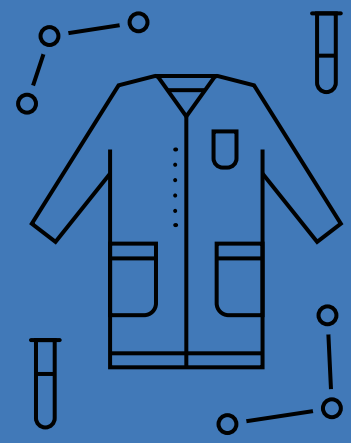
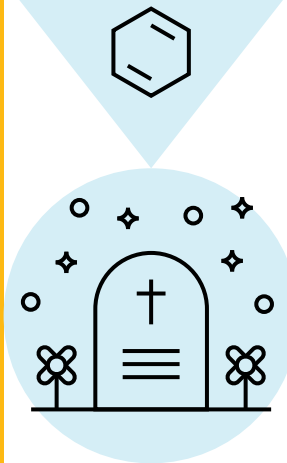


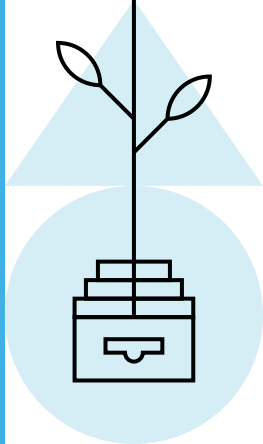
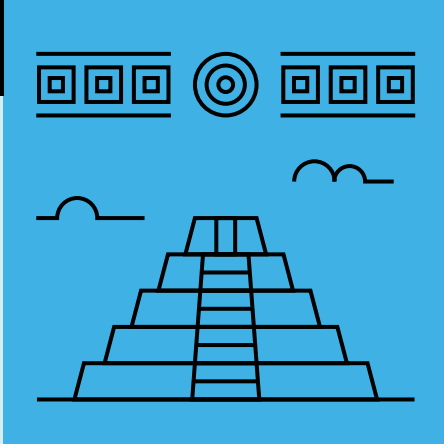
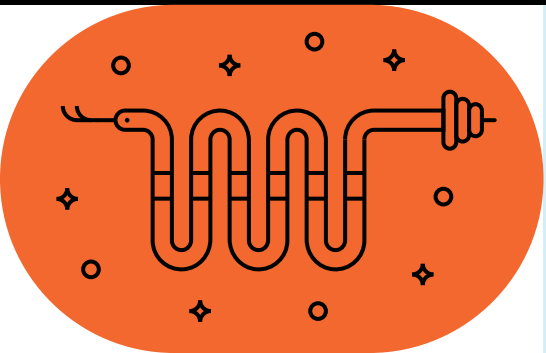
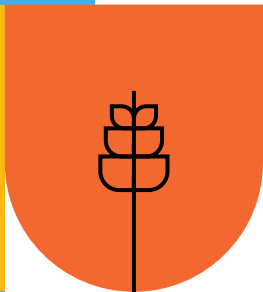
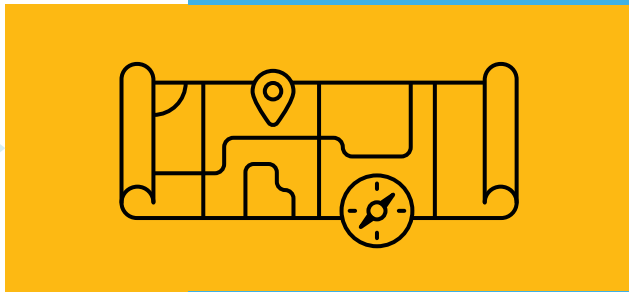
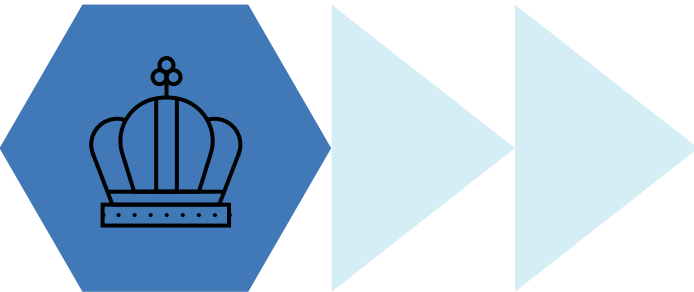
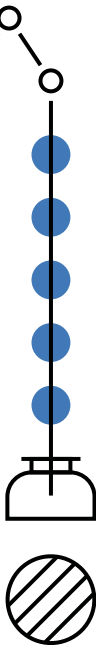
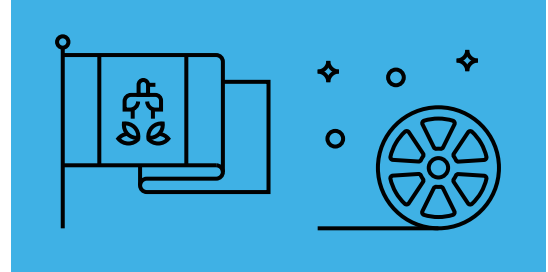
IC VIEW

THE MAGAZINE OF
ITHACA COLLEGE



EUREKA!

IC FACULTY REVEAL MISSING DATA,
LOST TREASURES, AND GENETIC MYSTERIES



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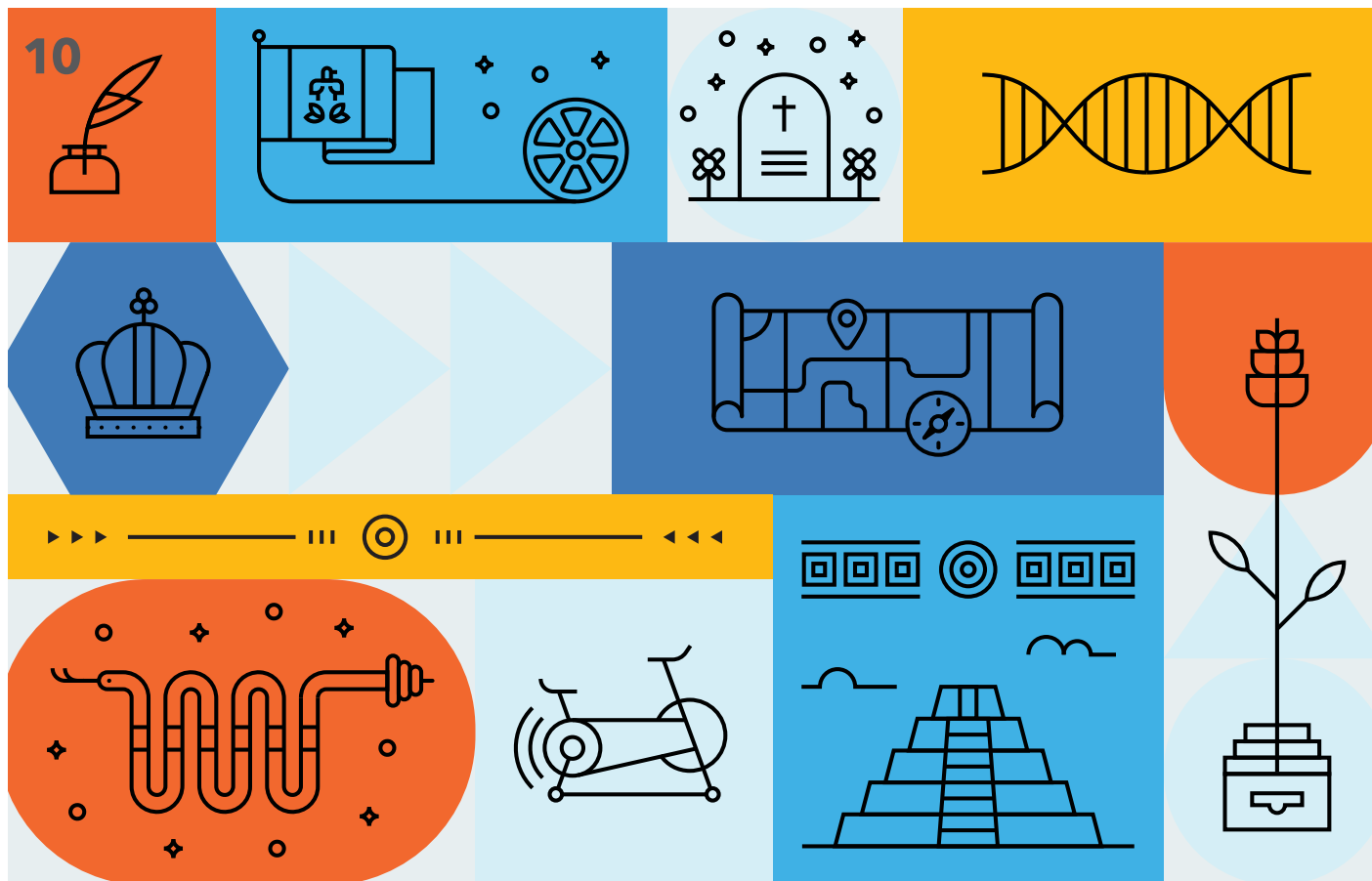


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IC VIEW

THE MAGAZINE OF
ITHACA COLLEGE

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ON THE COVERS

FRONT: Illustration by Jon McClure (Co-Motion Studio)

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

CONTACT US: icview@ithaca.edu or 607-274-1813, or visit ithaca.edu/icview.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



PHOTO BY ADAM BAKER

IN MID-SEPTEMBER, FACULTY AND STAFF GATHERED

for the Provost's Colloquium, an innovative program launched this academic year by provost and senior vice president for academic affairs La Jerne Terry Cornish, in partnership with the Center for Faculty Excellence and its director, Wade Pickren. This colloquium series invites faculty members to present their sabbatical research to the college community.

At this year's opening event, Jennifer Germann, associate professor of art history; Deborah Martin, professor of music; and Peter Melcher, professor of biology; shared their explorations around bias and the erasure of people of color in the world of art, original interpretations and combinations of musical compositions, and competition among species of plants on the beaches of Puerto Rico, respectively. The array of topics demonstrated a wide range of thought and innovation undertaken by three faculty members who skillfully demonstrated their navigation of the space where creativity and curiosity intersect academic rigor and the construction of knowledge.

In higher education, particularly at student-centered institutions like ours, we often talk about the journeys of transformation that students embark upon during their time on our campus. Here at IC, our faculty and staff take very seriously our collective responsibility to offer and support the moments that make up these journeys for nearly 6,000 students. But we would be missing an important opportunity if we neglected to encourage and celebrate such journeys taken by our faculty and staff. Their transformations, too, are critical to the creation of a robust, inclusive learning community that ultimately influences not only our students' experiences but also Ithaca College's visibility and distinction as a leading institution of higher education.

An important part of the college's continuing evolution is to ensure an environment on campus that supports and emboldens every member of our learning community as they thrive, grow, and fully participate in their own unique IC experience. One of the things I love about working in higher education is witnessing the transformations that occur when this type of environment is created and celebrating the intellectual and personal epiphanies that happen when we dare to push boundaries, both within ourselves and within our fields of study or our professions.

Research, in particular, represents an area where it is imperative to welcome and honor the work of people who come to their chosen field from a multitude of perspectives—both in their lived experiences and in their academic training. The most powerful research is defined by collaboration, moments of discovery that combine a deep subject-matter expertise with the unique alchemy that can happen when people from different backgrounds have the freedom to create something together. This is why it's so important that we open ourselves to original thought in the classroom and productively work across difference in our offices, departments, and divisions throughout our campus. Welcoming unfamiliar ways of understanding the world not only leads to better research and allows us to question our assumptions—it enables places like Ithaca College to productively contribute to expressions of different kinds of truth and dialogues about what is valued as knowledge.

Approaching our academic enterprise in this way illuminates our deep responsibility to share our knowledge with our community and to model a collaborative approach that underscores the importance of individual and collective intellectual achievement in contributing to the common good. Doing this also means our students can go out into the world after graduation with a firm understanding of the importance of getting diverse voices around the table to ask and answer difficult questions.

Series like the Provost's Colloquium—and many other such opportunities on our campus—provide moments for us to understand our collective impact, the richness of faculty expertise at Ithaca College, and the need for us all to embrace what it means to be a part of a high-performing living and learning community that contributes to the world. And, on a fundamental level, it gives us all a sense of pride in ourselves and in our peers by celebrating our identity as a part of this amazing Ithaca College community.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shirley M. Collado'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

SHIRLEY M. COLLADO

President



125 YEARS

I just want to commend you and your publication staff for the excellent offerings you have made to the IC alumni over the past couple of years. I have shared them with friends as examples of the product IC proudly produces. The “125 years” truly shows off the college’s greatest asset: the students—past and present. I’m one of the “downtowners” who only spent a semester shuttling to the upper campus. The rest of my education was on the “flat.” Thank you again for your work.

LARS ALLANSON '62
DELMAR, NEW YORK

I write as a former IC Board of Trustees member, parent of a 2002 graduate, and college donor. Kudos for the *ICView* 125 years spring edition. I felt the stories that were featured celebrated past achievements while capturing the vision IC is positioned to achieve going forward. Thank you for your continued efforts to produce an enlightening publication for the benefit of alumni, donors, parents, and friends.

SUSAN PERVI, PARENT '02
SURPRISE, AIRZONA



DIGGING INTO HISTORY

Downtown was great in the 1963-67 era. We enjoyed both the construction “on the hill” but still had the ambiance and the closeness of downtown. The park was our campus. We sang, practiced lines, played, ate at the Olympia restaurant, had classes upstairs in Williams Hall (some of us *lived* in Williams Hall!), walked uphill to sororities, participated in the sorority/fraternity snowball fight each year, and also participated in the “on South Hill campus” events. We were more divided by department than in the '50s, but some of us managed to breach the divides. It was four years of discovery, learning, and wonder! Loved it all!

ELIZABETH WASCAK '67
PERRY, NEW YORK

I would like to have been in that group to talk about IC in the early '50s when there was no campus and the small total enrollment had close friendships that crossed department lines. Also, I felt we were not only a part of the college but being downtown, we were also a part of the city. I have to believe that many of those alums are still in touch with each other. I'd love to hear from any of them. Send me an email at phylnjoel2@aol.com.

JOEL LEVY '55
ALBANY, NEW YORK

I graduated in '76. Tuition was \$5,556 a year. We no longer had to wear the jumpers. Thank God! I loved Ithaca and all that I learned and the people that I met. I am still in touch with my roommates and friends from IC.

MARIA J. HUTSICK '76
MEDFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

The mission of *ICView* is to offer a candid, accurate, thoughtful, and lively view of Ithaca College and its alumni, events, and activities. In that vein, we welcome letters in response to *ICView* stories. Letters are subject to editing for space, style, clarity, and civility. To submit letters to the editor for the Your View section, email editor@ithaca.edu, or mail a letter to *ICView*, Ithaca College, 953 Danby Road, Ithaca, NY 14850.

CLASS OF 2018 GRADUATES URGED TO LIVE THEIR VALUES

Members of Ithaca College's class of 2018 were urged to think about the big-picture outcomes of their actions, live their values, and find ways to help those in need through gestures large and small at Ithaca College's 123rd Commencement ceremony on May 20.

Daniel Weiss, president and chief executive officer of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, delivered the main address. Weiss told the more than 1,200 graduates that they must think about their own personal commitment.

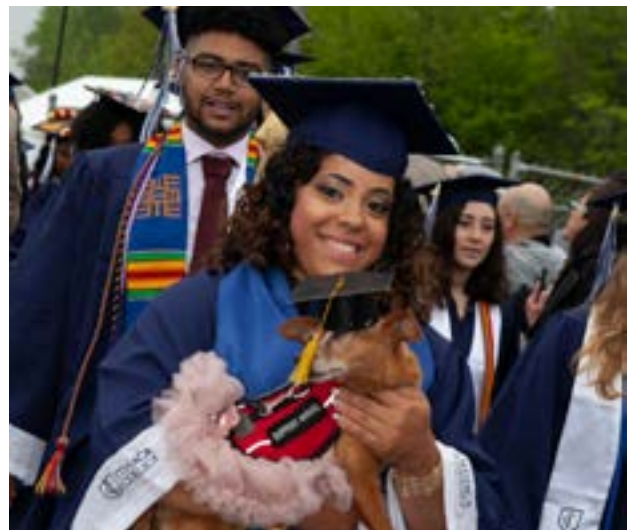
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My advice to you today is that you focus on the small gestures, the habits of living that reflect your values. These add up to define your character and, ultimately, your destiny.

—DANIEL WEISS

“Devoting your life to the service of those most in need is one approach, a very laudable one,” said Weiss. “But there are other approaches, too. Gestures large and small matter—indeed, just noticing someone who is suffering or in distress can make a difference. My advice to you today is that you focus on the small gestures, the habits of living that reflect your values. These add up to define your character and, ultimately, your destiny.”

Weiss received an honorary degree at the ceremony, as did educator and civil rights advocate Gloria Hobbs and Mara Keisling, founder and executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality.



PHOTOS BY SHAI EYNAN



HOW MANY GRADUATED WITH HONORS?

- 100** Summa cum laude (a 3.9 GPA or higher)
- 310** Magna cum laude (a 3.7 GPA or higher)
- 288** Cum laude (a 3.5 GPA or higher)



WHERE ARE THEY FROM?

- 39** States
- 27** Foreign countries
- 3** Federal districts or U.S. territories



WHAT DID THEY DO WHILE THEY WERE HERE?

- 203** Played a varsity sport
- 320** Studied abroad
- 109** Were presidents for student organizations
- 345** Presented at the Whalen Academic Symposium



PHOTO SUBMITTED



PHOTO BY HEATHER AINSWORTH



PHOTO BY HEATHER AINSWORTH

COLLEGE NAMES NEW PROVOST AND TWO NEW VPS

Three new administrators joined the senior leadership team this academic year.

On July 1, La Jerne Terry Cornish became IC's provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. Cornish came to Ithaca from Goucher College in Baltimore, where she served as associate provost for undergraduate studies. While at Goucher, Cornish oversaw all aspects of the undergraduate program, including coordinating academic advising and providing oversight for the Academic Center for Excellence and the Maryland Scholars Program.

That same month, William Guerrero joined IC as its vice president for finance and administration. Guerrero spent the majority of his career at the State University of New York

(SUNY) College at Purchase, where from 1999 to 2013 he served as executive director of the Purchase College Association, an auxiliary service corporation charged with supporting the academic mission of the university. Guerrero came to IC from Albertus Magnus College.

In September, Guilherme Costa took on the post of vice president and general counsel at Ithaca College. Costa previously served for the past three years as the chief legal officer of the public university system in South Dakota.

Photos above (from left to right): La Jerne Terry Cornish, William Guerrero, Guilherme Costa.

IC EARNS ACCREDITATION ACCOLADES

This summer the Middle States Commission on Higher Education approved Ithaca College's reaccreditation, confirming it through 2026. The college met all seven standards for accreditation and was singled out for praise in several areas including the level of preparation that had taken place at the college to ensure that it met the standards.

"The Middle States reaccreditation process was successful as a result of the involvement of so many students, staff, and faculty who served on the working groups, provided evidence for the document repository, edited the draft reports, and met with our review team to answer their questions," said dean of students Bonnie Prunty. "This was truly a campus-wide effort."

The college has received reaccreditation after every review since joining the commission in 1953.

ALUMNI AWARDS

On October 6, the college recognized the following alumni with awards during the Ithaca College Alumni Association recognition dinner. Read more about them in the next issue of *ICView*.

Michael J. Serventi '72

Edgar "Dusty" Bredbenner Jr. '50 Distinguished Alumni Award

Christopher H. Toone '13

Humanitarian Alumni Award

Stephen C. Brown '64, MM '68

Lifetime Achievement Award

Aaron Tveit '05

Outstanding Young Alumni Award

Erin E. Stevens '00

Professional Achievement Award

Steve Gonick '85

Volunteer Service Award

ITHACA ATHLETICS REVEALS 2018 HALL OF FAME CLASS

The Ithaca College Athletic Hall of Fame Committee selected the 49th hall of fame class this past June. One team and eight individuals were formally inducted on Friday, October 5, in Emerson Suites: the 1998 gymnastics team, **Steve Barnes '05** (swimming and diving), **Ian Golden '99** (cross country, track and field), **Kelly Steverson Harding '07** (gymnastics), **Joe Hope '98** (lacrosse), **Erica Cutspec Kurnath '08** (softball), **Mike Murtha '94** (football), **Julie Stone Radnoff '93** (field hockey, lacrosse), and **Chris Rauth '85** (baseball). Alumnus and ESPN *SportsCenter* anchor **Kevin Connors '97** returned as the master of ceremonies for the fourth straight year.

You can read more about the inductees in the next issue of *ICView*.

MISSED ALUMNI WEEKEND? OR WANT TO RELIVE IT?

➤ Visit ithaca.edu/alumni to see photos from this year's Alumni Weekend.

Photos will also appear in the next issue of ICView.



PHOTO PROVIDED



PHOTO PROVIDED

BOMBERS FINISH 10TH IN DIRECTORS' CUP STANDINGS

For the second straight year, Ithaca finished 10th in the Learfield Directors' Cup standings. The ranking is based on a school's finish in up to 18 (nine in men's and nine in women's) sports in NCAA postseason competition. Ithaca scored 760.5 total points, 44.5 points more than the previous year. IC is just one of six Division III schools to finish within the top 30 every year since the Directors' Cup started in 1995–96. The other institutions are Amherst, Calvin, Emory, Middlebury, and Williams.

CORDANI HAS RECORD-BREAKING RUN

Taryn Cordani '18 of the women's track and field team capped off her athletic career by becoming the first student-athlete in school history to win four national championships. Cordani captured her fourth title when she finished first in the 10,000-meter run at the 2017–18 Outdoor Track and Field Championships with a time of 35:03.20. This was the fifth individual championship won by Bomber student-athletes in the 2017–18 season, and the 44th in school history.



PHOTO BY MAUREEN KELLY

WHY WE INCLUDE OUR PRONOUNS

You may have noticed that some IC faculty, staff, and students include the pronouns they use in their email signatures (for example she/her/hers).

Identifying your gender pronouns in everyday situations, such as in an email signature, demonstrates that you are aware of their importance. Doing so may signal that you are respectful of the pronouns used by others, including individuals who are transgender or nonbinary. It's also a way for Ithaca College as an institution to further inclusion and honor diversity within our campus community.

Our very own Luca Maurer, director of LGBTQ education, outreach, and services at IC, was instrumental in establishing the first International Pronouns Day, celebrated on October 17. International Pronouns Day seeks to make asking, sharing, and respecting personal pronouns commonplace.

NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS ELECTED

The Ithaca College Board of Trustees has elected seven new members. In May, Luvelle Brown, who is the superintendent of the Ithaca City School District, was elected as a term trustee, **Ellen Staurowsky, MS '78**, was elected as the alumni trustee, and Yetunde Smalls '21 was elected as student trustee. Additionally, **Kristin Muenzen '00** completed her term as alumni trustee and was elected as a term trustee.

In August, Orinthia Montague, president of Tompkins Cortland Community College; **David Meberg '85**; and Rosanna Aybar, vice president of finance and administration and assistant treasurer of the William T. Grant Foundation, were all elected as term trustees.

For more information on the new trustees, go to ithaca.edu/trustees.

FACULTY RETIREMENTS

The following faculty members retired at the end of the 2017–18 academic year:

Frank Campos, *Professor of Music Performance*

Kim Dunnick, *Professor of Music Performance*

Linda Godfrey, *Assistant Professor of Writing*

Norman Johnson, *Associate Professor of Theatre Arts*

Barbara Ann Johnson-Root, *Professor of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology*

Stephen Lahr '75, *Lecturer of Physical Therapy*

Helene Larin, *Associate Professor of Health Sciences and Human Performance*

Johnathan Laskowitz, *Associate Professor of Sociology*

Terry Michel, *Instructor of Education*

Matt Mogeckwu, *Associate Professor of Journalism*

Kit Muma, *Instructor of Biology*

Tom Nicholson, *Associate Professor of Media Arts, Sciences, and Studies*

John Rosenthal, *Professor of Mathematics*

Jim Swafford, *Associate Professor of English*

Bruce Thompson, *Associate Professor of Physics and Astronomy*

Susan Weisend, *Professor of Art*

Q & A

WITH THE NEW IC BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIR

BY WENDY HANKLE

THIS IS SHAPING UP TO BE A PIVOTAL YEAR

at Ithaca College. Three new senior leaders began at the college this academic year: Provost La Jerne Terry Cornish; Bill Guerrero, vice president for finance and administration; and Guilherme Costa, vice president, general counsel, and secretary to the board of trustees. And, for the first time in six years, there's new leadership on the board of trustees. **Dave Lissy '87** begins the first of a three-year term as chair, stepping into the role held by **Tom Grape '80**.

Lissy has volunteered on the board since 2011 and served as vice chair for the past three years. He graduated from IC with a bachelor's in business administration with a concentration in management from the

School of Business. He has put his degree to good use at Bright Horizons Family Solutions, a leading provider of employer-sponsored dependent care solutions and early education. The company experienced tremendous growth under Lissy's guidance. It now operates in 44 states and six countries, employs 33,000 people, and has frequently been listed as one of *Fortune* magazine's 100 best companies to work for in the United States. After 17 years as the chief executive officer, Lissy now serves as executive chairman.

Lissy shared some of his thoughts about the future of IC. >



Q What does it mean to you, personally, to be chair of the board of trustees?

A I feel honored and incredibly privileged to be the chair of the board. It's something that I never would've envisioned years ago. I've had the good fortune of doing things in my life that have put me in a position to contribute meaningfully to the college in this important way.

IC has meant so much to me personally and professionally. I was the first in my immediate family to get a four-year degree, and I benefitted from financial aid and other support while I was a student. Ithaca College provided that pathway for me, and I can't imagine a more significant way to give back than to have the honor of being chair of the board at a time when we have a new president and new administrators on our leadership team, and we are embarking on a strategic planning process that I believe will be truly transformative for the college.

Q In what ways do you think the strategic planning process can be transformative for the college?

A The strategic planning process presents an opportunity for our community to tackle some of the big challenges we face. Ithaca College is largely tuition dependent, and our endowment is very modest for a college of our size. This means that we must find ways to balance this fiscal reality with the need to continue to improve the quality of our education and student experience. We have a great opportunity to make some key strategic choices that can shape our future. I think there is a lot of potential in this planning process for us to support and grow what is working

TO THE LEFT:

(From left) Dave Lissy '87, who took over as chair of the IC Board of Trustees in the spring, poses with President Shirley M. Collado and past chair Tom Grape '80.

well and to expand our thinking and invest in new ideas that will help to ensure financial stability and continuous improvement into the future.

I know President Collado and the strategic planning team have strongly emphasized a very real desire for the members of the college community to feel empowered to participate in this process, and there's some good thinking out there among the college's many stakeholders, alumni included. It's important that we listen to all ideas and that we ultimately have an inclusive, thorough process that leads to something really exciting that we can all get behind.

“”

Ithaca College provided that pathway for me, and I can't imagine a more significant way to give back than to have the honor of being chair of the board.

Q What is your overarching vision for the board, and how do you see the board's role within the Ithaca College community?

A As I assume the role of chair, my overarching vision is to ensure that we continue to have an extremely engaged, diverse, and talented group of people on our board who have a great deal of passion for IC and who will bring the benefit of their experience—whether alumni, parents, or people in the community with a connection to the college—to serve the college and support the president and the leadership team to help them reach their full potential.

The board's ultimate role is to act as a strategic advisor—not to manage the day-to-day affairs of the college. Obviously, we have overall

fiscal accountability for the college, and we take very seriously our role in making sure the annual operating budget is appropriate and the college has sources of funding it needs to succeed. For us to do our job well, it's important for us to really have a good understanding of what is happening on our campus and how IC fits into the larger higher education landscape. This isn't work you can do from afar. You have to be engaged. You have to educate yourself and participate in college events—those that happen on campus and those within our neighborhoods, cities, and regions.

Q During the six years of Tom Grape's leadership, he brought strategic change to the board, focusing on implementing best practices and improving engagement, expectations, transparency, and communications. What are your thoughts on his legacy?

A I'd been incredibly privileged to serve as vice chair with Tom and serve on the board with him for several years before that. The college has really been fortunate to have had a chair like Tom. He is a great leader and set the board on a positive, productive course during his time as chair. I look forward to continuing along that pathway, particularly continuing his work in creating a more engaged and invested board of trustees. I am appreciative of the time I spent working alongside him and appreciative of all the support he continues to give. ■



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PROYECTO ARQUEOLÓGICO EL ZOTZ

UNCOVERING THE MYSTERIES OF THE MAYA

BY STEPHEN SHOEMAKER

The steamy jungles of northern Guatemala don't reveal secrets easily. For centuries, the overgrown vegetation has choked and concealed the remains of the Maya who once tamed the landscape. The jungle presents a dense and challenging barrier, slow to yield to generations of adventurers, researchers, and modern scientists seeking to learn more about the ancient civilization known for its sophisticated hieroglyphic script, art, architecture, and mathematics.

Two years ago, however, technology that allows for digital de-

forestation uncovered thousands of Maya structures previously undetected beneath the smothering growth. The large-scale aerial survey, coconducted by archaeologist Thomas Garrison, assistant professor of anthropology at Ithaca College, has done more than reveal millennia-old secrets.

"Frankly, it's turning our discipline on its head," he said, as long-established notions about the size, density, and history of the Central American society were upended by the data almost overnight.

LASER SHOW IN THE JUNGLE

Light detection and ranging—or LiDAR—is a method of mapping from the sky. An airplane-mounted device sends a constant pulse of laser light across a swath of terrain; precise measurements of how long it takes the emitted beams to bounce off surfaces are taken and translated into topographic data. The laser pierces through the smallest gaps in the vegetation to record the lay of the land below with remarkable accuracy: a single pixel of visual data is the equivalent of one square meter on the ground. The result-

ing data can be tweaked to filter out vegetation, thus offering an unencumbered view of everything else on the surface.

Garrison worked with two colleagues from Tulane University and the Fundación PACUNAM (Patrimonio Cultural y Natural Maya), a Guatemalan organization dedicated to cultural and natural heritage preservation, to coordinate a massive LiDAR survey in that country in July 2016. The result was the mapping of 10 large polygonal areas, totaling 2,100 square kilometers across segments of the Peten forest region that encompasses several major Maya sites, including the largest at Tikal, and nearby El Zotz, where Garrison focuses his research.

The massive amount of data took a long time to process; Garrison and others waited until early 2017 before they could start combing through the survey results. With the jungle digitally stripped away, the findings were readily apparent: the LiDAR mapping revealed over 60,000 previously unknown structures, including pyramids, palace structures, terraced fields, roadways, defensive walls and towers, and houses. Archaeologists realized immediately that the ancient population centers they spent decades studying are much bigger than they speculated.

"Everyone is seeing larger, denser sites—everyone," Garrison said. "There's a spectrum to it, for sure, but that's a universal: everyone has missed a settlement in their [previous] mapping."

Especially telling to Garrison are newly revealed agricultural features that would be necessary to support the lowland Maya population during their centuries of civilization—population estimates have now expanded from a few million to 7-10 million because of the LiDAR survey—and defensive structures that suggest warfare



"MY OWN INTERESTS IN ARCHAEOLOGY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT BEING AT THE TIP OF THE SPEAR, BEING THE FIRST PERSON IN AN AREA DOING THAT BASELINE RESEARCH THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE. I LIKE THE EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY ASPECT OF IT AS MUCH AS I ENJOY THE ANTHROPOLOGY AND ANSWERING THOSE QUESTIONS."

—THOMAS GARRISON

was far more prevalent than previously known.

The implications are profound. "It totally changes the way that we think about how things are configured in that landscape; it changes our research questions," he explained. "These places just aren't what we thought they were."

A HISTORY OF EXPLORATION

The Maya civilization began to emerge 3,000 years ago in the areas that now comprise Guatemala and Belize, as well as part of southeastern Mexico, Honduras, and El Salvador. The society reached its peak during the Classic period about A.D. 250-900. By

the time Spaniards reached the so-called New World in the 16th century, the society had largely collapsed and regressed into small agrarian villages for a variety of complex reasons.

And long before Garrison arrived at Harvard University as a graduate student in the early 2000s, the once-great society had receded into romantic mystery, a "lost" civilization swallowed by the jungles. His own obsession began several years earlier during a study abroad trip to Mexico's state of Oaxaca as an undergraduate, when he became enamored with the Maya writing system.

Oaxaca is well outside the area once inhabited by the Maya, but that hardly mattered. Garrison found many "great old Mexican book shops" full of works about the ancient peoples, and he scooped up all he could find—including a tome published in 1915 titled *An Introduction to the Study of the Maya Hieroglyphs*, for which he paid 150 pesos (about \$8).

"Maya writing is oftentimes said to be the most complex writing system ever developed because it is an art style, also," Garrison said. "The glyphs themselves are works of art, but they don't mean what they look like—they are reflecting actual language."

"Don't get me wrong," he added. "I didn't understand any of that in this first foray. That's the end product of all this."

His first excavation soon after in Belize is when the archaeology bug really bit. "That wasn't an academic awakening or anything," Garrison said. "That was just, 'Wow, this is really, really fun—being out here, working hard, getting sweaty, finding cool stuff, meeting a bunch of people my age, [and] everyone's excited to be doing this adventuresome, weird thing.'"

His doctoral work at Harvard University led him to Guatemala

and ultimately to his current site of El Zotz, for which he became overall director in 2012. The site is in the shadow of a major Maya center of power at Tikal, and one of the biggest questions about El Zotz is the relationship it had with its more powerful neighbor.

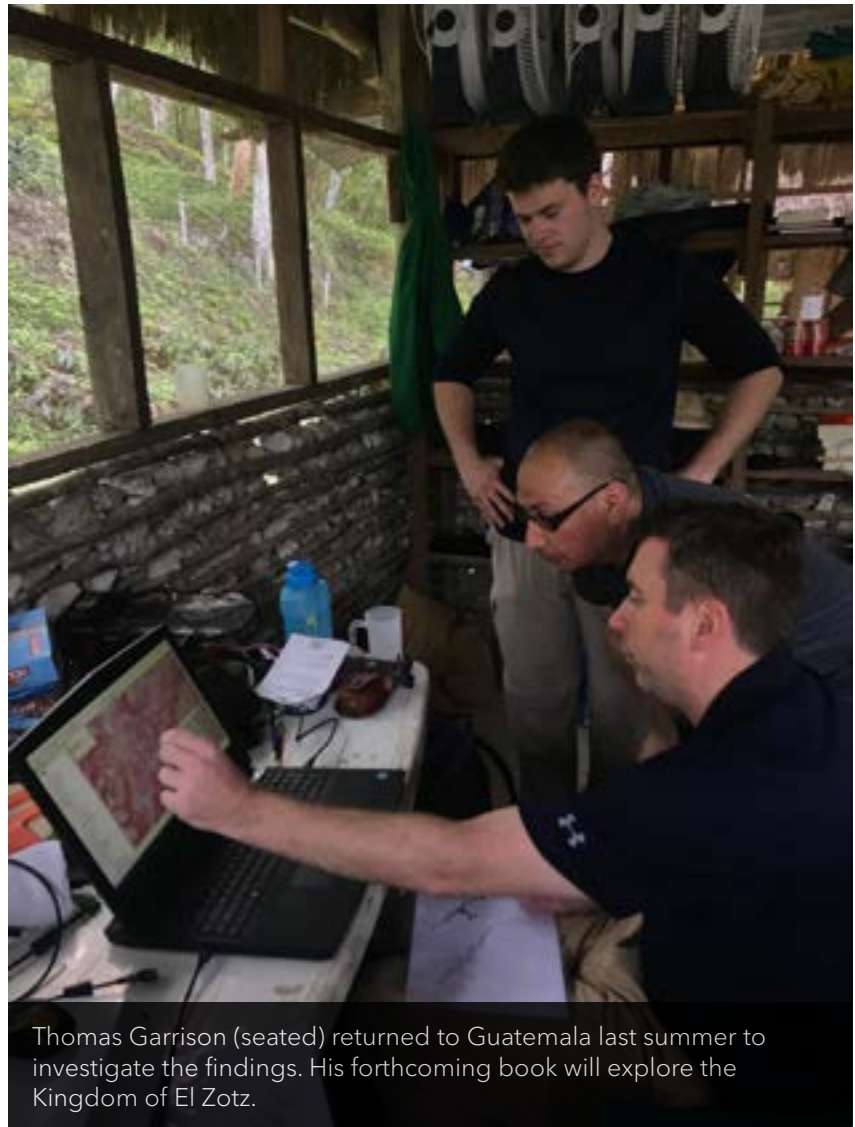
"The answer seems to be shrewd political alliances that changed through time and making decisions that are best for them," Garrison explained. "Sometimes it's better to just submit, and other times it's time to recognize an opportunity and support someone else," Garrison said.

As for the LiDAR data, it revealed fortifications on a scale unrealized from ground-based visual survey, including a large fortress complex to the northwest of El Zotz that no one knew existed.

"All the defensive features suggest it wasn't always a peaceful thing," Garrison said of the relationship dynamics between El Zotz and Tikal. "It wasn't just palace diplomacy."

The newly discovered fort will be a major focus of his work moving forward: in August, Garrison received grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities to excavate the fortress over the coming three field seasons. The LiDAR findings did more than inject fresh insight and direction into Garrison's research. They also reinvigorated his curiosity about the site as a whole.

"My own interests in archaeology have always been about being at the tip of the spear, being the first person in an area doing that baseline research that needs to be done. I like the exploration and discovery aspect of it as much as I enjoy the anthropology and answering those questions," he said, before he confessed: "I was starting to feel that El Zotz was getting a little stale."



Thomas Garrison (seated) returned to Guatemala last summer to investigate the findings. His forthcoming book will explore the Kingdom of El Zotz.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PROYECTO ARQUEOLÓGICO EL ZOTZ

CONFIRMING FINDINGS

The LiDAR images themselves are striking, multihued 3-D renderings made even more evocative when you see the same patch of ground with the jungle intact contrasted with the vegetation digitally removed. The results were so captivating that National Geographic produced a documentary that premiered in February titled *Lost Treasure of the Maya Snake Kings*, which followed a NatGeo explorer as he trekked deep in the jungle to seek out a pyramid detected in the survey. Garrison appeared in

the documentary, lending commentary on the LiDAR mapping and its results.

Garrison has just completed his second field season with the image data, and this past summer's was marked by a more systematic survey—or "ground-truthing"—of the findings, to confirm whether specific features identified in the survey were, in fact, created by humans. The prior season, with the data fresh in hand, he and his crew went after the low-hanging fruit: the larger, more obvious features that immediately

jumped out of the data.

Back in Ithaca, senior Kasey Gregory '19 was contributing to the project in another way: combing through the LiDAR data around El Zotz and marking features she suspected are evidence of looting, such as haphazard trenches dug into structures. The anthropology major had approached Garrison earlier that academic year with an offer to assist in his research.

"At first I was really hesitant to draw them on the data, and then Tom just urged me to put whatever I thought was one down, and he would believe me until the field season, and they actually checked if those areas had looter trenches or not," she said.

Gregory's work is the basis for her senior thesis in the Honors Program, which explores how remote sensing technology such as LiDAR can aid archaeologists and protect cultural resources, and she hopes to continue studying ar-

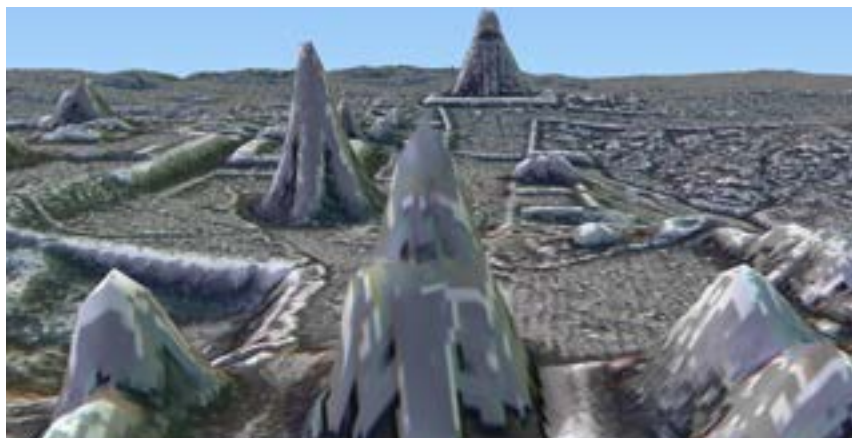
chaeology in graduate school. For his part, Garrison would like to get more students working with the LiDAR findings. He'd also like to work with Ithaca College to bring students to Guatemala—if not in the jungles for excavation and survey work, then to help document artifacts in the laboratory he maintains there.

The 2016 LiDAR survey is already the largest remote-sensing endeavor in Mesoamerican archaeology. Plans are in the works for another survey of even greater size, as well. Meanwhile, the work of confirming survey findings with what's actually on the ground will continue for years to come, not just at El Zotz but for the entire area scanned in 2016 as well. The compiled data allows an unprecedented glimpse of how the Maya civilization developed on a regional scale. The collective, encompassing scope of understanding that can be unlocked from the survey was the focus of

a September article co-authored by Garrison and published in the academic journal *Science*.

"One of the biggest challenges of the data is not viewing it as a whole, but recognizing it's these pulses: One site was big in the Preclassic period, but then it goes down; then a Classic site comes up in a totally different area," Garrison noted. The processes that caused those pulses and changes in the Maya civilization will come through excavation.

"What LiDAR does is give us the most complete background that we've ever had to formulate new questions. So we don't have to spend all our field time trying to come up with the basic layout of what's going on," Garrison said. "That's there. It just leapfrogs us in terms of the types of things we can look at."



The laser scans revealed these previously undetected Tikal temples in Guatemala.



This image shows the Tikal temples that have already been excavated.



PHOTO BY ADAM BAKER

TIRELESSLY WORKING ON CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME

BY KERRY REGAN

In the early 2000s, seven decades after chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) was first described, those who suffered from the disease still struggled to convince the world that something was physically wrong with them. Then as now, the disease—known outside the United States as myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME)—had no diagnostic test, no biomarker or telltale biological sign that the sufferer was ill, and no treatment approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

But in Southern California, a group called the Workwell Foundation had been successfully

verifying ME/CFS by having patients complete two consecutive standard VO₂ max tests, which measure the maximum amount of oxygen a person can use during intense exercise, to gauge cardiovascular fitness and aerobic endurance. Where healthy people and those with other illnesses are able to reproduce their first-day performance on day two, those with ME/CFS have significant drop-offs.

For patients, these results can provide proof of the illness to medical professionals and the insurance companies that oversee disability policies. Word of

the approach's success spread quickly among ME/CFS sufferers. Among them was a friend of IC exercise and sport sciences professor Betsy Keller. Keller and her friend had been out of touch for a while when in 2003 the friend approached Keller about conducting a VO₂ max test. The friend believed she had ME/CFS but couldn't afford—nor physically endure—a trip to California, the nearest place that offered the test.

Keller agreed to have her in for dual sessions on the exercise and sport sciences department's VO₂ max test equipment. "On day one, she tested like a low fitness

person who was inactive and not doing too much," Keller said. "On day two, I looked at the data and immediately checked the equipment thinking it was out of calibration. The test made no sense. How could measurements drop so precipitously? But in fact, the equipment was not out of calibration. What I was seeing was real."

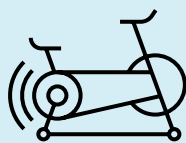
"That was the beginning,"

Keller said. Fifteen years later, she has tested about 150 patients, giving her a depth of experience with the disease that is shared by a select few. Now she is among the leaders of a new ME/CFS collaborative research center based at Cornell University and encompassing seven other institutions, including IC, funded with a five-year \$9.4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The center at Cornell is one of three that the NIH established last fall; the other two are based at Columbia University and the Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine in Farmington, Connecticut. A data management and coordinating center at Research Triangle Institute in North Carolina has also been awarded an NIH grant to manage the findings of the three centers.

Together the centers are undertaking a multifaceted five-year study that is arguably the most comprehensive research effort to date—some would say the first comprehensive research effort to date—to find the cause of the disease. Keller heads the "clinical core" of the Cornell center's initiative, leading a team that will collect VO₂ max test and other data at the three sites—including IC—to feed three investigations, two at Cornell and one at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City.

A MISUNDERSTOOD AND DISRESPECTED ILLNESS

To many ME/CFS patients and advocates, the new round



"I CALL IT LIVING CIRCULARLY VERSUS LINEARLY," KELLER SAID. "HEALTHY PEOPLE DO TASKS A, B, C, D, AND E, AND THEN GO TO BED. [ME/CFS SUFFERERS] DO TASK A, THEN RECOVER, TASK B, THEN RECOVER, AND SO ON, MAKING SURE THEY HAVE INTERMITTENT RECOVERIES SO THAT THEY DON'T EXACERBATE THEIR SYMPTOMS."

—BETSY KELLER

of NIH funding is a sign that the disease is finally getting the medical and scientific respect it has long deserved. Even the disease's name shows a lack of respect, Keller said. Coined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the 1990s, "It lacks heft and has really done considerable harm in terms of legitimacy of the illness," Keller said. "The typical response when someone says, 'I have chronic fatigue syndrome' is 'Oh, I get tired, too.' But fatigue is just one part of the symptom complex."

Signs of the disease can also include short-term memory and concentration problems, muscle and joint pain, immune system issues, headaches, hypersensitivity

to noise and light, dizziness, sore throat and flu-like indications, and sleep that fails to refresh, among others. The patient's exhaustion worsens with physical, mental, or emotional exertion, leading to post-exertion malaise. So, unlike most other illnesses, traditional graded exercise therapy will worsen the symptoms. It affects patients' ability to function as they had previously—to do simple daily tasks, hold a job, go to school, and participate in family and social life. For more than 25 percent, the disease leaves them housebound or even bedridden for long periods of time, according to the CDC.

Lack of respect for the disease extends to the medical community, where Keller notes that many medical schools don't include the disease in their curriculum and many medical professionals continue to incorrectly diagnose the cause as psychosomatic.

Levels of research funding also reflect the low regard in which the disease is held. The NIH is by far the largest source of public funding for medical research in the United States, and ME/CFS has long been among the major diseases receiving the least funding. In 2017, ME/CFS was receiving funding equivalent to \$15 per U.S. person. By way of comparison, food allergies research receives \$79 per person, multiple sclerosis gets \$111, depression \$438, and HIV/AIDS \$3,000.

Ron Davis, ME/CFS researcher and professor of biochemistry and genetics at Stanford University, noted in the 2017 documentary *Unrest* that, for years, many in the NIH didn't believe the disease was real. "Why would you fund something that's not real?" he asked rhetorically.

Keller is among those who credit a 2015 Institute of Medicine report for helping to elevate ME/CFS's stature. Commissioned by

six federal organizations, including the CDC, NIH, and Social Security Administration and counting Keller and Davis among its contributors, the report did three important things:

- It documented the disease's impact, reporting that between 836,000 and 2.5 million people in the United States suffer from ME/CFS at a cost of between \$17 billion and \$24 billion annually in care and lost income.
- It awakened the scientific and medical world to the growing body of evidence pointing to biological causes for ME/CFS.
- It played a role in boosting NIH research funding, which has tripled since the report came out.

CHARACTERISTICS OF ME/CFS

ME/CFS appears to be only slightly discriminant regarding its victims. Sufferers come from all regions of the world. Whites are diagnosed more than other ethnicities, but all are affected. Many with the disease are undiagnosed, especially among minorities. The average onset age is between 40 and 60, but the disease can affect people at any age. There is a significant population of patients who became ill as children. More than two-thirds are women, but that imbalance could be caused by a greater reluctance among men to be tested. And while the disease was first identified in 1934, historical evidence suggests it's been around much longer than that.

ME/CFS is generally diagnosed by excluding alternative diagnoses, a process that usually requires a frustratingly long and time-consuming series of referrals and sometimes results in faulty diagnoses. The uncertainty has contributed to patients being a highly motivated group on the whole.



Betsy Keller administers VO₂ max tests to determine whether patients may have ME/CFS.

PHOTO BY ADAMI BAKER

"I've never had a patient say, 'I can't come back for day two' of their VO₂ max test, even though I know they don't feel very good," Keller said. "I've had patients who, when we are done testing them, ask me to go out into the waiting room and tell their family the results, so they can see that this is not just all in their head."

Of course, the diagnosis also has its downside. While recovery has been documented in some who contracted the disease in preadolescence, no evidence exists of full recovery by those who were afflicted as adults. Some achieve a semblance of recovery, Keller said, by treating the symptoms—such as improving their sleep and learning to manage their energy in hopes of avoiding the post-exertion malaise that can put them out of commission for days.

"I call it living circularly versus linearly," Keller said. "Healthy people do tasks A, B, C, D, and E, and then go to bed. [ME/CFS sufferers] do task A, then recover, task B, then recover, and so on, making sure they have intermittent recoveries so that they don't exacerbate their symptoms. Knowing their tolerance for exertion is important, and that's part of what we learn

through the exercise test."

As for finding the cause, a lot has been learned about ME/CFS in recent years. The disease affects the autonomic nervous system—things such as blood pressure, gastrointestinal activity, sensory stimuli, and the immune system. What throws the system off is difficult to pinpoint, but evidence exists for a number of possible physical contributors.

Many contract the disease after exposure to certain viruses, such as Epstein Barr virus, the cause of mononucleosis, or another viral infection. The fact that not everyone who has those viruses comes down with ME/CFS suggests that genetics play a role. And the significant immune system response—particularly in the disease's early phases—suggests that it, too, plays a role. The five-year study Keller is involved in will focus on these and other areas.

KICKING OFF FIVE YEARS OF RESEARCH

In the study, Keller and Geoffrey E. Moore, an Ithaca physician and adjunct graduate faculty member in IC's Department of Exercise and Sport Sciences, are responsible for orchestrating three years of VO₂ max testing at three

locations. Moore's role is to lead the screening of test subjects—10 each year who meet the study's diagnostic criteria for ME/CFS and 10 healthy control subjects. Keller oversees testing and management of the test data and samples collected at all three sites: an infectious disease clinic in greater Los Angeles, Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City, and the Robert R. Colbert Sr. Wellness Clinic in IC's Center for Health Sciences, where she also conducts the testing. Each year, 20 subjects will be tested at each site.

For each subject, blood and urine samples are taken before and after each exercise session, and vital signs are measured during the workouts—including electrocardiogram, blood pressure, oxygen saturation, and expired ventilatory gas readings—to determine peak oxygen consumption. At the New York City site, subjects also receive brain scans with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) equipment and a positron emission tomography (PET) scanner before and after each session.

The team feeds their samples and test results to three project teams:

- Maureen Hanson, Cornell pro-

fessor of molecular biology and genetics and principal investigator of the grant—who is also the leader of the Cornell-based ME/CFS collaborative research center—oversees a team that is investigating the role of extracellular vesicles. These structures carry proteins, lipids, hormones, and ribonucleic acids (RNAs) that can influence cell function. Hanson's team will examine this content before and after exercise to determine any role the vesicles might play in the disease and also study a vast array of metabolic products.

- Andrew Grimson, associate professor of molecular biology and genetics at Cornell, leads a team that will sequence RNA white blood cells before and after exercise to gain insights into immune system responses related to the disease.
- Dikoma Shungu, professor of physics in radiology at Weill Cornell Medicine, leads a team that will study the subjects' brain scan images, looking for signs of neuroinflammation and oxidative stress. Previous studies have suggested that these have a link to ME/CFS symptoms.

RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH

All three areas are on the cutting edge of ME/CFS research, Keller said. Extracellular vesicles and metabolomic studies have received very little attention, RNA sequencing is an emerging area, and the brain imaging study is the most exhaustive to date, particularly for viewing images before and after exercise.


Keller's testing began in July and will last for three years. In the final two years of the five-year study, she'll be involved in data management and analysis, and writing reports and scientific articles related to the study. She's cautious but optimistic about what they'll find.

"I don't expect that cause and cure will come out of this, though it would be great if it did," Keller said. "We hope it will lead to a closer understanding of the illness, to making patients' lives better, so we minimize the effects of the illness if not find what causes and cures it. Finding a biomarker would be a great outcome. When I give talks about this, I say my hope is that I'll never have to do an exercise test on a patient again."



HAVE YOU BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME?

If you're interested in participating in the study, contact the study office:

 MECFSstudy@ithaca.edu

Phone: (607) 274-7948

Fax: (607) 274-7797

**Ithaca College
ME/CFS Study Office**

336 Smiddy Hall
953 Danby Road
Ithaca, NY 14850



PHOTO BY GIOVANNI SANTAGROCE

CHASING THE GHOST OF MELESINA TRENCH

BY KELLI B. GRANT '04

Ithaca professor Katharine Kittredge went to England in 2002 looking for the subject of her next research paper. What she found was a gripping tale of loss, adventure, and romance—the ghost of a Romantic-era poetess who still haunts her to this day.

Like many good ghost stories, this one starts with a grave: Jane Austen's, in fact.

Frustration had driven Kittredge to Austen's grave in Winchester Cathedral. Three weeks combing national libraries and local record offices across England and she'd come up dry on prospects for her project.

The Hampshire Record Office was near the train station, and Kittredge says she felt compelled to stop by after paying homage to Austen. A teenager was hogging the only computer, so she hauled the old paper indexes off a shelf and started flipping through.

"There was this name that came up over and over again: Melesina Chenevix St. George Trench," Kittredge says. "It sounded like something out of Dickens. What a name! And there were thousands and thousands of documents associated with her."

Kittredge's curiosity got the better of her. She requested a few

documents to peruse.

"I planned to move on and do a sampling of any other women from that time period, and I just got stuck on Melesina," she says. "She made me laugh, and she has a great turn of phrase."

"It's like time travel. You're seeing through her eyes, and she's looking at everything—what's coming up in the garden, what's happening in London, and what the latest gossip is in the local church."

The last document Kittredge requested before the Hampshire Record Office closed for the day turned out to be a small,

unassuming brown journal. But the words on its opening page moved her to tears: "Frederick Trench expired at a quarter before eight o'clock in the evening, June the seventh, 1806—aged two years eight months and four days."

Throughout what Kittredge came to call the "mourning journal," Trench tries to work through her grief, capturing details and remembrances of her son and reaching for comfort from philosophers and poets. It brought the experience of motherhood in that time to life, Kittredge says.

"There was no doubt in my mind that the journal was unique, and that what it offered—a view into the most private thoughts of a woman in the past—made it an extraordinary find," Kittredge later wrote of the discovery.

She became determined to bring it, and Trench, into the modern world.

CHASING MELESINA

The more Kittredge studied the Anglo-Irish poetess, the more fascinated she became.

Trench was known as one of the great beauties of her day, and her early life revolved around high society, she says. After she got married, she juggled her roles as a wife and mother with those as a writer, intellectual, and activist.

"She's just gone through a really rough labor and she's confined to her room for weeks, but she has her oldest son there copying out the poems that she's submitting to magazines," Kittredge says. "It's not enough that she's overseeing a household. She also wants to keep moving her writing forward."

"Her parenting book wasn't quite a best seller, but it was a steady seller," Kittredge says. "They say it's still in print in India somewhere."

Kittredge believes Trench's epic poem, *Laura's Dream*; or, *The*



"THERE WAS THIS NAME THAT CAME UP OVER AND OVER AGAIN: MELESINA CHENEVIX ST GEORGE TRENCH. IT SOUNDED LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF DICKENS. WHAT A NAME! AND THERE WERE THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF DOCUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH HER."

—KATHARINE
KITTREDGE

Moonlanders, to be one of the earliest examples of modern science fiction. Mary Shelley is hailed as the founder of that genre, but Trench's story of a human-like race with purple wings—who are "born" when dug up out of the ground, beginning life as elderly and then aging backward—predates *Frankenstein* by two years.

And the journal that originally gripped Kittredge, about Melesina's lost child?

"The more I think about it, the more I believe that Frederick, the baby who died and led to the creation of the mourning journal, may have been an illegitimate son of the Duke of Cambridge," Kittredge says.

She suspects, but has been

unable to confirm via records, that Trench and King George III's youngest son—Prince Adolphus, the Duke of Cambridge—were involved.

"The parts of the travel journal that Melesina's son published in the 1860s depict them as being casual acquaintances," she says. "But when war was coming to Germany, Melesina was the person that the duke took back to England. He had a ship waiting for him on the coast, and he held that ship until she was able to join him."

The proof lies in the correspondence between the two, which isn't in the archives or any private collection that Kittredge has found.

"Just the fact that the letters are missing is suspicious. I mean, who destroys royal letters?" she says. "They have to be somewhere."

ARCHIVAL CHALLENGES

Tracking Trench has proved to be a massive undertaking. She was a prolific writer, and many of her musings—not just published work but also personal letters, journals, and even poetry scraps on the back of laundry lists—have been preserved.

"I can say where Melesina was, if not every day, then almost every week of her life from age 29 until her death," Kittredge says. "She wrote that often."

"Think about how often we sit down and send an email or post something on Facebook," she says. "We make ourselves known on a daily basis. At that time, the post was being delivered twice a day. There was no phone, no telegraph. It was a way of connecting with other people."

Trench's papers still hold some mysteries: she often used abbreviations to refer to people in her social circles. "It's really frustrating because there are times when I

have no idea who she's talking about," says Kittredge.

Whether it's been luck—or nudges from Trench's ghost—Kittredge has continued to unearth new details of her story.

Trench was orphaned at the age of 2 and was raised by her grandfather, the Bishop of Waterford. Following his death when she was 12, she spent most of her adolescence in and around Dublin. She married her first husband at 19, and he died two years later, leaving her with one son. She moved to England permanently in 1810.

At this point her health was significantly damaged by constant late-life child bearing, making travel uncomfortable. Her husband Richard Trench continued to spend a considerable amount of time in Ireland overseeing their properties until and after her death.

"She was married to Richard when Frederick was born, but calculating from the age given in the mourning journal, she was almost two months pregnant at the time of their marriage," Kittredge says. "This is what makes me suspicious that the child may have been the Duke of Cambridge's. We have no record of their meeting in January 1803 (when Frederick would have been conceived), but at this time he was still unmarried, visiting his sister's house on the border between Germany and France, so..."

After she published an article about Trench in the Aphra Behn Society's online journal, Kittredge received an email from a reader who turned out to be one of Trench's great, great, great granddaughters. That correspondence evolved into an invitation to browse a forgotten trunk of Trench's journals, passed down through one of Trench's sons, and to speak at an event attended by more than 20 of her

living descendants.

"Having her descendants welcome me with open arms has been really delightful," Kittredge says. "I was surprised they are as aware of her as they are. They're a family who prizes their past."

Other gaps, Kittredge expects, will remain unfilled. Trench wrote under pen names for some of her later work, and although there are teasing references in letters and notebooks, archives are likely to be a dead end on those missing poems and essays.



A portrait of Melesina Trench

IMAGE SUBMITTED

"She was publishing a lot in Ireland, and because of the troubles there, there are huge gaps in the Irish archives," Kittredge says. "It's especially difficult because she was publishing in very tiny periodicals."

A QUEST UNFINISHED

Finding a modern audience for Trench hasn't been easy.

"There's been some traction, but part of the problem is, Melesina isn't political," Kittredge says. "She's more of a domestic writer. So she's of interest if you want to learn about the time period or if you're looking for an entertaining diary. But she isn't necessarily a feminist author; she's not chal-

lenging the status quo in any way. The way we have traditionally used texts from the past doesn't make a space for somebody like her. She's in that hazy space between popular reading and historical artifact."

Kittredge has made inroads, publishing more than a half-dozen journal articles on aspects of Trench's life and work. A documentary, from **Qina Liu '13**, tracked the project and was itself published in an international journal that you can watch on YouTube: *Chasing the Ghost of Melesina Trench*.

Kittredge has transcribed the mourning journal and has drafted a biography that she has just started shopping to book agents. And Ithaca College has been supportive throughout, says Kittredge, providing her with summer research grants and financing research trips.

"A lot of times, when you teach as much as we do, it's impossible to keep your research going when you're in the middle of meeting with students and grading papers," says Kittredge, who has been teaching at Ithaca since 1990. "Having the summers to fully devote myself to this has been crucial. I've been really fortunate that there's been a steady level of support."

Even as Kittredge works to revive Trench's name, she is far from forgotten.

"That's one of the things that kept me going on this project: I felt like I had made a promise to her," Kittredge says. "At various times Melesina talks about wanting to have some level of immortality, wanting people to know of her after she's gone. I think she'd be really pleased to know people are still talking about her, and that her journal can still make people cry."



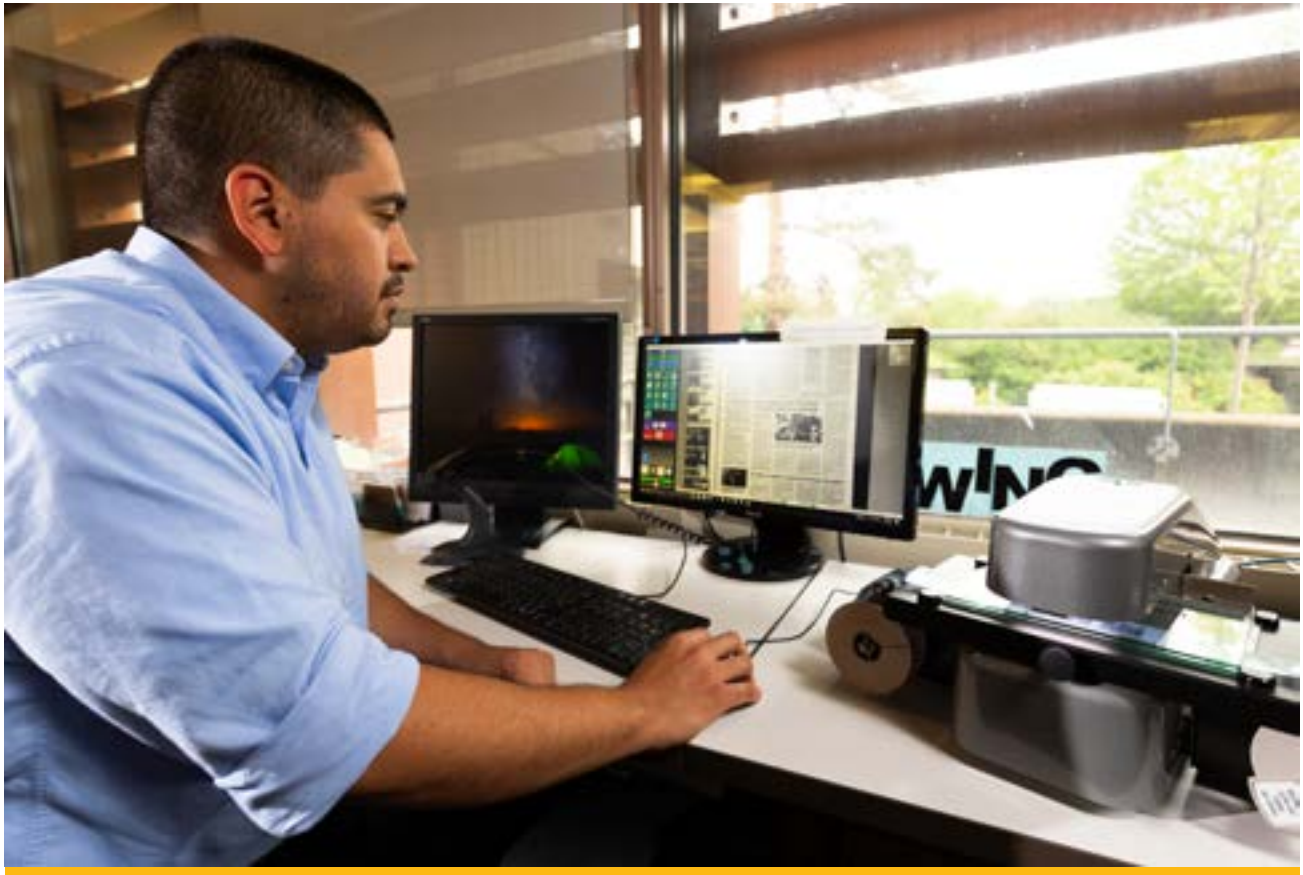


PHOTO BY GIOVANNI SANTAGROCE

DISCOVERING AN UNTAUGHT HISTORY

BY SHERRIE NEGREA

The summer before Gustavo Licón entered high school in Inglewood, California, he began a quest to learn about a culture his teachers had never taught him—his own. The son of Mexican immigrants, Licón spent the summer devouring books on the history of the Aztecs, the U.S. conquest of Mexico, and the riots against Chicano youth in Los Angeles in the 1940s.

In just one week, he read a 750-page textbook on Mexican history that had been assigned to his brother in a community college course. “I just flew through that book,” he says. “I continued

to do that in high school, and it was all based on this passion I had to learn about a history I hadn’t been taught.”

Discovering why Latin countries were poor and why Latin Americans had little political power in the United States convinced Licón that he wanted to do something about it. So he joined a high school club called MEChA, which translates into Chicano Student Movement of Aztlán (the X denoting gender neutrality), an organization that originated in California in 1969 and then spread to universities and high schools across the country.

At MEChA meetings, Licón began teaching students from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico about their culture and history. The experience helped him choose a career path: “I decided that what I wanted to be was a professor of Chicano studies,” he says.

After earning his PhD in history at the University of Southern California, Licón became an assistant professor of Latino/a studies at Ithaca College’s Center for the Study of Culture, Race, and Ethnicity in 2010. He decided to focus his research on the Chicano movement and specifically the

organization he was involved in through graduate school—MEChA—the largest and oldest Chicano student organization in the country.

Historians have traditionally argued that the Chicano movement, which began in United States in the 1960s, ended two decades later. Using student newspaper accounts, Licón, however, shows that the movement continued beyond the 1980s and that MEChA is still active today on college campuses.

“The folks that have focused on the movement and just on the ‘60s and ‘70s have conceptualized the movement as having certain traits—traits that if we look at a longer period, don’t hold up,” Licón says. While some historians have argued that the Chicano movement was sexist and homophobic, for example, Licón says that MEChA had embraced feminist and LGBTQ goals by the 1990s.

In his forthcoming book, *Fractured Unity: MEChA and Ideological Dissent, 1969-1999*, Licón shows that MEChA broadened its scope from addressing only Mexican-American issues to those facing immigrants from Central American countries. MEChA’s wide outlook, its embrace of various geographic, cultural, and ideological groups, however, made it difficult to maintain unity.

“Despite their ideals about how Mexican Americans and Latinos in general could form a united front based on their cultural similarities, there were too many differences between them to create a perfect unity,” Licón says. “So despite their best efforts to unite these communities, they were always leaving somebody out and marginalizing people.”

Beyond his research, Licón has worked with many student clubs at Ithaca College, including the



Gustavo Licón used student newspapers from the 1960s as primary documents.

PHOTO BY GIOVANNI SANTACROCE



“I WANT LATINO STUDENTS IN MY CLASSES TO BE EMPOWERED BY KNOWING A BIT ABOUT THEIR OWN HISTORY AND TO BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW THEIR COMMUNITIES ARE BEING IMPACTED BY IMMIGRATION, AND WHY LATINO COMMUNITIES ARE IN THE POSITION THAT THEY ARE TODAY, AND I WANT TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO BE PART OF THE CHANGE THAT WE WANT TO MAKE.”

—GUSTAVO LICÓN

First-Generation Student Organization, which gave him the newly created Licón Award this year for his contributions to the group. He is also a faculty fellow for the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholar Program, which offers academically talented students from underrepresented ethnic and racial backgrounds up to full tuition in aid, special seminars with visiting scholars, and an opportunity to pursue social justice research on trips around the world.

Licón enjoys drawing from his own background and experiences to teach students about the history and struggles of the Chicano, Mexican, Indigenous, and Latin American peoples. “I want Latino students in my classes to be empowered by knowing a bit about their own history and to better understand how their communities are being impacted by immigration, and why Latino communities are in the position that they are today,” he says. “And I want to encourage them to be part of the change that we want to make.”





PHOTO BY GIOVANNI SANTACROCE

UNCOVERING SECRETS ABOUT HUMAN DISEASES

BY STEPHEN SHOEMAKER

Te-Wen Lo is searching for purpose—at the cellular level. The assistant professor of biology researches how proteins determine very specific and well-regulated cell functions in organisms.

“The interesting question to me is: how does one thing get its specificity for all these different processes?” she said. “How does it know when and where it needs to be, and what it needs to interact with to do the things that it needs to do?”

Cells receive their commands like this: A protein that juts out from the cell connects to external proteins coded with instructions

that dictate how the cell should develop or operate within an organism. If something goes wrong with that receptor protein, the cell won’t carry out instructions properly. In humans, such faulty cellular function can result in disease, including certain cancers.

Lo is specifically focused on the fibroblast growth factor, or FGF receptor—which can cause a cell to operate any number of ways depending on the instruction-bearing protein, or ligand, it binds with. In complex organisms like humans, there are several locations on the FGF protein that can bind with over 20 differ-

ent ligands, in any number of combinations.

“You can imagine that matrix of interactions gets very large,” Lo said.

She uses a model organism approach and focuses her research on the version of the FGF receptor found in a less complicated organism: the tiny worm *Caenorhabditis elegans*. She’s examining how different structures within the worm’s EGL-15 receptor protein influence its cellular mechanisms. EGL-15 has one receptor capable of binding with only two ligands.

"The hope is that by learning more about how this receptor functions in this tiny little worm, we can better understand the role of the human version in human diseases," she said. "It's a much simpler system, and it's much more easily manipulatable."

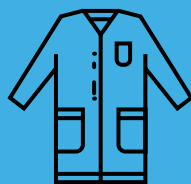
Depending on which of the two ligands EGL-15 binds with, its cell will either play a role in fluid regulation in the worm or a role in reproduction. A better understanding of how the receptor protein works—what turns it on or off, so to speak—could eventually help inform better drug treatment for human diseases in which the FGF family of protein receptors play a role.

In 2017, Lo received a grant from the National Institutes of Health totaling \$337,519. The money funds two projects designed to understand how EGL-15 turns on and off. In the first, genetic sequences in the EGL-15 strand that play a role in the cell's two possible functions are identified from the two sections known to bind with ligands. Then mutated genes are introduced to determine what specific components are interacting with EGL-15.

The project isolates mutated versions of the EGL-15 protein in a test tube. Some of those mutations are confirmed to prohibit the reproductive role of the cell. Ground-up worms are added to the tube to see which proteins in the worms interact with the mutated receptor.

MENTORING STUDENTS

The grant money also funds undergraduate student researchers in Lo's lab and allows her students to attend conferences to bolster their academic and professional portfolios. For Lo, the opportunities to mentor students are the most rewarding part of her research.



"IT'S REALLY COOL WHEN PEOPLE ARE INTERESTED IN WHAT YOU'RE STUDYING. BUT I'VE REALIZED OVER TIME—ESPECIALLY BEING HERE—THAT WHAT IS REALLY SATISFYING IS KNOWING THAT YOU CONTRIBUTED NOT JUST ONE SPECIFIC FACT OR PIECE OF KNOWLEDGE [TO SCIENCE], BUT SOMEONE WHO COULD POTENTIALLY CHANGE OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES AND SCIENCE."

—TE-WEN LO

"I think that's one of the reasons I wanted this job specifically, at an undergraduate institution," she said. "When I think about the role that people have played in my life, the most influential ones have been the ones early on."

In 2017, then-junior **Dallas Fonseca '18** received both a Barry Goldwater Scholarship—one of the most distinguished awards offered in the sciences—and an equally competitive Amgen Scholars Program scholarship to spend the summer working in a lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Lo helped Fonseca hone his applications to those scholarships, and she's just as committed to helping her students apply to conferences or graduate schools. "Being [a smaller school], every student gets all the attention they would ever want. I think it's really easy to help them find opportunities and then to help them get those opportunities," she said.

She also encourages her students to engage with their communities about science in general and to pay forward their own positive influences whenever they can. "We are not going to suck as human beings" is an unofficial mantra in her lab.

"It's really cool when people are interested in what you're studying," she admits. "But I've realized over time—especially being here—that what is really satisfying is knowing that you contributed not just one specific fact or piece of knowledge [to science], but someone who could potentially change other people's lives and science. I feel like it's a bigger impact in that way." 🍀



Te-Wen Lo works with Dallas Fonseca '18 in the lab.

PHOTO BY GIOVANNI SANTACROCE



YEARS ATIC

In September 2014, we asked eight first-year students from across the college to participate in a photo project. We asked them to bring something meaningful to them to the shoot: a sketchbook, a piece of sporting equipment, an instrument. We kept in touch with them throughout their four years on campus, and in spring 2018, we asked them to return to the studio and talk about how they had changed during that time at IC. Here are their stories.

👉 Visit ithaca.edu/icview to watch video interviews.

WRITING BY CELISA CALACAL '18, NICHOLAS FUSTOR '18, HALLE GEORGE '18,
KRISTEN MIRAND '20, TARA STACY '18, AND KELLY TWARDZIAK '18

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JACOB BEIL '15, ADAM BAKER, CARL HYERDAHL '16,
NOAH LEVIN '18, AND GIOVANNI SANTACROCE

CHANEL UNDERWOOD

HOMETOWN: Lusby, Maryland

MAJOR: Business Administration with a Concentration in Finance

ACTIVITIES: MLK Scholar, President of the National Association of Black Accountants, Project Generations, Whalen Academic Symposium, Sister to Sister, African Latino Society

"I definitely feel **more confident** when I speak. I know now that hard work pays off, so when I walk into a room, I earned the right to be there. I also feel a lot **more grateful**. I know I wouldn't be anywhere without the help of other people, so I'm very humble. I've enjoyed my experience, and I've **learned a lot about the world**. It wasn't just Ithaca or my finance classes; it was a lot bigger than that. I hope one day I can help people from my community, and help make sure they have the opportunity to learn about the world, too. I have a job offer from Ernst & Young, one of the top big four financial firms in the world. But I also took the LSAT, did well, and plan on going to law school in two to three years."

Underwood started working in the financial services organization advisory department of Ernst & Young in October.



FIRST YEAR

FOURTH YEAR

TYLER REIGNH

HOMETOWN: Topton, Pennsylvania

MAJOR: Film, Photography, and Visual Arts

ACTIVITIES: MLK Scholar, Brothers for Brothers, Diversity Peer Educator, Student Leadership Consultants, ICLA

"The POC at IC protests changed my whole perception of college. It reaffirmed for me that there are good people in the world. There are **amazing people** at this school that will have your back through anything. That year was really difficult for me, and coming through that not just with a new president but leaving a lasting legacy at this college meant so much to me and the other people who put in the time to **stand up for something we believed in**. That taught me to stand up for my values and that taking action means more than saying a few good words. I'm going to miss the people. The people at Ithaca College are special, and there's something about this community that just attracts a **special kind of person**. I truly believe that there are some of the kindest and most genuine people at this school."

Reighn took a job with Dim Mak records in Los Angeles last summer.



FIRST YEAR



FOURTH YEAR

AMANDA SCHELL

HOMETOWN: Amesbury, Massachusetts

MAJOR: Business Administration with a Concentration in Finance

ACTIVITIES: Captain of the Field Hockey Team, Leadership Academy, Study Abroad in Milan, Italy, Student Athletic Advisory Council Executive Board



FOURTH YEAR



FIRST YEAR

"[Participating] in the Leadership Academy for athletes was super motivational and a good learning experience. [I learned] leadership skills, qualities, and strategies. I think all of those have helped me develop as a **really good leader**, and will help me in the real world as well. My experiences have shaped me to be **more confident and more mature**. I'm from a really small town in Massachusetts, so coming here was a big deal. I was six hours away from my family, and that was a transition

in itself. Now I feel less dependent on [my parents]. I studied abroad sophomore year. I didn't even go with anyone that I knew. I just went, and I did my thing. I was in a foreign country and very far away from my family and kind of had to fend for myself. Those **life skills** have made me grow."

Schell found work as a strategic alliance dealer payment associate at MFS Investment Management in Boston.

MONICA CHEN

HOMETOWN: Carlisle, Massachusetts

MAJOR: Writing

ACTIVITIES: MLK Scholar, President of IC China Care Club, Asian American Alliance, Studied Abroad in Dublin, Ireland, Writing Center Tutor



FOURTH YEAR



FIRST YEAR

"I've always been the type of person who tries to predict everything that was going to happen—so I have a five-year plan. I had that with college: 'These are the classes I'm going to take; this is the major I'm going to have.' But I **enjoyed a lot of classes** that I didn't think I was going to take. I **met a lot of people** I didn't expect to meet. I did a lot of research that I didn't think I was going to do. Some

of the **most incredible experiences** I've had throughout college have been the ones that I didn't think were going to happen."

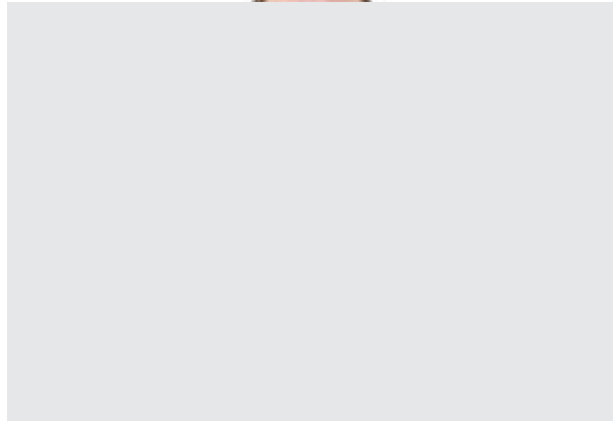
Chen is now working in marketing and communications at the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center.

MAX DENNING

HOMETOWN: Portland, Oregon

MAJOR: Journalism

ACTIVITIES: *The Ithacan*, Park Scholar, Feminists United



FOURTH YEAR



FIRST YEAR

"*The Ithacan* provided me with a lot of my structure. That includes a friend group, a **social setting to thrive in**, a workplace to do good work in, and an office that allowed me to get work done and socialize with my peers and feel like I was being productive in. It's also a place that I think I did some of my best work and some of the work **that I'm most proud of**. During fall 2015 when there were protests on campus, I was assistant news editor. That was

a time that really taught me: If you want to be a journalist, you need to do it right. You need to **work really hard at it**. And I think that semester taught me how to be a better journalist and writer and also how to be a better student at Ithaca College."

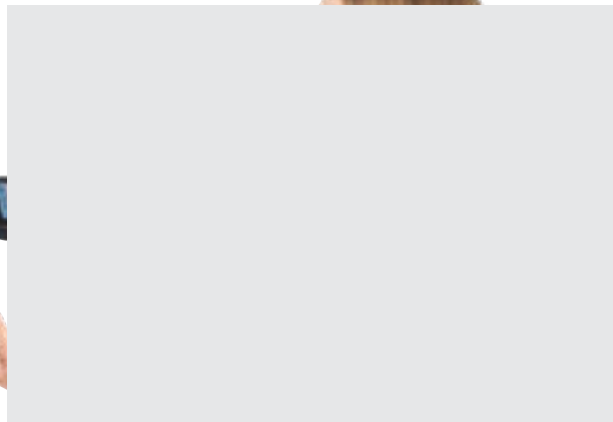
Denning now works as a reporter for The Observer in La Grande, Oregon.

SAMANTHA BROWN

HOMETOWN: Camden, New York

MAJOR: Athletic Training

ACTIVITIES: Figure Skating Club, Ithaca Athletic Training Students' Association, Honors Residential Learning Community



FOURTH YEAR



FIRST YEAR

"My most **challenging experience** here was in the fall of my junior year. I was working with the football team as one of their student athletic trainers. It was my first time working with a team every day of the week. There were 120 student-athletes, and they all needed something. It was a real struggle. I actually cried a couple times on the field, and I genuinely thought I was going to change my major and not be an athletic trainer because I couldn't handle the pressure of doing it every day at that level.

But I think I've just **become more resilient** in facing changes that come into my life. I've been forced to deal with some very big changes, and learning how to cope with that has made me a **much stronger person** overall."

Brown is a licensed athletic trainer at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire for women's basketball, swimming and diving, and outdoor track and field.

MORGAN ATKINS

HOMETOWN: Stillwater, Oklahoma

MAJOR: Music in Combination with an Outside Field (Communication Management and Design)

ACTIVITIES: Leadership Scholar, Active Minds, Student Leadership Institute, Various Ensembles including the Ithaca College Sinfonietta and Concert Band

"I was much shyer as a freshman. I didn't have any confidence in my abilities, and I think that's a little bit different now. If I were to go into a situation where I didn't know anything, I'd still be comfortable with myself and **accept the challenge** and tell myself, 'I can do this.' I've had a lot of support from my professors. Without their **support and encouragement**, I probably would not be as confident as I am. But also having **peer support and a sense of engagement** is really encouraging, as well."

Atkins moved to Brooklyn this fall and has been grateful for the support of her IC friends.



FIRST YEAR

FOURTH YEAR

MONIKA HUOT

HOMETOWN: Phnom Penh, Cambodia

MAJOR: Applied Economics

ACTIVITIES: American Marketing Association, International Club of Ithaca College, Student Leadership Institute, IC Progressives, Certified IT Technician

"When I was a freshman, I was always nervous because I didn't know what I was going to come across, who I was going to meet, or what kind of friends I was going to make. And I feel like now as a senior, I've gotten a **lot more comfortable** with that, and I think I'm able to express myself a lot more, especially in the classroom. When you're a new student, it's hard to speak up. But now I think I'm **more vocal**, and I think that's a good change. My advice to first-year students is to always be **open to new opportunities and to meeting new people** because you never know who you're going to meet and what kind of opportunities you will get just from being open."

Huot is getting a master's degree in economics from the University of Manchester in England.



FIRST YEAR

FOURTH YEAR



DEAR IC FRIENDS,

Did you know that every person who graduates from IC is automatically a member of the Ithaca College Alumni Association? You get access to networks in your community and on campus that help you maintain your IC connections. I hope you've taken advantage of your membership with events in your area or joined us for Alumni Weekend this fall.

Perhaps, like me, you're an IC "super fan." As super fans, we've dedicated ourselves beyond membership to contributing our time, talent, and treasure to Ithaca College. There are many ways that super fans can get involved. Whether we volunteer for our regional chapter, host admitted students in our homes, become admissions volunteers, or help with advocacy groups on campus, we commit to preserving our strong bond with IC.

The Alumni Association Board of Directors is a select cohort of super fans. Board members are alumni who inclusively cultivate lifelong IC connections. The AABD seeks to enrich social and professional relationships among alumni who want to promote creative collaboration and continuous learning. The board supports IC's mission and continuously builds a culture of participation and philanthropy.

The AABD also brings the alumni perspective to the table. For instance, as board members we were among the first IC organizations to focus on minority voices on campus, creating an AABD Diversity and Inclusion Committee to organize thoughtful programs and conversations for the campus community. As with all AABD committees, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee is led by an AABD member—in this case **Tanya Hutchins '89**—and it actively engages our diverse IC community. I am immensely proud of the comprehensive way the Diversity and Inclusion Committee brings alumni, students, staff, and faculty of all backgrounds together.

To learn more about the Alumni Association Board of Directors, please visit alumni.ithaca.edu. If you'd like to get involved, please email me at aabdpresident@ithaca.edu.

I look forward to hearing from you,

AMI MAKI '94

President, Alumni Association Board of Directors

ALUMNI NOTES

1963



Pictured are Bill Diehl '63 (center) and Jim Wolan '03 (right) with Jim's son Kristopher at Take Your Child to Work day at ABC-TV in April. Bill is a longtime correspondent at ABC while Jim is the air operations manager.

1966

SY BRANDON was named conductor of Arizona's Cottonwood Community Band in January 2018. He continues to compose and was selected by the national music fraternity Delta Omicron for the 2018 Thor Johnson Memorial Commission.

1972

BARRY SMITH was inducted into the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame. Currently the director of player evaluation for the Chicago Blackhawks, he also served as head coach of the Elmira College men's ice hockey team. Barry is a member of the Ithaca College Athletic Hall of Fame.

1973

TISH RABE traveled to Hawaii to visit the children and parents at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and gave a free book to every child. She travels to schools around the world doing author visits and getting students excited about reading and writing. Her *Cat in the Hat* book *There's No Place Like Space!* was on the *Wall Street Journal's* Best-Selling Books list for three weeks in a row. Her latest book *On the First Day of First Grade* was just released. She also sits on the advisory board of Reach Out and Read, a nonprofit

organization that gives free books to needy children.

1975



DAVID M. KLEINFELDER retired this year after 42 years in education. He coached boys' and girls' soccer and tennis for nearly four decades.

David won several state and regional championships at Dreher High School, in Columbia, South Carolina. In 2016, he was inducted to the South Carolina High School Soccer Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

1977

JAMES ESTES MILLER, DPT, was voted by his fellow board members to serve as president of the Arizona State Board of Physical Therapy for 2018. This is the eighth year that James has served on the board.

DENISE MORGANTI was inducted into the Rome Arts Hall of Fame. She was honored for her years of acting, singing, and directing in area theatres. She also performed in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2015 and 2017. A former speech pathologist, Denise works for the Department of Homeland Security.

1978

JONATHAN TOWNE is wrapping up a 30-year career with the U.S. Coast Guard Band by traveling to Russia, England, Japan, and Taiwan. He has been the band's drum major for 24 years. Jonathan is a member of the Eastern Connecticut Symphony (ECSO) and Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestras, and has been the clarinet instructor at the University of Rhode Island for the past 10 years. **Joan Vartanian Winters '81** is currently an orchestra director and string teacher at several public schools in Waterford, Connecticut. She is the principal second violin with the ECSO and appeared as

the violin soloist in the 2017-18 concert season performing *Méditation* from the opera *Thaïs*, and plays with the Con Brio Orchestra.



Jonathan Towne '78 and Joan Vartanian Winters '81 performed with the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra.

1979

SCOTT FREEMAN was unanimously elected chief judge of the Second Judicial District Court by his peers on November 17, 2017. Prior to his career as a judge, Scott led a distinguished legal career emphasizing advocacy for individuals accused of crime.

HANS VAN DER MARS was inducted into the SHAPE (Society of Health and Physical Educators) America Hall of Fame. Hans serves as program director for Arizona State University's physical education teacher education program and its master's in physical education program. He has written over 100 presentations, spoken all over the world, and authored three textbooks and many textbook chapters. He has served on SHAPE America's board of directors; the President's Council on Fitness, Sports, and Nutrition science board; and an education sector advisory panel for the National Physical Activity Plan Alliance, informing and influencing policies promoting healthy physical activity in schools across the country.

1981

MICHELLE RUBIN retired from a 30-year career as a home care physical therapist at South Nassau Hospital in North Carolina.

1982

ELLEN NELSON exhibited her artwork at the Boyer Gallery at the Hill School's Center for the Arts. Her installation, titled *Phototrophic*, is an experience designed for all five of the senses and is a celebration of our connection with nature. The main focus of the exhibition will be a 19' x 19' labyrinth. Ellen has been teaching art for more than 30 years and is completing her master's degree in art education.

1986



Pictured above (left to right) is J. Rupert Thompson '86, Carl Hansen '99, and Anthony Carbone '98 at the Meet the Nominees for Reality Television Symposium at the 2018 Directors Guild of America Awards on January 25. Anthony was executive producer for the ABC pilot *Encore*, which was nominated for the award. Rupert was director and executive producer for 32 episodes of *Fear Factor* that aired on MTV. Anthony was also an executive producer and showrunner for *Fear Factor*. Carl is currently the director of long-form production at Fox Sports.

1987

AMY KULE has been selected as the new head of the Rose Parade Development Office. As the chief creative and development officer, Amy will oversee broadcast partnerships, parade participants, and strategic partnerships while advising on the overall entertainment and creative elements of the Rose Parade.

Formerly, Amy was the group vice president of Macy's Parade and Entertainment Group. Last year, she launched Merry Wonderer, a strategic and creative agency geared towards building immersive activations, marketing, and branded entertainment programs.

1989

TJ GAMBA has been named head coach of the Cayuga Community College baseball program that will begin play in 2019. TJ played baseball at Ithaca and spent several seasons in the minor leagues before becoming a coach. Prior to accepting the position, he coached the past two seasons for a minor-league affiliate of the Miami Marlins.

BERNIE STENTO was awarded the Newell National Athletic Trainer of the Year Award for 2017-18 based on his exemplary displays of service and leadership in the local athletic community. Bernie has been an athletic trainer for 28 years and has been working at Chesterton High School in Chesterton, Indiana, since 2000.

1990

MICHAEL GIANURSI was named executive vice president and chief lending officer at Fairport Savings Bank. He has more than 20 years of experience in commercial credit, lending, and deposits. He was also a bank examiner for the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency in Syracuse.

1991

JOE MANTEGNA was selected as head coach of the USA Select Basketball Team for the Albert Schweitzer Tournament in Germany, where under-18 national teams representing Europe, South America, North America, Asia, and Africa compete. **Brian Fruscio '90** served as assistant coach. Currently, Joe is a coach at Blair Academy in Blairstown, New

Jersey, where he has won three state titles.



Brian Fruscio '90 (left) and Joe Mantegna '91 coached at the Albert Schweitzer Games in Mannheim, Germany.

1993

JENNIFER RODGERS has been named the artistic director/conductor for the Everett Chorale, a 60-voice chorus in Everett, Washington. Aside from conducting, she does research focused on the musical self-image of adult amateur singers. Her article on developing a language of resonance for adult amateur choirs was published in the April 2018 issue of the journal *Choral*. Jennifer has worked as a choral conductor, voice teacher, and performer as well. She is the cofounder, along with fellow alumnus **Tim Coles '95**, of Plunge! Cabaret, a nonprofit theater company that works with social issues through music.

1995

MICHAEL FAVREAU was selected to play in the pit orchestra for the Broadway musical *War Paint*. He was also featured (playing oboe, clarinet, English horn, and tenor saxophone) on the original Broadway cast recording.



KEITH STERLING was named the new public information manager for the City of Beverly Hills. As the primary media spokesperson for the city, he oversees all communication

ALUMNI NOTES

strategy. He joins the city from Anaheim Elementary School District, where he was director of communications and public information.

1996

STEPHANIE MELTZER-PAUL

was appointed vice president of digital and loyalty marketing for Dunkin' Brands, where she will lead the DDPerks rewards program, as well as digital efforts such as Dunkin' Donuts on-the-go ordering. Previously, Stephanie held positions at BJ's Wholesale and Starwood Hotels and Resorts in various consumer marketing leadership roles.

2000

JIM CAVALLINI was named director of performance and sport science for the New York Mets. In this role, he oversees the processes and people that impact player performance, working with athletic trainers, physical therapists, and strength and conditioning coaches to ensure superb player performance. Previously, he was the program director in the human performance program at U.S. Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg in North Carolina. He has also worked at the University of Virginia as a performance lead for the men's lacrosse, wrestling, and women's volleyball teams.

2002

AARON VOGEL will perform on the featured stage at the Music for All National Festival in Indianapolis in March. The festival showcases the top high school concert bands in the country. Aaron is the director of bands at Mountain Ridge High School in Glendale, Arizona.

2005

NATE VIEBROCK joined LendingTree as the company's compliance counsel. In addition, Nate was selected to participate in the 2018 Mecklenburg County Bar Leadership Institute, a program

NETWORK NIGHTS 2019



IT'S NOT ABOUT WHAT YOU DO. IT'S ABOUT WHO YOU ARE.

Join us this winter at one of our Network Nights.

These events bring together alumni and students to make connections and get to know one another. You can give students perspective on life after college and tell them about your successes and struggles . . . and the insights you've gained from both.

JOIN US:

New York City

Monday, January 7, 2019

Boston

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

Washington, D.C.

Tuesday, January 15, 2019

➤ For more information or to register, visit ithaca.edu/networknights.

Everyone is welcome! If you anticipate needing accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided or the event in general, please contact us at **(866) 442-2586** or alumni@ithaca.edu as far in advance as possible.

Hosted by Career Services and the Office of Engagement and Constituent Relations

designed to identify and develop attorneys in Charlotte, North Carolina, into leaders in their local community and legal profession. Prior to joining LendingTree, Nate worked as an attorney at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings.

2006

DOMINICK DIORIO, a conductor and composer, had his work *Gathering* premiered at the Alice Tully Hall in the Lincoln Center in New York City. The piece for chorus, vocal soloists, and wind symphony was commissioned for the University of Illinois sesquicentennial and was performed by the University of Illinois Wind Symphony and Chamber Singers. Dominick has been an associate professor of choral conducting at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music since 2012.

2007

CHARLIE STEPHENS is a global commercial real estate advisor at Cushman & Wakefield in Manhattan. He also hosts the *Culture Podcast*, where he interviews entrepreneurs and founders on how their journey has inspired, created, and evolved culture.

JOE STERNE started his own coffee roasting company, Obvious Coffee, in Twinsburg, Ohio, in 2016 with his wife, Julia. They have since opened their first coffee bar in Aurora, Ohio. The company's products are shipped nationwide.

RYAN WIBBY and **TED RISK** first opened the doors to Wibby Brewing in September 2015 in Longmont, Colorado. Since then, they have received several awards for their craft lagers, including a silver medal for Moondoor Dunkel at the Great American Beer Festival in Denver, and grand gold and silver medals, respectively, for Lightshine Helles and Volksbier Vienna, both at the Frankfurt

International Beer Trophy in Germany.

2009

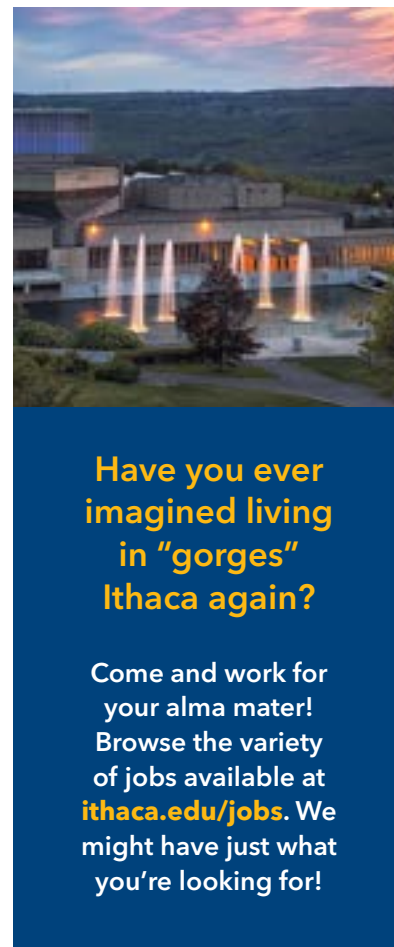
NICHOLAS KELLY has won six national and international awards for choral composition including the Edwin Fissinger Choral Composition Prize. Several of his compositions are published with Pavane Publishing, and he has composed for several of Canada's top choirs. Nick also teaches private theory and composition lessons in Penticton, British Columbia, and conducts a community choir and orchestra.

PETER SACHS is a senior account executive of corporate partnerships with the New York Mets. He has returned to baseball after spending five years with Syracuse and Holy Cross /Outfront Athletics in corporate partnerships with WME-IMG and Outfront Media Sports respectively. At Holy Cross, he became the first general manager in the athletic program's history and worked to grow the sponsorship revenue. In addition to his work with the Mets, he also represents the New York Excelsior (NYXL) team in the high-tech e-sports Overwatch League.

2010

CHRISTINE OLIVIER assumed the role of executive director of the Garner Arts Center, an interdisciplinary nonprofit arts organization that produces and presents site-specific, immersive arts experiences. Christine had served as the organization's program director since 2015. Prior to joining Garner, Christine served as the director of programming for the Mercyhurst University Institute for Arts & Culture. She was also named one of the "top 40 under 40 leaders changing the face of Erie" by the *Erie Reader*.

COREY WHELIHAN was cast in the Pushcart Players' production of *The Velveteen Rabbit*. In addition to



Have you ever imagined living in "gorges" Ithaca again?

Come and work for your alma mater! Browse the variety of jobs available at ithaca.edu/jobs. We might have just what you're looking for!

taking on this role and performing around the globe, Corey has become a part of the Pushcart Players education program, teaching theater part time at the John F. Kennedy School in Newark, New Jersey, where he works with middle and high school students with special needs.

2011

CHRISTOPHER BODKIN, cofounder and CEO at Circular Blu and data coordinator at Practice Greenhealth, was named one of 2018's "30 under 30" by the GreenBiz Group and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. The elections are based on a global search for emerging leaders across sectors who are shaping the next generation of sustainable business.

ALUMNI NOTES

2012

LUCY GRAM was one of four winners of the 42nd Humana Festival Emerging Leaders Grant. The Actors Theatre grant celebrates emerging practitioners fostering and working in theatre. Lucy is a freelance director of theatre and film in New York City who specializes in the development of new work. In June, she directed Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher's *The Maid's Tragedy* for Pocket Universe at the Access Theatre Gallery in New York City.

PERRI GROSS was recognized as one of New York City's "comedians to look out for in 2018" by social media platform Mogul, as well as being featured in the New Talent Showcase at stand-up comedy venue Carolines. Perri currently works at Midroll, a podcast network that owns Earwolf and Stitcher, helping shows work with sponsors. Formerly, she worked as a digital account manager at ESPN.

CHRISTOPHER LAROSA received the Georgina Joshi Composition Commission Award to compose a new piece for the Indiana University New Music Ensemble. His piece, *Nights of 1998*, sets Ernest Hilbert's poem of the same title for baritone singer and sinfonietta. *Nights of 1998*, along with another alternately commissioned organ solo, received their world premieres in March 2018. Christopher is also an associate instructor and course coordinator at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where he teaches music theory and musicianship skills.

2013

RACHAEL HARTFORD was named press secretary for U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown in his Washington, D.C., office after nearly five years of working for Democratic leader Chuck Schumer. She previously served as Schumer's deputy national press secretary. Rachael

got her start in politics when she began working in Schumer's Westchester regional office as the staff assistant/deputy regional director soon after graduating from Ithaca.

MEGAN ORT performed in a one-night-only dance narrative in Manhattan in a show titled *Alexa*. The show narrates a couple's relationship as influenced by an Amazon Alexa. Megan, one of the 10 cast members, collaborated to create the show, which sheds light on not only the comedy within the device but also the risks it holds. Previously, Megan, a New York-based performer, made her Broadway debut in *Cats* and

has performed in a more recent musical as Viola in *Soul Doctor*.

2015

LINDSAY PERRELLI works for Education Inc., a company that partners with Boston Children's Hospital to ensure children are being educated during their stay. As the first lead teacher at Boston Children's Hospital, she teaches children of all ages, working with their school to ensure that each student feels confident about returning to the classroom, no matter the length of their stay.



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Submit a nomination for the
2019 ALUMNI AWARDS

➡ ithaca.edu/alumni-nominations

Deadline for nominations is January 30, 2019.

2016

SKYLER BOCCIOLATT works as both the head camera technician at Cinema Support Los Angeles and as a director of photography for music videos and comedy sketches. He and **Canon Brownell '15** founded RadFox LLC. Their production company focuses on producing music videos, short films, and aerial cinematography, some of which can be seen in Nick Jonas' "Find You" music video and acoustic video.

ELI GOBRECHT was selected by the Denver Outlaws in the Major League Lacrosse supplemental draft, and played with the team throughout the season. In addition, Eli completed his master's degree in management at Durham University and was hired as the defensive coordinator for the O'Dea High School boys' lacrosse team in Seattle, Washington. He is also a coach and curriculum and recruiting coordinator at CitySide Lax, an organization that offers camps, clinics, and travel teams in Washington state.

2017

JEANNETTE-MARIE LEWIS won the flute III/piccolo position with the Catskill Symphony Orchestra and a substitute position with the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra. In April, she won a flute position with the U.S. Air Force Academy Band. In the fall, she played with the U.S. Air Force Concert Band, Marching Band, and Woodwind Quintet. Additionally, she spends her summers teaching woodwinds, piano, and voice on Long Island.

JACOB SHIPELY began his postgraduate career performing at the Hangar Theatre and the Cider Mill Playhouse in upstate New York. From there, Jacob moved to New York City, where he is a main character in the touring production of *Amazing Grace*, which takes him across the country.

2018

RACHEL BALZANO is a program specialist in Ithaca College's School of Humanities and Sciences. Rachel works alongside the dean's office in supporting the Summer Scholars Program and the Experiential Learning Program and initiatives. She also supports the Exploratory Program and serves as a liaison for faculty, staff, students, parents, and other constituencies regarding program requirements, logistics, and application process and outcomes.

DAKOTA COLLINA joined Ithaca College's Division of College Relations and Advancement as a leadership gifts officer. Dakota graduated with a bachelor of science in communication management and design. During his senior year, he completed a senior internship within the division and was heavily involved with the planning of the Weekend on South Hill, which was part of the college's 125th anniversary celebration.

ENTER THE
**DAVID P. '60
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Vincent Gardner, lead trombonist with Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, will perform the winning composition at a concert on May 2, 2019.

➤ ithaca.edu/jazzcontest

Deadline is February 1, 2019.

Celebrations

THOMAS APPLIGATE '08 and **CAROLINE CARTY '09**; July 22, 2017, in Sandy Hook, New Jersey.

JESSICA GRUNENBERG '10 and **BRIAN MERCER '10**; September 17, 2017, in Aquebogue, New York. **Heather Pusey '10** was a bridesmaid.

NATHANIEL CRIDER '12 and Dr. Jensen Kober Henry; February 14, 2018, in Newark, New Jersey.

Introductions

GAIL WEISSINGER HEFFRON '00, MS '01, and **SEAN HEFFRON '99**: Kylynn Rose, December 1, 2017; joins older brothers, Austin and Owen.

JENNIFER DOHERTY '02 and Tom Schoenberg: Juniper Mason Doherty Schoenberg, December 4, 2017.

BRIAN DELANEY '04 and Stefanie Delaney: Brynn Vera, February 9, 2018; joins older brother, Eamonn.

MARIO FONTANA '04 and **BROOKE ALDRICH '05**: Miles Felix, May 22, 2018; joins older sister, Addison.

ANNE WALTERS CUSTER '05 and **ROGER CUSTER '04**: Laura Catherine, December 20, 2017; joins older brother, Peter.

BETH GARDINER LEIBENSPERGER '05 and **ERIC LEIBENSPERGER '05**: Hazel Jane, January 7, 2018.

NATE VIEBROCK '05 and Courtney Viebrock: Leon Oliver, February 24, 2018; joins older sister, Jean.

CHARLIE STEPHENS '08 and **DIANA CARONIA '08**: Charles Joseph, October 4, 2017.

LAUREN HUGHES '09, MS '11, and James Hughes: Frances Railay, February 26, 2018.

ALUMNI NOTES

NATE MARCH '11 and Rachel March: Hudson Robert, February 5, 2018.

JESSICA WELCH SHEA '03 and Matt Shea: Drake James, May 21, 2018; joins brother, Davis, and sister, Drew.

Farewells

JOHN A. CONROY '77, April 7, 2017, in Grosse Ile, Michigan, at age 61. After graduating from Ithaca, he moved to Detroit for a job with General Motors, where he worked for 30 years before retiring. John loved to travel to see his friends and family, and he visited Ithaca College frequently. He was involved in many volunteer organizations and sang in his church choir. John is survived by his wife, Barbara; two children, Jack and Katy; daughter-in-law, Ginny; granddaughter, Grace; brothers, Tom, Brian, and Jimmy; and sister, Ann.

MICHELLE MILLER MARION '84, February 10, 2018; in Warren, Pennsylvania, at age 55. Michelle earned her doctorate in physical therapy from Chatham University in 2007. She was employed as a physical therapist at Clinical Therapeutics. She is survived by her husband, Cole, their two sons, two daughters-in-law, and one granddaughter.

AMY E. HEIM '03, June 11, 2018; in Syracuse, New York, at age 36. After graduating from Ithaca with a degree in psychology, Amy earned her master's degree in social work from Syracuse University. From 2008 to 2014, Amy served as the quality improvement specialist for the Onondaga County Head Start program, run by PEACE Inc., where she helped the program deliver services more effectively. She continued her work as an administrative social worker for Elmcrest Children's Center from 2014 to 2018. She was very active in her faith community at St.

Augustine's Parish in Baldwinsville, New York, singing in the choir and serving in numerous ministries. She is survived by her parents, Richard and Sally; sisters, Cathy Gray and Holly Judd; brother, Robert; husband, Ross Gallagher; and two children, Logan and Leora.

JOHN RICHARD "JACK" PAVIA JR., December 12, 2017; in Ithaca, New York, at age 85. Jack began teaching at Ithaca College in 1970, following stints at Adirondack Community College in Hudson Falls, New York, and for the University of Maryland while stationed in Hokkaido, Japan. At Ithaca, he spent 35 years teaching the history of Japan, as well as the broader history of East Asia and maritime history. After graduating from Lehigh University and obtaining a master's degree from Clark University, Jack began predoctorate work before joining the U.S. Army in 1956. A specialist in military intelligence, he was honorably discharged in 1960. Jack is survived by his wife of 62 years, Ann Bodino Pavia; son, John III; and brother, William.

KATHLEEN ANN SCHLOUGH, May 25, 2018; in Trumansburg, New York, at age 65. A professor of physical therapy at Ithaca College from the mid '90s until a few weeks before her death, Kathy earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1974. She went on to earn a master's degree from Long Island University and a doctorate from Rocky Mountain University. She spent many years working for the Special Children's Center (now Racker) in Ithaca, as well as at Cayuga Medical Center. During her time at Ithaca College, she was instrumental in building the college's doctoral physical therapy program. She is predeceased by her sister, Mary Elizabeth, and survived by her son, Colin Hinkley; brothers, James, Michael, and Chris Byers; sister, Suzanne Black; stepdaughter, Suzie Brache; and stepson, Peter.

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

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Notes can also be mailed to

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PHOTOS

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

FAREWELLS

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

This Alumni Notes section includes news that was received by July 15, 2018. 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.

DISCOVERING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Steven Van Slyke '78 was inducted into National Inventors Hall of Fame

BY KERRY REGAN

Little did **Steven Van Slyke '78** know when he started working at Kodak that his first assignment would become his life's work.

In the months before Van Slyke arrived at Kodak, a scientist working there had discovered that applying voltage to an experimental organic solar cell caused it to emit light. While unsure what Kodak could do with the discovery, management decided to investigate further. That's why they hired Van Slyke.

Nearly 40 years later, technology based on that phenomenon is used for the displays of more than half of the one billion smartphones manufactured annually. And organic light-emitting diodes (OLEDs), as the technology is known, have an even brighter future, promising to enable curved and folding smartphones, better-quality television screens than today's liquid crystal displays (LCDs), more pleasing room lighting, and brilliant fashion statements via OLED clothing.



I have great memories of the work and the summers spent in Ithaca.

Van Slyke and his former Kodak boss and lab partner, Ching Wan Tang, made all of this possible with their invention of the multilayered, thin-film structure that underlies every OLED development to date. For that invention—and a few decades of OLED innovation—Van Slyke was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame on May 3. Tang and Van Slyke were inducted together.

Growing up, Van Slyke didn't show signs of being a hall-of-fame inventor, and the "must-have" in his college search was a lacrosse team, a sport Van Slyke excelled at in high school.

Indeed, he was a two-year starter on IC's lacrosse squad before quitting to focus on getting the grades he'd need for graduate school. He gravitated to a chemistry major, in part, because he liked the faculty's youthful energy. He subsequently spent two summers working with them on solar energy in the lab under William Bergmark.

"I have great memories of the work and the



Photo submitted

summers spent in Ithaca, making good friendships with classmates and professors," Van Slyke said. "And I got a fantastic chemistry education."

After graduation, he was a week away from beginning his PhD studies when he decided he'd "had enough of school," he said. He called Bergmark for employment recommendations. Kodak topped the list.

For his first 15 years at Kodak, Van Slyke explored the fundamental science of electroluminescence. His joint paper with Tang describing this work, "Organic Electroluminescent Diodes," has more citations than any paper in the field—15,000 as of 2017.

In the mid 1990s, Van Slyke's focus shifted to process engineering, scaling the technology for manufacturing and working with Asian companies interested in commercializing it. In 1996, he facilitated technology licensing to Pioneer for the first commercial OLED application: a monochrome car audio display. And he helped arrange a joint venture with Sanyo to manufacture the world's first commercial full-color OLED display for the Kodak EasyShare LS633 digital camera in 2003.

Kodak sold its OLED intellectual property in 2009, and Van Slyke soon joined Silicon Valley start-up Kateeva as chief technology officer. Now living in Pittsford, New York, with his wife, Sharon, he continues to lead Kateeva's development of next-generation manufacturing technology aimed at cost-effective production of large-scale panels for next-generation OLED televisions.

Reflecting on his career, he said, "I loved the technology as soon as I started working with it. There were always challenges, but we were always making advances. And everything we did was new and promising."

Indeed, from a faint glimmer of light in the lab, Van Slyke and his partner developed and shepherded to market a technology that promises to transform our culture's communication devices and indoor lighting systems. That's quite a legacy—and the best may be yet to come. ■

WRITING WILD

Todd McLeish '84 braves the wilderness
for a good nature story

BY ERIC BUTTERMAN

Todd McLeish '84 was camping in the Arctic when he woke to the sound of heavy breathing outside his tent.

"I wondered if it was a polar bear," he recalled. "But it was our first narwhal, and it was right off the beach where we were camping. It's just a spectacular animal that I honestly can't get enough of."

This life-changing experience came when McLeish was on an expedition for his third book, *Narwhals: Arctic Whales in a Melting World*. The nature writer took a three-week expedition with Canadian biologists and camped on a waterway in the high Arctic. He was assigned to watch the nets for narwhals—which weigh an average of around 3,500 pounds for males, with eight-foot-long tusks. The researchers would capture the narwhals, attach satellite tracking devices to them, and release them. They caught six during the three-week research trip.



I knew I wasn't meant to be a scientist.
So how do I become a part of this
natural world for a living?

But they also had to ward off polar bears, to keep the narwhals and researchers safe. Teaming up with a head veterinarian from the Calgary Zoo, McLeish said, "For four hours at a time, we would stand with rifles by our side. When we saw a narwhal get entangled or if we saw a polar bear approaching, we would just yell out to the rest of the research team to alert them to come help disentangle a narwhal or scare away a polar bear."

This story is one of many McLeish has about his adventures as a natural history writer. His first two books focused on endangered wildlife in New England. His fourth and most recent book, *Return of the Sea Otter*, took him from California to Alaska.

"I went scuba diving in a kelp forest where [otters] live to learn about their habitat. I joined biologists [who were] capturing otters from the coastal environment and bringing them into an aquarium where health studies could be done. [Then the otters would be] implanted with a tracking device to allow them to be monitored later," he said. "I was able to meet native Alaskans who are sea otter hunters and learn about that process and the challenges that they face."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

He also observed sea otter autopsies.

"[Scientists are] trying to learn about the health of sea otters, but it's not easy for someone like me to watch [an autopsy]," he said. "I saw one performed in Alaska and another one in California. They found one died from the same thing that gives humans strep throat, and the other was from a gunshot. It's like mysteries being solved before your eyes."

A speech communication major at IC, McLeish became interested in wildlife thanks to professor and bird expert John Confer. McLeish went on to get a graduate degree in communications studies from Emory College.

"I knew I wasn't meant to be a scientist," he said. "So how do I become a part of this natural world for a living?"

McLeish found his way in by volunteering to help biologists with their research and writing about his experiences.

"I'm just your average nature person in many ways, but I understand I have to step out of my comfort zone for this," he said. "You need to accept very cold conditions, rainy conditions, along with boats that are rocking around violently. You need to be ready for anything—and not complain."

Even though it practically made his hair stand on end, that first narwhal sighting will likely always stand out as McLeish's greatest nature experience. In a stirring land of gorgeous tundra, wildflowers, and giant icebergs—some the size of a city block—he is out where few people will ever go, meeting a creature few will ever see. ●

SPREADING THE NEWS

Themys Brito '00 brings 24-hour news coverage to a Spanish-speaking audience

BY KELLI B. GRANT '04

In the city that never sleeps, **Themys Brito '00** helps make sure New Yorkers have around-the-clock access to local news.

An executive producer at NY1 Noticias—the Spanish-language counterpart to New York City’s 24-hour news channel NY1—Brito oversees the writers, producers, anchors, and reporters behind the morning news. Her work includes a newly launched live newscast in the 7 o’clock hour, as well as designing what her team calls “the wheel,” a news show that re-airs regularly throughout the day.

Working in television has been a lifelong dream for Brito, who grew up in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. When she was just nine years old, she participated in a televised trivia show sponsored by a children’s magazine, pitting her neighborhood kids’ club against another.

“ ”

Presenting those kind of stories that really inspire our community is so important. It’s such a privilege to be able to find people that can push our community forward.

“When I went to the contest and I saw the station and everything that was television, I knew then that was what I wanted,” she recalls.

She got her chance just a few years later.

“It just happened to be a coincidence that when my family moved to Yonkers, the high school that I ended up going to had a TV station,” says Brito, who created a Latin music video show.

Alumni from her high school who worked in the field pointed her to Ithaca College, a natural fit thanks to its television production major and hands-on experience through ICTV.

While at IC, she had a music video show on ICTV and dabbled in radio at WICB.

Brito’s first job after graduation was at a Manhattan production house. A key part of the role: monitoring



PHOTO BY ROSARINA BRETÓN

talk shows for content, like expletives, that shouldn’t make it on air.

“I had to watch talk shows all day,” she says. “It’s one thing to have them in the background, but to be paying attention to every single thing? It’s not what I wanted to do.”

So when Univision Tampa asked Brito to interview for a role as an editor and video journalist, she jumped on it—despite never having been to Florida.

“They let me explore in different positions, and I was very grateful for that,” she says. “I tried so many different things that really prepared me for what I’m doing right now.”

Brito even turned her unfamiliarity with Florida into an opportunity, pitching a series of travel segments about where people could take their families to have fun in the Tampa Bay area.

She returned to New York in 2005, landing an associate producer position at NY1 Noticias just as the channel was preparing to debut a new politics show, *Pura Política: Voces de la Ciudad*.

“I started, really, thinking about staying there for maybe a year,” says Brito. “But the culture was so welcoming, and they promoted so much growth that I ended up staying.”

Even as she has taken on larger leadership roles, Brito still carves out opportunities to shoot and write stories she finds meaningful—like an interview with IC’s president Shirley M. Collado, a fellow Dominicana who grew up in Brooklyn.

“Presenting those kind of stories that really inspire our community is so important,” she says. “It’s such a privilege to be able to find people that can push our community forward.”

FIGHTING FOR WHAT'S RIGHT

As director of litigation for the Transgender Law Center, **Lynly Egyes '03** is on the front lines of change

BY MICHAEL BLANDING

As a lawyer with the Sex Workers Project, **Lynly Egyes '03** helped launch the rapid court response program in Queens, New York, after hearing that law enforcement officers were arresting transgender Latina women on false prostitution-related charges. Egyes discovered that after arrests, the consequences were even greater for undocumented immigrants. Community leaders shared that the best way an attorney could provide support was to keep people out of jail entirely. If sent to jail and not released on bail, transgender women were sent to the male prison at Riker's Island, where they were frequently harassed. And Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was waiting for them, ready to deport them after they were released from jail.

“ ”

I have been privileged throughout my career to work with and learn from people fighting for what's right.

“People were getting sent to Atlanta, to Texas, places where access to attorneys was almost nonexistent,” Egyes says, despite the fact that they could often obtain a lawful visa as an asylum-seeker or victim of trafficking or sexual assault. Aware of the dire circumstances surrounding these arrests, Egyes swung into action and, with the help of another attorney, began showing up to court hearings to fight for the release of every transgender Latina woman arrested on prostitution charges.

Now as litigation director for the Transgender Law Center, Egyes has continued to expand that program while taking on high-profile cases to advocate for rights of transgender and immigrant communities. “Rather than just focusing on a case involving one person, I focus on legislation that will have a large impact for transgender and gender nonconforming communities around the country,” she says.

Often that means trying novel arguments with judges in order to establish new legal precedent. One case she worked on, for example, involved a young



Photo by Francine Daveta

boy who came to the United States as part of a “trans caravan,” a group of gay and transgender immigrants seeking asylum. To help him obtain special immigrant juvenile status, Egyes successfully argued that he should have access to family court in New York, where he had a person willing to be his legal guardian.

“We were able to get the judge to grant jurisdiction in the case despite our client never having been in New York,” she says. “This victory is huge because it opens to the door to another form of immigration relief for people outside of New York State.”

Egyes came to Ithaca to study psychology but switched to sociology after taking a course taught by Elaine Leeder. “Her class blew my mind and allowed me to see the world not just through my own experience but through all of these different lenses,” she says. When Egyes came out to her parents during college, they barely blinked. “I said, ‘Mom, Dad, I have something important to tell you: I’m gay.’ And they said, ‘Ok, what was that thing you wanted to tell us?’” Knowing others were not so easily accepted, however, Egyes took an internship at GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network), and after graduation she began working there full time, developing a student leadership program to help create safer schools for LGBTQ+ students. She went to the Cardozo School of Law before starting her current work.

Her cases at the Transgender Law Center include immigration, transgender soldiers in the military, and access to health care. A recent case involved a young person admitted to a psychiatric hospital. “While he was there, they misgendered him and used the wrong name and treated him badly,” she says. “A short time after he was released, he committed suicide.” Working with a law firm and another nongovernmental organization, Egyes is now representing the boy’s mother, trying to force a policy change in that hospital as well as setting a precedent nationally. Egyes says, “It comes down to simply treating a person with respect.”

ADAPTING AUSTEN FOR MODERN AUDIENCES

Kate Hamill '05 brings female characters front and center

BY BARBARA ADAMS

In 2017, the *Wall Street Journal* named **Kate Hamill '05** playwright of the year. One of the top 20 most-produced playwrights of the current season, Hamill has seen her works staged more than 30 times in the past three years, including at Ithaca College. Her swift success has come for her clever adaptations of literary classics, like Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* and Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*—in which she also unforgettably performed.

The daughter of former IC associate provost Paul Hamill grew up in a Lansing, New York, farmhouse with five siblings and no TV. But in a family of readers, she soon acquired a literary passion. In her teens, Hamill discovered Jane Austen: "Because she's female, she gets pigeonholed as a romantic writer, but she's a genius, a brilliant social satirist, incredibly witty and funny."



Ithaca College's theatre arts department emphasizes the importance of being a kind and respectful artist.

Hamill also discovered theatre. Her first role, in fourth grade, was a dream: Cinderella's wicked stepmother. "At 4 feet, I was a very small little girl," Hamill says, "but I got to boss everyone around. That's when theatre became addictive."

In pursuing a BFA in acting, Hamill gained many faculty mentors. "Ithaca College's theatre arts department emphasizes the importance of being a kind and respectful artist," she says. "Diva behavior is discouraged—an exceptionally important lesson." She also values the diverse techniques learned from the faculty here: "There's no one particular dogma, which helps you become a more flexible actor."

Moving to New York City after graduation, Hamill grew frustrated there were so few good roles for women. "It was demeaning and disheartening," she says. "Each time you'd be playing some guy's girlfriend



Photo by Sub/Urban photography

or ex-girlfriend, either helping the man on his journey or being the obstacle to it. If the man didn't exist, you wouldn't have a journey of your own."

And this was equally true of classic theatre, which Hamill loved. "I didn't want to burn it all down," she says. "I just wanted to create more female-centric work." She decided to adapt a classic she adored—*Sense and Sensibility*—for the newly formed Bedlam theatre company. In the production, she played the romantic, headstrong Marianne Dashwood. Both the public and critics were delighted, *New York Times* critic Ben Brantley calling this first work "irresistible theater."

Reviewers scramble for sufficiently animated adjectives to describe the fast-paced theatrical magic of a Hamill production: frolicsome, mischievous, farcical, screwball, riotous, rollicking, hysterical, zany, joyous, endlessly inventive, and "smart, witty, thoroughly entertaining."

Adding song and dance, mixing modern and historical time periods, employing multiracial and cross-gendered casting, Hamill's compressed, socially satirical storytelling both honors the classics and provides a fresh take. In the adaptation (about 60 percent is hers, 40 percent the original author's), she says, "I'm not trying to recreate the novel. I look on it as a collaboration with another writer, who happens to be dead."

Hamill is currently working on two commissions: In scripting *Little Women*, she sees Jo as not quite fitting her given gender role. And of Homer's challenging *Odyssey*, she says, "It's a prototypically male tale; if I'm reclaiming the classics for all genders, that's a great one to tackle." Using the Trojan War as archetype, Hamill is exploring "how we come back after war, after trauma—how can we become the person we once were after we've seen or done terrible things?" Half-focused on Penelope, the work is often dark—although, Hamill insists, "there's always a place for comedy." ■



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

FAIRY TALES CAN COME TRUE

Daniel Haack '10 is bringing reality to fairy tales

BY PATRICK BOHN '05, MS '07

THE PICTURE BOOK, *Prince & Knight*, by **Daniel Haack '10** starts off in familiar fairy-tale territory: two brave men working together to heroically slay a dragon. But what transforms Haack's story from cliché to groundbreaking isn't where the men start; it's where they end up—in each other's arms.

Haack decided to combine the tropes of Prince Charming and the knight in shining armor into a picture book after he surveyed children's literature and noticed that LGBTQ characters were rarely represented. He knew that research showed how critical it was for individuals to see their lives reflected in media and popular culture.

"My goal was to expand the idea of what heroes can look like and how they can act," he said. "It was important that there was no damsel in distress in this book. Instead, there are two brave men who both have heroic moments, slay a dragon, and then embrace and kiss on their wedding day."

The book is published by little bee books, as part of a partnership with the media monitoring group GLAAD. Haack said that GLAAD has worked for decades for positive representations of LGBTQ characters, but that children's media was, in his words, the final frontier. "I wanted to show the characters in a way that allowed children to understand, accept, and embrace LGBTQ relationships," he said.

And that's exactly what's happened: "It's gotten great reviews and a lot of good press, but my favorite thing is seeing all the photos on social media of gay dads sharing it with their own kids," Haack said.

Haack hasn't finished exploring this world yet. In fact, he's teamed up with **Isabel Galupo '14** to write *Maiden & Princess*, which is due out next year. In this story, a warrior maiden is invited to a prince's ball, but falls in love with his sister.

Galupo and Haack were both in IC's Park Scholar Program, and they became

friends after graduation. "Isabel is a talented writer who is bringing a great perspective to the material," Haack said. "Working with her was such a fun experience, and it's really a testament to the Ithaca College alumni community that we developed this partnership."

Haack, who is a member of the college's Blue & Gold Society, adds that his time at Ithaca helped him immensely on his journey to being a barrier-breaking author.

"The education you get at the Park School is amazing," he said. "I've worked with so many people who had communications degrees from other schools who didn't have the hands-on experience or industry knowledge I got at IC. I'm a huge champion of the college. Its LGBTQ reputation was a big deal to me when I was looking at schools, and I couldn't be prouder that Ithaca has continued its commitment to inclusivity." ■

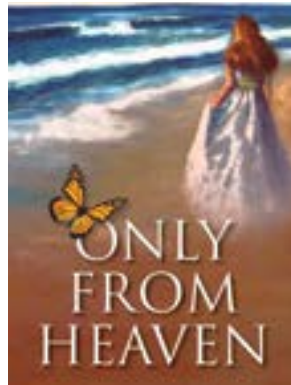


REBECCA ANGEL '17

What We Had

(Timeless Grooves Records, 2018)

Produced by Grammy-winner Jason Miles, Angel’s album is an edgy, contemporary update on the deeply exotic vibe of classic artists like Sade and Brazilian greats Bebel Gilberto and Astrud Gilberto.



DEBORAH ELSTER '70

Only from Heaven

(CreateSpace, 2017)

Featuring a protagonist who graduated from Ithaca College, Elster’s debut novel follows a woman who reconnects with family members following the death of her younger sister.

RICHARD PUGH '65

What Is the Answer? Finding Peace and Joy in Your Life

(Xulon Press, 2017)

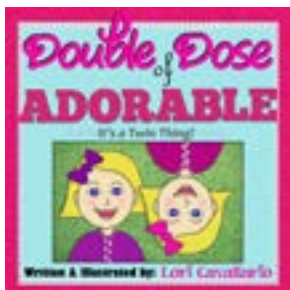
This book uses the stories and individuals in the Bible as examples to help people find peace and joy in their lives.

VALERIE STAGGS '89

This Side of Heaven: A Memoir

(Total Publishing and Media, 2018)

This memoir follows the lives of Staggs and her seven-year-old son in the year after the death of Staggs’s husband.

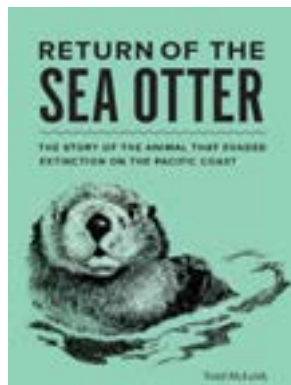


LORI CAVALLARIO '04

Double Dose of Adorable: It’s a Twin Thing

(CreateSpace, 2018)

Cavallario’s debut book is a children’s story about twins, Winnie and Lillie, who develop their own identities while exploring some of the challenges that twins face every day.



TODD MCLEISH '84

Return of the Sea Otter: The Story of the Animal That Evaded Extinction on the Pacific Coast

(Sasquatch Books, 2018)

McLeish’s latest book follows him from California to Alaska as he scuba dives with otters, works with researchers, and talks to fishermen.



MICHAEL WATSON '13

Ithaca

In this comic book series set in 1920s Ithaca, a filmmaker’s moving picture exposes a plot to destroy the space–time continuum.

CORNELL WOODSON '09

Let’s Unpack That!

Woodson’s podcast highlights social issues related to race, class, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, national origin, ability status, and other identities that affect the lives of people around the world.

ONLY IN ITHACA

ITHACANS POUNCE ON NEW CAFE

The Alley Cat Café, in the heart of downtown Ithaca, is a new establishment where cat lovers can get a furry fix while enjoying vegetarian café options. In addition to offering cat-themed drinks, pastries, and sandwiches, the café features a play area for children. But the pièce de résistance is the “cat room” located in the back, where more than half a dozen rescue kittens are available for customers to play with. Many of the kittens are offered for adoption as well.

TO THE RIGHT: Nora Borgos '20 spends a purr-fect afternoon at the cat cafe.

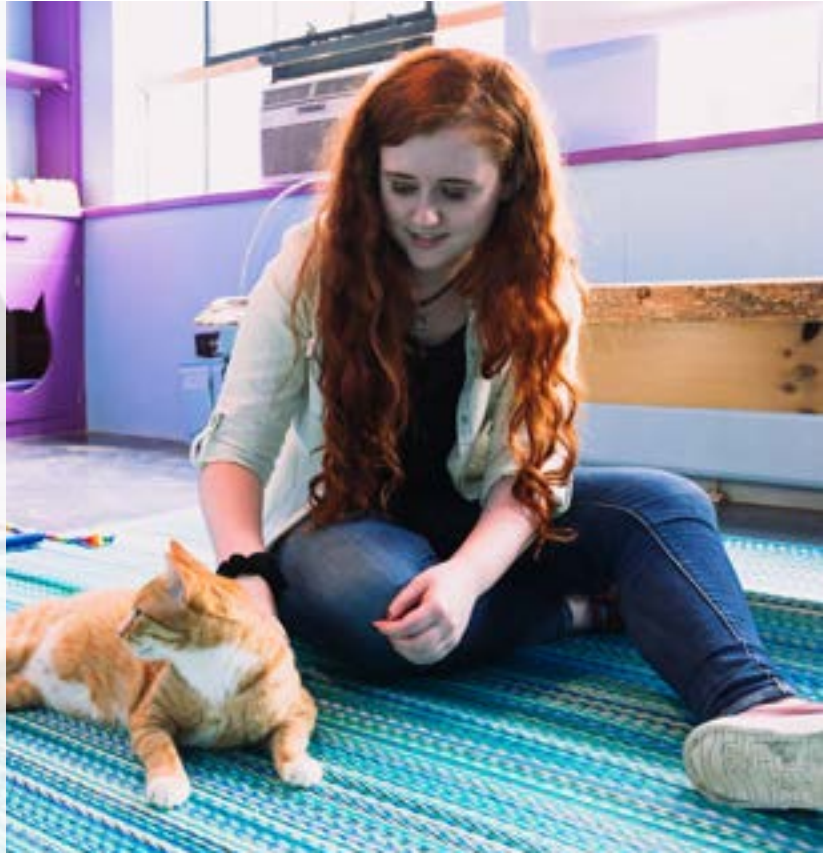


PHOTO BY GIOVANNI SANTACROCE

I REMEMBER WHEN... I GOT GREAT ADVICE.

As a student, **Will Shishmanian '13** often visited the office of Luca Maurer, director of LGBTQ education, outreach, and services, when he needed to talk about something personal.

“After talking for a while, he would write down on the back of his business card something to carry with you to remind you of where you had landed. Getting one of Luca’s business cards with advice on the back was a little reminder of your journey. One time I was in Luca’s office, and we were talking about a conflict I was having with somebody as I was transitioning, and Luca wrote on the back of the business card, ‘People will act as they have always acted.’ That still helps center me when I’m dealing with people who don’t see things the same way I do.”

👉 To hear Will tell his story, visit ithaca.edu/icview.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

ABOVE: Luca Maurer (left) and Will Shishmanian '13 when Will was still a student.

Where does MY GIFT GO?



(Your gift is tax deductible!)

When you give to the IC Annual Fund, you give financial aid that brings students to Ithaca College and keeps them coming back each fall.

From the moment that students arrive on campus, your gift continues to help them learn without limitations.

An inspirational guest speaker, attendance at a professional conference, mentoring programs, research opportunities, and state-of-the-art technology—when you give to the IC Annual Fund, **you make the IC experience.**



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Visit our website or call (877) 250-3269 to give to the IC Annual Fund, and help make anything possible for IC students.

