

HOUGHTONSTAR.COM | EDITOR@HOUGHTONSTAR.COM | HOUGHTONSTAR@GMAIL.COM | TWITTER.COM/HOUGHTONSTAR | INSTAGRAM @HOUGHTONSTAR

NEW BASKETBALL COACH

Columns, p. 3

MEET THE PETS ON CAMPUS

Features, p. 4

"BEST TALKS": THE NEW GUEST PROFESSIONAL DINNERS

Features, p. 5

TWO VIEWS: SUNDAY BUILDING HOURS

Opinions, p. 6-7

ARTIST OF THE WEEK: ZACHARY ROBERTS

Features, p. 8

Bank Space to be Filled by Center for Lifelong Learning

ANNA WRAY
Regular Contributor

As the semester drew to a close last December, Community Bank announced that it would be closing its on-campus branch. According to Phyllis Gaerte, Senior Director of Alumni and Community Engagement, the bank made this decision because fewer students, who had previously been the main patrons, were using its services. This is because many of them now do all of their banking online. Additionally, Community Bank recently bought out Steuben Trust and is in the process of consolidating their branches. The on-campus ATM located in the entryway near the bank space will continue to be operational. Those who need further services can go to the Community Bank branch in Fillmore.

This change left Houghton College needing to come up with something to do with the now-empty bank space. Gaerte explained that the administration wanted it to be used in a way that would continue to bring members of the wider community onto campus, as the bank had. For this reason, the space is being converted into the Center for Lifelong Learning. Once the Center is



COURTESY OF CALEB FESMIRE

The former bank space is now a blank space.

complete, it will be used for a variety of purposes, including as the homebase for the Encore program. Other potential uses could be as an area for online learners if they need to come to campus for some purpose in the future.

According to a press release, Encore is an initiative for local senior adults (60 years and older) to become more involved with learning opportunities on-campus, across areas such as health, recreation, and

wellness (fitness classes, wellness workshops); music and art (participating in ensembles, paper making); and education and learning (auditing classes, book clubs). There are currently 190 participants enrolled in the program, including 50 alumni. Participants' hometowns span three counties, with some coming from as far as 35 miles away. Gaerte said Encore was created in response to senior alumni who had expressed interest in engaging with a learning com-

munity. It officially launched the first week of this semester.

One goal of this program is to promote intergenerational engagement, particularly between senior citizens and current students. Encore is still exploring specific possibilities in this area, but the hope is that the programming will give seniors and students the opportunity to learn from each other. Phyllis Gaerte, Senior Director of Alumni and Community Engagement, says that the college

“hopes that the space (Center for Lifelong Learning) will be a mutually beneficial and enriching relationship between our local seniors and college students.” Because many students move far away from their grandparents when they come to college, this could prove to be a rich experience for those looking to regain the presence of a wise adult in their lives. The same could be true of senior community members whose grandchildren or other family members live too far away to visit regularly.

Casey Jones is a resident of Belmont who has been involved in community outreach for more than 50 years. He and his wife, Anita Baird Jones, a Houghton alumna, have enrolled in the Encore program. He feels it will be “an extremely positive initiative” and says, “most people within a community are not familiar with most of what is available on [college] campuses and, therefore, miss out on these opportunities.” The Encore program can be a step toward fixing this problem. Jones also says that he hopes the program can soon expand to include other members of the community, as well. He commented, “The more knowledge a community

See **CLL** page 2

Faith and Justice Symposium Tackles Interfaith Dialogue

ERIN MAGGIO
Regular Contributor

Last week Houghton College hosted the 2020 edition of their Faith & Justice Symposium, entitled “Around the Table: Interfaith Dialogue.”

Each year, Houghton holds the Kindschi Faith and Justice Symposium—this will be the ninth edition. The symposium is put on by Houghton College’s Center for Faith, Justice, and Global Engagement. The center says the symposium “seeks to create awareness and dialogue around key issues, to facilitate ongoing conversations, and to build partnerships to enhance programs.” The symposium’s continuance is largely in part due to a generous donation to an endowment fund in 2018 by Dr. P. Douglas Kindschi ‘62 and his wife Barbara (Pechuman ‘62).

This year’s symposium took place from January 22nd to the 24th and had a focus on inter-

See **F&JS** page 2

Disc Golf Course Installed in Houghton Woods



COURTESY OF EAGLEOUTSIDE.COM

Brian Webb spearheaded the initiative to bring disc golf to campus.

ELISE KOELBL
Regular Contributor

Grab your frisbees, Houghton—there is a new recreational activity on campus. Many people on campus have heard of one popular disc sport on campus, ultimate frisbee. However, now there is a second disc sport that has recently been installed. In the Houghton woods, there is a brand new course designed around the newer sport, disc golf.

Disc golf is what it sounds like: golf but with smaller frisbee discs. The object of the game is to see how many throws it takes to get the frisbee in a special basket. The person who has the fewest throws to get into the basket wins. There have been a few people on campus who have heard about the new course, but there are still some that are unfamiliar with the brand new recreational activity that sits in the Houghton woods.

The disc golf course is located at the bottom of the ski hill by the Kerr-Pegula Athletic Center, and ends near the baseball field. Like in regular golf, there are eighteen holes. The course is open to the public at any time—just show up with your own disc and play.

Sustainability Director Brian Webb, inspired by his passion for frisbee and ultimate frisbee, helped to create the

See **DISC** page 2

Online Classes Pitched to Seniors and High School Students

JOHANNA FLOREZ

This year Houghton College is continuing to expand its online course offerings, with new options for lifelong learners to audit courses and a set of courses curated to appeal to home-schoolers.

In mid-January, the Houghton website announced that online courses would be opened to auditing by people not enrolled in degree programs. Shelley Noyes, of the college’s Marketing and Communication team, wrote the announcement, which states that, “For those not necessarily seeking a degree but who want to continue learning for personal enrichment, auditing a class through Houghton Online is an affordable choice.”

Auditing allows a student to engage with course content and assignments just as any other student would, but without receiving credit or a grade for the class—and at a lower cost. It is a popular option for full-time

See **ONLINE** page 2

News: Brian Webb Leads Delegation to UN Conference

ANJA OBERG

Brian Webb, the Sustainability Coordinator at Houghton College, attended the UN Climate Conference in Madrid, Spain as a representative of both the United States and the Christian organization, Climate Caretakers.

This climate conference was a continuation of COP 21, when the Paris Agreement, which was the first global agreement to act against global warming, was signed by 187 parties. According to the UN Climate Change Website, The main goal of the agreement is to reduce greenhouse gases, and to keep the global temperature rise below two degrees Celsius. The goal of the conference was to continue the implementation of the agreement between global leaders.

Webb is the head of a Christian group called Climate Caretakers, which mobilizes Christians to address climate issues.

He brought twenty people with him to the conference with the hope of equipping Christian leaders with an experience they could use in leading their Christian communities at home. Following the conference, one of the group members reached out to Webb, saying this was a life-changing moment for her, and she “understands her role as a Christian climate leader so much more clearly now.”

After attending the conference, Webb was both optimistic and disappointed by what he observed. He felt that the conference itself failed to accomplish what it had intended, because “they were trying to tackle some of the more complicated parts of the Paris Agreement, and it totally failed with that, largely because of countries like the United States that are now trying to block the process.” On a smaller scale, however, he felt that the conference was successful in opening the eyes of the people in his group.

Webb was disappointed by the lack of willingness on behalf of more powerful countries, (i.e. the United States, Canada, and Australia) to be engaged in finding solutions. While these countries have contributed the most to issues of global warming, they are less engaged in finding solutions than smaller countries on the front lines. Webb explained that, “Small Pacific Island Nations that are losing their homelands to sea level rise, or impoverished countries like Bangladesh or Sub-Saharan countries that have very little political power. What’s happening is the powerful countries that are causing the problem are not listening to the people on the front lines who are suffering the impacts.”

Greta Thunberg, a climate activist who Webb heard at the conference, expressed a similar disappointment and urged her audience to seek actual change. According to Thunberg, “The G20 countries account for al-

most 80% of total emissions. The richest 10% of the world’s population produce half of our CO2 emissions, while the poorest 50% account for just one-tenth.”

Webb explained the need for more powerful countries to listen and respect other countries. When it comes to being a Christian, Webb stated, “I feel like my role is to honor God in the way that I act, and to love my neighbor in terms of the actions I take myself, but also the policies that I support as an individual within a democratic government.” His personal goal is to hold leaders accountable and simultaneously connect his faith with advocacy for climate change.

There is currently no direct connection between the UN Climate Conference and Houghton College, but Webb shared that Houghton Faculty has recently passed an Environmental Studies major, which will be an option available to students soon. Within this major, there will be

a course on Environmental Public Policy; Webb hopes to eventually connect this course with the UN Climate Conference.

Webb’s hope for the new course is connected to his beliefs of Christians’ roles in climate change. He believes one of our responsibilities as Christians is to be good stewards of our planet, as it doesn’t belong to us, but was given to us from God. He also draws a connection between Jesus’ second greatest commandment and our role as climate change advocates; when Jesus says to love our neighbors, and “we see that our actions are causing direct harm to our neighbors, such as in the case with many environmental problems, we as Christians have a responsibility to act to try and correct that problem.” According to Webb, “The reality is that if we don’t care for the natural world around us, then we are harming the people around us as well.” ★

CLL from page 1

has about a college or university, the greater the support for it being there and, in some instances, community residents becoming involved. I feel this strengthens both a college and the community.” The Center for Lifelong Learning and the Encore program hope to bring the wider community to campus so they can learn what Houghton is all about and feel that there is a way for them to be involved. ★

F&JS from page 1

faith dialogue. Prof. Michael Ritter, a member of the symposium’s advisory team, is a professor of International Development and the director of the Center for Faith, Justice, and Global Engagement. Prior to the event, Dr. Ritter explained to Wellsville Regional News the reasoning behind this focus: “Rather than ignoring the role of religion in public life or downplaying the deep differences between world religions, our speakers will address how people of faith can bring their beliefs to the table and yet build bridges with people who hold religious beliefs different from their own.”

The symposium consisted of a plethora of different events, including speakers in chapel. This year’s symposium brought in three keynote speakers. Eboo Patel and Shirley V. Hoogstra kicked off the event on Wednesday with a conversation in chapel. Patel is the founder and president of Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC) which works to make interfaith cooperation a social norm in America; Hoogstra is the seventh president of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities. The two, in conversation, helped to paint a picture of the current realities in interfaith discourse and life, and brought up questions and

difficulties that surround it.

Friday morning, Commissioner Christine MacMillan, a Salvation Army officer holder appointments in five countries, spoke in chapel. MacMillan is an inspiring and effective advocate of social justice for all people. She called Christians to be “publicly engag[ing] in the world with light and salt.”

Wednesday night there was a kickoff art event in the Stevens Art Studio: “Planting Seeds of Peace: Collaborative Art Activities.” Alicia Taylor-Austin, an assistant professor of art and printmaking, explained the event, saying that they “screen printed posters with illustrated designs visually depicting the theme of ‘planting seeds of peace’ and invited people to print one of their own and/or color the designs as digital prints.”

Friday night, there was the second part of this, called “Cultivating Peace: Engaging the Arts.” This event included the same illustrated poster prints with space for people to color. It also had a demonstration from a visiting artist, Catherine Drabkin, on zoetropes, which is a 19th century paper animation process.

Thursday was full of various workshops and panel discussions where students and others could engage in discussions surrounding interfaith dialogue. Titles of these included “Learning to Listen Well,” “The Many Faces of Pluralism,” “A New Jewish-Christian Relational Paradigm,” “Stories as Bridges-Diverse Intersections for Intercultural Belongings,” and “How Can I Be a Bridge Builder?”

This year’s Kindschi Faith and Justice Symposium, “Around the Table: Interfaith Dialogue,” worked to bring about awareness and discourse surrounding a world full of plurality in religion and beliefs. ★

DISC from page 1

disc golf course that now spans a part of the Houghton woods. Webb disclosed that they have plans to sell special Houghton Highlander discs in The Highlanders Shop, and later discs can be rented from EPIC adventures.

When asked about the uniqueness of Houghton having a course, Webb explained that, “Disc golf is a rapidly growing sport, especially among young people, and is the type of sport that people will regularly drive long distances to play—especially if the course is good. The next closest course is almost an hour away.” Webb went on to add that, “Our course provides a valuable recreation venue in our area... We already have such a vibrant ultimate frisbee culture here at Houghton, and disc golf seemed a natural addition to the recreation opportunities that we have to offer.”

This brand new course has already inspired a new club that was started by Zachary Paris (’20). Paris says that he is “a huge fan of the game of golf.” Some of his favorite athletes are golfers, including Rickie Fowler and Brooks Koepka. Paris heard about the opportunity, attended the meeting for it, and “walked out of the meeting president of the club.” When asked about starting the club, Paris said, “What really inspired me was my love for the game of golf. I watch hours of it during tour season I have a passion for the game.”

Paris expressed that anyone is welcome to join the club: simply email him (zachary.paris20@houghton.edu) with any questions about the club or the activity itself. ★

ONLINE from page 1

college students who are interested in course content or expe-

riences with a specific professor, but do not need the course for graduation and do not want to worry about maintaining a certain grade in that class.

Dr. Ken Schenck, Vice President for Planning and Innovation and director of Houghton Online, explains the rationale for opening online courses to be audited by people not pursuing a degree. “Houghton’s alumni are lifelong learners. I fully expect that there are a lot of Houghton alumni who would be interested,” he says. “Christians often want to go deeper in their faith. We hope that Houghton will become a go-to place for lots of people to find answers to their questions and to find an island if life gets boring.” The classes available to audit include a variety of introductory and specialized courses in music, psychology, communications, business, philosophy, political science, Biblical studies, and other fields.

In addition to the auditing opportunities for lifelong learners, Houghton College’s blog announced a selection of online courses targeted at classical homeschoolers. The announcement by Schenck describes the courses as curated to “reflect the classical homeschooling ethos and provide a perfect segue from homeschool learning to college-level coursework.” Any high schooler can take these courses for \$175 per credit hour. The selection of credit-bearing courses recommended for classical homeschoolers emphasizes political science, philosophy, humanities, and Bible classes, as well as introductory courses in writing, Latin, and Spanish. Bill Lawson, Houghton’s online enrollment advisor, identifies the selection as a mix of “mostly general education courses already offered online. Some of the courses are new as part of the AAS [Associate in

Applied Science] in Christian Ministries.” (The AAS in Christian Ministries is a sixty-credit degree offered by Houghton online.)

Emma Florez is a formerly homeschooled student and current first-year college student. While in high school, she took two online courses through Houghton which are listed on the selection for classical homeschoolers—In Search of Justice and The American Political System, both taught by Prof. Peter Meilaender. She says that they did assist her in her transition to college work: “The strict deadlines helped me learn time management and study skills. Having to form a relationship with an instructor I don’t know in order to succeed is a challenge I face now, and I learned through these courses the communication I need to use to do so.”

The asynchronous nature of online courses—logging on to complete assignments on her own timeline—contrasts with the scheduling of on-campus courses. Schenck notes this as both a challenge and an attraction of online courses in general: “The fact that these courses are usually 8 weeks long means you have to do twice the work each week,” but, “The busier a student is, the more attractive it can be to have an option that doesn’t require you to be in a room at a fixed time.”

Schenck looks to online programs as an area in which Houghton can “grow significantly” in the next few years. Expanding offerings may range from programs for high schoolers to master’s degrees. He says, “We expect these not only to be the kinds of programs you might expect in business and psychology but perhaps courses and programs you might not expect, like Latin and diversity studies.” ★

Sports

Lance Westberg Begins First Season as Head Men's Basketball Coach

CALEB PHILIPS
Sports Writer

On July 23, 2019, Houghton College Athletics announced that Lance Westberg was hired as the new men's basketball coach, following Corky McMullen stepping down after three years as the head coach. Coach Westberg brings five years of coaching experience as an assistant at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, where he helped the team to a record of 83-55 during that time. He also was heavily involved in their recruiting efforts, where he assisted in bringing in six top-50 recruits from Minnesota and Washington. Along with Coach Westberg, assistants Isaac Castellanos and Kendall Aldridge have also begun their inaugural seasons here at Houghton.

Before his career in coaching, Westberg played basketball for four seasons at the University of Northwestern-St. Paul. There, he was a part of three regular season conference championships, three conference tournament championships, three NCAA National Tournament appearances, and a NCCAA National Championship in 2010. During the 2012-2013 season, he was an honorable mention on the all-conference team and was named the conference championships most valuable player.

Coach Westberg received a bachelor's degree in educational studies from the University of Northwestern-St. Paul and had planned to teach math after college. However, when he received the opportunity to coach at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, from head coach Jeff Berkhof, Westberg knew this was the job for him. "I got an opportunity back in 2014 ... and I just got hooked on [coaching] and I knew that was what I wanted to do for a long, long time," Westberg said.

With all that he has learned through his years playing basketball at UN-St. Paul and coaching at UW-River Falls, Coach Westberg says he has developed a "team oriented" style of play for his Houghton team this season. "We try to push the ball and get our shots," Westberg says, "[Defensively], we're not the most athletic group in the world, and we are not going to 'out-athlete' any

team, so if we defend as a unit, we can get stops and contend." Westberg also stresses what he and his players call "PPR", which stands for 'paint' touch, 'post' touch, and ball 'reversal'. He believes this offense can help promote good ball movement and create open, makeable shots for his players.

Currently, through 17 games, the Highlanders sit at 3-14 and 1-5 in conference. The team's lone conference win versus Elmira on January 17 comes nearly two years after the team's last conference win, back in February of 2018. Despite their current record, Coach Westberg and upperclassmen Jordan Holmes ('21) remain optimistic about this new era of Highlander basketball and with the style of play that Coach Westberg brings to this team.

Holmes, who is in his third season at Houghton, and currently the team's leading scorer at 14.4 points per game, likes the way the team runs on offense. "We want to get out in transition and get easy buckets," Holmes said, "Coach [Westberg] has gotten our team in tremendously better shape [this season] and I feel like I can play as hard as I can when I'm on the court without taking plays off."

Coming to Houghton, Westberg made it an intentional effort to get to know his players early on, and says that getting to know each guy has been the highlight of the season so far. "None of these guys knew me before," Westberg said, "They could have certainly made excuses not to buy in or to get up and leave, but they've been nothing but great to work with and they've been buying in." Scottie Berghaus ('21), who has been one of the five main starters throughout this season, says, "I have built a strong relationship with Coach Westberg. He made it a priority to get to know us right away, not only as players, but also as men off of the court."

"Coach Westberg has done a great job of taking new guys coming from high school and returners who ran a totally different scheme and bringing us together as ONE team," Jordan Holmes said. Westberg has made the transition for this team seamless and easy, and they are excited for what looks to be a bright future with him leading the way. ★

Got anything to add to the conversation?

Email editor@houghtonstar.com to find out how you can contribute to the paper!

Ever Wonder...

A Brief Introduction

JOSIAH WIEDENHEFT
Columns Editor

Everyday life is full of everyday mysteries. Small things may puzzle us or incite our curiosity, but we often don't have the time or resources to investigate them more fully. Or, we may just take those things for granted, unaware of a rich story buried beneath the surface.

Ever Wonder... is a new column that seeks to uncover some of those mysteries. We want to look into some of the more mysterious or storied aspects of Houghton's past and present, those things we see or hear about all the time but which many of us have never considered in-depth. For example, why does Safety and Security have so many tiny

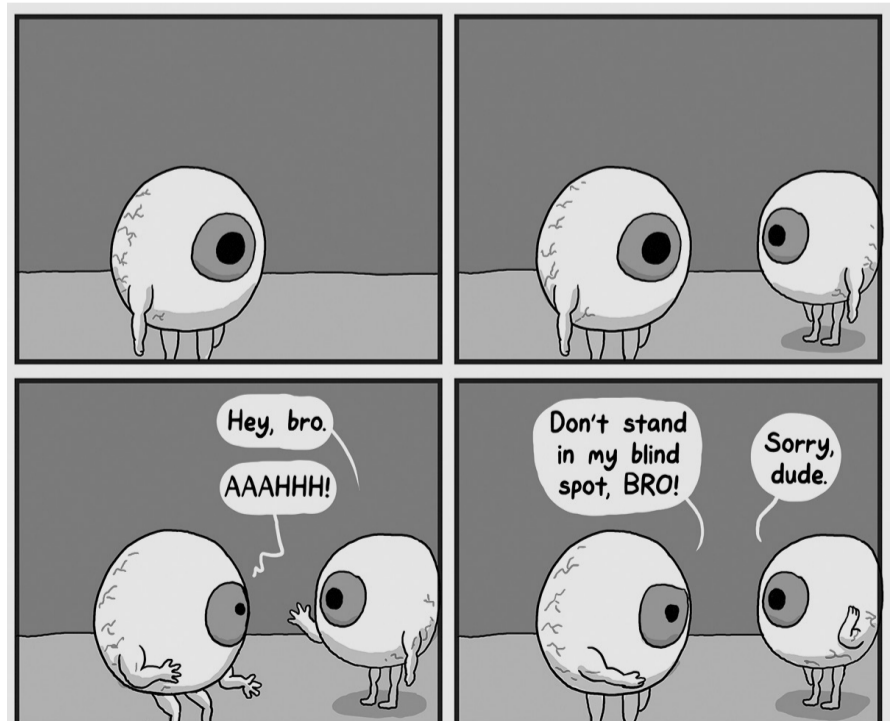
rubber ducks lined up along their window sill? What's the history behind the signpost by the hammock circle? Is there any particular significance to the verses inscribed in stone on the walls of so many of the buildings? All these and more are the questions that are the mission of *Ever Wonder...* and its writers.

We want to hear from you, the reader, as well! What are the Houghton mysteries that keep you up at night in puzzlement but which you have never been able to answer? Send an email to houghtonstar@gmail.com or josiah.wiedenheft22@houghton.edu and we'll try our best to get to the bottom of it! ★

Comics

Heart and Brain

NICK SELUK



theAwkwardYeti.com

Learn About Pets Living On Campus

HALEY TREVINO
Regular Contributor

Hedgehogs, snakes, rabbits, cats and dogs have all called Houghton home with student and staff owners. Some of these animals are here on a mission, trained for service to monitor and support students with special needs. There are also ESPs - emotional support pets allowed on campus for the purpose of aiding a student's mental health.

According to Houghton College's Service Animal Policy, "students generally may only have a pet if they are struggling with physical or mental illness or disability. Students who require the use of a service animal on campus should first contact Academic Support and Accessibility Services [formerly known as CASA] to register as a student with a disability."

One ESP pet on campus is named 'Silverstein,' after the American poet behind the children's book, 'The Giving Tree'. Silverstein is a spritely, friendly little cat with striking stripes, who lives in Lambein Hall with owner Corral Mrozik (20). Mrozik rescued the one-year old tabby only a few weeks ago, and he has since made a difference

in both her life and the lives of those around her. Mrozik commented on how Silverstein helps her find motivation to keep going, and helps with her anxiety. "[Silverstein] enhances my quality of life... it's so exciting," she remarked, with Silverstein gazing up at her, thrumming with a purr.

Mrozik understands and values openness about mental illness; she believes that transparency around the subject is helpful for others. Silverstein is just one way that she raises awareness and helps other students. "Some of my friends do have anxiety and they say 'I just need time with the cat'... I do want them to be able to use him as a resource."

There are other non-ESP and service animals who live on campus as well. Ace and Joey, the two poma-poodle siblings you sometimes see out and about, belong to Beth Phifer, Resident Director of Lambein. Ace and Joey brighten Houghton's campus with their people-loving presence. They became a part of the Phifer family last fall, and Phifer commented that they are "great housemates... I had lots of specific things I was

looking for [in dogs] that Ace and Joey fulfilled." As a bonded adult pair that were trained as therapy dogs, and they met all her hopes. "God really lined it up really well."

When asking about any negatives of keeping a pet on campus, Phifer could not think of anything, and instead reflected on her gratefulness for the Houghton environment. "The Houghton community in general is really supportive and welcoming, but specifically in my core group of co-workers and friends, there is a practical sense of support with exchanging tips and letting each other's dogs out when we need to, and being there for each other in this new and unique way." All of the Resident Directors have, as Phifer calls them, 'fur' children. "It feels like we replaced all the babies with dogs," Beth said with amusement. "This affects the way they strategize and work. We plan our days accordingly ... as we're scheduling we're all on the same page. We know we have to go home and walk our dogs." ★



COURTESY OF BEC CRONK

Pictured at Moss Lake: Bec Cronk, Nuk Kongkaw, and Beth Phifer with Phifer's dogs Ace and Joey.

Houghton ROTC Develops Future Leaders

MOLLY BRIZZELL
Regular Contributor

Leadership is one of the main skills looked for in the business world today. It has become an essential part of the way businesses function, for employees to have the ability to seamlessly transition into any position they're placed at. There are many ways to learn these leadership skills, and at Houghton, there is a special program that provides this training for its students while also serving their country: the ROTC.

ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) at Houghton is, according to the Houghton site, "an effective course that combines in-class academics and important hands-on training." The program harnesses both activity of the mind and the body in order to "develop confidence, self-esteem, motivation and leadership skills you'll need regardless of your career plans." It pushes its students to find a new and patriotic way to gain the skills they need for their future careers, and is led by Major Martin Hatch.

In an interview with ROTC members, Ethan Yung ('21) and Titus Snavely ('21), they commented on the content of the ROTC program. Yung shared that "Army ROTC had taught me how to serve my community and country." He then went on

to say how it led him to take on leadership roles in other programs he's a part of, including being the team chaplain of both his cross country and tennis teams. Titus Snavely ('21) also reinforced the development of leadership in the program, adding that "the program forces you to learn and adapt to become better at time management... ROTC is a combination of classroom learning about different military aspects as well as how to be an effective leader," Snavely said. "[There are] also lab activities to engage different hands on exercises to expand on what we are learning in the classroom."

Yung took it a step further as he described the classroom and physical settings. "Every week, the cadets went to Alfred University to take the class and then the lab," Yung said. "For the lab, we performed infantry maneuvers, ambush tactics, MEDEVAC protocol, handling weapons, land navigation, marching, and more." This fusion of classroom learning and physical training is the part of the program that challenges students to be adaptive to excel in different environments. They must be able to perform well in the classroom and set an example, while also encouraging the students around them in an athletic setting to keep working together.



COURTESY OF FLICKR: EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Pictured: ROTC Uniform and Motto

Many who hear about the ROTC program may fear that it binds them to military service out of college. However, according to Snavely, it does not. "I think that it is important for people to know," Snavely informed the STAR, "especially those interested in trying the program, that the class and lab can be taken purely as an elective without there being a com-

mitment to joining the military unless they seek different scholarships options if they would like." Though the program trains students in a way to prepare them for military service, it is not binding, and it wants to see its students flourish and succeed in any field.

The ROTC program offers a unique challenge to helping students at Houghton gain

an imperative set of skills for their futures. It is a good way for students to bond together with not only people of their own institution, but also those of the institutions near them. As Snavely puts it, no matter what, "they can learn skills that can help them lead others in any profession or environment." ★

BEST Talks: Guest Professional Dinners Rebranded

DAVID BOWERS

Guest Professional Dinners, those dinners in the south end of the dining hall that non-business majors are perennially confused about, are now BEST Talks. The acronym stands for Business, Education, Science, and Technology.

The dinners, which feature alumni and friends of the college speaking on how their career has benefitted from a liberal arts education, and which offer opportunities for students to network with potential employers, are being given the facelift to broaden their appeal beyond the business department.

The Office of Advancement, which organizes the events with assistance from the Office of Vocation and Calling (formerly VOCA), began considering a rebrand in the fall semester. Originally, the team spearheading the shift considered the name “JED Talks,” which Emily Vandenbosch of Advancement says was intended to be a play on the popular TED Talks, and was to stand for Journey, Explore, Develop.

Karl Sisson, Vice President for Advancement and External Engagement, however, was eager to open the process to students. Seeing the efforts of Jared Couch and Joseph Gross starting the student section for sports games known as ‘The Den,’ and noticing their presence at Guest Professional Dinners, he reached out to them to see if they could work their student-engagement magic.

He also contacted Professor Joseph Miller, who in turn reached out to Noah Miller (‘20), president of Houghton Student Enterprises and founder and CEO of Griddle Studios, encouraging him to get involved in the rebranding process through either HSE or Griddle. Couch says, “Mr. Sisson had reached out to Joey [Gross] and I, as well as Noah Miller, in the hopes that we could offer some insight to the students’ perspective of the Guest Professional Dinner rebrand.”

In a January 21st meeting with Sisson, Couch, Gross, Dennis Stack of the Office of



Pictured: New Logo of BEST Talks

COURTESY OF GRIDDLE STUDIOS

Vocation and Calling, and others, Miller pitched his branding proposal. It included the new name, BEST Talks, with the promise of logo and poster designs handled by Griddle going forward.

Griddle’s proposal was warmly welcomed by the team. Sisson called it “wonderful” that students were getting involved in the process, saying of the name “if that’s what students are putting forward, great!” Stack, too, expressed excitement, saying “[Griddle] explained [their proposal] quite well, I thought, and with a lot of confidence I might add. And the vice president liked it, and I think just about everybody else did too.”

Gross expressed gratefulness for Miller’s expertise, saying he “has truly been an amazing benefit to this project with his knowledge of business, marketing, and his graphic design abilities.”

Miller, not any Griddle team, will be handling the actual design work going forward. According to Miller, Griddle, which has operated as a student business providing graphic design internships, is in the process of restructuring to become a kind of middleman between independent contractors and students who need experience. His role in designing branding

for the BEST Talks will be, in Miller’s words, “the test run for the independent contractor idea.”

This is not the first time Sisson has pushed to rebrand the dinners. When he started working at Houghton, he said, they were called Guest Executive Dinners. Since that had become inaccurate – the guests are by no means all executives – and since it sounded exclusive and only relevant for business majors, Sisson changed the name to Guest Professional Dinners. The hope was to broaden their appeal beyond the business department. He says that while attendance has gone up since that initial rebrand, they still draw predominantly business majors.

Stack, however, mentioned that last semester some of the talks were held in other spaces because they were unable to fill the South End.

This time, then, the primary focus is on bringing in students from a wider range of majors, not just increasing attendance. Sisson says he hopes faculty from all departments will begin attending the talks, see the value in them, and then encourage and incentivize their students to attend, much as the business department already does.

Stack, whose Office of Vocation and Calling runs the annual Sophomore Leadership Confer-

ence, remarked that the personal invitation faculty and staff can give students to attend the conference is a significant factor in many of the students’ decision to attend, and hopes the direct invitation approach will translate to BEST Talks.

Sisson hopes that all students, even those not going into a professional field, will go to at least one BEST Talk. While the new name suggests a broader array of students who could benefit from it, Sisson says even a theology major could grow from attending one: “What is a theology major? What are the challenges that they have once they’re actually in a local church? It’s the management of people. It’s the psychology that’s beneficial. It’s ‘how do I manage the business components of this? How do I utilize the technology appropriately.’ All of those things are overlapping.”

Sisson also emphasized that the program is open to community members as well, including the “about 200 local seniors” enrolled in the newly-launched Encore program.

Elijah Tangenberg (‘20), a political science major who has not attended Guest Professional Dinners, said that while he’s often interested in the mission of speakers’ companies, he usually gets the impression from adver-

tising materials that “they’re going to talk about the PR or management side of it, not actually what the company does.” Tangenberg thought he’d find the dinners more attractive if advertising materials didn’t lead him to conclude that they’re mostly about the day-to-day functioning of a particular business. The status quo, he says, is “a little too nitty-gritty for me.”

Seth Feldman (‘22), who also has never attended the dinners, has a different perspective. He feels that the dinners have not been well-publicized and information about the speakers and their backgrounds has not been made easily accessible. Feldman says, “If there was, like, more information provided on who’s speaking... if they had something more in advance,” he would feel better informed to make a decision about attending.

Skylar Hillman (‘20), while agreeing with Sisson that the dinners are open to students of all majors, questions the importance of trying to cater to a broader audience. “The idea that it appears that it’s only for business majors,” Hillman says, “Well, that’s not true. Anyone’s welcome.” But he continues, “why don’t you rebrand the lyric theater to make it more [open]? I mean, Guest Professional Dinners will almost inevitably appeal more to business students, but still being open to anyone.”

As far as possible next steps, Sisson hinted at the possibility of more collaboration with Math & Science Colloquia and Mosaic Center Talk Backs. This, he said, was Miller’s idea: “Noah [Miller] said, ‘Hey, could you wrap in the Math & Science Colloquiums under the BEST umbrella?’ I said maybe, but I don’t have the time, now, to do that. But I can imagine that conversation between now and next fall.”

The first BEST Talk of the semester is on Tuesday, February 18 by Phil Warrick, an executive for an engineering firm who has also worked at ExxonMobil. It will be held in the South End of the dining hall. The dinner will begin at 5, and Warrick will give a presentation and answer questions from 5:30-6:15. ★

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Thanks to Ransom Poythress for this sunrise photo!

Look for student submissions in our next issue on February 14.



Two Views on Sunday Building Hours: Choose Your Sabbath



COURTESY OF HOPE BARNES

CALEB FESMIRE

As I write this it is a Saturday evening. I am mapping out the homework that I will have to complete over the next few days, including the two projects I'll need to work on for my two studio classes in the Mac Lab in Chamberlain. The only problem: I won't be able to access the lab until late tomorrow afternoon, when they finally open Chamberlain for use. And that is wildly inconvenient.

I understand the reasoning behind keeping most of the campus closed on Sunday morn-

ings. It encourages students to take a sabbath and refrain from doing work on the Lord's day. It encourages students to attend a church service at one of the many local churches. It also encourages students to relax in fellowship. But all of these reasons fall short in providing a convincing argument for why the buildings should be closed on Sunday mornings.

Firstly, students should have the freedom to make their own decisions about how to observe the Sabbath. Some might elect to observe theirs on a Saturday instead of Sunday, to give themselves a break after a long week before diving back in to work. Others may not see it as a crucial aspect of their faith

"We need to open the campus sooner on Sundays."

expression. Restricting access to important resources such as the Mac Lab on Sunday greatly inconveniences those individuals that choose to observe the Sabbath on a different day than

the traditional Sunday.

Secondly, churches have services at a variety of times. True, many meet in the mornings, but several meet in the afternoon or evening. I have many friends who attend Sojourners Mennonite Fellowship, where the weekly service begins at 4 p.m. By the time they get back to campus, most of the buildings have been open for an hour and

they would not have had the opportunity to take advantage of them. Any homework they may have wanted to accomplish that morning that requires resources in these buildings would have

"...students should have the freedom to make their own decisions about how to observe the Sabbath."

to wait until after dinner. It can lead to time being wasted in the morning and make scheduling the rest of your weekend an overly complicated affair.

Finally, there is only so much that it encourages students to relax with their fellow students. On a Sunday morning, there are only a few spaces open to students who wish to spend time with friends, and fewer to those who have friends of the opposite sex. To hang out with those friends, you're limited to the main lounges of the dorms and the campus center— which, if that's where everyone is going, will be loud and crowded. If you want to work on homework with a group, or watch a movie, or have a conversation, these places are not an ideal place for such activities. They can make it hard to concentrate, and to hear or speak to others.

And in this present season, which covers a large portion of the school year, the outside is not really an option.

We need to open the campus sooner on Sundays. While many students could stay in their rooms and only converse with friends who share the same living space, working on the homework that does not require specific facilities, these options are both inconvenient to the students that do require those facilities. It also flies in the face of our school's emphasis on community, restricting our ability to forge and maintain meaningful relationships with other people on campus. Opening Chamberlain and its ilk sooner on Sundays will provide students with more freedom to study, worship, and spend time in fellowship in the way that most works for them. ★

Caleb is a junior majoring in Writing and Media Arts and Visual Communication.

Rethinking Our Attitudes



COURTESY OF BRYCE PRESTON

JORDAN SIMMONS

Do you ever have a task that you think you could never accomplish? Do you ever think that there's a situation you will never be able to get yourself out of? Well, don't fret; everyone is put into the face of adversity at some point in their lives, but not everyone knows how to effectively alleviate themselves from their problems. Most people sit around and say "I can't do this" or "I'll just give up" whenever they see a problem in their path. But few people ask the simple question that will help them find a way to see a light at the end of the tunnel: "How can I?" When we ask ourselves this question, we are looking past our initial fear of the task

and beginning to actively seek out possible solutions. I firmly believe every problem we come across can be overcome if we ask ourselves this question and genuinely work through it to find an answer.

Whenever we say "I can't" we are only doubting our own abilities and making the obstacles around our life ever more present. There is nothing we can't do; sure, there may be tasks that we don't want to do, but saying "I can't" has an entirely different connotation. By saying those words, we are holding ourselves back from the numerous possibilities and opportunities at stake in our life. Since there is nothing we can't do, the initial goal is to change our mindset and attitude towards our own life.

Your attitude is the first thing people see and the last thing people remember of you; it plays a huge role in how people perceive

"Whenever we say 'I can't' we are only doubting our own abilities and making the obstacles around our life ever more present."

"Changing your attitude from a negative to a positive one will greatly change the results of your endeavors in a positive way."

you as well as the outcome of any given situation you may be in. You control the atmosphere around you, and everything that happens is the sole result of your attitude. Will you be successful in everything that you do? No; however, a positive attitude and outlook can turn your experience into a positive one no matter what the outcome. Being known for your positive attitude is great in that your poise and energy will rub off on to others around you.

Also, your success will stem from how well you are able to maintain your character and good vibes. The attitude that you choose to have is worn like a shirt; everyone can see it and will subconsciously judge you based off of it. Changing your attitude from a negative to a positive one will greatly change the results of your endeavors in a positive way.

Most people say that they "can't" do something before ever trying it because of the lack of confidence they hold for themselves. This lack of self-confidence translates into fear: the fear of bad results, change, denial, or loss. Worrying is like standing by a street in the rain with a raincoat and waiting for a car to come by and splash you. We need to learn to move on from our past failures in order to grow to be successful. Building up the confidence in order to achieve this is hard, as it

can easily be shattered like glass. But once this confidence has been built, use it to help believe in yourself. You are your greatest cheerleader as well as your greatest Negative Nancy. Start telling yourself you can do something and you will do it to the best of your ability. Stick with positive energy and remove the doubt and fear from your life.

Achieving this mindset is not an overnight goal, and it requires active repetition every day, 24/7. Every day you'll be practicing to not limit yourself into saying you can't do something. Doing this a little bit every way will add up to the result of the word "can't" being removed from your vocabulary. Once you begin this habit and notice the changes within yourself, you'll soon become aware of the opportunities all around you. ★

Jordan is a sophomore majoring in Music Education.

Two Views on Sunday Building Hours: Keep the Sabbath Holy



COURTESY OF ANNA SCHILKE

ANNA JUDD

week has gone, the fulfillment of the need to stop and catch our breaths that has been built into human nature since the day we were created.

When I read that quote, I wanted to go tell it to every last student at Houghton.

In my time here, I've heard plenty of grumbling about the fact that the academic buildings close on Sundays. Most of the unrest boils down to this: it's inconvenient not to be able to work in those spaces for one day of the week. We have classes on Monday to get ready for. We want to accomplish things on Sunday. There's work to be done.

If you've ever said or

“...the Sabbath isn't something that waits for us to complete our responsibilities.”

sponsibilities. “It's the rest we take smack-dab in the middle of them, without apology, without guilt, and for no better reason than God told us we could.”

God told us we could. Not only that, God told us we must. I couldn't agree more with AJ Swoboda that the church doesn't take the Sabbath nearly seriously enough. The pattern of work and rest is built so deeply

many of us routinely break one of them every week?

“Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy,” we are told in Exodus 20:8-10. “Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God.” The point of the Sabbath commandment is to honor God by giving him our time. We say that work is not the most important thing in our lives, not so crucial that we have to spend all seven days of our week on it. Rather, it is something we can set aside for a day - even if unfinished! - to pay undivided attention to God. Keeping the Sabbath means putting God first in our lives.

So what does this mean for Houghton and our views on building hours? The way Houghton structures itself reflects what it values. Closed buildings on Sundays are a statement that God, and the pattern of work and rest that he ordained, are more important than another twenty-four hours to grind away on papers. If you ask me, it's a remarkable thing that an educational institution is willing to put academics in

second place in favor of keeping Sunday holy. We should be cherishing that decision, not fighting it!

Near the end of Subversive Sabbath, Swoboda writes: “The church's witness is deeply connected to one thing: Jesus. And that means living differently from the rest of the world. But do we ever see ourselves as living in the world with a different orientation of time?...the church becomes that one space where the ultimate and ideal expression of human life is embodied and where slavish obedience to the clock is absent. Here, Jesus is Lord. Not the clock.”

I won't pretend this is easy for college students. To live the Sabbath, you may need to overcome procrastination to work ahead on Saturday, or on the flip side, overcome perfectionism and learn to stop even when there are loose ends left. I've faced temptation from both sides in my Sabbath journey, but the effort is more than worth it. When it comes to this issue, Houghton's locked doors are actually an opportunity: an opportunity to let Jesus - not the clock, not the syllabus, not the Moodle dropbox - but Jesus control the structure of your life. Will you accept the invitation? ★

Anna is a junior majoring in Philosophy.

“Closed buildings on Sundays are a statement that God, and the pattern of work and rest that he ordained, are more important than another twenty-four hours to grind away on papers.”

thought something like this, I invite you to look back to the top of the article and read that quote again. Of course there's work you could be doing on Sunday. This is college; there's always work you could be doing! But the Sabbath isn't something that waits for us to complete our re-

into the fabric of our reality that God himself followed that pattern as he created. Honoring the Sabbath is one of the Ten Commandments, right alongside prohibitions on lying and adultery. We may know the commandments by heart, but do we really think about the fact that

Have an opinion you want to share?

CONTACT

owen.hardiman22@houghton.edu

SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less

SUBMIT TO editor@houghtonstar.com



The mission of the Houghton Star is to preserve and promote the values of dialogue, transparency and integrity that have characterized Houghton College since its inception. This will be done by serving as a medium for the expression of student thought and as a quality publication of significant campus news, Houghton area news, and events.

HOUGHTONSTAR.COM | EDITOR@HOUGHTONSTAR.COM | HOUGHTONSTAR@GMAIL.COM | TWITTER.COM/HOUGHTONSTAR | INSTAGRAM @HOUGHTONSTAR

The Houghton STAR

2019-2020 Staff

JOHANNA FLOREZ // Co-Editor-in-Chief

DAVID BOWERS // Co-Editor-in-Chief

RILEY GASTIN // News Editor

JOSIAH WEIDENHEFT // Columns Editor

GERI EDWARDS // Features Editor

OWEN HARDIMAN // Opinions Editor

CALEB FESMIRE // Web and Photos Editor

SUSAN BRUXVOORT LIPSCOMB // Faculty Adviser



Artist of the Week

Zachary Roberts

 // Senior Applied Design and Visual Communication Major


I love to make art to give a sense of what reality could be; or at least to show a fascinating new one.

