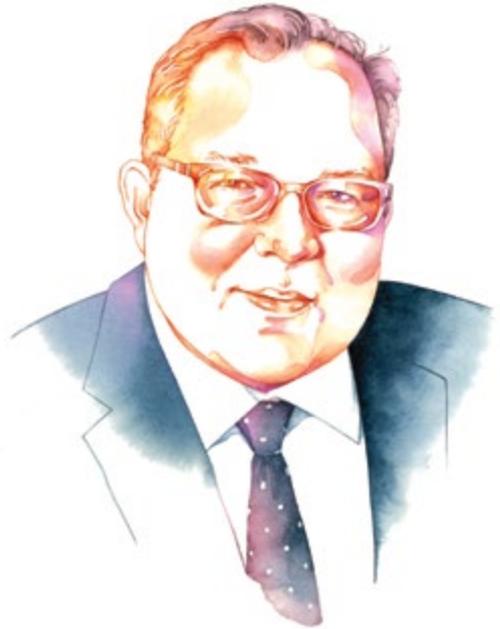
"Our students come to IC not only to earn their degrees but also to do really important things like conducting research on campus and serving in the local community," said Lynn Cortese, director of IC's Office of Access, Opportunity, and Achievement and HEOP. "They really take full advantage of the opportunities that are given to them. They then are able to give back to their communities and to communities throughout the state. That's really important, and we want to continue to be on the forefront of that, especially as demographics in the state change."

- | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Omar Stoute '18 graduated this past May. | 2. Odalys Altamirano '21 | 3. (From left) Lynn Cortese, Dr. Jill | 4. Students participate in the | 5. Christina Lachman '20 | 6. Wayne Walton '94 graduated with a degree in sociology. |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---|

IC RECOGNIZES *Alumni* HEROES

BY ROBIN ROGER
ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHERYL CHALMERS

After the challenging year we've just had, it's more important than ever to celebrate the heroes and the helpers, the superstars and the superfans. That's why this year's alumni awards are being presented to 13 noteworthy recipients who have represented Ithaca College on the world's stages, both figurative and literal. These award winners have demonstrated their commitment to the college and have persevered—despite challenges—to make the world a better place.



Marc Hudak '90

EDGAR "DUSTY" BREDBENNER JR. '50 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

If you were one of the 45,161 people who attended the 2019 Cortaca Jug in MetLife Stadium, then you've seen firsthand the impact of **Marc Hudak '90** and his love of Bomber football.

Hudak, a former captain and center who played on IC's 1988 Stagg Bowl-winning team, serves as chairman of the New York City chapter of the National Football Foundation (NFF), a nonprofit organization that promotes and develops amateur football in the United States. When the NFF was planning its celebration around the 150th anniversary of college football, Hudak saw an opportunity to bring a small-college rivalry called the Cortaca Jug to a big stage: MetLife Stadium, the home of the NFL's Giants and Jets. What resulted was the largest gathering of IC alumni ever.

But the move to bring Cortaca to MetLife wasn't solely about football for Hudak. Another aspect that appealed to him was the chance to help his alma mater provide substantive experiential learning opportunities for its students.

"I'm glad that we were able to create a high-profile opportunity that put the school out there and gave our players and coaches an incredible experience," said Hudak, a member of the IC Athletic Hall of Fame and Athletics Advisory Council.

Hudak's commitment to the college transcends athletics, as he has served as president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, a Network Nights ambassador, Corner Office Conversations host, New York City internship and recruitment volunteer, and admission college fair volunteer.



Janet Luss Jacobs '73

HUMANITARIAN ALUMNI AWARD

Since 2007, physical therapist **Janet Luss Jacobs '73** has devoted her life to treating patients and teaching and training other professionals, paraprofessionals, and caregivers around the world. Through her work as cofounder of the nonprofit Therapy Missions Inc., she has shared her knowledge and skills with those who care for children and adults with disabilities in underserved communities. Along with teams of other rehabilitation professionals, she has led, participated in, or put together 50 missions and has established partnerships in nine countries, including Mexico, Jamaica, China, Honduras, Morocco, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Ecuador, and Bangladesh.

Although Therapy Missions assesses and treats individuals with disabilities, the main focus of Jacobs's organization is to identify and then teach and train the local service providers and caregivers in the community so that they can continue the work after the Therapy Missions team has left. Virtual consultation is provided between mission trips. Therapy Missions has also brought teams of paraprofessionals from partner countries to the United States for training, empowering them to return to their country and train others.



Greg Silverman '94

HUMANITARIAN ALUMNI AWARD

What started as a job in the IC dining halls turned into a lifelong culinary passion for anthropology and politics major **Greg Silverman '94**. His hunger for political justice was ignited by professors Asma Barlas and Garry Thomas. Silverman went on to open Stella's Kitchen and Cocktails in Ithaca, and then traveled the world, serving a two-and-a-half-year stint in Mali as a Peace Corps volunteer, helping restaurant owners and community groups there build their revenue models.

“ There are few people in this world who have wholeheartedly embraced food as their life’s ambitions. Chef Gregory Silverman is one of those people, and Ithaca College and its surrounding environment were instrumental in shaping this hunger-driven humanitarian.

—LAUREN HOUGHTON '05

After returning to Ithaca, Silverman opened Olivia, one of the first farm-to-table restaurants supporting local growers. He ran three restaurants and catering businesses—employing Malian expatriates—while serving on the board of Loaves and Fishes of Tompkins County, Ithaca’s soup kitchen, making sure community members had access to healthy, local, tasty food and support.

He left Ithaca with his partner and now spouse, Dr.

Lauren Houghton '05, to move to the UK where he received a master’s degree in food policy from City University London. While there, he worked for the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, helping low-income families learn to cook healthy food on a budget.

After returning to the United States, he joined Share Our Strength, a national organization working to end childhood hunger and poverty. He became the chef leader and face of the Cooking Matters program, which teaches parents and caregivers with limited food budgets how to shop for and cook healthy meals, and he also helped lead the national Chefs Move to School Program, one of the core Let’s Move initiatives of former first lady Michelle Obama.

Now living and working in New York City as the CEO/ executive director of the West Side Campaign Against Hunger, Silverman combines the insights learned while traveling, the culinary skills he gained as a chef, and the business acumen he developed as an entrepreneur to feed its 50,000 customers, who are food-insecure New Yorkers. He manages a \$6 million budget and a staff of 30, and a network of thousands of volunteers who worked throughout the pandemic and beyond to make sure all New Yorkers have access with dignity to a choice of healthy food and supportive services.



Roger Harris '80

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Roger Harris '80 has spent his entire career using chemistry to improve people’s lives, from advancing seed production to combatting cancer.

After graduating with a chemistry degree from IC, Harris went on to receive a PhD in organic chemistry from Penn State University. He then spent more than 30 years at MRIGlobal, a contract research nonprofit based in Kansas City, Missouri, retiring in 2018 as a vice president.

At MRIGlobal, he oversaw all aspects of research across the organization's business areas of diagnostics, medical countermeasures, and product development and repository management. His experience in programs and staffing ranged from avian influenza research to the development and evaluation of field crops for use as biomass feedstock. He managed a team of chemists, biologists, and technicians conducting biological and chemical analyses of compounds and formulations to support product development for agricultural and pharmaceutical clients. He led efforts that resulted in programs with the National Cancer Institute's Division of Cancer Prevention and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

In 2019, the Roger K. Harris, PhD, Drug Repository Facility was dedicated in his honor. It receives, ships, quarantines, stores, and provides services necessary for clinical drug agents, products, and specimens in support of drug development.

He also held top secret government security clearances, and he led multiple research and operational intelligence government programs. Harris was often requested to brief members of the U.S. Senate and Congress on critical MRIGlobal programs that were of national interest and was also involved in preparing information for daily briefs for the president of the United States.



CCH Pounder '75

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

When **CCH Pounder '75** returned to campus to deliver the IC Commencement address in 2010, she provided

some wise words of encouragement.

"You've got to suffer sometimes to make change happen," she told the graduates. "Moxie, courage, pluck—you have to learn those on your own. There's no curriculum for that. But an education plus opportunity—that's the pot at the end of the rainbow."

A four-time Emmy-nominated actor, Pounder is best known for her starring roles in *NCIS: New Orleans*, *Avatar*, *The Shield*, *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*, *ER*, and *Bagdad Café*. She was a founding member of Artists for a New South Africa, and serves on the board of the African Millennium Foundation, an organization committed to the social and economic empowerment of people in Africa, especially women.

Nearly 25 years after graduating from IC, Pounder spent a week on campus as a visiting multicultural fellow, speaking with students and faculty in classrooms and informal gatherings and interacting with members of the surrounding community. She joined with other drama alumni in 2007 to support the first-ever Los Angeles showcase, at which seniors in the Department of Theatre Arts performed before a group of casting directors, managers, and agents.

Pounder received an honorary degree from IC in 2011 and spoke at the dedication of the Athletics and Events Center. Most recently, she recorded a video message for the class of 2020 virtual Commencement ceremony.



Richard DeBenedictis '58

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

When **Richard DeBenedictis '58** was director and producer of the student-led Scampers variety show at IC,

his classmates may not have imagined that one day he would become a successful composer, arranger, pianist, and musical director on Broadway and in TV and film.

His big break came when he was hired as the pianist at Roseland Dance City with Jimmy “Dancing Shoes” Palmer. They toured, and, while he was at the Steel Pier in Atlantic City, drummer and composer Gene Krupa heard DeBenedictis perform and offered him a chance to play piano on the jazz circuit.

After a brief USO tour, DeBenedictis played with the Sammy Kay Orchestra and, when he was tired of traveling, he took a position as the house pianist at the Bon Soir jazz club in Greenwich Village. From there he made his way to Broadway, where he produced dance music for Carol Burnett’s *Bonjour* and *Fade Out-Fade In*.

While working on the East Coast, DeBenedictis wrote music for some big names, including Chita Rivera and Liza Minnelli. Then he moved his family to Los Angeles to pursue work at Universal Studios and began writing scores for television series, including *Perry Mason*, *Columbo*, *Hawaii Five-O*, and *Matlock*. In total, he estimates that he has written somewhere between 200 to 300 scores for various television shows and movies.

A music major, DeBenedictis came to speak to students in 2012 as part of the Enduring Masters series, funded in part by the generous support of **Jay ‘72** and **Judi Linden ‘73**.



Steven Mauk

JAMES J. WHALEN MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Steven Mauk, emeritus professor of saxophone, has recorded 22 albums, written over 100 articles, authored

four books, and taught and mentored countless students. He has presented lectures, master classes, and recitals throughout the U.S., and in over a dozen foreign countries.

“ To those of us who have studied directly under [Mauk], he is Ithaca College. He’s our role model in all ways.”

—CONNIE FRIGO ‘97

Mauk retired in spring 2019 with 44 years of service at IC. He was on several all-college committees, including the Buildings and Grounds Committee, the Educational Policy Committee, the Budget Committee, and the Institutional Advancement Committee and was also the faculty trustee on the Ithaca College Board of Trustees from 2001 to 2004. In the School of Music, he served as interim dean, chair of graduate studies, and performance faculty chair.

In fall 2018, Mauk’s wife, **Judy Mauk ‘69**, daughter **Jenna Reynolds ‘04**, and many of their family, friends, and colleagues established the Steven Mauk Endowed Scholarship for Music in honor of his retirement. The scholarship is awarded to students with demonstrated financial need who are studying saxophone.



Candace King ‘15

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

As a journalism student at Ithaca College, **Candace King ‘15** was already contributing reporting for the *NBC*

Nightly News and *PBS NewsHour*.

While at IC, she cofounded *The Roundtable*, a show for ICTV, with fellow colleague and MLK scholar, **Sierra Council '15**. King traveled with 17 student reporters to Washington, D.C., to cover the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, where Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. The students worked with *PBS NewsHour Online*, shooting interviews, live tweeting, and editing web content for the Student Voices section of the website. King was also one of six student journalists to cover the 50th anniversary of the historic March to Selma, Alabama, for *NBC Nightly News*.

After graduating from IC, King worked as a journalist for MSNBC. In 2017, she earned an Emmy Award for Outstanding News Discussion and Analysis for her coverage on the Flint, Michigan, water crisis with the *Rachel Maddow Show*. She is now in the graduate program at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, working toward a PhD in Afro-American studies with a focus on literature and culture. Her interests are in formations of Black female identities and misrepresentations in mainstream media. In January she was awarded the 2020 Graduate Student Scholarship from the National Women's Studies Association.



Michael Kushner '13

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

Forget the triple threat. **Michael Kushner '13** is a multi-hyphenate in the Broadway community.

As a photographer, Kushner's work has been featured in *Vogue*, *The New York Times*, and *Billboard*. His clients include Tony winners Julie Andrews, Idina Menzel, Alice

Ripley, and Frances Ruffelle. He is also the creator of The Dressing Room Project, where he photographs actors preparing for their roles on Broadway.

As an actor, Kushner appeared in the pre-Broadway run of *On the Town* and will debut his one-man play, *Moo with Me*, off-Broadway next year.

As an executive producer, he has produced the award-winning digital series *Indoor Boys* and Wesley Taylor's short film *XaveMePlease*, about a young gay man named Xavier whose conscience threatens to interfere with an opportunity to better his life. The short was featured in multiple film festivals, including the prestigious Frameline43 LGBTQIA+ Festival in San Francisco. Kushner was also the cinematographer for *XaveMePlease*.

Kushner is a founding member of the award winning Musical Theatre Factory, the largest artist service organization in New York, and is the creative producer of Rock the Audition Coalition. He is on the boards of the after-school program Wingspan Arts and the performance and event space Town Stages.

And his latest venture? He's host of *Dear Multi-Hyphenate*, a podcast that was released this past January by Broadway Podcast Network.



Thomas Healy '10

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

When **Thomas Healy '10** took a Wilderness First Aid class in his sophomore year at IC, it sparked a passion in him for providing medical care in remote and sometimes dangerous environments.

Healy drew upon that experience, and his training as a U.S. park ranger, in February 2019 when he and a

fellow ranger responded to a search and rescue call in a closed area of Yosemite National Park. When Healy reached the location, he found that one hiker had already died, but there were four others who had become trapped by falling ice and rock. Healy guided them to shelter and comforted them while they waited for a rescue helicopter to arrive. After the survivors had been rescued, Healy and the other ranger were extricated and taken to safety just as darkness descended and an avalanche threatened their lives.

“Getting to protect those who visit Yosemite National Park, and to protect the park from the people, has been one of the most rewarding things I have done in my life, and I owe it to Ithaca College for getting my foot in the door.

—THOMAS HEALY '10

Later that year, Healy was presented with the Valor Award from the U.S. Department of the Interior, one of the department’s highest awards given to an employee who risks their own life in attempting to save the lives of others.



Eileen Filler-Corn '86

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Eileen Filler-Corn '86 insists that while she was at Ithaca College, she had no aspirations of running for

office—even though the politics major founded the school’s College Democrats and in 1984 arranged to bring to campus Geraldine Ferraro, who as Walter Mondale’s running mate was the first woman nominated for vice president by a major party.

Filler-Corn went on to make electoral history of her own, becoming the first woman in the 402-year history of the Virginia House of Delegates to become speaker. Her fellow Democrats, newly in the majority after two decades, elected her to the post in November 2019. She was sworn in in January 2020, and at that time was the only delegate who was a mother with school-aged kids.

Filler-Corn credits some of her success to the many extracurricular activities she engaged in at IC, including the Ithaca College Democrats, the New York State Mock Legislative Assembly, the Jewish organization Hillel, and the Delta Phi Zeta service sorority, where she was the service chair.

“I have many happy memories from my years at Ithaca College,” said Filler-Corn, who received her law degree from American University. “I got a great college education and felt really prepared for law school.”



Jeremy Jordan '07

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Jeremy Jordan '07 has played a gangster, a police officer, and even a gynecologist on Broadway.

But perhaps the role he’s best known for is Jack Kelly in *Disney’s Newsies: The Broadway Musical*, which earned him a 2012 Tony nomination as the lead actor in a musical and a Grammy nomination for the original cast recording.

Jordan was actually in rehearsals during the day for

Bonnie & Clyde, originating the role of Clyde Barrow on Broadway, while playing the lead in *Newsies* at the Paper Mill Playhouse in New Jersey at night. When *Bonnie & Clyde* closed, Jordan devoted his full attention to the musical about the newsboy strike of 1899.

Jordan appeared on the big screen alongside Dolly Parton and Queen Latifah in the musical film *Joyful Noise* and opposite Anna Kendrick in *The Last Five Years*. He appeared on TV in *The Flash* and *Supergirl* before returning to Broadway to appear alongside Kerry Washington in *American Son*, which was adapted for Netflix in 2019.

That same year, Jordan played Dr. Pomatter in *Waitress*, and he was set to play Seymour in an off-Broadway revival of *Little Shop of Horrors* when the coronavirus pandemic hit in March 2020. Fans stuck at home could still get their fill of Jordan in the Hallmark Channel's Christmas movie *Holly & Ivy*, which premiered last November. And, in a forthcoming biopic, Jordan will play Neil Bogart, a 1970s record producer and cofounder of Casablanca Records.



John Neeson '84

VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

John Neeson '84, president of IC's class of 1984 and crew commodore during his time as a student, has demonstrated his deep dedication to the college through his decades-long involvement as well as his generous financial contributions.

An authority on business-to-business marketing and analytics, Neeson made a gift to support the creation of the Neeson Business Analytics Lab and the Neeson

Digital Marketing and Analytics Lab and establish the John Neeson '84 Endowed Software and Database Fund to support software updates and future upgrades to the lab, which opened in 2019.

“ I hope that all of you have the journey that I've had in business and have the opportunity to give back to this school, because this place is where I felt I really grew as a person, as an individual, and it has meant so much to me.

—JOHN NEESON '84

He said he views his contributions to Ithaca College as an opportunity to help the school achieve its vision and create an experience that builds on what the school already offers, creating what he called “a clear competitive advantage for IC students going into business analytics and marketing.”

“It's my hope that students will get more thorough experience with digital marketing, have access to the latest tools and techniques, and graduate with real experience,” he said.

Neeson's dedication to supporting his alma mater and its students goes back to his own days as a student. During his senior year, his class created a scholarship that is still given to students today. The Class of 1984 Endowed Scholarship is awarded to a junior or senior with demonstrated financial need, solid academic achievement, and active involvement in campus organizations.

Outside of Neeson's Ithaca College dedication, he continues to demonstrate his passion for education and the opportunity business can provide to young people. He is an adjunct professor at Boston College and MIT's Sloan School of Management, and advisor to several private equity firms. Neeson is also in the mentor program for Our Generation Speaks, an organization focused on the promotion of peace in the Middle East through entrepreneurship. ■

CONNECTIONS



PHOTOS BY MIRANDA ALLEN '21

THANK YOU FOR BEING A FRIEND

IC is fortunate to have a supportive and generous community that makes up the Friends of Ithaca College. The institution's history is brimming with dedicated neighbors and committed local organizations that consistently step forward to help the college and our students succeed.

The Friends of Ithaca College is made up of local donors and businesses that support IC students through their philanthropy. The group's mission is to develop and foster the relationship between Ithaca College and the community, and to support the Friends of Ithaca College Scholarship, which helps empower local-area students to attend IC.

Many members of the Friends of Ithaca College give to this scholarship; others support the IC Annual

Fund, individual schools, programs, and departments, or other aspects of the IC experience. Members of the Friends of Ithaca College also support one another through the connections they make within this distinctive network through annual get-togethers and other special events.

Ithaca College will always be Ithaca's college, and we have our many members of the Friends of Ithaca College to thank. Anyone who lives or works in Tompkins County or an adjoining county can be a member of this special community.

▶ To find out more, please contact Gretchen Van Valen, MM '93, director of alumni and family engagement, at gvanvalen@ithaca.edu.

Friends of Ithaca College executive committee member **Jerry Dietz '75** (top left) speaks before a performance of the IC Wind Ensemble during the Founder's Day Concert in the Park in September 2019.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Tanya Hutchins '89

DEAR IC FRIENDS,

We are very pleased to introduce and welcome our new president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, **Tanya Hutchins '89**, a graduate of the Roy H. Park School of Communications.

Tanya has been an incredible volunteer and donor, and deeply understands the needs of alumni, having actively served as an ambassador for Ithaca College and the alumni association for many years. She has provided important leadership as the president of the Washington, D.C., area alumni chapter and chair of the alumni board's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, facilitating the creation of its Inclusive Excellence Position Statement in support of the board's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Tanya's commitment to students is evident through her involvement at IC as a regular classroom speaker for the Park School and as a mentor for students. She has also consulted with the college on important initiatives including the Center for IDEAS; the Office of Access, Opportunity, and Achievement; and the Center for LGBT Education, Outreach, and Services.

We are also pleased to welcome the board's new vice president, **Lynnore Thames '89**, a graduate of the Roy H. Park School of Communications. Lynnore has been a longtime IC volunteer leader and donor, serving as a member of the alumni board's Bylaws Committee, an annual ambassador at Network Nights, a speaker at alumni events, a representative for the alumni board with the Park School's board of advocates, and a mentor and classroom speaker.

In addition, the board is happy to welcome six new directors: **Jennifer Cooley Fleisher '92** (Health Sciences and Human Performance), **Lauren Kaufman '09** (Park), **Karen Jennings McCarren '98** (Health Sciences and Human Performance), **Tarshene Miller-Greaves** (Humanities and Sciences), **Sarah Nix '96** (Park), and **Alyssa Orlando '14** (Park). We are excited to have such an incredible and committed cohort of IC alumni serving on the alumni board!

As in-person gatherings slowly start to become a reality, everyone at the college looks forward to having the opportunity to see you at upcoming events. IC Alumni Homecoming Weekend 2021 (October 1–3) will be an especially great time to see friends, celebrate class reunions, and enjoy the Ithaca College campus while it's brimming with energy!

As we reflect on the past year with so many upheavals and uncertainty in the world, we are thankful for you, our alumni, families, and friends, for supporting us through and through. In looking to the future, we know Ithaca College will be strong because of you, as you are the very heart of Ithaca 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.

GRETCHEN VAN VALEN, MM '93, PARENT '18, '20, '21
Director, Alumni and Family Engagement

ALUMNI NOTES

1960

ROBERT THOMPSON started his career working in the Universal Studios mailroom and was then asked to be a talent scout. Before long, he was offered a talent executive position at the new motion picture company Cinema Center Film. During this time, he and an assistant wrote, produced, and directed, "Coming of Age," which won a best short of the year award. He optioned the book *The Paper Chase*, which went on to win an Academy Award.

1965

ALBERT NACINOVICH conducted his last concert after 47 years, including an incredible 42 years with the Repasz Band. Momentous occasions for the Repasz Band included a 1997 invitation to play at the rededication of Grant's Tomb; the band had taken part in the original 1897 dedication and the 2015 opening ceremony commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House. Albert also taught and was coordinator of instrumental music for 36 years with the Williamsport, Pennsylvania, public school district. He also served for a number of years as a district and state officer for the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association.

1969



Dan Karson (front row, fourth from left) joined several others from his class in a photo with IC's president, Shirley M. Collado, at the 2019 Alumni Weekend.

TOM PANDICK received the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award presented by *Marquis Who's Who* in recognition of his distinguished unwavering excellence in his 46-year legal career of public and private service.

1970



Joe Bouchard is one of the founders of the classic rock band Blue Öyster Cult and was the bassist for 16 years, from 1970 to 1986. Joe's most recent solo album, *Strange Legends*, was released in 2020.

1971

EDWARD SYRON retired as the chief of primary care services at the Dayton (Ohio) VA Medical Center. He will continue as adjunct associate professor and graduate school course director at the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine in Dayton.

1973

WAYNE FERGUSON was a member of the 2020 class of the North Country Sports Hall of Fame. He was a physical education teacher and 33-year wrestling coach at Beaver River High School in Beaver Falls, New York. He is also a member of the New York State and Section III Wrestling Halls of Fame.

SUSAN KENNEDY was presented with the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award as a leader in the field of physical education. A celebrated physical education teacher, consultant, and sports official of many years, she retired in 1990 as an adjunct faculty member at the University of North Texas. Susan has worked in several

states, including Connecticut, Oregon, and Nebraska, in various aspects of coaching, athletic training, and teaching. She received her PhD from Texas Woman's University in 1991. Until the late 1990s, she was involved in officiating women's and girls' lacrosse, field hockey, basketball, softball, and volleyball.



BARBARA KERR

was the 2020 chair of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) College of Fellows. The College of

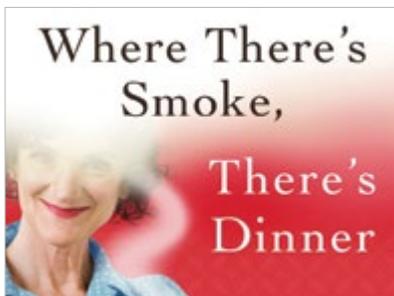
Fellows is composed of more than 350 senior practitioners and educators, each of whom has left a significant footprint on the public relations profession. She is a past president of the PRSA Oregon chapter and received the chapter's 2016 William W. Marsh Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2019, she was inducted into the Dayton (Ohio) Area Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

1978

JOHN FELKER retired from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and his position as the assistant director for the Integrated Operations Division.

1980

BETTE ANNE SACKS ALBERT's early landscape paintings are featured in the permanent collection of the Public Art Archive through the Western States Arts Federation of Colorado. Her paintings are also represented by Mary Williams Fine Arts in Boulder.



Regina Carpenter published her first memoir, *Where There's Smoke, There's Dinner*, in September 2016. It won a Storytelling World Award for best writing by a spoken word artist in 2019. She has been an international spoken word artist since 1997. She travels the world telling gut-wrenching stories about being the youngest of five children in a fifth-generation family growing up in a small town on the St. Lawrence River.

ANDREA COHEN was elected to the board of directors for the Home Care Association of America (HCAOA) for a term that began in January 2021. Cohen founded HouseWorks more than 25 years ago with a plan to redefine what it means to age at home. The company has become one of the nation's largest independent private home care companies, guiding families through the challenges of aging at home. The HCAOA is the industry's leading trade association, currently representing nearly 3,000 companies that employ more than 500,000 caregivers across the United States.



MOSES MARK HOWDEN has served as county court and surrogate court judge for Cattaraugus County, New York, since 2017. He was formerly the Cattaraugus County attorney and in private practice.

1981

JEFFREY ARLEN SPINNER

retired as a county court judge in December 2018 and has since been working at a private law practice.

1982



Kim Agle invited graduates of IC's Park School to her home. For some, it was their first time seeing each other since their 10-year reunion. Pictured are (front) **Maryann Wiedemann Baldwin '81**, **Rick Steinhaus '82**, **Mindy Lasser Siegel '82**, **Kim Agle '82**; and (back) **Scott Musgrave '83**, **Marc Steve '81**, **Jeff Siegel '82**, and **Allison Savitch '83**.

JEFF KATZ began working as the personal photographer for Prince just three years after graduating from IC, taking photos for his album covers, tour books, and concerts. He also photographed many other '80s and '90s musicians and bands, and now works primarily for movie and television stars.

LOREN MORTIMER and GEORGENE PASSELE MORTIMER '83

met at IC and married shortly after graduation. Blending their knowledge gleaned at IC and their love of wine—reinforced by dates to Finger Lakes wineries—they have had a presence in the wine industry since 2000. After opening their first winery in Montague, New Jersey, they opened a second winery on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. They have since relocated permanently to South Carolina and are building a new custom winery.

YOUR GENEROSITY CAN CHANGE A LIFE.

By including IC in your will, you leave a lasting legacy and give the gift of an amazing IC education to students.

Email

plannedgiving@ithaca.edu

for sample bequest language and to learn more about planned giving at Ithaca College.

SETTING THE STAGE FOR THE NHL'S SEASON-SAVING BUBBLE

Steve Mayer '84 helped create a captivating return to hockey

BY PATRICK BOHN '05, MS '07

When the coronavirus pandemic first swept the world, **Steve Mayer '84**, senior executive vice president and chief content officer for the National Hockey League (NHL), had to figure out a way to keep fans engaged during a time of uncertainty.

The NHL paused its season on March 12, 2020, with 189 games remaining, including the Stanley Cup Playoffs.

"We thought the stoppage was going to last a week or two," he said. "Then, after a few weeks passed and we realized the stoppage was going to last a lot longer, we started asking different questions. 'Can we come back? What's it going to look like? How can we protect our players, fans, and staff?' The world had never seen anything like this."



On a normal day, producing the Stanley Cup finals is an accomplishment, and in these circumstances, it was an achievement.

Mayer's first order of business was to get creation of the league's content up and running again.

"We wanted to keep our fans informed and engaged," he said. "To do that, we gave producers and editors equipment for their homes and gave them the ability to access the league's video content remotely. We also worked with players to send out messaging encouraging mask wearing and hand washing."

With content hitting homes again, the next, more arduous task was at hand: helping the league's return-to-play initiative be a success.

"We weren't in a rush. We wanted to come back in the safest, healthiest way," Mayer said. "Everything we did was based on that. We put in some very stringent protocols to ensure the safest scenario possible."

That meant the creation of two "hub" cities, Edmonton and Toronto, to host an expanded 24-team



PHOTO SUBMITTED

playoffs. Once the cities were secured—as well as the arenas where the games would be played and the hotels where coaches, players, and staff would be housed—Mayer was able to focus on his next task: making the games an event without any fans. As a large part of his job is overseeing the league's event department, Mayer was able to quickly come up with solutions.

"I spent a lot of time making sure that we were giving fans at home the ultimate television experience," he said. "We'd observed what some other professional leagues had done, and we saw what was working and what wasn't."

Mayer's team brought in the brightest LED screens they could find and hired Los Angeles's most popular lighting technician to create an in-arena atmosphere that could be appreciated in a living room thousands of miles away.

There were challenges, of course. The bubble the NHL created for its personnel meant that players, coaches, and staff had to be quarantined for the duration of the playoffs. For Mayer and others tasked with producing the games, that meant they were going to spend nearly three months without seeing their families.

Mayer's behind-the-scenes work for the NHL was in sharp contrast to what he was focused on as a student at IC. But he credits his time on South Hill with developing his versatility.

"I worked for both VIC and WICB, did the play-by-play for athletic contests, and hosted *The Gridiron Report* for ICTV," he said. "But what was great about the hands-on experience at Ithaca was that you were expected to do a little bit of everything. I was running cameras and editing footage, and I got a general knowledge that's helped me during my career."

On September 28, 2020, when the Tampa Bay Lightning lifted the Stanley Cup, Mayer's time in the bubble came to a close. In total, the league played 75 games after pausing the season.

"On a normal day, producing the Stanley Cup finals is an accomplishment, and in these circumstances, it was an achievement," he said. "We all knew what we were doing was something we'd never do again." ■

1985

JODI TAFFEL was crowned the 2019 Bacon World Champion at the World Food Championships (WFC) with her winning dish, Bacon Steak on Sweet Corn and Jalapeño Nage with Bacon Caviar. During her food sport career, Jodi has racked up other credentials, including finishing first at the Westminster Cheddar recipe contest and being named the Princess of Pork by Guy Fieri. Jodi started her food journey in 2010 when she entered and won her first competition, the Grilled Cheese Invitational.

1986



GREGORY STUART performed in a faculty artist series recital. After working for many years as a freelance singer, actor,

director, and teacher, he began teaching in the music department of Frostburg State University, first as an adjunct professor and then at a full-time professorial post. He teaches private singing lessons, leads an opera workshop, and teaches a variety of courses. Gregory was in the world premiere performance of a new musical entitled *19: The Musical*, which dealt with the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C., and he also sang in the world premiere of an opera by composer Frances Pollock and librettist Robert Misbin titled *Briscola the Magician*.



John Vitti was honored with an SXSW Community Service Award, which acknowledges individuals and organizations that are creating positive and lasting change for communities or underrepresented individuals. Honorees are awarded grants totaling \$60,000 in recognition of their exemplary efforts. John, a veteran journalist, is the founder of the nonprofit Headliners in Education. He runs online newspapers in five district schools. As a proponent of educational opportunities through journalism, he advises students and teachers in over 125 greater Boston schools.

1987



Edwin Callaghan retired after 33 years of teaching music in his home district of Brentwood, New York. The first music teacher for thousands of kindergarteners, he was the director of the high school's musical theatre program for 32 years. Ed was honored in February 2020 when over 100 alumni attended his production of *Once on This Island* and joined the cast onstage to sing a song in tribute. Brentwood honored him by naming him the grand marshal of the 2020 St. Patrick's Day Parade. His most recent performance was as the narrator in a 2020 production of *A Christmas Story*.

BRIAN MCKENNA owns a jazz club, The Jewell, in downtown Omaha, Nebraska.



Jonathan Sobel (middle) got together with classmates **Mike Thibault** (left) and **John Vespi** (right) in Montauk, New York, during summer 2019.

1988



CARL BELLANCA has been promoted to the head of sales for U-Blox Americas. Before his promotion, he was the vice

president of sales for the East for a year and a half. He has been in the electronic semiconductor industry for more than 25 years.

1989

LISA NAMEROW joined Cable News Network (CNN) as the head of podcasts and audio. She is responsible for developing CNN Audio's partnership strategy, identifying new partnership opportunities, and maintaining partner relationships. Prior to joining CNN, she was the head of podcast partnerships at Pandora. Lisa has an extensive audio streaming career, including working for pioneering platforms such as AOL Radio, AOL Music, Winamp, Shoutcast, and Slacker Radio.

1990

ERIC MAIERSON was the senior producer at MediaStorm, a Brooklyn-based documentary production company, for 11 years.

ALUMNI NOTES

His work there was honored with two Emmy Awards and 10 nominations. Since 2017, he's been a freelance producer and editor in New York. He's worked frequently with *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, and Criterion Collection, in addition to many other publications. He also developed and taught an interdisciplinary course on creativity at Rochester Institute of Technology. His critically acclaimed play, *Reprise*, appeared off Broadway in 2017.



Zev York retired with the rank of colonel after more than 28 years as a logistics officer in the U.S. Air Force. He has lived in Japan, Turkey, Australia, and Germany, as well as multiple locations across the United States.

1991



Mette Karlsen has committed her career to helping people survive natural disasters, complex crises, and extreme hunger around the world. As an international humanitarian assistance expert, she has worked the front lines of some of the most challenging humanitarian responses, including the West Africa Ebola crisis; Hurricanes Matthew, Maria, and Irma in the Caribbean; and the Venezuela regional crisis. When Hurricane Matthew hit in 2016, Mette led the food aid response.

STEPHANIE R. NESBITT is an associate professor of risk management and insurance, and dean of the School of Business and Justice Studies at Utica College. Before joining Utica College, she spent 18 years working as a risk manager and practicing attorney in the retail and health care industries.

1992

KELLY P. DONEY is the chief information officer at Villanova University. At Villanova, she provides the overall leadership and direction for the university-wide information technology program and infrastructure, overseeing technology infrastructure, information security, network, enterprise resource planning, tech support, card systems, communication systems, instructional technology, and application development.

1993

JOEL CHESKIS and his wife, **MANDY CHESTER CHESKIS '92**, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on June 25, 2020. Mandy and Joel met in Lyon Hall. Both were resident assistants and active in Hillel.

ERIC JORDAN YOUNG is the founder of EnJoY! Productions Group, an entertainment creativity firm. Since 2010, EnJoY! has produced award-winning projects that have been produced, influenced, and associated with Eric.

1994

PAMELA TEUFEL is the vice president and chief human resources officer at Saint Peter's Healthcare System in New Brunswick, New Jersey. She oversaw a technology transformation, including a centralized service center for employees to be able to contact their human resources department and a talent management

program that covers everything from onboarding to succession planning. She also persuaded the CEO and CFO to move the company's minimum pay to \$15 an hour.

1995



JAMIBETH MARGOLIS was honored with an Artios Award by the Casting Society of America for her work on the off-

Broadway production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, which was presented entirely in Yiddish. Jamibeth has cast many shows on and off Broadway.



ANDREA WOLKOFSKY launched her own business, Shyft Digital, a marketing agency supporting clients with social

media, strategy support and execution, and website and mobile app design and development. Her business stems from 20 years of working at other marketing firms.

1997

ALLAN MILLER was awarded a Fulbright Distinguished Award in Teaching Short-Term Program (Fulbright DAST) grant and is one of 13 U.S. citizens who will travel abroad as part of the Fulbright DAST program. He has been selected to work with the Uzbekistan Ministry of Education and the Samarkand Regional Center for Retraining and Advanced Training of Public Education. In this role, he will consult with professors and teachers in the creation and implementation of STEM curriculum. Allan is currently a digital learning and innovation coach for the Champlain Valley School District. Previously, he was the coprincipal at Shelburne Community School and taught

IC ALUMNA PRODUCES HIT SHOW ON HULU

Liz Tigelaar '98 expounds on the complexities of motherhood in her adaptation of *Little Fires Everywhere*

BY ASHLEY REEDMAN

In January 2018, Ithaca College alumna and veteran television series producer **Liz Tigelaar '98** was approached by the production companies of Reese Witherspoon and Kerry Washington to create a limited series adaptation of Celeste Ng's bestselling novel *Little Fires Everywhere*. Tigelaar fell in love with the story and jumped at the chance to be the showrunner and executive producer of the series.

"I had so many points of connectivity to the book as a mom, as an adopted daughter, as someone who as a kid longed to be understood. I also came of age in the '90s and really understood the decade and why it was important that the show was set then," said Tigelaar, who graduated from IC with a degree in television-radio.



They're both well-intended mothers, yet they are blind to the damage they may be causing their children.

The show centers around the themes of race, class, and the journey of motherhood—and at its core are two very different mothers, played by Witherspoon and Washington. The women clash as they live their lives in fundamentally different ways, but they are bonded by a common theme.

"They're both well-intended mothers, yet they are blind to the damage they may be causing their children," said Tigelaar.

The series explores how their lives and families become entangled and at odds, and their conflict forever changes them, their children, and the tight-knit community of Shaker Heights, Ohio, in 1997.

"It's important to me to spend my time working on projects I feel deeply connected to," said Tigelaar. "And, if I'm going to put all of my time into something and sacrifice other things, like time with my wife and son, it has to be for something that feeds something deep within me."



PHOTO COURTESY OF HULU

Liz Tigelaar '98 (left) on set

Little Fires Everywhere felt special from the beginning, Tigelaar said, because it amplified the importance of complex stories about motherhood and nonbinary stories about women and their relationships to each other.

"And most of all, it just touched me deeply," she said. "The book made me so emotional at times. I've had my own unique journey through daughterhood and motherhood, and something about the story with Pearl and Izzy normalized my own story."

For *Little Fires Everywhere*, the level of understanding from producers, writers, and actors was unexpected in its potency. Tigelaar also said the diverse writers' room helped add even deeper levels of meaning to the series.

"I think the way we came together, the way we had honest, challenging, hard conversations about race, class, our own biases and prejudices—it was all so illuminating, and life-changing," she said.

The biggest challenges of the show for Tigelaar included cutting down the script to better fit the production budget and being away from home for months at a time.

"The job is like being a CEO of a company, where you oversee lots of departments and do multiple things at once. It's a lot of juggling, a lot of hours, but incredibly collaborative, creatively satisfying work. I love working with a team of such strong women to make something we're so proud of."

For Tigelaar, *Little Fires Everywhere* is the highest profile show she's been involved in. She has also launched her own production company through ABC Signature called Best Day Ever, where she can develop her own projects.

Tigelaar is currently working on her long-time passion project, *Summer Sisters*, by Judy Blume, for Hulu, as well as supervising a few young female writers, who all have exciting, distinct voices and stories.

Little Fires Everywhere premiered in March 2020 on Hulu. 🍷

ALUMNI NOTES

science and Russian in Alaskan schools for over 25 years.

1998

ANTHONY CARBONE was the showrunner and executive producer of *The Floor Is Lava*, a game show on Netflix. *The Floor Is Lava* was ranked as the number-one series on Netflix when it was released and held the first place spot for a period of time. Anthony is also working on a CBS series as the showrunner and executive producer.



ALYSSA HALL was named to CRN's 2020 Power 40 Solution Providers list, a group selected from the original Women of the Channel list. After several years of working in entertainment, finance, manufacturing, media, and information technology services, Alyssa began working for Computer Design & Integration to re-brand the company in 2016. In 2018, she was promoted to vice president of marketing and business development, where she has implemented strategies that have increased the corporation's number of partners from 5 to over 50 in less than four years.

1999



JENNIFER BATTISTA joined the Home Care Association of America as senior director of membership and operations in July 2020, focusing on recruiting new members and forming partnerships to benefit member agencies. Previously, she was chief operating officer for the

Pennsylvania Homecare Association and also worked for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Jennifer is working toward a master of business administration degree from West Chester University.



MATTHEW HOCH is a professor at Auburn University. During the 2019-20 academic year, he authored or coauthored articles that appeared in the *Opera Journal*, *Journal of Singing*, *Choral Journal*, *Journal of the Association of Anglican Musicians*, *The Hymn*, and *VOICEPrints*, and was editor of two books that were published as part of the National Association of Teachers of Singing's *So You Want to Sing* (SYWTS) series: *SYWTS World Music* and *SYWTS with Awareness*. He also presented recitals and master classes at the University of Arkansas, Texas A&M University-College Station and Corpus Christi, and Lipscomb University. He also served as guest editor for a special edition of the *Voice and Speech Review* called *Voice Training in 2020: A Vision for the Future*.

2000

MATT DESKIEWICZ is the founder and director of MATTER, a creative agency and production company. He established the company in 2009, alongside his wife and producing partner, Pamela Liptak. Matt is a television commercial and film director, producer, and writer. During the pandemic, MATTER partnered with Home and Garden Television (HGTV) to create its latest on-air campaign, "We Are Home" #HomeTogether, to remind viewers that we are all in this together.

2001



SHAINA HOLMES is a visual effects artist, producer, and supervisor with over 200 film and television credits, including *Chicago*,

The Notebook, *Tropic Thunder*, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, *Men in Black 3*, *Swiss Army Man*, and *True Detective*. In addition to staying active in the industry, Shaina is an assistant professor at Syracuse University, teaching visual effects and postproduction. She also has her own company, Flying Turtle Post, which supports independent film productions shot in the central New York area and beyond.

KIERAN ROBINSON opened R Five Wines in Downingtown, Pennsylvania. He got his start in wine production while attending IC, and his interest in wine brought him to the Northern Rhône region of France before moving to California's wine country. Kieran has worked with some of the world's greatest winemakers, including Pierre Gaillard, Paul Hobbs, Michel Rolland, and Aaron Pott. R Five Wines produces wines predominantly from Sonoma County at a winery in Santa Rosa, California.

2002

DANE FISCHER, the head coach of men's basketball at the College of William and Mary, was named Coach of the Year by the Colonial Athletic Association.



RACHEL SCHEER is a lifestyle director who creates programs including fitness, art, and social events for residents at Cresswind Lakewood Ranch, a 55-and-over community in Lakewood Ranch, Florida.

2003



Michael Cinquanti was recognized by media organization City & State in its 2020 Labor 40 Under 40 list. Michael serves as the director of policy, planning, and counsel for the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters. He has been an attorney and lobbyist in Albany for several years, where he advocates on behalf of working people and middle-class families across the state. He worked on a successful campaign to expand prevailing wage laws, which guarantees higher wages to all construction workers on certain publicly subsidized projects.

also the UMass Boston recipient of the 2020 Manning Prize for Excellence in Teaching. This competitive UMass system-wide award is given annually to one professor from each UMass campus in recognition of excellence in teaching along with exemplary dedication to students and their campus community. Kristin holds a master's degree from Harvard University and a PhD from the University of Florida.

2004



KRISTIN MURPHY is an associate professor of special education at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. She was

MIKE DISCENZA is the head women's golf coach at the State University of New York (SUNY) College at Cortland. He previously was the head coach from 2007 to 2012 while also serving as the assistant director of athletics for NCAA compliance. He is a member of the Professional Golfers' Association of America with advanced certification in teaching and coaching. His coaching background began at IC, where he was a student assistant football coach under **Mike Welch '73**. He was an assistant football coach at

Widener University in 2005, IC in 2006, and SUNY Cortland from 2016 to 2019.

2005



Brendan Manning is the emergency coordinator for the City of Laguna Beach in Southern California. As the emergency coordinator, he is responsible for preparedness planning, mitigation, and coordinating response to wildfires, floods, earthquakes, and more. He is a certified emergency manager with the International Association of Emergency Managers. Immediately following his graduation from IC, he served in the Peace Corps in Malawi. He also spent three years working with the U.S. Forest Service in Ethiopia and was an emergency manager in California.

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SCENIC DESIGN SUCCESS CELEBRATED

Lawrence E. Moten III '12 is recognized
for his design work on *Stew*

BY ASHLEY REEDMAN

In June 2020, **Lawrence E. Moten III '12** received an Antonyo Award for Best Scenic Design for the off-Broadway production *Stew*. The inaugural awards were presented by Broadway Black, which celebrates Black artists on and off Broadway.

"I love that the Antonyo Awards celebrate and showcase Black artistry," said Moten, who was a theatrical production arts major at IC. "It's meaningful to so many because it shouts out, 'We exist.' More often than not, producers, directors, and institutions infer that they do not have Black creatives and storytellers because we are so few and far between. This award ceremony says that's not true. I think that this will create a greater demand and far more fertile ground for more Black set designers to find success in the landscape of New York City theatre."



I think that this will create a greater
demand and far more fertile ground for
more Black set designers to find success
in the landscape of New York City theatre.

Moten realized his passion for set design at 15 years old. He became fascinated when he learned that he could take what he envisioned in his head and make it real, turning his skill into a vocation.

"There was something so magical about the places that writers could take you and the things you could experience in the infinite space of your imagination," he said. "I decided at 15 that this was what I wanted to pursue. I wanted to be a part of the team that brought stories to life."

Moten was brought onto the production of *Stew* by its director, Colette Robert, whom he admired as a collaborator and storyteller. One of the crucial elements of production to Moten is establishing what he refers to as the "emotional plane" or "container" of the piece.

"I am trying to find the overarching feeling of the text," he said. "What is it that the writer, or we the creative team, are trying to say about the piece, and



PHOTO SUBMITTED

how can I represent that larger idea visually? It takes a long time and a lot of research to figure that out. *Stew* is a naturalistic piece, so it was important to get the space right from a practical and dressing standpoint, and for the audience to emotionally understand the lives of the women in the play."

When it comes to artistic style, Moten prefers abstraction. "Theatre is a collaborative art form, not only for the performers, designers, technicians, and everyone else who makes the show, but it's collaborative with the audience as well. We ask you to join us on this 90-minute to two-and-a-half-hour journey, and I find that the most satisfying of those journeys are the ones in which I do not give you everything in the set. We ask you to suspend your disbelief and add your own imagination to ours to make the show that much more impactful," he said.

"What I love about my job is I get to get up and play pretend every day," said Moten. "More than this, I get to explore viewpoints and ways of life that are vastly different from the world that I live in. I get to practice active empathy every day. I think that has allowed me to expand my worldview far more than anything else."

Moten credits Ithaca College for making him empathetic to the roles within scene design. It is a skill that he says made him a better designer and collaborator.

"What I loved about the BFA program at IC was the insistence that we start at the bottom. You have to work at every level of production so that you understand what you are asking people to do for you as a designer. My experiences in carpentry, paint, props, and costumes at IC made me a better scenic designer because I grew to understand how my choices will affect all of these departments, and I am therefore able to have effective, collaborative conversations with these artists," said Moten.

Last October, Moten's design for *Stew* was also nominated for a Henry Hewes Design Award. ■

2006



Sarah LaPolla began working in publishing in New York City after graduation and then went on to receive a master of fine arts in creative writing in 2008. She was a literary agent for several years and, during that time, worked alongside many accomplished writers. In 2020, she started Next Chapter Editorial and Consulting, where she focuses on editing and consulting for writers of children's literature and adult fiction, and teaches many writing workshops.

AMANDA ROBERTS and her business partner, Virginia Quiambao, launched Avid Core, a strategic communications company. Avid Core develops and implements effective strategic communications plans. Their team has a proven track record in all aspects of communications and public outreach, with experience in homeland security, transportation, education, and natural resource projects.



KRISTEN SACKETT is the marketing and events director for the Downtown Missoula Partnership (DMP) in Missoula,

Montana. She is responsible for the marketing and promotional strategies used to promote, support, and enhance downtown Missoula. She is also responsible for the largest events her organization produces, including Winter BrewFest, Downtown ToNight, and the River City Roots Festival. She previously held this position from 2014 to 2018 before she went to work for local marketing and advertising agency Windfall. She resumed her role with

the DMP in June 2020 and previously worked in collegiate athletics at the University of Montana and Yale University.

2008

MEG BOBERG was accepted to the University of Southern California to pursue a master's degree in communication management.

ANJULI KRONHEIM KATZ spent six and a half years organizing with Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, a national Jewish organization fighting for progressive domestic campaigns. She started as the Southern California organizer and moved into the role of field organizing manager, working to expand the organization across the country to win policy and electoral conflicts. She lives in Santa Monica, California, and spent four years as Santa Monica's housing commissioner.

JOSH KENISTON is the vice president of campus services and institutional projects at Dartmouth College. He leads a wide array of functions for the college, such as Dartmouth's ski mountain and hotel, as well as facilities and construction. He is also cochairing the school's COVID-19 task force.

2009

JEFFERSON MCDONALD performed the role of Ted Dykstra in the award-winning play *2 Pianos 4 Hands* at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. He reprised the role at the Olney Theatre Center in Maryland. His musical, *Jerry Lee Lewis Versus Jerry Lee Lewis*, debuted in February 2020 with the Playhouse Stage Company in Albany, the company's first world premiere.

THOMAS O'ROURKE was named to the Law360 Rising Stars list in the cannabis category. The list profiles top legal talent under 40. Thomas's practice encompasses litigation services in a wide range of industries and



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ALUMNI NOTES

subject areas including health care, manufacturing (food and products), and entertainment. Experienced in representing businesses and individuals in complex commercial cases, he also has appellate experience in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, the Second Circuit, and the Fourth Circuit. Thomas regularly provides pro bono services to a nonprofit reuse center dedicated to promoting creative reuse, recycling, and resource conservation.

PETE SACHS is senior account executive for corporate partnerships with the New York Mets. Formerly, he was with both Syracuse Athletics and Holy Cross Athletics in corporate partnerships with WME-IMG and Outfront Media Sports, respectively. At Holy Cross/Outfront Media, he became the first general manager in the athletic program's history and grew sponsor revenue 122%. In total, Pete worked for five different sports organizations. In addition to the Mets, he also represents the New York Excelsior in the esports Overwatch League.

2010

ROB HOCHBERG is the vice president of scripted development and production at MGM/UA Television, where he is responsible for finding emerging voices, developing new ideas, and overseeing shows through launch. Rob has spent his entire career at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) Studios.



ALYSSA O'TOOLE founded her dream business, Musicians Playground, shortly after graduating from IC. She also established a

501(c)(3) called The Hands Movement, to complement it. Her passions include business, music and education, and helping

others reach their fullest potential. Her mix of interests has enabled her to make Musicians Playground her life's work.

2011

JONI SWEET is a freelance writer who specializes in travel, health, and wellness. Since graduating from IC, her work has been published by *National Geographic*, *Forbes*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Lonely Planet*, *Real Simple*, and dozens of other publications.

2012



Molly Freeman started her professional career as a writer at Screen Rant in 2014 before becoming an associate news editor in 2016 and then a lead news editor in 2018. As lead news editor, Molly oversees a team to ensure timely and accurate entertainment-related news. As one of Screen Rant's Rotten Tomatoes-approved critics, Molly has been reviewing movies for the site since 2017. An excerpt of her review of *Solo: A Star Wars Story* was published in *The New York Times*.

NOAH MARK obtained an MS in soil, water, and environmental science from the University of Arizona. In 2019, he assumed the role of technical director at the Community Science Institute (CSI), an Ithaca-based, nonprofit water quality testing lab. CSI partners with volunteers to monitor and protect water quality in the Finger Lakes and New York's southern tier regions. Noah guides day-to-day lab operations while continuing to carry out experiments in the lab, and helps with the organization's fundraising and outreach activities. He also co-owns a small, diversified vegetable farm called Here We Are Farm in Trumansburg, New York.

2013



BENJAMIN DOWS

opened Benjamin Dows Music Therapy (now Breakthrough Music Therapy) in Elizabethtown,

Pennsylvania, specializing in services for children with special needs. Student goals include improving focus and attention as well as self-confidence skills. Benjamin hopes his music therapy office will provide children with special needs access to specialized treatment.

2014

KARISSA BREUER is an assistant animatic editor with DreamWorks. She has previously worked in the field of animation at various animation studios including Six Point Harness, DreamEast, and ShadowMachine.

EMMA MARTIN is a publicist for NBC's *News/Today*. She covers programming from 7 to 11 a.m., Monday through Friday; from 7 to 9 a.m. on Saturdays; and for the *Sunday Today* show with Willie Geist. At *Today*, she helps drive viewership by promoting upcoming segments and interviews, as well as increasing public exposure by disseminating breaking news and news-making interviews. She works with the press and also helps with their talent's external press opportunities.

2015

JESSICA CORBETT is a staff writer at Common Dreams, a progressive, independent, nonprofit that publishes daily news articles online. After interning and freelancing in New York City following graduation, Jessica moved to Portland, Maine, to work as a full-time staff writer. She writes and edits articles about U.S. and international politics, war and peace, human and civil rights, economic issues, and the climate

PERSEPHONE BRINGS FORTH COMPOSITION AWARD

The orchestral piece *Persephone* by **Patrick Holcomb '18** was inspired by the sounds of the sea

BY SHERRIE NEGREA

Patrick Holcomb '18 was walking through a CVS in Ocean View, Delaware, when a melody evoking the sound of waves, wind, and seagulls suddenly came to him. On winter break of his senior year, he wrote down the melody and didn't return to it until he had started graduate school at Indiana University. In May 2020, *Persephone* received national recognition when Holcomb won a Broadcast Music Inc. (BMI) Student Composer Award for the piece.

Holcomb was one of eight composers to win the prestigious award in 2020, which is presented annually to composers under the age of 28. Nearly 600 composers living in the Western Hemisphere competed for the prize.

“That piece just blew my mind. I thought, 'I have to do that—I have to write something that will blow other people's minds.'”

Holcomb began composing at the age of 12 after he heard the piece *Strange Humors* by the American composer John Mackey being performed.

“That piece just blew my mind,” recalled Holcomb, who is a French horn player. “I thought, 'I have to do that—I have to write something that will blow other people's minds.'”

His first full-length composition was a piece for band he wrote his freshman year of high school. At IC, he expanded his repertoire, composing for woodwind quintet, string orchestra, French horn octet, voice, and other groups.

One of the major influences on his compositional style was the ethnomusicology course on Hindustani (North Indian) classical music that he took at IC. The course led Holcomb to learn to play the tabla and



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Patrick Holcomb '18 (second from left) playing in the horn section of the Indiana University Concert Band

Indian harmonium, which he then taught to other students.

“I took the class on a whim, and my brain just kind of expanded 10 different times,” said Holcomb. “I absolutely wouldn't be where I am today as a composer if I hadn't studied North Indian music.”

Holcomb was selected from all the graduating composition students to write a fanfare to precede the 2018 Ithaca College Commencement ceremony.

“He was one of the best composition students that we had,” IC associate professor of composition Evis Sammoutis said. “It's a very selective program, but even within that selective program, he excelled.”

At Indiana University, he won several awards for his compositions, including a score for a silent film. He continued to develop his compositional style, which he compared to North Indian music for being both improvisational and structured. “By writing something on paper, which is rigid in its own nature, I wanted to write something that was also spontaneous and that had a kind of spur-of-the-moment quality to it,” he said.

Another element of his style is composing programmatic music—pieces that are associated with a story or idea. His award-winning piece, *Persephone*, is based on the story of the Greek goddess who was abducted by Hades and forced to spend a portion of each year with him in the underworld. Holcomb said he envisioned the seven-minute work as an imagination of Persephone seeing her reflection in each of the six rivers she passes on her annual journey into Hades.

After completing his master's degree, Holcomb said he hopes to earn a doctorate in composition and follow in the footsteps of other American composers who won a BMI award when they were launching their careers. ■

ALUMNI NOTES

crisis for the news section of the website. She also continues to freelance and fact check.



Karalyn Mark is a collection development librarian at the Manchester Community Library in Vermont, where she oversees the acquisition, cataloging, and processing of print and digital materials and manages the library's online Koha catalog, which debuted in April 2020. Following her undergraduate studies, she went on to graduate from Pratt Institute with a master's degree in library and information science, an advanced certificate in archives and special collections, and an advanced certificate in conservation and digital curation. She held fellowships and internships at the Clark Art Institute library, Thomas J. Watson Library at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Aperture Foundation, and Green Mountain Club.

2016

EMMA BEHRENS was chosen as a member of the Hartford (Vermont) Selectboard, which is the executive branch of local government in many towns across New England. The Selectboard oversees town departments, schedules town meetings, and proposes budgets, licensing, and setting policy to guide the direction of the town. Emma also works as a wedding and event planner at the Quechee Inn in Vermont.

JENNA HARNER works in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the weekend sports anchor and reporter at WPXI-TV.

MICHAEL NEIL PALMER stars in Amazon Prime's 10-episode series *Salty Pirate*.

2017

JOHN HIGGINS has worked in the consumer electronics field for over a decade. He currently writes reviews of televisions, projectors, and speakers for IGN, HomeTheaterReview, and Projector Central. He also works as a freelance sound editor, rerecording mixer, composer, and sound designer for films.

SYDNEY O'SHAUGHNESSY is a communications associate at the Environmental and Energy Study Institute, where she works to ensure environmental information is communicated accurately and effectively amongst researchers, policymakers, and the public so that informed decisions can be made at the local, state, and federal levels. She edits content, writes articles, creates infographics and other outreach materials, spearheads content marketing, guides the social media strategy, and updates the website.

2018



Dustin Albino has been traveling the United States, chasing his dream of becoming a full-time NASCAR reporter. He's broken many national stories across the sport, landing him interview slots on SiriusXM NASCAR radio. He is an author at *Frontstretch* and has been covering the NASCAR circuit for the past six years.

JASMINE GAYLE is a content writer who focuses on the topic of Black mental health. She is also a freelance writer and contributor for the website *mindbodygreen.com*.

KATHERINE PICKHARDT was selected by Adobe as one of 10 "young creative ambassadors" for BuzzFeed's home-page takeover, *Make the Feed*.

AIDAN QUIGLEY is a U.S. Navy reporter at the Washington, D.C., publication *Inside Defense*, where he covers Navy procurement, budget, and policy. This role follows the two years he spent as a Burlington, Vermont, reporter covering a range of local news and issues for *VTDigger*, a statewide nonprofit news outlet.

ALLISON SPASCHAK joined the Randolph-Macon College women's basketball program as an assistant coach. Her responsibilities include recruiting, social media strategy, camps and clinics organization, equipment handling, and scouting.

2019

SHAWN NGUYEN was accepted to the Northeastern University School of Law for the class of 2023 to pursue litigation work and become a litigator after law school.

ELENA PIECH explored the dynamics of virtual reality and augmented reality (VR/AR) technologies by pursuing her own independent studies while under the guidance of her mentor, professor of media arts, sciences, and studies Devan Rosen, at IC. She now lives in New York City and works as the marketing manager for a VR/AR platform company called the Glimpse Group, which is composed of nine business-to-business-focused subsidiaries. In this work, she continues pursuing her passion for these emerging technologies and the role that VR/AR technologies will play in the future of communication.

VIKTORIA SCHULTZ is the creator and producer of a children's science show called *Lift Off, Puddie*, an educational series that

follows the second-grade science core curriculum. The show is created by an all-female animation team. Viktoria wrote the show with her sister, as they both have a passion for getting girls involved in STEM programs. The objective is to show the excitement of science to those who are underrepresented in the field. Viktoria is also a full-time entertainment auditor at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

2020

LISA BOOTH will be attending Sacred Heart University to pursue a master's degree in social work.

OLIVIA GELLAR is working toward a master's degree in communication from the University of Texas at Austin. She received a graduate fellowship from Phi Kappa Phi for \$8,500 towards her graduate studies.



QUENTON KIMBLE completed a New York State Assembly internship and worked full-time as a legislative assistant in the

office of former assemblywoman Barbara Lifton.

KRISTEN MIRAND is a multimedia journalist for WSET-TV in Lynchburg, Virginia, also serving Roanoke and the southern region of Virginia. Her reporting covers everything from school board decisions to breaking news.

MEREDITH NASH was accepted into the master of fine arts in creative writing program at Emerson College.



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ALUMNI NOTES



Pia Rizzo-Wittlin is a freelance writer for Valnet Inc. She writes exclusive, daily articles on films and TV shows for Comic Book Resources, a subsidiary of Valnet. She is also a freelance digital branding specialist for Wampler MacGregor & Associates (WGA), a web development company that provides all-inclusive digital marketing solutions to businesses on a local and national level. She is WGA's social media strategist, podcast producer, and graphic designer.

COLIN TESSIER is a freelance writer who covers comic books and professional wrestling, two subjects that are very close to his heart. Since graduation, he's been focused on turning his freelance writing into a career, so he is balancing three positions at three different websites: He is a contributor for WrestleZone, where he provides live coverage of World Wrestling Entertainment shows. He is a features writer for Comic Book Resources. And he is a news writer for *Looper*, covering what's happening in the entertainment industry, specifically movies and television. Some of his comic book reviews have been quoted by Marvel Entertainment.

MEG TIPPETT is attending law school at the University of Maryland. Her sociology research was featured in the Johns Hopkins Richard Macksey National Undergraduate Humanities Research Symposium and will be published in a new Johns Hopkins journal.

Celebrations

JEFFREY ARLEN SPINNER '81 and Sally Anne Abel, on March 3, 2020, in Baiting Hollow, New York.

JESSICA HARMON MCNERNEY '99 and Michael Sargent, on February 17, 2020, in Hawai'i.

RONALD BELENSKY '02 and Lisa Rawlings, on January 11, 2020, in Mesa, Arizona.

ALEX ROBINSON '12 and Amanda Lambros, on September 14, 2019, in Salisbury, Vermont. **Ben Cohen '12** and **Dan Reuben '12** were in the wedding party.

COREY CASWELL '13 and **ALLISON YOUNG '13, DPT '15**, on April 27, 2019, in Wilmington, North Carolina. **Pat Lemmo '13** was in the wedding party.

ELIZABETH SCHWARTZER ODIORNE '13 and John Odiorne, on September 14, 2019, in Sanbornton, New Hampshire. **Kathryn Schwartz '16, DPT '18; Christina DiCillo '13; Casey Thomas '13; and Andrea Wysong '13** were members of the wedding party.

RACHEL SUTTON '13 and Meredith Mechanik, on March 7, 2020, in St. Petersburg, Florida.

SAMANTHA BENDER CABRERA '14 and **ANTHONY CABRERA '15**, on August 31, 2019, in Salt Lake City, Utah. **Rachel Dell'Orto '14** and **Mariah Noden '14** were in the wedding party.

ELLIE STERNS CASPER '14, DPT '16, and **ANDREW CASPER '13**, on November 9, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois.

SAMANTHA OLEWNIK '15 and Joshua Vacanti, on November 29, 2019, in Buffalo, New York. **Alexa Szotka '16** was the maid of honor.

JARED WOLF '15 and Joseph Lyons, on December 14, 2019, in New York, New York.

Introductions

ROBERT S. MCNAMARA '00 and Bette K. McNamara: William

Brendan, August 4, 2020, joins older siblings, Belle and Bo Jack.

PHILLIP HANEY '02 and **KELLY HANEY '04**: Sophia Rose, January 25, 2020.

ANNE WALTERS CUSTER '04 and **ROBERT CUSTER '05**: Vera Grace, January 6, 2020.

MICAH KARG '04 and Jessica Hammerman: Jonah Leo, August 17, 2020, joins older brother, Henry.

EMILY WATSON BILODEAU '06 and Sean Bilodeau: Elizabeth Ann, December 6, 2019.

Farewells

WILLIAM (BILL) G. RUGER '58, January 31, 2020, in Durham, North Carolina, at the age of 87. Bill served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1951 to 1954 and was a veteran of the Korean War. After receiving his degree from IC, he earned a doctor of law degree from Cornell University in 1961. Bill was an attorney with the legal department of the Pennsylvania Railroad, in Philadelphia, from 1961 to 1963, and following that, a member of the Valent & Callanan law firm until 1969, when he opened his law office in Watkins Glen, New York. He served as the attorney for the Schuyler County legislature and the county offices from 1970 to 1991, and was also an assistant district attorney before retiring in 2000. Bill was a life member and past vice president of the New York Bar Association, a fellow of the New York Bar Foundation, and past president of the Sixth Judicial Bar Association. He was also the past president of the Schuyler County Historical Society. Bill was predeceased in 2018 by his beloved and cherished wife of 59 years, Lucinda B. Ruger. He was also predeceased by his sisters, Barbara Dombroske, Geraldine Benjamin, and Marilyn Ruger. He is survived by his children, Lydia (Jeffrey) Voorheis

and William (Karen) Ruger, and his grandchildren, Devyn and Jason Voorheis.

ALLEN C. THOMPSON '59, MS '60, November 17, 2020, at the age of 85. After graduating from IC, Allen continued his music while in the U.S. Army, where he played in the 298th Army Band in Berlin, Germany. While living in Binghamton, New York, Allen played trombone in the Tri-Cities Opera orchestra in the 1960s. He later taught instrumental music in the Binghamton public schools for 35 years before retiring in 1994. Allen was predeceased by his wife, Mary; his brothers, William H. Thompson III and Robert Dakin Thompson; and his grandson, Caleb Martin. He is survived by his daughters, Nancy (Jim) Thompson, Kathy (Bill) Martin, Janice (Jeremy Jones) Thompson, Barbara (David) Hursh, and Wendi (Patrick) Stetson; 12 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

ROBERT B. SHAPIRO '62, January 15, 2020. Bob was a speech pathology major and member of the debate club and worked as a speech pathologist in the Andover public schools for 30 years before retiring. He was the husband of Ruth (Neistadt) Shapiro. He is survived by his sons, **Mark '90** (Janet) and their daughter, Sienna; and **Gregg '94** (Lauren); and grandchildren, Owen and Jason.

JOHN MCGOWAN '64, July 28, 2019, in Tucson, Arizona, at the age of 77. John taught music in Utica, New York, for 33 years and played in the Utica Symphony Orchestra for 40 years. He received a master's degree from the State University of New York College at Potsdam in 1974 and a doctor of education degree from Syracuse University in 1985. John became an adjudicator for the New York State School Music Association and edited the NYSSMA manual for oboe music. John is survived by his wife, Cathy, and sons, Matthew and Shawn.

JOHN R. ARMATO '65, December 16, 2019, in Lake Ariel, Pennsylvania, at the age of 76. In 1969, John began his 25-year career with Sterling Drug, rising from salesman to director of sales. He also served for 14 years on the Ridgefield, Connecticut, board of education. He spent his retirement years as a public safety officer and emergency medical technician. He is survived by his wife, Diane; sister, Linda; and children, Tetra and Dominique.

JAY ROBERT GEMSKI '89, December 12, 2019, at the age of 52. Jay grew up in Ringoes, New Jersey, and graduated from Princeton Day School in 1985. He was employed with Cine in Washington, D.C., after graduation and had been employed at George Washington University Hospital for the last 21 years. Jay was very involved with many film organizations and enjoyed traveling the country making presentations at conferences. He is predeceased by his father, Robert. He is survived by his mother, Arlene; aunt, Barbara (Joseph); uncle, Allen Brostowski (Nancy); cousins, Chris Kacsanik, Matthew Brostowski, Linda Leach (Brandon), Brian, and Megan; and family members, Andrew and Patricia Fostek.

JOHN CONWAY BOYD '02 on January 25, 2020, in Aspen, Colorado, at the age of 40. John was a member of Lambda Pi Eta, the National Communication Association honor society. In 2009, he earned a degree from Columbia University's School of Professional Studies. He spent many years working abroad in education and finance. Most recently, John lived in Washington, D.C., working for the Export-Import Bank of the United States. He is survived by his mother, Katherine Conway; his father, Robert (Diane) Boyd; and his sister, Jessica. He is predeceased by his brother, Brendan.

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

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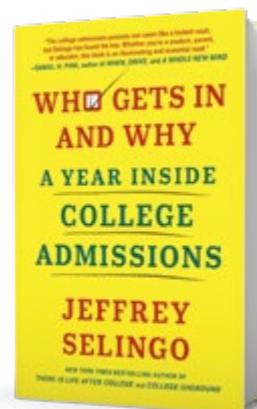
PHOTOS

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 November 15. Because of the nature of a tri-annual publication and the volume of notes we receive, you should expect to see your note about six months after you submit your information.



AN INSIDE LOOK AT COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

Jeff Selingo '95 provides in-depth analysis of the admissions process

BY BARBARA ADAMS, ITHACA COLLEGE ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF WRITING

Jeff Selingo '95 interned at *U.S. News & World Report* while working toward an IC journalism degree. Years later, in 2007, Selingo's former mentor from his time at *U.S. News* died, leaving him a box of the magazine's college rankings that showed astonishingly higher acceptance rates at "elite" schools during previous decades.

"Now top colleges are even harder to get into, and they're inundated with applications," Selingo said. "I wanted to look at the phenomenon of college admissions, which has changed in the last generation. It's a \$10 billion industry—in giving a window into it, I needed the perspective of many different players."

Who Gets In and Why: A Year Inside College Admissions, named one of 100 notable books of 2020 by *The New York Times*, is his third book on U.S. higher education. In it Selingo, a former *Chronicle of Higher Education* editor, explores the black box of the admissions process—how students are selected, waitlisted, or denied.

For nearly two years, Selingo was embedded in admissions offices at three institutions: Emory, a private university in Atlanta; Dickinson, a liberal arts college in Pennsylvania; and the public flagship University of Washington, in Seattle. What he discovered was a complicated, imprecise, fluctuating system. His statistically rich analysis includes the perspective of student applicants. It also considers the effects of the high school counseling process, early decision, legacies and athletes, and test-optional applications.

Selingo defines institutions as either "buyers"

or "sellers." "Sellers" offer a brand name and exclusivity; they don't have to discount tuition to fill a class and can provide primarily need-based financial aid. But only about 50 institutions enjoy such lofty reputations: the majority are "buyers," wooing students to enroll via tuition discounts and merit (rather than need-based) awards.

Students seeking to advance in life as far and as fast as possible focus on the select institutions, where chances of admission are notoriously slim. He describes just how competitive these institutions are and how mysterious is the weighting of their varied criteria—test scores, extracurriculars, geographic region, and AP courses, among many others. At the end of the day, colleges gamble on students they believe are right for them at a particular moment, inevitably denying admission to superbly qualified students.

But Selingo indicates that excellent educations can be had at many "buyer" institutions, which applicants often overlook. He cites his own education at Ithaca College (where he is a trustee) as an example. He wants parents to understand that, at these places, students are most likely to get financial aid based on merit as well as need. By looking past the "prestige," students can increase their chances of admission and support, and find "the right fit."

High school grades and course rigor are finally more important than SAT scores, Selingo says, and ultimately, "Success in college is about *how* you go, not just *where* you go." ■

NOAH BERLOW '04

“Unforgettable” Music Video
(Godsmack, 2020)

Berlow worked with rock group Godsmack and nearly 400 middle and high school students from New England to create a music video for the band’s single “Unforgettable.” The goal of the project was to showcase the power of music and the need to keep music programs funded in public schools.

ZACH CAPP '09

The Ringmaster
(Capp Bros, 2020)

Capp’s documentary follows a chef whose onion rings Capp hopes to make famous. It also deals with mental health, addiction, and Alzheimer’s disease.

JASON COLAVITO '03

The Mound Builder Myth: Fake History and the Hunt for a Lost White Race
(University of Oklahoma Press, 2020)

Built upon primary sources and first-person accounts, this book chronicles the attempt to fabricate and promote a false ancient history and recast Native American burial mounds as the work of a “lost white race” of “true” native Americans.

RUSS EBBETS

A Runner’s Guide: To 30 Years of Off the Road
(Off the Road Press, 2019)

Nominated by the Track and Field Writers of America for the 2019 Book of the Year, *A Runner’s Guide* blends local flavor with a personal touch to address universal issues. Ebbets draws on a lifetime of experiences in covering topics such as training and competition, growth and development, and health and history.

RICK FRISHMAN '76

Guerrilla Publicity: Hundreds of Sure-Fire Tactics to Get Maximum Sales for Minimum Dollars
(Adams Business, 2020)

Frishman’s 19th book lays out a foundation of practical public relations knowledge, teaching readers to capitalize on low-cost technologies.

WALTER HORN '74

Democratic Theory Naturalized: The Foundations of Distilled Populism
(Lexington Books, 2020)

Horn, who was an assistant professor at IC from 1978 to 1980, uses his theory of “choice voluntarism” to offer solutions to perplexing problems in democratic theory and distill populism to its core premise: giving people the power to govern themselves without any constraints imposed by those on the left or the right.

JOSH JACOBIOUS '19

You Know the Drill
(1Up Films, 2019)

Jacobious produced and coedited this documentary about active shooter drills in schools and focuses on the potential consequences they may have on children’s mental health.

LATESHA KELLAM '99

The Match Disaster
(lulu.com, 2020)

Kellam’s novel tells the story of a recently divorced woman who meets someone on Match.com, only to discover he may not be the man of her dreams after all.

RHEA UMMI MODESTE '84

Because I Knew
(Muse City Press, 2020)

Modeste’s book of poetry reflects on the many aspects of a

woman’s life as she writes about immigration, identity, and loss.

LOUIS PALAZZI '76

The New Americans: Portraits of an Italian-American Family
(Avventura Press, 2020)

Offering a fresh perspective on Italian immigration from a family whose origins were predominantly from northern Italy, the book aims to explain the events of their lives in their own unique views.

JULIE SAMRA '95

Kadoo and Ladoo: Mystery of the Missing Necklace
(Self-published, 2020)

This children’s book features best friends Kadoo and Ladoo, who live in a small Indian village and are searching for their aunt’s missing necklace.

DAVE SHABY '89

Virtual Selling: How to Build Relationships, Differentiate, and Win Sales Remotely
(35 Group Press, 2020)

Virtual Selling teaches sellers how to thrive in the new sales environment and shares groundbreaking research on virtual selling challenges from both the buyers’ and sellers’ perspectives.

JEANINE TRIPODI '93

*When Sh*t Goes Sideways: Soul-Centered Navigation for Life*
(Five Roots Press, 2020)

The book shares Tripodi’s story of choosing joy in the midst of chaos and includes exercises and reflections to help readers on a path where they can remember and trust their intuition and their connection to the universe.

ONLY IN ITHACA



WHERE THE SIDEWALK BEGINS

Who can forget the long walks from downtown Ithaca up to IC on those weekend nights?

Now, IC students have a safer trek: construction of a new sidewalk along Danby Road (Route 96B), the main route that connects the college to downtown Ithaca, is now complete. The new sidewalk runs along the east side of the roadway—the campus side—connecting IC with its roots downtown.

“The new sidewalk is a great addition in terms of both safety and convenience,” said Brian Hanshaw ’21.

The sidewalk is a collaboration between the

college and the City and Town of Ithaca. The city built its portion of the sidewalk in summer 2019. Construction of the remaining segment, extending from the Ithaca College main entrance to the municipal line at Grandview Avenue, began in June 2020 and ended later that fall.

“It was a terrific experience working collaboratively with our colleagues from the Town of Ithaca Planning Office on this project,” said Tim Carey, IC’s associate vice president and chief facilities officer. “The end result is significantly beneficial to students—indeed all IC community members.”

I REMEMBER WHEN...

When the college posted news of the new sidewalk on social media, alumni reminisced:

“Oh, I remember walking up that hill in freezing cold at night after missing the last bus!”

—Lara Rondberg ’90

“Until I got my car junior year, it was either the city bus or ‘thumbing’ from the foot of Danby Road.”

—Chris O’Connor ’74



SAVE THE DATE | OCTOBER 1-3

ALUMNI HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Plans are underway to celebrate the IC alumni experience on South Hill during Ithaca College's Alumni Homecoming Weekend 2021!

- 51st Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremony
- Downtown "Welcome Back" Party
- Milestone Reunions for Classes Ending in 0, 1, 5, or 6
- Taste of Ithaca Celebration
- Alumni Awards Celebration

▶ ithaca.edu/alumniweekend

Interested in serving on your class reunion committee?

Email alumniweekend@ithaca.edu for more information.





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