

Connecting with Careers & Community: Feature Journalism

Experiential learning characterizes several advanced writing courses at Ithaca College, ranging from preprofessional classes in editing and publishing and feature and magazine journalism to hands-on practicums in proposal and grant writing and image-text production. Our group presentation, a four-poster exhibition showcasing experiential learning in the Department of Writing, discusses students' application and reflection.

Students will display how they've applied the skills and understanding acquired in their coursework — through writing, editing and publishing; collaborating with professionals in the community; creating artistic and expressive products shared via readings or public exhibits; and interning at a range of professional organizations in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

Writing's advanced courses in **Feature Writing** (WRTG-33100), **Magazine Writing** (WRTG-34000), and **Writing as a Critic** (WRTG-34500) all prepare students to report, research, interview, edit, copyedit and write features and reviews in newspapers, magazines, journals, and online publications.

Who We Are

We are writers, editors, researchers, narrators, storytellers, and gatekeepers of information. Our skills in the editorial field push us to inform the public of certain issues, whether it be through writing articles across various mediums or acting as editors to on-campus publications.

Sara Belcher is the originator, co-founder, and co-editor in chief of *Distinct*, Ithaca College's campus-wide print and online fashion and lifestyle magazine, who has formerly interned with *NYLON*.

Kyra Bean is an intern for regional lifestyle magazine *Life in the Finger Lakes* and publishes weekly articles for their online platform as part of an informative series about each of the Finger Lakes.

Jake Leary is a writer and former reviews editor for *The Ithacan*: his work crosses mediums, including articles, podcasts and video programs. As an intern at the Ithaca Times, he has written cover stories featuring musicians and other artists.

Brenna O'Donnell is the acting editor-in-chief of *Stillwater Magazine*, the Department of Writing's annual literary and arts journal that has been publishing undergraduate work at IC since 1976. She has held internships at Cornell University Press, Communicate Design & Marketing, and now freelances for *Ithaca Times*.

What We Do

We write to be read because we have something to say. Feature and nonfiction work are about taking your ideas and writing into the world and taking the world into your writing. By writing and editing — whether in a campus, regional, or national publication — we are actively sharing our own ideas as well as those of others.

Why We Do It

There are countless stories to tell and we want to give a voice to the ones that aren't being told. To be journalists coming from within the School of Humanities & Sciences is to approach our subjects with a conscious effort to relay the human condition through our work. We combine in-depth research skills with the affinity to appeal to people on a personal and compassionate level. We use the narrative, stylistic craft that we learn in all writing courses and apply this to real-life stories.

As writers, we are taking our talents into the public sphere: we've all had numerous internships outside of the classroom in various fields from publishing to marketing. Not only do these opportunities afford us professional experience but they allow us to express what we're passionate about beyond the campus of a private college. We use our refined creativity to apply our expertise to wider cultural conversations, making writers from Ithaca College key voices in bringing awareness to the issues that matter today and tomorrow.