



OAOA, WHAT'S THE WORD

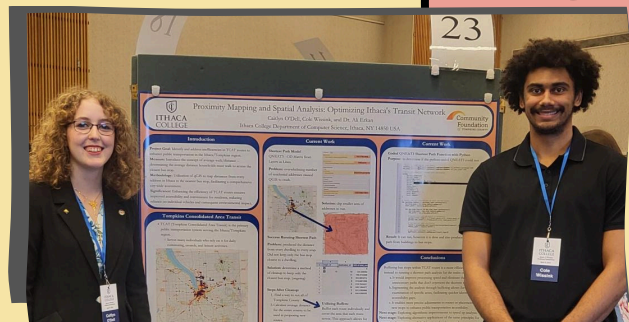
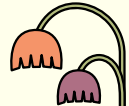
heaven's last newsletter edition

FEATURED

Events Recap
Letter from the Author -
Heaven Cuevas

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APRIL 27, 2024

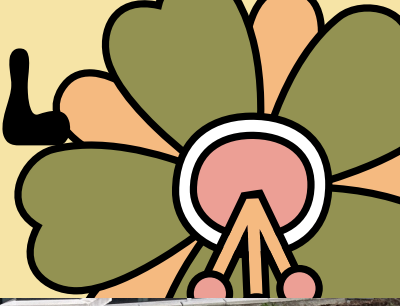
Hey Everyone! Welcome to OAOA's Monthly newsletter. This newsletter is dedicated to all who are reading and we'll be coming to you every month with love, bringing you recaps of events and the latest tea (info) with the office!

EVENTS THIS MONTH

Men of Color Summit, 4/6
Whalen Symposium, 4/11
CSTEP Regional Conference, 4/12
OAOA & BIPOC Unity Center
Cookout & Hoops, 4/13
Day of Service, 4/16
Last TDF, 4/26



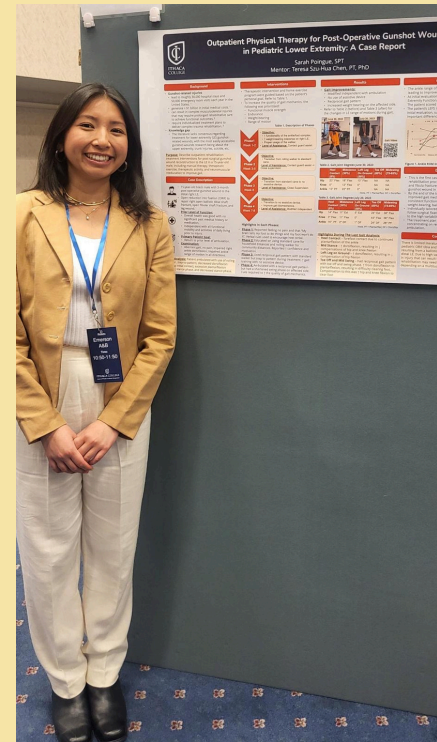
EVENTS DURING APRIL



Men of Color Summit (4/6)



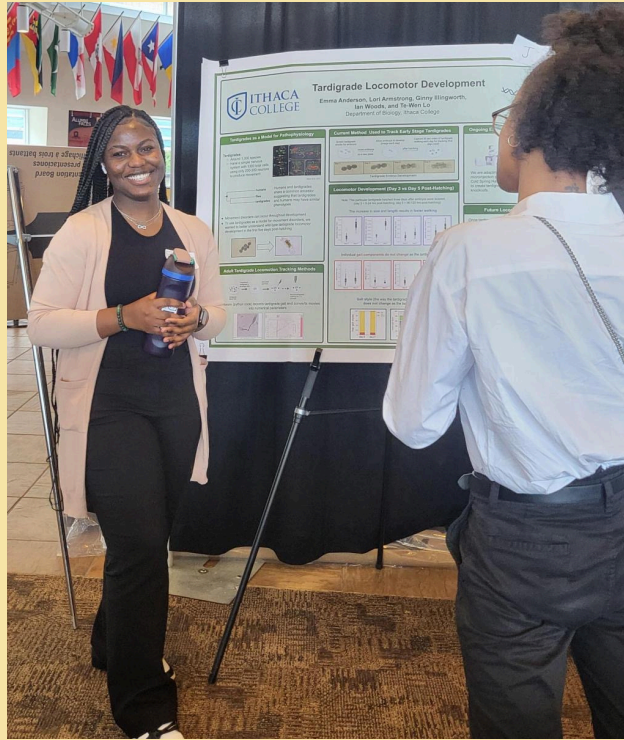
Whalen Symposium (4/11)



EVENTS DURING APRIL

CSTEP Regional conference (4/12)

CSTEP students presented the research they have been working on this semester.



OAOA & BIPOC Unity Center's annual Cookout and Hoops event (4/13)

Students came out to play basketball in the FIT and enjoy a cookout BBQ!



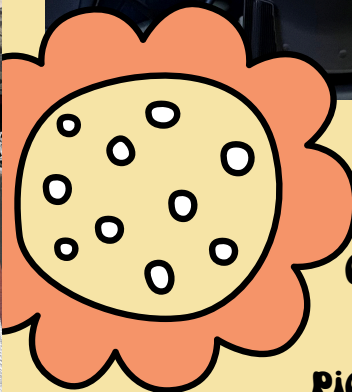
EVENTS DURING APRIL

Day of Service (4/16)

CSTEP students went over to Ithaca Youth Bureau to do science projects with 7th graders, helping them to get more interested in college and science!



The last TDF of the semester: Potato Bar Edition! 4/26



CHECK OUT OUR INSTAGRAM
@OAOA_ic_ FOR MORE
PICTURES OF APRIL'S EVENTS!

LETTER FROM THE AUTHOR



Heaven Cuevas
HEOP '24

Journalism Major

African Diaspora Studies Minor
Communication Specialist

Thank you to OAOA for giving me an opportunity. The name is very fitting. Before I was able to get on Ithaca's campus, I completed my HEOP civic duty also known as SI: Summer Institute. Although HEOP C'O 2024 was on zoom university, I would not change it for the world. I met my lifelong friends in the process and learned a lot from that experience. I came to IC spring semester of my first year at college; I was grateful to come to school and find my home away from home.

My second year of college is where my journey as a Communication Specialist began. I am a Journalism major at the Roy H. Park school with an African Diaspora Studies minor. I knew traditional news reporting journalism was not for me. In October 2021, I saw an announcement about a position for OAOA Communication Specialist. I read the job description and thought to myself, it sounds like a position I had in high school for Social Media Manager. Further, I was given a push to apply by my counselor at the time, the one and only Sihaya. Fast forward to October 28, 2021, I had my interview with Denise, which would be the start to some of the most fun I've had, being able to just create.

At the start of my job, our social media pages were overdue a makeover, and we were beginning to re-brand as OAOA. My co-worker at the time (Andres Lazo) and I were very motivated to make something great and figure out how to grow our community. The best part about work was it was fun and did not feel like work. I got to create things and capture a lot of great memories. Even though I had a lot of fun creating things, the workload was real and sometimes got overwhelming combined with schoolwork! There is a common misconception that my job was just to take pictures (and even some of you made that hard!), but it's not. A lot of thought, intention, and dedication goes into every Instagram post/caption, every newsletter, every event poster/video, etc. So, to those who read the newsletter every month, I thank you.

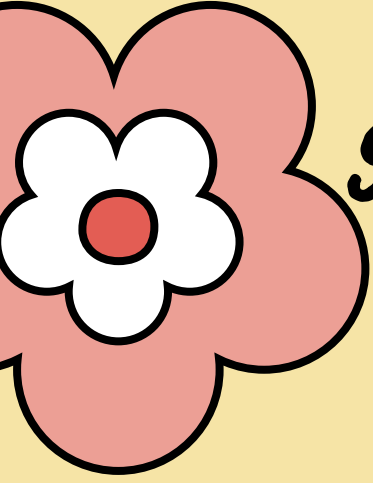
My third year at college was where I figured out what I liked doing, which is being creative and writing about things I enjoyed. Denise and I spoke about what more could we bring to OAOA's community, and she showed me a previous newsletter. It was as if she put a tray of freshly baked cookies in front of me; I immediately was excited to start and was glad to have something writing-based to work on. Don't get me wrong, I enjoy creating posters and videos too, but I am a Journalist after all. When creating the newsletter, I knew I had to come up with a name that sounded appealing but was also school appropriate. One night my friend group chat had rung with a message, a 3-letter acronym that is a staple to NYC, a symbol of my friendships, "WTW?" It was perfect, I wanted the newsletter to have a sense of me in it so that's the name we ended up with.

My senior year has flown by. It seems like yesterday I got permission from Denise to do an OAOA takeover. I finally got to open the newsletters for submissions this year, which was my final task to make sure OAOA socials is as community oriented as I could make it. I wanted the newsletters this year to be as colorful and crazy as all the ones I've made thus far. This will be my 12th and final newsletter at Ithaca College! Purr. That being said you may be asking me WTW, after graduation. You'll just have to tune in and see... @heavenshappyheart.

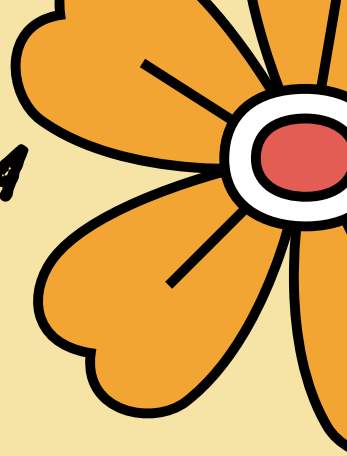
OAOA, Thank You.

Sincerely,
Heaven Bandzzz

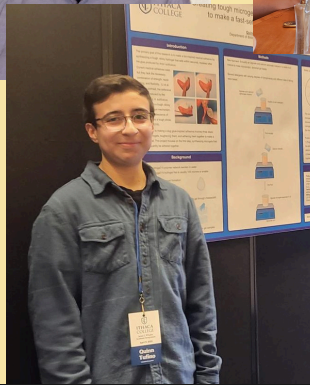
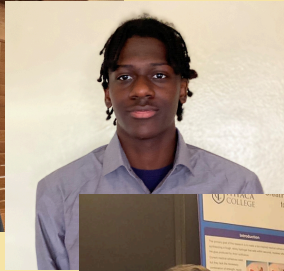
Heaven
Cuevas



Farewell Class of 2024



It's been an amazing 4 years
and we look forward to seeing
where your journey takes you!





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WORDS OF WISDOM FROM HEAVEN BANDZZZ

Change is scary but that's the only way we can grow. Like my great friend always says, "The flowers are blooming and so are we" - Dayanara R.

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If there is anything you'd like to see in the newsletter or any feedback, please feel free to reach out! Also follow all of OAOA's socials and see you next semester!

Once again, I'm excited for the future to come and I pass on the baton to my partner in Communication, Yerry Benitez! Good Luck on Finals and have a great next semester.

-Heaven



