Belmont Travel Center to Open in Fall 2020

LUKE HUIZENGA
Regular Contributor

Over the past three years, the Allegany County Industrial Development Agency (ACIDA) has been working on the Crossroads Project, the construction of a water pipeline, hotel, restaurant, and travel center just south of the intersection of I-86 and Route 19. The construction is near the Crossroads Center, a conference building by the ACIDA and Allegany County Planning Board. The project is based on the goal of improving economic development in the county by means of increased tourism and sales tax revenue.

The new buildings will also provide jobs for locals, tackling unemployment in the area. Should the project succeed, it is important, not only to aid the county as a whole, but those in the Belmont area.

The first part of the Crossroads Project is the effort to build a water pipeline from Belmont to Friendship, started in August 2019, and was completed in February 2020. The pipeline was planned to be the start of the project from the beginning. It is expected that the pipeline will feed water to the new construction at the Crossroads, but also to the local residents. This part is crucial because one of the primary goals of the project is to aid not only the county as a whole, but those in the Belmont area.

As building continues, the ACIDA has announced that a Quicklee’s travel center is set to open to the public this summer or early fall. The travel center is part of the Crossroads Project to be built at the location in Belmont. As construction has gotten underway, the ACIDA is now able to release more details on what the Quicklee’s will be offering and what it will look like.

The travel center will include a fueling station and a small café. The café is a chain that has yet to be announced. There will also be a sit-down grab-and-go option available. Finally, a convenience store will be attached to the shop and café as well.

The construction of a travel center in Belmont is part of a larger plan to bring more visitors to Allegany County. Dr. Craig Clark, Vice President of Allegany County Economic Development, said that the Crossroads Project is taking full advantage of its placement right by Route 19 and I-86. “One of the goals is to attract more tourists,” he explained. “People need a place to stop and get gas, and this is right off the interstate.”

There will be a large sign directing travelers where to turn to find the Quicklee’s. Clark said, “If you head north on I-86, take the South Creek exit. The sign should be just after the exit. If you head south on I-86, take the exit for South Creek. You will be looking for a new sign on the right-hand side of the road.”

The property where the travel center will be located, as it was in August 2019. The building at the center of this photo has been torn down to make room for the new construction.

Students to Republish Biography of Former Houghton President Luckey

VICTORIA HOCK
Regular Contributor

Houghton Student Enterprises (HSE) is working to republish a biography of former Houghton president Dr. James S. Luckey. The effort is led by Samuel Malafy (’21) and Cory Messerschmidt (’21). The biography, entitled The Man of the Hour, was written by Erma Anderson Thomas and published in 1937. It is held in the Wesleyana Collection, a room in the corner of the second floor of the library.

According to the Houghton College Library website, The Man of the Hour is a biography of the life of Dr. James S. Luckey. As many of the campus community know, Luckey is a prominent figure here at Houghton College. He was one of the first academically trained presidents, and in addition, there’s a building that bears his name on campus. Perhaps most famously, we have our mascot, Luckey the Lion.

Messerschmidt noted that it is important to recognize the many people who contributed to Luckey’s career and accomplishments. Including Dr. Luckey’s former colleagues, students, and faculty members who wrote chapters, working with 15 concerned off-campus sources, “This is the first biography of a Houghton president. Anyone who is familiar with Luckey’s career will enjoy reading these chapters,” said Messerschmidt. "The book has a lot of interesting stories about Dr. Luckey's time at Houghton, and it is a great resource for anyone looking to learn more about his legacy in the college community."
continued, “The travel center will also serve the three colleges in the county, and will be bringing in additional sales tax for the county.”

It has been ten years since there was a working fueling station in Belmont. With the new travel center set to open this fall, locals can expect more traffic soon. This should eventually aid Houghton’s Academic Dean’s efforts to set up a travel center in Belmont. With the new travel center, there will be a working fueling station, and there will be a lot of different aspects that are going to be present with the new travel center.

Messeschmidt added that there are a lot of different aspects that are going to be present with the new travel center. He feels that this book is definitely a significant contribution.

LUCKY

he felt that this book is definitely an important part of the college’s history. Both he and Malafy also added that “not many students know too much about the rich history of the college, so that’s just one of the reasons why we chose this book in particular to update.”

Messeschmidt and Malafy saw this lack of awareness as a problem. They felt that more students should get to read this book. So, Messeschmidt explained that they knew he and Malafy had to do something, so they decided to turn to Houghton Student Enterprises, which he explained is “a group where students, under the direction of Professor Joseph Miller, have the opportunity to put business ideas into action.” Though the group as a whole is run by a professor, most projects are student-run.

Messeschmidt explained that there are a lot of different aspects that are going to be present with the new travel center. He feels that this book is definitely a significant contribution.

the mysterious boxes strike again! After their appearance in front of the library in the fall, when many speculated that they were a SPOT promotion, they’ve now appeared in front of the Center for the Arts. This time, they follow SPOT.

What could they be? Who’s placed them? Students with information are encouraged to send the STAR a tip or a letter to the editor.

BELMONT from page 1

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COURTESY OF JOHANNA FLOREZ

** LuCKY from page 1 **

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"I guess I don’t necessarily con
more personal contexts. “My
church as a religious thing.”
the way we do our
underlying beliefs about those kind
faith and belief and knowledge
bates surrounding the nature of
act with each other. I think the
philosophy students very rarely
our religion, the way we do our
at Houghton: it’s the same depart
church—help bridge what I think
about being in school for the rest
of my life, I don’t think that’s ac
what I want to do.”
and then as I’ve studied at Houghton I’ve
really intuitive decision, and then
as disciplines. You see that even
with me a piece of advice for how
aren’t philosophy majors can
the right one.”
confirmed that that decision was
where I’m going with it, and been
as I’ve studied at Houghton I’ve
and understand the ideas that
be this universal relatable thing,
without being able to
be about it,” she says.
It would rather be out doing the kind of populating philosop
the practical ministry staff, being among the church, the
people outside who don’t have an academic
opinion of the church camps
I’m going to be a counselor, and just being there;
the church in the academic world to bear on helping these kids
I’m going to be working with, process through their questions—
I want to do that rather than just be coin up some force writ
paper for conferences for the rest of my life. Even though I joke
about being in school for the rest of
summer. Last summer I was in
in that position that gave me some control over things after a
of the days the students were
to dress up as President Chamberlain or his wife, and
another day as their favorite fac
or staff member (Anyone want to revive that one? I do.)
Classes also appear to have had special
and skipping class all the time
"The experience of being three
"The Royal Purple and Gold
the Royal Purple and Gold
we think suffering and not being able
be this universal relatable thing,
and what have you is supposed to
is only really smart
and it doesn’t matter, or else it’s
up in the clouds somewhere
are designed to be accessible
and irrelevant and kind of
just give it a hearing,” she
aren’t philosophy majors can
mendations for how people who
students can dip their toes in phi
students can better ap
traditional Purple vs Gold that
seems to me that many people
between Purple and Gold, and it
of the history behind those col
hurried with the colors, in refer
students were allowed in 1967.
(at even in baseball) and contin
ball, swimming, soccer, and
war” included being near more
(event in baseball) and contin
until intercollegiate athletic teams were allowed in
61st Homecoming contest we now
Purple and Gold competition
faculty who may remember the
community members, staff or
proposals to change the school
of the days the students were
days the students were
to tear down my statements with
community members of the days the students were
day—it seems to pit Houghton
Think of Purple and Gold, and it
seems to me that many people in
philosophy spirit is overrated and uncool.
But let me leave with this im
with the colors purple and gold:
activities. But let me leave with
be an indication that the rivalry is still strong.
In 2015 the STAR reported that at alum
events, these former students held onto a Hogwarts house-like
loyalty, refusing to sit at tables with
gold napkins if they were purple, or vice versa and will
tfully participate in Purple vs
Gold competitions. Maybe it sounds cheesy, but I wonder if
that group identity, even though it would seem to pit Houghton
against itself, actually makes those alumni’s connections to
Houghton stronger and more lasting.
Poythress’s Science & Superheroes Gen Ed Class Becomes Snapchat Sensation

PHOEBE TRUSH

This semester, a general education class titled Science and Superheroes made its debut. It has since become a popular topic on Houghton students’ social media; the creative and engaging nature of class activities lead to it becoming a “Snapchat sensation.” Lab experiments so far have included: investigating various types of invisible ink, creating elephant toothpaste, isolating DNA, constructing a telescope, and designing various types of paper airplanes. These entertaining experiments also serve an academic purpose. In an interview with Dr. Ransom Poythress, the professor and designer of the class, Poythress explained that the idea for Science and Superheroes came from his interest in the superhero genre, as well as his understanding that not all students enjoy the realm of science. “I imagined that for many students thinking about science hearthens back to nightmarish high school science classes of complicated equations, heavy, abstruse textbooks...so the goal is to neutralize those fears by pairing science with something students are already excited about, namely superheroes.” In addition, Dr. Poythress sees this class as an opportunity to use the supernatural to point people to Christ and “discuss the limits of science and materialism as they apply to miracles and a Christian worldview.” According to Science and Superheroes student Riley Gastin (’20), Poythress’s class structure is standard for one you’d find at Houghton. The discussion about certain superheroes with a supernatural ability, and how to analyze them with the tools provided in the class. She explained that “it explores enough of the science that you understand it but without going into the nitty gritty little details.” Furthermore, she emphasized that she’s “definitely learning a lot and finds herself being captivated by the entire class time.”

Alex Haines (’22), another enrollment in Science and Superheroes, commented that he “has never been a big science guy but is genuinely having fun with the class.” He enjoys the hands-on labs that they do every class period. For Haines, these experiments are interesting because they are always different and unique. In addition, he believes that these labs enable students to remember the material a little bit better. “[I am] definitely learning a lot about science but in a nicer package.”

This “Snapchat sensation’s” goal is to present science from a different perspective that non-science majors can easily engage with. Science and Superheroes will be offered again during the 2021 spring semester.

Houghton College students performing lab experiments for Science and Superheroes class

Zoller to Release Unorthodox Writing Textbook

DAVID KRALT & GERI EDWARDS

Professor James A. Zoller, a previous member of the Department of English and Writing at Houghton College, has been working on a writing textbook for the last eighteen months. The textbook is titled Writing Life: Adventures in Inductive Learning. In an interview with Professor Zoller, he has stated that the textbook is going to be something unorthodox; it will be focused on a wider and different range of topics with a core focus of inductive learning. Students will learn to solve new problems by following previous examples as opposed to repeating old information and old problems, and topics ranging from Kona art, to studying Bob Dylan’s famous song “John Brown.” Professor Zoller hopes to use these topics to help students engage in the subject matter to a greater extent and showcase a variety of writing that students may otherwise not experience. He said, “I think you need to buy into the idea that inductive learning is worthwhile. Most learning is deductive; I’d rather students tell me something new that I don’t already know, and by George we’re gonna do it!”

Many Houghton students have already experienced some of the methods that the textbook will present. In an interview with writing major Erin Maggio (’21), she reflected upon her experience in Zoller’s poetry class: “It was more of an experimental class; [Zoller] would give us prompts, or a different style of poetry we would have to try ourselves, rather than just us analyzing poetry or him telling us exactly the way that poem should be done. We would be given examples, but not everything would be explained...instead we would interact with each other and figure out how to emulate the style ourselves.” This type of methodology is meant to inspire creativity and stretch the mind to make connections; it is a type students and educators alike can integrate into their studies.

Biologist major Phoebe Trush (’21) attested to this as well. As a student in Zoller’s general education class, “Writing in the Liberal Arts,” Trush claimed that she “realized how much she enjoys his class! As a freshman, I struggled a lot with writing and this class gave me more confidence in that area. Biology doesn’t fo...
This spring, the Houghton Lyric Theatre is putting on The Secret Garden, which will be performed Thursday April 2nd through Saturday April 4th. In addition to Houghton College students, the cast features several children from the community.

Ralph Lipscomb will play the character of Colin Craven, and Evelyn Cox and Tori Tetta will play Mary Lennox. Professor Amanda Cox, the show director, remarked that this is the first time she has directed a Lyric Theatre production with children. Typically she tries to choose shows with an age range of characters that will work well for college students; however, since she wanted to do a production of The Secret Garden and thought it was particularly well suited to the current Lyric Theatre group, she decided to get community kids involved. “I had been wanting to do Secret Garden for several years,” she said, “it’s a beautiful story and it has just lush, really beautiful music. I was just kind of waiting for the right cast to do it.”

Though this is the first time that Professor Cox has directed a production with community children involved, the college does have a history of community involvement in productions. Professor Cox recalls that when she was in ninth grade she herself was cast as Anne in a college production of The Diary of Anne Frank. “It was such a beautiful and formative experience for me,” she said.

Not only is participating in a college production a special opportunity for kids from an acting and musical perspective, it’s a unique social opportunity. Ralph Lipscomb commented that he’s really enjoyed working with the college students in the this year, and there are several male parts, so I thought: this is the year, let’s do it.”

Though this is the first time that Professor Cox has directed a production with community children involved, the college production of The Diary of Anne Frank. “It was such a beautiful and formative experience for me,” she said.

Not only is participating in a college production a special opportunity for kids from an acting and musical perspective, it’s a unique social opportunity. Ralph Lipscomb commented that he’s really enjoyed working with the college students in the production. “One of the things I like about it is that I know a lot of people, and the people I don’t know it’s fun to get to know…”

Moore has been struck by how loving this cast is, and by how much joy all of the cast members put into their time rehearsing and working together. Moore has loved doing acting and singing throughout both high school and college, and as a senior is glad to have this last musical theatre experience with the particular people who make up this cast. Moore’s final remarks were, “Cool musical—come see it.”

Ciara Woodin (’21) sketched this New Yorker-worthy comic this week in response to the removal of the much-loved egg station in the dining hall.
Lent is a season of preparation, repentance, and remembrance. It is a season of fasting, of ridding oneself of the things that distract one from coming into communion with Christ. It is a season of sharing in Christ’s sufferings. Extending from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter Day, this forty weekday season is a time of prayer, reflection and anticipation of the celebration of Christ’s resurrection.

The forty weekday time frame signifies the time Jesus wandered in the wilderness for forty days as mentioned in Matthew 4 and Luke 4. Though we do not know most of the events that took place while Jesus was in the wilderness, we do know that he fasted from food and was tempted by the devil during those forty days. This is why Christians often give up certain foods and/or beverages for Lent, remembering and sharing in Christ’s sufferings of hunger and thirst. But is this the real reason why we give up things for Lent?

All too often, I think we tend to give up things for Lent without knowing why. My family does it, my church does it, my friends do it, so must I. We also tend to treat it like a challenge we try so desperately not to break, instead of treating it as a means of replacing our temptations with prayer and reflection. When Jesus fasted from food, I do not think it was because it was something his friends did or because he wanted to challenge himself. I do not think Jesus simply wanted to see how long he could go without food. His sacrifice was believed to be replaced with prayer and preparation.

I remember a time when I was younger and decided to give up soda for Lent, an experiment I could have saved for any period in the remaining 325 days of the year instead of the forty-day season. There were several reasons why I chose to give up soda: 1) it wasn’t as difficult to eliminate as sweets, but it was difficult enough that I would feel tempted to drink it when I was near it, 2) everyone else around me was giving up something for Lent, so why not? and 3) I wanted to see if I could actually go forty days without drinking soda, even though I rarely ever drank soda to begin with. The only benefit I reaped from giving up soda for Lent is that I don’t drink it anymore because it gives me a headache. During my “fast” from soda, never once did I resort to prayer or reflection or Scriptural study, but when I was tempted to drink the soda, I just told myself not to drink it because I didn’t want to break my challenge.

Do we treat Lent as an experiment, testing ourselves by observing how long we can go before we break our “covenant” of sacrificing chocolate and fizzy drinks in a forty-day interval? That is not the purpose of Lent. When we treat the season of Lent like an experiment, we play around with the things that so easily convict us and distract us from the beauty that is Christ’s love and resurrection. What good is sacrifice if we are just doing it for fun?

How do you celebrate Lent? Or maybe the question is, why do you celebrate Lent? Why do you give up chocolate, meat, soda, or homework for Lent? Is it because you want to replace those things with prayer, the study of Scripture, and reflection, or because you want to lose weight or challenge yourself beyond what you feel you can handle? Whatever the motive, I hope that we all learn to keep Lent sacred and remember Christ’s sacrifice for us.

Kelly is a sophomore majoring in Biology.

She’s a Dog, Not a Robot

As we walked into the CC I could feel her energy was off. The focus wasn’t on me and she was pulling at the leash more than usual. It was my time to decide what to do. Do I keep her inside or do I take her out and give up for the day?

This is something that all service handlers have experienced at one time or another in their training. Even with a perfectly trained and well behaved service dog, there are bad days. This is because service dogs should not be expected to be robots, they are dogs with a job.

As a working dog there are so many things they need to be able to do. A working dog has to ignore all distractions, walk in a heel position, stay calm in all environments, not be aggressive, not smell things, not lung for food, and not bark. And those are just so they can go in public. Along with those, they need to know tasks. A task is what helps the owner with their disability.

Some tasks include picking up dropped items, carrying items, helping undress handlers, opening and closing doors, guiding the blind, hearing for the hearing impaired, fetching help when an owner has a medical issue, and keeping the balance for a handler with mobility issue.

Service dogs are also trained for psychiatric disabilities like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), autism, bipolar disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), and schizophrenia. (Anxiety and depression on their own are not legal justifications for a service dog.) Some tasks that help with psychiatric disabilities include interrupting self harm, alerting to episodes, deep pressure therapy, hallucination discription, and grounding techniques.

As you can see, there are many things the dog needs to be able to do, and the public usually expects them to do it without missing a beat. Any service dog handler knows that keeping up the image of their team is hard.

When we take our service dogs in public establishments, we are often met with employers who don’t know the laws. As we’re walking down the street, we run into pedestrians who think it is their right to pet a service dog and talk to them. You should never ask to pet a service dog. For some owners, distracting a dog can be the difference between life and death, or on the less extreme end, going to the hospital or going home for the night.

I often hear, “Well, your dog should know to ignore me if I’m going to pet them.” That is absurd. Imagine someone putting their hands in your face and rubbing you while you’re at work, do you think you could do your job in that environment? I would assume not.

My service dog in training, Maisy, is a staffordshire terrier mix. She is two years old and a shelter rescue. She is currently two months into her service dog training and is doing amazing things. There are good days and bad days, and that’s okay! Bad days teach me what to expect from her in the future and how to handle new situations when they arise. The more bad days there are, the better she is going to be on the good days. Although by law service dogs do not need any type of vest or identification, I choose to have a labeled vest on her when she goes in public.

When you see a service dog, whether they are in a vest or not, be sure not to ask to pet them. Talk to the handler, but never to the dog. If there is a dog in a public space that pets are not allowed in, it is likely a service dog or one in training! Please practice respect and be courteous to the teams.

“Any service dog handler knows that keeping up the image of their team is hard.”

Meagan is a Freshman majoring in inclusive childhood education.
Loving the Most Dangerous Person in the Universe

Two characters that I am fond of in the Marvel Universe are Starlord and Gamora. I find them to both be equally intriguing as they are both the Guardians of the Galaxy, let alone have a relationship of any sort. Examining their past and their families in both the comics and the Marvel Cinematic Universe. To explain my point, I am going to combine parts of these characters from both the comics and films.

Looking at these characters from a shallow perspective, you think are not good enough or someone is looking for a one-night stand. If Gamora gave him an inch, then she would be letting somebody in. On the other hand, if you think that Starlord doesn’t use humor to cope with what he has lost, then you are not getting the picture of his whole characterization.

What is clear is that, right off the bat, Peter really liked Gamora. If you look at it again from a shallow perspective you would say he just thought she was attractive, but I like to think there is more to it. When you are “attracted” to someone in a real way, there is more to it than a pretty face. When you are “attracted” to someone in the first place. If you view yourself as a broken individual, you tend to hide your past or the aspects behind you that you think are not good enough or cool enough, and you bury the stories of events and/or people that broke you. The thought of going up and talking to someone like this is out of the question. I mean who wants to make a fool out of themselves in front of anyone? If you have been called “goofy” before, there is a greater chance that you are not going to come across as cool or serious to people like Gamora.

What you have to realize is that on the other side this person has been through situations that may or may not be relatable. They have a past and will hide what is not so savory from others, too. One thing to remember is that Peter never stopped being himself. He kept being Peter. I think that if he tried to change for Gamora, she would have rejected him. What is unique about these two is in a short period of time Starlord fell in love with Gamora, not because she was this incredibly attractive woman or because he wanted her for her skills. He fell in love with her because she brought the best out of him, and over time, Peter did the same for Gamora. Neither Peter nor Gamora’s past matters because they are not the same person they were when they were in a bad spot or lacked morality. Fate brought these two together and as a result Peter sees something in Gamora that nobody else has. She is unlike anyone else he has ever encountered, and this is why she is the most dangerous person in the universe.

Zach is a senior majoring in communications and business administration.

SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less

SUBMIT TO
editor@houghtonstar.com

The Houghton STAR

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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.
Artist of the Week
Joel Mulindwa // Senior Business Administration Major, Minors in Art & Political Science

Art to me is a delightful and treacherous journey that I fear that I would never reach its destination but also acknowledging that it’s a trek I wouldn’t want to want to miss.

-Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam

Want to see someone featured as the Artist of the Week before the end of the school year?
Nominate your favorite junior and senior artists - whether art majors or not - by emailing geri.edwards21@houghton.edu