

# IC VIEW

THE MAGAZINE OF  
ITHACA COLLEGE

SPRING  
'22

THE PATH TO PODCASTS  
TUNED & TONED  
ALUMNI NOTES

## Major Transformation

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# IC VIEW

THE MAGAZINE OF  
ITHACA COLLEGE

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FRONT: Illustration by Cristina Eagan

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

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PHOTO BY NATALIE DAFINEE '09

THE PATH TO TRANSFORMATION

The theme of this issue of ICView is “transformation.” Within these pages, you will find stories about students who lean into new majors, alumni who innovate, and faculty and staff who work hard to make Ithaca College a stabilizing place for students. Most of all, you will find stories that illustrate a metamorphosis in process— what it looks like to change.

Demonstrating change is more challenging than it may seem. Change happens over time, and inside our individual days. It can be difficult to have perspective in the day to day, difficult to see the points on the graph that will eventually accumulate, days or years from now, and illustrate progress as well as evolution.

In terms of my own progress, I began my career in education as a teacher in the Baltimore City Public School System. I later served as a faculty member and associate provost for undergraduate studies at my alma mater, Goucher College. In 2018, I came to this institution as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, and now I humbly write to you as Ithaca College’s 10th president.

One tenet that I’ve always kept close to my heart is that the difference between achievement and failure is persistence. One must trust in the knowledge that the cumulative effect of small adjustments, or the brief moments of courage that propel one forward through life, will one day result in individual and collective transformation.

That is why the Ithaca Forever strategic plan continues to be of the highest priority to the college. It is our goal to see Ithaca College become a national model for student success, engagement, and well-being, helping each student reach their unique potential. Additionally, our alumni network is of the utmost importance to me, and I will be traveling to different parts of the county to meet more of you. I look forward to the opportunity to learn more about our alumni network and help build a sense of community. I want to be part of that community and you, our alumni, have many ideas to share with me on how to make that happen.

This will be a challenging, community-wide effort that will take time to implement. But, I am confident that by never losing sight of the fact that we do this work in service of our students, our community can make truly transformative impacts on the overall student experience, and in our individual students’ lives.

In March of this year, Melanie Stein, former dean of the School of Humanities and Sciences and interim provost over the past year, was appointed provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. Synchronously, longtime professor and interim dean Claire Gleitman was named dean of the School of Humanities and Sciences. It is by leaning into a culture of innovation and recognizing exceptional leaders that our institution will continue to make progress.

I wish to share my immense gratitude to the Board of Trustees and Presidential Search Committee for placing their trust in me to lead this institution. I also wish to express my appreciation to our community of faculty, staff, and you, our worldwide network of alumni, for all you do to enrich the student experience at Ithaca College.

Together—with our commitment to student success firmly centered as our guide—our community will move our college ever forward as we work to realize our vision to become a global destination for bold thinkers seeking to build thriving communities.

All my best,

Dr. La Jerne Terry Cornish  
President



PHOTOS BY SHERYL SINKOW

THE NEW SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE

The performing arts at Ithaca College will take center stage as two of its most renowned programs formally join together on July 1, 2022, with the establishment of the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance. The current School of Music and the Department of Theatre Arts—presently located within the School of Humanities and Sciences—will comprise a Division of Music and a Division of Theatre and Dance within the new school. Bringing these two together, both of which are consistently ranked among the best in the nation, will further strengthen the distinguished programs that exist within each.

“This new school will serve current and future

students by allowing for more cross-disciplinary training and exposure, better preparing them for real-world multidisciplinary artistic careers in the 21st century,” said Melanie Stein, provost and vice president for academic affairs, who served as dean of the School of Humanities and Sciences from 2019 to 2021.

A School of Music/Department of Theatre Arts Transition Committee, made up of faculty and staff from both disciplines, met weekly throughout the fall semester to consider how the joining of the two areas would be implemented and to determine the best > organizational structure. Interim dean of the School of Music, Ivy Walz,

and Steve TenEyck, chair of the Department of Theatre Arts, cochaired the committee, which gathered input from faculty, staff, and students and facilitated conversations within the schools and departments.

“It was such a pleasure to spend the semester around a table with music and theatre colleagues considering the various possibilities of how music and theatre might align,” said TenEyck. “It was clear to the committee that uniting under a single school would best position both disciplines for deeper future collaboration and possible synergies as we look to better equip graduates to flourish.”

The new school will be appropriately staffed with an associate dean for each division to support the faculty, staff, and students, and the transition committee will continue to work on planning and logistical details and to advise the administration as needed.

“The beauty of the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance is that it speaks to our strategic plan goal of structurally supporting and valuing collaboration, interdisciplinarity, curricular flexibility, and shared governance,” said La Jerne Terry Cornish, president of Ithaca College, who served as provost from 2018 to 2021. “I am incredibly appreciative of the conversations and collaborations that transpired among music and theatre faculty to create something new that honors our roots in theory, practice, and performance in service to our students.”

**Madison Hoerbelt '22**, a voice performance major, feels that the combination of the two schools will be beneficial to both music and theatre majors.

“I think that this merge will only continue to foster the collaboration between the two, as well as improve relationships between students and build new programs, classes, and majors in turn,” said Hoerbelt. “The reputation of both areas individually is attractive to new students, and I firmly believe that the combination will make Ithaca stand out above the rest for potential

students and only add to the excellence of the programs within the new school.”

Walz points out that this move presents new opportunities for unlocking the potential in IC students

“I think that this merge will only continue to foster the collaboration between the two, as well as improve relationships between students and build new programs, classes, and majors in turn. The reputation of both areas individually is attractive to new students, and I firmly believe that the combination will make Ithaca stand out above the rest for potential students and only add to the excellence of the programs within the new school.”

— MADISON HOERBELT '22,  
VOICE  
PERFORMANCE  
MAJOR

and in the programs that serve them, building upon the legacy of alumni who continue to be trailblazers in their fields. “We are so proud of our alumni from music and theatre arts and deeply grateful for a vast alumni network of career mentoring for graduates. We are excited to build upon these relationships,” said Walz.

## DR. LA JERNE TERRY CORNISH NAMED 10TH PRESIDENT OF ITHACA COLLEGE

“Dr. Cornish has the character, the fortitude, and the passion to lead the institution at this important, transformational moment. Her appointment ensures a seamless transition and unimpeded progress in advancing the college’s vision, mission, and values. Building on the foundation and the momentum of the Ithaca Forever strategic plan, Dr. Cornish represents a new era of leadership for the college.”

— DAVID H. LISSY '87, CHAIR, ITHACA COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



PHOTO BY ADAMI BAKER

## DIRECTOR FOR THE CENTER FOR IDEAS NAMED

Ithaca College filled a key position within the Division of Student Affairs and Campus Life, officially announcing the hiring of Angélica Carrington as the new director for the Center for Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, and Social Change (IDEAS).

Carrington brings with her an accomplished professional background that encompasses a variety of areas including program building, career advising, student retention, and residence life.

“It is the responsibility of every individual to further engage in inclusive conversations and weave equitable practices in their daily work to address the needs of underrepresented populations,” Carrington said. “With that commitment, every student should feel empowered to bring their whole self to campus each and every day, so I hope to facilitate that learning journey within the campus community at IC.”

Carrington has designed and implemented numerous workshops, forums, and innovative learning programs, collaborating with campus partners on a specific series of events covering issues affecting historically marginalized communities in the workplace.



PHOTO SUBMITTED



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Chuck Hudson stages rehearsal for the Hermann Goetz opera *Der Wilderspenstigen Zähmung* (*The Taming of the Shrew*) in 2012 at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts in Perth, Australia.

## NEW OPERA DIRECTION CERTIFICATE OFFERED

The new opera direction certificate at Ithaca College provides a focused way to develop the necessary skills for directing an opera production and aims to support those interested in becoming confident, successful opera stage directors. The program hosted its first class during the spring 2022 semester.

“The launch of the opera direction professional certificate is an exciting first step for the new graduate and professional studies focus within the college,” said Christina Moylan, associate provost for graduate and professional studies. “It steps outside of our traditional educational model to bring the incredible expertise of our faculty and access to our beautiful campus facilities to a new global audience.”

The enrollment will be kept at around 20 to ensure that participants receive individual attention. Dawn Pierce, the artistic and faculty director of the program, expects that people from all different aspects of the industry will be interested, from singers and stage managers to someone who is teaching drama or doing musicals.

“We want to help participants grow in their skill and nurture their artistry because we suspect people will be coming from different kinds of backgrounds,” said Pierce. “We want to make sure that we can individualize each person’s experience.”

Chuck Hudson, stage director and master teacher, will work one-on-one with directors to implement their creative visions and practice their directing skills with accomplished opera singers and rehearsal pianists during the workshop portion of the program.

“I am very excited about this certificate program,” said Hudson. “It is something I have wanted to create for some time now. Directing in general seems to be an elusive pathway—imagined to be an innate talent that evolves only through experience. I believe it is a skill that can be learned and developed, but there really isn’t a specific curriculum that instructs the particular needs for directing opera. There are subtle differences between directing a play or a musical and directing an opera that directors usually experience only in a professional setting, unguided, and under pressure. It is particularly that lack that I am addressing with this certification program.”



PHOTO BY DAVE BURBANK

The physician assistant inaugural cohort held a ribbon-cutting ceremony of the downtown facilities in fall 2021.

## GIFT SUPPORTS PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LEARNERS

A million-dollar gift from longtime Ithaca College philanthropists Manley H. and Doriseve “Dodie” Thaler will endow a scholarship to facilitate access to the college’s physician assistant (PA) program. The Manley and Doriseve Thaler Physician Assistant Program Endowed Recruitment Scholarship provides support to learners who demonstrate financial need and remain in good academic standing for the duration of the program.

“This incredible gift from Manley and Doriseve Thaler will allow learners to gain critical skills and expertise with a lessened financial burden,” said Susan Salahshor, director of the PA program. “Our community is deeply grateful to the Thaler family for their commitment to supporting this innovative new program.”

Nearly half of the inaugural class received no financial contribution from their families and had to borrow loans to cover tuition, housing, food, and other needs, further illuminating the crucial importance of the PA program’s endowed recruitment scholarship.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

David H. Lissy '87

## BOARD CHAIR MAKES GIFT

A three-year commitment from **David H. Lissy '87**, chair of the Ithaca College Board of Trustees, and **Suzanne Lissy '88** on behalf of the Lissy Family Foundation will empower the institution to focus admission efforts on engaging prospective IC students from the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia (DMV)—a region that holds great promise for recruiting the next generation of alumni.

“The goal of this investment is to strengthen the college’s reach in engaging students from a region with very strong potential for enrollment,” said Lissy. “Reimagining and reinvigorating the institution’s enrollment and marketing strategy is a priority of the Ithaca Forever strategic plan, and Suzanne and I are pleased to make this commitment to ensure the long-term vitality of Ithaca College.”

The Lissys’ commitment of \$750,000 funds a full-time position and supports specific marketing initiatives in the DMV region. Along with bringing on a dedicated admissions recruiter, the gift will support lead generation, initiatives to enlist local alumni in support of student recruitment efforts, and the creation of a market-based group of key stakeholders including high school counselors and community-based organization leaders.

## SENIOR AND GRADUATE HOUSING COMMUNITY OPENS

Beginning in 2022–23, Ithaca College will offer seniors and graduate students a new housing option for on-campus living at a reduced rate of \$9,900 for the academic year.

Dubbed the Senior and Graduate Housing Community, this pilot program will take place in Eastman Hall and will feature all single rooms, including rooms that were formerly doubles. Eastman will be reserved entirely for seniors and graduate students, with gender-specific and all-gender wings available. Benefits will include microwave-refrigerators in each room and a dedicated shared office/study space. Additionally, this housing option will be open during winter break, so residents won't have to leave the campus during that time. A single-semester option will also be available.

“At Ithaca College, we remain committed to providing

our students with the benefits of a residentially based education,” said Bonnie Prunty, dean of students. “I am excited that this new initiative will help us better meet some of the unique needs of our senior and graduate population, and I hope more of these students will elect to live on campus to take advantage of this option.”

The reduced rate of \$9,900 for the 2022–23 academic year includes room and board, which comes with 21 meals per week plus \$210 in Bomber Bucks each semester. Seniors are still welcome to apply for apartments and other on-campus housing of their choice at the standard rates.

“For many graduate students who are not from the area and need to find housing, it can be difficult,” said **Ani Nozadze, MS '23**. “Pricing is expensive no matter where you live, and even if living off campus is cheaper, you still have to pay the total price and other amenities, and it adds up.”

## EASING THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR FINANCIAL AID

Students applying for admission to Ithaca College who also want to be considered for Ithaca College's need-based financial aid are no longer required to submit the College Scholarship Service (CSS) Profile, a form that is used by colleges nationwide to award institutional aid. Instead, applicants who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents need only submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and applicants who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents need only submit one financial aid application. Both the FAFSA and the international financial aid application are free.

This shift will simplify the financial aid application process and reduce barriers to enrollment while making IC more accessible, affordable, and inclusive. Data confirms that requiring the CSS Profile was a barrier, especially for first-generation and Black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) applicants.

By streamlining the financial aid process, applicants and Ithaca College will both benefit as financial aid packages are released more quickly. Additionally, because all need-based aid—federal, state, and institutional—will be awarded based on one application per student rather than two, financial aid packages will be more readily understandable by students and families.

“After analyzing data, we realized that our financial aid application requirements were serving as a barrier to many students, and disproportionately so to students from populations historically underserved by institutions of higher education. This new approach, driven by data, is a step forward in changing that.”

— SHANA GORE,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF STUDENT  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

“After analyzing data, we realized that our financial aid application requirements were serving as a barrier to many students, and disproportionately so to students from populations historically underserved by institutions of higher education—students of color, first generation, and students from low-income households,” said Shana Gore, executive director of student financial services. “This new approach, driven by data, is a step forward in changing that.”



Paula Miller (left) and Susan Bassett '79.

## SWIMMING STANDOUTS

As a part of its centennial celebration, the College Swimming & Diving Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) has named 100 greatest college swimming and diving coaches of the past 100 years, and two individuals from Ithaca College earned this distinguished honor: recently retired women's swimming and diving coach Paula Miller and current director of intercollegiate athletics **Susan Bassett '79**.

## MICHAEL TOERPER SELECTED AS HEAD COACH OF ITHACA COLLEGE FOOTBALL TEAM

After an extensive national search, Susan Bassett '79, associate vice president and director of intercollegiate athletics and recreational sports, is thrilled to announce that Michael Toerper has been named as the next head coach of the Ithaca College football program. Toerper officially began his appointment on March 1.

“It is with a twinkle in my eye and joy in my heart that I welcome Michael back to Ithaca to serve as our new head football coach,” Bassett said. “Coach Toerper emerged from an exceptionally competitive national search as the best leader for Ithaca College football. Through this rigorous search, Coach Toerper effectively articulated a vision for the program in all phases—from recruiting, x's and o's, and training to academic excellence and our citizenship in the community—that earned the unanimous confidence of everyone involved in this important selection process.”

Miller completed her 36th and final year as head coach of the women's program in the 2019–20 season. During her career, she guided the Bombers to 12 top-10 finishes at the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III Championships, 29 New York State Women's Collegiate Athletic Association (NYSWCAA)/Upper New York State Collegiate Swimming Association (UNYSCSA) titles, and 30 conference championships.

Miller won NCAA Division III Coach of the Year honors in 1987 and 1999. She coached 78 student-athletes to 496 all-America honors, and nine members from her teams are in the Ithaca College Athletic Hall of Fame, to which she herself was inducted in 2014. Her overall record in 36 seasons was 334-61-3.

Bassett, who was elected to the Ithaca College Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005, began her coaching career at William Smith College, where she coached 22 all-Americans. She then served as the head men's and women's swimming and diving coach at Union College from 1987 to 1995, guiding Union to a combined 111-35 dual meet record, three state titles, and a combined five top-10 finishes at the NCAA Championships. She was named the 1993 CSCAA Co-Coach of the Year, and her student-athletes earned more than 100 all-America honors and two national championships during her tenure.

He succeeds Dan Swanstrom, who announced on January 24 that he would be departing after five seasons as head coach to become offensive coordinator at the University of Pennsylvania

Toerper, who is no stranger to the IC program, served as the defensive coordinator for the Bombers from 2017 to 2019. He then departed to become the safeties coach at Division I Holy Cross for the past two seasons and contributed to turning that Crusaders defense into one of the top units in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) in 2021.

“My family and I are excited to return to the South Hill. I want to thank Susan Bassett, the football alumni review committee, and the on-campus search committee for their support throughout the process,” stated Toerper. “It was evident from the first moment I arrived at Ithaca College in 2017 that the athletics traditions and alumni support are unmatched. I am beyond grateful to have the opportunity to lead a talented group of players alongside a driven coaching staff.”



# ALUMNI WEEKEND 2021

**Hundreds of former Bombers returned to South Hill to celebrate Alumni Weekend 2021.** Several ceremonies took place during that time, as many alumni were honored for their contributions to Ithaca College and their communities.

The weekend also included the Ithaca College Alumni Association's 2020-21 awards dinner, an opportunity to recognize our outstanding alumni whose professional and personal accomplishments showcase the incredible things our alumni can accomplish. Additionally, the 51st IC Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony was held to commemorate and express gratitude for decades of elite athletic performance, and the Bomber Picnic gave alumni a chance to mingle with classmates, while those from the class years ending in 0, 1, 5, and 6 celebrated milestone reunions and took class photos.

PHOTOS BY DAVE BURBANK AND SHERYL SINKOW



Alumni award winners (top) were Marc Hudak '90, Steven Mauk, Candace King '15, Roger Harris '80, Janet Luss Jacobs '73, Michael Kushner '13, and Greg Silverman '94. Committee members (bottom) from the classes of '95 and '96 celebrated their 25th reunion, including Diedra Harkenrider (senior associate director of philanthropy), Jim Ragusa '95, Sarah Nix '96 (Alumni Association board member), Scott Connolly '96, Renee Solano Connolly '96, Jennifer Rowley Massie '95, Rob Cacchio '96, Marc Simonetti '96, Chris Palmieri '96 (board of trustees member).



*"Why wouldn't I be back for a weekend like this?"*

I had an amazing four years here at IC—they were the best years of my life. Every time I come back, I meet people I didn't know when I was a student, and we become friends. It's a beautiful campus, and I love seeing how it's grown and changed, but I can still recognize the window of my room in the Towers."

- ELISA KURLAND SEEHERMAN '91



Alumni enjoying the Bomber picnic (top) included Tanya Hutchins '89 (president of the Alumni Association board), Ginia Anderson '78, Stuart Katz '83 (Alumni Association board member), Annette Larrier '76, and Erin DeMarco '01 (Alumni Association board member). Celebrating Alumni Homecoming Weekend at the Bomber Picnic (bottom) were David Fleisher '91 (trustee), Jennifer Cooley Fleisher '92 (Alumni Association board member), La Jerne Terry Cornish (IC president), and Michael Conover '81 (trustee).

## IC in the City

### IC in NYC: Reunion and Cortaca '22

This year, Reunion and Cortaca 2022 are taking place **November 10-13** in New York City! The weekend will celebrate reunions for class years ending in 2 and 7, in combination with the 2022 Cortaca Jug football game at Yankee Stadium. Other events being planned include the annual Alumni Awards Celebration, receptions and dinners for the 10th, 25th, and 50th milestone reunion years, an ICUnity reception, a Greek reunion gathering, and a showcase of IC student and alumni talent.

Yankee Stadium will host the 2022 Cortaca Jug football matchup between Ithaca College and the State University of New York (SUNY) at Cortland. This will be the 63rd edition of the game, which is **scheduled for a 1:00 p.m. kickoff on Saturday, November 12.** Ithaca will be the home team for the contest.



# Major Transformation

FEATURE BY DANICA FISHER

Four new majors were launched this year, advancing IC's ongoing pursuit of meaningful change. Meeting student demand and societal need, the new majors included physician assistant (PA) studies; race, power, and resistance; screen studies; and women's, gender, and sexuality studies. These majors show the ever-evolving curriculum at Ithaca College, anchored in our roots of theory, practice, and performance.

Born of the determination and focused vision of so many members of our Ithaca College community, the majors have activated a reality that aligns with the college's strategic plan and with our fierce commitment to be a private college that serves the public good.

**During this transformative time, learn more about these majors and why they are important to Ithaca College. >>**

Illustration by  
Cristina Eagan



## BRINGING Health Care Home

Ithaca College's new master of science in physician assistant (PA) studies program is a 27-month MS degree designed to attract college graduates pursuing health care careers and who come from undergraduate pre-health profession programs such as health sciences, exercise science, athletic training, biology, chemistry, biochemistry, and psychology. The inaugural cohort is 30 learners.

A PA is a medical professional who diagnoses illness, develops and manages treatment plans, prescribes medications, and often serves as a patient's principal health care provider in collaboration with a physician. It's one of the fastest growing professions, with the number of jobs expected to increase 31% between 2019 and 2029, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and it ranks among the best jobs of 2021, according to *U.S. News & World Report*.

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

The program's focus areas include rural medicine, family medicine, behavioral and mental health care, population and community health, and interprofessional education and practice.

"We wanted to focus on rural, behavioral, and mental health and really try to serve the community in which we live," said Salahshor. "Every community assessment plan shows we need more health care providers to work in behavioral and mental health. We wanted to do something where we're building the future leaders in the PA profession."

The program has created its own diversity statement, which establishes a focus on an equity

framework that seeks to be representative of all people, including those impacted by systemic disadvantages and marginalization. Faculty and staff meet monthly to discuss next steps for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts and have completed all of the Harvard implicit bias training modules.

"The PA program faculty and staff have been purposeful in understanding diversity, equity, and inclusion," said Salahshor. "Our final admissions committee has a staff or faculty member outside the program who represents the DEI community, to ensure we address our implicit bias during this critical process for applicants."

**“We want to make sure that our learners are striving for excellence. Everybody strives for excellence, but there is a way you can teach people excellence: It's in everything they do. It's in attention to detail.”**

— Susan Salahshor, PhD, PA-C, DFAAPA,  
director of the PA program

"When I first interviewed with the IC PA program, I instantly felt like I was home," said Brittny Dawkins '23. "This program was founded on the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion and places a strong emphasis on servicing quality health care to underserved communities and providing a well-rounded academic curriculum, allowing us to become leaders and change agents within the communities we will practice medicine in soon."

The PA program's supplemental instructional site, located on the downtown Ithaca Commons, held a

ribbon-cutting ceremony with the City of Ithaca in October 2021. This site will bring PA students and faculty to the center of the community that they will help serve. Salahshor said it is necessary for the program to have space where students can practice their clinical skills. The new space includes a clinical learning center and a simulation center with advanced technology that provides opportunities for students to get hands-on practice and for faculty to observe students engaged in practice. Additionally, the students will have access to the human anatomy lab on Ithaca College's main campus.

Mahbuba Akter '23 feels that the PA program will help her not only become a knowledgeable PA but also a compassionate and kind PA as well.

"Not to be biased, but I love everything about this program," said Akter. "However, my two favorite aspects are being part of a diverse class and our faculty and staff. I have many friends in PA programs who are just seen as students by faculty and staff, whereas our faculty and staff care for our mental health and know us as individuals. Imposter syndrome is real in medicine, and the faculty always make us feel like we belong here, even on our hard days."

Martin Stallone, MD, president and chief executive officer of Cayuga Health System, applauded the new program and said he is looking forward to the system playing a major role in the clinical education of IC's students.

"Ithaca College and Cayuga Health are mutually committed to training practitioners who are skilled at delivering health care to rural populations and to enhancing the health care services available in our community and surrounding areas," said Stallone. "The PA program builds on past successes of other collaborative clinical programs between Cayuga Health and Ithaca College, like physical therapy and sports medicine."

The program will establish relationships with community colleges offering degrees that include training in medical fields, such as paramedic and certified nursing assistant; and with the New York BOCES New Visions program, which offers high school students opportunities to explore health and medical sciences-related careers. There will also be a focus on diversity and inclusion when establishing pathways with high schools.

"We want to make sure that our learners are striving for excellence," said Salahshor. "Everybody strives for excellence, but there is a way you can teach people excellence: It's in everything they do. It's in attention to detail."



PA learner Jordan Beckley '23 participates in an obstetrics simulation.

PHOTO BY BRYON CAMPBELL '23

# CENTERING Underrepresented Voices

College students across the country have been calling on their institutions to diversify the curriculum and include more varied perspectives and experiences, especially those from marginalized communities. Ithaca College's major in race, power, and resistance, housed within IC's Center for the Study of Culture, Race, and Ethnicity (CSCRE), is designed to do just that.

"This major is important because it stresses the idea that race is not an add on," said Belisa González, director of the CSCRE and associate professor in the Department of Sociology. "Racial analysis is not an afterthought. Students of color want to see themselves reflected in the curriculum, see themselves reflected in the faculty, and have their experiences and histories validated."

González acknowledges that recent attention has been given to racial disparities and the lack of racial justice-oriented curriculum across higher education.

"The difference between what we're offering and what traditional disciplines offer is that we are starting

from a place of centering minoritized voices and experiences, instead of trying to retrofit a discipline to add those voices," said González. "Part of that is acknowledging that there are consequences attached to not understanding how systems of oppression work and how they relate to race. Racism is sophisticated, and it is always changing."

**“Students are hungry for this right now, students from all walks of life, who have genuine questions, curiosity, and inquiry around wanting to understand the world that they live in and better articulate their own place in it.”**

— Paula loanide, professor in the CSCRE

González said that the major offers opportunities for experiential learning and myriad opportunities to incorporate topical and timely events into the course material.

"There's never any shortage of examples going on in the world to draw connections to," said González. "There's so many opportunities to apply what we're learning, and that's something that we really value."

Paula loanide, professor in the CSCRE, said students in the major will have opportunities to gain knowledge and experience through hands-on learning

as the major requires students to take a methods course to learn about different approaches to studying race and ethnicity.

"We want them to understand that this is how you would apply your knowledge if you became a researcher or a policymaker or a producer, so they can really start seeing through this lens that you adopt and then you can practice it in many ways," loanide added.

Kathrynn Meuser '25, a theatre studies and race, power, and resistance major, feels like a lot of history is left out when learning in high school, and she wanted to take as many courses as possible that would cover histories and cultures that aren't always talked about.

"I know this field is becoming a lot more popular because, as we progress, issues of race became a lot more relevant in a lot of fields where people are realizing that things aren't as equitable or equal as they thought," said Meuser.

loanide reflected upon the significance of the social movement that we're living through and how she and her colleagues couldn't have anticipated the increased importance students would have in the major.

"Students are hungry for this right now, students from all walks of life, who have genuine questions, curiosity, and inquiry around wanting to understand the world that they live in and better articulate their own place in it," said loanide. "I'm very proud of the fact that there's great synergy between what students are asking for, both in terms of curricular flexibility but also content in the major."

González and loanide would like students to take the study and the reality of racialized experiences seriously and understand the nuances that this major will delve into.

"I want students to walk away with a greater clarity of how the world works, specifically the power structures that impact groups and individuals," said loanide.

# EXPLORING Screen Cultures

To better serve the discipline of screen cultures and provide students with additional avenues for exploration, the School of Humanities and Sciences and the Roy H. Park School of Communications are together offering screen cultures as an interdisciplinary major that draws on faculty from a variety of departments.

Nick Williams '25 is a screen cultures major who has a deep love of film. He describes the major as a combination of film studies and sociology.

"I think the name stuck with me: screen cultures as opposed to screen studies or film studies itself," said Williams. "It's so broad and inclusive of a lot of the aspects of societal trends and not just the impact art has on culture but that culture has on art."

Williams admits to still learning about this new major because it is so new but that he is really enjoying it and that he is excited to see the program grow.

"We explore different people, different identities, different stories and how those stories are told," said Williams. "What will the audience's reaction or reception be, and what it does to a culture as important works are produced, and collectively what a national cinema does for people. I really love it; it's so enchanting."

With a large, international, multicultural, interdisciplinary, flexible, and innovative curriculum, the major is being offered to align with the international academic discipline of screen cultures.

Professor Michael Richardson, who also serves as the chair of the world languages, literatures, and cultures department, is the inaugural director of the program. Richardson sees this joint major as a real opportunity for the college. He collaborated with Charles A. Dana professor of screen studies Patricia Zimmermann and associate professor of screen studies Andrew Utterson to create the degree, a unique offering for students.

"It feels great to all of us to have something hopeful that is a new structure that students can explore and perhaps achieve their goals more



John Turner '22 presents in Paula loanide's Race and Sexual Politics class.

PHOTO BY GIOVANNI SANTACROCE

elegantly,” said Zimmermann. “It’s also so powerful for the professors because it creates an enormous combustion across this incredibly vibrant, intellectual community.”

Zimmermann believes the new major will provide students with a robust, dynamic set of skills.

“Especially now, it’s vitally important to enable students to interrogate what they’re seeing and understand how these images and how this sort of cultural production shapes ideas and values.

— Michael Richardson, professor and inaugural director of the program

“This degree provides students with the two most important skills you need if you want to be in any form of media, which are analytical reading skills (of both books and media forms) and deductive evidence-based writing,” she said. “If you can do those two very well and with rigor and insight, you can adapt to anything. I do think it will position students to enter into whatever field they choose.”

“I think this major has a lot of doors open for exploration,” said Williams. “I think there are a lot of different possibilities for students to forge their own path and really take this in any direction.”

The major will be connected to two film festivals, and Utterson believes that these opportunities will be a draw for students.

“Studying film in Ithaca allows all sorts of opportunities to tap into the region’s rich and vibrant cultural capital, including opportunities to experience first-hand the exciting annual programs of Ithaca College–affiliated film festivals FLEFF [Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival] and Cine Con Cultura,” said Utterson. “Similarly, the major’s courses aim to stay up to date with the very latest developments in film culture and a changing industry by collaborating with Ithaca’s nonprofit movie theaters, including Cinemapolis.”

Richardson notes that screen cultures was designed as a global major and that students will take courses that expand their horizons.

“We’re really trying to give students a sense of the diversity of media representations and how to approach it,” said Richardson. “It’s about students being able to critically engage with images and media. Especially now, it’s vitally important to enable students to interrogate what they’re seeing and understand how these images and how this sort of cultural production shapes ideas and values.”



Nathalie Molina '24 presents her findings in Michael Richardson's Global Screen Cultures class.

PHOTO BY SHERYL SINKOW

## LOOKING through a Different Lens

Ithaca College has added a new interdisciplinary major titled women’s, gender, and sexuality studies (WGSS), offering students a flexible curriculum to explore different areas of interest through the lens of gender, sexuality, and feminism. The major is intended to help students to understand the world around them as well as their own identities, with the aid of an intersectional framework.

“I want the major to provide them with meaningful, transformative classroom experiences, a welcoming and intellectually vibrant community, and exciting research and internship opportunities.

— Claire Gleitman, dean of the School of Humanities and Sciences

Carla Golden, professor emerita who retired in spring 2020, and Claire Gleitman, dean of the School of Humanities and Sciences, worked together to shape the new major.

“The WGSS major will surely impact how students understand the world they live in and themselves, and to think critically about all aspects of women, gender, and sexuality in societies past, present, and future,” said Golden. “Feminist studies give life to the claim that the personal is political, and we expect the major will have a similar impact on students who pursue it.”

Cecil Decker '24 a double major in computer science and women’s, gender, and sexuality studies said he can’t imagine living a life where you don’t question certain aspects of our society.

“This major will make me a more well-rounded person,” said Decker. “It’s a variety of information that I’m interested in and feel that I can apply to life generally.”

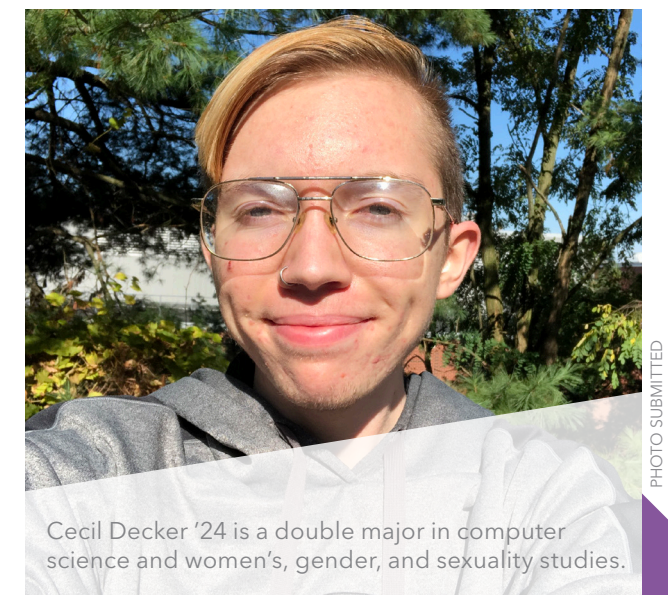
Lindsay Sayer '23, a sociology and women’s, gender, and sexuality studies major, said that when she was looking at colleges, she specifically wanted a gender and sexuality studies major, but she came to Ithaca College anyway because she loved it and that it all worked out for her.

“It focuses on feminist theory, and that lens is so important to our world right now,” said Sayer. “Social change is something that is so hard to acquire, and having people learn about the world from that lens is really helpful in changing your day-to-day actions and what you can do to make our society a more inclusive place.”

Gleitman said that she believes this major will empower students to be deeply self-reflective and engaged, critically alert citizens of the world.

“I want the major to help students reflect both inwards and outwards so that they come to know themselves and the complexity of their own identities better, and also leave IC equipped to think critically and ethically about their world and the social institutions in which they participate,” said Gleitman. “While they’re here, I want the major to provide them with meaningful, transformative classroom experiences, a welcoming and intellectually vibrant community, and exciting research and internship opportunities.”

“It’s such a vital and growing interdisciplinary area of study and, with its intersectional focus, is totally relevant to the world we live in,” said Golden. ■



Cecil Decker '24 is a double major in computer science and women’s, gender, and sexuality studies.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

# The Path to Podcasts: IC Alumni Make Their Mark in the Podcasting World

Article by  
**Arleigh Rodgers  
'21 and Marisa  
Thomas '22**  
Photos  
submitted

The term “pod people” might have its roots in 1950s science-fiction, but over the past decade, you’d be forgiven if you thought it was referring to your friends, coworkers, or even yourself. That’s because each year, the popularity of podcasts continues to spread across the country. According to data from Pew Research, the percentage of Americans aged 12 and older who said they listened to a podcast in the past month had increased from 12 percent in 2013 to 41 percent in 2021.

With more than two million podcasts available to listen to, it’s no surprise that there are members of the Ithaca College community who have built upon their experiences on South Hill to carve their niche in the podcasting world. And these alumni aren’t just the ones in front of a microphone. They’re involved with the medium in a variety of ways, bringing their talents to a growing industry.

## Recognize the Trend

**Steven Goldstein '79** is the founder and chief executive officer of Amplifi Media, a strategic advisory firm that guides companies with their podcast and voice initiatives. Before he founded Amplifi in 2015, Goldstein was a founding partner of Saga Communications, a publicly traded radio company in markets all over the country—including Ithaca. While working at Saga, he said he started to notice a shift: radio was shrinking and streaming platforms were growing.

“I started seeing the change in how people were consuming content.”

—Steven Goldstein '79

“I started seeing the change in how people were consuming content, certainly on the TV side,” he said. “Watching Netflix and *House of Cards* on demand is very different than watching *Grey’s Anatomy* at eight o’clock on Thursday night.”

Goldstein said his experiences and connections from his time at IC, particularly the college’s award-winning radio station WICB, was an excellent foundation. When he began working at WVOX, a commercial radio station in his hometown of New Rochelle, New York, several of the staff members were IC alumni.



“The ability to try things at the college radio station and the exposure to key people in the business was absolutely the essential platform for what I believe is my success and for many people who graduated around the same time,” he said.



## Find a Niche

In her role as the founder and principal at The COOPERation, **Meryl Weinsaft Cooper '92** likes to say that she helps the communications company represent “everything that makes life worth living,” such as drinking, dining, art, travel, and, yes, podcasts.

Some of her notable clients in the audio space include: the global storytelling nonprofit The Moth, whose podcast is downloaded more than 90 million times a year; the podcast arm of the Canadian Broadcast Corporation (CBC); and On Air Fest, which Cooper promotes as the “Sundance of Audio.” But the scope of the clientele has become more diverse in recent years.

“It’s such a young and growing industry,” she said. “Over the last few years, a lot of our clientele has gone into the podcast space in some way. And as this field is getting bigger, it’s become another avenue for arts and culture institutions to expand their audience.”

One such institution is the Museum of the City of New York, which has an innovative podcast series *Your Hometown*. Hosted by historian Kevin Burke, the podcast features a mix of well-known and everyday New Yorkers sharing stories about their hometowns and how living there has shaped them.

There’s also the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto. Dedicated to Islamic art, Iranian art, and Muslim culture, the museum also has a biweekly podcast

called *This Being Human*, which gives artists, writers, and thinkers a chance to share thoughts on “the kaleidoscope of Muslim experience.”

Cooper’s role in helping these podcasts find their niche requires her to take nuggets of interesting information and “connect the dots” in a way that shapes narratives, highlights trends, and ultimately amplifies people’s stories. And she credits her time at Ithaca College for helping her craft that skill.

“What I really appreciated about my time at IC was that we were exposed to so many different aspects of communication technology,” she said. “We learned how to produce, write, and direct. That trained me on how to piece together a story.”

And while we’ve all heard jokes about how there’s already a podcast devoted to anything you might want to learn more about, Cooper says there’s still plenty of opportunity in the industry.

“If you’re scrappy and you’re creative and you can connect the dots, there’s still a lot of blue ocean to be had,” she said.



## Grow the Audience

For other alumni, the path to podcast success has been less straightforward. In 2016, **Jeff Umbro '10** founded The Podglomerate, which produces everything from the food podcast *Green Eggs and*

*Dan to Storybound*, which features authors and writers reading their stories in immersive sound environments. In total, it represents more than 40 podcasts that generate a combined monthly download figure of three million.

This career path is a significant departure for Umbro, a writing major who wanted to pursue book publishing before he broke into podcasting. His first stint in audio was *Writers Who Don’t Write*, a podcast he created with classmate **Kyle Craner '10** that featured interviews with authors about their careers.

“I was doing it because it was a lot of fun,” Umbro said of this initial endeavor. “It was an excuse to talk to these authors who I love. But I really started to see the utility and the business appeal of it.”

He took a networking approach to creating The Podglomerate—a space for smaller creators that developed quickly. The Podglomerate executes audience growth campaigns, works with clients like the Lit Hub, Andreessen Horowitz, Expedia, and CVS, and sells ads on behalf of the shows it represents.

As Umbro’s experience shows, for current students looking to break into the audio industry, adaptability is key. As it grows, the podcast industry has new tools, publishers, and audience trends to explore every day. Information and tools that might not have been available to you just a few years ago might now be at your fingertips. Umbro urges students to be trendsetters, rather than followers.

“It was an excuse to talk to these authors who I love. But I really started to see the utility and the business appeal of it.”

—Jeff Umbro '10

“My advice would be to pinpoint where you see a need in the market and spend your time there,” he said. “It’s entirely about creating a community that you want to be a part of. Be a sponge and absorb whatever you can.”



## Love the Subject

Of course, it’s no surprise that there are also alumni who work in front of the microphones as hosts. One of those is actor **Taylor Misiak '14**, cohort of the podcast *Table Flipping* with Alyssa Litman. The comedy-centric podcast—which is part of The Podglomerate—covers reality television shows like *The Bachelor* and *Love Island*.

Misiak said that when she and Litman first met, they bonded over their love for unscripted reality television and, when they created the podcast, named it after the time a member of *The Real Housewives of New Jersey* cast flipped a table during an argument. They also bonded over learning the technical aspects of production.

“Alyssa and I started producing without the help of a network initially,” Misiak said. “It’s been exciting and empowering to be able to do that stuff on our own.”

On their podcast, Misiak and Litman recap the shows they’re currently watching and then interview a guest to dive deeper into a specific topic related to reality TV. The ability to commiserate with other fans of the shows they discuss is a highlight for Misiak.

“[Alyssa] came to me and said that we should do this podcast because we thought it would be really fun to interview fellow writers and actors about their favorite characters and scenes in reality TV and how they have influenced their work in the scripted realm,” she said.



## ■ Follow the Future

For some members of the IC community, their mark in the podcasting world began during their time on South Hill. Although they have since graduated, television-radio majors, **Gavin Berger '21**, **Leah Ettinger '21**, and **Chris Ashe '21** produced and created *This Strange World*, a podcast centered on oddities such as conspiracy theories, wacky laws, video games, and various other subjects.

The unique concept for the show caught the attention of mainstream media when it was named an honorable mention in NPR's college edition of its 2021 Student Podcast Challenge. Their six-minute, 38-second episode tackled the origin of famous phrases, such as "Close but no cigar" that, as Ashe explained, came from mid-20th-century fairground stalls that used to give out cigars as prizes. Other phrases they researched included "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush," a proverb that, according to Ettinger, dates back to the medieval practice of falconry, and "Take it with a grain of salt," which Berger said has references as far back as 77 A.D., possibly as an antidote to a poison.

The origin of the podcast itself was more straightforward: it was a final project in the trio's Topics in Media Technology course, which they worked on with two other students. After completing

the project, the three of them decided to continue to produce episodes.

"It's crazy because usually you start something and you're trying to decide, 'Where is it going to go?' And then it's become bigger than we all thought it would be," said Ashe, who is currently a production assistant for the National Football League.

And though the group dealt with challenges as the course went from in person to virtual due to the coronavirus pandemic, they also found that, with people more isolated, their show and the medium in general gained in popularity.

"Throughout the pandemic, podcasting had blown up immensely because people couldn't interact with each other face to face. It took our podcast to another level," said Ettinger, who is a postproduction assistant at the CW Network.

*This Strange World*, which has 64 episodes as of February 2021, often brings in guest speakers and has been listened to in more than 30 countries. The podcast's creators are proud of their national recognition.

"Throughout the pandemic, podcasting had blown up immensely because people couldn't interact with each other face to face. It took our podcast to another level."

—Leah Ettinger '21

"It was almost surreal to see our names on the NPR website and seeing it in the honorable mentions," Ashe said. "We had just kind of thrown our thing into there to see what would happen, and the reception has been terrific."

"I'm happy to say that I've done something good at Ithaca College, and accomplished something," Ettinger said.

The trio hasn't slowed down since graduating, and they are eager to see what lies ahead for them.

"Having recognition makes us believe that it'll keep going," Berger said. "We're all interested in seeing how much bigger it gets." ■

# TUNED & TONED

BY KERRY REGAN

Two full-time technicians and eight student employees keep the School of Music's vast collection of instruments in play—even during a pandemic.

The piano in retired music professor Carol McAmis's office has a secret. The Steinway was manufactured in 1887, five years before the college was formed as the Ithaca Conservatory of Music. Was it among the first instruments owned by the college? No confirmation has been found, and the piano hasn't revealed any clues, but today it is the oldest of the institution's nearly 1,500 instruments. >

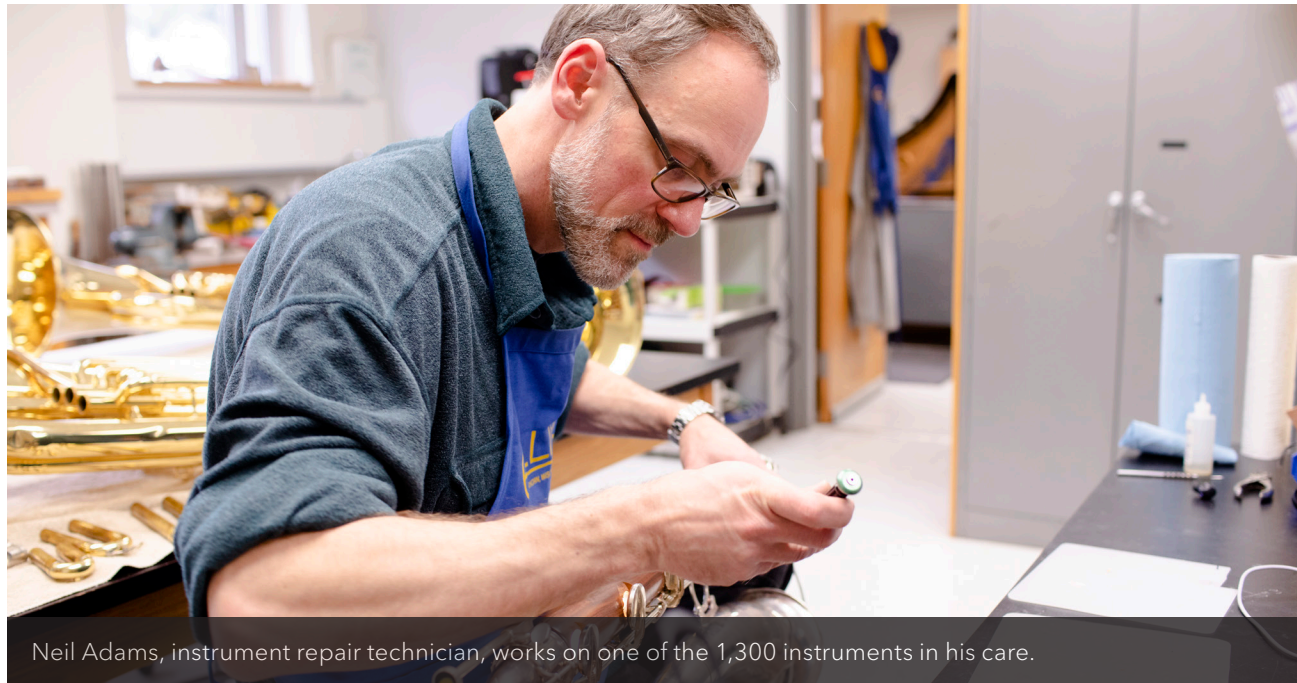


PHOTO BY GIOVANNI SANTACROCE

Neil Adams, instrument repair technician, works on one of the 1,300 instruments in his care.

The school needs the large inventory of instruments because half of the students pursuing a music degree are in music education, where leading a school band or orchestra requires familiarity with a range of instruments. So students supplement their studies on primary instruments with lessons on so-called “secondary instruments” from IC’s vast collection.

Two full-time music technicians are responsible for maintaining the collection, supported by eight student employees. Tom Sayers, IC’s piano technician, works exclusively on the School of Music’s 185 pianos, occasionally pitching in to help with the 20 or so other pianos on campus. His colleague, instrument repair shop manager Neil Adams, manages the repairs, maintenance, and lending process for about 1,300 brass, woodwind, and stringed instruments, as well as locker assignments for instrument storage. There is a never-ending job—akin to painting the Golden Gate Bridge, which famously employs a staff of full-time painters—and the pandemic has only added to their to-do lists.

### SO MANY PIANOS, SO LITTLE TIME

Pandemic or no pandemic, keeping the school’s piano population in good playing condition requires regular tuning, timely adjustments and repairs, and the occasional complete overhaul. Sayers has many years of experience doing all of those things.

He joined IC in 2015 after working for 10 years restoring vintage pianos at the Country Piano Shop in Burdett, New York. Before that, he was a full-time technician at Boston’s only authorized Steinway dealership, and received training in piano technology from Steinway and at the New England Conservatory for Piano Technology.

Tuning work accounts for about 90 percent of Sayers’s role, which is performed using traditional piano hammers to match pitch to targets sounded with apps on smart phones and iPads. Getting access to the pianos is challenging, however, because they are in near constant use. So Sayers works out a schedule at the beginning of each semester for him and his student employee. They tune pianos daily in concert halls and less frequently in other locations, which include classrooms, faculty member studios, and student practice rooms.

Small repairs can be made during tuning sessions, but others require a visit to the repair shop on the lower floor of the Whalen Center for Music. High-quality pianos that are properly maintained can function well for a century or more, Sayers noted, and 17 of the school’s pianos have reached that milestone. Indeed, several are now existing through a second pandemic, having also been present for the 1918–19 flu pandemic.

### NO INSTRUMENT PLAYS SECOND FIDDLE

Next door to the piano repair shop, Adams maintains 1,300 band and orchestral instruments, which are evenly split among the woodwind, brass, and stringed variety. Most are secondary instruments, but IC also has some that are highly rated for concert performances and some, like the oud, a Baroque stringed instrument, for specialty performances.

Adams joined IC in 2018 after spending most of his adult life honing his skills in music repair shops in Webster and Ithaca (New York), Dallas, San Jose, and Los Angeles. On the West Coast, he maintained high-end woodwind instruments for professional players, including smooth jazz star Dave Koz and ’60s hit-maker Herb Alpert. He’s even done a repair for jazz icon Branford Marsalis.

Adams is most adept at making professional-level adjustments to woodwinds, he said, and also does well with brass. He has less experience with stringed instruments and usually farms out larger repairs to IC faculty member Dylan Race.

Though Adams spends much of his time maintaining secondary instruments—generally inspecting and testing the playability of each of them at least once a year—some days can be hectic. When on-campus classes are in session, he usually gets a handful of students and faculty each day who ask for a quick instrument adjustment, which he usually does on the spot. Emergencies are not unusual. A clarinet pad might fall out 10 minutes before a performance and, as replacing it also involves the time-consuming process of regulating the sound, things can get tense. Whatever the need, Adams tries to help—once even hot-gluing a musician’s broken sandal strap.

### A PANDEMIC INTERLUDE

That spirit of being ready to help in a crisis has served Adams and Sayers well during the pandemic. As they are both considered essential workers, they mostly continued to work on campus, even when studies were being conducted remotely.

For Sayers, the pandemic response was fairly straightforward, with sanitizers and air purifiers available in every piano room and those who played the pianos responsible for disinfecting them after they were done. A few of the special accommodations made in Sayers’s area included shipping electronic keyboards to students’ homes and delivering an actual

## BY THE #S

**1,500**  
IC-OWNED  
INSTRUMENTS

**1,300**  
ORCHESTRAL  
INSTRUMENTS

**185**  
PIANOS

**1**  
PIANO  
TECHNICIAN

**1**  
INSTRUMENT  
REPAIR  
TECHNICIAN/  
SHOP  
MANAGER

**8**  
STUDENT  
EMPLOYEES

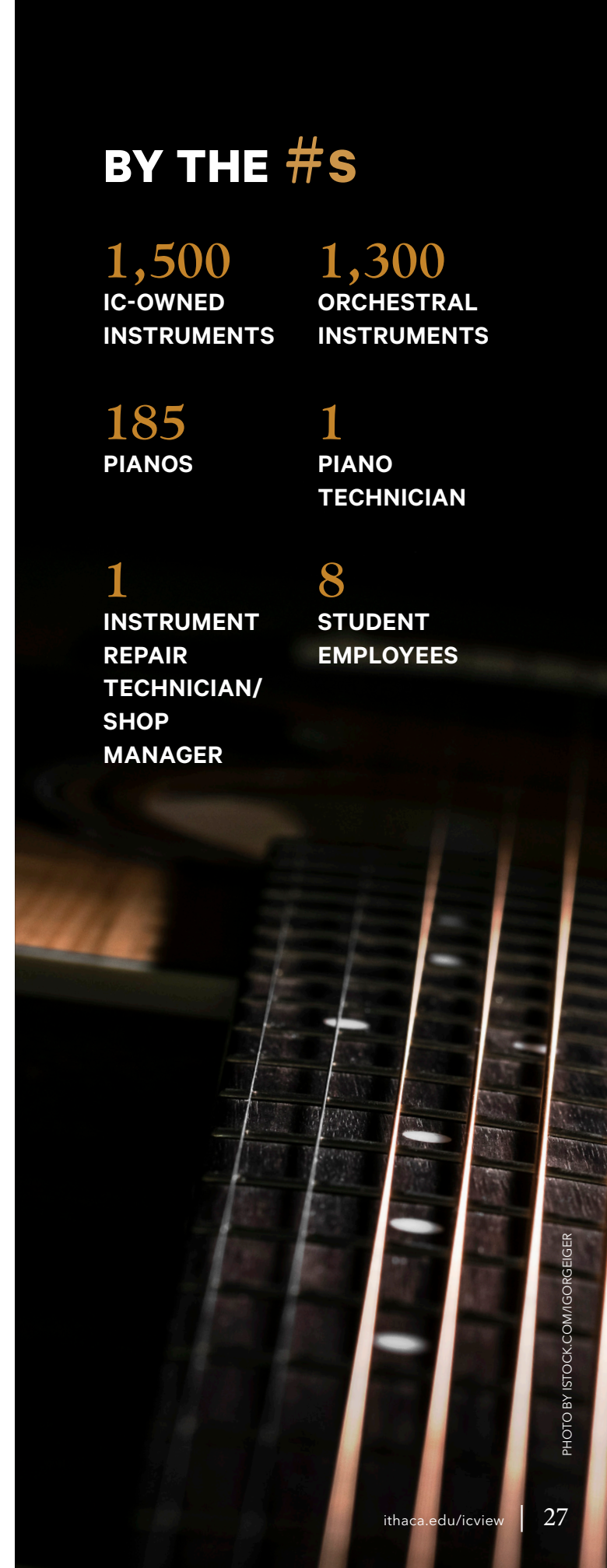


PHOTO BY ISTOCK.COM/IGORGEIGER



PHOTO BY GIOVANNI SANTACROCE

Benjamin Basem '22 tunes a piano.

piano to the apartment of an international student who had remained on campus as the college pivoted to remote instruction.

The pandemic's impact was more intense in Adams's area, where he works on instruments that are played by breathing into mouthpieces, making the airborne transmission of the coronavirus a continual risk: "The threat of catching a potentially fatal disease was certainly on our minds," Adams said.

“ I love the positive energy and sense of community on campus. It's a youthful, creative environment, and I really feel good about contributing to these students and to what they are doing. — NEIL ADAMS

To sanitize instruments that come through the shop, Adams built an ultraviolet light box that is capable of sterilizing items over the course of several days. He also uses a variety of disinfectants, and sometimes completely disassembles instruments to ensure proper cleaning—adding considerable time to his routine.

The pandemic also unleashed a series of fire drills on Adams's operation. Many students hadn't emptied

their music lockers when they left campus for spring break in 2020. So when the college suddenly moved to remote learning, Adams handled the logistics of returning the contents of about 300 lockers to their owners, a process that lasted into the summer. Most students returned to campus to pick up their locker belongings during socially distanced appointments.

Then came preparations for remote learning in the fall 2020 semester. Adams shipped and even personally delivered a few hundred secondary instruments to students. "I think I purchased every available box in the city of Ithaca," he said.

Finally, when students returned to campus for in-person learning, many of them had to catch up on their secondary instrument work, straining the school's instrument capacity and forcing Adams to take some out of retirement, among other adjustments.

The result? To date, Adams and Sayers are not aware of any COVID-19 cases tied to the college's handling of music instruments and locker assignments. Of course, the pandemic isn't over yet, but Adams and Sayers are glad to have students back on South Hill.

"I love the positive energy and sense of community on campus," Adams said. "I missed it. It's a youthful, creative environment, and I really feel good about contributing to these students and to what they are doing." ■

## TUNEFUL TECHS



PHOTO BY KERRY C. REGAN

**Tom Sayers** began playing guitar at age 12, then piano, and played in a rock band while in high school. He left his studies at Rochester Institute of Technology to tour with a school assembly music program and later joined a cruise ship band. A member of Ithaca-based funk-jazz band Sugar Moan in the 1990s, Sayers continues to perform occasionally with his wife, **Jennifer Middaugh '94**, among others. Studying piano tuning at the New England Conservatory is what put him on a path to his piano technician career.



PHOTO BY KERRY C. REGAN

**Neil Adams** grew up playing guitar, attended Monroe Community College as a music major, and, for most of his career, has played weekly jazz and classical gigs at restaurants, weddings, and private parties. (He and saxophone player Marc Devokaitis are the answer to the trivia question, "Who played the final performance at the Rongovian Embassy in Trumansburg?") Adams has performed less in recent years, focusing more on recording and composing.

**Do they ever play together, you ask?** Yes! With Sayers on keyboards and Adams on bass, the two IC music techs get together occasionally with a drummer and guitarist performing original funk, jazz, rock, blues, call-it-what-you-will music—on instruments that are, you may rest assured, impeccably well tuned and maintained!



PHOTO BY ISTOCK.COM/M-J-S-H-A



# Friends of Ithaca College



With in-person alumni events being scheduled again, get-togethers were held in Chicago (left) and Washington, D.C. (right).

## REENERGIZING THE FRIENDS OF ITHACA COLLEGE

The supportive and generous members of the Friends of Ithaca College are relaunching the long-standing group's efforts to develop and foster the relationship between the local community and Ithaca College, and to support and empower area students to attend through the Friends of Ithaca College Giving Society. Plans for in-person events in the Ithaca area are in the works for this summer and the year ahead. If you live in the Ithaca or surrounding areas and would like to join the Friends of Ithaca College, please visit [ithaca.edu/friends](http://ithaca.edu/friends).

## ALUMNI CHAPTERS REV UP

Alumni chapters offer unique experiences that highlight the far-reaching influence of Ithaca College—more than 70,000 alumni strong. As a graduate, student, parent, or friend of the college, you are automatically part of this extraordinary network. Alumni volunteers have begun planning and hosting in-person events in regions throughout the United States, including New England, metropolitan New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Los Angeles, Dallas–Fort Worth, and Seattle. If you would like to volunteer or learn more, visit [alumni.ithaca.edu/connect/alumni-chapters](http://alumni.ithaca.edu/connect/alumni-chapters) or contact the Office of Alumni and Family Engagement at (866) 442-2586 or [alumni@ithaca.edu](mailto:alumni@ithaca.edu).



Tanya Hutchins '89

PHOTO SUBMITTED

### DEAR IC FRIENDS,

Writing from the heart, I applaud all of you who are not only coping with a pandemic but also keeping up with your classmates and supporting them on their various journeys. The past two years have challenged us personally, professionally, academically, and emotionally. Don't give up!

Change can be difficult, and we have missed opportunities to bring alumni together in person in an increasingly online world. That's something our Alumni Events and Professional Development Committees are working to restore. I'm really excited about what the college is planning.

We also want to thank over 5,100 of you who filled out our all-alumni survey. Your honest feedback helps to improve the way we connect with you and the way YOU want to connect with us. One alumnus wrote to me, stating that he never knew about all the volunteer opportunities available to alumni. That comment alone makes me realize we need to spread the word more effectively and create more opportunities.

Your alumni board also wants to get to know you. The survey was a first step, but we need your help to turn our baby steps into a fresh start. There are plenty of ways to do that: Help us sprint to Cortaca/Reunion '22 by getting involved in your region and helping to recruit potential students in your neighborhood. Volunteer to speak to a class on campus or via Zoom to connect with current students. Become a mentor on the IC Career Network and join the IC Alumni Association LinkedIn group.

There are also nine committees that you could serve on, chaired by exceptional alumni who are giving their time and talent to connect with you where you are. The committees are as follows:

- Alumni Awards, chaired by **Doug Backelin '78**
- Alumni Events, chaired by **Sarah Richards '89**
- Bylaws, chaired by **David Sargoy '79**
- Communications, cochaired by **Zack Ford '07** and **Stu Katz '83**
- Diversity and Inclusion, chaired by **Darlene Rodriguez '17**
- Former Board Member Engagement, chaired by **Arlene Wolff '57**
- Membership, cochaired by **Arthur Catalanello '90** and **Erin DeMarco '01**
- Philanthropy, chaired by **Shamika Edwards '11, MBA '12**
- Professional Development, chaired by **Chad DeLuca '11**

I thank them for their service. I also would like to especially thank Arthur Catalanello, Ellen Israel, David Sargoy, and Madelynn Thompson, whose terms end this June.

Email Us: [alumni@ithaca.edu](mailto:alumni@ithaca.edu) Follow Us: [@icalumni](https://www.instagram.com/icalumni)

I have heard compliments and complaints since I took office last July, and I always pass them along to the appropriate parties. Our goal, as a board, is to make sure your ideas and concerns turn into action that sustains your pride in your alma mater and helps you to feel more connected to the campus that helped shape our lives.

We want to create positive change that inspires alumni wherever we live globally. I hope to see you in New York City November 10–13 for the Cortaca Jug at Yankee Stadium and IC in the City, including the Alumni Awards Celebration, an ICUnity event, and a Greek reunion.

### TANYA HUTCHINS '89 (TV-R)

President, Alumni Association Board of Directors  
[@TanyaHutchins](https://www.instagram.com/TanyaHutchins)

1954



**RUDY PAOLANGELI** is the host of radio show *Rudy on Duty*. In 1961, he worked his way up to becoming the general manager of

the Cornell University-owned WHCU AM/FM, retiring from that position in 1988. The same year he retired, he launched RP Media, a part-time in-home professional broadcast/audio production facility, producing syndicated music programs, radio commercials, and public service announcements. After fans urged him out of retirement, he started hosting two-hour nostalgic music programs every Sunday morning on WHCU and WNYX. In 2019, he switched that program to monthly specials. The two-hour program can still be heard on WHCU and WNYX, which is streamed 24/7 coast-to-coast and around the world through rudyonduty.com.

1968

**FRED A. BLUMENTHAL, PHD**, is a classical music critic for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

**LOUIS W. SPIOTTI JR.** was the country's longest tenured college athletic director, serving in that role at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York, for 47 years, the last 41 as executive director of intercollegiate athletics. He retired in June 2021 and is now an emeritus director of intercollegiate athletics.

1971

**STEVEN WASSERMAN** was named one of the top 15 interior designers on Long Island in the April 2021 issue of the *Long Island Press*.

1973



**GEORGE ELMER**, who has been the volunteer director of the Christ Our Light Catholic Church Food Pantry for many

years, was recently a medalist for the Jefferson Award for his dedicated volunteer service to the community in New York's Capital District. The award was cofounded in 1972 by former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, U.S. Senator Robert Taft Jr., and Sam Beard, a global innovator in developing young leaders.



**BRUCE SMITH** is a semiretired Episcopal priest who lives in Columbus, Ohio. He serves as a supply priest in the

Columbus area and coordinates a weekly clergy Bible study. He is on the board of directors of the Procter Camp and Conference Center of the diocese of Southern Ohio and the board of directors of Bexley Seabury Episcopal Seminary, based in Chicago. Bruce is a lifetime member of the Columbus Metropolitan Club and has been a member of the Columbus Torch Club since 2002.

1974

**FRANK STUBBS**, a retired nonprofit arts executive and management consultant, served as a reviewer of music proposals for the National Endowment for the Arts CARES Act funds. He also served on the NEA Grants for Arts Projects review panel and continues to serve on the board of directors of Cantus, a professional male vocal ensemble based in the Twin Cities.

1977



**KEVIN DIRTH** retired as superintendent of schools from the Maple Run Unified School District in St. Albans, Vermont,

after 41 years in education. He will continue working as an educational consultant, assisting school boards with superintendent searches and strategic planning.

1978



**Peter Steinhaus** is CBS News Radio's main reporter on NASA. His recent assignments include coverage of the launches of SpaceX's Crew Dragon in May 2020 and November 2020 from the John F. Kennedy Space Center. He also anchors CBS's *World News Roundup Late Edition* as well as the hourly newscast.

1981

**ROBYN COOPER HENNING** completed her master of arts in clinical mental health counseling from New Jersey City University in May 2021 and passed her national counseling certification exam that same month. She is now eligible to work as a licensed associate counselor and is pursuing clinical hours toward her licensed professional counselor after over 30 years in the counseling field.

1982

**JOHN PAPPALARDO** has been elected as town judge of Lewisboro, New York. After graduating from Ithaca, he went

to the New England School of Law where he received his juris doctor degree in 1986. Since then he has focused his legal career on family law and arbitration/mediation.



**NINA WEISBORD** was appointed by Temple University's new president as the interim vice president for

the university's institutional advancement office, a position she will hold while remaining as the chief advancement officer for Temple Health.

1986



**Franklyn Gottbetter**, who has been working in film and television since his graduation in 1986, most recently served as a unit production manager on the Netflix show *The Kominsky Method*. He was responsible for hiring the crew, approving overtime, controlling work schedules, making equipment deals, managing budgets, and approving all purchases.



**TRACEY RANIERI** retired as the athletic director at the State University of New York (SUNY) College at Oneonta, where she

had worked since 2007. Tracey began her tenure at the college in 1991 as the head women's soccer coach and senior woman administrator before adding additional duties as the assistant athletic director in 1995. In 2003, she was named National Coach of the Year when SUNY Oneonta won the NCAA Division III National Championship.

1987

**LISA BURY** has been appointed chief philanthropy officer for the San Francisco Opera.



**ALAN HOFF** is the executive director of Monadnock Media's board of directors. He was one of Monadnock's early employees,

working for the company from 1991 to 1996. He left to pursue a career in software development, holding management positions at Avid Technology, Cinedeck, and SeaChange International before returning to Monadnock in 2019 as managing director.

1988

**BILL GLASER** is the chief executive officer and cofounder with renowned plant-based chef Dave Anderson of Outstanding Foods, a company that makes healthy plant-based foods. Bill is a lifelong fitness enthusiast and longtime plant-based eater, and he is motivated to make an impact in people's health, the environment, and animal welfare.

1991

**JONATHAN MILLER** is a novelist and screenwriter based in San Francisco. A frequent contributor to *Script Magazine* and *Writer's Digest*, he also presents webinars on all facets of film development, from pitching to production.

**MARYBETH WALKER**, who is a certified athletic administrator, was named the director of physical education, health, and athletics for the Penfield (New York) Central School District. Throughout her 30-year career, she has coached several sports at multiple levels, mentored future professionals as an adjunct professor, and been a leader in physical education.

1992

**MIKE CAPOZZOLA** has been a professional stand-up comedian for more than 30 years and is also an actor based in London. His appearances in upcoming feature films include *The Batman*, *Tom & Jerry*, *The Violence of Action*, and *The Fantastic Flitcrofts*.



**JEFF KULIKOWSKY** is co-anchor for Syracuse's top-rated evening newscast at NewsChannel 9, where he has

worked for 22 years serving in a number of on-air roles, most recently as senior reporter and fill-in anchor.

**PATRICK VANDURME** is currently enrolled in the doctor of executive leadership degree program at St. John Fisher College, where he also began teaching during the fall 2021 semester as an adjunct professor in the philosophy and religious studies departments.

1993

**JONATHAN BARTELL** founded Bartell Georgalas & Juarez in June 2021. The law firm focuses on immigration law and criminal defense, and litigates for clients before immigration courts across the country.

1994



**MICHAEL BUSSEWITZ-QUARM** was named the winner of the 2021 American Prize in Composition for her piece titled

*The Unarmed Child*. She was chosen from many applicants from across the United States.

**JOHN CARNESECCHI** is the founder and clinical director of Gateway to Solutions, a group practice based in the financial district of New York City. He

## ALUMNA THINKS OUTSIDE THE BOX

Rory Rubin '92 transforms recycled shipping containers into living spaces.

BY EMILY SNYDER '21

A few years ago, **Rory Rubin '92** began noticing an abundance of abandoned shipping containers across the United States and Canada, and she wondered if something could be done to repurpose the incredibly durable structures.

Rubin spent time researching how other countries repurposed them, transforming them into beautiful, livable spaces. Two years later, Rubin's thoughts grew into her own construction company, S.I. Container Builds. Founded with her husband, Dan, and another business partner, the company takes one-trip shipping containers and turns them into affordable, sustainable living spaces that leave minimal carbon footprints without compromising quality.

"My husband and I will be empty nesters in the next few years and feel that it is our obligation—personally and professionally—to try to be more sustainable and make other people's lives easier, even in little ways," Rubin said.



I needed to figure out how to pair my interests, my skills, my values, and direct my own life. It may seem like a stretch to start this type of business, but when you think about it, it's all about relationships, drive, management, and passion.

Rubin studied psychology and art history at IC before getting a master's degree in social administration from Case Western Reserve University. But she's always had an interest in design and construction, thanks to her father, who was an architect, and she is grateful she got the chance to tap into that passion.

"I needed to figure out how to pair my interests, my skills, my values, and direct my own life," she said. "It may seem like a stretch to start this type of business, but when you think about it, it's all about relationships, drive, management, and passion. It's provided me with the opportunities to see architecture again, enjoy something different, and learn a whole bunch of new skills."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

S.I. Container Builds (the company was previously called Sustainable Imprints) has three different models: studio spaces, backyard offices, and container suites. Every unit uses as many ecofriendly materials from local suppliers as possible and is built based on the International Building Code.

One common use for the containers is as affordable living spaces for a grandparent or adult child, or to provide supplemental income as a vacation home or short-term rental on any property. Containers can be placed on land anywhere from a structured pier foundation to directly on the ground, and they can be used for years with minimal wear and tear.

"It was clear there is a tremendous housing crisis and our company could help support the need for affordable and convenient dwellings in a backyard or on a piece of land," Rubin said. "These spaces have increased people's housing values immediately, creating a positive return on investment."

During the coronavirus pandemic, Rubin saw a slight shift in consumer needs. Many people whose offices were closed needed a private, secure, and clean space to provide services such as personal training, massage therapy, or tutoring.

Another option is using the containers as an online rental to provide supplemental income.

"Besides being functional spaces, shipping containers are low maintenance against wear and tear, rust, and pests and can withstand weather such as fires, tornados, and hurricanes better than a traditional structure," Rubin said. "They come over on ocean liners, so they are used to taking a beating."

For Rubin, the shift in career was a gamble, but it's paid off.

"Starting a company is a huge challenge," she said. "Being a woman CEO in the male dominated construction industry is also a challenge, but at the end of the day, it's yours, and you get to do something you love while making a positive impact for others." 🍀

practices an integrative and didactic approach to therapy that includes many techniques from internationally respected schools of thought. He has more than 25 years of experience from highly regarded institutions.

### 1997 CHARLIE SACKTONES GRUET

served as the director of photography on season 2 of the HBO Max show *The Other Two*, where he also had the opportunity to direct the season finale. He also filmed *The G Word with Adam Conover* for Netflix.

### 1996

**CHRIS PALMIERI** is the president and CEO of Commonwealth Care Alliance. Since 2015, he has led the transformation of the alliance into a \$2 billion health care system that has provided improved health and quality outcomes to its customer base. Chris is also the founder of Winter Street Ventures, Commonwealth Care

Alliance's start-up accelerator and venture investment subsidiary, and recently launched a business called instED, which provides in-home emergency department services. In 2021 he was elected to the Ithaca College Board of Trustees.

### 1997

**GARY HOLMES** joined Mower, an independent marketing, advertising, and public relations agency, as vice president and director of public relations and public affairs. He has more than 20 years of senior management, government, and news experience, most recently as assistant commissioner of public affairs for the New York State Department of Health.



**WAYNE KESSLER** joined Baretz + Brunelle as a managing director. He provides corporate

communications and public relations services to law firms, legal tech companies, and alternative legal services providers. He designs strategic communications campaigns encompassing media relations, executive communications, and innovative marketing tactics that serve his clients' goals.

**BRIAN PIEKOS** is the chief financial officer (CFO) at Gemini Therapeutics. Prior to joining Gemini, he had been the CFO of AMAG Pharmaceuticals since 2015. He has been involved in life sciences finance for the last 20 years.

### 1998

**TARA GERAGHTY** presented *Finding the Fun: Parenting in the Face of Cancer* as the keynote speaker at the New Jersey Strengthening Our Schools annual conference in fall 2020.

## GIVING BACK ON GIVING TUESDAY

Each year in November, Giving Tuesday presents an opportunity for people to give to causes closest to them, and for many, that cause is supporting Ithaca College and our students.

This year's daylong campaign offered people three opportunities to support IC students: by giving to student affairs and campus life through the IC Annual Fund, donating to the Student Emergency Relief Fund, and contributing to the college's wellness app for students.

A total of **231 donors** gave to the **three causes** during the event, raising a total of **\$22,287**.

1999



**JENNIFER CANOLE** became interim executive director of Trinity Repertory Company in Providence, Rhode Island, in October

2021. She has worked in external relations and development with the regional theatre company since 1999. In her latest role, she leads the administrative operations of the organization, overseeing the development, marketing, resource management, and service and experience teams, and helping to advance the theatre's equity, diversity, inclusion, and antiracism work while the company engages in a national search for its next executive director. She continues to serve as the theatre's director of development.



**SETH GOLDSTEIN** and his business partner have launched Hugo Six, a transmedia production company that will

create content for the stage and screen with a focus on Broadway intellectual property and talent. A Tony-winning producer who is currently represented on Broadway with *The Lehman Trilogy*, he has previously lectured at IC. Last summer his company produced a song for *LEGO Store: The Musical*, which is on YouTube.



**KIMBERLY POPIELSKI KRIZ** received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Professional Service in recognition of her

work as executive director at the University at Buffalo School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. She holds a master's degree in higher education administration

from Harvard University, where she spent 10 years of her career.

2000

**CHRISTINA ANDREWS** is an associate professor in the Department of Health Services Policy and Management at the University of South Carolina. She was awarded a National Institutes of Health grant to examine Medicaid programs for substance abuse treatment and to lead a study of Medicaid-covered treatment of opioid use disorder. The studies were launched in response to calls for expanded access to treatment programs for these public health crises.

**JONATHAN BULLINGER** is a lecturer at SUNY Geneseo and a collective memory scholar specializing in late-20th-century U.S. culture around commemorative issues of war and popular culture. His first book, *Reagan's "Boys" and the Children of the Greatest Generation: U.S. World War II Memory, 1984 and Beyond*, was published in 2020.



**JASON FLEMMA** was the court attorney to family court judge Julia M. Brouillette. In 2021, he announced his candidacy for

Oneida County family court judge.



**JAMES DAVID REDDING III** earned a Golden Reel Award from the Motion Picture Sound Editors organization for his

work on *The Queen's Gambit*. He has been working in audio postproduction for film and television for more than 20 years. After an internship at IC's Los Angeles Program, during which he worked on *The Matrix*, he used IC's

alumni network to secure a job at Sync Sound in New York City shortly after graduation. Over the years, he worked on feature films, television series, and documentaries as a sound editor, re-recording mixer, sound designer, ADR mixer, and foley mixer until becoming a freelancer.

2001



**ERIC BERNHEIM** has been named to Connecticut's 2021 Super Lawyers list. Super Lawyers is a rating service of lawyers who have

attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement.

**JENNIFER DEARDEN** was appointed to a four-year term as the associate provost at Allegheny College, having been a member of the music faculty there since 2007 and chair of that department since 2019. She is also a founding member of the Northwest Passage Trumpet Trio, which released its first CD, *Expeditions*, in May 2020. She continues to serve on Erie Philharmonic's board of governors and was recently elected to a term on the International Trumpet Guild's board of directors.

2002

**JERMAINE HILL** is the assistant chair of theatre for the Boston Conservatory at Berklee. Previously he was part of the musical theatre program at Columbia College Chicago, where, as an assistant professor and program coordinator, he instituted a national search for new musicals written by historically marginalized writers and composers. In addition to his work in academia, he is an award-winning theatre artist who is active in Chicago's professional theatre scene.

2003



**Kristen Castiglione**, who was a piano performance and music education major at IC, shares her love of music and teaching by spending her summers teaching piano in the Peruvian Amazon. She is a middle school and high school band director in rural Minnesota who also plays music locally.

**BRUCE WARREN** played multiple characters in the virtual screening of *A Sherlock Carol* for the Westport Country Playhouse. He has also served on the faculty of Jen Waldman Studio, where he has taught acting classes. Additionally, Bruce directed *The Legend of Georgia McBride*, a play about family, community, Elvis, and drag queens. Once the pandemic hit, he joined the full-time team at DonorsChoose.org, where he worked to help bridge the equity gaps in education by supporting public school teachers and their students.

2004



**RICHARD HERBECK** is associate creative director at FIFTEEN, a Buffalo-based, full-service marketing agency, where he has

worked since 2016, formerly as a senior copywriter. He is active in the local and national film community, having served on creative writing teams for Hollywood director JJ Abrams and Bad Robot Productions. He has also written and produced his own podcast and feature film, in addition to teaching a podcasting class.

**VANESSA MOSCHAK** was honored as the New York State Senate 2020 Woman of Distinction for the 52nd district by Senator Fred Akshar. An assistant principal at Broome-Tioga BOCES, she is the founder of Binghamton's Hospital Heroes Meals volunteer group, a meal delivery coordination effort that is composed of volunteers from Broome-Tioga BOCES and more than 65 local businesses to show solidarity and support for essential workers.

2005



**HARMONIE FARROW** has been named to the Association for Healthcare Philanthropy 40 Under 40 list. The

list recognizes future leaders within the health care development community and honors the industry's brightest young leaders who have demonstrated success in their careers in health care philanthropy and are shaping the future of the industry.

2006

**BEN ANEFF** is the managing partner of Tribeca Wine Merchants in New York City, which has been named one of America's best wine shops by *Food & Wine* magazine and noted as an editor's favorite by *Wine Spectator*. In 2020, he was a nominee for person of the year in *Wine Enthusiast's* Wine Star Awards and announced as a 2020 wine industry leader by *Wine Business Monthly*. Outside of his business, he is the president of the U.S. Wine Trade Alliance, an advocacy organization that works to fight against tariffs on wines imported into the United States. He is also on the board of directors for the National Association of Wine Retailers.



DO YOU KNOW A GREAT STUDENT?

Do you know determined and passionate high school students who are eager to make a difference across continents or right in their hometown? IC might just be the perfect place for them. Ithaca College is a natural habitat for next-gen thinkers, innovators, performers, and seekers looking to make things happen. Let the Office of Admission know, so an admission counselor can follow up!

Nominate a future Bomber at [ithaca.edu/nomination](https://www.ithaca.edu/nomination).

## LAUGHING ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP

**Journey Gunderson '04** is named one of the world's top 50 museum influencers.

BY MARISA THOMAS '22

If you're looking for the center of the comedy world, just follow the sound of laughter to Jamestown, New York. That's where you'll find the National Comedy Center, which in 2020 was voted "best new museum" as part of *USA Today's* 10 Best Readers' Choice Travel Awards.

It's also where you'll find **Journey Gunderson '04**, who, in her role as the center's executive director, was named to Bloolooop's 50 Museum Influencers list. Bloolooop, which tracks trends and developments in the museum industry, selected Gunderson for its international listing that also included the director of the Museum of London and the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, among others.

It's just the latest accolade for the museum, which in 2019 was included in *Time's* World's 100 Greatest Places list and *People's* 100 Reasons to Love America list.



I think our biggest accomplishment is that people from all walks of life—from worldly, cultural critics to respected comedians to everyday comedy consumers and tourists—all hold it in high regard.

Bloolooop highlighted Gunderson's ability to overcome the challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic. In March 2020, the museum was forced to close temporarily. But rather than dwell on the negative, Gunderson and her team moved the laughs online, creating the National Comedy Center Anywhere platform to allow comedy fans to explore the museum virtually and drive the reputation of the center forward.

"It was heartbreaking to have to close the turnstiles to visitors just two weeks after being recognized by *USA Today*," she said. "But it enabled us to sharpen our focus on our digital initiatives, which otherwise might have taken years to develop."

Another initiative was the inaugural virtual Lucille Ball Comedy Festival. Comedians such as Jimmy Fallon, Tiffany Haddish, Jay Leno, Debra Messing, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Keenan Thompson, Margaret Cho, and "Weird" Al Yankovic performed. It's just another



PHOTO SUBMITTED

example of how Gunderson and her team aim to exceed expectations.

"My favorite part of my role is working with our staff to fight above our weight and achieve things people didn't believe we could," she said.

The museum opened its doors again in July 2020 with the launch of its LaughSafe health and safety program. All exhibits and screens are now touch-free with the aid of complimentary one-time-use earbuds, stylus, and a LaughCard featuring a radio frequency identification (RFID) chip that creates a personalized experience in the museum.

"Once the pandemic took hold, we knew that we had to create an environment where people would feel comfortable spending the day with us—laughing freely without worrying about their health and safety," Gunderson said. "We worked closely with the chief epidemiologist at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center to design our award-winning LaughSafe program, a stress-free and touch-free visitor experience."

The center also owns and operates the Lucille Ball Desi Arnaz Museum and is an event partner for the nonprofit Chautauqua Institution, a noted education center and summer resort for adults and youth.

In 2019, Congress designated the center as the official United States cultural institution dedicated to showcasing and preserving the art form of comedy and its heritage.

"I am incredibly proud that the nation now has an official cultural institution to preserve comedy's important heritage and tell its story," Gunderson said. "I think our biggest accomplishment is that people from all walks of life—from worldly, cultural critics to respected comedians to everyday comedy consumers and tourists—all hold it in high regard." ■

### 2007



#### NOELLE DREWES

is an adjunct assistant professor at the Sunderman Conservatory of Music at Gettysburg College, where she

teaches oboe and is also a resident artist member of the Sunderman Wind Quintet.



#### JENNIFER RAFFERTY

teaches middle school choir, general music, and high school modern band at Cortland Jr./Sr. High School.

In her tenure, she has been recognized for her passion and excellence in teaching, receiving the regional Apple for the Teacher Award and the Cortland Peer Recognition Award. Her commitment to education has taken her to a national platform, working with other teachers and music departments to share best practices in the classroom and for department organization.

### 2008

**JOSH CRADDUCK** is a network assignment editor at NBC News and part of a team that coordinates breaking news and ongoing story coverage across the country. He joined NBC after 12 years as assignment manager at Spectrum News in Syracuse, where he oversaw a team of reporters and photographers. He is also a past president of the Syracuse Press Club.

**WILLIAM EARL** is editor of *Variety.com*, where he oversees online editorial operations for the entertainment business news brand. He joined *Variety's* parent company, PMC (Penske Media Corporation), in 2011 and most recently served as PMC's director of digital development. In that

role, he worked with the company's brands to strategize growth goals.



**AMANDA JOHNSON** is the chief development officer of the ASXL Rare Research Endowment Foundation,

overseeing fundraising, marketing and communications, and outreach events. The foundation supports research on the ASXL gene family and improving care for those living with ultra-rare genetic conditions. Previously, she worked at the Pulmonary Hypertension Association, DC Central Kitchen, and ARVO Foundation for Eye Research.

**CJ KNOWLES** is the retail sales manager at Brooklyn-based Ark Foods, which grows shishito peppers, purple bell peppers, and chile peppers at their East Coast farms.

**DION RABOUIN** was previously the market editor at Axios news organization and now works as a freelance reporter, writing stories for *Time* magazine, *Vox*, and *Vice*. He was also featured in the PBS *Frontline* documentary "The Power of the Fed." His award-winning work has appeared in financial publications including *CNBC*, *Reuters*, *Yahoo Finance*, and others, as well as on ESPN, *The Hollywood Reporter*, *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, and *The Root*. He is the former host of *Yahoo Finance's Midday Movers*, and he has been a regular contributor to American Public Media's nationally syndicated *Marketplace*.

### 2009

**MARIE LEWIS** works for NASA as a host and commentator on NASA TV for astronaut launches from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. She received an Emmy Award for her work in 2019.



**JEN WALDRON** has worked in the post-acute care industry since 2010. As the senior vice president of sales and business

development for CareAcademy, a post-series-A venture-backed startup, she advises some of the nation's leading senior care providers on strategies for recruiting, retaining, and educating long-term care workers. Her work in this industry and with CareAcademy is focused on properly valuing and professionalizing this workforce while growing the businesses that do this type of work.

### 2010

**DAN SUTER** is an editor at Nice Shoes, a full-service video postproduction company based in New York City. He recently edited content for clients including Gillette, Hasbro, YouTube, Workday, and the Biden for President campaign.

### 2011

**JOSH CANU** has received a second Emmy for his contributions to a Boston Celtics pregame show at NBC Sports Boston. He is responsible for the editing of Celtics studio shows and contributes content to the game broadcast as well. He has been working with the Celtics since the 2013-14 season and earned his first Emmy as a producer/editor on the 2018 documentary *Anything Is Possible: The Story of the 2008 Celtics*.

### 2012

**LEAH GRAHAM** was elected chairman of the board for the Maine Council on Aging in October 2020. She is currently the associate director for the Maine Cancer Genomics Initiative at Jackson Laboratory.

2013

**NAOMI KADUWELA** is the head of Kavi Labs, the innovation and incubation arm of Kavi Global. In this role, she partners with clients and research institutions to cocreate exciting new analytical solutions using emerging technologies. Her business expertise comes from her cross-industry experience in health care, finance, and manufacturing during her time at Kavi and the previous five years she spent at GE. She worked at GE Capital, is a graduate of GE's Digital Technology Leadership Program, and founded the global analytics team at GE Healthcare.

2015

**MAX MASUCCI** joined Cowen's equity research team as a managing director and senior research analyst for life science and diagnostic tools with a focus on oncology, genomics, proteomics, infectious disease, and cell/gene therapies. He joined Cowen from Canaccord Genuity and previously served as a market research analyst at an early-stage neurological diagnostics company.

**BRIANNA RYAN** is the owner of Dance Me, a school of dance and character development in Schenectady, New York. After graduating from IC, she attended SUNY Albany for graduate school and received a master's degree in industrial organizational psychology. While in graduate school, she also worked as a teacher, choreographer, and competition team director at Dance Me before officially taking over as owner in July 2020.

2016

**ANNA FAY** is a copy editor and staff writer for *The Slovak Spectator*, an English-language newspaper based in Bratislava. She edits breaking news stories, cohosts a weekly travel podcast called *Spectacular Slovakia*, creates

weekly reports, edits analyses on political issues, and writes monthly articles.

**ANNINA HSIEH** teaches voice privately with the Lexington and Lincoln-Sudbury school districts, and also works with the Handel and Haydn Society Youth Choruses. She completed her master's degree in vocal performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music.

2017



**Teddy McDarrah**, who was a philosophy major at IC, runs a biweekly philosophy column for Forbes Media, where he explores the effects that philosophy can have on today's leaders. After graduating from IC, he traveled across Europe, working in hostels with his partner before taking a job as an analyst for the Osborne Association, a leading criminal justice reform nonprofit in New York State. He later got a master's degree in philosophy from the New School for Social Research in New York City.

2018

**SOPHIE KNITTLE** is an assistant athletic trainer at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Her first job was an internship position at the University of Hartford, and after a year in Connecticut, she accepted an internship position at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, covering football and women's basketball before being hired full-time.

2019

**RAUL DOMINGUEZ** was selected for the Cleveland Institute of Music's Future of Music Faculty Fellowship, a career development initiative that is engaging 35 Black and Latinx music professionals who are pursuing or considering academic careers. The fellowship is helping prepare them with

the skills, insights, and networks to flourish professionally and influence generations of musicians.



**GRACE ELLETSON** was hired by Law360 to cover employment law, working for their wage and hour team as a general assignment reporter. She started her role after completing a two-year run with *Vermont Digger*, an accountability news site, where she worked as a reporter covering the Vermont statehouse and other political stories. She also spent a year covering the state's largest city, Burlington.

**WILLIAM FOWLER, MBA '20**, is the owner of Midnight Sky Productions, a full-service video production company that produces content for primarily East Coast clients. His company creates commercials, films events and music videos, and assists in producing narrative content for distribution. Midnight Sky has teamed up with LA-based studios and production companies on feature films, pilots, and proof of concept films that have been filmed across the country. He frequently works for the company as a producer or unit production manager.

2020

**PETER MANKIEWICH** began working as a data analyst at Paytronix Systems in Newton, Massachusetts, in September 2021. Prior to that, he graduated with high honors from Boston University with a master's in business analytics. While at Ithaca, he was a recipient of the Peggy Ryan Williams Award and a member of Beta Gamma Sigma.

**MAX O'NEILL** is a sports and education reporter for the *Craig Press* in Moffat County, Colorado, where he covers community stories.

# REPRESENTATION MATTERS

**Geoff Bell '18** uses his creative talents, drive, and adaptiveness to visually represent collegiate athletics.

BY LEAH AULISIO-SHARPE '22

When **Geoff Bell '18** organized a Black History Month campaign for Yale University's athletics department, where he is the assistant director of creative services, he incorporated the theme of "education through inspiration."

Bell worked with the student-athlete of color leadership team, Yale Bulldogs for Change, to highlight Black role models who inspire them. The campaign tied together the impact of racial justice in athletics today and celebrated those who came before.

"We wanted to be very vocal in our support and knew the importance of using our status for a positive influence," Bell said. "We were able to tell an amazing story through our student-athletes about what Black history means, then and now."

In his role at Yale Athletics, Bell oversees all media graphics and design for the university's 35 varsity teams, and his work is associated with nearly every piece of content on Yale's athletics website, social media channels, and recruiting materials.

“ ”  
We were able to tell an amazing story through our student-athletes about what Black history means, then and now.

When Bell came to Ithaca, he had the opportunity to actively engage in his sports media studies while also competing as a student-athlete for the IC football team. Bell leads his work with the same motivation he felt the first time he stepped onto the Ithaca football field, doing everything he can to assist his team. During his senior year, he was offered an internship with IC's athletic communications department, and he hit the ground running under the guidance of the associate director, Justin Lutes.

"It was awesome because Justin and the entire staff worked hard to make sure everyone had equal opportunities to do everything that they could," said Bell. "I really attribute that to my well roundedness and ability to be in the position I am right now."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Lutes even reached out to Bell for help with a project after he had graduated: timeline murals for the football and baseball locker rooms. Bell created the layout and concept, and then assisted throughout the process. That work also served as a template for the Ithaca College Hall of Fame ceremony graphics and the 90-year timeline of IC athletics that is displayed at major events.

Upon graduating, Bell was offered a position to work with Colgate University's athletic marketing department. He was hired by IC alumna **Nina Lindberg '15**, and it was the beginning of their journey as "teammates."

About six months into Bell's time at Colgate, Lindberg was recruited to take a position with Yale University athletics as the director of creative services and digital strategy. It didn't take long for her to get Bell back on her team. After finishing the year at Colgate, Bell received an internship opportunity in Lindberg's department.

"I can't imagine working without Geoff," said Lindberg. "Aside from his talent, he is kind and fun to be around. There's not one person in our office who doesn't love Geoff. His positive attitude is contagious, and, in the end, that's often what matters most when building a team. It's important to surround yourself with good people who make you better, and for me, that's Geoff."

As Bell continues to grow in his role, he said that those coming after him will continue to carry the innovative torch to show us what is possible.

"I have the opportunity to be a role model in this field," he said. "It's a cool thing to think about somebody who's not sure if they can make it in my specific career field, and knowing they can look at me and see they can succeed." ■

**GRANT THOMSON**

is an assistant media strategist at Pinckney Hugo Group, working as a strategic planner in the execution of digital and traditional media campaigns for clients. He produces reports and makes recommendations to ensure ongoing campaign success and also specializes in audience targeting segmentation while providing creative and social insights.

**2021**

**LIZ BIERLY** is an editorial assistant at *Sojourners* magazine in the Cycle 38 fellowship cohort. In her role, she fact-checks

feature pieces, proofreads the print magazine, coordinates the contributing section, uploads all content for the online magazine, processes author payments, and maintains author diversity records. Cycle 38 fellows work and live together in an intentional community with a shared budget, providing opportunities to put their faith in action for social justice. While at IC, Liz wrote for *The Ithacan* and her hometown paper, and was involved in various ministry groups in the Ithaca area.

**Celebrations**

**FRANKLYN M. GOTTBETTER '86** and Danielle Launzel on August 22, 2020, in Los Angeles, California. **Rebecca Gottbetter '22** was a member of the wedding party.

**MARIE T. DESARRO LOUGHREN '04** and Jerry Loughren on June 1, 2019, in Norwich, New York. **Nicole Intondi Halloran '04** was in the wedding party.

**RANDY HOYT '07** and Hillary Schlosser-Hoyt on July 10, 2021, in Rochester, New York.

**DAVID SCHULMAN '08** and Adrienne Webb on September 5, 2020, in Wissahickon Valley Park, Pennsylvania.

**NATALIE JENERESKI '09** and **TYLER DAFFINEE '06, MA '09**, on June 12, 2021, in Ithaca, New York. **Sarah Cox '10** and **Melissa Pope '06** officiated. **Caitlyn Mattice '09**, **Scott Aronowitz '07**, **Alyssa Jaffe '09**, **Mason Daffinee '02**, **Bryan Petti '05**, **Tim Gammons '08**, and

**Lance Dolson '06** were in the wedding party.

**HANNAH MOORE '09** and **ROSS BUNDY '09** on September 18, 2021, on an island off the coast of Maine. The couple were married by **Alyssa Zahlerb** and **Nader Khalil**; and **Molly Bluhm**, **Nina Ginsberg**, **Rhiannon Marino**, **Erik McIntyre**, **Ben Baltimore**, **Rick Tonner**, and **Jon Beck** were in the wedding

party. All are graduates of IC's class of 2009.

**MICHAEL POLAK '10** and **KATIE LICHTENBERGER '11, DPT '13**, on November 7, 2021.

**LEIGHANN MCGLONE '11** and **RICK SUMMERS, MBA '12**, on June 12, 2021, in Turks and Caicos.

**JASON COHEN '14** and Emily Johnson on October 10, 2020, in Winter Garden, Florida.

**ERIK PETER FRID '14** and **MAKENZIE FRID '15** on September 11, 2021, in Madbury, New Hampshire.

**EMILY HULL '15** and Jack Cassidy, on September 25, 2021, in Hillsborough, North Carolina. **Annie Barrett** was maid of honor, and **Sarah Peffley** and **Darcy Ray** were bridesmaids. All are graduates of IC's class of 2015.

**MARY FORD '17** and **ERIC FINKLESTEIN '17** on June 26, 2021, in Chesterfield, New Jersey. **Cat Proulx '17** was in the wedding party.

**Introductions**

**PATRICK BOHN '05** and Ashley Bohn: Declan Alexander, January 13, 2021, joins older siblings, Cora and Sullivan.

**ELIZABETH A. LEIBENSPERGER '05** and **ERIC LEIBENSPERGER '05**: Branden Kyle, July 11, 2020.

**RANDY HOYT '07** and Hillary Schlosser-Hoyt: Wesley Paul, March 11, 2021.

**AMY ZELEZNOCK VOLSKI '07** and Chris Volski: Chase Robert, September 30, 2020.

**FRANCIA COHEN '09** and **ROSS COHEN '09**: Harper Elizabeth, October 29, 2019, joins older brother, Leo.

**DANNY CHEN '12** and **SIERRA CHEN '12**: Miles August, March 8, 2021.

**Farewells**

**VIOLET ALICE KISSEL BENOIT '46**, May 3, 2021, at age 96. After meeting her husband, Dave, during a reunion weekend, they had six children over 16 years and lived in Baltimore, southern Germany, and Staten Island before settling in western Massachusetts in the late 1950s. Violet returned to her work as a physical education teacher in 1960 at Birchland Park Junior High School in East Longmeadow, Massachusetts, where she taught for 25 years. She is predeceased by her husband; her children, Jeanne and Glenn; and her family of origin. She is survived by her children, Suzanne, Scott, Dave, and Robin and (chosen daughter) Bridget; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

**ELEANOR RUSSELL BROWN '51**, July 6, 2020, at age 89.

**JAMES CORRIGAN '52**, at age 93. Jim was a proud graduate of Ithaca College who attended and enjoyed reunions and loved wearing his hat afterwards. He was a U.S. Army veteran, a pilot, salesman, husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

**STEPHEN P. PHILIPS '52**, June 12, 2021, at age 90. Steve was a music education major and member of the Phi Mu Alpha fraternity. Following graduation, he taught music in the public schools of Earlville, New York, and Brick, New Jersey. In Brick, he created and led an innovative fine arts department, one of the first high school programs in the country to integrate the performing arts into a cohesive interdisciplinary program. Steve developed the concept of integrated fine arts programs for public schools into his master's thesis and PhD dissertation, which he pursued at

Rutgers and Columbia universities. In 1966, he was hired as assistant superintendent of the Saucon Valley school district in Hellertown, Pennsylvania. In 1970, he became an associate professor of graduate-level administrative education at Rider College in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, for what became a 30-year college teaching career, until his retirement in 2001. Steve was predeceased by his second wife, Patricia, and his daughter, Catherine. He is survived by first wife, Jean Houston; daughter, Christine Philips; son, Curtis Philips; and stepdaughters, Traci Paterson and Debra Graves, and their six children.

**KENNETH T. BROWN '55**, September 16, 2021, at age 91. Ken enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1948, served in Korea, and was the recipient of two Purple Hearts. After his discharge in 1950, he enrolled in IC's School of Business. Ken began his career working for the U.S. Treasury Department. He was eventually named chief of the organized crime division for the FBI. He retired from the FBI in 1968 and became a private investigator for Wayne County, in Detroit, until 1972. After this, he worked for Harness Tracks and later U.S. Trotting Associates. He was instrumental in starting blood drives in many communities and was recently recognized by the Red Cross for donating 28 gallons over his lifetime. Ken was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Billie; brother-in-law, John; niece, Susan; and son-in-law, Ed. He is survived by his stepson, Rusty, and his wife, Patty Eitel, of Hamilton; special lady, Monica Ephrom; stepdaughter, Judy (Jim) Fitz; children, Nancy (Rick) Burke, Kenny, Cheryl (Dan) Roof, and Marlene; sister, Carleen Skawski; nephew, John Skawski; nine grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

**JOIN THE IC CAREER NETWORK**

The IC Career Network allows you to easily network with other members of the IC community, offer to help students, find a mentor, and connect with each other to initiate conversations. There are built-in communications, templates, a discussion board, "101 resources" for mentees and mentors, calendar invites, reminders, and more! The IC Career Network provides innovative features that help sustain connections and empower alumni to engage in many opportunities:

- Offer or receive career advice.
- Expand professional networks.
- Reconnect with former IC classmates.

Go to [iccareernetwork.ithaca.edu](https://iccareernetwork.ithaca.edu) to get started.

**DAVID R. HARDENDORF '71**

on December 22, 2020, in Fort Mill, South Carolina, at age 71. A television-radio major at IC, he was president of the Alpha Epsilon Rho fraternity. He later served his country honorably while stationed at Fort Dix, New Jersey, for two years in the early 1970s. Dave's career in radio and television media sales included his work at Cox Media and WPRO-AM in Providence, Rhode Island. For many years, Dave was involved with church activities as a member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Providence. He lived in Fort Mill, South Carolina, and enjoyed working at part-time positions in the area after retirement. He was an active member of Grace Lutheran Church in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Dave is survived by his former wife of 29 years, Nancy Kight; his son, Kyle Ganson Hardendorf; his granddaughter, Lucy Hardendorf; and his sister, Kristen Hardendorf.

**NANCY MARGUERITE EVANS HARGRAVE '77**

on March 11, 2021, at Hanford Bay in Silver Creek, New York, at age 65. She earned a bachelor's degree from IC, where she helped to start the first women's hockey team in 1974 and was president of her senior class. She then earned a master's degree in health and physical education from Indiana University Bloomington and a master's degree in educational administration from Canisius College. Nancy enjoyed a career in health and education, working at several institutions, including Erie Community College, where she served for 27 years as a professor of health, physical education, recreation, and American Sign Language. Nancy also taught CPR and lifeguard training for the American Red Cross. She is survived by her mother, Dorothy Evans; husband, David Hargrave; three daughters and sons-in-law, Amy (Joseph) Leo, Dr. Elizabeth (Dr. William) D'Angelo, and

Sarah (Simon) Cox; and nine grandchildren. She also leaves her brother and sister-in-law, Dr. Robert L. (Cheryl) Evans; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Ann and Karl Loos and Mark and MaryAnn Hargrave; her aunt, Leslie, and uncle, Doug Brackett; uncle Dick (Jessica) Lapp; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was predeceased by her father, Dr. Robert H. Evans Jr., and grandparents, Dr. Lester and Marguerite Lapp and Robert and Ida Evans.

**NICHOLAS MAGALHAES '96**

February 8, 2021, at age 46. Nick grew up in Brooklyn, New York, and graduated from Poly Prep in 1992. After graduating from IC with a degree in marketing communications, he became a sales executive and met his wife, Chrissy. Nick was very involved coaching his sons' baseball and soccer teams, and had an amazing talent for cooking. He is survived by Chrissy; sons, Nicholas and Lucas; parents, Nick and Michele; sister, Jayme; brother, Philip; niece, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins. He is predeceased by his mother, Elyse.

**PETER HOLZKNECHT '17**, January 15, 2021, at age 25. A television-radio major whose smile and laugh will be remembered forever by his many friends, Peter was heavily involved in ICTV and other extracurriculars in the Park School at IC. He is survived by his parents and his sister, Emily.

**TO PLACE AN ALUMNI NOTE, Celebration, Introduction, or Farewell, please visit [ithaca.edu/icview](http://ithaca.edu/icview) and fill out the online form.**

ICView reserves the right to edit for length and clarity.

Notes can also be mailed to

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**PHOTOS**

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

**FAREWELLS**

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

This Alumni Notes section includes news that was received by December 15, 2021. 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.

**DRAWN TO DIFFICULTY**

Ithaca College associate professor of writing Barbara Adams reviews the latest book by Eleanor Henderson.

BY BARBARA ADAMS, ITHACA COLLEGE ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF WRITING

As sung by Billie Holiday, the achingly romantic “Everything I Have Is Yours” became one couple’s favorite song—and eventually inspired a memoir of the same name. Subtitled “a marriage,” Eleanor Henderson’s latest book explores her two-decade relationship with her husband, Aaron, and the challenges of living with his drug use and undiagnosed chronic illness.

Henderson, associate professor and chair of the writing department at IC, is a fiction writer with two acclaimed novels. This time however, she turned to memoir because “living in a fictional universe would have required too much energy,” she says. “I needed to write about the experience I was living through—writing gave me a sense of control.”

In 2019, Henderson had received the Ryan Professorship in the Humanities award for this book

project, but with a household often in crisis, she had to wake at 5 a.m. each day to carve out some writing time. “It’s always a miracle when a book happens,” she says. “Some days it felt really difficult to write, but it helped me see what was happening in my life and my marriage—holding it all on the page is the way I understand.”

Her narrative interweaves chapters relating recent years with others of the young couple’s evolving relationship: they met when she was a 17-year-old senior in high school, and he was 24 and working in a record store. Throughout the book, short “irony” and “theory” chapters appear spontaneously as the author finds dark humor in her situation and offers possible medical explanations for Aaron’s enigmatic illness.

This history is a highly detailed, relentlessly honest examination of surviving with suffering—Aaron’s sleeplessness, bloody rashes, pain, childhood trauma, and self-medication with drugs and alcohol all take their toll on him, his wife, and their two young sons. Determined to solve his medical mystery, Henderson doggedly researches the symptoms, seeks advice from professionals, and attends conferences. Throughout, she continues to chronicle the evolution and growth—of herself and her marriage—via introspection, therapy, and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.

In *Everything I Have Is Yours*, Henderson admits being “drawn to difficulty.” The roller coaster ride of her story, which includes the death of both their fathers, is countered by the steadiness of her commitment, to Aaron and her two sons. She acknowledges the good times—and there are many, moments of affection and intimacy—as well as the tough and even crazy times. But as there’s no cure, no ideal harmony to end on, Henderson says, she concludes with a new perspective and a “radical acceptance” of not knowing.

With this memoir, Henderson’s first goal was survival. Another goal was to reach those suffering from complex family issues, to let them know they’re not alone. Drafting her memoir during the COVID-19 pandemic, she was buoyed by a fresh understanding of individual health versus public health—and by the empathy for suffering that appeared nationwide.

Zooming into people’s private worlds, their bedrooms, we’ve all been reminded we have lives at home, Henderson says. “It’s possible I over-trusted, but I wanted to model ways we could be real with each other. We ask our students to bring their whole selves to the classroom—I want my students to know I’m a person and not just playing a role.”



## Books

## DONALD ALHART '66

*Sibley's Christmas Adventure*  
(Arc Foundation of Monroe, 2020)

Alhart's book stars a mouse that goes on a magical holiday adventure. All proceeds from the book sales go to the Arc Foundation of Monroe.

## PAMELA AYUSO '02

*Heptagram: The 7-Pillar Business Design System for the 21st Century*  
(Happy Self-Publishing, 2021)

Ayuso's book guides readers in developing an organization from the ground up, combining timeless business principles and contemporary concepts.

## CALVIN BRANCHE '63

*Dear Dordo: The World War II Letters of Dorothy and John D. MacDonald*  
(LibraryPress@UF, 2021)

Branche's book presents a collection of letters that were exchanged between MacDonald, who was a writer, and his wife, Dorothy, while he served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

## BOB CHRISTINA '62

*Evidence-Based Golf*  
(Independently Published, 2021)

Christina's book is based on the best scientific findings available to make recommendations about how to improve your golf skills and game.

## ANTHONY DIGEROLAMO '88

*Wokeistan: A Novel*  
(Independently Published, 2021)

DiGerolamo's book is a political satire about a student body at the fictional Upstate College that destroys itself over politics after Donald Trump is reelected president.

## JOHN DILEO '82

*There Are No Small Parts: 100 Outstanding Film Performances with Screen Time of 10 Minutes or Less*  
(Glitterati, 2022)

DiLeo's seventh book celebrates the wonders achieved by great performers in brief roles.

## CORTNEY DONELSON '98

*The Outlier's Choice: Why Living an Uncomfortable Life Is Worth It*  
(Morgan James Publishing, 2021)

Donelson's faith-based book talks about the choice to walk through struggles in discomfort.

## GAIL WEISS GASPAR '80

*Carrying My Father's Torch: From Holocaust Trauma to Transformation*  
(Oceanwalk Press, 2020)

Gaspar's moving memoir honors the past while unshackling from it and highlights a generational journey through loss with tenderness and love.

## TERRI LEVINE '79

*The Conversion Equation*  
(Morgan James Publishing, 2021)

Levine's book offers modern sales and marketing strategies proven to breathe new life into outdated business practices.

## FRAN MARKOVER '71

*Grandfather's Mandolin*  
(Passager Books, 2021)

Markover's collection of poems is deeply rooted in family and family history.

## PAUL NELSON '83

*Saving Worms after the Rain - Book 2: Waterfront*  
(Independently published, 2020)

Nelson's book is part of a mystery series that follows a hero who has autism.

## MAUREEN O'BRIEN '82

*What Was Lost: Seeking Refuge in the Psalms*  
(Franciscan Media, 2021)

In this spiritual memoir, O'Brien shares how her commitment to praying one psalm a day gave her comfort and hope.

## TISH ONEY '94

*Peggy Lee: A Century of Song*  
(Rowman & Littlefield, 2020)

Oney's book sheds light on Peggy Lee's musical talent and career that lasted more than half a century.

## JIM RAFFERTY '81

*Leader by Accident: Lessons in Leadership, Loss, and Life*  
(Morgan James Publishing, 2021)

Rafferty's book chronicles a tragedy that thrust him into a demanding volunteer role, and how that experience fueled an unexpected journey into entrepreneurship.

## SARAH SKILTON '99

*Hollywood Ending*  
(Kensington Books, 2021)

Coauthored under the pen name Tash Skilton, the book is a romantic comedy about two friends who attended Ithaca College and later reunite while working at the reboot of their favorite TV show.

## SOPHIA TERAZAWA '13

*Winter Phoenix: Testimonies in Verse*  
(Deep Vellum Publishing, 2021)

A book of testimonies in verse, Winter Phoenix is a collection of poems written loosely after the form of an international war crimes tribunal.

## ROBERT VOLPICELLI '09

*Transatlantic Modernism and the US Lecture Tour*  
(Oxford University Press, 2021)

Volpicelli's book is the first comprehensive study of modernist authors traveling on the U.S. lecture tour and features a wide range of archival documents, including previously unpublished lectures and tour ephemera.

## KRISTEN WILLMOTT '04

*Gender, Tenure, and the Pursuit of Work-Life-Family Stability*  
(Information Age Publishing, 2020)

Willmott's book provides an inside look at faculty and administrator lives in order to better inform policy planning and institutional understanding.

## Music

## SEAN GARNHART '92

*Unhitched*  
(2021)

Garnhart's band, Southpaw, released its debut album featuring country songwriting informed by pop, R&B, funk, reggae, and jazz.

## MICHAEL MOTT '07

*In the Light: A Faustian Tale*  
(Broadway Records, 2021)

A highlights recording of Mott's original musical inspired by the classic Faust legend, the release features IC alumni **Jeremy Jordan '07** and **Lindsay Rider '07**.

## MARY LOU WILTBERGER '78

*The Passion of Yeshua*  
2021

Wiltberger won a 2020 Grammy Award for Best Choral Performance for her participation in the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus and Orchestra's recording of Richard Danielpour's oratorio.

## Film

## TIMOTHY COVELL '04

*Blood Conscious*  
(Dark Sky Films, 2021)

Covell's first feature film as a writer/director, about a vacationing family that turns the tables on a mass shooter who claims to be fighting demonic forces, stars **Oghenero Gbaje '17** in his first feature film role.

## NICK DEEL '08

*Adventures of T-Man*  
2021

Deel's feature-length documentary is a coming of age story about a young African American man with autism trying to build an independent life.

## Streaming

## BRIAN DEMARIS '02

*Journey: Improvisations for Solo Piano*

DeMaris's debut features spontaneous piano improvisations created between November 2020 and December 2021.

(Available on Spotify)

## BRAD FORENZA '04 AND

## BRIAN DASHEW '06

*Around the Sun*

This scripted, episodic podcast explores human connections in New York.

(Available on the Broadway Podcast Network)

## DAVE KLODOWSKI '14

*Things to Know*

Klodowski's songs cover topics, such as the planets in our solar system and the creatures in our oceans, in styles ranging from funk to pop rock.

(Available on streaming platforms)

## ADRIAN MIRANDA '07

*Gross Anatomy*

Miranda, who was an IC physical therapy major, created this online web series, an educational sketch comedy show about anatomy.

(Available on YouTube)

## MICHAEL MOTT '07

*The Only One*

2021

This album is a visual pop narrative about love and loss.

(Available on streaming platforms, with music videos on YouTube)

## TAHIRAH UQDAH-FALAH '96

*MS Mommies*

This talk radio program is a resource for new parents living with multiple sclerosis.

(Available on BlogTalkRadio)

*This listing features submissions that were received before December 17, 2021. Space limitations do not allow us to include photographs.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF BIRDS OF PASSAGE COLLECTIVE

## BOMBER BRIDE AND GROOM

Given that Ithaca College alumnus **Carl Mazzocone '81** owns and operates the historic Inn at Taughannock Falls, it's perhaps no surprise that the first event in the inn's new Enchantment garden venue was truly an IC affair.

**Natalie Jenereski Daffinee '09** and **Tyler Daffinee '06, MA '09**, were married on June 12, 2021, in a ceremony that could have doubled as an alumni weekend event. And tying the knot in front of so many of her fellow Bombers made the special day even more memorable for Natalie.

"The whole weekend was a big IC love fest—two alums getting married at a venue owned by an

alum with over 50 alumni guests," she said. "It was a heartwarming and magical way to celebrate love during a break in COVID waves."

Mazzocone was thrilled to have his venue play a part in the magical weekend of alumni.

"Hosting Natalie and Tyler's wedding as our very first event in our new Enchantment garden venue was a truly an honor. They're both such genuine and warm people, only made sweeter by our mutual connection to Ithaca College," he said. "Our team at the Inn at Taughannock Falls fondly refer to them as our 'number one bride and groom.'"

# Thank You

for your participation in  
Ithaca College's Giving Day  
on April 26, 2022.

Whether you shared a giving image on social media or encouraged fellow alumni to donate, you have made our Giving Day wildly successful.

We are forever grateful for your generosity and commitment to Ithaca College.

[ithaca.edu/friends](https://ithaca.edu/friends)

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